



# Sustainable Cities Integrated Program

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

11287

**Countries**

Global (Belize, Benin, Cuba, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Mongolia, Peru, Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Congo, Algeria, Chile, China, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Zimbabwe)

**Project Name**

Sustainable Cities Integrated Program

**Agencies**

World Bank, IADB, DBSA, IUCN, UNEP, BOAD, UNDP, FAO, UNIDO

**Date received by PM**

4/13/2023

**Review completed by PM**

3/19/2024

**Program Manager**

Aloke Barnwal

**Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

**Project Type**

## GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

### 1. General Program Information

a) Is the Program Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

#### Secretariat's Comments

Will World Bank be doing any execution role under the global project? If yes, please add and justify the executing agency role?

UNEP is listed as an executing agency. Please clarify if they are proposed as an executing agency in the global project or in any of the child projects.

Please revise the financial numbers by adding the numbers of the Congo project which wasn't included in the first submission.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Please add WB as an executing agency in the PFD also given that it is proposed as an Executing Agency in the global child project. Other comments are cleared. We still see UNEP as an "anticipated" executing agency, which is fine.

We noted that IDB is mentioned as a GEF Agency (TBD) in the Peru Child project of IUCN. Please add IDB (TBD) under GEF Agency.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks for addressing the comment Cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

World Bank is an executing agency. the activities will be executed by the World Bank with the support of various partner organizations, including WRI, ICLEI, C40, other partner organizations. (updates have been made in the portal)

UNEP is not an executing agency. (updates have been made in the portal)

Congo has been added and financial numbers updated.

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May 16:

Added WB as an executing agency in the PFD and IDB under GEF Agency.

Added the justification for WB's role as executing agency.

UNEP is not included as executing agency- please refer to the latest Global Platform Concept Note.

**b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?**

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments

## **2. Program Summary**

**a) Does the program summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the program objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?**

**b) Is the program's geographical coverage explicit, as well as the covered sectors? Does the summary explain how the program is transformative or innovative?**

Secretariat's Comments

On the program summary, the agency is requested to address written comments provided on the first draft of the PFD by email. There are also some incomplete paras in the current submission. Please revise this section in the second submission. Please also add a paragraph on the geographical coverage in the program summary.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

The SCIP will also contribute to achieving Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) ? particularly linked to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ? at the Global Platform and Child Projects levels across 13 countries

With reference to above in the PFD summary, please modify to add other MEAs also. Currently, it indicates that the program's main focus is GBF. We suggest the following:

The SCIP will also contribute to achieving Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) ? particularly linked to goals and frameworks of UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD - at the Global Platform and Child Projects levels across 13 countries

Please remove .00 in the finance numbers if possible.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks for addressing the comment. Cleared.

### Agency's Comments

Several edits have been made and some sentences tidied up and final edits made before uploading updated text into the portal.

Geographical coverage: Summary of countries added and clarified that the focus is "rapidly urbanizing" parts of the world.

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May 16:

Updated the PFD accordingly.

.00 are auto-generated by the portal.

### 3 Indicative Program Overview

- a) Is the program objective statement concise, clear and measurable?**
- b) Are the components and outcomes sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the program objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**
- c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the program components and appropriately funded?**
- d) Are the GEF program Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**
- e) Is the PMC equal to or below 5%? If above 5%, is the justification acceptable?**

### Secretariat's Comments

In the program objective, it will be good to have central objective statement and then other text can be supportive. It seems the first sentence is the central objective. It will be useful to clearly split this.

We suggest revision of component 1 to add "strengthening of city leadership" as it aligns well with our program goals and also with the stated outcome under this component. In the same vein, the stated outcome isn't directly linked with the knowledge aspect articulated in the component. Overall, please revise the outcome 1 to reflect on higher ambition building on GEF 7 (it reads same as GEF 7 currently). Please do the same for other components and outcomes also to align with the GEF 8's transformational goals.

Based on question c above, please highlight gender and knowledge aspect more explicitly in program outcomes.

Please review the proportionality of the PMC. While the PMC from co-finance is more than PM of GEF financing, it looks very high 11.6% compared to 4.74% (GEF financing PMC).

The sequencing of the components in the Table is different from how it is described in the main program description section. Please make it consistent.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks for addressing the comments. Cleared.

### Agency's Comments

The first sentence **bolded** and added "Supporting" at the front which clearly links supporting the clearest path to a solution to what the SCIP is proposing to do.

Component 1 has been revised to add "strengthening of city leadership" and the associated outcomes and indicators revised.

The PMC is being revised based on revised financing including 'Congo'.

Updated the sequencing of components in the table. The results framework has been updated to align with the program goals as well as the theory of change. The outcomes and activities have been updated and several new indicators added such as "strengthening city leadership" added to component 1 and as an indicator. [this also came up in partner feedback below]

## 4 Program Outline

### A. Program Rationale

**a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the program design?**

**b) Has the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other program outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?**

c) Is the baseline situation and baseline projects and initiatives well laid out and how the program will build on these?

d) Have lessons learned from previous efforts been considered in the program design?

e) For NGL, is there a brief description of the financial barriers and how the program ? and the proposed financial structure- responds to these financial barriers.

#### Secretariat's Comments

a) Please refer to comments provided by email on the draft PFD.

b) Please elaborate the section to respond to the questions listed above. Currently, only trends, barriers and baseline scenario/momentum for change is described only.

A few additional specific comments:

a) More elaboration on the aspects of biodiversity is needed given the central role of nature in GEF-8 PD and in most country child projects.

b) A ?Mayors? Forum? is proposed to further leverage city-level engagements, which would be a new feature of the IP. Can you please provide some more information on this and how this can help local governments engage with stakeholders and the private sector?

d) A clearer articulation of how the IP is building on previous 2 phases would be helpful, to understand how lessons learnt have helped shaping this 3rd phase. It is important to show the ?added value? in this phase compered to previous.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks for addressing the technical comments. Cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

a) The comments provided by email from the Alope/Mohamed [57 comments resolved]; Mia Callenberg [19 revisions/comments - mostly captured within Alope/Mohamed?s comments]; Partner comments (ICLEI, C40, WRI) [all incorporated]

b) expanded

a) Biodiversity and nature included in the opening paragraph, and more context added in the document.

b) b) Provided additional context of the range of stakeholders and the opportunity for engaging.

c) C) No c)

d) Provided a substantive example of bringing learning from GEF 6 and GEF 7, as well as between GEF 8 cities, to improve project design.

#### 5 B. Program Description

**5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the program logic, including how the program design elements are contributing to the objective, a set of identified key causal pathways, the thrust and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust solution and listing the key assumptions underlying these?**

**b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences?**

**c) Are the program components described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the program approach has been selected over other potential options?**

**d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Have the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline programs been described? Is the program incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)?**

**e) Are the relevant levers of transformation identified and described?**

**f) Is there an adequate description on how relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) will contribute to the design and implementation of the program and its components?**

**g) Gender: Does the description on gender issues identify any differences, gaps or opportunities linked to program objectives and have these been taken up in component description/s?**

**h) Are the proposed elements to capture, exchange and disseminate knowledge and lessons learned adequate in order to benefit future programs? Are efforts for strategic communication adequately described?**

**i) Policy Coherence: How will the program support participating countries to improve, develop and align policies, regulations or subsidies to not counteract the intended program outcomes?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

Please refer to comments provided by email on the draft PFD and integrate them in this section.

Thanks for highlighting policy coherence as one of the levers. It will be useful to provide some specific examples how such coherence will be ensured. A comment received at the strategy level was factoring in political economy while advancing policy integration and coherence. Please add some perspectives on this aspect also.

A more detailed gender analysis is needed in the PFD.

Please also elaborate more on question (h) above.

a) The ToC could show how the components also contribute to the GEBs that the IP is targeting. A narrative outlining these links would be helpful to complement the graph, especially for the step from outcomes to impact.

d) The role of the IP in the global urban agenda is clear, but as mentioned above the IP can highlight even more the added value of the GEF-8 phase compared to GEF-6 and 7 SCIP.

f) The aspect of inclusion is key for the IP in this phase. Please elaborate what partnerships can be tapped to advance the urban inclusion agenda.

i) Quite well described but can emphasize the role of local governments more in achieving policy coherence.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.

### Agency's Comments

Added this context: The success of policy integration across land use planning, climate change and biodiversity will be enhanced by building this into the design of child projects and working with city leaders to increase political support for using this approach in industrial and other urban development strategies.

a) The ToC has been updated to incorporate the IP's contribution to the GEBs specifically in the outcomes section.

d) The added value of SCIP building on the GEF-6 and GEF-7 cities program has been elaborated.

f) Example of how the Cities Alliance partnership and others will be used to support project implementation, providing targeted technical support to influence investment, and engaging with leadership to scale up commitments on issues of inclusion.

j) Context of cities/local governments being at the frontline of policy implementation and therefore the most key stakeholders in implementing integrated urban policy

#### **5.2 Program coherence and consistency**

**a) How will the program design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and allow for adaptive management needs and options?**

**b) Is the potential for achieving transformative change through the integrated approach adequately described? How is the program going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?**

**c) Are the countries or themes selected as child projects under the program appropriate for achieving the overall program objective?**



**d) Are the descriptions of child projects adequately reflective of the program objective and priorities as described in the ToC?**

**e) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate to meet the program objectives?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

The ToC is fine. Please refer to some comments shared on the draft PFD by email. The child projects cover a range of topics and sectors to justify the integrated and systems based approach, and to deliver multiple and large scale GEBs.

Please elaborate more on questions (a) and (b) above e.g. .

a) Please include a bit more information on how the design and governance structure of the IP will ensure resilience and adaptive management vis-?-vis the ?Critical Assumptions? listed in the Theory of change.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023  
Thanks. Comment cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

The ToC has been updated to incorporate the IP?s contribution to the GEBs specifically in the outcomes section.

The governance structure/coordination has been updated, and the critical assumptions have been added to the narrative.

#### **5.3 Program Governance, Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Programs**

**a) Are the program level institutional arrangements for governance and coordination, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has a program level organogram / diagram been included, with description of roles and responsibilities, and decision-making processes?**

**b) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed initiatives, projects/programs (such as government, private sector and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the program area, e.g.).**

#### Secretariat's Comments

GEFSEC 16th April, 2023

The governance and coordination needs to be elaborated further. Please also revise the governance framework to reflect how the program will be governed, coordinated and collaborate with different partners. A more comprehensive framework is desired. Please refer to upstream comments made by the GEF Secretariat on the first draft of the PFD.

b) Please add some info on possible collaboration with other GEF-8 IPs, such as Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution IP and the Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator IP.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks. Please see a few additional comments on the governance.

- The greening transportation IP is not specifically relevant for urban and therefore can be removed.

- The governance framework needs more specificity. There seems to be a program management function, advisory function and technical function (to deliver global project activities) within the framework which will be delivered through different set of institutions/partners. It will be useful to clearly define them, the mechanisms linking these functions and brief role of each groups. The multi-stakeholder group is quite broad, will they also be involved in project management. There is a group separately defined for child projects, which is fine. In this line, it will be useful to define a global group?

Overall, the governance framework needs to be more streamlined and simplified to clearly outline functions and coordination mechanisms. The role of lead agency, management committee, advisory groups/thematic leads could be clarified more.

Please also clearly define how the governance framework will accommodate governance frameworks established under UrbanShift (e.g. their management committee, partnership engagement group, etc.), and how a joint coordination between core partners will be facilitated to bring all the phases of the cities program together. Please note that this is quite important to highlight given that this is the third phase of the program and needs to build on the past investments and develop a mechanism which can be sustained for next phases.

A revised diagram linking all the key groups, their functions and coordination mechanisms is recommended.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

### Agency's Comments

A new figure on the governance structure/coordination has been added, and paragraphs were added to elaborate the roles of the multi-stakeholder group, technical leads/advisory group, and the child projects, as well as the overall coordination process.

Possible collaborations with other IPs, including the Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution IP and the Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator IP, as well as the Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development IP, are added.

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May 16:

Removed Greening Transportation IP.

The updated governance framework includes Steering Committee, Partnership Coordination, and Global Advisory Committee. The respective functions of each group and the linkages have been illustrated in the PFD and the updated diagram.

#### **5.4 Program-level Results, Monitoring and Reporting**

**a) Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified? Does the PFD describe how it will support the generation of multiple environmental benefits which would not have accrued without the GEF program?**

**b) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01/GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?**

**c) Are the program's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) / adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?**

**d) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the program at the global, national and local levels sufficiently described?**

**e) Is the described approach to program level M&E aiming to achieve coherence across child projects and to allow for adaptive management?**

#### **Secretariat's Comments**

This sections needs to be revised as indicated in consultations and through email.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023  
Thanks.

On question (c)- thanks for the table mapping the program with GBFF targets. Please add a Table number for reference. For climate change mitigation, please add carbon sequestration as a means to emission reduction through nature based solutions proposed in almost all the child projects.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

#### **Agency's Comments**

Expanded on the SCIP's contributions to the GEBs, especially the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and updated the results framework accordingly.

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May 16:

Added the table number (Table 7).

Added carbon sequestration in the climate change mitigation paragraph.

#### **5.5 Risks to Achieving Program Outcomes**

**a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?**

**b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?**

**c) Are environmental and social risks and impacts adequately screened and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

#### **Secretariat's Comments**

In the Program Description, please provide a summary of the program-level risks and possible mitigation measures as part of the narrative for the IP.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.

**Agency's Comments** Expanded on the risks and mitigation measures and added them to the program description.

#### **6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities**

**6.1 a) Is the program adequately aligned with Focal Area and IP Elements, and/or LDCF/SCCF strategy?**

**\*For IPs: is the program adequately aligned with the Integrated Program goals and objectives as outlined in the GEF 8 programming directions?**

#### **Secretariat's Comments**

The program is well aligned with the GEF-8 PD. As mentioned in the draft PFD comments, please specify how the program will generate GEBs and meet targets of MEA, as well as contributing to GBF. Please add a short section on this.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.

#### **Agency's Comments**

Added more context of which global goals are aligned.

**b) Child project selection criteria: Are the criteria for child project selection sound and transparently laid out?**

Secretariat's Comments

This is missing in the PFD, please add a section on child project selection criteria and process based on the process followed in EOI selection.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks. Please add this in the PFD also in this GEF alignment section.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

Agency's Comments

May 16:

Added the child project selection criteria to the PFD/GEF alignment section.

The Call for Expression of Interest (EOIs) from countries to participate in the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Integrated Program (Cities IP) was announced by the GEF Secretariat on January 17, 2023, with a submission deadline of February 18, 2023.

All fifteen EOIs received were assessed by a review committee for their potential inclusion in the Cities IP. The review committee consisted of the **GEF Secretariat, STAP, Lead Agency and an External Expert.**

The assessment process consisted of three main steps, to arrive at a consensus for country selection:

1. **Assessment template:** An assessment template was developed aligned with the

EOI template to assess the quality of the EOIs. The template was developed by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with all the review committee members.

2. **Individual assessments:** The EOIs were reviewed by the committee members independently of each other, based on the assessment template. The Lead Agency ? World Bank ? did not assess EOIs where they were the Implementing Agency.

3. **Consolidation of assessments:** The individual scores and assessments from each committee group were compiled by the GEF Secretariat.

4. **Review meeting:** An assessment meeting was held to discuss the scoring and reach consensus on the selection of EOIs to be recommended for inclusion in the IP. During the meeting, all committee members deliberated on each of the EOIs based on their quality relative to criteria for the IP.

13 submissions have been selected, which include one LDC, and two SIDS.

**6.2 Is the program alignment/coherent with country / regional / global priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

Alignment with country priorities is clear, links to global goals/MEAs can be clarified further.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

Agency's Comments Added more context of which global goals are aligned.

#### **7 D. Policy Requirements**

**7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

Yes.

GEFSEC 7th November 2023

The Agency is requested to address the following additional technical comments including from PPO:

A. PPO Comments:

1. Unless the Agency really wants to submit all child projects for CEO Endorsement / CEO Approval 10 months after Council approval of the PFD, the Program Commitment Deadline should be 18 months after Council approval in Feb 2024, which means 9 August 2025.
2. Please remove decimal places in all financial tables and round to the nearest dollar for **Malaysia** child project.
3. For **Madagascar** child project, please fix the \$1 difference under CC STAR Allocation and LD STAR Allocation in either the financing table or PPG table to match with the Sources of funds table

4. LOEs review:

- Congo's LoE is missing.
- South Africa LOE: the second page which is the signature page is blank. Thus, signature cannot be verified.
- The following LOEs have different executing entity name between LOEs and Portal's child project entry: Benin, South Africa, Mali, Zimbabwe, Algeria. Please correct child project entries to match with LOEs.

5. Core Indicator: Please consider ensuring that the sum of Core and Sub-Indicator values across child projects adds up to the value entered at PFD level.

6. Co-financing:

1. Public investment is investment mobilized normally. Please request the agency to revise the 'recurrent expenditures' to 'investment mobilized' where public investment is classified as recurrent expenditures.
2. In-kind is 'recurrent expenditure' normally. Please request the agency to revise the 'investment mobilized' to 'recurrent expenditures' where recurrent expenditures is classified as investment mobilized.

7. Gender: Just wanted to reinforce PM's comment to 'highlight gender and knowledge aspect more explicitly in program outcomes.'

8. Stakeholder engagement: Looks like comment on Stakeholder Engagement (provided in May 2023) has still not been addressed: The PFD indicates that it has consulted Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Civil Society Organizations but does not provide any information on these consultations. Please ask agency to provide additional details and summary of names and dates

of consultation with these stakeholders and plans to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan in the Coordination Child Project before CEO endorsement.

Additional technical comments:

1. Core indicator 9- we noted that there is a target for plastics waste reduction (9.8). However, it is not shown in the total under CI 9. Also, please reach out to UNIDO's child projects which have strong focus on industries to review if they can contribute to any additional chemicals and hazardous waste target.

2. Core Indicator 6- GHG Estimation- Please see comments on GHG estimation of each child project


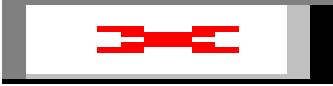
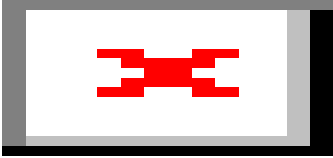
	CI6 -tCO2 eq	Comments
<b>Algeria (FAO)</b>	715,454	FAO Ex-Act tool has been used to estimate the GHG. If possible, please ask the agency to provide the Ex-Act sheet so we can track the calculations. We understand these are direct GHG, please clarify whether the project is planning to claim indirect emissions.
<b>Chile (FAO)</b>	14,904	CI6 seems to be too low for a US\$ 5.3 million project in GEF financing. FAO Ex-Act tool has been used to estimate the GHG. If possible, please ask the agency to provide the Ex-Act sheet so we can track the calculations. We understand these are direct GHG, please clarify whether the project is planning to claim indirect emissions.
<b>China (UNIDO)</b>	110,730,000	CI6 seems too high, accounting for approx. 66.7% of the total GHG emission reductions of the project. The GEF financing for the project US\$ 12.8 million. Please ask the agency to provide the GHG spreadsheet so we can track the calculations. We understand these are direct GHG, please clarify whether the project is planning to claim indirect emissions.
<b>Madagascar (UNIDO)</b>	1,500	CI6 seems to be too low for a US\$ 12 million project in GEF financing. The concept note doesn't include an explanation on how CI6 has been estimated. Please ask the agency to provide this explanation along with the GHG spreadsheet.
<b>Malaysia (UNIDO)</b>	1,400,000 (600,000 direct + 800,000 indirect)	The concept note provides a good explanation on how CI6 figures have been estimated. Please ask the agency to provide the spreadsheet so we can track the calculations.
<b>Mali (UNDP)</b>	4,550,000(650,000 direct + 3,900,000 indirect)	FAO Ex-Act tool has been used to estimate the GHG. If possible, please ask the agency to provide the Ex-Act sheet so we can track the calculations.



<b>Zimbabwe (FAO)</b>	2,696	FAO Ex-Act tool has been used to estimate the GHG. If possible, please ask the agency to provide the Ex-Act sheet wo we can track the calculations. CI6 seems to be too low for a US\$ 4 million project in GEF financing.
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- Finally- based on the recent consultations with all the agencies, comments provided by Experts and feedback from STAP, please review the TOC and results management framework to include their inputs.

### Agency's Comments

<p>1. Unless the Agency really wants to submit all child projects for CEO Endorsement / CEO Approval 10 months after Council approval of the PFD, the Program Commitment Deadline should be 18 months after Council approval in Feb 2024, which means <b>9 August 2025</b>:</p> 	Updated the date to August 9, 2025 on the portal.
<p>2. Please remove decimal places in all financial tables and round to the nearest dollar for <b>Malaysia</b> child project.</p> 	decimals have been removed on the portal.
<p>3. For <b>Madagascar</b> child project, please fix the \$1 difference under CC STAR Allocation and LD STAR Allocation in either the financing table or PPG table to match with the Sources of funds table:</p> 	CN and portal updated

<p>LOEs review: Congo's LoE is missing. South Africa LOE: the second page which is the signature page is blank. Thus, signature cannot be verified. The following LOEs have different executing entity name between LOEs and Portal's child project entry: Benin, South Africa, Mali, Zimbabwe, Algeria. Please correct child project entries to match with LOEs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congo's LoE: it has been added</li> <li>- South Africa's LoE: added it again</li> <li>- Algeria: fixed on the portal and the CN</li> <li>- Benin: fixed on the portal and the CN</li> <li>- Mali: fixed on the portal and the CN</li> <li>- South Africa: fixed on the portal and the CN</li> <li>- Zimbabwe: fixed on the portal and the CN</li> </ul>
<p>5. Core Indicators (comment provided by Cyril): Please consider ensuring that the sum of Core and Sub-Indicator values across child projects adds up to the value entered at PFD level.</p>	<p>Updated</p>
<p>Co-financing (comment provided by Omid): Public investment is investment mobilized normally. Please request the agency to revise the 'recurrent expenditures' to 'investment mobilized' where public investment is classified as recurrent expenditures. In-kind is 'recurrent expenditure' normally. Please request the agency to revise the 'investment mobilized' to 'recurrent expenditures' where recurrent expenditures is classified as investment mobilized.</p>	<p>Corrected (portal and CN) for Madagascar, Zimbabwe, and China</p>
<p>7. Gender (comment provided by Verona): Just wanted to reinforce PM's comment to 'highlight gender and knowledge aspect more explicitly in program outcomes.'</p>	<p>Expanded the gender aspect in the PFD write-up.</p>
<p>8. Stakeholder engagement (comment provided by Gabriella): Looks like comment on Stakeholder Engagement (provided in May 2023) has still not been addressed: The PFD indicates that it has consulted Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Civil Society Organizations but does not provide any information on these consultations. Please ask agency to provide additional details and summary of names and dates of consultation with these stakeholders and plans to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan in the Coordination Child Project before CEO endorsement.</p>	<p>we indicated No to Indigenous ppl and local comm.</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: <b>No</b></p> <p>Civil Society Organizations: Yes</p> <p>Private Sector: Yes</p>
<p>Finally- based on the recent consultations with all the agencies, comments provided by Experts and feedback from STAP, please review the TOC and results management framework to include their inputs.</p>	<p>TOC and the results framework have been updated.</p>

## 7.2 Environmental and Social Safeguards

**Have safeguard screening document and/or other ESS document(s) attached and been uploaded to the GEF Portal? (annex D)**

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments

**8 Other Requirements**

**Knowledge Management**

**8.1 Has the agency confirmed that a project level approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been included in the PFD?**

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments

**9 Annexes**

**Financing Tables (Annex A and Annex H)**

**9.1 GEF Financing Table:**

**a) Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):**

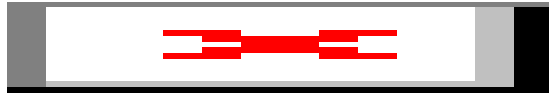
**Country STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

Please address the following comments shared by PPO. The comments are also attached as document in the "Documents" session.

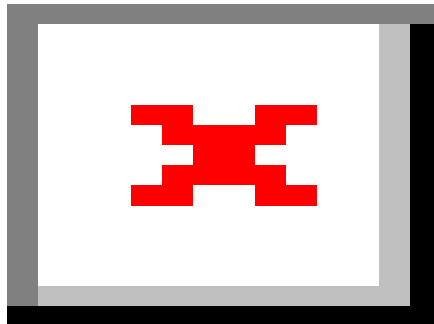
PPO reviewed IP ID 11287 - Global - Sustainable Cities. We understand that the IP Coordination Team (Claude -Mohamed ? Teayeon ? Mia) has informed you about some required adjustments/changes in the financials of some IPs (I am not sure if this IP was affected). Therefore, below you will see our comments on this part as well as on other aspects:

1. Child project ID11289- Benin, 11297- Mongolia, 11301- Serbia, 11290- Sri Lanka: please change the GEF financing table and PPG table so that country STAR allocation by BD, CC, and LD match with Sources of funds table:



2. In General Program Information table:

- One row in the Anticipated Program Executing Entities field bundled ?Government of participant countries and cities? in one line ? please ask the Lead Agency to fill out this information using individual rows so each executing entity can be correctly identified.
- Program Commitment Deadline is missed ? please ask the Agency to include it.



3. Stakeholder Engagement (comment provided by Gabriella): The PFD indicates that it has consulted Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Civil Society Organizations but does not provide any information on these consultations. Please ask agency to provide additional details and summary of names and dates of consultation with these stakeholders and plans to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan in the Coordination Child Project before CEO endorsement.

4. Knowledge Management (comment provided by Yasemin): An overall approach to Knowledge Management and Learning (KM&L) has been described in the Program Description. The PFD includes KM&L deliverables associated with knowledge exchange, sharing, and learning across child projects, including city-to-city learning, webinars, training and workshops. However, there is no reference to an overall Communications Strategy/Plan for the Program. Thus, the agency is requested to include *a brief description of a Communications Strategy/Plan* for awareness raising and dissemination of Program outputs/results, including outreach & dissemination to/from child projects. This should also be properly budgeted into the Program.
  
5. Attached you will find the file that PPO (Liliana) created with the information we found in the Letters of Endorsement (LoEs) *vis-?-vis* the information in Portal. In **red color** you will find the fields that are inconsistent. As you know, the figures in Portal can be lower than those in LoE, so there is no need to do anything on these ? but it can?t be higher (some cases are higher ? this needs to be amended because in the aggregate the PPG Agency fee is higher than 9% for few dollars). Some fields are easier to be changed in Portal (i.e. Title or Executing Entity). However, the financial information needs to be carefully reviewed considering the guidance provided by the IP Coordination Team *as well as* the figures that allow the submission to go through ? this means that consistency between what it is presented in the LoEs with those figures that allowed the submission included in the Sources of Funding is required (please carefully see Belize, Benin, Sri Lanka, Gabon, Guatemala, Mongolia). Please also note that:

The LoE from Guatemala has been signed by the Political Focal Point (who is the Minister), not the OFP

The LoE from Kenya has been signed by the Political Focal Point, not the OFP.

6. On Monitoring aspects including Core Indicators, objective, (comments provided by Cyril):
  - Program objective. The Program objective statement is comprehensive. Please ensure the necessary outcome indicators are listed in the M&E section to ensure the statement?s evaluability. Where no outcome indicator may be available, it may be worth considering limiting related references in the statement.

- Risk to Program Objective. The Agency may consider further elaborating further in a sentence or two by category on the assessed risk, so as to allow to better understand the context for the outlined mitigation measures.

#### Co-financing

- In-kind is normally classified as ?recurrent expenditure?. Please request the agency to revise the below which are classified as ?investment mobilized? and change them to ?recurrent expenditures?.

- Please fill in the co-financing source blank field in b

- The agencies below are implementing GEF agencies in this program. Please revise the ?Donor Agency? and change them to ?GEF Agency?.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared for further review by PPO.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

Child projects Concept Notes and Financing tables have been fixed and updated following GEF comments. Amendments included in i) GEF Financing Tables; ii) PPG tables; iii) STAR Allocation tables; iv) Co-financing tables; v) indicators and vi) project descriptions.

Benin, Mongolia, Serbia, and Sri Lanka have updated the PPG tables. Also, Peru and Kenya have updated the PPG tables since the IP Matching Incentives shown in the LoE didn't meet the 3:1 requirement for each table individually (it was calculated as a total).

? Government of participant countries and cities has been removed and Specific government entities for each child project has been added.

On Knowledge Management (Q4 above): Provided a paragraph on strategic outreach and communication based mostly on [GEF's comms strategy](#).

Response to question #5 above: ? Belize, Benin, Gabon, Guatemala, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka have updated their Financing tables accordingly following GEF comments.

? Peru and Kenya have also updated their financing tables to rearrange the resources given the mistake explained in comment 14 in this table (3:1 ratio calculated for the whole amount instead of individually for each table in the original LoE), Both countries have rearranged the resources to keep same total amount by focal area.

? Belize, Benin, Gabon, Guatemala, Kenya, Mongolia, Peru and Sri Lanka have requested new LoEs. So far, we have received Benin, and Guatemala.

On Question #6 above: Indicators and results framework updated.

On Risk to Program Objective: The risks and mitigation measures are expanded.

On CO-Financing: All tables in the CNs have been fixed for Global Program, Cuba, Gabon, Guatemala, Mongolia, Peru, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

**Non-STAR Focal Area allocation?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**LDCF under the principle of equitable access?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**SCCF A (SIDS)?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments  
**Focal Area Set Aside?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments  
**IP Set Aside**

Secretariat's Comments  
Yes

Agency's Comments  
**IP Contribution**

Secretariat's Comments  
Yes

Agency's Comments

**For Child Project Financing information (Annex H)**

**b) Are the IP Matching Incentives amounts correctly calculated according to the country STAR focal areas? allocated amounts? Are the IP contributions aligned with the Program? The allocated amounts (including Agency Fee) match those in LoE?**

**c) Project Preparation Grant Table: Are the IP Matching Incentives amounts correctly calculated according to the country STAR focal areas? allocated amounts? The allocated amounts (including PPG Fee) match those in LoE? Is the requested PPG within the authorized limits set in Guidelines? (pop up information?) If above the limits, has an exception been sufficiently substantiated?**

**d) Sources of Funds Table: Are the allocated sources of funds for each and every one of the three STAR Focal Areas within the Country's STAR envelope by the time of the last review?**

**e) Indicative Focal Area Elements Table: (For IPs) The selected Indicative Focal Area element corresponds to the respective IP?**

**f) (For non-IPs) The selected Indicative Focal Area Elements are aligned with the respective Program?**

**g) Co-financing Table: Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing provided and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?**



## Secretariat's Comments

Please refer to PPO's comments under 9.1 a for this and refer to the email from PPO to address this.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023  
Thanks. Comment cleared.

GEFSEC May 18, 2023

PPOs second set of comments (dated today: 05-18-2023) is below:

Some of the comments provided on April 23rd were not addressed:

This is consolidated PPO comments for this resubmission of the IP 11287 ? Sustainable Cities:

1. Program Commitment Deadline is still blank ? it has to be max 18 months after the approval of the Work Program:

2. Peru child project: both IUCN and IABD appear in the Financing table while in the Sources of Funds table, only IUCN is included:

This results in the difference between uses of funds and sources of funds as following:

The LOE from Peru only indicates IUCN as implementing agency, therefore, please correct the Financing table accordingly to match with the LOE and the Sources of funds table. Also, the LOE has slightly different project title and executing entities from Portal, please correct Portal to match with the LOE.

3. Belize: LOE has no allocation for PPG and PPG fee. Please either correct Portal to match with LOE or obtain revised LOE to match with Portal:

4. Benin LOE has different LD and CC STAR allocation from Portal. Please either correct Portal to match with LOE or obtain revised LOE to match with Portal:

5. Gabon: please change executing partner in Portal to match with the LOE.

6. Stakeholder engagement: It is noted that comment on stakeholder engagement was included in the review sheet but agency has not responded to this comment and or provided any clear revision in the PFD. Below is the comment on SE again:

The PFD indicates that it has consulted Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and Civil Society Organizations but does not provide any information on these consultations. Please ask agency to provide additional details and summary of names and dates of consultation with these stakeholders and plans to develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan in the Coordination Child Project before CEO endorsement.

GEFSEC May 18, 2023

Thanks for addressing the comments. Cleared. For PPO's attention:

- Program commitment deadline is added which is fine.
- Revised LoE of Peru is awaited which will be consistent with PFD entry.

- Revised LoE of Benin is awaited which will address the error in the letter. Portal entry is correct and consistent with country STAR allocation.
- Belize has no PPG and the LoE is correct. Portal entry is corrected.
- Gabon adjustment is fine.
- IPLCs are unticked. If they are key stakeholders in any child project, the CEO ER will indicate that.

Comments are cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

- ? STAR Allocations, IP Matching Incentives and Agency Fees (in both GEF financing tables and PPG tables) have been corrected for countries mentioned in comments 13, 14 and 18 in this table. New LoEs have been requested for countries mentioned in comment 18 in this table.
- ? IP Child Project CNs have been updated and corrected where further explanation was needed.

Financing tables have been fixed and are consistent with the policy and guidelines.

**9.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG): if PPG for child projects has been requested: has the PPG table been included and properly filled out adding up to the correct PPG and PPG fee totals as per the sum of the child projects?**

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

#### Agency's Comments

##### **9.3 Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation**

**Does the table represent the sum of STAR allocations sources utilized for this program?**

#### Secretariat's Comments

Please refer to comments above.

GEFSEC May 15, 2023

Thanks. Comment cleared.

#### Agency's Comments

Addressed in section 9.1

STAR Allocations, IP Matching Incentives and Agency Fees (in both GEF financing tables and PPG tables) have been corrected for countries mentioned in comments 13, 14

and 18 in this table. New LoEs have been requested for countries mentioned in comment 18 in this table.

IP Child Project CNs have been updated and corrected where further explanation was needed.

Financing tables have been fixed and are consistent with the policy and guidelines.

#### **9.4 Indicative Focal Area Elements**

##### **For non-IP Programs**

**Does the table contain the sum of focal area elements and amounts as per the sum of the child projects?**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

#### **9.5 Indicative Co-financing**

**Are the indicative amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequate and reflect the ambition of the program? Has the subset of co-finance which are expected to be investment mobilized been identified and defined (FI/GN/01)?**

Secretariat's Comments

Please provide details for co-financing which are investment mobilized.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

Agency's Comments Co-financing amounts have been updated in the updated child project concept notes.

#### **Annex B: Endorsements**

**9.6 Has the program and its respective child project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?**

Secretariat's Comments

Please see comment above regarding OFP signatures needed for Guatemala and Kenya.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

Agency's Comments Updated.

**Compilation of Letters of Endorsement Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?**

Secretariat's Comments

Please see comment above.

Cleared

Agency's Comments Updated.

**Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?**

Secretariat's Comments

Please see comment above.

Cleared

Agency's Comments Updated.

**Annex C: Program Locations**

**9.7 a) Are geo-referenced information and maps provided indicating where the program interventions will take place?**

Secretariat's Comments Yes.

Agency's Comments

**Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes\* (\*only for non IP programs)**

**9.9 a) Does the program provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on**

**the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.**

**b) Does the program provide a detailed reflow table to assess the program capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.**

**c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.**

Secretariat's CommentsNA

Agency's Comments

**Additional Annexes**

**10 GEFSEC Decision**

**10.1 GEFSEC Recommendation**

**Is the program recommended for clearance?**

Secretariat's Comments

Not yet. The LA is requested to address the comments and resubmit the PFD. The LA is also requested to share specific comments on child project concept notes shared by the GEFSEC with the relevant agencies and facilitate addressing those comments.

Please address a few additional comments and resubmit the project.

GEFSEC 17 May

The project is returned to modify the financing based on latest status of the Peru Child project which proposed IDB as a co-implementing agency.

GEFSEC May 17, 2023

Thanks. Comment is cleared.

GEFSEC 18 May

The project is returned to the agency to address additional comments received from PPO. The comments are pasted under the Child Project Financing information box in the review sheet.

GEFSEC- the agency has addressed the comments from PPO. A couple of LoEs are awaited which will be consistent with the PFD entries.

GEFSEC 15 September 2023

The PFD is returned to the agency to add new child projects selected after second round of call for EOIs and revise the budget and other relevant sections.

GEFSEC 7th November 2023

The Agency is requested to address additional comments provided under the Policy question 7.1. They include comments from PPO and additional technical comments.

GEFSEC 26th November

Please address the following final set of comments related to GEB estimation

- Please ask relevant GEF agencies to include indirect GHG emissions estimates for Algeria, Chile and Zimbabwe. It is required, even if the estimates are conservative at this stage. The current targets for these countries are very low and can't be justified for investments in the sustainable cities child projects.

- For Madagascar- please provide the calculations sheet.

- For China- please provide the calculation sheet and a rationale behind using the factor of 10 for indirect emission reduction estimation.

GEFSEC December 2: Thanks for addressing the above comments. The PFD is cleared for approval.

GEFSEC April 22, 2024

The Agency is requested to review the program components table in the portal to make it consistent with the PFD document uploaded as a document in the portal.

GEFSEC April 23, 2024

Thanks the above comment related to the program component table is now addressed. PFD is cleared.

## Agency's Comments

**10.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency(ies) during the child project development.**

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

**10.3 Review Dates**

	<b>PIF Review</b>	<b>Agency Response</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>4/25/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/15/2023</b>	<b>5/11/2023</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/17/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/17/2023</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/18/2023</b>	