



Resilient communities, land restoration and sustainable ecosystem management

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11212

Countries

Zambia

Project Name

Resilient communities, land restoration and sustainable ecosystem management

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

6/28/2024

Review completed by PM

1/13/2025

Program Manager

Cleide Tatyana De Traquino Almeida

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

PIF
CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
18 Sep 2024

Kindly change the region from Zambia to Africa, otherwise ok.

18 Nov 2024

Page 3 row 2 of General Project Information Table, see below screenshot with section highlighted in yellow for your reference:

General Project Information

Project Title	
Resilient communities, land restoration and sustainable ecosystem management	
Region	GEF Project ID
Zambia	11212
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Zambia	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency Project ID
FAO	744302

11 December 2024

Noted. Comment cleared.

Agency Response
10 November 2024

We could not identify the field where Africa should be indicated instead of Zambia, can you kindly clarify?

6 December 2024

Apologies, there is no 'region' field in the Portal for us to fill or change. This field seems to be self-filled by the Portal.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Please change LD marker to 2 as it is a significant objective of the project.

18 Nov 2024

Thanks. Comment cleared

Agency Response

10 November 2024

This has been edited in the Portal.

2. Project Summary.

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

b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

CCA:

Please provide a solid description of climate change risks faced by communities. There is currently no discussion on how climate resilience of vulnerable communities will be built (the present discussion is limited to forests!). What are the adaptation challenges faced by the project's communities and how will the project address these?

18 Nov 2024

CCA rationale has been strengthened and more clearly articulated vis-a-vis communities' adaptation challenges and climate resilience actions by the project. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

The requested information has been added.

3. Project Description Overview

- a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?**
- b) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**
- c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?**
- d) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**
- e) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

The project description overview effectively meets the criteria.

18 Sep 2024

CCA

- a) The project objective is concise, clear, and measurable, aiming to enhance climate change adaptation, reduce land degradation, and conserve biodiversity in Zambia's Central and Southern Provinces.
- b) Please see the following comments: (i) At this stage it is unclear how the project activities will serve as a vehicle for building climate resilience of the communities. (ii) The Theory of change could benefit from the addition of activities before outputs showing clear pathways between barriers and addressing the barriers, especially regarding adaptation. (iii) The emphasis on the research program is should show a direct linkage to the delivery of adaptation benefits and outcomes for local communities. (iv) Project Description Overview table: some of the activities mapped to LDCF funding are not explicitly climate change adaptation activities. E.g., Outputs 1.1.1.; 1.1.2; 1.1.4; these should be mapped to the GEF TF (GET). (v) The description of Output 2.1.2, provided later in the document, does not discuss climate resilience aspects of the proposed interventions at all; therefore, it should also be assigned to GET. (vi) The establishment and management of community forests on its own do not constitute adaptation activities; to be considered as such, information needs to be provided on how efforts will be made to ensure that climate-resilient species will be planted, how the management will promote climate resilience, and so on.

Paragraph 5: ?In this context??: no CC context has yet been provided in a similar way to what was done on biodiversity in prior paragraphs.

c) Exact actions under the gender dimension are unclear. Please mainstream gender equality actions into all the components. For LDCF, please discuss the unique aspects of women's vulnerability to climate change and how the project will address these.

d) The GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to Project Management Costs (PMC) are proportional.

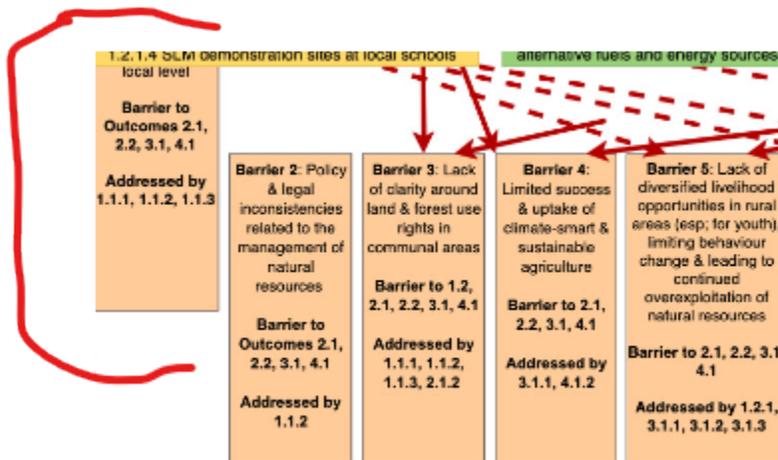
e) Yes

18 Nov 2024

a) Cleared

b) i) Thanks, comment cleared

ii) Barrier 1 Box needs to be shifted to the level of others so as to be legible but pathways now clear. Once moved, comment is cleared. see below screenshot for reference:



iii) Thanks for the clarification. Comment cleared.

iv) Outputs Outputs 1.1.1.; 1.1.2; 1.1.4 continue to be mapped to LDCF, please change to GET.

v) Thanks. Comment cleared.

vi) Thanks. Comment cleared.

c) Women's unique climate vulnerability has been described in generic ways that could truly be for anywhere in the world not specifically Zambia/the communities in question, which is not to say that

this is incorrect but it may be helpful to state statistics for the areas in question or at least the country, with a verifiable source e.g. points on time burden - how much time is reported by women vs men in the country/region; % of women with no access to x vs men etc for aspects listed. It is important to, the extent possible, quantify the problem.

d) Comment cleared.

e) Yes

3 December 2024

b) Please reflect gender considerations in Output 1.1.4.

c) Please ensure that the indicated activities/actions in the GAP are linked to the project components. Additionally, ensure that the GAP activities are budgeted.

11 December 2024

b)i) Thanks. Comment cleared.

b) iv) Thanks. Comment cleared.

c) Thanks. Comment cleared.

b) At the moment execution is vague and only words around gender inclusivity were added. It is recommended clear actions to ensure this inclusivity are taken during implementation. Comment cleared.

c) Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

CCA

b) i. Details on how the project will strengthen the climate resilience of project communities have been strengthened across the project's rationale.

ii. Activities have been added to the ToC to better show pathways between barriers and outcomes, including how barriers will be addressed.

iii. The research programme is adaptation focused. This has been clarified in the text where necessary.

iv. Requested changes have been made to the project summary table.

- v. The adaptation rationale has been strengthened as possible across the document.
- vi. The adaptation rationale has been strengthened as possible across the document.

c) Additional detail on unique aspects of women's vulnerability to climate change in Zambia have been integrated into the project's rationale. The gender action plan, presented in Annex K provides specific gender actions targeted at mainstreaming gender into the project's activities where relevant.

6 December 2024

b) ii) This has been amended and the revised figure added.

b) iv) Please note that the Portal does not allow to use two different trust funds within one outcome. In addition, the LDCF funding for these outputs was approved at PIF stage, and the focus of these outputs has remained identical. We have altered the wording of these outputs to better show that they are indeed relevant to LDCF funding.

c) Well noted. Additional information on the unique vulnerability of women has been presented in the 'Climate change impacts and vulnerabilities' sub-section of the Project rationale section.

Policy comments

b) Gender considerations have been integrated into the narrative and activities of Output 1.1.4.

c) All indicated activities/actions in the GAP are linked to specific Components and related Outcomes. Likewise, budget allocated to the GAP is indicated in the last column 'Covered by the cost of the Gender Officer (USD 100,000) and Gender Mainstreaming Budget (USD 150,000).

4. Project Outline

A. Project 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 project design?**
- b) Have 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 project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?**
- c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

CCA

a) Please see the following: (i) Please include a more detailed data-driven analysis of the local environmental conditions and vulnerabilities. (ii) The systems perspective could be strengthened by clearly linking local actions to global benefits. (iii) The paragraph on climate change impacts is too

brief. Please provide solid discussion (in the Portal template entry of (a) current climatic conditions and constraints; and (b) climate change projections, corresponding to two different scenarios. The discussion should look at changes in climate variables, changes in timing of key weather events, and how these climatic changes affect key socio-econ sectors that the country and the vulnerable communities (targeted by the project) depend on.

Section A (Project rationale), Paragraph 12: it seems clear from these bullets that climate-resilience of communities is not yet a priority or focus of this project. Climate-resilience is only mentioned in the context of natural resources. A significant shift in approach is needed.

Output 1.1.1: How will the capacity built by these trainings be sustained? We suggest adopting a ?training of trainers? approach for sustainability purposes.

Output 3.1.2: which value chains? By this stage, there should be more specific information provided.

Please revise the numbering so that paragraph numbers do not repeat across the submission.

b) The proposal could improve by including a more detailed stakeholder mapping, identifying specific roles and responsibilities for each group. The engagement of the private sector could be elaborated with concrete examples of how investments will be leveraged and long-term commitments ensured - at present it is rather vague. Additionally, the role of local actors, such as community-based organizations and local governments, needs further elaboration, with specific strategies for capacity building and ensuring local ownership of project outcomes

c) N/A

18 November 2024

a)i) Thanks, comment cleared.

ii) Thanks, comment cleared.

iii) Thanks, comment cleared.

b) Now clarified, thanks. Comment cleared.

c) N/A

3 December 2024

b) On stakeholder engagement: It is well noted that the project has attached a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP). However, the SEP should elaborate further on the different stakeholder?s role and responsibilities related to the specific project components and outputs.

11 December 2024

b) Comment not addressed.

12 December 2024

b) On stakeholder engagement: It is well noted that the project has attached a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP). However, the SEP should elaborate further on the different stakeholder's role and responsibilities related to the specific project components and outputs.

19 December 2024

b) The updated SEP has further elaborated on different stakeholders' role and responsibilities related to the specific project components and outputs. Thanks, comment cleared.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

CCA

a) A more detailed analysis of various aspects of the rationale has been included as requested. This includes a more detailed description of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities and target communities. Improved natural resource management is promoted as a key resilience-building strategy of the project. This has been further highlighted in the narrative.

Output 1.1.1: Thank you for the suggestion. A 'training of trainers' approach has been included to ensure sustainability.

Output 3.1.2: More specific information on value chains has been provided in the description of Output 3.1.2 and Annex E.

Paragraph numbering has been deleted as the portal made it difficult to adjust.

b) Where possible, stakeholder mapping has been improved across the project design and will continue to be elaborated on through consultations and partnership during project implementation (especially at inception). Details of the roles of the private sectors have been clarified where possible, particularly in the project description.

17 December 2024

The SEP annexed in the prodoc (Annex J) was improved in the previous resubmission. However, it seems that the word project document uploaded on the Portal with that resubmission did not appear in the Portal. Please consult the newly uploaded prodoc, with all edits highlighted in yellow.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?

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

c) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project 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? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?

e) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?

f) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?

g) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?

h) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?

i) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?

j) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

k) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?

l) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

a) The TOC currently starts with outputs, without clear connections to specific activities or inputs, and some outputs are framed as inputs. As a result, it doesn't fully capture the project's pathway from the resources invested (inputs) to the tangible changes or impacts the project aims to achieve (outputs)

and outcomes). It would be helpful to provide greater clarity on what resources are necessary to reach the desired outcomes and objectives, as well as how those resources will be utilized. While Annex E refers to these details, it would be beneficial to make this a more explicit part of the CER Endorsement to ensure the logic is clear. Additionally, Annex E could be more specific about what will be done

b) The proposal could benefit from a more detailed explanation of how the GEF alternative will specifically build on ongoing and previous investments, with concrete examples of synergies and cooperation. While there is a table of collaboration later on, it would strengthen the narrative to mention this briefly in the text in the description.

c) See comments elsewhere in this review sheet e.g. in 4a) along with BD and LD comments in this section.

d) As commented elsewhere, further discussion on adaptation is requested.

e) Socioeconomic benefits at national and local levels are sufficiently described. However, a more detailed analysis of the long-term sustainability of these benefits would be beneficial.

f) The LDCF budget of almost \$2 million for the long-term research program is too steep. Please reduce significantly. Also please strengthen the linkage between the research and the project objectives.

g) The project design is unclear on mechanisms for resilience to future changes in climate, and the roles of relevant stakeholders, including women and the private sector, should be described more fully. One area that has been well-described is the derisking for agriculture season false-starts and how the information will be used to adapt the supply chain to adverse climate changes. Similar logic should be clear throughout.

h) The roles of the private sector are largely vague e.g. mentions of the involvement of the private sector in capacity-building activities but lacks specifics: "The project will work closely with stakeholders such as the Department of Youth Development, whose youth training centres can be used for capacity building, Jacaranda Hub (JH) and the private sector" - what is the private sector's role in this case (are they being trained, providing the capacity building, acting as a market linkage or employment opportunity in which built capacity can be implemented? It is unknown) and several other parts of the document.

i) At this stage detailed information on integration of gender across the components design, knowledge management and strategic communication should be clear. At present it is vague.

j) Yes on the project M&E side; Please see above comment (f) in this section regarding the research component.

k) The proposal addresses policy coherence and identifies potential counteracting policies, providing strategies to mitigate their impact.

l) The project is positioned as transformative and innovative, with clear scaling-up opportunities (except the research component).

-

- BD:

We note Annex E, which includes additional information on each activity. However, the titles of many the activities remain vague and no further specific than outputs when they should be specific, concrete, tangible, and clarify what the project will do in practical terms.

c) Please consider refining the title of the activities.

c) Please in particular be more specific on activities under outcome 2.2 . ?Activity 2.2.1.1 Supporting the greening of agricultural value chains by promoting sustainable agricultural production systems across the project landscapes? is not an activity, promoting sustainable agricultural production systems at landscape level could be a project objective in itself, and the elaboration in Annex E does not provide any further clarity on what the project intends to do.

c) Likewise, more details on activity 2.2.1.3 are required

c) Please provide additional information on the Green Cash Transfer scheme, and notably:

1. What mechanism / criteria will be put in place to ensure that it has the intended outcomes (displacing harmful practices) and will not just be additional, and to ensure the process is fair and transparent.

2. how it will be designed to ensure a proper impact evaluation as foreseen in 4.1.1, ideally through a RCT.

c) Output 4.1.1 (Long-term research programme to assess the project?s impact implemented): The description in Annex E is going beyond assessing the project impact and activities point to setting up and funding a full-fledged, stand-alone research programme involving a scholarship programme and national conferences on SLM in general, which would not be eligible for GEF funding. While we welcome an impact evaluation of the Green cash transfer scheme and building local research capacity that will last beyond the project? lifetime, generic research on SLM is not eligible for funding by the GEF. Please revise so research activities to be funded under this project are linked to the assessment of the project impact and to improving the project results uptake/replication.

f) We note the strong budget shift from output 1.2.1 (Awareness-raising programme targeting behaviour change in youth implemented), which went from \$1.5 million at PIF stage to \$0.16 million of GEF funding at CER stage, to Output 2.2.1 and outcome 3.1. Please justify the change, including the change from LDCF to GET funding for component 3 and its reduction of budget by a factor almost 4.

18 November 2024

CCA:

- a) Thank you. Comment cleared
- b) Thank you. Comment cleared.
- c) Thank you. Comment cleared.
- d) Thank you. Comment cleared.
- e) Is Annex F the Gender Analysis and action plan as we do not see any document attachment labelled as such or in the CEO endorsement. Please share this annex.
- f) Thanks. Comment cleared.
- g) Thank you, comment cleared.
- h) Thank you, comment cleared.
- i) Refer to comment 3 c.
- j) Thank you, comment cleared.
- k)The proposal addresses policy coherence and identifies potential counteracting policies, providing strategies to mitigate their impact.
- l) The project is positioned as transformative and innovative, with clear scaling-up opportunities.

BD:

- c) Thanks. All comments cleared.
- f) Thanks, comment cleared.

3 December 2024

j) Under Component 4, please specify that the project will monitor and report on gender-specific results (PIR, MTR, TE). Under Learning and Knowledge, please make reference to sharing knowledge to or using the platform of the GEF Gender Partnership to share knowledge and learning on the project's gender-specific results and lessons.

11 December 2024

e) Thanks. Comment cleared.

i) Thanks. Comment Cleared.

j) Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

a) The ToC has been updated with more specific details on activities that will contribute to the achievement of outputs. Where possible, additional details have been added to Annex E to improve logic and clarity.

b) Thank you. More detail on the project's collaboration with past and ongoing projects has been briefly mentioned in the description.

c) Please see responses to other comments.

d) Please see responses to other comments.

e) Please see Section E.2 and Annex F for the rationale supporting the long-term sustainability of the project's socio-economic benefits.

f) The USD 2 million under Component 4 do not only cover the long-term research program but also an extensive knowledge management approach, amongst other activities, under Output 4.1.2. The long-term research programme itself only had USD 575,000 allocated to it. Furthermore, additional activities have been included under Output 4.1.1 to support collaboration with the DSL-IP, further reducing the budget of the long-term research programme to USD 525,000. The description of Output 4.1.1 has been amended to clarify that the long-term research programme will focus on project impacts, including those that will accrue post project implementation period.

g) The adaptation rationale of the project has been strengthened where possible, including the roles of various stakeholders.

h) Details of the roles of the private sectors have been clarified where possible, particularly in the project description.

i) Additional detail on unique aspects of women's vulnerability to climate change in Zambia have been integrated into the project's rationale. The gender action plan, presented in Annex K provides specific gender actions targeted at mainstreaming gender into the project's activities where relevant.

j) Please see responses to other comments on the research output.

BD

c) As possible, activities under Output 2.2.1 have been revised for clarity. More details on Activity 2.2.1.3 have been provided in Annex E.

1. The Beneficiary Grant Mechanism of the FAO will ensure that the Green Cash Transfer scheme is fair and transparent, and results in the intended outcomes and impacts related to the displacement of harmful environmental impacts that increase the climate vulnerability of vulnerable communities. A beneficiary selection committee will be established (chaired by the FAO, and including Self-Help Africa as a member, along with other partners) to drive the process. In addition, a Grant Manual will be developed to guide the scheme. This has been reflected in the text.

2. The suggestion to use a randomized controlled trial to conduct impact assessment is well noted. However, it is premature to anticipate on the best statistical approach to conduct the impact evaluation, as this will depend on the sample size. The final methodology will be elaborated during implementation, in partnership with the Danish Church cooperation which already has experience in such impact assessments in Zambia.

- The description of Output 4.1.1 has been amended to clarify that the long-term research programme will focus on project impacts, including those that will accrue post project implementation period.

f) During the PPG phase, the budget allocations across components and outputs was reevaluated. Following the reevaluation, it was clear that far less budget would be needed for Output 1.2.1 and more for other outputs, such as those under Outcomes 2.2 and 3.1, to achieve the desired impacts and targets of the project. The change from LDCF to GEFT TF under Component 3 is due to not all outputs being completely adaptation focused, such as Outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3.

6 December 2024

e) Annex K is the gender analysis and action plan. It has been uploaded again for your convenience.

i) Please refer to comment 3c.

j) Sharing of knowledge and learnings via the GEF Gender Partnership has been integrated in the description of Output 4.1.2.

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?

b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

CCA

a) Institutional arrangements clearly outlined along with potential executing partners at different levels and their rationale. Organogram included.

b) N/A

c) Note the following:

1. Coordination and cooperation with other initiatives including GEF-financed and relevant lessons learned are considered but need to be made clear how and in what capacity coordination will occur e.g. Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Program (GEF ID 20206) is mentioned in text but not in areas of collaboration in the table as has been done for other projects.

BD:

a) On section ?C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES? Please remove the reference to the outdated Aichi targets, and please be more detailed in the elaboration on the contribution to the KMGBF targets, highlighting on what aspect of the targets the projects contributes to, with quantitative elements when possible.

LD:

The project should coordinate with the ongoing Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Program (GEF ID 10206), which is a FAO-led GEF-7 program. While Zambia is not part of the program, there is scope for cooperation and coordination on common management challenges as well as on knowledge management. This should be added to the list of ongoing initiatives in the CEO endorsement template.

18 November 2024

CCA:

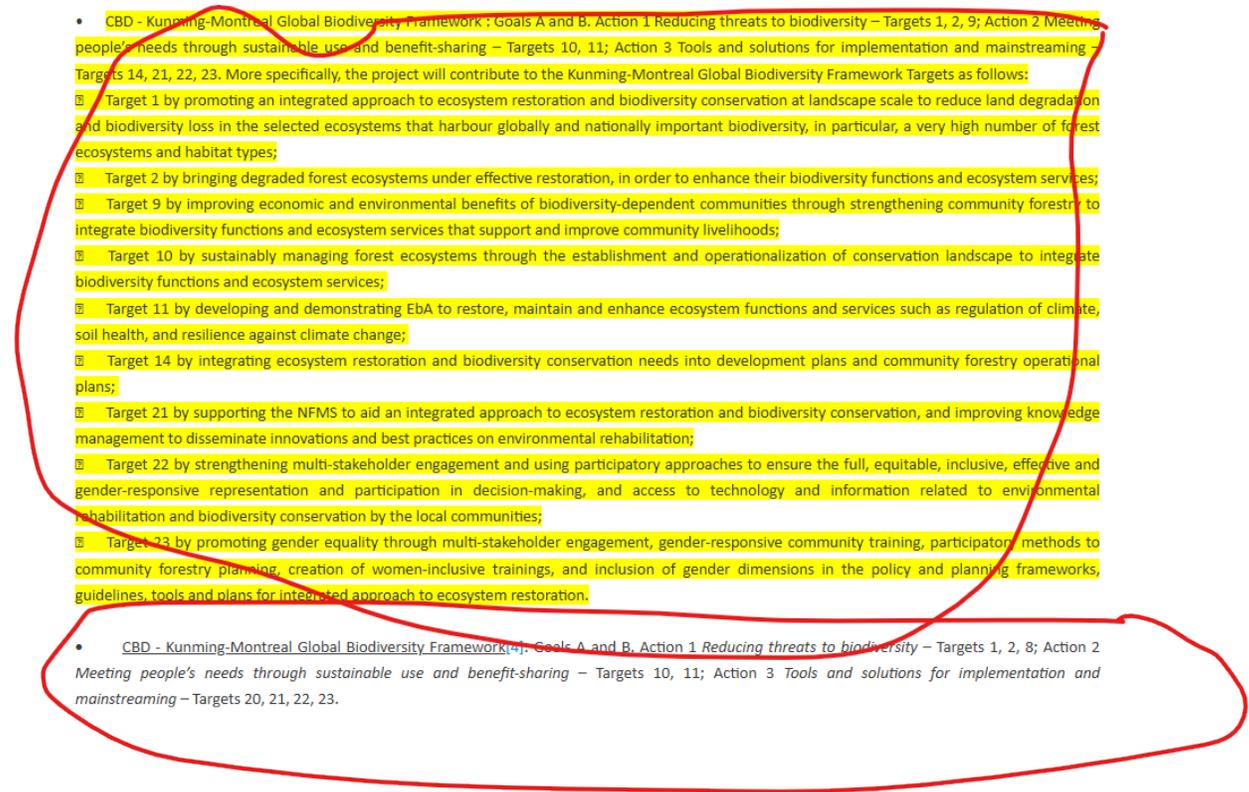
a) Institutional arrangements clearly outlined along with potential executing partners at different levels and their rationale. Organogram included.

b) N/A

c) Thanks. Comment cleared

BD:

a) Section C was ammended and relevant information added . However, there are now two elaborations in the portal entry that are not consistent with one another (see below screenshot): Please consolidate the two elaborations above and focus on targets on which the project had the main contributions, which seem to be targets 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 20, 21, 22, 23.



LD:

Thanks. Comment cleared

3 December 2024

The position of ?OPA Manager (part time)? looks unjustifiable when there is a ?Project Manager. Same applies to the position of ?Gender Mainstreaming Capacity Building? when already exists a ?Gender Officer?. We found the TORs (Pages 150 ? 155 of the attached word document) for the Project Manager, but not for the ?OPA Manager?, neither for the ?Gender Mainstreaming Capacity Building? nor for the ?Gender Officer?. Also, there are TORs for a ?Project Coordinator? when already a ?Project Manager? exists, but there is no ?Project Coordinator? in the budget table. Therefore, there are many inconsistencies and overlaps that need to be harmonized ? please amend.

11 December 2024

Thanks. All comments addressed and cleared.

12 December 2024

The position of 'OPA Manager (part time)' looks unjustifiable when there is a 'Project Coordinator'. We found the TORs (Pages 150 - 155 of the attached word document) for a 'Project Manager' and 'Project Coordinator', but not for the 'OPA Manager', neither for the 'Gender Officer', 'Safeguard officer', 'Finance Coordinator'. Also, there are TORs for a 'Project Coordinator' and a 'Project Manager', but there is no 'Project Manager' in the budget table. Therefore, there are many inconsistencies and overlaps that need to be harmonized - please amend.

19 December 2024

Based on updated TORs the Project Coordinator is responsible for the overall management and implementation of the project, providing leadership, supervising staff, ensuring smooth financial management, preparing and submitting reports, liaising with stakeholders, maintaining documentation, and coordinating policy-related project implementation. In contrast, the OPA Manager focuses on the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA), supporting project start-up, reviewing financial reports, monitoring risk mitigation, coordinating audits, preparing OPA amendments, ensuring fiduciary standards, supporting benefit grant mechanisms, and attending coordination meetings. Both roles are integral: the Project Coordinator ensures the project runs smoothly and achieves its objectives, while the OPA Manager ensures that project partners fulfill their obligations and maintain transparency, accountability, and effective collaboration. The Project Coordinator acts as the leader of the project, and the OPA Manager serves as the guardian of the agreement governing the project's partnerships, making both roles essential for the project's success. However, we note the interchangeable use in description of 'project manager' with project coordinator throughout the document and going into implementation it is ideal that one title be used. Additionally TORs for 'Gender Officer', 'Safeguard officer', and 'Finance Coordinator' have been added and are reasonable. Thanks, comment cleared.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

CCA

c) Additional details on how coordination and cooperation with past and ongoing projects will occur have been added to the project description. This includes the DSL-IP, which has now been added to the table on past and ongoing projects to cooperate with. Specific activities related to cooperation with the DSL-IP have also been added to Output 4.1.1.

BD

a) Well noted. This has been addressed in section C.

LD

Edited - Please see response to comment above.

6 December 2024

BD

a) Apologies, this has been fixed in the Portal.

Policy comment: Thank you. The OFP support letter uploaded makes reference to the recruitment of a dedicated Operational Partnership Agreement manager in charge of OPIM within FAO, please find the label slightly adjusted into the budget spreadsheet.

The budget is now in line with the ToR prepared for the ??Project Coordinator?? and therefore you will find the title corrected accordingly.

ToRs for the Gender Officer have been added; the gender mainstreaming budget is not specifically for a position and ToRs are thus not directly relevant; rather it is a provision to support capacity building on gender mainstreaming through training (the line is now under trainings).

There was a confusion on the ToRs of Project Coordinator vs Project Manager in Annex L. Only the PC ToRs have been retained as this is the only positioned planned in the Project Implementation Unit.

17 December 2024

It seems that the word project document uploaded on the Portal with the previous resubmission did not appear in the Portal. These comments had been addressed:

- Detailed ToRs for the OPA Manager have been added as requested by the OFP, clarifying that this role is indeed distinct from that of Project Coordinator. There is no ?Project Manager?.
- ToRs for Gender Officer, Safeguard Officer And Finance Coordinator have been added.

Kindly review these changes highlighted in yellow.

5.3 Core indicators

a) 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)?

b) Are the project'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?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

CCA

a) At this stage the LDCF subindicators must be populated and disaggregated by sex. At present only indicators have been populated. Kindly rectify.

b) Yes

BD:

c):

- Core indicator 3: The results framework (indicator 7) includes a target of 290,000 ha under restoration when the target on core indicator 3 is 90,000 ha. Please ensure consistency. If the core indicator 3 remains at 90,000 ha please justify the cost assumptions of restoration and cost effectiveness.

- Core indicator 6: According to the EX-ACT spreadsheet provided, most of the mitigation impact is expected to come from bringing 287,210 ha of tropical dry forest from moderate to low degradation level. In addition, a mitigation impact is expected from change in practices over 164,546 ha of cropland and land-use change over an additional 2,790 ha. The total surface area impacted in EX-ACT is thus more than 354,000 ha when it seems the total surface area reported in core indicators is 290,000 ha. Please ensure consistency and, in the resubmission, provide a short narrative explaining the main assumption behind the parameters inputted in EX-ACT and their relationship with core indicators and project outputs.

- Core indicator 4: Please include the target in the portal entry on the core indicator and its sub indicators, it is missing currently.

The results framework indicators 8 and 9 seem to correspond to the same 200,000ha, and yet are to measure two different outcomes. Please develop different indicators to measure the distinct outcomes 2.1 (restoration and sustainable management) and 2.2 (reduced biodiversity loss). Please consider notably a measure of reduction in pressure (wood fuel harvesting) for outcome 2.2, and focus on restoration/management and increased connectivity under outcome 2.1.

Please include a specific indicator in the results framework corresponding to core indicator 4.1 related to improved management to benefit biodiversity and clarify how it will be measured in practice in the context of this project.

CCM:

b):

The CCM GEBs (GHG reduction/avoidance) are mainly achieved through improved forest management, avoided land use change (deforestation) and improved cropland management. I reviewed the assumptions for these components in the EX-ACT tool calculations, and I suggest ensuring that the improved agri cropland management component clearly confirms the following assumptions in the CEO endorsement requests:

129600 beneficiaries are expected in this component.

- The component is focused on promoting the increased use of organic-based plant nutrients and decreasing the practice of burning crop residues.

LD:

-
- a) Core-indicator 4 went down from 200,000 ha at PIF stage to zero (0) ha at CEO endorsement stage. Please advise if this is a mistake; as otherwise it is not acceptable that the project has no targets for indicator 4.

18 November 2024

CCA:

a) In the portal subindicators still not populated except subindicators for indicator 2 and these are still incomplete.

b) Yes.

BD:

1. Please provide the updated EX-ACT spreadsheet. We failed to find it with the resubmission.
2. The Results Framework is not consistent with core indicator targets. Target on CI 4 is 340,000 ha, not 200,000 ha as reported in the Results Framework. Please correct:

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas) ⓘ

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200000.00	340000.00	0.00	0.00

ate-resilient natural resource management approach in the Central and Southern Provinces of Zambia			rovince)	rovince)		s	
	Core indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices	0	100,000 ha (15,000 in the Southern Province and 75,000 ha in the Central Province)	200,000 ha (50,000 in the Southern Province and 150,000 ha in the Central Province)	Field surveys, including GIS mapping of changes in land cover	SLM interventions are successful and supported by local stakeholders	PIU and Self-Help Africa

CCM:

Also related to EX-ACT, besides the area size issue raised in past comments, the previous version of the EX-ACT file assumes that the improved agri cropland management component is focused on promoting the increased use of organic-based plant nutrients and decreasing the practice of burning crop residues. Please ensure that the description of the component reflects this. The response didn't provide confirmation on this point. Is the project going to specifically going to cover activities that increase the use of organic-based plant nutrients and decrease the practice of burning crop residues for the agri cropland?

LD:

- a) Thanks, comment cleared.

-

3 December 2024

i) The Results Framework has limited gender indicators. Please ensure that the gender-related activities specified in the project components will be monitored and reported on.

11 December 2024

CCA

i) Core indicator 3 - 2 in total for indicator, 3 in subindicators. Please rectify.

ii) Core indicator 2 - 200,000 in total but only 60,000 in subindicators. Please rectify.

iii) Core indicators 1, 4 and 5 now updated and comment cleared.

BD:

Noted.

CCM:

Noted.

Gender:

i) Thanks. Comment cleared

19 December 2024

The addition of relevant practices is noted.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

CCA

a) Apologies for forgetting to insert the figures in the portal, this has been edited

BD

c) Core Indicator 3: This has been revised to ensure alignment with the correct figure of 90,000 ha.

Core Indicator 6: the mitigation impact has been reassessed using the EX-ACT tool and updated, with consistency ensured. A short narrative has been added in the resubmission.

Core Indicator 4: apologies for the oversight, the sub-indicators & indicator have been completed in the Portal.

The indicators under Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2 have been updated to avoid overlap and ensure that that are outcome specific.

A specific indicator (8) has been added to the Results Framework to correspond with Core Indicator 4.1.

CCM

b) The assumption of 129,600 beneficiaries under this component is correct, and corresponds to the 72% of the 180,000 direct beneficiaries that are engaged in some form of subsistence agriculture in the target areas.

LD

a) Apologies, it seems that the Portal has not picked up the previous entry. This has been corrected.

6 December 2024

CCA

a) Apologies, as the Portal had not picked up the sub-indicators we had filled. The information should now be well captured. Some of the sub-indicators left blank will be filled in during the course of the project as more information becomes available (e.g. 1.5, 1.6, 3.7).

BD

1. The EX-ACT file has been uploaded again.
2. The indicator target in the Results Framework has been adjusted to align with that in the Core Indicator worksheet (340,000 ha).

CCM

Yes, this is the case. This has been clarified in the description of the relevant components

Policy-comment i) As possible, gender-related indicators have been added to the results framework.

17 December 2024

CCM

Apologies, the Portal had not registered the updated project document properly. The mention of organic-based plant nutrients and decrease in the practice of burning crop residues for the agri cropland is present under the description of the components in the newly uploaded project document (Annex E, Activity 2.1.1.4).

5.4 Risks

- 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, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

a) Given the moderate risk rating under the environmental and social, institutional and policy and technological risk, these could benefit from more detail and giving context along with more specific mitigation measures. Presently the details range from vague to generic under these categories.

b) Yes

c) See comment (a)

18 November 20024

a) Comment cleared.

b) Yes

c) Comment cleared.

3 December

b) On risks: Please adjust the rating under the "Environmental and Social" risk category in line with the ESS risk category. The ratings are not in line as is. Doing so would be in line with the description of the "Environmental and Social" risk category in Annex B of the GEF Risk Appetite document (GEF/C.66/13) stating that: "The rating reported by project under this category is identical to the Overall Safeguards Risk rating provided at PIF, CEO Endorsement, MTR and TE stage."

c)

1. We note that the project's overall ESS risk is classified as moderate, and FAO attached the Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF). ESMF said that "[t]here will be loss of farm land, grazing land and structures among others by the local communities owning the land (page 26). It also said that "[a]ll affected persons to be given relocation assistance (cash or kind) by the Project to enable them move their properties to new locations, i.e. in accordance with the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)" and "A benefit sharing mechanism should be developed". However, the attached ESMF does not include any budget, timeline, action plans and responsibility information of these important activities.

Additionally:

2. Please consider alternative options to avoid local community to lose their land.

3. Please also provide clear budget, timeline, action plans and responsibility to avoid, mitigate, and manage social impacts of local community losing their land at the CEO endorsement stage.

11 December 2024

b) Thanks. Comment cleared.

c) Thanks. Comment cleared.

12 December 2024

b) On Environmental and Social Safeguards: We note that the potential social impact to loss of land has been removed from the updated ESMF. However, 5.3.6 Resource Use Conflicts (page 27) in ESMF, which is critical to address in the project, does not explain any mitigation measures. In addition, the Table 6.1: Environmental and Social Management Plan Matrix (page 29-38) does not include any information of this resource use conflict and fail to include all the budget and timeline in the table:

1. Please provide mitigation measures to address potential risk related to resource use conflict.
2. Please provide updated information on the Table 6.1: Environmental and Social Management Plan Matrix including resource use conflict with budget and timeline.
3. Please provide summary of environmental and social risks and their mitigation measures in the environmental and social section of the Key Risk in the Portal.

19 December

Comments 1 through 3 are noted.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

a) A preliminary full Environmental & Social Management Framework has been uploaded.

6 December 2024

b) The ESS risk level had been reassessed as 'moderate' the updated certificate has been uploaded in the Portal. This is in line with the Environmental and Social risk level reported ('moderate').

c) The project intervention strategy was actually updated after the ESMF was produced, resulting in the removal of the activities that had triggered this preliminary assessment. An updated ESMF has been uploaded to reflect these changes (without a mention to any planned resettlement).

17 December 2024

1. Please see the highlighted edits in the draft ESMF. Please note that this plan will be improved and updated by the Safeguards Officer (in collaboration with FAO) both at inception and throughout project implementation.
2. As above.
3. A summary has been added in the environmental and social section of the Key Risk in the Portal.

5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
18 Sep 2024

N/A

Agency Response

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

6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
18 Sep 2024

CCA:

- a) Indicative focal area elements, based on the project's activities, must also include CCA 1.3 Strengthening innovation and private sector engagement and CCA 1.4 Fostering partnership for inclusion and whole of society approach. Kindly update

Further clarity on addressing conflicting farm policies (a lesson learned from other initiatives) and the need for close engagement with ongoing initiatives like the AWARE and SAFE projects to leverage lessons learned and explore potential collaborations is emphasized and recommended. Please enhance policy coherence and collaboration for stronger implementation.

CCM:

- 6.1 a) Although I note that GEFSEC in the PIF review recommended to align the project with CCM-1-1, but based on how the mitigation GEB is achieved through reduced deforestation in the AFOLU

sector, while biogas and solar PV are all aiming to address the related driver for deforestation, i.e. current unsustainable energy supply from biomass, I recommend to allocate CCM-1-4 funding, instead of CCM-1-1 funding for this project.

LD:

6.1 a) The alignment with Land Degradation (LD) focal area objectives is not fully correct. In the financing tables, the agency has only selected LD-1 (Sustainable Land Management) as a programming element. However, if the project does restoration (LD-2) and works in Drylands (LD-3), the agency should also select LD-2 and LD-3 as appropriate.

18 November 2024

CCA:

Thanks, comment cleared.

CCM:

Thanks, comment cleared.

LD:

Thanks. Comment cleared.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

CCA

a) This has been updated as suggested.

Thank you. Addressing conflicting farm policies is emphasized in Output 1.1.2 as part of policy dialogues to ensure the alignment of natural resources management practices. As possible, policy coherence and collaboration has been strengthened across the document.

CCM

a) This has been edited as suggested. Please note that programming of PPG funds could not be edited in the Portal.

LD

a) This has been edited as suggested.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

The project is well-aligned with Zambia's national and regional priorities, policies, strategies, and plans, including those related to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and relevant sectors. It supports the National Policy on Environment by promoting sustainable natural resource management and environmental accountability, and aligns with the Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP-2) by reducing biodiversity pressures and safeguarding ecosystems. The project also aligns with the National Forest Policy by maximizing forest productivity and empowering local communities. It contributes to Zambia's Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) by promoting climate-smart agriculture and sustainable resource management, and supports the Second National Agriculture Policy by mainstreaming climate change in agriculture. Additionally, it aligns with the Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework by fostering inclusive and sustainable economic opportunities and social services. The project also supports the Zambia National Strategy to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and the Zambia Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Report targets by managing forests, adopting good agricultural practices, and increasing sustainable land use.

Agency Response

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

BD:

On section ?C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES? Please remove the reference to the outdated Aichi targets, and please be more detailed in the elaboration on the contribution to the KMGBF targets,

highlighting on what aspect of the targets the projects contributes to, with quantitative elements when possible.

18 November 2024

BD:

Thanks, comment cleared

Agency Response

10 November 2024

This has been updated as suggested.

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestYes

Agency Response

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestYes

Agency Response

7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: 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):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

N/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

N/A

Agency Response

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

N/A

Agency Response

8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

a) Please provide an indication of what substantive activities PPG was spent on beyond just cost categories.

Additionally, please respond to the following:

1. Please provide a matrix of responses for the following GEF Sec review comments that had been provided at PIF stage, to be taken into account during project preparation:

a. the approach to behavior change be improved. The project indeed intends to target youth as agent of change, which is welcomed, and several ingredients that could promote behavior change are already included in the design. Please see the 6 levers for behavior change identified by STAP (<https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/why-behavioral-change-matters-gef-and-what-do-about-it>) and further articulate and complement as necessary the project's approach to behavior change during project development.

b. outcome 2.2 and underlying output be refined to ensure their alignment with CM-1-1 and/or CM-1-2. It will include revising the output and outcome formulation to reflect the anticipated mitigation benefits, and ensure the mitigation target reflects the results of the corresponding

activities. Please coordinate with, and build on the experiences and lessons learned of, the GEF-7 Africa minigrids project in Zambia (UNDP, ID10814).

c. targets on GEF core indicators be refined, and notably ways to improve the project's overall cost-efficiency in the delivery of global environmental benefits be explored, or the cost assumptions and cost effectiveness of the project be thoroughly justified in the CEO endorsement requests.

d. the resilient livelihoods and climate adaptation interventions further to respond to the climate vulnerabilities and associated barriers be further elaborated on

e. - An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) should be developed during the PPG stage based on appropriate environmental and social risk assessment

2. Please provide a matrix with responses to STAP comments, like is provided for Council member comments.

18 November 2024

a) Thanks. Comment cleared.

R.E additional comments, thanks and comments cleared.

3 December 2024

1. On the status of utilization of PPG: 'Expandable Procurement' is not an eligible categories as presented in Guidelines. Please use the eligible categories.

11 December 2024

Noted. Comment cleared.

12 December 2024

The explanation regarding 'Expandable Procurement' provided in the Review Sheet is appreciated. Please include the details in the Annex D in the GEF Portal.

19 December 2024

We note the additions of details on inclusions of expandable procurement in the budget annex. Thanks, comment cleared.

Agency Response

10 November 2024

a) Additional detail has been provided in the PPG table.

1. Please see the response table added in Annex M that addresses comments received from GEF Secretariat at PIF stage.

2. Please see the response table added in Annex M that addresses STAP comments.

6 December 2024

Thank you. Expandable procurement includes: communication and visibility materials (like banner design and printing costs, tablets for enumerators, pens, markers, flipcharts) - which are eligible expenses under PPG.

17 December 2024

The detail has been added in Annex D in the Portal.

8.3 Source of Funds

Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?

Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

3 December 2024

The table at CEO Endorsement is different to what was submitted and approved at PIF stage, and what is indicated in the LOE. Please amend.

11 December 2024

Noted. Cleared.

20 January 2025

The sources of funds table has been correctly updated and a new LOE consistent with the values uploaded. Thanks, comment cleared.

Agency Response

6 December 2024

Thank you, please find the Sources of Funds table adjusted in the project document as per the LoE.

8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

Annex B: Endorsements

8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:

Has the 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 comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

N/A

Agency Response

b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework

8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

a) Yes

b) Yes

c) Yes

d) Yes

3 December 2024

The Results Framework has limited gender indicators. Please ensure that the gender-related activities specified in the project components will be monitored and reported on.

Agency Response

6 December 2024

As possible, gender-related indicators have been added to the results framework.

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

Yes

Agency Response

Annex G: GEF Budget template

8.8 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?

b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

a) Yes

b) Yes except research component which needs to be significantly reduced.

c) Yes

18 November 2024

a) Yes

b) Thanks, comment cleared.

c) Yes

3 December 2024

a) The table in the CEO Endorsement Portal view (which is the document that is circulated and web-posted ? see page 80 in the attached pdf file) is difficult to read. Also, the Totals per component are missed as the bottom part of the table is cut off (see screenshot at the right-hand side). We suggest the agency to seek ITS help for the table to be downloaded at higher resolution. Please remove the excel file inside the word document. The agency can upload the excel version of the budget table in the general Documents section in the GEF portal.

b) \$300,000 are set aside for ?Renovations and New construction? to ?support and provide seed money for the most promising nature-based investment opportunities?. Please provide more details.

11 December 2024

a) Noted.

b) Noted. Comment cleared.

12 December 2024

The table in the CEO Endorsement Portal view (which is the document that is circulated and web-posted ? see page 83 in the attached pdf file) still is not readable. To improve readability, we suggest the removal of the columns for outcomes, remove the columns about the executing entities and add only one new column displaying the name of the Executing Entity for each budget line.

Kindly remove the table from the field ?Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here?. It is causing a duplication of information in the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view (which is the document that is circulated and webposted).

We will review the final budget table per the resubmission and provide comments as appropriate.

19 December 2024

We note the removal of information in this field. Thanks, Comment cleared.

7 January 2025

1. On the budget: The table in the CEO Endorsement Portal view (which is the document that is circulated and web-posted ? see page 84 in the attached pdf file/screenshot below) still is not readable. We appreciate the changes that were applied, but the table is overlapping with the format of the document and the column for the Executing Agency is not displayed. Please amend and we will review the budget table once resubmitted.

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

12/19/2024

Page 83 of 102

 global environment facility <small>INVESTING IN OUR PLANET</small>	FAO COST CATEGORIES	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	M&E	PMC	TOTAL
	5011 Salaries professional s							
OPA Manager (part time) in charge of OPIM		55,000	-	-	-		62,500	117,500
5011 Sub-total salaries professional s		55,000	-	-	-	-	62,500	117,500
Sub-total international Consultants		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Project Coordinator		-	-	-	-		200,000	200,000
M&E specialist		-	-	-	-	160,000		160,000

13 January 2025

The new format as an attachment is legible.

14 January 2025

The budget table in the CEO Endorsement Portal view (which is the document that is circulated and web-posted ? see page 84 in the attached pdf file/screenshot below) still is not readable. We appreciate the changes that were applied, but the table is overlapping with the format of the document and the column for the Executing Agency is not displayed. Please amend and we will review the budget table once resubmitted:



FAO COST CATEGORIES	Comp 1	Comp 2	Comp 3	Comp 4	M&E	PMC	TOTAL
5011 Salaries professionals							
OPA Manager (part time) in charge of OPIM	55,000	-	-	-		62,500	117,500
5011 Sub-total salaries professionals	55,000	-	-	-	-	62,500	117,500
Sub-total international Consultants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Project Coordinator	-	-	-	-		200,000	200,000
M&E specialist	-	-	-	-	160,000		160,000
Gender officer (part-time)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000			100,000
Safeguard officer (part-time)	50,000	50,000	-	-			100,000
Finance Coordinator	-	-	-	-		145,000	145,000
CFM expert (Activity 1.1.1.1)	7,800	41,000	-	-			48,800
Climate information services expert (Activity 1.1.1.2)	5,250	-	-	-			5,250

20 January 2025

The budget in the CEO endorsement view is legible and the budget appears to have acceptable figures. Comment cleared

Agency Response

10 November 2024

b) Please see response to the comments above.

6 December 2024

a) Unfortunately from our end we cannot see how the budget is visualized from your end. Being a long budget with 115 rows, we had to cut the screenshot in different pictures to make it readable and they are shown in different pages of the requested word document. Among the documentation you will find the budget spreadsheet as well.

b) ?Construction? was a confusing term here, as no construction of infrastructure will take place under Activity 3.1.2.4. Instead, the \$300,000 will be used to provide inputs, and small equipment to support MSMEs within nature-based value chains; such as those related to: honey and bee products (beeswax, pollen water) are a common value chain across the two provinces, though predominant in Central, processing and value addition of herbal medicines and wild foods, and processing of wild fruits (Baobab and Tamarind ? specifically in Southern province). To support the growth and development of these value chains, the project will need to support product aggregation, quality control and group marketing. The PIU will support the establishment of bulking and processing centres in each area as part of the long-term GEF fund investment at the

community level. The budget line has been relabeled as ?Inputs for support of nature-based MSMEs (small equipment, product processing, marketing)? and moved to expandable procurement.

17 December 2024

Please see the updated screenshot. The field has been emptied.

9 January 2025

We have uploaded a reformatted budget.

20 January 2025

GEF ITS colleagues have kindly fixed the budget formatting from the back-end.

Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.9 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

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

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18 Sep 2024

N/A

Agency Response

Additional Annexes

9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation

Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

27 Sep 2024

Not yet recommended. Please address the review comments.

11 December 2024

Recommended for approval.

19 December 2024

Recommended for approval.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	9/18/2024	11/12/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/18/2024	12/6/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/3/2024	12/17/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/11/2024	1/9/2025
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/19/2024	1/20/2025