



Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11414

Countries

Somalia

Project Name

Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

10/18/2023

Review completed by PM

11/2/2023

Program Manager

Pascal Martinez

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

- a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?
- b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

- a) Yes, cleared.
- b) The region should be Africa (not Somalia). Please amend accordingly.

General Project information 

Project Title:	Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia		
Region:	Somalia	GEF Project ID:	11414
Country(ies):	Somalia	Type of Project:	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency ID:	
Executing Partner:	UNDP	Executing Partner Type:	GEF Agency
	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change		Government
GEF Focal Area	Multi Focal Area	Submission Date :	10/18/2023

January 22, 2024:

- b) Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP- Nov, 8 2023

Please kindly note that we are not able to make the change. We selected, as below, country: Somalia. However, we are not able to select the region. We see that in the final PIF, it is still showing Region: Somalia.

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID 11414	Project Title* ⓘ Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversi	
Project Type FSP	Type of Trust Fund* GEF Trust Fund	Project Tags <input type="checkbox"/> CBIT <input type="checkbox"/> NGI <input type="checkbox"/> SGP
Lead Agency* UNDP	Lead Agency's Project ID 6330	
Other GEF Agencies	Agency Project ID ⓘ	
+ Add Other Agency		
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Global <input type="radio"/> Regional <input checked="" type="radio"/> Country		
Somalia		
Executing Partner ⓘ Climate adaptation and Sustainable Environment International (CA	Executing Partner Type CSO	
+ Add Executing Partner		
GEF Focal Area* ⓘ Multi Focal Area	Sector ⓘ	

2. Project Summary

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 results?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

In the summary, please clarify how the project will increase the livelihood of local communities and add the expected targets for each identified core indicator.

January 22, 2024:

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Nov 8, 2023:

How the project will increase the livelihood of local communities has been added to the summary and the expected targets for each identified core indicator are now included in the summary as well. The revised summary reads as follows:

Somalia's rich terrestrial and marine biodiversity, characterised by high levels of endemism, forms key parts of the Horn of Africa Biodiversity Hotspot and the East African Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot. Cyclical droughts, increasing impacts from climate change and armed conflict have contributed to biodiversity loss, deforestation, and land degradation, affecting ecosystems and resource-dependent livelihoods. Capacities for biodiversity conservation are low, although localised examples demonstrate potential, although there are currently no formal protected areas in place. In 2022, a Ministry of Environment and Climate Change was created, demonstrating commitment towards strengthening environmental management. This project will work with MoECC to improve the conservation of both terrestrial and marine biodiversity by establishing protected areas with active community participation and leadership, utilising formal laws and institutions as well as cultural, religious norms and structures, and engaging diverse stakeholders at local, State and Federal government levels. The project will support the resilience of both communities and the ecosystems they depend on for livelihoods, and will yield multiple GEBs, including the conservation of biodiversity, reduced forest loss and degradation, forest conservation, and more sustainable livelihoods for local and forest-dependent communities. The project will support adoption of sustainable practices that promote sustainable use and conservation. This project aligns with the GEF-8 Focal Area strategies for Biodiversity and Land Degradation and will contribute to GEF Core Indicators 1 (193,000 ha), 2 (194,000 ha), 4 (9,500 ha) and 11 (200,000 people/50% women). The project directly contributes to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets 2, 3, 9 and 11.

3 Indicative Project Overview

- 3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?**
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?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

- a) Yes, cleared.
- b) The names of most of the outputs and of the component 3 in the Indicative Project Overview are different from the those under section B. Project Description. Please check the names and correct as needed to ensure consistency.
- c) Please clarify what "IGAs" means in the Project description. This acronym is mentioned only once in the Indicative Project Overview.

January 22, 2024:

- b) and c) Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP- Nov, 8 2023

- b) Thank you for catching the differences in the names. These have been fixed so that the outputs and outcomes in component 3 are the same in the Indicative Project Overview and under section B.
- c) This has been spelled out in the project description ? IGAs are Income Generating Activities (IGAs).

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Partially. Please integrate gender dimensions in Outputs 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.2. Please ensure that the Gender Action Plan to be developed is budgeted, monitored and reported on.

January 22, 2024:

Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Nov 8, 2023:

Gender considerations are integrated throughout. However, for clarity, gender activities have been added to Outputs 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.2.1 and 3.2.2. The end of Section B outlines that a comprehensive gender analysis and associated GAP will be developed during the PPG stage. As per UNDP's requirements the GAP will be budgeted, monitored and reported.

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

a) The GEF project financing is adequate but the co-financing is very low. As mentioned below, please consider increasing the co-financing.

b) GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC are not proportional but Co-Financing contributions to PMC is higher. Cleared.

c) Yes, cleared.

January 22, 2024:

Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP Nov 8, 2023:

a) The current co-financing level, while seemingly modest in comparison to the GEF project financing, represents a substantial commitment from both the UNDP and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) of Somalia. The UNDP's contribution is increased from 1.5 to 6 million

USD (1.5 million USD as a grant and additional 4.5 million USD as in kind contribution) which is a significant investment that leverages its extensive experience and ongoing initiatives in the country. This funding is not merely financial but also encompasses technical and logistical support in-kind, which is crucial for the successful implementation of the project. MOECC's in-kind contribution of 0.5 million USD is noteworthy given the ministry's significant budgetary constraints. This contribution underscores the Somali government's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable land management, signaling a prioritization of these issues within its limited financial capacity.

It is worth noting that securing additional co-financing in Somalia is challenging due to the country's complex political and economic landscape. International funding for development and conservation is both limited and highly competitive, and Somalia's ongoing recovery from prolonged conflict over several decades places it at a disadvantage when competing for such funds. The project team is actively exploring avenues to increase co-financing through partnerships with other international donors, private sector engagement, and by tapping into new funding mechanisms that align with the project's objectives. During the PPG phase some of these efforts will hopefully have come to fruition to increase co-finance. The project is however designed to deliver substantial environmental and socio-economic benefits that will contribute to the country's sustainable development, and the investment by both UNDP and MOECC alongside that of the GEF should be seen as a strong foundation for future financial and technical support from other stakeholders.

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments

November 2, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?

c) 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?

d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

November 2, 2023:

a) Yes, cleared.

b) Considering the unsuccessful past experiences, the current drivers (increasing human pressure) and lack of funding (as we can see with the very low level of co-financing), it's unclear how the project outcomes will be sustainable in the future after the project termination. Please elaborate on this important aspect.

c) Some ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF) are identified but beyond the lessons learned, there is no information on how this new project will build on them. Please clarify (particularly for the project IFAD/GEF Somalia Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2) which hasn't begun yet and can't have lessons to share).

d) Yes, cleared.

January 22, 2024:

b) and c) Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP November 8, 2023

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b) The point raised is a critical one, as Somali communities steadily develop capacity systems after years of conflict. The sustainability of the project outcomes in Somalia, particularly in light of the country's status as a Least Developed Country, is a critical concern that is being addressed through a multifaceted approach. The project is deeply rooted in community engagement and capacity building, ensuring that local communities are not just beneficiaries but active participants and leaders in conservation efforts. By empowering communities through training and the establishment of community-led initiatives, the project expects to install a sense of ownership and a stewardship practice that is expected to endure beyond the project's term. Institutional strengthening at various government levels will ensure that the policies and practices introduced in national and sub-national governance, providing continuity and support for conservation efforts.

The proposed project will place significant emphasis on integrating traditional knowledge and practices into formal conservation strategies to ensure cultural relevance and sustainability. This is expected to increase both the likelihood of co-benefits as well as long-term stewardship. The involvement of the private sector is also key, as it can create economic incentives for maintaining biodiversity and sustainable land management practices. The project's design includes mechanisms for scalability and replication to allow successful interventions to attract additional support and resources. The establishment of financial mechanisms, such as community funds and payment for ecosystem services modalities, is anticipated to provide a steady stream of support for ongoing conservation activities.

As has been noted elsewhere, UNDP's additional 4.5 million USD as in-kind contribution brings the total co-financing to 6 million USD. The current co-financing level is significant in the context of Somalia which suffers from both lack of development finance and private investment and reflects a significant commitment from both UNDP and the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). The in-kind contribution from MOECC, while seemingly modest in comparison to the total project budget, represents a substantial allocation of the Ministry's resources, demonstrating strong national commitment and ownership of the project. This contribution is particularly noteworthy given the financial constraints faced by the Ministry and the country at large. The project's alignment with international environmental goals and the potential for future support and funding opportunities also contribute to the rationale for its sustainability and the justification for the requested GEF funding. During the PPG stage additional co-finance will be sought and confirmed. UNDP is in the process of developing several initiatives, funded by bilateral

initiatives to support the Horn of Africa region in addressing the impacts of drought, some of which will support Somalia. It is expected that some of this funding will materialize during the PPG. A GCF country project for US\$35 mil is also under preparation to support pastoral landscapes in Somalia. If approved, this project will contribute to landscape resilience in areas adjacent to PAs to be established under this project. This point on co-finance is reiterated here as the GEF investment, alongside this support, is a confidence-booster for the country and sector and is expected to leverage longer term investment into biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

c) The project will build on the foundational work laid out by the UNDP - GEF work on environmental governance, utilizing established frameworks and capacities to enhance decision-making processes. This will ensure continuity and strengthen the integration of global environmental obligations into national policies. The experiences gained from the United Nations Joint Program on Charcoal Production (PROSCAL) will inform actions aimed at mitigating the impacts of unsustainable charcoal production, while also drawing on successful reforestation and ecosystem rehabilitation strategies. Similarly, the project will utilise the methodologies and approaches from the UNDP - GEF project on Integrated Water Resources Management, particularly those related to sustainable water management and reforestation, which are crucial for the conservation of biodiversity and the management of protected areas.

Noting the IFAD - GEF A2R2 project, although it has not started, the design of this new project anticipates collaboration and learning. The project teams will engage with the A2R2 project team from inception, sharing knowledge, strategies, and approaches that can be mutually beneficial. This anticipated engagement will allow for the exchange of insights and the refinement of project activities based on emerging lessons from A2R2's implementation.

The new project is not isolated but is part of a broader portfolio of environmental initiatives in Somalia. It is designed to be adaptive and responsive, capable of integrating new lessons and insights as they become available from these related projects. This approach ensures that the project remains relevant and effective in achieving its goals, while also contributing to the collective impact of environmental investments in Somalia and encouraging further investment. Language has been added after the listing of specific investments in Section A to reflect the above.

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments

November 2, 2023:

a) and b) Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments

November 2, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) Is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

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

Secretariat's Comments

November 2, 2023:

a) Yes, cleared.

b) The GEF agency requests exception with the execution of all the project, based on the challenging situation of the country (limited capacity and conflict). This arrangement is also requested by the OFP. Nevertheless, the justification remains vague, there is no assessment of capacity of alternative partner, and we don't know how much resources of the project will be captured by UNDP to execute the project. These aspects would need to be clarified in order to properly assess the request of exception.

c)

c.1. As mentioned above, the potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives is unclear. Please elaborate briefly on this issue.

c.2. In section "Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project", the Agency mentions that they expect to play an execution role in this project. As mentioned under the OFP endorsement section, in the LoE there is no mention for UNDP to carry out any executing function? neither we found a Letter of Support signed by the OFP. Please remove any mention that UNDP executes the project including in the section "Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project?"

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project? **Yes**

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

This project will be implemented by UNDP using the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM), where the UNDP Country Office in Mogadishu will act as the Implementing Partner (IP), responsible for the UNDP-GEF project execution and accountable for the disbursement of funds and the achievement of the project goals, according to the approved results framework and work plan presented in this Project Document. Given the operational context in Somalia all projects in 2021-25 Country Programme cycle are to follow DIM and UNDP will be responsible for the overall project implementation. DIM is followed for all the projects/Programmes in Somalia. This is in consideration the limited national capacities and fragile operational context of the country. There would be distinct roles with the UNDP Country Office to ensure proper delineation of functions between the Executive Decision-Making Role, Oversight Role, and Project Execution & Implementation Role.

d) Yes, cleared.

January 22, 2024:

b) Thank you for the additional information. Nevertheless, we don't find additional clarifications in the PIF about the justification of exceptional circumstances and we still don't know how much resources from the project budget will be used by UNDP to undertake the planned executive role. Please clarify these 2 aspects.

c)

c1. Thank you for the addressing the comment. Cleared.

c2. We take note of the confirmation that UNDP plans to play an execution role on this project, to conduct a full technical capacity assessment, and to consider other executing partners during PPG. Please note that the clearance of this PIF cannot be taken as the approval of the GEF agency to execute the project because further analysis on the country's reasoning for this request is warranted and will be assessed during project

endorsement phase. Should the Government pursuing the idea of having UNDP as the executing partner at CEO Endorsement stage, UNDP can propose so by providing a clear justification.

April 2nd, 2024:

b) We take note that at this point UNDP is not envisaged to play an execution role in this project. Cleared.

c2. Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP November 8, 2023

b. The clarification of implementation arrangements is included in Section B of the PIF, under the heading "Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Projects." As indicated, UNDP operations in Somalia are implemented under DIM (Direct Implementation Modality) arrangements. This means that UNDP will play a GEF Executing Agency role, in addition to being the GEF Implementing Agency, will be directly responsible for delivery of 100% of project resources. During the PPG, UNDP will conduct capacity assessment of the MOECC and the relevant government institutions at Federal and State levels. Additional clarifications are made in the PIF. The OFP's Letter of Request for Execution Support dated 14 October 2023 confirms the DIM arrangements.

c.1 Please see response above on ongoing projects in country above.

c.2 As explained above, the response to the question of whether UNDP expects to play an execution role on this project is "YES". We have now ticked this answer in the PIF.

UNDP February 29, 2024

b) Following discussions with the government counterpart, at this point UNDP is not envisaged to play an execution role in this project, and so no project resources will be utilized by UNDP.

c2) Thank you for your suggestion and duly noted. Capacity assessments of proposed Executing Entity/s will be conducted at PPG stage and confirmed at CEO endorsement stage.

5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

1. The indicators 1.2 and 2.2 are used for already existing protected areas. Nevertheless the description below the core indicator table mentions the "establishment of 11 Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas". Please clarify if the PAs will be new or not. If the project targets already existing PAs, then complete the WDPA IDs of the protected areas which are missing for the indicators 1.2 and 2.2.

2. The text below the core indicator table mentions "restoration of terrestrial and mangrove ecosystems" and the outcome 3.1 informs about restoration targets of 8,000 ha Acacia and 1,500 ha mangroves. Nevertheless, there is no result reported under core indicator 3. Please include the targets in core indicator section.

January 22, 2024:

1. Thank you for the response. Nevertheless, the clarification remains confusing: in the core indicator table, the indicators used are 1.2 "Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness" and 2.2 "Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness". These indicators are used for existing Protected Areas and this is not consistent with the project indicative overview table that indicates the indicators are 1.1 and 2.1. Please clarify.

2. This is also confusing. Restoration activities are mentioned throughout all the project description: 39 times, in the taxonomy, the project indicative overview table, outputs, TOC, etc., highlighting for instance "The biodiversity conservation and land restoration approach of the project" or "Restoration of degraded mangroves and woodlands" (output 3.1.4) or "The project will also result in the conservation and restoration of natural resources" or "habitat restoration"... The core indicator table is not consistent with the project description. Please clarify.

3. In addition, considering this is a land-based project, please provide a first assessment of GHG emission mitigated (core indicator 6.1). Even if this project doesn't use CCM resources, there must be some climate benefit due to the nature of the activities. Please apologize for not having raised this point at the previous review.

April 2nd, 2024:

1, 2 and 3. Thank you for the amendments and clarification. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP November 8, 2023

1. This is a confusion on the GEF Sec side. The PAs will be new as described in the project rationale and project description (Sections A, B). The project indicative overview table also indicates that the indicators are 1.1 and 2.1; not 1.2 and 2.2. This has been explicitly laid out under the core indicator table to avoid any confusion. As these PAs will be established as part of the project, they do not yet have WDPA IDs, and these IDs will be created during implementation and reported at MTR and TE stages.

2. Our apologies for creating confusion on this indicator ? these hectares should be recorded under Core Indicator 4 as areas of landscapes under improved practices. The text below the core indicator table has been edited to reflect this.

UNDP February 29, 2024

1. Thank you for the comment. The Core Indicator table has been updated to align with the project indicative overview table, reflecting indicators 1.1 and 2.1.
2. The restoration approach and corresponding activities have been incorporated into Section B of the project description under outcome 2.2 and 3.1. Furthermore, the Core Indicator table has been revised to ensure consistency with the project description.
3. UNDP has incorporated the suggestion and utilized the EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT) based on the FAO methodology to calculate GHG emissions. The result of this calculation is presented in Section B of the project description under Core Indicator 6.

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

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

a) Are climate risks and other main risks relevant to the project described and addressed within the project concept design?

b) Are the key risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases identified and adequately rated?

c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat's Comments

November 2, 2023:

a) The climate risk is not well identified. The description is vague stating "Somalia has been affected by recurrent droughts and floods, which have had a negative impact in the country by accelerating the loss of biodiversity and affecting people's lives and their

income and often displacing them from their land. The project will integrate measures...". At this stage, more clarification on threats and impacts are needed to be able to consider appropriate mitigation measures. Please outline the key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios at the project location or at country level if not available at local scale (including a time horizon, ideally 2050, if the data is available) and list key potential hazards for the project that are related to the climate scenarios. For further guidance, the Agency may want to refer to STAP guidance available here: <https://www.stapgef.org/stap-guidance-climate-risk-screening>.

b) The following risks are not presented as risks: Macro-economic, Strategies and Policies, Technical design of project or program, Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability, Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement, Stakeholder Engagement. Under the column "Comments", please present clearly the risks (for instance what is the risk about "Strategies and Policies"?).

c) Yes, cleared.

January 22, 2024:

a) and b) Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

• **UNDP November 8, 2023**

a) In response to the concerns raised regarding the identification and description of climate risks within the project framework, we acknowledge the need for a more detailed and precise outline of the climate threats and their potential impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods in Somalia. To address this, the design team have consulted the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports, regional climate studies, and national climate assessments to inform our risk analysis. According to climate projections for Somalia, the country is expected to face increased variability in rainfall patterns, leading to more frequent and severe droughts and floods. These extreme weather events are anticipated to become more intense and unpredictable by the 2050-time horizon. Specifically, the climate scenarios for Somalia suggest the following key hazards:

? Increased Drought Frequency and Severity:
Projections indicate a higher likelihood of

prolonged dry spells, which can lead to significant biodiversity loss as water sources become scarce, affecting both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

? Intensified Flooding Events: With the expected increase in the intensity of rainfall during shorter periods, flash floods could become more common, leading to habitat destruction, soil erosion, and loss of vegetation cover.

? Rising Temperatures: Average temperatures in Somalia are projected to rise, exacerbating evaporation rates, stressing water resources, and potentially leading to shifts in species distributions and increased vulnerability of endemic species.

? Sea-Level Rise: Coastal and marine ecosystems are at risk from sea-level rise, which could lead to saltwater intrusion, erosion of coastal habitats, and loss of breeding grounds for marine biodiversity.

? Increased Frequency of Extreme Weather Events: The occurrence of cyclones and storms may increase, causing direct damage to ecosystems and human settlements, and indirectly affecting livelihoods dependent on natural resources.

To ensure that the project integrates appropriate mitigation measures, we will undertake a detailed climate risk assessment during the full project preparation stage. This assessment will include:

? Vulnerability Analysis: Identifying ecosystems and communities most at risk from the projected climate hazards.

? Adaptation Planning: Developing strategies to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods, such as the establishment of drought-resistant tree species in reforestation efforts, and the promotion of climate-smart agricultural practices.

? Capacity Building: Strengthening institutional and community capacities to respond to and manage climate risks.

? Monitoring and Evaluation: Establishing a robust M&E framework to track climate impacts and the effectiveness of adaptation measures over time.

The risk table has been updated to reflect the hazards and approach to risk mitigation highlighted above. During the PPG stage we will also refer to the STAP guidance on climate risk screening to ensure that our approach is aligned with best practices and that the project's interventions are both climate-resilient and contribute to the broader goals of climate change adaptation in Somalia.

b) The risks for each of these categories have been re-drafted to clearly present the risks.

5.7 Qualitative assessment

a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?

b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?

c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?

Secretariat's Comments

November 2, 2023:

a), b) and c) Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

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

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

1. The objective 1 of the BD strategy is "To improve conservation, Finnovable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems". Please use the exact title of the objective.

2. The description says the project is aligned with LD Objective 2 "Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration" and will contribute to "restore landscapes in Somalia". Nevertheless, there is no expected result in terms of restoration (core indicator 3 is missing). This is not consistent. Please clarify adding the expected results under core indicator 3.

January 22, 2024:

1. Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

2. Under section C on the alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies, the LD Objective 2 "Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration" has not been delated and should remain considering the project description. As mentioned above, please clarify the restoration approach of the project.

April 2nd, 2024:

2. Thank you for the consideration and clarification. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP November 8, 2023

1. This has been fixed in the PIF.

2. This has been deleted as the project is targeting core indicator 4 not 3.

UNDP February 29, 2024

2. The LD Objective 2 "Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration" has been included to align with the project description. The restoration strategy and its associated activities are detailed in Section B of the project description, specifically under outcome 2.2 and 3.1.

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's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Only the alignment with plans related to MEAs is mentioned. Please complete the presentation including also the alignment of the project with the country priorities, policies, strategies and/or plans.

January 22, 2024:

We don't find information on the alignment of the project with national priorities, policies, strategies and/or plans (in addition the the MEAs). The additional text is about the Global Biodiversity Framework which is part of an MEA. Please clarify.

April 2nd, 2024:

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

- UNDP November 8, 2023

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- A paragraph has been added to address the alignment of the project with country priorities, policies, strategies/plans.

UNDP February 29, 2024

The alignment of the project with national priorities, policies, strategies and/or plans have been added in section C of the Alignment with GEF8 programming strategies and country/regional priorities.

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's Comments

November 1, 2023:

The project aims at generating biodiversity benefits but doesn't identify any of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project will contribute. Please identify these targets and present how the project will contribute to them.

January 22, 2024:

Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

- UNDP November 8, 2023

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- The project has identified Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets and a paragraph identifying and presenting how the project will contribute to them has been added to the PIF.

UNDP February 29, 2024

The PIF formulation team engaged in consultations with communities and Civil Society Organizations. The report now incorporates a detailed list of organizations, including the dates of these consultations and their respective outcomes.

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

The presentation of the consultation is very limited and seems to rely mainly on the assessment of one single stakeholder which is a tour operator in Somalia. Please elaborate on the consultations conducted with the stakeholders involved in the project (dates of consultations, list of stakeholders consulted and main outcomes of the consultations). Specifically, as the agency states that it has consulted civil society organizations and IPLCs, the list of these relevant stakeholders should be provided.

January 22, 2024:

We take note of the report uploaded in the Portal. Nevertheless we don't find in this report mention of the consultations with the communities and CSOs that have been conducted. According to this report, it seems that only meetings among government representatives occurred. Is that the case? Please clarify and elaborate further in the stakeholder engagement section of the Portal on the consultations conducted (dates and the list of the organizations/communities) and their outcomes.

April 2nd, 2024:

Thank you for uploading the stakeholders consultation report. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

- UNDP November 8, 2023

-

- The stakeholder consultation report has been uploaded in the portal. Detailed consultations will be conducted during the project formulation process (PPG).

UNDP February 29, 2024

The PIF formulation team engaged in consultations with communities and Civil Society Organizations. The report now incorporates a detailed list of organizations, including the dates of these consultations and their respective outcomes.

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 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's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments
November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments
8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments
November 1, 2023:

The total amount of co-financing is very low (even less than GEF funding). Please consider increasing the co-financing.

January 22, 2024:

Thank you for the amendment and clarification. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

- **UNDP- Nov, 8 2023**

-

- **The total amount of co-financing increased from 2 million USD to 6.5 million USD including in-kind contributions. The PPG will seek additional co-financing as part of the PPG process.**

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country? (ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

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

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

1. The Letter of Endorsement includes as the Executing Partner "Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Environment (CASE International)". However, in Portal the executing partner is Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and UNDP, which are not included in the LoE. Please remove Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and UNDP in Portal because they are not endorsed by the Government (they can be included later during the preparation phase as needed).

Subject: Endorsement for Conserving Biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia.

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Federal Republic of Somalia, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government's national priorities including the priorities identified in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP), and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the global environmental convention focal points.

I am pleased to endorse the preparation of the above project proposal with the support of the GEF Implementing Agency(ies) listed below. If approved, the preparation of the proposal will be supported by, and the project executed by Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Environment (CASE International). I request the GEF Implementing Agency(ies) to provide a copy of the project document before it is submitted to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement / Approval.

Project Title:	Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia		
Region:	Somalia	GEF Project ID:	11414
Country(ies):	Somalia	Type of Project:	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency ID:	
Executing Partner:	UNDP Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	Executing Partner Type:	GEF Agency Government

2. The title of the project in Portal is different from the project title in the Letter of Endorsement. Please correct the project entry in the Portal to match the Letter of Endorsement.

Ref: MoECC/0075/2023

Date: 18/03/2023

To: Pradeep Kurukulasuriya
Executive Coordinator - Environmental Finance
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Subject: Endorsement for Conserving Biodiversity and restoring ecosystem services in globally relevant and vulnerable sites in Somalia.

In my capacity as GEF Operational Focal Point for Federal Republic of Somalia, I confirm that the above project proposal (a) is in accordance with my government's national priorities including the priorities identified in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP), and our commitment to the relevant global environmental conventions; and (b) was discussed with relevant stakeholders, including the

January 22, 2024:

1. Considering the executing role of UNDP confirmed above, please add UNDP as "Executing Partner" in the first table in the Portal under "General Project information".

2. The title of the project in Portal ("Conserving terrestrial and marine biodiversity...") is still different from the project title in the Letter of Endorsement ("Conserving biodiversity..."). Please correct the project entry in the Portal to match the Letter of Endorsement.

April 2nd, 2024:

Thank you for the clarification and amendment. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

UNDP- Nov, 08 2023

- This has been corrected in the Portal to match the Letter of Endorsement.

UNDP February 29, 2024

The project will be executed by Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Environment (CASE International). The role of CASE International in project execution and the project title in the portal have been corrected in the GEF Portal.

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Yes, cleared.

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

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

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

Considering the direct contribution of the project to LD FA, the Rio Marker "Biodiversity" should be tagged as "Principal Objective 2" (not 0).

January 22, 2024:

Thank you for the amendments. In addition, considering the comment above on expected climate change benefits, please tag as "Principal Objective 1" the Rio Marker "Climate Change Mitigation".

April 2nd, 2024:

Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

- UNDP November 8, 2023
- Thank you and this has been changed to indicate Rio Marker for Biodiversity as ?2?

UNDP February 29, 2024

Climate Change Mitigation tagged as "Principal Objective 1" in the Rio Marker.

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments

November 1, 2023:

In the Annex F, considering the direct contribution of the project to BD FA and LD FA, both Rio Markers "Biodiversity" and "Land Degradation" should be mentioned and tagged as "Principal Objective 2".

January 22, 2024:

In the Annex F, we don't find the Rio Markers "Biodiversity" and " Land Degradation" (it may be an issue with the Portal). Please mentioned and tagged them as "Principal Objective 2" along with Climate Change Mitigation 1.

April 2nd, 2024:

Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

Agency's Comments

- UNDP November 8, 2023
- Thank you this has been changed.

UNDP February 29, 2024

In Annex F, the Rio Markers "Biodiversity" and "Land Degradation" have been categorized under "Principal Objective 2," while Climate Change Mitigation has been assigned to "Principal Objective 1."

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

November 7, 2023:

Not yet. Please address the comments above.

January 22, 2024:

Not yet. Please address the remaining comments above.

April 2nd, 2024:

Thank you for addressing the remaining comments. The PIF and PPG are now recommended for technical clearance.

Agency's Comments

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/ Approval

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	11/7/2023	11/7/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/22/2024	2/29/2024
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/2/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		