

Preparation of South Africa's Fourth National Communication and Fourth Biennial Update Report under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10509

Countries

South Africa

Project Name

Preparation of South Africa's Fourth National Communication and Fourth Biennial Update Report under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

3/16/2020

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Satoshi Yoshida

Focal Area

Climate Change

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

March 20, 2020 SY: Yes, it is in line with the enabling activities under the climate change mitigation part of the GEF7.

Agency Response

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

June 22, 2020 SY: Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

March 20, 2020 SY: Please address the below for further assessment.

1. The structure is not entirely clear. The structure in Table B does not match the description under C. DESCRIBE THE ENABLING ACTIVITY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, including numbering.

Just two outputs are written here while there seems to be other outputs under the projects. There is only one outcome relating to updating tools and approaches but capacity-building through this project may be embedded in the institutional arrangements and technical capacities as well. Please revise the structure of Table B to reflect the entire project outcomes/outputs, while responding to comments relating to the framework. UNEP's document has difference components and outputs.

2. Please review Rio Makers considering the main objectives and outcomes, as both mitigation and adaptation are 1.

3. Current project period seems 41 months (7/1/2020 – 11/30/2023), not 42 months. Please revise.

Agency Response

UNEP: 12/06/2020

1. Noted. The project structure has been updated throughout the document, to reflect the following two outputs, as indicated in Table B, i.e.: -

Outputs: -

1.1.1 BUR4 and NC4 prepared and submitted to UNFCCC by March 2021 and August 2023 respectively.

1.1.2 A self-assessment and stocktaking exercise for preparation of the project proposal for subsequent BUR and NC completed

Section C of the CEO endorsement request and the corresponding UNEP document that contains the project work plan and budget have been revised and aligned to these 2 outputs.

2. Rio Makers: - Updated to include both mitigation and adaptation

3. Project Duration: It should be 40 months (9/1/2020-12/31/2023); this has been corrected and updated in the document.

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 March 20, 2020 SY: Co-financing is not required but is encouraged for this project. Only co-financing from the Government amounted \$85,200 is confirmed.

Agency Response

UNEP: 12/06/2020

The Government of South Africa has committed to supporting the project overhead costs (office space, equipment), to a tune of US\$ 85,200, which will be reported annually to UNEP. The UNEP will continue to avail its support in this project through its Division Branch staff, as well as support from the UNEP Office in Pretoria. Considering that UNEP is implementing more than 120 different National Communications and Biennial Update Reports projects, we request to only provide co-financing letters for umbrella programmes– which are easy to monitor on a broader scale, than for each single country proposal.

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

March 20, 2020 SY: Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**Agency Response**

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**Agency Response**

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request**Agency Response**

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

March 20, 2020 SY: 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

March 20, 2020 SY: Yes, it is adequate. Please see comments below relating to the cost-effectiveness and budget.

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 March 20, 2020 SY: Yes, third BUR is particularly focused.

Agency Response

UNEP: 12/06/2020

Additional text related to South Africa's Third National Communication process and outputs has been included in Section A, pg. 4-5.

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

June 22, SY: Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

(8. PMCs breakdown in this sheet is enough but not necessary in the CEO document itself. Please see the comment on M&E).

March 20, 2020 SY: Overall, details are provided. However, please address the below points to adequately assess outputs, outcomes, framework and structure of the project.

1. Please further clarify how the project will utilize enhanced capacities on transparency framework by the CBIT project while maximizing synergies and how the project will minimize overlaps. In this regard, please describe how this project would also contribute to the preparation of the BTR (not reporting itself) where similar capacities and improvements are needed, considering the project will end only a year before the deadline of BTR.
2. Please clarify what exact data and information other than GHG inventory will be updated from BUR4 and NC4.
3. GHG Inventory: Please clarify, as appropriate, improvements in coverage of sectors and gases (e.g. SF6) and in methodologies applications in line with the IPCC 2006 guidelines (including tiers), and other relevant elements.

4. GHG Inventory: Please provide an explanation why BUR4 to be submitted in March 2022 reports emissions inventory up to 2017, but not 2018, or adjust accordingly. BUR 3 dated in March 2019 has inventories up to 2015.
5. National Circumstances and Institutional arrangement: According to UNEP's document, collection of data and information will be done in 2020 (budget table). However, these data and information may be outdated over reporting timeline. Also, BUR 3 does not have the same reference years of all data. Please clarify and adjust accordingly.
6. Technical Assistance: It seems 4 years-flat activities according to the budget, although the first year may be less work partly because the timing of the project in the year. Please clarify what technical assistance will be provide over the project period.
7. Climate Change Education Training and Public Awareness: in terms of general public awareness campaign for climate change, please explain what added-value this project will bring on top of the ongoing government's efforts on these activities given the proposed budget. How will the project collaborate with the government to maximize the impact.
8. Institutional Arrangement (Figure 1): Line agencies are not directly involved in NC4 and BUR 4 processes as per figure 1, and rather stakeholders. Please elaborate how they provide data and technical inputs/assistance in compiling Inventories and mitigation and adaptation related activities. If any person under PMU will be funded by the project (it seems national project coordinator as per UNEP's document), please confirm that the person's cost will be charge to PMCs. Please provide the breakdown of PMCs.

Agency Response

UNEP: 12/06/2020

1. Clarification on how the project will utilize enhanced capacities on transparency framework by the CBIT project and consider BTRs

The NC4/BUR4 project will be fully aligned and rely on the national monitoring and evaluation system of South Africa, currently funded by the GEF, through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project. Climate information and data presented in the NC4/BUR4 process will be collected, analysed and archived through the National Climate Change Information System (NCCIS), within the national monitoring and evaluation system, as explained in Section A. pg. 7 & 8. A figure on the Monitoring and Evaluation system has been added.

The Greenhouse Inventory Expert, to be hired through the CBIT project of South Africa will support maintenance of the NGHGIS for both the 2000-2017 and 2000-2019 GHG inventories. The service providers to be hired under this project, will benefit from the CBIT targeted training on GHG inventories and its associated methodologies to enhance their understanding of sectoral contributions to emissions. This text has been added in Pg. 8

Considering the BUR4 is expected to be completed in March 2021, while Parties are expected to submit their initial BTRs in December, 2024, the human and institutional capacities built overtime, through the CBIT and NC4/BUR4 processes, and improvements made thereof, will contribute greatly to improving the quality of the reporting process of the BTR. This text has been added in pg. 9

2. Clarification on exact data and information other than GHG inventory to be updated from BUR4 and NC4.

Information on mitigation action and effects from 2015 to 2017; and support needed and received will be presented in BUR4. Information on measures to facilitate adequate adaptation and mitigation to climate change, constraints and gaps as well as other relevant information will also be presented in the NC4 report. These areas have been further outlined in the sub-components under Output 1, Section C - from pg. 19-23.

3. GHG Inventory clarifications on improvements in coverage of sectors and gases

Additional information provided on improvements in coverage of sectors and gases, and presented in pg.5

4. GHG Inventories and submission date.

Noted and corrected in pg. 1 and 9 and consistency ensured throughout the proposal, - BUR4 to be submitted in March 2021.

5. National Circumstances and Institutional arrangement

Comment noted. **The process of collection of data and information on national circumstances and institutional arrangement** will be conducted throughout the reporting period and the budget has been spread out accordingly.

Different reference years for BUR3: This comment is not very clear to us since the scope of this project is for BUR4 and not BUR3 which is currently undergoing the International Consultation and Analysis process of the UNFCCC. BUR3 covered information on the GHG inventory (2000-2015) as well as information on mitigation actions and their effects and support up to 2017, since this information was available. South Africa presented, more recent information where it was available, and this issue was not highlighted a concern, by the Technical Team of Experts.

6. Technical Assistance

The 'Technical Assistance' budget line is expected to support any additional capacity building needs that may arise, as different experts are engaged in drafting various components of Output 1. The DEFF may engage regional and/or international consultant(s) (ICs) as needed, to provide assistance in the preparation of the NC4 and BUR4 in specific approaches, tools and methods to be used for the planned activities under the GHG Inventories (i.e., for undertaking peer review of specific chapters of the NIR) and/or under the capacity building (i.e., for providing support to formulate internationally supported project proposals), etc. These resources will still be managed by the DEFF.

It is expected that most of the technical assistance support would be needed in Year 2021-2022, and these have been adjusted in the budget

The project coordinator will also be involved, in liaising with relevant ministries, national and international research institutes, NGOs, and other relevant institutions to gather and disseminate information relevant to the project and is among the listed roles of the project coordinator in the TORs provided. The Budget, therefore under the Technical support component has been re-distributed to respond to these services.

7. Climate Change Education Training and Public Awareness

The project will be expected to update and compile information on education, training and public awareness, and the budget allocated has been determined, based on the budget limits for reporting under 'other relevant information in NCs' as guided by the GEF/COP. Some of the proposed activities in pg. 25, will be implemented in collaboration with the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education. These Departments have also been included in the stakeholder's analysis Table in pg. 11-12

8. Institutional Arrangement (Figure 1) -Revised to Figure 2 in the document.

Participation of Line Ministries; The NC4/BUR4 will use various service providers to support collection and compilation of climate information and data from various sectors, into the National Climate Change Information System (NCCIS) - Figure 1 in pg. 8. These service providers will work closely with the relevant Line Ministries to obtain and verify data before they are uploaded into the system. Draft reports from service providers will not only be subjected to reviews by these Line Ministries – who are members of the Project Steering Committee - outlined in pg. 10; but also, the public at large.

PMC budget breakdown

A text has been included in the TORs of the PC in pg. 81 of the proposal as below:

‘The Project Coordinator (PC) will be recruited by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries – Directorate: International Mechanisms and Reporting to oversee project implementation and his/her salary will be charged from the PMC.’

The Project Coordinator will be responsible for management of both technical and financial reporting of the project. He/She will support project activities through liaising with relevant ministries, national and international research institutes, NGOs, and other relevant institutions to gather and disseminate information relevant to the project;

The breakdown of the PMC is as follows: -

- Salary of the National Project coordinator (US\$ 63,000 – from PMC; to be topped up with US\$ 9,000 from the Technical Support budget line)
- Procurement of one laptop and maintenance of office equipment and consumables (US\$ 5,450)
- Annual financial audits (US\$,9000) (moved to PMC, as requested in M& E comment)
- Communication, internet, printing etc costs will be covered by the Executing Agency (DEFF)

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

June 22, 2020 SY: Thank you for the clarification and revision. Cleared.

March 20, 2020 SY: Not at this stage. Please provide a stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent, as per Stakeholder engagement policy (SD/PL/01), identifying governmental and non-governmental organizations with means of engagement and roles/responsibilities and indicating how their participation will be secured.

Agency Response

UNEP: 12/06/2020

Relevant stakeholders representing key governmental organizations, academic institutions, education and research institutions, private sector, civil society and environmental NGOs with mandates relevant to the UNFCCC will participate and contribute to the NC4 and BUR4 development process. This information has been included in Section B Pg. 11-12.

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

June 22, 2020, SY: Thank you for revision. Cleared.

March 20, 2020 SY: Not at this stage. Please provide an elaborated gender analysis and a plan on gender equality and women's empowerment, including information related to gender differences/gaps, national context of GEWE, gender-disaggregated data and collection of such data, and gender-responsive measures, utilizing experiences on the past NCs and BURs processes.

Agency Response

UNEP: 12/06/2020

Additional information on gender has been included in section B pg. 13-15. Table 2 provides additional description on gender roles in the project on pg. 15. This project will support the organization of the annual gender specific workshop in relation to climate change issues.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 8, 2020, SY: Thank you for the revision. Cleared.

June 22, 2020 SY: Thank you for the addition and clarification. PM understands the below concern on the implementation. As discussed, please restructure the budget components with PMCs under 10%.

March 20, 2020 SY: Not adequate at this stage. Please revise the plan and include results framework, a budget, timeline, roles and responsibilities (EA and UNEP in particular), annual reports, and other relevant information requested by paragraph 20 of Policy on Monitoring (ME/PL/03). Please note that financial audit costs should be funded by PMCs if any (see guidelines on the project and program cycle policy).

Agency Response

UNEP: 22/06/2020

Table K presents the M& E budget and work plan – in pg. 30; while a project results framework has been presented on pg. 31-32.

The Audit costs of US\$ 9,000 have been moved to PMC as requested.

We also note that the GEF NC & BUR Policy documents^[1], that Parties refer to during the PIP preparation, excludes the Audit costs from the PMC. We therefore request your guidance/update on this Policy Doc, which is posted on the UNFCCC website.

[1] The BUR and NC guiding Policy documents had the Audit costs separated.

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Policy_Guidelines_for_the_financing_of_Biennial_update_reports_for_Non-Annex_1_Parties.pdf

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

June 22, 2020 SY: Thank you for clarification. Cleared.

March 20, 2020 SY: Please further elaborate how the project utilizes the ongoing CBIT project as well as knowledge and lessons learned through past processes of NCs and BURs to maximize cost-effectiveness.

Agency Response

UNEP: 12/06/2020

Figure 1 on South Africa's M& E explains how this project will make use of the national climate information system in place operationalized through the CBIT project. The Greenhouse Inventory Expert to be hired through the CBIT project of South Africa will support maintenance of the NGHGIS for both the 2000-2017 and 2000-2019 GHG inventories under the BUR4 and NC4 respectively. The CBIT project will also ensure that all the data providers and experts are well trained on GHG inventory compilation to build their capacities on GHG inventories and associated methodologies. Capacity building of experts through the CBIT, NC and BUR processes, will reduce over reliance on consultants for future reports. This additional information has been included in pg. 29 of the proposal.

Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

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

March 20, 2020 SY: Yes, the official letter from the current GEF OFP is attached.

Agency Response

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 8, 2020, SY: Comments cleared. PM recommends this project for technical clearance.

June 22, 2020 SY: Please see the comment on M&E box.

March 20, 2020 SY: Not at this stage. Please address the above comments and revise the documents accordingly.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

South Africa is a Party to the UNFCCC and is eligible to access enabling activities support for National Communications and Biennial Updated Reports. This project document has been prepared in line with the GEF7 climate change mitigation objective CCM-3 and relevant GEF policies and guidelines under the maximum costs.

The immediate objective of the project is to assist the country in the preparation and submission of its Fourth National Communication (4NC) and Fourth Biennial Updated Report (BUR4) to the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC for the fulfilment of its obligations to the Convention. The project will also contribute to enhancing institutional capacities of the country and the preparation of the first BTR, including through quality enhancement, improved methodologies, and inventory updating on an annual basis on its MRV system. The preparation of reporting will be in line with the relevant guidelines of the UNFCCC.

BUR4 and NC4 prepared and submitted to UNFCCC by March 2021 and August 2023 respectively. Activities of the project will result in drafting of the following components of the BUR4 and NC4 reports;

- National Circumstances and Institutional arrangement
- National GHG inventories
- Measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change
- Measures to mitigate climate change
- Information on mitigation actions and their effects
- Constraints and gaps; related financial, technical and capacity building needs including support needed and received to enable the preparation and submission of Fourth Biennial Update Report.
- Information on domestic measurement, reporting and verification (BUR)
- Other relevant information (Integrating climate change considerations into social, economic and environmental policies and actions, Development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies (ESTs), Climate change research and systematic observation, Climate Change Education Training and Public Awareness, Capacity building, Information and networking, Gender and climate change, Technical Assistance