

Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

12363

Countries

Global (Gabon, Bolivia, Central African Republic, Dominica, Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, St. Lucia, Gambia, Togo, Zimbabwe)

Project Name

Enabling Activities and Ratification Support Project for the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

5/28/2026

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Andrew Hume

Focal Area

International Waters

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026

Partly. Under PMC justification, we understand the rationale for indicating 10% for each national project, however the justification incorrectly refers to this project as a Medium-Sized Project (MSP). This project is an Enabling Activity and should be described accordingly. Please revise.

6/13/2026:

Addressed

Agency's Comments

Agency's response 11 June 2026

The justification para has been amended to read "The PMC has been set at 10%, considering that this Enabling Activity document consolidates twelve (12) National Enabling Activity projects, each receiving USD 175,000 hence allow for the application of the standard 10% PMC rate. This has also been the approach across each of the Enabling Activities channeled through UNDP, UNEP, and FAO given that the content remains strictly identical across agencies."

Cost Ranges.

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

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments

Enabling activity summary.

Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026:

Partly. For consistency with latest umbrella BBNJ EA projects, please adjust down the M&E component to 5% of the project subtotal. Please see GEF ID 12351 for reference.

6/13/2026:

Addressed

Agency's Comments

Agency's response 11 June 2026

Table B in the project document and the budget (Annex B) have been revised to align with the newest example (GEF ID 12351).

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026

Yes

Agency's Comments

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026

Yes

Agency's Comments

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments
6/10/2026

Yes

Agency's Comments
Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
6/10/2026

Yes

Agency Response
**Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?**

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments
6/10/2026

Yes

Agency's Comments
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments

Rio Markers.

Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026

Yes

Agency's Comments

Country endorsement.

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026

Partly. Please address the following:

1) Please formally upload the Bolivia LOE

2) The LOE dated May 21st, 2026, from St. Lucia was signed by the previous OFP Eulampius Frederick (Mr.), Chief Technical Officer GEF Operational Focal Point (Saint Lucia). The current OFP is Ms. Anita Montoute who took office since May 25th, 2026. As this EA was submitted on May 28th, 2026. We need a revised LOE signed by the current OFP Ms. Anita Montoute, confirming her endorsement for the EA.

6/13/2026:

Addressed

Agency's Comments

Agency's response 11 June 2026

- 1) The LoE of Bolivia was uploaded.
- 2) The updated LoE of St. Lucia was uploaded.

Response to Comments

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

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
Council comments

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
STAP comments

Secretariat's CommentsN/AN/

Agency's Comments
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
CSOs comments

Secretariat's CommentsN/A

Agency's Comments
Project Budget Table.

Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

Secretariat's Comments
6/10/2026

Yes

6/13/2026:

Please delete the budget table pasted in the field of Annex B which is causing a duplication of information CEO Approval Request PDF (which is the document that is circulated to Council and later web posted). The budget should be presented only as a link in the Portal. Please see GEF ID 12351 as an example.

6/13/2026

Addressed

Agency's Comments

Agency response 13 June 2026

The budget table pasted in the field of Annex B was deleted. It is presented only as an attachment.

ANNEX B: PROJECT BUDGET TABLE ⓘ
Attach the project budget table.

Title

Revised budget - 12 June 2026 

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached? (only as applicable)

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026

Yes

Agency's Comments

**GEFSEC DECISION
RECOMMENDATION.**

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments

6/10/2026

No. Please address above comments and resubmit asap.

6/13/2026

No. Please address last comment and resubmit asap.

6/13/2026

The project is recommended for CEO approval

REVIEW DATE(S)

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	6/10/2026	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/13/2026	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/13/2026	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		