



Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10563

Countries

Regional (Georgia, Moldova, Türkiye, Ukraine)

Project Name

Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA)

Agencies

World Bank

Date received by PM

10/12/2021

Review completed by PM

2/16/2022

Program Manager

Taylor Henshaw

Focal Area

International Waters

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

SH (10.18.21): Yes, however, the PID ?alignment with the GEF 7 International Waters (IW) Focal Area? section references several project outcomes and of which only two are captured in the GEF data sheet and none in the PID ToC figure. Please explain and address this issue.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Agency Response

thank you!

01/18/22

The TOC has been updated and is included in the updated PID. The paragraph in the PID describing project alignment with the GEF 7 IW focal areas has been modified accordingly and reads as follows:

?The Project is aligned with the GEF 7 International Waters (IW) Focal Area for its focus on water quality addressing the issue of nutrient pollution and for its objective to strengthen regional capacity to take action to reduce Black Sea pollution, based on expanded knowledge, improved regulation, and increased regional cooperation in this matter. The Project will be linked to the IW-1-3 focal area strategic objective Strengthen blue economy opportunities by addressing pollution reduction in marine environments. The Project?s long-term outcome of preventing and reducing Black Sea nutrient pollution and therefore improving the environmental health of the Black Sea will be achieved via the following project outcomes, specifically: (i) legal action and/or financing decisions to address pollution taken at national and regional level; (ii) innovative ideas brought to viability and stakeholder engagement is fostered, creating potential for replication, a scale-up, and new innovation; and (iii) a critical pollution

reduction investment, selected by the project, is ready for preparation. The Project is aligned with GEF-7 through the following activities: it finances an update of national pollution reduction policies and their regional harmonization; catalyzes innovation approaches towards more sustainable use of marine and coastal resources through the Eco-Innovation Challenge program (including the pilots) it supports; promotes multi-stakeholder engagement, which involves the private sector, public sector, and civic society at regional, global, and national levels; and facilitates strategic investments through Private Public Partnerships (PPPs). The Project will particularly look at urban and agriculture pollution sources. Knowledge products and trainings will be disseminated through the IW:LEARN Platform. The project will promote knowledge exchange and regional dialogue among seven CMA countries.?

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

SH (10.18.21): Please address the below points:

- Please detail changes in the project PDO since GEF council approval and provide a rationale specific to how such changes adhere to the overall scope of the GEF council approved PIF.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

- Further, since council approval Outputs have been introduced into the GEF data sheet and which seem primarily to align with the PAD RF, while not being explicitly mentioned under PID the component descriptions. Also, refinements have been made specific to the project Components and Outcomes since PIF approval, while some funding has shifted across the two components. All the above changes must be thoroughly described and a justification provided as to how changes fall within the scope of the council approved package.

SH (1.24.22): Please address the below three comments:

-Considering the described changes since PIF council approval stage, please explain how the project continues to align with and support the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA)? This question is especially relevant since the project no longer has an designated output in support of "regional blue economy and pollution framework".

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

- Please reintroduce a specific output aimed at enhancing dialogue and regional cooperation between planned/ongoing GEF supported Black Sea FAO (small scale fisheries) and UNDP (TDA/SAP) projects. GEF would like to see close coordination from the very onset between institutions/projects, including in connection with project inception meetings etc. GEF considers such coordination an important service to countries and an enhancer of the combined impact of investments.

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

- Specific to development of sustainable business standards and guidelines in key sectors (agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, shipping, water management); and capacity building in banking for green finance and innovation, please explain if the removal of these PIF stage activities will lead to reduced long term stress reduction targets for this project? This is especially important considering the broad private sector reform agenda which these activities represented. Further, please be clear, how will the private banking sector benefit from this project, and which regional activities will support the banking sector?

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

Agency Response

02/10/22

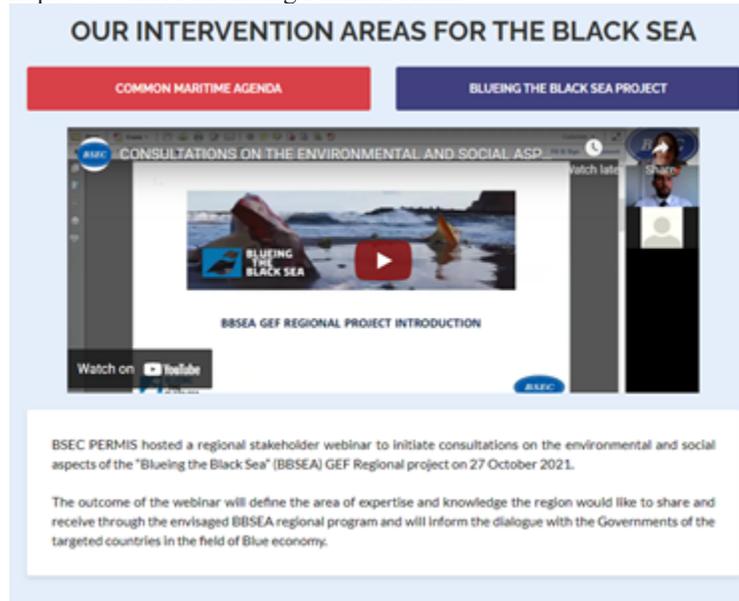
- Project design was modified based on priorities expressed by the stakeholders in a survey. The survey involved hundreds of participants who were involved through seven national consultations. Specifically, the stakeholders were asked what they see as the most damaging pollution sources affecting the health of marine ecosystems in the Black Sea. Nutrient pollution from agriculture and wastewater was found to be such a source. As a result, the BBSEA-GEF project fully focused on nutrient pollution. The stakeholders were also requested to identify most important potential project activities. At national level, such activities were: (i) the preparation and fundraising for investment to reduce pollution and (ii) national investment plans for pollution prevention. These activities became core project actions. At the same time, the survey results lead to the removal of the following activities from the project: (i) development of sustainable business standards and guidelines in key sectors (agriculture, aquaculture, tourism, shipping, water management); and (ii) capacity building in banking for green finance and innovation.

- The BBSEA is working closely with the CMA (in fact, is included in the CMA functional structure and is being invited to every CMA meeting), and the BBSEA outcomes adds value - long term - to the CMA agenda. The BBSEA progress is shared with the CMA on a regular basis at stakeholder meetings.

Please see <http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Default>,

<http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/search/Blueing%20the%20Black%20Sea>

<http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Default>



Please also see the attached CMA booklet with the agenda and presentations of the CMA Regional Stakeholder Conference of December 10, 2020, where the first Plenary Session was 'CMA: challenges and opportunities for a sustainable and resilient blue economy across the Black Sea?' and where the BBSEA is mentioned as follows: 'the GEF has launched in 2020 the Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA) Program, which serves as an umbrella to foster synergies amongst various national investments projects, trust-funds and partnerships. The long-term program objective is to improve environmental health of the Black Sea and increase social and economic benefits for the population.'

- The cooperation will be between member countries and relevant agencies, including UNDP and FAO. These two agencies have seats at advisory committee and a direct role in the implementation support of the project. An output has been added to Table B in the GEF Datasheet, and corresponding statements have been added to the PAD, Subcomponent 1.2 (page 52).

-The activities outlined in the question have been removed because during the project preparation, it was concluded that they would not have a significant impact. Specifically, the consultations did not show an appetite for new standards. Commercial banks had no interest in related training, and the cost-benefit analysis results were not supportive of these interventions. In other words, these activities would not add value. Further, regarding your question about the private banks' involvement: they will be mainly involved as part of the scale-up mechanism extended to innovators distinguished in the Eco Innovation Challenge for pollution reduction in the Black Sea. The companies that will be hired by the project to support the scale-up will be working with commercial banks. The project itself is aimed at creating enabling environment for the scale-up, and it involves connecting the winning innovation project teams with banks for

potential opportunities of obtaining financing for application of their ideas in practice.

01/18/22

Please detail changes in the project PDO since GEF council approval and provide a rationale specific to how such changes adhere to the overall scope of the GEF council approved PIF.

Answer: After the PCN Decision Meeting, the PDO changed from ?strengthen economic, technical and communication tools to promote regional collaboration and private sector engagement for pollution prevention in the Black Sea? to ?strengthen the capacity and preparedness of governments and the private sector in participating countries to take action to reduce pollution in the Black Sea?. The reason for the change was the creation of a twin ASA project, which made a distinction of objectives and activities between the BBSEA-GEF the BBSEA-ASA necessary. It was decided that the BBSEA-ASA project would focus on the Gap Analysis ? a diagnostic study of the current legislation and policy and institutional framework for nutrient water pollution in the Black Sea. The BBSEA-GEF project would focus on policy drafting - preparing recommendations for policy harmonization (based on the diagnostic study prepared by the BBSEA-ASA) and on regional dialogue aimed at increased collaboration of countries and on activities aimed at enhancement of public and private sector readiness for pollution prevention in the Black Sea region. The scope of the project did not change, but the activities were streamlined considering the modified project focus.

Excel Line 5: QI.2

Further, since council approval Outputs have been introduced into the GEF data sheet and which seem primarily to align with the PAD RF, while not being explicitly mentioned under PID the component descriptions. Also, refinements have been made specific to the project Components and Outcomes since PIF approval, while some funding has shifted across the two components. All the above changes must be thoroughly described, and a justification provided as to how changes fall within the scope of the council approved package.

Answer: Project design was modified based on priorities expressed by the stakeholders in a survey. The survey involved hundreds of participants who were involved through seven national consultations. Specifically, the stakeholders were asked what they see as the most damaging pollution sources affecting the health of marine ecosystems in the Black Sea. Nutrient pollution from agriculture and wastewater was found to be such a source. As a result, the BBSEA-GEF project fully focused on nutrient pollution. The stakeholders were also requested to identify most important potential project activities. At national level, such activities were: (i) the preparation and fundraising for investment to reduce pollution and (ii) national investment plans for pollution prevention. These activities became core project actions. At the same time, the survey results lead to the removal of the following activities from the project: (i) development of sustainable business standards and guidelines in key sectors (agriculture, aquaculture, tourism,

shipping, water management); and (ii) capacity building in banking for green finance and innovation.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

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

SH (10.18.21):

- Please provide evidence of co-finance in the form of co-finance letters.

SH (1.24.22):

- Please submit the missing cofinancing letter.

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

- Strong government buy-in is key for the success of the project. Please clarify is Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Turkey Governments will provide co-finance (recurrent expenditures) to the project ?

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

- In the PID/PAD, please include language that details the linkages and coordination between this GEF project and the \$275 M of listed co-finance. The same info should also be included in the GEF datasheet table C description box.

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

SH (1.24.22):

- Please explain if the WBG cofinance (projects and programs) will be leveraged as vehicles to advance national/regional level nutrient reform agenda's? In this connection, please be clear and specify where in the PID/PAD language to this effect can be found?

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

Agency Response

02/10/22

- letters are uploaded

- The country buy-in is getting stronger thanks to the project governance and continuous dialogue. The BBSEA focal points nominated by respective government are seating in the Steering Committee of the project. Individual national BBSEA Focal Points are currently selecting the Hosts of Innovation in respective countries. The Host of innovation is a municipality, a farm association or any other agency where the winner of the Eco-Innovation Challenge will pilot the innovation.

The strong buy-in by respective country was built over time: First, the BBSEA team had a stakeholder consultation meeting in October 2021, with the participation of all country focal point colleagues, followed - between November 2021 and January 2022 - by a series of consultation and coordination meetings with the focal point colleagues in the countries. Second, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which has been submitted to the GEF, describes how BBSEA will work with stakeholders in the countries. Engagement with the governments will be continued throughout the project implementation.

- This was done by adding specific language in the PAD, page 52-53: Annex 2, Subcomponent 1.2. Please also see a comment under Table C in the GEF Datasheet.

- The Additional Financing of the Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project in Romania, one of the co-financing projects, offers a strong example of nutrient reform agenda. The Country has recently adopted a revised Agricultural Code promoting more stringent standard on nutrient reduction. The project results and best practices were shared during the BBSEA consultation as a best practice. Please see also PAD, page 52-53: Annex 2, Subcomponent 1.2. Please also see a comment under Table C in the GEF Datasheet.

01/18/22

cofinancing letters are submitted, except one which will be signed soon

In the PID/PAD, please include language that details the linkages and coordination between this GEF project and the \$275 M of listed co-finance. The same info should also be included in the GEF datasheet table C description box.

Answer: The project will be co-financed by five Bank TA/lending projects:

- Bulgaria RAS - Bulgaria River Basin and Flood Risk Management Plans Preparation Support (P167719, TA, implementation 2018-22, co-financing US\$22 million);
- Romania Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project (P093775, implementation 2008-23, Loan, co-financing US\$48 million);
- Danube Water Program Third Phase: Building a Danube Water Security Platform (P167702, implementation 2019-22, TA, co-financing US\$1.5 million);
- Turkey Organized Industrial Zones Project (P171645, implementation 2021-26, Loan, co-financing US\$86 million);
- Turkey Integrated Landscapes Management Project (P172562, implementation 2021-26, Loan, co-financing US\$118.125 million).

The Bulgaria River Basin and Flood Risk Management Plans Preparation Support (P167719) project includes the assessment of the current condition of the surface and ground water in the Danube, the Black Sea, and the East and West Aegean River Basin Districts in Bulgaria, as well as the preparation of the river-based management plans, which will propose measures to improve the status of the country's bodies of water, thus contributing to pollution reduction in the water systems connected to the Black Sea and to greater compliance with related European and National Environmental Legislation requirements. Thus, this is a parallel/synergetic activity to the BBSEA project.

The Romania Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project (P093775) directly targets nutrient pollution reduction in the water bodies leading to the Danube and Black Sea through integrated land and water management, thus supporting the Government of Romania towards meeting EU Nitrates Directive requirements at a national scale. This way, the Romania project supports the same long-term objectives as the BBSEA project, albeit through a different set of expected direct project results. Thus, this is a parallel/synergetic activity to the BBSEA project.

The Danube Water Program Third Phase: Building a Danube Water Security Platform (P167702) program supports institutional capacity building and the development of regulatory and policy instruments in the water supply and wastewater sector in the Danube Region. The higher-level objective of the program is to contribute to improving the efficiency and quality of water supply and wastewater service delivery in the Danube region. This way, the program contributes to improved water quality/reduced pollution of the water systems leading to the Black Sea, thus supporting the BBSEA objectives.

The Turkey Organized Industrial Zones (OIZ) Project (OIZ) (P171645) aims at increased efficiency, environmental sustainability and competitiveness of select OIZs in Turkey. This includes financing the development of advanced water and wastewater

treatment facilities, which can be replicated in the BBSEA countries. The BBSEA can showcase this experience during training as innovative WWS solution.

The Turkey Integrated Landscapes Management Project (P171645) promotes integrated natural resource management and aims at improved livelihoods and resilient infrastructure services for rural communities in targeted areas of Turkey. The list of activities includes improved agricultural practices leading to reduced water pollution from agriculture. The BBSEA can showcase this experience during training as innovative climate smart approaches in agriculture. In addition, this experience can be replicated in other BBSEA countries. The BSEA might also consider financing a pre-feasibility study for nature-based solutions through its subcomponent 2.2.

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 SH (10.18.21): 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 SH (10.18.21): 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
SH (10.18.21): Please address the below points:

- Please select a rating specific to Core Indicator 7.1

- Specific to Core Indicator 7.3, please explain the change in values between PIF and CEO Endorsement stage?

- Specific to Core Indicator 7.4, please adjust the value to 1.

- Specific to Core indicator 11, please explain the reduction since PIF approval stage in beneficiaries directly benefiting from project activities?

SH (1.24.22): Thank you. All above comments are cleared.

Agency Response

thank you!

01/18/22

- Please select a rating specific to Core Indicator 7.1.

Answer: The rating is 4, as per the Core Indicator Sheet.

- Specific to Core Indicator 7.3, please explain the change in values between PIF and CEO Endorsement stage?

Answer: The rating is 2 both at PIF and at Endorsement stages, as per the Core Indicator Sheet.

- Specific to Core Indicator 7.4, please adjust the value to 1.

Answer: The value is 1 in the Core Indicator Sheet.

- Specific to Core indicator 11, please explain the reduction since PIF approval stage in beneficiaries directly benefiting from project activities?

Answer: This indicator is linked to subcomponent 2.1. ECO-Innovation Challenge. Following the GEF Council approval, the preparation of this subcomponent involved a detailed assessment of the area where the activities will be implemented. The area turned out to be smaller than assessed at start, and therefore the estimate of the number of beneficiaries was reduced. This change does not affect the scope of the project because the ECO innovation challenge subcomponent will still finance the same number of pilots and support (accelerate) the same number of innovative ideas as planned at start.

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

SH (10.18.21): Yes the PID details the barriers specific to policy cohesion, enabling environment and associated private sector engagement. However, please strengthen the PAD/PID by:

- further describing some of the lessons learnt from previous GEF/WB programs and projects in the Danube/Black sea region.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

- inserting language specifying that the project will be informed by the anticipated TDA/SAP update (including barriers/drivers analysis) specific to the Black Sea.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Agency Response

thank you!

01/18/22

- This has been done. Please see it in the PAD.

Excel line 10: QII.1 (b)

- The project will be informed by the TDA/SAP analysis prepared by the GEF-financed UNDP-implemented project Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME (GEF ID 10725). The UNDP's project planned activities include updated TDA/SAP, as well as other activities: mapping of priority ecosystems, national blue economy strategies, and updated information for the BSIS.

Answer: This has been added to the PAD.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21):

Please strengthen the PAD/PID by further describing some of the lessons learnt from previous GEF/WB/UNDP programs and projects in the Danube/Black sea region.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Agency Response
thank you!

01/18/22

This has been done. Please see it in the PAD.

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

SH (10.18.21): refer to comments in part 1 box 2.

Agency Response Responded above

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21): Refer to comments part 1 box 1.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Agency Response
thank you!

Responded above

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21): Overall, the Theory of Change clearly describes the value added by this GEF IW project. The GEF appreciates that both the GFCM and the BCS form part of the steering committee and which will enhance the level of coordination with ongoing GEF IW projects and beyond in the basin. Also, the project seeks to include a range of

other stakeholders, including regional Banks, which is applaudable and will enhance the likelihood of impact. Please address the below comments:

- Per previous comments the baseline (including past GEF IW investments) and the listed co-finance should be further elaborated.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

- Potential replication of the eco-innovation challenge: Please detail the mechanism in place to distill lessons learnt from the regional/national activities (failures/successes) and ways by which these may feed into the standard setting activities/regional policy forum dialogues? Please also incorporate language into the PAD/PID which clearly details how eco-innovation challenge activities work in synergy and (where possible) will leverage ongoing/future national WB lending operations.

SH (1.24.22): Please explain if the WBG cofinance (projects and programs) will be leveraged as vehicles to advance national/regional level nutrient reform agenda's? In this connection, please be clear and specify where in the PID/PAD language to this effect can be found?

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

- Regional Eco innovation challenge: It is not clear how the regional eco innovation challenge and prize (\$10,000) will lead to tangible long term improvements in the Black Sea ecosystem health? How is success defined?

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

- Several places the PID references the PAD. Will the PAD be made available to council members during the 4 weeks of council review?

SH (1.24.22): Thank you. Cleared.

Agency Response

thank you!

01/18/22

- responded above (past GEFIW investments and cofinancing)

- For the BBSEA Project, through strategic partnerships at the international, regional and/or national business levels, the Eco-Innovation Challenge will also promote technical collaboration, to build new knowledge and ideas among entrepreneurs, eco-business. Partnership contributes to scalability and sustainability of innovations. Experience from other challenges suggests that a diversity of partners is preferable. The

BSEC is working closely with the EU and its Blue Invest program to diversify source of support for innovators. The Blue Invest Program boosts innovation and investment in sustainable technologies for the blue economy, by supporting readiness and access to finance for early-stage businesses, SMEs, and scale-ups. The Black Sea Virtual Knowledge Center will be used to promote the Eco-Innovation Challenge outcomes.

To assure the replicability and sustainability of the innovations supported by the Eco-Innovation Challenge, it will equip its beneficiaries (the winners of the contest) with knowledge in business development and leadership, as well as provide opportunities to form partnerships with public sector entities, development organizations, experts, venture capitalists, and regional/local banks. Multi-stakeholder engagement is critical for the replication/scale-up of the winning innovations: the viability of the innovations and their wider application for pollution reduction can only be achieved if their developers work together with private and public sector entities and gain their financial, regulatory, and consultation support. Multi-stakeholder partnerships have proven critical for the success of other the GEF projects promoting innovations (see report GEF Support to Innovation: Findings and Lessons, 2021, which presents examples of the following projects: Sustainable Rural Livelihood Security through Innovations in Land and Ecosystem Management (GEF ID 3470, India); CAPE Agulhas Biodiversity Initiative (GEF ID 1055, South Africa); and Environmentally Sound Management and Disposal of Obsolete POPs Pesticides and Other POPs Wastes (GEF ID 2926, China)).

The project team will be working with the IFC to develop the Eco-Innovation Challenge portfolio with consideration of the existing IFC projects.

- (ii) Please also incorporate language into the PAD/PID which clearly details how eco-innovation challenge activities work in synergy and (where possible) will leverage ongoing/future national WB lending operations.

Answer: This has been done.

(iii) - Regional Eco innovation challenge: It is not clear how the regional eco innovation challenge and prize (\$10,000) will lead to tangible long-term improvements in the Black Sea ecosystem health? How is success defined?

Answer: Based on the recommendations of the DM, the prize was removed from project design and replaced with financing the acceleration program. The beneficiaries of this program will be the winners of the early-stage innovative concept contest (the Regional Challenge). The acceleration program will be aimed at speeding up further development of the early-stage innovative concepts toward practical applications. To do that, the project will foster partnerships of the innovation developers with investors, business partners, financiers, and experts who will support adoption of the innovation. The project will also help the innovation developers to obtain knowledge necessary to take their inventions beyond the technical level and toward specific applications, which can be challenging, especially considering local specifics.

Several places the PID references the PAD. Will the PAD be made available to council members during the 4 weeks of council review?

Answer: Yes.

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

SH (10.18.21): 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

SH (10.15.21): Cleared. The proposed Project is the first step towards building the broader BBSEA Program. The Turning the Tide of Pollution activity will produce an Institutional, Policy and Legal Analysis and provide a qualitative assessment on the cost of pollution. The GEF finance will build on these results. This synergy between GEF and PROBLUE financing is appropriate in that a better understanding of the baseline will help frame the context in which this project operates, and in which its result should be interpreted specific to achieving long term improvements in Black Sea ecosystem health.

Please note that several European blended finance facilities for water infrastructure in emerging economies exist, and this project might increase its impact via timely outreach, including as part of the anticipated sub-component 2.2 activities. GEF recommends that such partnerships be explored during project execution.

Agency Response

01/18/22

thank you for the suggestion, will be considered during the implementation

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

SH (10.18.21): 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

NA

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

SH (10.18.21): Please address the below comments:

- GEF data sheet stakeholder section: Refer to the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement that sets out the core principles and mandatory requirements for stakeholders. Please provide information on the type of organizations and individuals that took part in the project identification phase.

- Please submit a Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

- In the PID, or in the form of an annex, please include information describing regional/national consultations during project preparation.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Agency Response

thank you!

01/18/22

- section is updated

-SEP is uploaded

- This has been added to the PID and PAD

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

SH (10.18.21): Please address the below comments:

Specific to the GEF data sheet gender section: please include information from the gender Analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment performed during project preparation.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Please confirm that gender-responsive measures have been developed (gender action plan or equivalent)?

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Agency Response

thank you!

01/18/22

The GAP report is provided

The Project will encourage women's participation in Eco-Innovation Challenge and will dedicate at least one regional round of Challenge to women-led businesses to advance economic opportunities for female entrepreneurs. Targeted measures are envisaged under the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan which are to secure that women are reached out and well represented among the project beneficiaries. The Eco-Innovation

Challenge awareness campaigns will reach out to vulnerable groups as well as networks of women and businesswomen. Women entrepreneurs will be given extra attention to ensure their enterprises have proper financial and technical support (training, capacity building activities etc.). To monitor the progress of closing the gender gap in women's access and control of assets, an indicator 'Share of women benefitting from business development services, TA, funding support' has been included in the Results Framework. In addition, the Project will adopt a number of measures and mechanisms to support women's active participation more broadly, including: selection of service providers with proven capacity in working with women; separate sessions with women to ascertain their opinions and needs; and preferential access for women to appropriate activities on a demand-driven basis. In addition, gender-disaggregation will be applied in Project M&E and knowledge management systems whenever possible.

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

SH (10.15.21): Cleared. The project is well crafted and will engage private sector agents as part of both standard setting and pilot activities.

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

SH (10.18.21): 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

SH (10.18.21):

Please explain which existing monitoring protocols/systems are in place specific to nutrient pollution. It is important that the project both benefit from existing data and support exciting basin wide monitoring efforts via new data produced including via the anticipated PROBLUE TA products.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared. GEF expects close coordination during inception and subsequent implementation between all GEF projects in the Black Sea. This WB lead project and associated PROBLUE TA products should actively support exciting basin wide monitoring efforts via new data produced.

Agency Response

thank you!

01/18/22

The monitoring protocol will be developed by the previously mentioned GEF-financed and UNDP-implemented project Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME (GEF ID 10725). The Eco-Innovation Challenge subcomponent of the BBSEA project will have its own monitoring system in place specific to nutrient pollution, to account for pollution reduction achieved by the implemented pilots. This monitoring system will be developed for the pilots in the National window of the Eco-Innovation Challenge.

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

SH (10.18.21): 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

SH (10.18.21): Please submit a KM Budget, Time-line and elaborate on specific K&L Outputs/Deliverables.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared, however, the KM budget will have to be further developed during inception.

Agency Response

thank you, will be addressed during inception

01/18/22

Knowledge Management Budget is provided here:

ACTIVITIES			Unit	Expenditures	Cost	Quantities (years of project)						Costs (dollars)					TOTAL GEF
Output	Activity	Sub-Activity				2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
1.2.2 Workshop	1.2.2: Organize a Workshop	Workshop	#	services and operations cost	50,000	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	50,000	0	0	0	50,000
1.2.3 Promotion of Regional Dialogue	1.2.3: Promotion of Regional Dialogue	Workshop	#	services and operations cost	100,000	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	100,000	0	0	0	100,000

At this stage, the Knowledge Management Approach will include specific details on processes to capture, assess and document, and share, in a user-friendly manner, information, lessons, best practices, and expertise generated during implementation; plans for strategic communications; and knowledge outputs to be produced and shared with stakeholders.

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

SH (10.15.21): 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

SH (10.18.21): Please submit a M&E budget.

SH (1.24.22): A detailed M&E budget must be provided. Please submit, or elaborate on where this budget can be found.

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

Agency Response

02/10/22

updated M&E plan and budget are uploaded in the GEF portal. M&E budget is as follows:

Categories of expenses	Budget
	(\$) USD
M&E specialist	158,000
Social and environmental safeguards monitoring specialist	22,000
External audit	20,000
Independent Mid-term and final evaluation	10,000
Total	210,000

01/18/22

M&E plan and budget are uploaded in the GEF portal.

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

SH (10.18.21): Cleared.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21): Please address the below points:

- The PID references annexes (e.g., Annex 3 and 5), but these annexes cannot be found as part of the PID or supporting documents? Please provide annexes and make sure other annexes are not missing.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

- Please populate ANNEX B with responses to comments from GEF Secretariat, Council at work program inclusion stage and STAP at WP inclusion stage.

SH (1.24.22): Thank you, however, please expand on your council comments response specific to:

"2. A more focused project." E.g. please in annex B explain the approach taken towards securing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and point towards where detailed definition of design criteria and consultation processes can be found in the relevant documents.

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

"2. A more focused project." Considering the described changes since PIF council approval stage, please in Annex B explain how the project continues to align with and support the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA)? This question is especially relevant since the project no longer has an designated output in support of "regional blue economy and pollution framework".

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

- Please include a project budget table as part of the GEF datasheet annex E.

SH (1.24.22): Cleared.

Agency Response

02/10/22

SH (1.24.22): Thank you, however, please expand on your council comments response specific to:

"2. A more focused project." E.g. please in annex B explain the approach taken towards securing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and point towards where detailed definition of design criteria and consultation processes can be found in the relevant documents.

Answer 2/8/2022: It is important to note that the project is focused on nutrient pollution reduction from urban wastewater, from farming or from industrial sources. Sectors are diverse which is taken into account by national regulation. National BBSEA Focal points are from the department in charge of nutrient pollution in the respective government and they are in charge of coordination at the national level. At regional level, cross-sectoral coordination is taking place through BSEC and CMA reporting mechanism. BSEC typically engages with Minister of Foreign Affairs. CMA focal points, that are from different Ministries, are also invited at the Steering Committee of the project.

The survey results from the four participating countries have been added to the package (SurveyResultsConsolidated.xlsx). This was defined through national consultations, which involved a survey. This way, country specific preferences were defined and incorporated in project design.

"2. A more focused project." Considering the described changes since PIF council approval stage, please in Annex B explain how the project continues to align with and support the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA)? This question is especially relevant since the project no longer has an designated output in support of "regional blue economy and pollution framework".

Answer 2/8/2022: Answer: The BBSEA is working closely with the CMA (in fact, is included in the CMA functional structure and is being invited to every CMA meeting), and the BBSEA outcomes adds value - long term - to the CMA agenda. The BBSEA progress is shared with the CMA on a regular basis at stakeholder meetings.

Please see <http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Default>,

<http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/search/Blueing%20the%20Black%20Sea>

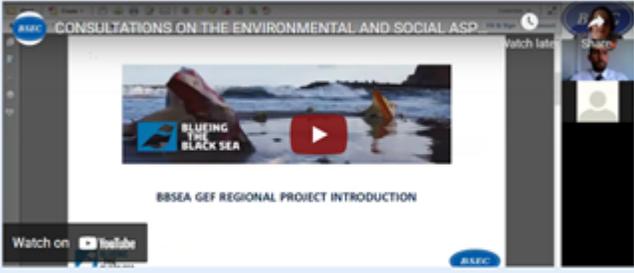
<http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/Default>

Please also see the attached CMA booklet with the agenda and presentations of the CMA Regional Stakeholder Conference of December 10, 2020, where the first Plenary

Session was ?CMA: challenges and opportunities for a sustainable and resilient blue economy across the Black Sea? and where the BBSEA is mentioned as follows: ?the GEF has launched in 2020 the Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA) Program, which serves as an umbrella to foster synergies amongst various national investments projects, trust-funds and partnerships. The long-term program objective is to improve environmental health of the Black Sea and increase social and economic benefits for the population.?

OUR INTERVENTION AREAS FOR THE BLACK SEA

COMMON MARITIME AGENDA BLUEING THE BLACK SEA PROJECT



BSEC PERMIS hosted a regional stakeholder webinar to initiate consultations on the environmental and social aspects of the "Blueing the Black Sea" (BBSEA) GEF Regional project on 27 October 2021.

The outcome of the webinar will define the area of expertise and knowledge the region would like to share and receive through the envisaged BBSEA regional program and will inform the dialogue with the Governments of the targeted countries in the field of Blue economy.

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The outcome of the webinar will define the area of expertise and knowledge the region would like to share and receive through the envisaged BBSEA regional program and will inform the dialogue with the Governments of the targeted countries in the field of Blue economy.

- This is a typo (will be corrected), there will be no annexes.
- Annex B is populated
- project budget is included in the Annex E

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21): Please address the below points:

- The PID and PAD should explicitly state that 1 % of the IW grant will be dedicated to IW:LEARN activities, including the setting up of a project website (as appropriate), production of project experience notes, and the participation of the project in IW Biannual conferences.

SH (1.24.2022): Cleared.

- Please note that for the RF indicator titled "Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products to inform the region and national governments about the impact of inaction (Number)", the aspirational end target should be 4, not 3.

SH (1.24.2022): Cleared.

- The results framework does not contain specific reference to anticipated stress reduction derived from project activities. Please explain if such numbers have been further elaborated since PIF council approval and can be included in the PID/PAD?

SH (1.24.2022): Not cleared. The results framework does not contain specific reference to anticipated stress reduction (tons N/P avoided) derived from project activities. Nor has an annex been submitted detailing the projects anticipated stress reduction impacts.

SH (2.15.22): Thank you for a very elaborate response. Cleared.

Agency Response

02/10/22

The RF does not have such an indicator because achieving nutrient pollution reduction is a long-term process. The project aims at creating enabling environment for Black Sea nutrient pollution reduction and involves pilots. Scaled investment in pollution reduction measures and resulting pollution reduction is a long-term outcome of the project (please see PAD, Figure 2 Theory of Change) and is outside of the project timeframe. However, the team will use an indicator of pollution reduction as a result of the project pilots (Component 2). This indicator will be measured at MTR and project closure. Related information is added to the core indicator worksheet. It is also pasted below:

Estimation of nutrient reduction

1. The Project's capital investments targeting direct reduction of the nutrients are estimated at US\$ 2 million through the micro-grant mechanism. These micro-grants will address pollution from agriculture, urban and industrial origins in the following proportion: US\$ 0.5 million targeting pollution of agricultural sources, US\$ 1 million targeting pollution from municipalities and US\$ 0.5 million targeting pollution of industrial origin.
2. In order to estimate the direct impact on nutrients reduction, calculations take into consideration the baseline of World Bank's projects implemented in the region of Black Sea, displaying cost effectiveness ratios for the reduction of nutrients, indicating ratios (intervals of high estimate & low estimate) of the cost of removing 1 kg nutrient in one year. The ratios fluctuate based on the pollution source (agriculture, municipality or industrial). As result, the direct impact was estimated circa 260 tons of nitrogen and 10 tons of phosphorus to be removed.
3. Moreover, indirect impact contribution on nutrients reduction were considered, accounting for behavior change and "multiplier effect" from parallel ongoing projects in the Project's respective countries.
4. While the establishment of the capital investments will contribute to the direct impact on nutrient reduction, the behavior changes to be encouraged in national and regional terms (as Project's components indicate) is foreseen to contribute with additional nutrient reduction, in long term bases as well.
5. Furthermore, the performance of nutrient reduction will experience an additional increase due to the "merging" effect of Project's outcomes with outcomes of other ongoing World Bank projects (such as environmental-friendly urbanization, tourism and private sector), generating a "multiplier" effect on the nutrient reduction.

In overall, estimations indicate the nutrients reduction totaling over 521 tons (1% of the total pollution generated by the respective countries). Analysis of Project's impact by country, display respective shares of nutrients reduction estimated to be significantly higher especially in Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, considering that Turkey makes up circa 90% of the 4 countries total pollution.

BBSEA - Nutrients reduction estimation

	in tons
Actual pollution (generated by GEF4countries)	
Nitrogen	40,36
Phosphorous	22,19
Total nutrients pollution	62,55
Nutrients reduction (GEF Fund Incremental value)	
Direct reduction (due to GEF capital investments)	
Nitrogen	26
Phosphorous	1
Additional reduction due to behavior change	
Reduction from behaviour change as % of direct reduction	100%
Nitrogen	26
Phosphorous	1
Additional reduction due to multiplier effect from parallel ongoing projects	
Multiplier effect from parallel ongoing projects (10% of direct reduction)	10%
Nitrogen	2
Phosphorous	0
Total Estimated Nutrients Reduction (in tons)	
Nitrogen	500
Phosphorous	21
Total	521
Nutrients reduction as % of actual pollution	
Nitrogen	1.2
Phosphorous	0.0
Total	1.3

BBSEA - Nutrients reduction estimation

	in tons
Actual pollution (generated by GEF4countries)	
Nitrogen	40,36
Phosphorous	22,19
Total nutrients pollution	62,55
Nutrients reduction (GEF Fund Incremental value)	
Direct reduction (due to GEF capital investments)	
Nitrogen	26
Phosphorous	1
Additional reduction due to behavior change	
Reduction from behaviour change as % of direct reduction	100%
Nitrogen	26
Phosphorous	1
Additional reduction due to multiplier effect from parallel ongoing projects	
Multiplier effect from parallel ongoing projects (10% of direct reduction)	10%
Nitrogen	2
Phosphorous	0
Total Estimated Nutrients Reduction (in tons)	
Nitrogen	500
Phosphorous	21
Total	521
Nutrients reduction as % of actual pollution	
Nitrogen	1.2
Phosphorous	0.0
Total	1.3

01/18/22

- This has been added.

- This was adjusted.

- the RF is updated and uploaded in the GEF portal relevant entry

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (2.21.22): Kindly note that this project was requested for Council circulation at its 58th session.

Please address the below comments and resubmit:

1. On Table B and the Project Budget Table: Kindly note that the amount for component 1 in Table B (\$1,127,280) does not match the amount provided in the budget table (\$915,180). Please correct this (note: perhaps this is due to M&E not being presented as a separate component in Table B).

2. Core Indicators: if possible, please include GEF Core Indicators and their targets (found in Core Indicator table) in Annex A 'Project Results Framework'. This will greatly help with project monitoring

3. Stakeholder Engagement: It is well noted that the Agency has attached a report of the Common Maritime Agenda for the Black Sea Regional Stakeholder Conference. The PAD says indicate that 'The CE strategy will be based on the principles outlined in the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)' and the Agency further elaborate in the portal section on Stakeholder Engagement that detailed SEPs will be developed for each participating country. Please reference more clearly reference these documents in the portal and provide some additional information on the conclusion of this conference and direct linkage to the project components and activities in implementation.

4. Gender Equality: It is well noted that the Agency has attached the Gender Action Plan (GAP), however, please clearly reference this document in the portal section on gender, including a summary of the early findings of the gender assessment.

5. On PPG utilization: please change the total amount from \$1 to \$200,000 so it shows clearly that all the PPG funds have been used. Also, the request in this section is to 'provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities' 'the activities are listed in the column 'Project Preparation Activities' but there is no breakdown of the funds utilized in each activity 'only a lumpsum. Please amend.

6. Regarding the budget, in the last budget line it says that GEF resources will be allocated to IW Learn (GEF project handled by UNESCO) but the detailed description is missing. Please fill in the blank column there so that one can understand what this activity entails.

9th of November 2022 (thenshaw): Not addressed. Please address comments one by one in the response field below. Please upload versions of the project paper/CEO request with tracked changes so the reviewer can better understand how the comments were addressed.

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed. Component 1 in the budget table is $\$323,000 + \$592,000 = \$915,900$. M&E Costs ($\$212,100$ in the Budget Table) are included in Table B as part of Component 1. $\$915,900 + \$212,100 = \$1,128,000$. The figure $\$1,128,000$ is the GEF financing amount for Component 1 in Table B. A budget note above the Budget Table explains this accounting.

(2) Addressed. Targets for Core Indicators 7 and 11 are now present in the results framework.

(3) Partly addressed. Please provide the requested references/explanation directly in the portal under the stakeholders section.

(4) Partly addressed. Please include a summary of the early findings of the gender assessment (analysis).

(5) Addressed.

(6) Addressed.

21st of November 2022 (thenshaw):

(3) Addressed

(4) Addressed.

Agency Response

Thank you.

PID in track changes is uploaded in the roadmap.

1. Project budget includes note on M&E costs. M&E costs are accounted for in Table B as part of Component 1, subcomponent 1.2. The subtotal for component 1 in the budget is $1,128,000$ ($915,900 + 212,100$ for M&E).

2. Results Framework Updated; available in CEO Endorsement template and in PAD. Core indicators reflected in Results Framework.

3. The BSEC Secretariat maintains a website including information on the CMA and on the BBSEA (<http://www.bsec-bsvkc.org/Forms/BlueingTheBlackSeaProject>). This webpage contains, among other relevant information, a description of the project, the project's SEP, and documents from both cross-country and country level stakeholder

consultations, the latter took place between February 2021 and October 2021. The webpage states that project ?aims at tackling marine pollution and catalyzing blue economy investments in the Black Sea region. This way, it will practically help Black Sea riparian countries substantiate their efforts in advancing a vision for a sustainable and better valued Black Sea backed by concrete projects, as stipulated in the 2019 Common Maritime Agenda.? The webpage also states that the project is being designed based on ?consultations with the respective stakeholder communities (institutional, business, academia and civil society) working on marine pollution on the state of play, pressing issues and priorities related to pollution prevention, reduction and the control in the Black Sea, as well as the opportunities that result in the process.?

The summary of the project SEP, which has been shared with the GEF SEC, is as follows. The SEP is aimed at ensuring the engagement of a wide range of stakeholders. The SEP presents: (i) the stakeholder mapping, with the emphasis on project-affected groups and vulnerable groups; (ii) a stakeholder engagement program, aligned with the WB ESS10 and Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines of GEF; and (iii) assigned responsibilities for the SEP implementation throughout the life of the project. The PIU will be responsible for the implementation of the SEP and the project?s Grievance Redress Mechanism. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) and Governing Councils (GC) will have a monitoring role. The PIU will be briefing the RSC, the GC, and the Consultative Committee on stakeholder engagement activities and grievances. The grant project reporting template will have a section for stakeholder engagement and community consultations, where the grantees will be submitting their progress reports. The PIU will publish the stakeholder engagement KPIs and progress updates on project websites monthly/quarterly.

4. The BBSEA?s Gender Action Plan (GAP) is intended to fulfill the GEF?s Policy on Gender equality (SD/GN/02)[1]¹ as well as the World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-23): Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction, and Inclusive Growth[2]². Both the GEF and the World Bank (WB) recognize the importance of promoting gender equality[3]³ and the empowerment of women. BBSEA will promote a gender-responsive approach, taking into account the particular needs, priorities, power structures, status, and relationships between men and women to address them in the design, implementation, and evaluation of activities. To accomplish this general objective, the BBSEA will: (i) consult with gender experts, local civil society organizations and women groups, to identify key gender issues and empower women to support project success and sustainability; (ii) use participatory methods to provide equal opportunities for women and men to contribute to project design and implementation, including within the Eco-Innovation Challenge; (iii) consider a gender-balanced Project Implementation Unit and use of local gender experts; (iv) define responsibilities for

integrating gender aspects into project implementation; and (v) allocate sufficient funds to implement the gender action plan. Specific gender sensitive activities will focus on supporting the following: (i) gender equality in Eco-Innovation Challenge participation; (ii) gender-informed project management; and (iii) gender-disaggregated reporting.

[1] Global Environment Facility. 2017. Guidelines on Gender Equality (SD/GN/02). GEF.

http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gender_Equality_Guidelines.pdf

[2] World Bank Group. 2015. World Bank Group Gender Strategy (FY16-23): Gender Equality, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Growth. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/23425>

[3] The state or condition that affords women and men equal enjoyment of human rights, socially valued goods, opportunities and resources.

5. Detailed PPG utilization updated in the CEO Endorsement request.

6. Project Budget updated.

Response to comments on November 10th:

Thank you.

3) the requested section has been updated in the portal CEO Endorsement submission under the stakeholder section

4) The project does not have preliminary results from the gender analysis. The project prepared a Gender Action Plan (GAP) which aims to integrate the gender approach during all the project, from its design, implementation and monitoring, to achieve better project outcomes during the five years of implementation, so that both women and men receive culturally-compatible economic and social benefits. One of the main objectives of the GAP is to identify and address gender gaps in terms of participation and leadership in decision-making processes, access to opportunities, rights, incomes and benefits, and control and use of resources. The GAP additionally includes an analysis of legal and institutional framework for gender equality in each of the project countries.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21): Please populate ANNEX B with responses to comments from GEF Secretariat, Council at work program inclusion stage and STAP.

SH (1.24.22): Thank you, however, please expand on your council comments response specific to:

"2. A more focused project." E.g. please in annex B explain the approach taken towards securing cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and point towards where detailed definition of design criteria and consultation processes can be found in the relevant documents.

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

"2. A more focused project." Considering the described changes since PIF council approval stage, please in Annex B explain how the project continues to align with and support the Common Maritime Agenda (CMA)? This question is especially relevant since the project no longer has an designated output in support of "regional blue economy and pollution framework".

SH (2.15.22): Thank you. Cleared.

Agency Response

02/10/22

response is provided above

01/18/22

Annex B is populated

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21): Please populate ANNEX B with responses to comments from GEF Secretariat, Council at work program inclusion stage and STAP.

SH (1.24.22): Responses to STAP comments cleared.

Agency Response

01/18/22

Annex B is populated

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 SH (10.18.21): Cleared.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request SH (10.18.21): 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

NA

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 NA

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 NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

SH (10.18.21): Please address comments and resubmit.

SH (1.24.22): Please address comments and resubmit.

SH (2.21.22): Please address comments in the "GEF Secretariat comments" field and resubmit.

SH (4.13.22): Please address comments in the "GEF Secretariat comments" field and resubmit.

9th of November 2022 (thenshaw): No, please address comments one by one in the response field below "GEF Secretariat comments".

10th of November 2022 (thenshaw): No, please address comments in the "GEF Secretariat comments" field and resubmit.

21st of November 2022 (thenshaw): Yes

Review Dates

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

First Review

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations