

GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10374

Countries

Global

Project Name

GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services

Agencies

UNDP, UNEP

Date received by PM

6/4/2021

Review completed by PM**Program Manager**

Christian Severin

Focal Area

International Waters

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly. Please make sure that the project draws equal amount of funding from Objective 1 and 3

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

This has been corrected.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please address following points

1) Please change expected implementation starting date, to a date further out in the future

2) Please formulate and insert quantifiable indicator targets into the results framework presented in table B

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly, Point 1 above addressed, but Table B still features wording like "Increased", "Enhanced" but there is not a single quantifiable indicator inserted. Please address.

Further, please address following points:

1) Table F features as FALSE, please make sure to tick the box.

2) the TOC includes one short explanatory paragraph, please expand on this, so that it becomes clear when reading the paragraph why/what and how IWLEARN adds value.

3) in the section "proposed alternative scenario" it is mentioned that the current project is to implement the GEF 7 strategy and assist in preparing for GEF 8. Please amend this text, as this current phase of IWLEARN will only be able to assist with the tail end of GEF 7 but will be operational throughout most of, if not all of GEF 8 replenishment period. The issue persists throughout the document, please make sure that the project document and its activities are aligned with both GEF 7 and GEF 8 objectives.

4) The incremental reasoning would benefit from a section elaborating on the south-south cooperation too, as it is, it is focused on agencies.

5) Please elaborate on innovativeness. the section includes too brief a description of this, further, it continues to have the reference to PIF stage. Please remove this, as it is understood that the project will have developed substantially since PIF and been able to elaborate on its innovative features.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed adequately, even though the reference to PIF stage is still included.

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

1) Start and completion dates adjusted.

The quantifiable outputs have been modified.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please address following points:

1) please make sure to label all sources of cofinancing correctly, eg WWF-US is not Other, but GEF Agency

2) the IUCN and OAS cofinancing letter does not indicate what the split is between recurrent expenditures and Investments mobilized. However, the table C indicates a split. Please provide proof of the split.

3) UNESCO IHP cofinancing seems to be more a description of activities to be undertaken, compared to a cofinancing letter. Please provide a signed cofinancing letter.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly.

Please provide proof of the split of the cofinancing from IUCN and OAS

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

WWF-US is marked already as GEF Agency

OAS will be 80% recurrent expenditure (120,000) and 20% investment mobilized (30,000)

IUCN-GMPP is 80K recurrent and 220K investment mobilized

Correct UNESCO-IHP co-financing letter is included

Supporting documentation included

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Yes

Agency Response

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 9th of June 2021

(cseverin): Yes

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): partly, core indicator 11 mentions directly benefitting 2000 people, which seems low, considering the nature of this project being focused on learning, knowledge management and outreach. Hence, please reassess if this number may not be higher in reality.

Further, please make sure that the numbers included in the core indicator list, is supported through the component outputs in table B

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly addressed.

Core indicator 11, has been updated, however, this deliverable is not supported by quantifiable indicators in the Table B as requested above, please address.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The number of beneficiaries has been increased to 4000, which would take into account all project activities including online thematic training courses.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review. This text should also include the TOC figure and associated description.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly

1) please elaborate further on the TOC, to make it clearer for the reader, what the illustration depicts.

2) Please elaborate on the role IWLEARN plays in illustrating a KM system that has been supporting part of the GEF investments and the entire IW focal area. There may even be lessons learned that could inspire similar processes GEF wide.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The elaboration has been modified in the CEO endorsement form and the Theory of Change plus description included.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly, please address following points:

1) In the description of component 3, it seems to be focused on GEF 7. It would be timely if this component not only looks at GEF7, but more so on GEF 8 and how this investment in a SIDS GEF wide knowledge management mechanism can function as a pre cursor/prepare the ground for potential upcoming larger focused investments on the global SIDS.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The baseline elaboration has been included into the CEO Endorsement form.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The alternative scenario has been fully included into the CEO Endorsement form along with description of changes from the PIF.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The alignment has been included into the CEO Endorsement Form.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly, as indicated above, please make sure that the incremental reasoning reflect upon the leveraging of south to south learning and capacity building, on top of what is currently included.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The incremental reasoning has been included into the CEO Endorsement Form.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): this section is still very weak. The GEF International Waters focal area's main mandate is to support investments that will advance transboundary cooperation to safeguard shared ecosystems and the shared resources within them. It seems as this is missing. Please see the GEF IW strategy for further information on this, and expand the section.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The elaboration of contribution to global environmental benefits has been filled out in the CEO Endorsement form.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly, as indicated above, the innovative aspects of the investment needs to be elaborated upon further.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The elaboration of the project's innovativeness has been included into the CEO Endorsement Form.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please insert map from IWLEARN website

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

A map and brief elaboration has been introduced into the CEO Endorsement Form.

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

NA

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Yes

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Engagement with youth groups and young water/marine entrepreneurs and policy influencers is absent from the stakeholder section, please include.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin):Partly, please upload Gender stakeholder analysis and engagement plan, including gender responsive activities, indicators and expected results as a separate file to the portal.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

Stakeholder engagement plan and gender analysis/action plan has been included separately into the portal.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin):No, this part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review. Further knowing how highly private sector engagement has been rated/identified at numerous IWLEARN meetings, providing four lines of the is not at all reflecting upon this at all.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin); Partly, knowing how wide and diverse the IW portfolio is, only having two entry points identified is simply too few. There are a myriad of entry points, please include at least one such example for each ecosystem type, to enable the reader to get a better understanding of the vast opportunities that exist for IWLEARN to further private sector engagement for the portfolio.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

A more significant elaboration of the private sector engagement strategy in the project has been included into the CEO Endorsement form.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly, Please formulate and upload a separate document that reflects upon the opportunities and constraints that the current COVID pandemic poses to the project and what measures will be deployed to counter the constraints and benefit from potential opportunities.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

A separate document on COVID opportunities and constraints has been formulated and uploaded.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information and insert a figure developed during PIF development. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): It is not possible to understand the composition of the Project Steering Committee. Among others it seems that GEFSEC will not be included. We request that GEFSEC will be part of the PSC, especially considering the important role IWLEARN plays supporting the overall GEF IW portfolio.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

Elaboration of the coordination has been included into the CEO Endorsement form.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please fill in information to this entire section, it is NOT enough to simply refer to PIF stage information. This part of the portal template needs to present the needed information for readers to understand what the project is about and to be able to review.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

Information about the project alignment with national strategies and plans has been included into the PIF.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Yes

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Yes, according to uploaded document titled "SESP Exemption Template" the project does not have to do a ESS, as it will have NO implementation in any countries, but simply consist of knowledge management activities.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly, please insert indicators and targets for the ME plan

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin):Partly, the Monitoring and Evaluation budget plan table, still does not include indicators and targets. please insert these for the ME activities.

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The project's indicators and targets have been included into the M&E plan.

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

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): No, please expand on this section. Considering that IWLEARN in this phase will also include a component focused on supporting KM among all GEF FA investments in SIDS, the section seems remarkably mute on this

point. Further, the fact that freshwater and marine water cut across so many different ecosystems and economic sectors, and therefore the approach pursued by this phase of iWLearn will have wide ranging impacts as the world works towards sustainable management of natural resources. Finally, the role that proper KM and sharing lessons learned will have in relation to COVID recovery, also seems to be missing.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The language and content of this section has been enhanced and more detail has been included.

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): Partly, UNDP Check list has been uploaded, but please upload,

1) COVID 19 opportunities and constraints document,

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

A COVID-19 opportunities and constraints document has been formulated and uploaded.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 9th of June 2021

(cseverin): Yes

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request [9th of June 2021](#)

(cseverin): Yes

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request [9th of June 2021](#)

(cseverin): included

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

[9th of June 2021](#) (cseverin): No, please upload IWLEARN map that outlines the IW portfolio

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): Addressed

Agency Response

UNDP response 16 June 2021

The IW: LEARN visualization tool map outlining the IW portfolio has been included into the CEO Endorsement request.

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

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 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 NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9th of June 2021 (cseverin): no, please make sure to address comments and in particular ensure that the portal is properly filled in, which will enable a proper review of the submission.

23rd of June 2021 (cseverin): No please address above comments and resubmit

25th of June 2021 (cseverin): Yes, CEO Endorsement is recommended

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

This phase of IWLEARN will support the unique mandate of GEFs International Water Focal area to support transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems has proven successful in achieving long term benefits. Complex transboundary water ecosystems, cut across a myriad of sectoral needs and themes while not being bound by political boundaries. Consequently, setting effective policy goals, coupled with investments, requires working at all scales, with a range of stakeholders, in the public and private sectors and across the watershed from source-to-sea and beyond. GEF IW investments facilitate integrated, cross-sectoral approaches that engage the public and private sector, civil society, nongovernmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral institutions.

With following objective: ?Towards a more impactful GEF portfolio: facilitating replication of good practice across GEF International Waters projects, including projects across all focal areas in Small Island

Developing States, working in collaboration with development partners, supporting the delivery of training information management, providing programmatic guidance and facilitating partnership building?, this project will operate with a variety of public and private sector organizations to deliver its knowledge management, partnership building and information management services.

Proven GEF IW:LEARN approaches but also a suite of new and innovative activities are proposed to facilitate the GEF International Waters Focal Area to implement the GEF7 and GEF8 International Waters Strategy (and eventually prepare for the 9th GEF Replenishment). IW:LEARN will refine approaches to its traditional ?service line? covering a suite of face-to-face training, twinning and partnership building activities, as well as continued focus on information management in the portfolio. It will be additionally extended to cater for the need of SIDS, in particular the priorities adopted by GEF: The Blue Economy, Integrated Resource Management from Ridge-to-Reef, Protected Areas, and Climate Resilience. As a lateral result, the activities will contribute towards the achievement of the two outcomes of the Samoa Pathway: Climate Action and Blue Economy, as well as other areas such as water security, sustainable food and nutrition; sustainable tourism and sustainable energy.

IW:LEARN will provide a range of KM products and activities including an information management platform which includes a content management system, the GEF International Waters Biennial Conferences, project twinning exchanges promoting peer-to-peer learning and South-South cooperation, targeted training workshops addressing common capacity building needs, regional dialogue processes fostering transboundary and South-South cooperation among projects and national partners within a geographical region, and a range of products capturing experiences and results.