

Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Basic Information

GEF ID

10961

Countries

Global

Project Title

Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

GEF Agency(ies)

World Bank

Agency ID

World Bank: P178931

GEF Focal Area(s)

Climate Change

Program Manager

Tshewang Dorji

PIF

art I – Project Informatic

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

Update: GEFSEC 4/29/2022: Please provide "other Executing Partner (s)" and the "Executing Partner Type" in the portal.

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Please provide following information

1. Indicator for Component 1: it would be good, if the indicator can also track \$ M of public finance leveraged, such as IDA20 and other financing opportunities that the World Bank can bring to the table.
2. Also, in "# of pipeline projects with measurable outcome and targets to restore biodiversity and ecosystem" can be changed to "# of pipeline projects with measurable outcomes and targets to restore biodiversity and ecosystem services for climate change adaptation"
3. Welcome Component 2. However, please ensure that in-country capacity building proposed should serve the country in planning and mainstreaming NBS in initiatives that are both World Bank and non-World Bank funded. It should build country capacity in LDCs to mobilize resources for NBS from verities of channels and sources
4. Component 3: The outreach output should include on seminar/training with GEF Agencies that share methodologies and tools developed by this project

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Cleared. Thank you

Agency Response

04/21/22

thank you

1. Agree, a new indicator has been added for Component 1 to include IDA20 investment and other financing opportunities. The project target will be confirmed during the project development phase when pipeline opportunities are assessed.
2. Agree, the indicator is changed to address your request "# of pipeline projects with measurable outcomes and targets to restore biodiversity and ecosystem services for climate change adaptation "
3. Thank you for your comment on Component 2. The in-country capacity building is proposed to support both WB and non-WB funded initiatives, and we will develop an engagement process and delivery modalities that allow us to capture and support both internal clients and external. This has been clarified in the PCN, with the full detail to be developed during the project development phase.
4. Agree, this has been included in the outreach output under Component 3 (see PCN Pillar 3, page 17).

Co-financing

2. Are the indicators requested accurate, relevant and transparent for Co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022. Please provide following information

1. PMC: The co-finance portion of PMC need to be the same ratio as the LDCF portion
2. The current figure on the proposed co-financing is low. Ideally, this grant should draw in IDA investment in NBS. Please revise this figure, considering WB's wide range of NBS platform and initiatives that can build synergies with this project

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Cleared. However, we hope to get more clarification on the estimated \$200 million as a co-financing during the PPG stage

Agency Response

04/22/22

thank you, noted. cofinancing will be clarified during preparation stage

04/21/22

thank you

1. Agree, corrected
2. Potential contribution from the investments with NBS interventions in LDCs has been estimated at \$200 million but during preparation, we will have to assess pipeline potential and work with the portfolio of selected LDCs to confirm cofinancing.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within

the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion N/A

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion N/A

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion N/A

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion N/A

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion N/A

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022. Please provide following information

1. Core Indicator 1: Please revise the estimated numbers of direct beneficiaries from the pipeline NBS projects. The current figure is too low for this grant size
2. Core Indicator 2: Please include the estimated number of hectares of land that will be under NBS support from the pipelined projects

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Thank you for addressing comments on Core Indicator 1.

On indicator 2: We would appreciate, if you can kindly outline a briefly on the framework that will be used to monitor and report on the # hectares under NBS when starting the implementation of the project.

GEFSEC, 4/25/2022: Thank you for the clarification. Please reflect this in the appropriate section of the PIF and the GEF data sheet.

GEFSEC, 4/29/2022: Cleared. However, please provide detailed framework on monitoring and reporting of the # hectares under NBS during the PPG phase. Thank you.

Agency Response

4/29/22

thank you, noted

4/25/22

as we mentioned in our response earlier, it will most likely be too early for the projects it helped develop to have realized their intended impact of # hectares under NBS. However, it should be noted that one of the Bank Core Results Indicators - Land area under sustainable landscape management practices – might allow to track changes in the land management practices in the pipeline investments in the selected LDCs. In addition to that, under the updated WB Results Management system (RMS) in IDA 20, tracking of the NBS adoption will be implemented under Climate Change Special Theme. The NBS project will be able to tag investments targeting sustainable land and/or forest management and integrated landscape management using WB RMS under IDA 20.

we will also monitor the # of hectares set as targets in pipeline projects as they are approved (based on targets set in their own results frameworks)

04/21/22

thank you

1. The number of direct beneficiaries is increased by 2,000, to capture attendance in outreach events, bringing the total number of direct beneficiaries to 4,500. This is a conservative estimate and will be confirmed during project development phase. The estimate of direct beneficiaries is based on the activities of the project, e.g. participants in project-supported training, technical assistance, and knowledge

For IDA 20, the project will be able to tag investments targeting sustainable land and/or forest management and integrated landscape management using WB RMS under IDA 20.

exchange in LDCs and supporting agencies. It does not capture direct beneficiaries arising from the implementation of the pipeline NBS projects, as it would be difficult for the project to report on those at project close.

2. While we expect IDA proposals to be developed, funded, and hopefully operational by the end of the four years of this project it will most likely be too early for the projects it helped develop to have realized their intended impact of # hectares under NBS. Therefore an estimated target for this indicator is difficult to make at this time and unlikely to be achieved. The project might be able to add this core indicator during implementation stage, once IDA investments have commenced implementation and are reporting achievements of their own. .

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Please include "Nature based solutions" in the taxonomy

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Noted with thanks.

Agency Response

04/21/22

please note that this element is not part of the GEF taxonomy available on the GEF portal, thus we cannot include this term based on the selection in the online template

art II – Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes, adequately described for this stage of proposal.

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Please refer to question 2, Part I above.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response

04/21/22

Addressed above

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Please revise the target as Question 6, Part I above.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Cleared. Refer to comments under Question 6, Part I above.

Agency Response

04/21/22

addressed above

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

Update: GEFSEC, 4/29/2022: Cleared. However, please provide additional information on the stakeholder consultation activities and findings during the PPG. Thank you

Update: GEFSEC 5/3/2022: We acknowledge the details about the planned stakeholder engagement in the project preparation and implementation phase. However, please provide details on the stakeholder engagement, including the agencies and organizations, consulted at this stage of the PIF.

Update: GEFSEC 5/3/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response

05/03/22

While major part of the stakeholder engagement interventions is anticipated to be conducted during PPG stage, during design stage (PIF preparation) the team held extensive consultations and received support and interest from the World Bank key Global Practices

(Environment, Water and Agriculture), consultation group for IDA 20, Global Program for NBS (GPNBS), WB ProBLue and ProGreen programs, as well as GEF IP GWP. Major comments and recommendations from these stakeholders were incorporated in the project

document and will be considered during PPG stage. The Project will be implemented with the direct support of the GPNBS. Moreover, the project and action plan were approved by the ENB Acting Global Director. The stakeholder engagement section is updated to include this information.

thank you!

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes. Adequate at the PIF stage. However, need to develop further during PPG

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response

04/21/22

thank you, noted. Gender assessment and action plan will be developed during PPG

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Please include following information

1. Potential risk of climate change on the project, if any.
2. Describe how nature-based solutions for adaptation can enhance green recovery following economic repercussion from the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Discuss whether and how COVID-19 is expected to affect project design and implementation and how such risk may be mitigated

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Cleared. Thank you

Agency Response

04/21/22

1. Climate change risks are discussed in the Climate and Disaster risk assessment document (see GEF portal, the document was uploaded on 04/06 with the original submission). The report summarizes key current vulnerabilities and future climate trends in the several LDCs- representatives for each region, as advised by the WB Climate Change Group.

2. This information is already included in the COVID assessment report that was submitted with the proposal (see GEF portal, the document was uploaded on 04/06 with the original submission). It is also briefly mentioned on page 5 of the PCN. This information will be further elaborated during the project development phase.

3. COVID 19 assessment report includes key risks which could affect project preparation (see the GEF Portal). The COVID risks assessment at implementation stage will be assessed once the country selection process is finalized. To help minimize the risk of implementation delays to activities, the project will work through existing WB teams working in-country with established connections with LDC governments, and through other partners with strong in-country presence. The capacity development and knowledge exchange under the project will be designed to use a combination of virtual and in-person events, offering flexibility in case of strict travel and social distancing restrictions. These risk mitigation measures have been added to the PCN.

t documents				
COVID risk assessment_March 2022	Project Document	Annexes/appendixes to the project documents	GEF Secretariat Use Only	4/6/2022 12:25 PM
Climate and Disaster Risk Screening Assessment - WB tool P178931	Project Document	Annexes/appendixes to the project documents	GEF Secretariat Use Only	4/6/2022 11:59 AM

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COVID risk assessment_March 2022	Project Document	Annexes/appendixes to the project documents	GEF Secretariat Use Only	4/6/2022 12:25 PM
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Coordination

**Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined?
Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?**

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Please clarify on what mechanism/pathways by which this project seeks to influence/inform the decision-making process within the World Bank Group to incorporate nature-based solutions and adaptation in the pipeline and future IDA projects, and potentially leverage GEF-8 LDCF resources. For example, what would be the role of the GPNBS, and how would this project engage with regions and various teams developing the IDA portfolio?

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Thank you very much for providing information on ways to engage TTLs and influence various framework documents in LDCs. We would like to request for additional description on ways to engage various GPs (internal WB) at the strategic level to influence decision-making on IDA20 towards NBS.

GEFSEC, 4/25/2022: Thank you for the clarification. Please reflect the importance of coordination and high level political support in the appropriate section of the PIF and GEF data sheet.

GEFSEC, 4/29/2022: Cleared. However, please clarify the coordination and high level political support while developing detailed implementation framework during the PPG. Thank you

GEFSEC, 5/2/2022: PM recommends approval for the World Bank to carryout executing functions.

Agency Response

04/29/22

noted, thank you

04/25/22

The detailed implementation arrangement framework will be developed during the preparation stage. Project Steering Committee (or Advisory Body) will include key stakeholders within the Bank, ensuring the relevant level of decision making in engagement with the focus on the IDA 20 process and indicators (through IDA20 RMS). The proposal is fully aligned with the IDA20 target which is already a strategic

priority for Bank management.

04/21/22

The project will seek to influence decision-making processes via i) integrating NBS for adaptation in national-level planning and diagnostic tools which inform IDA investment (Component 2); ii) engagement of WB teams working with LDC countries on IDA20 investment, and provision of targeted technical support and capacity development in selected LDCs (Component 3) and project-level pre-feasibility assessments to support pipeline opportunities (Component 2). In this way all three Components are expected to help influence decision-making around the consideration of NBS for adaptation.

The project will aim to work closely with TTLs working with LDCs across multiple WB GPs to raise interest and capacity to use IDA20 resources which incorporate NBS for climate adaptation, closely aligning to the IDA20 commitment. Efforts to integrate NBS into decision-making will be a part of this effort and the project will support the Country Climate Development Report (CCDR) process so that NBS opportunities are captured and then integrated into other national assessments and plans, such as Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs) and Country Planning Frameworks (CPFs). These tools strongly influence IDA programming.. This will work in parallel with the technical support, awareness-raising, analytics and project-level studies to facilitate greater uptake of NBS for climate adaptation across the WBG portfolio. This has been clarified in the revised PCN.

The project will partner with GPNBS to leverage their technical expertise, resources and networks, particularly with internal WB teams. A strength of the GPNBS partnership is that it will facilitate strong cross-GP engagement. Multiple GPs support NBS projects addressing adaptation challenges in the WB portfolio and strong cross-GP engagement is needed to mainstream NBS for adaptation across the IDA20 portfolio. While the GPNBS will be used to facilitate connections, the project will also reach out directly to WB teams working on IDA portfolio and have a stand-alone project team. The project and the proposed LDC network will have its own visibility and structure outside of the GPNBS, with one important reason being that it will offer technical support to LDCs for both WB and non-WB funded initiatives that contain NBS. Measures such as the Steering Committee will also support this.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed “knowledge management (KM) approach” in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project’s/program’s overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022: Yes

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Cleared. Thank you.

Agency Response thank you!

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

art III – Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects

Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

N/A

Agency Response

EFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC 4/13/2022. Not yet. The agency needs to address the above mentioned clarification.

GEFSEC, 4/22/2022: Not yet. The agency need to address the above mentioned additional comments

GEFSEC, 4/25/2022: Not yet. Please update as requested.

GEFSEC, 4/29/2022: Not yet. Please update as requested.

GEFSEC, 5/1/2022: Recommended for technical clearance

Update: GEFSEC, 5/3/2022: Please address the comment on stakeholder engagement as requested.

GEFSEC, 5/3/2022: Recommended for technical clearance

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	4/13/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/22/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/25/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/29/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/3/2022	

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval

The world's 46 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are the most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. They face significant risks from climate hazards due to least capability to shield themselves from its impacts. Innovative, cross-sectoral solutions are needed to adapt to climate change and protect development gains. Nature-based solutions (NBS) offer a cost-effective approach to adaptation that can also integrate development challenges, align climate change mitigation, biodiversity, and green recovery agendas.

This project will leverage the World Bank's cross-sectoral Global Program on NBS for Climate Resilience (GPNBS) to increase the uptake of NBS for addressing climate resilience in LDCs. In particular, the project aims to capacitate LDCs to consider opportunities to leverage LDCF with International Development Association (IDA) resources. In this regard, the project is targeting to achieve at least 20 IDA20 lending projects with NBS element, leveraging at least \$200 million of IDA 20th replenishment (IDA20), while training 400 people (50% Women) on accessing and designing investments that incorporate NBS for climate adaptation. The project also expects to directly benefit 4,500 (50% women) while strengthening 20 policies that better incorporates and facilitates NBS in LDCs.

The project aligns with green recovery agenda as well as IDA20 target of the World Bank.

