



Sustainable Management of Agricultural Biodiversity in Vulnerable Ecosystems and Rural Communities of Samtskhe-Javakheti Region in Georgia

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10829

Countries

Georgia

Project Name

Sustainable Management of Agricultural Biodiversity in Vulnerable Ecosystems and Rural Communities of Samtskhe-Javakheti Region in Georgia

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

6/9/2022

Review completed by PM

6/9/2022

Program Manager

Ulrich Apel

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

MSP

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

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

06/09/2022: No.

Please change the source for REC Caucasus: from 'Civil Society Organization' to 'Other' (same as at PIF stage approval).

06/22/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response We changed REC Caucasus to 'Other'

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: Not fully.

The resolution / quality of the budget table inserted in Annex E is very low and it is very difficult to read, even by using zoom. We were able review the budget in the uploaded Excel table and find it in order; however, please improve the readability of the table that is pasted into Annex E.

06/22/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response We inserted an enhanced version of the budget.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none for MSP

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none for MSP

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: Has been reported in Annex C.

Cleared

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: Are included in portal.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

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

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

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

06/09/2022: No. Please address comments made in this review.

06/22/2022: Yes. Program Manager recommends CEO endorsement.

Review Dates

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

First Review	6/9/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/22/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	
Additional Review (as necessary)	
Additional Review (as necessary)	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

The project aims at mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture sector through sustainable management of agrobiodiversity in vulnerable ecosystems and rural communities of Samtskhe-Javakheti Region of Georgia by strengthening larger-scale policy and regulatory frameworks, demonstrating and scaling-up investment in supporting in-situ conservation and use of plant genetic resources of ancient vine and wheat varieties throughout farmer management to improve livelihoods of local people, revitalize rural agrotourism and generate impacts necessary to advance progress at national level. To achieve this, the project will focus on three main inter-related components. Component (1) will strengthen policy and legal frameworks enabling sustainably management of agricultural biodiversity and support livelihoods in agricultural production. Component (2) will be facilitating technical assistance and investment in diversified agricultural biodiversity-friendly practices and products and Component (3) will support capacity development, knowledge management and M&E for effective and sustainable agricultural biodiversity management.

In medium- and long-term perspectives COVID-19 risks will be mitigated through taking into account existing regulations and respond to the specific needs of women, children, disabled and other vulnerable groups. In addition, national and international public health safety standards and necessary measures regarding pandemic and post-pandemic prevention and avoidance of novel Coronavid-19 and other communicable diseases will be considered as well. The COVID-19 crisis can provide opportunities to

showcase the project's successes if its impact is successfully combined with public health benefits.