

Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10842

Countries

Morocco

Project Name

Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

9/9/2022

Review completed by PM

9/18/2022

Program Manager

Adriana Moreira

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

09-14-22: The project remains well aligned with the Biodiversity focal area priorities (BD 3.9).

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

09-14-22: The proposed project design has improved meaningfully from PIF stage and the proposal has addressed the comments received satisfactorily in relation to better elaboration of expected outcomes and outputs.

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

09-14-22: The project co-financing was incremented from USD 2,050,000 to USD 2,950,000 (co-financing ratio: 1.7 to 1).

Agency Response

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

09-14-22: The proposed financing presented in Table D is adequate.

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

09-14-22: The information provided on the status of PPG utilization does not include details on the activities funded but rather a list of outputs by component. Please, provide detailed information on the funding provided used for PPG activities (salaries, travel, etc) as it is requested in Portal.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 50,000			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews	30,000	16,200	13,800
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	20,000		20,000
Total	50,000	16,200	33,800

Agency Response

UNDP response ? 11 November 2022

Revised Annex C is enclosed to the PIF.

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 50,000			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies & Reviews Desktop and field-based studies and data collection Gender Analysis Identification of project sites Partner capacity assessments Financial planning, co-financing and investment mobilized Stakeholder analysis	30,000	16,200	
Component B: Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes Stakeholder Engagement Plan Gender Action Plan and Budget Social and Environmental Standards: Screening and Management Measures UNDP-GEF ProDoc, GEF CEO Endorsement, and all mandatory and project specific Annexes, using the required templates	20,000		
Total	50,000	16,200	

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

09-14-22: We welcome the land-based targets under core indicator 4.1 (34,000 ha of landscapes under improved management of biodiversity).

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

09-14-22: The proposal presents satisfactory elaboration on threats, root causes and impacts of environmental degradation to be addressed by the project.

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

09-14-22: Baseline scenario and associated projects are adequately described and has been satisfactory enhanced since PIF stage

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

09-14-22: Component description and proposed outcomes are satisfactory.

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

09-14-22: The alignment with the strategies of the BD focal area is satisfactory.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

09-14-22: Incremental reasoning is satisfactory.

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

09-15-22: Project's expected contributions to Global Environment Benefits are adequately elaborated.

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

09-15-22: Description of innovation, sustainability and scaling up aspects is adequate. The project represent a good opportunity to promote and influence policy on ABS at subnational and national level.

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

09-15-22: Map of Project's sites is adequate.

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

09-15-22: Project includes adequate stakeholders engagement plan.

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

09-15-22: The project conducted gender analysis and includes agender-sensitive activities under a Gender Action Plan, and indicators linked with project objectives.

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

09-15-22: Engagement with private sector and its role as a co-financier is adequately described.

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

09-15-22: Risk analysis and proposed mitigation measures are adequate.

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

09-16-22: Institutional arrangements are adequate with clear indication of roles and responsibilities. Coordination with other relevant projects/initiatives is also described.

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

09-16-22: The alignment with the national strategies and plans is satisfactorily described.

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

09-16-22: Proposed knowledge management approach is adequate.

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

09-16-22: Environmental and social risks are adequately described and consistent with the GEF guidelines.

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

09-16-22: Project includes adequate M&E plan with specific budget.

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

09-16-22:: Socioeconomic benefits are adequately described.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

09-16-22: Proposal includes all the required annexes.

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

09-16-22: Project results framework is satisfactory.

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

09-22-22: Please, address the minor comments above and resubmit for review. Given the fast approaching deadline for cancellation of November 10, 2022 and the four-week council circulation requirement, the Agency might want to consider initiating a dialogue with the Country to seek an Request for Extension of the deadline. Thanks!

11-11-22: The required UNDP audit checklist for circulation to Council could not be located in the package submitted via Portal. Please, include the checklist and resubmit. Thanks!

Agency Response

UNDP response, 14 Nov 2022:

The Checklist has been re-uploaded to the GEF Portal as a ?Public? document.

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 09-16-22: Please see comment under Part I - item 6 above.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

09-16-22: Project maps and coordinates information for the Project's sites are satisfactory.

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

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		11/10/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations