

Community-based Management of Tanguar Haor Wetland in Bangladesh

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10702

Countries

Bangladesh

Project Name

Community-based Management of Tanguar Haor Wetland in Bangladesh

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

2/14/2022

Review completed by PM

2/15/2022

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

02/15/2022: Yes.

However, please address the following issues in Part I:

- the project duration does not match the expected start and completion dates. Please adjust.

- add ?Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change? in the executing partner name. It appears that this Ministry plays a role in execution.

03/21/2022: The second comments has not been addressed.

Please insert ?Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change? after Department of Environment (DOE) in Part I of the portal template.

03/23/2022: Inserted.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 16 March 2022

Thank you for the comments:

1) The Project duration is 60 months (as reflected in the PIF) and the expected start date is December 2022 and planned end date is November 2027 which corresponds to 60 months or 5 years

2) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been reflected as Executing Entity

UNDP Response, 22 March 2022

The Ministry has been inserted in Part 1 of the portal template.

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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: Not fully.

- Please change the co-financing of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change (MoEFCC) \$10M from ?Grant? to ?Public Investment?.

03/21/02022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 16 March 2022

The changes have been made to the type of co-financing from MoEFCC from grant to ?Public Investment?.

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

02/15/2022: Not fully.

Comments on the budget:

- National Technical coordinator has been charged across the components and the PMC. Per Guidelines, these expenses have to be charged to the GEF portion and co-financing portion allocated to PMC. Please charge this position to PMC as there are enough co-financing resources allocated to PMC. (Reviewer notes that the TOR for this position do not indicate any technical responsibilities).

03/21/02022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 16 March 2022

Thank you for the comment.

This is to confirm that the National Project Director is a full-time position financed by MOEFCC as part of its co-financing contribution. This is a normal practice employed by the Government of Bangladesh to provide for a full-time national PD (or Project Manager) for all donor financed projects as the government feels that this is necessary as a means to build ownership, engagement and ensure sustainability of the initiatives in the long-term (as opposed to filling in such a position through a temporarily recruited external consultant). The NPD will oversee and manage the day-to-day activities of the project.

The project includes a number of technical activities such as establishing targets and benchmarks for ensuring management framework for TH that needs coordination across different sectors and stakeholders; strengthening of wetland institutional structures at different levels; supporting information standardization and management; development of rules and guidelines for TH management; planning for various activities including coordination for habitat improvement, SLM and water management; community livelihood development etc. There will be different sector entities, stakeholder and consultants to support these activities. However, given the complexity and ecological inter-relationship of the different components (riparian areas, beels, reed banks, swamp forests, open water, etc.) and activities (fishing, resource use, drawdown agriculture, grazing, waste disposal, etc.) of a wetland, it is important that all of the activities are well coordinated and managed to ensure the overall well-being of the wetland. The role of the technical coordinator will therefore, be to ensure effective coordination and complementarity of the activities financed by the project and through co-financing. Without such technical oversight, it is likely that individual activities will take place in an uncoordinated and potentially counter-productive manner that would not help achieve expected outcomes. For this reason, the Executing Agency and design team feels that a national technical coordinator is critical to achieve the outcomes of the project. Part of the technical coordinator's role will also be to assist the National project Director in coordination, monitoring and reporting on technical activities and progress of the project as well as regularly appraise the Project Board of key technical coordination, oversight and planning aspects that need attention and remedial actions. For these reasons 30% of the National Technical Coordinators time is charged to PMC and the balance 70% to the technical components of the project.

The above are now well reflected in the TORs for the position of NPD and National Project Coordinator.

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

02/15/2022: Not adequately.

- On the status of utilization of PPG: the request is to provide ?detailed funding amount of the PPG activities? ? per the table, there is no level of detail in the report ? please provide.

03/21/02022: Addressed.

Cleared

Agency Response

UNDP Response, 16 March 2022

The status of PPG utilization is now included in the CER document.

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

02/15/2022: Yes. All core indicator targets are the same as approved at PIF stage.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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
02/15/2022: 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
02/15/2022: 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
02/15/2022: Yes.

Cleared

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
02/15/2022: 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
02/15/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response
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
02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: 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

02/15/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

02/15/2022: Yes.

Cleared

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

02/15/2022: Has been provided in Annex A.

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

02/15/2022: Yes. Responses have been provided in Annex B.

Cleared

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

02/15/2022: Yes. Responses have been provided in Annex B.

Cleared

Agency Response

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

02/15/2022: Has been provided in Annex C.

Cleared

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

02/15/2022: Have been provided in Annex D.

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

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

02/15/2022: No. Please address comments made in this review.

03/21/2022: Please see comment on the name of the executing agency, which has not yet been addressed.

03/23/2022: Yes. Program Manager recommends CEO endorsement.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	2/15/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/21/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/23/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations****CEO COVER MEMO**

In the northeast of Bangladesh lies the Tanguar Haor, a unique freshwater wetland ecosystem covering 9,727 hectares, known for its many species of fish and as a staging and over-wintering area for at least half a million migratory birds, supports the lives of the lives of about 60,000 mostly poor inhabitants around its periphery, of which around 95% are dependent on the wetland for their livelihoods through fishing, fish trading, boating and agriculture. The haor basin, within which Tanguar Haor sits, was declared a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar site) in 2000 on account of its rich biodiversity, and its harboring of many nationally and globally threatened species. Growing human population and increasing vulnerabilities of rural communities to climate change impacts is leading to increased pressures on natural resources, causing widespread degradation of ecosystems through changes in land use and hydrological regimes, over-exploitation and pollution of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and invasion by alien species, all of which contribute towards the loss of native species diversity.

The project objective is to promote sustainable use of wetland resources by local communities to conserve globally significant biodiversity, improve ecosystem services and secure local livelihoods in Tanguar Haor. It is aimed at addressing the increased degradation of wetland habitat from unsustainable development and local community

practices that is leading to biodiversity and ecosystem losses and as a consequence depletion of the productivity of the wetland. The project will address multiple threats by harmonizing socio-economic development, sustainable management of land and water resources and biodiversity conservation through an integrated ecosystem-based management approach in the selected wetland areas. To achieve this, actions will be taken to strengthen capacity and coordinated planning at the national and sub-national levels on socio-economic development as well as demonstrate sustainable fisheries, agriculture and natural resources management, biodiversity conservation and restoration, and alternative livelihood initiatives, including from a gender perspective on the other. This project intends to remove barriers towards establishing an integrated collaborative and participatory management approach effectively operational at all levels of conservation action including planning, implementation, monitoring and assessment to drive adaptive management processes to restore and improve the condition of the wetland.

GEBs resulting from the project include 13,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; 400ha of land restored; 1,911 ha of landscapes under improved practices, and 578,391 metric tons of CO₂e mitigated. The project will target 3,000 direct beneficiaries.

The COVID-19 pandemic's risks as well as opportunities have been taken into account in the project design and will be addressed in line with UNDP and Government policies and regulations. Adaptive management measures are in place.