



Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development in Socotra Archipelago and Aden Wetlands, Yemen

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11408

Countries

Yemen

Project Name

Integrated Conservation and Sustainable Development in Socotra Archipelago and Aden Wetlands, Yemen

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

10/18/2023

Review completed by PM

1/31/2024

Program Manager

Mark Zimsky

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Please correct the presentation of the executing agency arrangements. "In collaboration with" is not an operational arrangement. Will the Ministry have an executing role in the project? If so, it should be entered as an Executing Agency on its own and that should be categorized in the PIF. If the CSO is the only executing agency, it should be the only agency listed. Under the section on implementation arrangement further details can be provided about the "collaboration". Please revise accordingly.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

Both the Ministry and RSCN has been entered as the executing agencies since they both have execution roles. Their roles have been clarified in the Project Rationale section of the PIF.

2. Project Summary

Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

For component 2, please change the title of the component. Eliminate "Demonstration of". It should be inclusive of the two-prong approach of the project and a better title would be "Conservation of Biodiversity in Socotra and Sustainable Management of Aden Wetlands."

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

The component name has been changed as suggested.

3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?

b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

a) GEF is long past funding demonstration projects. One potential framing of the project objective is as follows: To effectively conserve biodiversity in the Socotra Archipelago and sustainably manage the Aden wetlands. Please revise accordingly removing the word demonstration. Please remove the word demonstration throughout the PIF and focus on implementation.

b) For component 2 please clarify the outcomes that are germane to the Aden Wetlands work and the work on Socotra. Please do the same for the associated outputs. Under the outcomes for all the components please insert the relevant core indicators. For example, the increased METT scores for the PAs should be included if the focus on improving PA management effectiveness is the aim of the project and the associated hectares under improved management etc as these are outcomes.

In addition, later in the proposal under the project rationale section, the PIF notes that it will work on IAS in Socotra, but this doesn't show up at all in the activities listed, the outputs, or outcomes. Please clarify and revise accordingly.

Finally, it would make sense for the project to have one component for the Aden Wetlands work and one component for the Socotra work. Elsewhere in the project, the rationale for the project intervention in each should be treated separately. The baseline of each situation should be treated separately as well as the alternative for each.

In addition, the project--and this is noted throughout this review--the project design has to justify why the two areas are being placed under the same project as it makes no sense from either a design perspective or an operational perspective.

The proponents have to provide some justification for this or consider submitting two different projects with perhaps the Aden Wetlands being an MSP and the Socotra project being a larger FSP with a better elaborated strategy to improve PA management through the Island that would be more comprehensive than what is proposed in this PIF. This would also allow the FSP in Socotra to do a better job integrating IAS work and developing a more comprehensive strategy for sustainable finance, both of which are referenced in this PIF but not at all elaborated.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

The objective has been revised as suggested.

Outcome changed to: 2.2

We separated the outcomes of Aden Wetlands and the Socotra Island:

2.1 Sustainable wetland management of the Aden wetlands is implemented

2.2 Ensure the effective management of four active and two in active protected areas considering the compatibility between the needs of indigenous and local communities and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

We added the core indicators. Please note that the baseline for METT scores will be identified at the PPG phase.

The IAS activities [explained](#) on [page 6](#) are related to the output 2.2.6 in the logframe:
?Lesson learned on controlling invasive alien species programme will be up scaled?.

We have separated the results targeting Aden Wetlands and Socotra Island (see Outcome 2.1 and 2.2 and respective outputs).

The decision to consolidate expected results in the Aden Wetlands and Socotra projects into one project is based on practical considerations due to limited capacity within the Government of Yemen. The limited human resource capacity, exchange policies, and institutional capabilities make managing two separate projects challenging. By merging the interventions in two sites, we aim to pool resources for knowledge management, training, lessons learned, and best practices, benefiting both sites. This approach also combines efforts to mainstream biodiversity conservation into policy and decision-making processes. The integration leverages the strengths of the Socotra team in biodiversity conservation, enabling knowledge transfer and training for the Aden Wetlands. Additionally, the current challenges and limited staff availability, particularly in Aden, make managing a single, combined project more practical and efficient. We clarified this strategic decision in the "Project Intervention Logic" section.

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

It is noted that the project provides some indicative information on gender dimensions of the project. Please consider gender considerations related to the project components, specifically component 2 of the project.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

Gender inclusiveness has been clarified in outputs 2.1.4, 2.1.5; 2.1.6, 2.1.7, and 2.2.3

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

- a) Yes, cleared.
- b) Yes, cleared.
- c) Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

- a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?**
- b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?**

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

- a) This section requires improvement and must include a better discussion of the previous accomplishments of the UNEP GEF project in Socotra and how this previous investment improved the baseline conditions, and then how this proposed project builds on this.
- b) Yes, cleared.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

We added a section about the accomplishments of the UNEP/GEF Socotra Project by consolidating the accomplishments under four sub-sections: i) Biodiversity conservation, ii) Controlling invasive species, iii) sustainable land management, and iv) capacity building. The discussion can be found just before the barriers section.

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

- a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?**

b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?

c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

a) The project fails to provide a solid rationale on why the proposal is working in two distinct geographical areas that have no logical linkage either in terms of the ecosystems in each area or in terms of the project intervention strategy. Please provide the rationale for this project approach.

The project aims to support "sustainable livelihoods" but provides no justification for this approach, nor evidence that these kinds of interventions have been analyzed at all in terms of their economic viability, please revise accordingly.

The project fails to adequately describe how it will do the following: "upscale the success in Socotra project by enlarging the number of effectively managed protected areas, and induce more financial sustainability mechanism such as ecotourism, and socioeconomic activities that are in line with the natural and cultural heritage of the island." None of this is adequately explained and described in the PIF anywhere. On the contrary, the PIF appears to be focused on only 6 protected areas that were part of the first GEF project in Socotra that this initiative is meant to build upon. All of this requires significant revision so the logic is clearer as well as the ambition of the new PIF is evident.

b) Resilience is not dealt with adequately, please make this more explicit in the PIF.

c) Yes, cleared.

d) Yes, cleared.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

We explained the rationale why two areas are included in the Project. The main objective is to pool sources for component 1 and 3. More details are provided in the "Project Intervention Logic" section.

Sustainable livelihoods activities play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of ecosystems. Diversification of income sources, reduced overexploitation, improved resource management are some of the benefits of sustainable livelihoods. "Sustainable livelihoods" is offered as one of the means to "build sustainability and resilience while empowering indigenous peoples and local communities. ([UN Common Approach to Biodiversity | United Nations - CEB \(unscecb.org\)](https://unscecb.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Biodiversity_Common_Approach_50%2B_ways_to_integrate_biodiversity_and_nature-based_solutions.pdf), https://unscecb.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Biodiversity_Common_Approach_50%2B_ways_to_integrate_biodiversity_and_nature-based_solutions.pdf). The role and importance of livelihoods in Socotra has also been elaborated in the terminal evaluation of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Socotra Archipelago. We provided a brief explanation of why livelihoods concept is important for the project in the section of "Project Intervention Logic". We will further conduct economic viability analysis at the PPG phase.

We provided additional clarification how financial sustainability will be enhanced with social interventions and ecotourism interventions under the intervention logic section:

The Project assumes that the CBOs will be able to manage the protected areas effectively if they have the capacity and financial sustainability. The project's strategy for enhancing the management of four active protected areas involves a multifaceted approach to ensure sustainability, promote ecotourism, and implement robust business planning. Drawing on the successful management model established in four active protected areas, the project will extend these practices in Abelhin, Skent, and Detwah Lagoon protected areas tailoring interventions to the unique challenges and opportunities of each location. One key aspect of this expansion is the emphasis on fostering alternative livelihood options, particularly those accessible to women, to enhance economic opportunities and empower local communities. For instance, initiatives will include supporting community-based enterprises, such as eco-friendly handicraft production by local women or guided nature tours. Additionally, the project aims to integrate lessons learned from past conservation efforts, especially those related to the protection of specific species and the control of invasive alien species. This knowledge transfer will be instrumental in formulating island-wide conservation strategies, contributing to the preservation of biodiversity on a broader scale. The overarching goal is to intertwine effective protected area management with financial sustainability, leveraging ecotourism and community-based socioeconomic activities that align with the natural and cultural heritage of the Socotra Archipelago. Through this approach, the project seeks to create a holistic model that not only safeguards the unique biodiversity of Socotra but also enhances the well-being of local communities by providing sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities. All this

will also ensure the sustainability of CBOs after the end of the project and, thus, long-lasting co-benefits for the environment and human society.

We added the following text in the end of the intervention logic section to demonstrate how the project's diversified approach addressing multiple problems will offer solutions to future changes:

The project demonstrates a comprehensive approach to ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers impacting Aden Wetlands and Socotra Island. Several key features in the project design contribute to this resilience. Integrated Landscape Approach,

Ecosystem Based Approaches, Adaptive Management Framework, Diversity of Interventions, Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening, Alternative Livelihoods, Knowledge Management, Community Engagement and Gender Sensitivity are the diversified approaches that address a range of interconnected issues. The project aims to build a foundation that can withstand and adapt to the dynamic challenges that may arise in the future.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

a) The ToC diagram is illegible in the portal, please find a way to present a ToC that can be read. The associated text is adequate and particular the justification for the sustainable livelihoods activities, which is also referenced previously. Please improve this element of the ToC.

b) Yes, this is adequate in the PIF.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

A larger and a simpler version of ToC is included.

We provided a short justification of livelihoods activities

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

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

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared at the present, but with the revisions requested, this section should also be revised.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

Based on the changes we made on the project intervention, we made changes on incremental analysis section.

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

d) are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

a) As noted earlier the implementation arrangements of the Ministry and the CSO are not clear and should be revised.

b) NA.

c) The PIF fails to provide a clear and comprehensive summary of what was achieved in the first GEF project in Socotra and how this additional investment builds on it and how this additional investment will be sustainable. In addition, the Section "Coordination and Cooperation with ongoing initiatives and Projects" is empty - please answer both questions.

d) Yes, cleared.

1/17/2024

This section of the PIF is still blank, please complete:

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and project potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

1/31/2024

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

18/01/2024

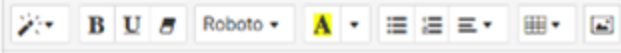
There is not any option to choose "No" on the portal. (See the screenshot below). However, we added a text in the text box that UNEP will not take any execution role. Additionally, we provided a short explanation on how the project will coordinate with the related initiatives.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and project potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)



UNEP will not take any execution role on this project.

Following are the two primary GEF projects that this project will closely coordinate and align:

UNEP/GEF "Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago" has components: (1) Improved Biodiversity Conservation/Protected Area Management (BD/PAM), (2) Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Management, (3) Sustainable Land Management/Land Degradation (SLM/LD), and (4) Enabling Environment (related to the institutional framework, capacity development and sustainable financing). This project creates a strong baseline for this project. In addition, the expandable equipment and the expertise network of this ongoing Project will be transferred to this GEF8 Project.

FAO/GEF Project "Resilient and sustainable livelihoods for rural Yemen" aims to facilitate the development of sustainable and resilient

29/11/2023

We clarified the roles of the executing partners in the project rationale section:

The Ministry of Water and Environment and the Environmental Protection Agency will be the lead executing agency providing the overall guidance and supervision of the project and chair the Steering Committee. The MWE will also be in charge of supporting the design and implementation of policies and regulations that facilitate compliance with the project's goals. Furthermore, the MWE will be in charge of the national technical oversight of the project, to ensure proper activities? coordination and will liaise with key stakeholders, especially other ministries and governmental institutions. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) will provide support to manage and administer the day-to-day activities of a project. RSCN will be in charge of the management and administration of project activities, and will be accountable for intended and appropriate use of funds, for procurement and contracting of goods and services, and for timely delivery of inputs and outputs. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established for

the overall supervision of the project at a strategic level. PSC members will include government bodies, environmental organizations, and local communities, and the implementing agency.

Four bullet points are provided summarizing what was achieved, how the new project builds on them.

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

b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

a) No. The PIF notes that interventions will take place in 4 "active" protected areas and 2 "inactive" protected areas but lists "Socotra" as the PA Name for both the terrestrial and marine PAs. Can you please clarify this and include the names of all 6 protected areas, the WDPA ID, and the IUCN category for each. In addition, the PIF notes that it wants to expand the work done in the previous project, but it is not clear what additional protected areas will benefit from the second investment in Socotra.

Please also clarify earlier in the PIF and the project framework what is meant by "active" and "inactive" protected areas.

Also, in the PIF references are made to restoration, but no core indicators are completed. Please clarify.

b) This will be analyzed subject to the corrections made above.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

a) We clarified active and inactive concepts while describing the achievements of the ongoing project (see subtitle ?1. Biodiversity and protected areas?). We explained how these four are named as active and how the new 3 inactive PAs will benefit from these four PAs. On WDPA ID, none of these sites have a separate ID. The whole Socotra has a single ID (UNESCO's World Heritage Site ID). The team will work to assign separate IDs to these PAs.

See section Project rationale for the clarification of active, inactive concepts.

This indicator has been added, it is mainly indicator 3.4, some part of Aden Wetland under restoration.

5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category?

b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?

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

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

a) Yes, cleared.

b) Yes, cleared.

c) Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.7 Qualitative assessment

a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?

b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?

c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

a) this is not well articulated and the failure to clearly explain how the project builds on the previous GEF investment is lacking on this point,

b) The project focuses on upscaling, but it not an innovative project.

c) Yes, there is some potential on this element, but it is not really a focus of the project.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

We provided an explanation on the achievement of the previous project to demonstrate how the current activities are being built on.

Noted, but it is still bringing a new perspective to the Yemeni government. From a national perspective, it is innovative.

Noted

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

The project is aligned with the GEF-8 biodiversity focal area strategy Objective One.

The project claims that it is aligned with the Land Degradation Focal Area strategy but it is not. A few references are made to Land Degradation, but no activities or elements of the project are focused on the priorities of the land degradation strategy. Furthermore, no core indicators are identified in the PIF that relate to the land degradation strategy. The project as presented is a biodiversity project. Therefore, remove all references to the Land Degradation Focal Area and land degradation.

Please also correct the Rio Markers and eliminate Land Degradation as a significant objective.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

The project is now fully aligned with BD only and Text on alignment with LD has been removed and the Rio marker on LD has been adjusted.

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

No, this is not included in the PIF. Please add.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

We added which GBF targets will be supported with the project and how.

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

8.3 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?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country's(ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments

12/2/2023

Cleared.

10/19/2023

1. Letter of Endorsement: the template utilized for this project removed the footnote that conditions for the selection of the executing partner *?Subject to the capacity assessment carried out by the GEF Implementing Agency, as appropriate?.* Per the attached email, back in March when we were aiming to constitute June 2023

Work Program, Agencies were informed that LoEs *?with modifications cannot be accepted and will be returned?*. While the removal of the footnote seems to be trivial, it is not: this footnote reduces the chances of having an executing partner that does not meet the fiduciary and procurement standards required to safely execute the project. Please get an email from the OFP accepting this footnote to be part of the LoE (this is an alternative to request a new LoE).

2. The allocated funds for GEF Project Financing and correspondent Agency Fee in Portal (see below) *are higher than* the allocated funds in LoE (see below). The Agency needs to (i) adjust the figures in Portal to match those in LoE; or (ii) get a new LoE with the amounts reflected in Portal.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds ⓘ

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds ⓘ	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$) ⓘ	Total GEF Financing(\$)
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	2,301,605	218,652	2,520,257.00
UNEP	GET	Yemen	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	2,114,606	200,887	2,315,493.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)						4,416,211.00	419,539.00	4,835,750.00

The total financing (from GEFTF) being requested for this project is US\$5,000,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF Project Financing. The financing requested for Yemen is detailed in table below.

Source of Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area Source	Amount (in US\$)				Total
			GEF Project Financing	GEF Project Financing Agency Fee	Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	Project Preparation Grant (PPG) Agency Fee	
GEFTF	UNEP	Biodiversity	2,275,547	216,176	104,234	9,902	2,600,059
GEFTF	UNEP	Land Degradation	2,090,664	198,613	95,766	9,098	2,394,141
Total GEF Resources			4,366,211	414,789	200,000	19,000	5,000,000

1.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

Noted, the LoE has been secured.

LoE updated.

Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

NA

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

As noted above, please eliminate the Rio Markers for LD.

12/2/2023

Cleared.

Agency's Comments

29/11/2023

We removed it.

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) 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 to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

NA.

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

10/19/2023

No, a number of issues require clarification. Please revise the submission and resubmit.


Please take note of the key project design issues that have been identified above that require revision.

1/17/2024

No.

Please complete this section of the PIF and resubmit:

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project? 

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and project potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing





1/31/2024

All issues have been addressed. PIF is recommended for technical clearance.

Agency's Comments

18/01/2024

There is not any option to choose ?No? on the portal. (See the screenshot below). However, we added a text in the text box that UNEP will not take any execution role. Additionally, we provided a short explanation on how the project will coordinate with the related initiatives.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and project potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

🔍 **B** U Roboto **A**

UNEP will not take any execution role on this project.

Following are the two primary GEF projects that this project will closely coordinate and align:

UNEP/GEF "Support to the Integrated Program for the Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Socotra Archipelago" has components: (1) Improved Biodiversity Conservation/Protected Area Management (BD/PAM), (2) Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Management, (3) Sustainable Land Management/Land Degradation (SLM/LD), and (4) Enabling Environment (related to the institutional framework, capacity development and sustainable financing). This project creates a strong baseline for this project. In addition, the expandable equipment and the expertise network of this ongoing Project will be transferred to this GEF8 Project.

FAO/GEF Project "Resilient and sustainable livelihoods for rural Yemen" aims to facilitate the development of sustainable and resil

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	10/23/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/17/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/31/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		