

# Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella V

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10957

**Countries**

Global (Angola, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Guinea, Jordan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mozambique, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Zambia, Kazakhstan)

**Project Name**

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella V

**Agencies**

UNEP

**Date received by PM**

4/6/2022

**Review completed by PM**

4/13/2022

**Program Manager**

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

**Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**Project Type**

EA

## **Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)**

### **Part 1: Project Information**

#### **Focal area elements**

**Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 5, 2022**

The dates have been updated to reflect a 24-month implementation period.

Cleared

**April 12, 2022**

Addressed.

**April 7, 2022**

Please, correct the dates in the table A. You cannot enter dates in the past.

<b>Sector</b> ⓘ Enabling Activity		<b>Rio Markers</b> Climate Change Mitigation Climate Change Mitigation 0			<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b> Climate Change Adaptation 0	
<b>Type of Reports</b>	<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>Expected Implementation Start</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>	<b>Expected Report Submission to Convention</b>		
UNCCD Reporting	4/1/2022	4/1/2022	3/31/2024	12/31/2022		
<b>Duration</b> ⓘ 24 In Months			<b>Agency Fee(\$)</b> 173,500.00			

## Agency Response

**08 April 2022**

Thank you, the dates have been updated in both the project document and portal.

**05 May 2022**

Response to comment no. 2: Project information:

The correct dates that reflect an exact 24-month implementing period have been updated in the portal and EA project document as guided. Dates are updated to indicate a proposed starting date of 01 June 2022 and a Completion date of 31 May 2024.

### Project description summary

**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

**April 13, 2022**

Point taken and thanks for adding Kazakhstan to this Umbrella. Addressed.

**April 12, 2022**

Addressed. However, we invite UNEP to add any remaining country in this MSP.

**April 7, 2022**

See Table B + Budget + Table D ? GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds?. The letters of endorsement mention 91,324 dollars + 8,676 dollars of Agency fees: there is no reason to consider 91,325 dollars per country and 8,675.

Moreover the amounts of 91,324\$ and 8,676\$ have been used for the Umbrella I, II, and III.

The project grant should be \$1,826,480 as the other Umbrella Projects (out of pmc and M&E). Please, correct in the different documents and items in the portal, as well as the changes in the fees.

Please make the information consistent in the portal and the word document.

## Agency Response

### **13 April 2022**

We thank the GEF Secretariat for the opportunity to add one more Country, Kazakhstan, to this Umbrella. The project document, budget, and portal have been updated to reflect this change.

### **11 April 2022**

Thank you for the guidance. The budget reflects 20 Country projects of \$91,324 +\$8,675 of fees per country for a subtotal of \$99,999 per country. This will represent for 20 countries a total of \$1,826,480 of GEF grants + \$173,500 of Agency fees.

Please be advised that the GEF portal does not permit us to validate a GEF grant of \$91,324 and a fee of \$8,676 per country as in the country letters of endorsement because the fee amount represents 9.500241% of the permissible 9.5% fee. (see the below example with portal notification in pink when we try to validate) Therefore, the agency fee for each country has been reduced by \$1 to \$8,675 to bring down the agency fee percentage but the project grant for each country remains at \$91,324.

The Umbrellas I, II, and III had a PMC component which allowed the fee to fall within the permissible percentage.

## **Co-financing**

**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 NA

## Agency Response

### **GEF Resource Availability**

**Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines?**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

Yes.

**Agency Response**

**Are they within the resources available from:  
The STAR allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**The focal area allocation?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Focal area set-aside?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

**Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

**Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification**

**Background and Context.**

**Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

**Goals, Objectives, and Activities.**

**Is the project framework sufficiently described?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

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 Yes

Agency Response

**Gender equality and women's empowerment.**

**Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

**Monitoring and Evaluation.**

**Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**April 7, 2022**

The M&E will be mutualized between the different umbrella projects.

Cleared.

Agency Response  
Cost Effectiveness.

**Is the project cost effective?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response  
Cost Ranges

**If there was a deviation in the cost range, was this explained?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response  
**Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP**

**Country endorsement**

**Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
**April 7, 2022**

20 letters of endorsement are available.

Agency Response  
**Response to Comments**

**Are all the comments adequately responded to? (only as applicable)**

GEF Secretariat Comment  
**May 5, 2022**

Addressed.

## Agency Response

### **Please address the following comments from the Quality Control**

1. Other Executing Partners ? Type: UNCCD National Focal Points is not an institution ? we saw several letters mentioning the Ministry where the OFP is located, so it would be accurate to mention ?Ministries? instead of UNCCD National Focal Points: however, this could make the list unmanageable. Being the other two executing partners (The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat) non-governmental organizations, please ask the Agency to (i) remove UNCCD National Focal Points; (ii) leave The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat; (iii) add ?others?; and (iv) in the Executing Partner Type change ?Government? for ?Other?.

#### **05 May 2022 - Agency response on Other Executing Partners:**

UNEP has (i) removed 'UNCCD National Focal Points'; (ii) left The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat; (iii) added ?others?; and (iv) in the Executing Partner Type changed it to 'Other'.

2. On Project Information: please request the agency to correct the expected completion date to 5/15/2024 in order to meet the stipulated duration (24 months).

#### **05 May 2022 - Agency response on Project Information:**

The correct dates that reflect an exact 24-month implementing period have been updated in the portal and EA project document as guided. Dates are updated to indicate a proposed starting date of 01 June 2022 and a Completion date of 31 May 2024.

3. Letters of Endorsement (LoEs): as stipulated in the Milestones section of the portal, this project was submitted on April 6 2022. Kindly note that per Guidelines, the LoEs have to be signed by the official OFP at the time of the project submission. Out of the 21 letters, 2 of them were signed by an OFP who was not the official OFP by the time of submission: Azerbaijan and Bahamas. Below you will find the details. Please ask the Agency to either get new LoEs or obtain an email from the official OFP (in the column ?Current OFP?), so the email can be uploaded in Portal. The Country Relations Team can help with this.

#### **05 May 2022 - Agency response on Letters of Endorsement:**

UNEP has requested and obtained via email confirmation of interest in the Enabling Activity Umbrella project from both the current official OFPs of Azerbaijan and The Bahamas. These have been uploaded in the portal as requested.

## **Other Agencies comments?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

## Agency Response

### **Council comments**



Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**STAP Comments**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

**Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

**May 5, 2022**

The project is recommended for approval.

**April 22, 2022**

**Please address the following comments from the Quality Control**

1. Other Executing Partners ? Type: UNCCD National Focal Points is not an institution ? we saw several letters mentioning the Ministry where the OFP is located, so it would be accurate to mention ?Ministries? instead of UNCCD National Focal Points; however, this could make the list unmanageable. Being the other two executing partners (The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat) non-governmental organizations, please ask the Agency to (i) remove UNCCD National Focal Points; (ii) leave The Global Mechanism and

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#### **April 13, 2022**

Kazakhstan was added to this Umbrella V EA project. The financing information has been updated with 21 countries. Cleared. The project is recommended for approval.

#### **April 12, 2022**

All points are addressed. However, we understand UNEP has just received an additional Letter of Endorsement. Please, include any additional country in this project within the limits of a MSP.

#### **April 7, 2022**

The project cannot be recommended yet. Please, address the items 1 and 2 in the part I. Please, report the changes (GEF grant, Agency fees, total GEF grant) in the different tables.

#### **Review Dates**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	4/7/2022	4/11/2022
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	4/12/2022	4/13/2022

**Secretariat Comment at  
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to  
Secretariat  
comments**

<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/13/2022</b>	<b>5/5/2022</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/22/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/5/2022</b>	

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**