



GEF-8 REQUEST FOR Chemicals and Waste enabling activity

Proposal for Funding Under the GET
Processing Type: Expedite

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUMMARY	3
A. Funding Elements	4
B. Enabling Activity Summary	5
ENABLING ACTIVITY COMPONENTS	6
SECTION 2: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUPPORTING INFORMATION	8
C. Eligibility Criteria	8
D. Institutional Framework	9
E. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan	11
SECTION 3: INFORMATION TABLES.....	12
F. GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds.....	12
G. Rio Markers.....	12
H. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point(s) on Behalf of the Government(s):	12
ANNEX A: RESPONSES TO STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS	13
ANNEX B: PROJECT BUDGET TABLE	13
ANNEX C: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS.....	15

SECTION 1: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Enabling Activity Title	
National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector in Malawi	
Country(ies)	GEF Enabling Activity ID
Malawi	12370
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency Enabling Activity ID
UNEP	N/A
Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start
6/9/2026	9/1/2026
Project Executing Entity(s):	Executing Partner Type
Malawi Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Expected Duration (In Months)
Chemicals and Waste	24
Type of Report(s)	Expected Report Submission to Convention
ASGM National Action Plan (ASGM NAP)	3/1/2029

A. Funding Elements

GEF-8 Program	Trust Fund	GEF Financing (\$)
CW-EA	GET	500,000.00
Total Enabling Activity Cost		500,000.00

Does the enabling activity deviate from typical cost ranges? ☐Yes ☒No

If yes, please describe

B. Enabling Activity Summary

Enabling Activity Objective

To assist the Government of Malawi in the development of its National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector, raise awareness on the Minamata Convention, and to build national capacity for the early implementation of the National Action Plan and the Minamata Convention.

Enabling Activity Summary

Component 1: Policy institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement for NAP development

Outcome 1: National institutional and coordination mechanisms established and functional

Output 1.1: National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) established and operational

Activities:

- 1.1.1: Identify and map relevant national institutions, stakeholders, and focal points involved in ASGM and Minamata Convention implementation, ensuring gender balance and inclusion of experts with experience in gender and women participation; collection and development of tools and methodologies for NAP development that incorporate gender-sensitive approaches.
- 1.1.2: Establish a National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) for ASGM or adapt the existing MIA NCM, including definition of roles, responsibilities, and terms of reference.
- 1.1.3: Convene coordination meetings to guide and oversee the NAP development process.

Output 1.2: National capacity strengthened to manage mercury data and maintain mechanisms for NAP monitoring and reporting

- 1.2.1: Conduct national workshops and training on mercury reduction/elimination, NAP requirements, and data management.
- 1.2.2: Provide technical guidance and hands on support for the use of tools and templates relevant to NAP development, monitoring, and reporting.

Component 2: National Action Plan development

Outcome 2: Malawi is enabled to develop and implement its NAP and contribute to the protection of human health and the environment from the emissions and releases of mercury from the ASGM sector

Output 2.1: National Action Plan developed as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention

Activities:

- 2.1.1: National inception workshop organized to (i) develop ToRs for the National Coordination Mechanism and Stakeholder Advisory Group; (ii) agree on the budget allocation and workplan for the project, (iii) develop an awareness raising strategy on mercury use in ASGM and its environmental and health impacts to be implemented throughout the whole project; (iv) develop a gender strategy to be implemented throughout the project; (v) develop a capacity building plan for a more effective participation of key stakeholders in the development of the NAP.
- 2.1.2: Development of the national overview of the ASGM sector according to the NAP guidance including gender considerations.
- 2.1.3: Development of draft NAP.
- 2.1.4: Organize national consultations and trainings to finalize the NAP, raise awareness, build capacity for early implementation and agree on a roadmap for NAP endorsement and submission to the Minamata Secretariat (special attention will be paid to the participation of women and gender expert(s) across consultations and trainings).
- 2.1.5: Organize a final national workshop to identify lessons learned and opportunities for future cooperation in NAP implementation including gender-related aspects.
- 2.1.6: Submit the endorsed NAP to the Minamata Secretariat.

Component 3: Monitoring and evaluation

Outcome 3: The project achieves results on time through effective monitoring and evaluation

Output 3.1: Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the Global Environment Facility

Activities:

3.1.1: The Executing Agency (EA) develops and submits technical and financial reports to UNEP using UNEP's templates.

3.1.2: UNEP communicates project progress to the GEF yearly during the PIR using GEF's template.

3.1.3: The EA develops and submits final report and financial statement of accounts to UNEP at project end.

3.1.4: The EA submits final financial audit reports to UNEP.

Output 3.2: An EA Completion Memo developed and made publicly available

Activities:

3.2.1: An independent consultant carries out the completion memo upon the request of UNEP and makes it publicly available in UNEP's website.

ENABLING ACTIVITY COMPONENTS

Component 1: Policy institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement for NAP development

GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$): 140,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1: National institutional and coordination mechanisms established and functional

Output:

Output 1.1: National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) established and operational

Output 1.2: National capacity strengthened to manage mercury data and maintain mechanisms for NAP monitoring and reporting

Component 2: National Action Plan development

GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$): 300,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2: Malawi is enabled to develop and implement its NAP and contribute to the protection of human health and the environment from the emissions and releases of mercury from the ASGM sector

Output:

Output 2.1: National Action Plan developed as per Annex C of the Minamata Convention

M&E

GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$): 15,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3: The project achieves results on time through effective monitoring and evaluation

Output:

Output 3.1: Status of project implementation and probity of use of funds accessed on a regular basis and communicated to the Global Environment Facility

Output 3.2: EA Completion Memo developed and made publicly available

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$)
Component 1: Policy institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement for NAP development	140,000.00
Component 2: National Action Plan development	300,000.00
M&E	15,000.00
Subtotal	455,000.00
Project Management Cost	45,000.00
Total Enabling Activity Cost	500,000.00

Please provide justification

SECTION 2: ENABLING ACTIVITY SUPPORTING INFORMATION

C. Eligibility Criteria

Please provide eligibility information for this enabling activity.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) whose objective is to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. Malawi signed the Convention in October 2013 and ratified it in June 2023, thereby becoming a Party and committing to implement its obligations under the Convention.

Malawi's eligibility is supported by evidence generated through its Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) (GEF ID 6944), prepared with UNEP support and completed in 2021. The MIA, which included a 2018 mercury inventory using UNEP Toolkit Level 2 methodology, identified ASGM as one of the main national sources of mercury emissions and releases. ASGM activities have been reported in several districts, including Kasungu, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Ntcheu, Nkhata Bay, Chitipa, Mzimba, Mangochi, Balaka and Neno. Available information indicates that many artisanal miners use mercury amalgamation for gold extraction, while others rely on panning methods. However, as artisanal gold mining remains largely informal and insufficiently regulated, data on the scale of production, the number of miners involved, and actual mercury use remains limited.

The MIA also included an initial legislative assessment covering the full range of Minamata Convention articles. The development of the National Action Plan (NAP) will therefore build on the MIA findings and undertake a more detailed assessment of the policy, regulatory, institutional and enforcement framework relevant to ASGM.

The Government of Malawi intends to promote the formalization of the ASGM sector in order to better manage its impacts, while maximizing its potential benefits for households, communities and the national economy. Although ASGM miners in Malawi are legally required to obtain a license to operate, many continue to work informally. The Government has encouraged the establishment of mining cooperatives as a pathway towards formalization. The NAP process will therefore provide an opportunity to better understand barriers and define realistic measures to support formalization, access to cleaner and safer technologies, finance and capacity building.

Public health impacts associated with mercury use in ASGM have not yet been systematically assessed in Malawi. The NAP will include a dedicated rapid health situation review in ASGM communities and institutional capacity assessment, as part of the development of the national overview, to better understand exposure pathways, affected groups, occupational and community health risks and the capacity of health institutions to respond. Based on this assessment, the NAP will include targeted public health strategies.

On 8 October 2025, Malawi formally notified the Minamata Convention Secretariat that “artisanal and small-scale gold mining and processing in its territory is more than insignificant”. In accordance with Article 7 and Annex C of the Convention, this notification triggers Malawi's obligation to develop and implement a NAP and submit it to the Secretariat no later than three years from the date of notification.

The Malawi Environment Protection Authority (MEPA), which currently hosts the Minamata Convention focal point, will play a central role in ensuring that the NAP and any future ASGM-related interventions are fully aligned with national strategies, institutional mandates and Malawi's commitment under the

Convention. MEPA will support coordination across relevant government institutions and stakeholders and help ensure that the NAP contributes to broader environmental, health and socio-economic benefits.

D. Institutional Framework

Describe the institutional arrangements for implementation of the enabling activity.

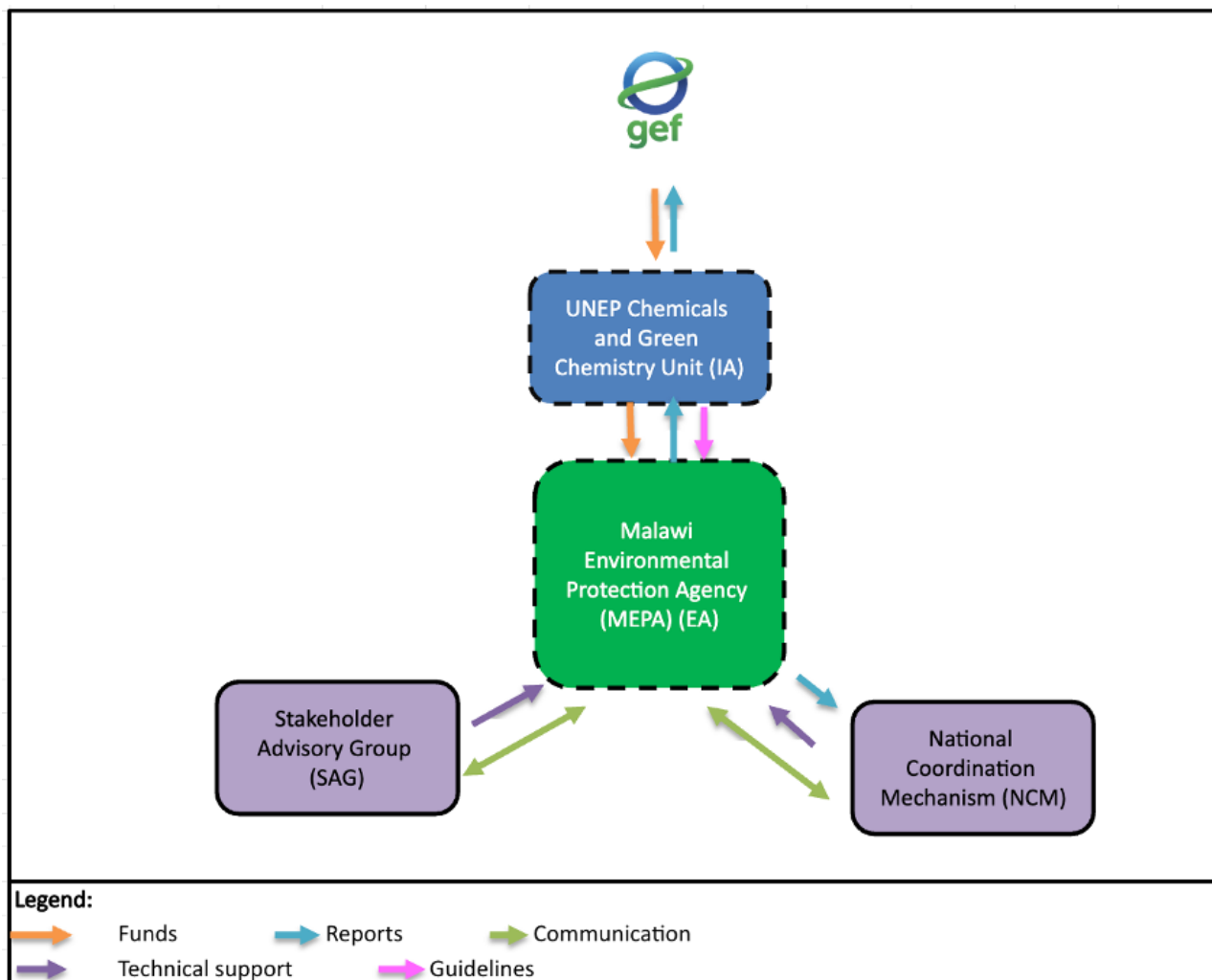


Figure 1. Institutional framework for project implementation

Implementing Agency (IA): UNEP, through the Chemicals and Green Chemistry Unit (CGCU) of the Chemicals and Health Branch, will serve as the GEF Implementing Agency. In this role, UNEP will be responsible for overall project supervision, quality assurance, monitoring of implementation progress, and oversight of compliance with UNEP and GEF policies and procedures. UNEP will review technical and financial progress reports, provide guidance to the Executing Agency, and ensure that project implementation remains aligned with the approved work plan, budget, results framework and requirements of the Minamata Convention.

Executing Agency (EA): Malawi Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA), government regulatory authority, will be responsible for day-to-day project management and delivery of project activities. The EA

will establish the required managerial, administrative and technical teams for execution, including a gender-balanced team to the extent possible. It will be responsible for preparing workplans, coordinating activities, contracting consultants and service providers, supervising technical assignments, organizing consultations and workshops, procuring equipment (where required) and ensuring timely delivery of project outputs. It will be responsible for financial management, administrative oversight and reporting to UNEP. Financial transactions, audits and reports will be carried out in accordance with national regulations, UNEP procedures and applicable GEF requirements. The EA will submit regular administrative, progress and financial reports to UNEP and will organize independent audits to ensure the transparent and appropriate use of GEF resources.

A dedicated gender expert will be recruited to support the integration of gender considerations across the enabling activity and within the NAP. This will include ensuring that gender dimensions of ASGM are reflected in stakeholder engagement, baseline assessments, consultations, strategy development and final NAP recommendations.

National Coordination Mechanism (NCM): It will be established or strengthened to provide strategic guidance and interinstitutional coordination throughout project implementation. The mechanism will meet regularly and will include a gender-balanced representation of key national stakeholders, including relevant ministries, departments, agencies, technical institutions, civil society, and representatives from ASGM areas. It will review project progress, provide technical and policy guidance, support coordination among institutions, and help ensure that the project remains aligned with national priorities and Minamata Convention obligations.

The National Coordination Mechanism will be responsible for guiding the NAP development process, reviewing key deliverables, facilitating access to relevant data and institutions, and supporting decision-making on strategic elements of the NAP. Its decisions will be implemented by the Executing Agency in line with the approved project objectives and workplan.

The mechanism is expected to include, among others, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Labor; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Local Government; Ministry of Gender, Disability and Community Development; Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Economic Planning; Ministry of Information; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Ministry of Justice; relevant city and district councils; academic and research institutions; and other national bodies such as the National Commission for Science and Technology.

Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG): It will be established to ensure broad, inclusive and practical input into the development of the NAP. This group will include relevant stakeholders who possess significant knowledge and information, and whose collaboration and cooperation will be needed for the successful formulation and future implementation of the NAP. Particular attention will be paid to women organizations and vulnerable groups. The NCM will engage with the stakeholder advisory group at regular intervals and during all phases of the NAP development and direct feedback on these documents will be provided through a mechanism to be agreed upon by the NCM.

Key stakeholders include the relevant governmental entities; community leaders and local government from ASGM areas; miner representatives; gold processors; technical experts; environmental and human health organizations; academic and research institutes; representatives from large scale mining; police and custom officials; financial/banking sector; development organizations; and women's interest groups. Vulnerable

groups (including women, youth, affected communities among others) will be identified at the onset and specific measures to ensure their active participation and involvement will be pursued.

Governmental entities will play central roles in policy development and oversight, interministerial coordination and resource mobilization; local governments and community leaders will provide on-the-ground perspectives and facilitate culturally appropriate engagement; academic institutions and technical experts will contribute research and baseline data to inform decision-making; ASGM miners, cooperatives and actors along the gold supply chain will bring insights on the ASGM operations and socioeconomic drivers of mercury use requiring close collaboration in both the preparation of the baseline and the definition of strategies within the NAP; representatives from the private sector will support the design of economic incentives and mercury-free supply chains, and women's groups and women-led organizations will highlight the gender dimensions of ASGM and ensure the NAP promotes gender equity and addresses specific vulnerabilities.

A detailed list of stakeholders and their roles will be elaborated at inception and means of engagement and frequency will be defined in line with the NAP Guidance Document. However, the engagement approaches will include formal technical working groups, interministerial coordination meetings, capacity building workshops, field missions, community dialogues and culturally appropriate consultations, among others. Participatory design, gender- and youth-sensitive approaches and the use of local languages and accessible formats will be part of the stakeholder engagement. Their participation will be monitored throughout implementation.

E. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Describe the budgeted M&E plan.

Day-to-day project management and monitoring will be the responsibility of MEPA. Project monitoring will start with the inception workshop, during which a detailed workplan, budget and monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed and validated with key stakeholders. During the inception phase, a gender strategy will also be developed by a gender expert to guide gender mainstreaming throughout project implementation, monitoring and reporting. Prior to the development of the strategy, key stakeholders will participate in training on gender dimensions in ASGM. In addition, a national focal point will be identified within the National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) to follow up on the implementation of the gender strategy, key progress and challenges, and the achievement of its main results.

MEPA will develop and submit quarterly technical and financial reports to UNEP, describing progress against the approved work plan and budget, identifying challenges encountered during implementation, and outlining remedial actions to address them. Progress reports will also cover both stakeholder engagement, and gender mainstreaming. UNEP will monitor project progress against the work plan on a regular basis and provide guidance to MEPA to support timely and effective implementation. On an annual basis, through the GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR), UNEP will report on the status of project implementation, progress towards results and disbursements made.

Monthly calls between the Executing Agency and the Implementing Agency will be convened, as needed, particularly where the project is not progressing according to the approved workplan.

At the end of the project, the Executing Agency will prepare a final report and final statement of accounts, which will complete its monitoring and reporting responsibilities for the project. A final financial audit will

review the use of project funds against the approved budget and assess the probity of expenditures and financial transactions. The final audit will be undertaken by an independent audit authority, such as a recognized public accounting firm or, for government-executed activities, a government auditor. The final audit report will be submitted to UNEP no later than six months after the technical completion of the project.

Templates for the quarterly progress and financial reports, final report and final statement of accounts will be provided by UNEP. No specific template is required for the final financial audit.

In line with the UNEP and GEF evaluation policies, an EA Completion Memo in coordination with UNEP Evaluation Office will be carried out. The EA Completion Memo will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements; and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners – EA in particular. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the independent consultant when the review report is finalized. The memo will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

SECTION 3: INFORMATION TABLES

F. GEF Financing Resources Requested by Agency, Country and Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Enabling Activity Financing (\$)	Agency Fee (\$)	Total (\$)
UNEP	GET	Malawi	Chemicals and Waste	Mercury	500,000.00	47,500.00	547,500.00
Total GEF Resources					500,000.00	47,500.00	547,500.00

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
Total GEF Resources					0.00

G. Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Desertification
No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0

H. Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point(s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the *Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s)* with this template.

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Ms. Mphatso Martha Kalemba	Chief Environmental Officer	Environmental Affairs Department	6/9/2026

ANNEX A: RESPONSES TO STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

Describe how the enabling activity has addressed comments from stakeholders, including Council Members, Convention Secretariats, and STAP (if applicable).

Not applicable

ANNEX B: PROJECT BUDGET TABLE

Attach the project budget table.

NAP Malawi - Project budget

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USD eq.)				Total (USD eq.)	Responsible Entity
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	PMC		(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency) [1]
		Policy institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement for NAP development	National Action Plan Development	M&E			
Contractual Services – Individual	Int’l consultant inventory training and NAP development review	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	MEPA
	Technical Expert(s) in Mining/ASGM/Environmental Impacts		\$ 20,000			\$ 20,000	MEPA
	Public Health Expert		\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000	MEPA
	Policy, Governance, Legal and Institutional Expert	\$ 10,000				\$ 10,000	MEPA
	Socioeconomic/Gender Expert		\$ 15,000			\$ 15,000	MEPA
	Communication and Campaign Specialist		\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	MEPA
	Field Activities Technician(s)	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	MEPA

<i>Subtotal Contractual Services – Individual</i>		\$ 45,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 115,000	
Contractual Services – Company	Mercury use inventory development and technical backstopping	\$ 25,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,000	MEPA
	EA completion memo	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	IA - UNEP
	Independent financial audit	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	MEPA
<i>Subtotal Contractual Services – Company</i>		\$ 25,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 115,000	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Project coordinator	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	MEPA
	Project assistant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	MEPA
<i>Subtotal Salary and benefits / Staff costs</i>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	National training and meetings. It includes national training on inventory development and other relevant technical aspects of the NAP, as well as meetings of the NCM/SAG. It will also support stakeholder consultations and validation workshops.	\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000		\$ -	\$ 90,000	MEPA
	National inception	\$ 25,000		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	MEPA
	National validation		\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	MEPA
<i>Subtotal Training, Workshops, Meetings</i>		\$ 55,000	\$ 85,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000	

Travel	Travel for site visits for baseline data collection, field assessment and stakeholder consultations. Costs may include car rental, daily subsistence allowances, accommodation and other mission-related expenses.	\$ 15,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	MEPA
<i>Subtotal Travel</i>		\$ 15,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,000	
Other Operating Costs	Knowledge management/communication pieces	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	MEPA
<i>Subtotal Other Operating Costs</i>		\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000	
Grand Total		\$ 140,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 500,000	

ANNEX C: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Attached any screening documents or other ESS related documents (if applicable). ESS screening is not required for EAs but should be included if its available.

☐ Check this box is ESS screening is not required per Agency's regulations

Title

NAP Malawi - Annex C - Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF)