

# Panama Sustainable Rural Development And Biodiversity Conservation Project

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10709

**Countries**

Panama

**Project Name**

Panama Sustainable Rural Development And Biodiversity Conservation Project

**Agencies**

World Bank

**Date received by PM**

12/6/2021

**Review completed by PM**

4/6/2022

**Program Manager**

Mark Zimsky

**Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response 03/21/22 thank you!

**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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response 03/21/22 thank you!

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
12/15/2021

NA

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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response 03/21/22 thank you!

**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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response 03/21/22 thank you!

**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

12/15/2021

NA

## 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

12/15/2021

There are a number of issues with the core indicators that have to be addressed:

- 1) Core Indicator 1: Please add METT scores at the time of CEO endorsement.
- 2) Core Indicator 1: at the level of the headline indicator there is a "0" (zero) entered in the portal. Please enter the correct number and ensure it is consistent with the data totals elsewhere and reflects the sub-indicator values.
- 3) Core Indicator 6: Please calculate the GHG emissions mitigated through the project.

3/24/2022

Thank you for the answers.

Please note that climate change benefits need to be reported for all relevant land-based projects and, as per the GEF guidelines, this indicator needs to be assessed over a 20-year period (unless an alternative number of years is considered more appropriate and justified). Given that the project aims to achieve the targets it set out under core indicator 1 and 4, there will be mitigation co-benefits and these should be captured.

In addition, the Agency needs to clarify the methodology used to calculate the estimated result, taking into account this methodology needs to follow the IPCC guidelines. Please report the climate benefits under sub-indicator 6.1, estimate the calculation over a 20-year period and clarify the methodology used (including the references). We encourage proponents to use the FAO Ex-ACT tool developed by FAO, which is a tool recommended by the GEF and is quite simple to provide.

4/4/2022

With the addition of the results framework into the portal we see that 700 hectares are to meet an international certification standard and 1000 hectares are to be placed under SLM. In the core indicators, we can see the 1000 hectares recorded but not the 700 hectares recorded. Please revise and make any additional corrections needed to Core Indicator 6.

Also, please explain the drop off in stakeholder beneficiary numbers when compared to PIF.

4/5/2022

Thank you for the additional explanations. Cleared.

### Agency Response

4/5/22

thank you, core indicators table is revised to reflect 700 ha under indicator 4.2. In addition:

- ? On GHG analysis:

We could not include the 1,000ha at this stage in the GHG analysis as this would require to know precisely the type of crops and practices applied to make a GHG evaluation. As those subprojects will be included in the KBAs part of the GHG emissions are already included in the analysis provided.

? on beneficiaries:

We revised the number of beneficiaries to 5,000 to include the 2,000 direct beneficiaries from the RF that account for the beneficiaries of subprojects under Component 2 and the 3,000 participants in awareness-raising activities and capacity building from Component 1 (also in the RF). The drop from what was envisioned at PIF stage is due to an adjustment of the activities to the budget. Total indirect beneficiaries is expected to be 20,000.

4/01/22

Thank you. The GHG analysis was conducted using the ExACT tool, both documents (assessment and ExACT) are uploaded in the portal roadmap and GEF Core indicator 6 is added in online template. The GHG balance (emission reduction) during 20 years is expected as 22,328,392 tCO<sub>2</sub> eq

03/21/22

Thank you.

1. Thank you, the targets have been discussed in detail with MiAmbiente and the team agrees that they are realistic. The team has added the relevant METT scores for 11 of the 12 project-targeted protected areas (PAs). Kindly note that one of the PAs, La Yeguada Forest Reserve, has never been evaluated using the METT. Early project implementation activities will thus include a baseline evaluation for this PA, to enable

improvements in its management effectiveness to be monitored and evaluated throughout the project duration.

2. Thank you, the team will correct this error in the final package.

3. While the project is expected to generate climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits, GHG emissions will not be tracked.

## **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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

**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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

**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  
12/15/2021

Please identify what the criteria will be for the selection and support of the eco-business plans to ensure that they will deliver on the project objective and deliver global biodiversity benefits.

3/24/2022

Yes. Cleared.

### Agency Response

03/23/22

Thank you. Eligibility and selection criteria for the Eco-business Plans are included in the project paper Table 1.

Eligibility criteria are to include:

- ? At least 75% of business revenue is derived from agricultural or eco-tourism activities, to be further detailed in the operational manual.
- ? Located within or in the buffer zones of project targeted NPAs.
- ? Include women and Indigenous Peoples
- ? Demonstrated tenure certification of the subproject property/land.
- ? Activities proposed are to be aligned with eligible activities defined in the management plans of the NPAs

Selection criteria are to include:

- ? Compliance with Environmental and Social Standards, EAS (safeguards)
- ? Inclusion of groups characterized as poor or extreme poor
- ? Level of commercialization
- ? Cost effectiveness

**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

12/15/2021



Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

thank you!

**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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

thank you!

**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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

thank you!

**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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

#### **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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

#### **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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

thank you!

**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

12/15/2021

No. Please discuss the risks posed by COVID-19 to project implementation and achievement of the project objectives and outline the mitigation measures, this should be in the portal CER submission.

3/24/2022

Thank you. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

The draft package included an annex entitled "Covid-19 Strategy" that details how the project will mitigate potential risks to the project activities, team, and beneficiaries posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

thank you!

**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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

thank you!

**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

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

03/21/22

thank you!

**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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

thank you!

**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  
12/15/2021

No. Please enter in the portal.

3/24/2023

Thank you. Cleared.

Agency Response  
03/21/22

The draft package included an annex entitled "M&E Plan and Budget" that contains the activities, indicators, and budget for project monitoring and evaluation.

**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  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response thank you!

**Annexes**

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
12/15/2021

Please insert the project budget into Annex E and directly into the portal document at which time it will be reviewed.

4/13/2022

With regards to the Budget table: Project management staff costs and Office supplies are being charged to both project components and PMC. Please only charge these costs to PMC and proportionally allocate the costs between GEF funding and co-financing.

4/18/2002

Cleared.

Agency Response

o04/18/22

thank you, the budget table was revised to address GEFSEC comments. Please see relevant section in the online template and excel version in the GEF portal

03/21/22

Thank you, the team included the final project budget using the GEF budget template into the final package.

**Project Results Framework**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

Please submit a project results framework that is entirely in English at which time it will be reviewed.

Please ensure that all the GEF core indicators are embedded and highlighted in the appropriate components of the project in the project results framework.

4/4/2022

Please see comment above on core indicators and clarify the confusion.

4/6/2022

Cleared.

Agency Response

4/5/22

thank you, information is provided above.

03/21/22

Thank you, the RF has been provided in English. The GEF Core indicators are included and identified as GEF core indicators in the results framework. Two of the GEF indicators are PDO indicators, with Core indicator 1.2 reflecting results from Component 1 and core indicator 4.2, results from Component 2.

**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

**Council comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

**STAP comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

Agency Response

**Convention Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

NA

Agency Response

**Other Agencies comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

NA

Agency Response

**CSOs comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

NA

Agency Response

**Status of PPG utilization**



Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
12/15/2021

NA

Agency Response  
**Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request  
12/15/2021

Yes. Cleared.

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  
12/15/2021

NA

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  
12/15/2021

NA

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  
12/15/2021

NA

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION**

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/15/2021

No. Please address all issues listed above and resubmit.

Please note that the duration period is listed as 60 months, but the start date and end date of the project only lasts 48 months. Please reconcile.

3/24/2022

No. Please address the request related to core indicator 6.

4/4/2022

No. Please address the issues above regarding core indicators and resubmit.

4/13/2022

Please address the budget issues noted above, revise accordingly, and resubmit.

4/18/2022

Yes, CEO endorsement is recommended.

**Review Dates**

**Secretariat Comment at  
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to  
Secretariat  
comments**

**First Review**

**12/15/2021**

**Secretariat Comment at  
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to  
Secretariat  
comments**

<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>3/24/2022</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/4/2022</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/13/2022</b>
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>4/18/2022</b>

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

The objective of the project is to strengthen capacity for biodiversity conservation and increase the adoption of biodiversity-friendly and inclusive practices in select rural areas of Panama.

The Project is comprised of three components: (i) strengthening institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation; (ii) supporting biodiversity-friendly investments; and (iii) project management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The global environmental benefits the project will produce include: a) 428,187 hectares of protected areas under improved management effectiveness; b) 700 hectares of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations; and c) 1,000 hectares under sustainable landscape management practices.

Project activities will be implemented in accordance with national guidelines and project-specific COVID-19 management protocols, which will be in line with WB Environmental and Social Standards on Labor (ESS2) and Community Health and Safety (ESS4) and WHO guidelines for the protection of both the community and project workers.