

Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Caroni river basin of Bolivar state

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10971

Countries

Venezuela

Project Name

Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Caroni river basin of Bolivar state

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

6/21/2023

Review completed by PM

7/14/2023

Program Manager

Adriana Moreira

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

FSP

PIF
CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-5-23: The project remains aligned with the BD focal area priorities (BD 1.1 and 2.7).

With the indicated start and completion date in the Project Information section, the expected duration for this project should be 72 months but not 60 months, please correct as needed:

Submission Date 6/21/2023	Expected Implementation Start 1/1/2024	Expected Completion Date 12/31/2029
Duration ⓘ 60 In Months		Agency Fee(\$) 832,715.00

Agency Response

08.15.2023

Thank you for noting this, the dates have been adjusted to 60 months duration.

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-5-23: The revised components and outputs described in Table B are appropriate.

Agency Response N/A

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response N/A

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-5-23: Proposed co-financing is satisfactory.

Agency Response N/A

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-20-23: PMC is not proportionate between GEF financing and co-financing, please consider to adjust the PMC budget allocation accordingly:

	GEF financing	Co-financing
Sub Total (\$)	8,426,303.00	51,060,583.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)		
	GET	
	339,115.00	1,531,817.00
Sub Total(\$)	339,115.00	1,531,817.00
Total Project Cost(\$)	8,765,418.00	52,592,400.00
	4.0%	3.0%

Agency Response

08.15.2023

Noted, the co-financing contributions have been revised to ensure the proportionality on PMC allocation between GEF financing and the project co-financing.

Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-5-23: Status of PPG utilization is reported in Annex C.

Agency Response N/A

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-5-23: Proposed core indicators have been adjusted during preparation phase and remain significant for delivering important global environmental benefits.

Agency Response N/A

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-5-23: Elaboration on root causes and barriers is adequate.

Agency Response N/A

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-5-23: Baseline scenarios are well described.

Agency Response N/A

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

7-5-23: Alternative scenario is adequately described and expected outcomes/components indicate a good understanding of national circumstances.

Agency Response N/A

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-5-23: Proposed project is well aligned with Focal Area strategies.

Agency Response N/A

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-5-23: Incremental cost reasoning is adequate.

Agency Response N/A

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-5-23: Project contribution to GEBs is adequate.

Agency Response N/A

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-5-23: Description of potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up is satisfactory.

Agency Response N/A

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7--12-23: In Annex D on Project Map and Coordinates, please consider inserting the geographic location of the site directly under the dedicated data entry field. This includes the Location Name, Latitude and Longitude.

Agency Response

08.15.2023

The coordinates of the demonstration area and the total project area have been inserted in the data fields as suggested.

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response N/A

Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation

phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-10-23: Stakeholder consultations and engagement plan are adequately described.

Agency Response N/A

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-20-23: The project has used gender, including with reference to disaggregated data. While this is welcome, please make sure that at implementation, the data collected will be by gender (non-binary) and not by sex (man-woman, binary). It has to be noted that collection of gender data may present challenges, in particular, if the country / communities collect binary data only - men / women.

Agency Response

08.15.23

Thank you for the comment which is well received. The project will collect data by gender as suggested during implementation.

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-10-23: Private sector engagement is adequate provided the local conditions.

Agency Response N/A

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-10-23: Risk analysis and proposed mitigation measures are adequate.

Agency Response N/A

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-11-23: Description of proposed institutional arrangements and coordination is adequate. The OFP letter requesting execution support needs to include exactly what will be the support services they are requiring the IA to provide and the detailed costs associated.

Agency Response

08.15.23

As mentioned in the OFP letter, FAO will administer the budget, disbursing payments for procured services, consultants and goods, by request and under guidance of MINEC as executing entity and responsible for the achievement of project results. This will be done in line with workplans and budgets validated by the project steering committee. Considering contracts, training workshops and goods, nearly 56% of the project budget will be handled by national partners. Kindly note that FAO will provide these services at no extra costs for the project.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-11-23: Proposed project is well aligned with the country's national strategies.

Agency Response N/A

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-11-23: Knowledge management plan is well developed.

Agency Response N/A

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 CEO Endorsement Request

7-12-23: Environmental and social safeguards are well documented.

Agency Response N/A

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-12-23: Project includes an adequate M&E Plan with indicators and budget.

Agency Response N/A

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-12-23: Benefits are well described.

Agency Response N/A

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-20-23: Please include a translation of the project budget table into English. Please also include a column indicating responsible entity for each budget line item in the budget table. We will review the revised budget once resubmitted.

Agency Response

08.15.23

Noted with thanks. The budget has been translated to English and a column indicating the Responsible Entity of each budget line has been included as requested.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-12-23: Results framework is satisfactory.

Agency Response N/A

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-20-23: Please, revise the comments above and submit proposal for further review. Thanks!

Agency Response

08.15.23

We appreciate the comments, which have been addressed in the resubmission, along with an update from the implementing agency on the environmental and social risk matrix.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response
Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-12-23: Status of PPG utilization is reported in Annex C.

Agency Response N/A
Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-12-23: Project maps are adequate.

Agency Response N/A
Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

N/A

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response N/A

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response N/A

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations