

Strengthening Civil Society Role in Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10993

Countries

Global

Project Name

Strengthening Civil Society Role in Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality

Agencies

IUCN

Date received by PM

4/14/2022

Review completed by PM

6/3/2022

Program Manager

Ulrich Apel

Focal Area

Land Degradation

Project Type

MSP

PIF

Part I ? Project Information

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

04/19/2022: Yes. However:

Please check in Part I - submission date is missing - is this to be entered by the agency or automatically done by the system?

05/04/2022: ADDITIONAL REQUEST:

In the Project information Section in Part I of the portal template, the only listed Executing Partner is the CSO Drynet. However, in section 6 ? Coordination, besides Drynet, IUCN is mentioned as another Executing Partner. If indeed IUCN executes part of this project, it needs to be listed in Part I alongside Drynet.

06/03/2022: Addressed. Program Manager approves the execution arrangements and recommends MGR clearance of partial IUCN execution.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

Submission date of 11 April 2022 has been added in the portal

IUCN response to GEF Sec 5/4/2022 review:

IUCN will execute Component 2 of this project. Information on Project Executing entities in Part I of the PIF has been amended accordingly.

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

04/19/2022: Yes. However:

- Consider rephrasing the project objective: "LDN policies and investments adhere to agreed LDN principles through increased engagement with Civil Society Organizations" (I think this is the main objective. The "influencing" is done through the component and contribute to the objective)

- Please include sub-activities into Table B in line with the description in the text (can be shorter headings).

- Please include the sub-activity of "Support to Desertification Actions 2022" into table B and the text for easy reference and consequently budgeting. It is only mentioned in passing in the stakeholder section so far.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

- ? The project objective has been edited as suggested
- ? The sub activities have been added into Table B, in line with the descriptions in the text.

We have included the activity 1.1.6: Support to Desertification Actions 2022 with a short description in the text on page 10

Co-financing

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

04/19/2022: Yes for Table C.

However, in the text where co-financing is described, there is a total budget figure for Drynet, which may cause confusion. Suggest to take it out. Instead, please briefly explain what the co-financing will be used for and it will help to achieve.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

? Identified co-funding from Drynet member organisations includes current and anticipated funding dedicated to UNCCD/ LDN-related work that will contribute to the following project activities:

- o Training: development of training packages and organisation of training sessions
- o Organisation of international fora to promote LDN
- o Support to Desertif?Actions 2022: mobilise the CSOs to the event.

? IUCN co-funding includes staff time contributions to the following project activities:

- o development and publishing of guidance on innovative private investment mechanisms and opportunities

Capacity building to develop business plans

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion n/a

Agency Response

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

However, the text indicates that the project may generate GEBs. Is there a way to include this into the core indicator table? If not, please mention in text that this is difficult to estimate due to the global nature of the project - it may be done at CEO endorsement stage, as appropriate.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

In section F, we have defined GEF Core Indicator 4 GEBs as ?TBD? and will provide a more robust estimation of these values at CEO Approval stage.

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

Part 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

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

However, in the text on the GEBs, please add one sentence on the targeted beneficiaries (in line with the number provided in the core indicator table). Who are the main beneficiaries (CSO members?), how will 60% women be ensured?

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

As noted in the text accompanying the table on GEB estimates, the project's capacity development work will target 100,000 beneficiaries, many of whom are anticipated to be smallholder producers. Women-headed households are over-represented among smallholder farmers and we anticipate a roughly 60:40 split of women and men trainees, respectively. Moreover, the project will engage women during planning of training and conferences, and work with Women's organizations to make sure women stakeholders are well represented among target beneficiaries.

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

04/19/2022: Not fully.

Please elaborate on these three aspects. The current paragraph describes the capacity building approach, but has limited info on innovation, sustainability, and scaling up.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response
IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

Additional text on innovation, sustainability and scale up potential added to Section II,
G.

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 for a global project

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
04/19/2022: Yes.

05/04/2022: ADDITIONAL REQUEST:

The project should be able at this stage to provide more details on the consultations that have been taken place during project design (including information on the potential roles of different stakeholders and local beneficiaries including civil society organizations). The project should also be able to provide further information on the anticipated roles that different stakeholders may play in project development and implementation, means of engagement and plans for developing a stakeholders engagement plan during PPG phase. Please elaborate further on both point above.

06/03/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response
IUCN response to GEF Sec 5/4/2022 review:

Additional details on stakeholder consultations that took place in the development of this PIF, as well as plans for stakeholder engagement in the PPG stage of the project have been added to the Stakeholders? section of the PIF as requested.

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

05/04/2022: ADDITIONAL REQUEST:

We note that the project will include training on gender-responsive approaches and will facilitate exchanges with the UNCCD Gender Action Plan. It does not, however, provide information on any planned gender assessments/ analysis to be carried out during PPG stage. Please ask agency to elaborate further on this point by indicating what is planned in terms of gender assessment / analysis.

06/03/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 5/4/2022 review:

Additional details on gender assessments and analysis planned for the PPG phase are provided in the PIF section 3 on Gender.

As noted, ?During the PPG phase a gender assessment will be conducted to identify any gaps and inequalities among men and women, and among specific groups (youth, women organisations, etc.) in addressing gender issues in decision-making and stakeholder consultation processes. The data generated will help refine the design of Project activities to address these gaps. These activities include: participation and contribution in international fora to promote LDN synergy (Activity 1.1.3); engagement in the development of large-scale restoration projects (Activity 1.1.5); engagement in the Desertif?actions summit and in stakeholder meetings (Activities 1.1.6. and 2.1.3.). Gender-related PPG work will also inform the LDN project/investment concepts that will be developed throughout Project implementation (Activity 1.1.5.) as well as gender-responsive policy aimed at achieving LDN.?

Private Sector Engagement

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

04/19/2022: Yes.

Cleared

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

04/19/2022: Not fully.

Please include Climate Change (CC) risk as per prompt in the risk table. If there is no risk related to CC, then indicate accordingly.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

We have added information to the Risk section of the proposal on how anticipated impacts from climate change will be addressed and managed by the project. As noted, Project will not have any on-the-ground activities. However, anticipated climate change impacts (including severe weather, water and heat stress, etc.) do have the potential to negatively affect LDN work that is indirectly supported and mobilized by this project. All training and guidance materials supported by the project will include importance of considering anticipated climate change impacts and provide best-practice, up-to-date information on measures to lower and manage risks associated with climate change impacts.

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

04/19/2022: Yes.

05/04/2022:

Program Manager approves Coordination Arrangements as described, which include IUCN providing execution services for this project.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

04/19/2022: Not fully.

The list of strategies and action plans is not needed as the project doesn't work at national level. In addition to working with the UNCCD CSO Panel, the project can be justified with the alignment to the UNCCD strategy and existence of voluntary LDN targets in more than 120 countries as well as the global reach of the LDN concept.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

Text in this section has been amended as suggested

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

04/19/2022: Not fully.

The section describes the KM activities of the project. Please add one sentence to outline the KM approach and indicate its further development during PPG stage.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

Text in this section has been amended as suggested to outline the KM approach and indicate that the KM strategy will be further developed during the PPG stage.

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

04/19/2022: Clarification question:

- How is "low" derived. Will an ESS info provided at later stage? Please indicate in the section.

05/04/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

IUCN response to GEF Sec 4/19/2022 review:

The project is a ?non-area based?? project, and our initial ESMS screening defines this as a low-risk project. As noted in the section on risk mitigation, anticipated climate change impacts (including severe weather, water and heat stress, etc.) do have the potential to negatively affect LDN work that is indirectly supported and mobilized by

this project. All training and guidance materials supported by the project will include importance of considering anticipated climate change impacts and provide best-practice, up-to-date information on measures to lower and manage risks associated with climate change impacts.

A final review of the project ESMS, including whether there is need to develop a Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) to define project actions to mitigate any environmental and social risks, will be undertaken during the PPG stage.

Part 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 for a global project

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

GEFSEC 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

04/19/2022: No. Please address comments and clarification questions.

05/04/2022: No. Please address 3 additional requests made.

06/03/2022: GEFSEC recommends to increase the level of funding for this MSP to have a larger impact. The funding can be increased to the full MSP amount of \$2 million + agency fees + PPG. Please adjust tables A, B, and D accordingly, as well as the total agency fee in Part I, and resubmit.

06/08/2022: Funding level has been increased. Program Manager recommends MSP PIF approval.

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	4/19/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/4/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/3/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/8/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

PIF Recommendation to CEO

Brief reasoning for recommendations to CEO for PIF Approval

CEO COVER MEMO

This MSP project is funded by global LD set-asides and is designed to enhance the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in delivering Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and in promoting adherence to LDN principles, including environmental and

social safeguards, in public and private investments. The project has a global scope and will strengthen the capacity and the level of engagement of CSOs in the 5 regional annexes of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), namely: Africa (Annex I), Asia (Annex II), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (Annex III), Northern Mediterranean (Annex IV), Central and Eastern Europe (Annex V). The project consists of 2 components: 1) Influencing LDN and 2) Leveraging LDN. The project will influence LDN by increasing the recognition of CSOs as partners in delivering LDN, and strengthening the capacity of CSO actors to implement and to monitor LDN projects. The project will leverage LDN by developing CSOs capacities to develop LDN projects that include innovation in private sector engagement and to access suitable funding opportunities.