

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

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10960

Countries

Global (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jamaica, Libya, Nicaragua, Panama, Sierra Leone, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uzbekistan, Venezuela)

Project Name

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

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

4/6/2022

Review completed by PM

4/12/2022

Program Manager

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Focal Area

Land Degradation

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO) ☐

Part 1: Project Information

Focal area elements

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

April 12, 2022

Addressed.

April 7, 2022

Table A:

- In the word document of the request for CEO approval, the implementation date is in the past (April 1st, 2022). Please, correct and include a date in the next future.
- In the portal, the last line of information, including the implementation date, is empty. Please, correct and provide the requested information.

Sector ⓘ Enabling Activity		Rio Markers Climate Change Mitigation Climate Change Mitigation 0			Climate Change Adaptation Climate Change Adaptation 0
Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date	Expected Report Submission to Convention	
Duration ⓘ 24 In Months			Agency Fee(\$) 185,662.00		
A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS ⓘ					

Agency Response

08 April 2022

Thank you, addressed. The dates have been updated on both portal and EA project word document.

04 May 2022

The correct dates that reflect an exact 24-month implementing period have been updated in the portal and EA project document as guided.

Project description summary

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

April 7, 2022

Addressed.

Agency Response

Co-financing

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

April 7, 2022

Addressed.

Agency Response
GEF Resource Availability

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

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

Addressed.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request No, the enabling activities are financed from the LD set aside resources.

Agency Response
The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response
The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Stakeholders.

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?

Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Gender equality and women's empowerment.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP

Country endorsement

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request 20 letters of endorsement are available from the 20 candidate countries.

Agency Response

04 May 2022

UNEP sent out requests for updated letters of endorsement signed by the current OFPs of the following Countries; Argentina, Barbados, Guatemala, Libya, Panama, and Sierra Leone. We have received signed updated letters of endorsement from the following

Countries: Argentina, Barbados, Guatemala, and Panama. The updated letters for these Countries have been duly uploaded as requested.

UNEP assures the GEF Secretariat that no activity will be starting in the countries without updated letters of endorsement signed by the current GEF OFPs, or at least an email message from them approving the request for these enabling activities.

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment NA

Agency Response

04 May 2022

Response to comment no. 1: Other Executing Partners:

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

Response to comment no. 2: Project information:

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

Response to comment no. 3: On Letters of Endorsement:

UNEP sent out requests for updated letters of endorsement signed by the current OFPs of the following Countries; Argentina, Barbados, Guatemala, Libya, Panama, and Sierra Leone. We have received signed updated letters of endorsement from the following Countries: Argentina, Barbados, Guatemala, and Panama. The updated letters for these Countries have been duly uploaded as requested.

UNEP assures the GEF Secretariat that no activity will be starting in the countries without updated letters of endorsement signed by the current GEF OFPs, or at least an email message from them approving the request for these enabling activities.

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

May 4, 2022

All points have been addressed. No Activity will start in countries without a confirmation of the current GEF OFP (message or revised letter). This principle was cleared by GEF management.

April 22, 2022

Please, address the following comments from the Control Quality:

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

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

3. Letters of Endorsement (LoEs): as stipulated in the Milestones section of the portal, this project was submitted on April 6 2022. Kindly note that per Guidelines, the LoEs have to be signed by the official OFP at the time of the project submission. Out of the 20 letters, 6 of them were signed by an OFP who was not the official OFP by the time of submission: Argentina, Barbados, Guatemala, Libya, Panama and Sierra Leona. Below you will find the details. Please ask the Agency to either get ne LoEs or obtain an email from the official OFP (in the column ?Current OFP?), so the email can be uploaded in Portal. The Country Relations Team can help with this.

April 12, 2022

All points are addressed. The Umbrella II project is recommended for clearance.

April 7, 2022

Not yet: Please address the item 1, Part I, about the table A.

Review Dates

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	4/7/2022	4/8/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/12/2022	5/4/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/22/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/4/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations