

Promoting the safe application of biotechnology through Multi country Cooperation in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Asia

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10991

Countries

Regional (Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Philippines)

Project Name

Promoting the safe application of biotechnology through Multi country Cooperation in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Asia

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

10/30/2023

Review completed by PM

11/10/2023

Program Manager

Jurgis Sapijanskas

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

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared

JS 11/28/2023 -

Please revise the Rio markers : the markers on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation are not warranted for this project, please tag them as 0 (no contribution):

| Rio Markers | |
|---|---|
| Climate Change Mitigation Significant Objective 1 | Climate Change Adaptation Significant Objective 1 |
| Biodiversity Principal Objective 2 | Land Degradation No Contribution 0 |

Previous comment cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 - Please change the expected implementation start date to 01/01/2024 to be consistent with the end date and the duration of the project.

Agency Response

12/01/2023

Rio markers for climate change and Adaptation tagged as zero

11/17/2023

The implementation start date has been changed to 01/01/2024 as guided.

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

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023 - Thank you for Table 2: Summary of changes on the project components. However, the table only summarize the changes at component or outcome levels, and does not provide any justification. Please add a column to the table with the justification for any change made. Please also ensure that the table reflects and justifies changes made to the outputs, not just outcomes or component titles.

JS 11/9/2023 - Please provide a table summarizing and justifying all changes made compared to PIF stage. We note that, among others, a new component (3) has been added, while former output 2.2 (fully functional and transparent national biosafety frameworks) has been deleted and no justifications are provided.

Agency Response

12/01/2023

In Table 2 (Summary of changes on the project components), an additional row per component has been inserted to provide justification for the changes made.

11/15/2023

A summary and justification is updated in Table 1 under section (vii) Project Components and Expected Outcomes.

See below

A. summary of the responses to address the GEF Secretariat comments at the time of PIF approval related to PPG work is shown below.

Matrix of responses to GEF Secretariat comments at PIF approval stage

| GEF Secretariat comments at the time of PIF Approval | Response on the comments |
|---|---|
| <p>- Refine the theory of change (ToC) of the project, and notably develop a narrative. While there remain diverse ways of presenting a ToC, key issues are to communicate clearly, through a diagram and a narrative, the causal pathways by which interventions are expected to have the desired effect and the justification that these causal pathways are necessary and sufficient. Please refer to STAP's guidance: https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer</p> | <p>The ToC proposed in the PIF stage was further reviewed by a review group composed of the national PPG focals, KIPABiC, UNEP Task Manager and the International Consultants. A refined ToC was drafted which was further reviewed at the national consultative and validation meetings during the national Stakeholder consultation workshops. The comments were compiled by KIPABiC and refined consultatively with expert help from International Consultants. The final ToC was reviewed at the multi-country validation workshop organized from 12-14 April 2023 in Jeju Island, South Korea. The ToC and a summarised narrative is described under (vi) Project Objective.</p> |
| <p>- Component 1 was dedicated to regional cooperation so that it is truly complementary and adds-value to the national-level interventions of component 2. In particular, output 1.2 seems redundant with component 2 and will have to be refined</p> | <p>The Project components were reviewed by all countries and revised to so that the component 1 is focussed entirely on multicountry cooperation. The other activities under the component 2 and 3 include national activities to be taken up cooperatively with sharing of experience from participating countries which is further supported by joint country activities to enrich the national results through cooperative activities.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>- tailor the country-specific interventions to the needs of each country to be precisely identified during PPG; The need for output 2.1 (baseline report) in addition to the baseline analysis to be carried out during PPG will have to be justified.</p> | <p>During the PPG stage, a preliminary baseline study was carried out by the four countries as part of national activities. Due to limited time, it mainly focussed on identifying country specific interventions that need to be addressed through the project.</p> <p>Whereas, in the main project, this activity will be implemented mainly under Component 1 (Output 1.1) as a multi-country activity, to further elaborate on the preliminary baseline study carried out during the PPG stage. The focus will be to compile relevant information at country level followed by comparative assessment and document best practices in four countries in key areas such as risk assessment, risk management, detection, etc.</p> <p>The outcomes from the baseline reports and their analysis will be used to design robust and updated capacity building programs, facilitate knowledge exchange, establish a pool of regional experts/groups, facilitate institutionalization of capacity building programs, peer-to-peer learning and promote inter-country networking. The ultimate goal is to achieve optimal regional collaboration and cooperation in the area of biosafety and biotechnology.</p> |
| <p>- pay particular attention to the institutionalization of the training and capacity building activities. The regional nature of the project should be leveraged, e.g. by developing training of regional trainers that would be able to replicate and upscaling the trainings in the region.</p> | <p>The project will address common needs using the central multi-country strategy and replicate at national level. Approaches for ensuring multiplier effect will be used by institutionalization of capacity building activities, particularly in the areas of RARM, LMO detection and information sharing. The Project will also identify institutions/infrastructures with the countries as well as the Republic of Korea for providing training in the area of LMO detection. Training of Trainers (ToT) approach will be used both at the national and multicountry levels.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>- We note that the stakeholder analysis remains very preliminary at this stage. The PIF also indicates that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Civil Society organizations and Private sector Entities have been consulted during the project identification phase but does not provide any information on these stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>(i) ensure meaningful consultations with IPLCs and civil society organizations and document them, along with all other consultations, in the CEO approval package;</p> <p>(ii) develop separate and complementary stakeholder analyses and engagement plans for the regional and the national components of the project. The plan should include detailed, country-specific analyses and information on future engagement.</p> <p>(iii) ensure that the GEF policies on stakeholder engagement and environmental and social safeguards are implemented in full.</p> | <p>During the PPG stage, the countries conducted stakeholder consultations. The key stakeholders who participated in the workshops conducted in the four countries in the month of January 2023 is provided in the ProDoc. Since there was limited representation of the ethnic communities, women and youth groups at the workshops, KIPABiC sought additional information from the countries. The countries reached out to the representatives of the ethnic communities and groups to seek their views. Some of their views were collected through one-to-one consultations carried out over telephonic conversation.</p> <p>To ensure that key stakeholders are included in the main project, an indicative Stakeholder List is prepared for four countries identifying the relevant key institutions/agencies/groups who would be engaged during the project implementation as provided by the partner countries. The list is available as part of Annex Q of ProDoc.</p> <p>Due to limited time, at this stage, a generic stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared (available as part of Annex Q of ProDoc). This would be further fine-tuned during the stock taking assessment, to prepare country specific plans, adapted to suit each country's gender related requirements and inputs from specific national entities/groups with the required expertise.</p> <p>GEF Policies on stakeholder engagement and environmental and social safeguards will guide execution of planned activities during the implementation period</p> |
|--|---|

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

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 -

1- Please clarify why only \$900,000 are reported as grant co-financing from MOTIE when the supporting letter mentions \$1 million. Is it because \$100,000 were used to co-fund PPG?

Agency Response

11/09/2023

As indicated in the narrative data under Annex C on PPG, \$100,000 of the \$1 million grant was used to co-fund the PPG. The breakdown of allocation is provided. The remaining \$900,000 from MOTIE is set aside for the implementation of the project as cofinance

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 JS 11/9/2023 - 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

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 - Please provide details by using the eligible categories/activities as provided in the GEF Guidelines on project and program cycle policy GEF/C.59/Inf.03.

Agency Response

11/17/2023

Annex C has been revised with more details as per the eligible items listed under Table 1 of the Guidelines on project and program cycle policy GEF/C.59/Inf.03.

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

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 - Please explain in the portal entry how the number of beneficiaries was derived.

Agency Response

11/17/223

The Prodoc (CEO Endorsement template) is updated under Section on ?GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN?S EMPOWERMENT? and the data is presented in Table 7 indicating the number of beneficiaries per the data provided by the partner countries during the national data collection and consultative meetings.

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

JS 11/9/2023 - 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

JS 11/9/2023 - 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

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023 -

We note the description of activities and associated deliverables provided as Annex L1. Please include the activities listed in Annex L1 in the portal entry under each of their respective outputs.

JS 11/9/2023 -

1- At CEO endorsement/Approval stage, the project should be defined at the indicative activity level. Please describe in more details the outputs and the concrete activities that are anticipated under each output.

1a- In doing so, please notably explain what is meant in concrete terms by a networking mechanism in output 1.2 and how it differs from the the mechanisms for information sharing and knowledge management of output 3.1.

Agency Response

12/01/2023

Activities to be executed to achieve the expected outputs guided by Annex L1 has been entered in the portal.

1a. The narrative under section {vii) has been updated under the project components to bring clarity. Outputs 1.2 and 3.1 have been updated to differentiate between networking, institutional exchange, trainer of trainer and institutional exchanges to support expert/thematic groups compared to 3.1 which provides a platform and tools for information sharing and knowledge management, 1.2 is human and institutional capacity focused whilst 3.1 is focused on information gathering, exchange and sharing, with platforms and repositories to support Knowledge management that is capacity development vs information sharing and material development focus.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 -

1- Please focus this section on alignment with the entry point used by the project. Please notably remove the language related to Food, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program.

Agency Response

11/17/2023

References to language related to Food, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program has been removed in the updated prodoc

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/9/2023 - 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

JS 11/9/2023 - 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

JS 11/9/2023 - 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

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 - Maps and coordinates are provided. Please enter geo location information in the portal:

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. These IDs are available on the [GeoNames' geographical database](#) containing millions of placenames and allowing to freely record new ones. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#).

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | Geo Name ID | Location & Activity Description |
|---------------|----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|
|---------------|----------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------------|

Agency Response

11/22/2023

Geolocation updated for cities where the project will be based in the Portal entry under Annex E. Using GeoNames, Latitude and Longitude are provided in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format with at least four decimal points for accuracy.

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

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

A- A copy-paste error in the portal entry has created duplicative parts within the Stakeholders' section. Also, the former generic stakeholder table, which we understand was to be replaced by the new table provided, has not been deleted. Please correct.

2- Table 5 has not been included in the portal entry. Please correct, i.e. please ensure that the full information currently provided in this section (minus duplications) is maintained while adding the information provided in table 5.

The rest is cleared.

JS 11/10/2023-

- 1- We failed to find Annex Q that is announced in this section. Please provide.
- 2- We failed to find a detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase. Please provide.
- 3- This section and the Stakeholder engagement plan provided are very generic. Stakeholders are identified only at the level of broad categories instead of specific institutions or groups. A detailed and specific plan, tailored to each participating country is expected at CEO endorsement stage. Please revise.
- 4- The table corresponding to the SEP is off margin in the portal. Please correct.

Agency Response

12/04/2023

A- The duplicative data which was an error within the stakeholder section has been deleted. The generic stakeholder table has been deleted and information updated.

2- Table 5 has been included in the portal entry.

11/22/2023

1. Annex Q was inserted in the prodoc. The same has now been uploaded as an annex in the documents and roadmap section of the GEF Portal

2. Updated the list in Table 5, under the section on stakeholders provides information on the Stakeholders engaged during the PPG process as per the national data received. Table 6 further summarises the expected roles and participation of the stakeholders during implementation.

3. Table 1 of Annex Q provides a stakeholder engagement plan which will be further fine-tuned during the stock-taking assessment, to prepare a country-specific plan, well adapted to suit each country considering the gender-related considerations and inputs from specific national entities/groups with the required expertise.

Table 2 of Annex Q is inserted which provides details on the relevant key institutions/agencies/groups of stakeholders in the four countries who would be engaged during the project implementation.

4. The margins of the SEP has been adjusted in the portal as requested

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

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared. We note that a proper gender analysis will be undertaken and relevant gender responsive interventions updated accordingly in the very first stage of implementation.

JS 11/28/2023 -

1- Thank you. However, we failed to find a proper gender analysis that identifies any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities. Is the gender analysis limited to the calculation of female-to-male ratio of targeted beneficiaries in each country? If so, please explain why a proper gender analysis has not been carried out, clarify on what basis the gender action plan has been developed and detail plans to develop a proper gender analysis during the first steps on implementation.

The rest is cleared.

JS 11/10/2023-

1- We failed to find Annex P/Gender Action Plan that is announced in this section. This section also states that a gender analysis has been carried out but it has not been provided. Please provide.

2- As per GEF gender mainstreaming guidance, please reflect gender perspectives in the project description summary/description of project components (i.e. do not confine them to the Gender Action Plan).

3 - Under Project Monitoring - 4.1A, please ensure that best practice and lessons learned on gender mainstreaming are captured.

Agency Response

12/04/2023

The gender analysis in the project document is based on the data collected from the participating countries during the PPG phase. The countries have undertaken a preliminary assessment based on the activities at national level in the previous GEF supported projects and other national projects/activities. The assessment was based on calculation of female to male ratio of targeted beneficiaries in each country. Efforts have been made to appropriately link project outcomes/outputs with specific gender actions i.e., how the association/engagement shall be along with proposed indicators that shall be quantifiable during the actual project implementation. The representatives from participating countries deliberated on the gender differences, gaps, or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and observed that gender responsive activities under the project mainly relate to participatory activities as resource persons, expert groups/committee members, public/stakeholder, users of biotechnology and/or as participants in workshops/training. They also informed about the varied status regarding gender issues in the participating countries. The gender action plan was developed based on the above feedback and one-to-one follow discussions with country representatives.

It is proposed to undertake a thorough gender analysis at the inception of the project by involving Gender Expert (s). Relevant information/data will be compiled under the guidance of the gender expert (s) as part of the stocktaking assessments (Activity 1.1.2). The gender considerations will be included in activities under the project as per the gender action plan formulated during stock taking assessment. The implementation of the action plan will be reviewed throughout the project implementation period.

11/23/2023

1. Gender analysis has been updated under the Section 3. GENDER EQUALITY

AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT in orange and purple text.

2. Gender perspectives have been incorporated in the project components and referenced to Annex P on the Gender Action plan

3. Best practices and Lessons learnt on gender mainstreaming especially in the policy and regulatory interventions, human resource and institutional development activities and State Level activities under Monitoring and enforcement will be captured and disseminated to regulators and decision makers.

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

JS 11/10/2023- 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

JS 11/10/2023- 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

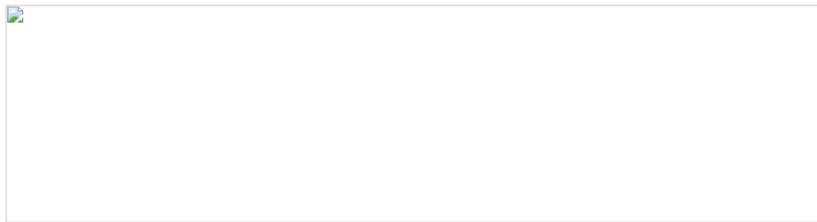
JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/10/2023-

1- We failed to find Annex K announced in this section. Please provide.

2- Please clarify the role, if any, of the government of the Republic of Korea in the institutional arrangements beyond co-funding.

3- This section seems to contain some element or graphics that do not show properly in the portal. Please correct:



7. Consistency with National Priorities

Agency Response

11/22/2023

1. Annex K is incorporated in the CEO endorsement template and is uploaded in the project documents ?Referenced Annexes? in the portal.
2. The role of the Government of Korea is updated in the institutional arrangement under Section 5.1 on Institutional Arrangement and Coordination
3. The section was referring to benchmarks and deliverables summary table, the error has been corrected in the portal

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

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/10/2023:

1- Please provide a more specific and up to date elaboration on alignment with the NBSAP for each participating country. For instance, the NBSAP is not mentioned for Bangladesh, and this section only refers to the 1997 NBSAP for the Philippines instead of the current 2015-2028 biodiversity strategy and action plan.

Agency Response

11/22/2023

The NBSAP status of the participating countries is elaborated in table 8 under 5.3 Consistency with National Priorities

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

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023 -

Please remove M&E items (e.g. MTR and TE) from the KM&L budget.

JS 11/10/2023:

1- Please provide a budget, timeline and a set of deliverables for the key KM&L and communications activities. This can be done by including a simple table in the KM&L section.

Agency Response

12/02/2023

M&E items (notably MTR and TE) have been removed from the KM&L budget.

11/22/2023

A summarised table 9 has been inserted under the Section on Knowledge Management with a set of deliverables, timelines and budget.

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

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/10/2023 - We note the low-risk rating.

1- The attached SRIF is about GEF ID 10773 in India. Please provide appropriate updated SRIF, and please note that Stakeholder engagement plan and gender action plan depend on the updated screening.

Agency Response

11/17/2023

The SRIF for India has been replaced with that of the project, the updated SRIF guided the development of stakeholder engagement and the gender action plan

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

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023 -

Thank you for the response but please revise the M&E budget to the indicative threshold (ca. \$50,000), as this project does not seem to generate specific M&E challenges that would warrant a higher M&E budget.

JS 11/10/2023

1- The proposed M&E budget is \$67,000, which is above the indicative threshold of 5% of the GEF-funded part of project financing for projects up to USD 5 million. Please justify the specific M&E needs for this project or revise to ca. \$50,000. In particular, it is unclear what will be the added-value of a MTE for a 36-month project.

Agency Response

12/04/2023

Proposed M & E budget is reduced to \$50,000. The project proponents confirms the strong need to do at least a Mid Term Review (MTR) to ensure the project is on course to deliver the envisaged results. The evaluation budget is reduced from \$54,000 to \$37,000. KiPaBiC will provide additional support to the MTR process through allocated cofinance as appropriate to support the review as an MTR.

11/23/2023

1. The MTE or MTR based on the status of the project and guidance of the UNEP Evaluation Office provides opportunity to assess project delivery, challenges, lessons and areas for adaptive management. With the status of the different countries involved, if there is no mid-term review, a lot of learning and measures that need redress would be a challenge. Secondly the additional cost will support monitoring under activity 1 in the M & E plan to capture data on performance indicators, core indicator information and gender related data which will guide the implementation of the Project. UNEP at this stage will recommend the allocation be kept as is.

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

JS 11/10/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023 -

Some text is off margins in the portal, please correct:

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| Grand Total | 180200 | 424358 | 326036 | 930594 | 67000 | 95592 | 1093186 |
| National Biosafety Committee, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MONGOLIA), National Committee on Biosafety of the Philippines (NCBP) (PHILIPPINES), Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (BANGLADESH), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (INDIA), Korea Institute for Promoting Asia Biosafety Cooperation (KIPABIC), Korea | | | | | | | |
| NBC, MoET, Mongolia NCBP, Philippines DoE, MoEF & CC, Bangladesh MoEF & CC, India KIPABIC, Korea | | | | | | | |
| ANNEX 1-2 - RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF BUDGET AND CO-FINANCE BUDGET (TOTAL GEF & CO-FINANCE US\$) Project title: Promoting the safe application of biotechnology through Multi country Cooperation in the implementation of National Biosafety Frameworks in Asia Project number: 10901 | | | | | | | |

All previous comments cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 -

1- We failed to find a ProDoc attached with this submission. Please provide or confirm that the Agency will use the GEF CEO approval request in its internal approval processes.

2 - Budget:

2a- Please explain why KIPABiC does not appear in the column responsible entity when it is the executing entity of the regional activities. The budget should enable to clearly assess what are regional vs national-level activities. Are all the regional activities to be carried out by KIPABiC funded through co-finance and does not showing in the GEF budget template? If not, please revise to provide that clarity.

2b- Please clarify what are the laboratory equipment and to which entity(ies) they will be provided.

2c - Please clarify why the project manager, which we understand will be placed at KIPABiC, is tagged with 5 different responsible entities:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|--|-------|-------|--|
| Salary and benefits / Staff costs | Project Manager | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 15000 | 15000 | MoEF & CC, India, NBC, MoET, Mongolia, , |
| | Project Assistant | 1000 | 1000 | 2500 | 4500 | | 41000 | 45500 | MoEF & CC, India, NBC, MoET, Mongolia, , |

2d. The project assistant should be charged entirely on the PMC, not across components. Please correct.

2e. Unspecified sundry ? such operational costs are not eligible to be covered by GEF resources. Please remove this budget item and redistribute.

Agency Response

12/02/2023

The margins of the GEF Project Budget have been fixed within the boundaries of the portal

11/23/2023

1- For MSPs, UNEP uses the GEF CEO approval request as the prodoc with additional annexes as applicable or inserted, so there is no additional prodoc with the CEO Endorsement template

2 - Budget:

2a - Revised Annex I-1 to address this gap. The Project fund will be received by KIPABiC from the GEF Agency, and the funds for national activities would be transferred to countries. For the regional activities, activities will be coordinated by KIPABiC using GEF fund as well as through cofinance support. KIPABiC's role is reflected under the column ?responsible entity? in the GEF budget template.

2b - The laboratory equipment and the beneficiary labs for Mongolia and the Philippines are updated with additional notes in Annex S - Procurement Plan as shown below

Note: Laboratory equipment

| <i>S.N</i> | <i>List of equipment intended to be procured through the Project</i> | <i>Beneficiary Laboratory, country</i> | <i>Budget - USD (Indicative)</i> |
|--------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>PCR Machine, Gel Electrophoresis System, Centrifuge, DNA Extraction Kit, Lateral flow strips, Laboratory consumables, GMO Reference Materials</i> | <i>- National Plant Quarantine Services Division, Bureau of Plant Industry (Region X ? Cagayan De Oro), Philippines - Mongolian Academy of Science, Institute of Biology'</i> | <i>120,000</i> |
| <i>2</i> | <i>Ultra-low-temperature (ULT) freezer or Liquid Nitrogen Cylinder</i> | <i>- Central Quarantine Laboratory (National Capital Region)/Post-Entry Quarantine Laboratory (Region 4A), Philippines</i> | <i>20,000</i> |
| <i>Total</i> | | | <i>140,000</i> |

2c - The countries will have project coordination units at the national level to assist in managing the national activities. The budgetary support is allocated as part of the PMC in the updated project budget.

2d - The Project Assistant referred here is at national level, functioning at the project coordination unit. For more clarity, the expenses related to Project Manager and Assistant at national level in the participating countries are moved to 'Sub-contract to executing partner/entity' under the description 'Sub-contract to function as national level Project Coordination Units (PCU)' and is allocated under PMC.

2e - The budget under Sundry (USD 16136) has been redistributed to Trainings, Workshops, Meetings.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 12/8/2023 -Cleared.

We note the improvements but the Results Framework is still neither entirely adequate, nor implementation ready. Please review the Results Framework at the very first stage of implementation to ensure all indicators are SMART, measure progress towards project outcomes, and are underpinned by a clear monitoring framework, with clear definitions on what and how to measure.

JS 11/28/2023 -

A - Project objective(s) and intermediate outcomes reflect constructs that need further definition to be measured. In the Results Framework, these outcomes need to be translated into a set of measurable indicators to establish whether progress is being achieved. Yet, currently proposed indicators are outcomes (e.g. "Biosafety systems and capacities developed and enhanced towards promoting cooperation between participating countries", "Linkages for LMO detection established for cooperation in Asia region") or outputs ("National biosafety websites/information links of participating countries appropriately updated/linked with the BCH") instead of specific, measurable indicators. Likewise, some targets are not specific targets but desired outcomes (e.g. "Biosafety information systems enhanced [...]" and interlinked to bring in more regional cooperation and sharing of experiences.").

Please revise the Results Framework with SMART indicators and concrete associated targets at mid-term and end of project, and adequate means of verification. For indicators related to national-level outcomes, a target per country should be set. To ensure clarity on what baseline, target and means of verification relates to what indicator, please have use one row per indicator.

2 - We understand core indicator has been broken down in different parts that add up to the total target reported at the project level in the GEF core indicator table. However, for clarity, please include the core indicator, i.e. the number of direct beneficiaries, with a total target of 56,000, as an indicator. of progress towards the project objective. The breakdown per outcome may be kept by further defining what beneficiaries mean under each component.

JS 11/9/2023 - 1- The Results Framework is not readable in the portal entry. Please correct:

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

| Project Objectiv | Objective level Indicators | Baseline | Targets and Monitoring Mil | Means of Verification | Assumptions | UNEP MTS referen ce* |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| | | | | | | ion: Environmental Gov ernance/ Nature Action |
| | | | | | | on b raker ors, e n par cou rds o lising . |
| | | | | | | rioriti bios |

2- Please include the core indicator 11 and its target explicitly in the results framework.

Agency Response

12/04/2023

1. Revised Annex A: Project Results Framework has been revised with the new revisions in green font. The core indicator is under the project objective and beneficiaries are defined under each component. The updated Annex A is entered in the Portal and uploaded in the document section.

2. The core indicator, i.e. the number of direct beneficiaries, with a total target of 56,000, is added as an indicator of progress towards the project objective. The breakdown per outcome may be kept by further defining what beneficiaries mean under each component.

11/24/2023

1. The results framework has been adjusted in the portal to make it readable.

2. The core indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender has been reviewed and updated in the Project Results Framework (Annex A) and in the Core Indicator Worksheet (Annex F).

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/10/2023:

1- Please include a matrix with responses that show how GEF Secretariat comments at the time of PIF approval related to PPG work have been addressed. The comments were to carry out the following during PPG:

- Refine the theory of change (ToC) of the project, and notably develop a narrative. While there remain diverse ways of presenting a ToC, key issues are to communicate clearly, through a diagram and a narrative, the causal pathways by which interventions are expected to have the desired effect and the justification that these causal pathways are necessary and sufficient. Please refer to STAP's guidance: <https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer>

- develop component 1 dedicated to regional cooperation so that it is truly complementary and adds-value to the national-level interventions of component 2. In particular, output 1.2 seems redundant with component 2 and will have to be refined.

- tailor the country-specific interventions to the needs of each country to be precisely identified during PPG; The need for output 2.1 (baseline report) in addition to the baseline analysis to be carried out during PPG will have to be justified.

- pay particular attention to the institutionalization of the training and capacity building activities. The regional nature of the project should be leveraged, e.g. by developing training of regional trainers that would be able to replicate and upscaling the trainings in the region.

- We note that the stakeholder analysis remains very preliminary at this stage. The PIF also indicate that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Civil Society organizations and Private sector Entities have been consulted during the project identification phase but does not provide any information on these stakeholder consultations. During PPG, please

- (i) ensure meaningful consultations with IPLCs and civil society organizations and document them, along with all other consultations, in the CEO approval package;

- (ii) develop separate and complementary stakeholder analyses and engagement plans for the regional and the national components of the project. The plan should include detailed, country-specific analyses and information on future engagement.

- (iii) ensure that the GEF policies on stakeholder engagement and environmental and social safeguards are implemented in full.

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

11/22/2023

1. The table below is inserted in the CEO Approval Template to provide a summary of the responses to address the GEF Secretariat comments at the time of PIF approval related to PPG work in Annex B

| GEF Secretariat comments at the time of PIF Approval | Response on the comments |
|--|--|
| <p>- Refine the theory of change (ToC) of the project, and notably develop a narrative. While there remain diverse ways of presenting a ToC, key issues are to communicate clearly, through a diagram and a narrative, the causal pathways by which interventions are expected to have the desired effect and the justification that these causal pathways are necessary and sufficient. Please refer to STAP's guidance: https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer</p> | <p>The ToC proposed in the PIF stage was further reviewed by a small group composed of the national PPG focals, KIPABiC, UNEP Task Manager, and International Consultants. A refined ToC was drafted which was further reviewed at national level during the national Stakeholder consultation workshops. The comments were compiled by KIPABiC and refined consultatively with the expert help from International Consultants. The final ToC was reviewed at the multi-country validation workshop organized from 12-14 April 2023 in Jeju Island, South Korea. The ToC and a simple narrative is described under (vi) Project Objective.</p> |
| <p>- develop component 1 dedicated to regional cooperation so that it is truly complementary and adds-value to the national-level interventions of component 2. In particular, output 1.2 seems redundant with component 2 and will have to be refined.</p> | <p>The Project components were reviewed by all countries and revised to so that the component 1 is focussed entirely on multicountry cooperation. The other activities under the component 2 and 3 include national activities to be taken up cooperatively with sharing of experience from participating countries and also joint activities.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>- tailor the country-specific interventions to the needs of each country to be precisely identified during PPG; The need for output 2.1 (baseline report) in addition to the baseline analysis to be carried out during PPG will have to be justified.</p> | <p>During the PPG stage, a preliminary baseline study was carried out by the four countries as part of national activities. Due to limited time, it mainly focussed on identifying country specific interventions that need to be addressed through the project.</p> <p>Whereas, in the main project, this activity will be implemented mainly under Component 1 (Output 1.1) as a multi-country activity, to further elaborate on the preliminary baseline study carried out during the PPG stage. The focus will be to compile relevant information at country level followed by comparative assessment and document best practices in four countries in key areas such as risk assessment, risk management, detection, etc.</p> <p>The outcomes from the baseline reports and their analysis will be used to design robust capacity building programs, facilitate knowledge exchange, establish a pool of regional experts/groups, facilitate institutionalization of capacity building programs, peer-to-peer learning and promote inter-country networking. The ultimate goal is to achieve optimal regional collaboration and cooperation in the area of biosafety and biotechnology.</p> |
| <p>- pay particular attention to the institutionalization of the training and capacity building activities. The regional nature of the project should be leveraged, e.g. by developing training of regional trainers that would be able to replicate and upscaling the trainings in the region.</p> | <p>The project will address common needs using the central multi-country strategy and replicate at national level. Approaches for ensuring multiplier effect will be used by institutionalization of capacity building activities, particularly in the areas of RARM, LMO detection and information sharing. The Project will also identify institutions/infrastructures with the countries as well as the Republic of Korea for providing training in the area of LMO detection. Training of Trainers (ToT) approach will be used both at the national and muticountry levels.</p> |

- We note that the stakeholder analysis remains very preliminary at this stage. The PIF also indicate that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Civil Society organizations and Private sector Entities have been consulted during the project identification phase but does not provide any information on these stakeholder consultations.

- (i) ensure meaningful consultations with IPLCs and civil society organizations and document them, along with all other consultations, in the CEO approval package;
- (ii) develop separate and complementary stakeholder analyses and engagement plans for the regional and the national components of the project. The plan should include detailed, country-specific analyses and information on future engagement.
- (iii) ensure that the GEF policies on stakeholder engagement and environmental and social safeguards are implemented in full.

During the PPG stage, the countries conducted stakeholder consultations. The key stakeholders who participated in the workshops conducted in the four countries in the month of January 2023 is provided in the ProDoc. Since there was limited representation of the ethnic communities, women and youth groups at the workshops, KIPABiC sought additional information from the countries. The countries reached out to the representatives of the ethnic communities and groups to seek their views. Some of their views were collected over one-to-one consultations carried out over telephonic conversation.

To ensure that key stakeholders are included in the main project, an indicative Stakeholder List is prepared for four countries identifying the relevant key institutions/agencies/groups who would be engaged during the project implementation. The list is available as part of Annex Q of ProDoc.

A stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared (available as part of Annex Q of ProDoc). This would be further fine-tuned during the stock taking assessment under component 1, to prepare a country specific plans, adapted to suit each country's gender related requirements and inputs from specific national entities/groups with the required expertise.

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
JS 12/8/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/9/2023 - Please provide details by using the eligible categories/activities as provided in the GEF Guidelines on project and program cycle policy GEF/C.59/Inf.03.

Agency Response

11/22/2023

Revised Annex C with more details as per the eligible items listed under Table 1 of the Guidelines on project and program cycle policy GEF/C.59/Inf.03

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Please see similar comment box above.

Agency Response

11/22/2023

The issue with the geolocation data on the maps have been addressed through the earlier review comment.

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

JS 12/8/2023 - The project is recommended for endorsement

JS 11/28/2023 - Not at this stage. Please address comments included in this review sheet and resubmit.

JS 11/10/2023 - Not at this stage. Please address comments included in this review sheet and resubmit.

Review Dates

| | Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement | Response to Secretariat comments |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| First Review | 11/16/2023 | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 11/28/2023 | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 12/8/2023 | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | | |

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations