

Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Mountain Ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for Multiple Benefits

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10692

Countries

Kyrgyz Republic

Project Name

Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Mountain Ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for Multiple Benefits

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

7/15/2022

Review completed by PM

9/14/2022

Program Manager

Ulrich Apel

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

PIF
CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Not fully.

Please explain/justify changes to the focal area objectives. LD1-3 has been removed (since PIF stage), even though the project will be targeting restoration of degraded land and there may be an opportunity to also include LD 2-5 given the enabling environment work around LDN.

08/10/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP, 10 Aug 2022

The CEO Endorsement Request document submitted includes LD1-3, consistent with the approved PIF. However, it has been selected incorrectly in the portal by mistake. It is corrected now. Thank you.

Based on the technical content of the project, we do not find it relevant to include LD2-5.

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

08/10/2022: Additional requests for line items in Table C:

? Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology, and Technical Oversight

o \$17,000,000 : change ?Grant / Recurrent expenditures? to ?Public Investment / Investment Mobilized?

o \$650,000 : change ?Investment mobilized? to ?Recurrent expenditures?

? NABU: change ?Grant? to ?In-kind?

? Fond Ilbirs: change ?Investment mobilized? to ?Recurrent expenditures?

? All 4 beneficiaries: change ?Investment mobilized? to ?Recurrent expenditures?

09/14/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: The project has increased the STAR contribution, but there does not appear to be an updated LOE from the OFP. Please provide an updated OFP LOE with the requested amounts.

Further, the increase in funding constitutes a major amendment. Please provide / upload a completed template for major amendment request as per GEF guidelines:

https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_20200731.pdf

08/10/2022: Unfortunately, the requested increase in resources cannot be accommodated. Only the amount approved at PIF stage is available. Please note that an increase in STAR resources at CEO endorsement stage can only be done within the same replenishment period. As GEF-7 financially closed on June 24, 2022, the additional resources are not available anymore.

Please change all figures in the CEO endorsement request to the amounts agreed at PIF stage. (A revised OFP LoE is not necessary as the previous LoE provided at PIF stage is still valid.)

09/14/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP - 10 Aug 2022:

The requested documents have been revised in line with the available resources, and in line with the PIF and original LOE.

Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

The expected GEBs have increased.

08/10/2022: Additional request:

Please list the names and areas, as available, of the targeted High Conservation Value Forests.

09/14/2022: Addressed. The HCVF areas to be targeted are summarized in table form in Annex 18 of the Prodoc, pp. 190-193. The 4th map (?Map of project areas?) in Annex E of the CEO Endorsement Request (the same map is included in Annex 3 of the Prodoc, p. 82) also provides a visual geo-reference of the named forestry units.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP - 10 Aug 2022:

The HCVF areas to be targeted are summarized in table form in Annex 18 of the Prodoc, pp. 190-193. The 4th map (?Map of project areas?) in Annex E of the CEO Endorsement Request (the same map is included in Annex 3 of the Prodoc, p. 82) also provides a visual geo-reference of the named forestry units.

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

n/a

Agency Response
Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
07/26/2022: Yes.

Agency Response
Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
07/26/2022: No.

While we had upstream discussions and the GEF Program Manager agreed in principle to UNDP providing execution support, the request needs to come from the OFP and the OFP letter template needs to be provided / uploaded as per GEF guidelines.

Please also provide a brief paragraph in the coordination section that justifies the exception.

08/10/2022: Addressed. Program Manager approves the exception request.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP, 10 Aug 2022

The OFP request letter is attached as Annex 2 to the Prodoc. Also, we uploaded it to portal now.

A paragraph (highlighted in yellow) has been added to the coordination section that explains the justification of the exception.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
07/26/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Not fully

Annex A: please make sure that the targets in the project logframe are consistent with the targets in the core indicator table.

Annex B: The responses to Council comments / STAP comments are missing. Please include.

08/10/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP, 10 Aug 2022

Annex A ? the project results framework has been specifically designed to correspond to the core indicators; references are included in the results framework under each indicator to provide the direct linkages to the core indicators. Additional references linking the core indicators summary figures in the CEO Endorsement Request have been added to the notes of the core indicators summary table (highlighted in yellow).

Annex B ?It was included in the submitted CEO Endorsement Request document. Now, it is included in the portal too.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please make sure that the targets in the project logframe are consistent with the targets in the core indicator table.

08/10/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Responses to US, Switzerland, Germany comments are missing. Please provide in Annex B.

08/10/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP, 10 Aug 2022

Responses to US, Switzerland, Germany comments have been provided in Portal Annex B.

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: Comments to STAP are missing.

08/10/2022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP, 10 Aug 2022

Responses to STAP comments have been provided in Portal Annex B.

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none received

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none received

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request none received

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Has been provided in Annex C.

Agency Response
Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Has been provided

Agency Response
Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

n/a

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response
Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

07/26/2022: No. Please address comments made in this review.

Some formal requirements for endorsement are missing (OPF STAR endorsement letter, Major amendment request template, OFP execution support request template). Please address those urgently so that the deadline for endorsement can be met (30 October 2022). Please factor in sufficient time for the required 4-weeks Council circulation and commenting period.

08/10/2022: Please address comments made in this review.

09/14/2022: All issues addressed and funding request is now in line with what was agreed at PIF stage. Program Manager recommends CEO endorsement.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	7/26/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	8/10/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	9/14/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

The UNDP/GEF project GEF ID 10692 "Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Mountain Ecosystems in Southern Kyrgyzstan for Multiple Benefits" has the objective to safeguard globally significant biodiversity of high value Pamir-Alai mountain ecosystems in, restore degraded lands, and ensure maintenance of critical ecosystem services for sustainable livelihoods in the Kyrgyz Republic. Sustainably managing land (especially pastures and forests), while conserving biodiversity of the Pamir-Alai requires an integrated landscape-level approach that reconciles the livestock-based local livelihoods in the Pamir-Alai with the needs of wildlife, and the conservation of their critical habitats. The core strategy of the proposed project works to holistically improve conservation areas by taking wildlife from being a problem for local communities and making it an asset that can attract investments and delivers benefits. The project strategy recognizes that local and multi-stakeholder engagement is critical for establishing the ownership of resource users in securing wildlife populations. This will be achieved in the Pamir-Alai landscape, which is part of the Mountains of Central Asia biodiversity hotspot, specifically in 6 Key Biodiversity Areas, 7 existing and 3 newly established Protected Areas, and the sustainable use landscapes that interlink them. The project will establish and improve management in 434,000 ha of Protected Areas, restore 20,000 ha of land, and improve management on 995,000 ha in the targeted landscape, with direct benefits 95,000 local people.

The project has adaptive management measures in place to address implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.