



Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development: Global Platform

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11473

Countries

Global

Project Name

Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development: Global Platform

Agencies

WWF-US

Date received by PM

10/31/2024

Review completed by PM

12/9/2024

Program Manager

Hannah Fairbank

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2024

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

Revise the executing entity type to 'GEF Agency' in the project information section (instead of CSO) and to answer 'Yes' regarding execution in the Institutional Arrangement section.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

Thank you for your comment, this has been addressed.

b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

2. Project Summary.

- a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?
- b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?
- c) [If a child project under a program] Does the project summary include adequate and substantive link with the parent program goal and approach?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2024

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

The project summary text should be a concise statement that can be standalone in nature and encapsulates the GEF project. In that vein, please address the following comments:

- 1.) Please include infrastructure planning, sighting and design in project summary to provide a fuller picture of GRID.
- 2.) The use of the phrase "enhance biodiversity" lacks specificity. Please revise to conserve biodiversity, protect biodiversity etc. I realize this was in the PFD text, but we can get more synthetic for this CER.
- 3.) Include a sentence or two describing the role of unsustainable/poorly planned transportation infrastructure plays in driving biodiversity loss and GHG emissions while limiting ecosystem and human resilience to climate change.
- 4.) Please include global leadership and contribution in the area of sustainable infrastructure planning and development to the GRID global platform intervention areas-this could be a reworking of the first bullet point. The text in this summary should reflect and be consistent with how the CER/global platform will address the overarching comment regarding global leadership/contribution in this area, which comes later in this review sheet. Please ensure the changes to the design to address this comment are reflected in the summary.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

The Project Summary language has been revised.

- 1) Infrastructure planning, siting, and design has been added to the project summary.
- 2) ?Enhanced? has been adjusted to ?conserves and restores? throughout the document.
- 3) A short summary on the environmental impacts of unsustainable/poorly planned infrastructure has been added to the project summary.
- 4) Reference to global leadership has been added to the project summary. Language throughout the CER has been adjusted to better reflect this and includes more detail.

3. Project Description Overview

- a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?
- b) [If a child project under a program] Is there a project Theory of Change that is aligned and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?
- c) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

- d) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?
- e) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
- f) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 26 March 2025

Cleared.

HF 25 March 2025

a.) Objective statement in the "Child Project Description Overview" section of the CER looks identical and not revised/adjusted: **"Deliver an impactful and transformative coordination project that advances the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure in five countries, safeguarding and enhancing key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems."** Please revise.

HF 24 February 2025

a.) Objective statement in the "Child Project Description Overview" section of the CER looks identical and not revised/adjusted: **"Deliver an impactful and transformative coordination project that advances the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure in five countries, safeguarding and enhancing key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems."** Please revise.

b-e.) Clear

HF 2 December 2024:

a) Objective statement: Suggest removing: "Deliver an impactful and transformative coordination project" and also the reference to 5 countries, or at least add that the impact should be beyond the child project countries (CPCs) (e.g. include technical engagement and leadership on sustainable infrastructure beyond the 5 countries). Through knowledge work the footprint of the project may be beyond the five CPCs. Perhaps say something like "Advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure, safeguarding and enhancing key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems through effective coordination, global partnership and a knowledge platform." Edit as needed.

b) TOC: Yes

c) On the description overview table: Please request the agency to include item identifier for each component. For example: Component 1 or just the Number.

ci) Component 1: suggest revising name of this component in column 1 by removing the text "Technical Assistance" as it is duplicative with the "Component Type" selected as indicated in column 2. Perhaps it could be "Capacity support and knowledge platform" for clarity.

cii) For clarity, does Output 1.1.1 refer to TA packages will be tailored to topics that are identified by "two or more countries"? In other words, not every single country project's request for tailored TA will be met, but instead if two or more countries have a need for similar support on a topic then a TA package could be developed, is that correct? Please clarify in the documents.

ciii) Component 1 and 2 seem to be targeting child project countries only. The global platform should also focus on creation of knowledge products, technical/policy standards and global engagement in the sector beyond the five CPCs. There are several ways to address this, either by making the groups/audiences targeted under each of the components/outputs clear, or by creating a specific component on global knowledge and partnership that goes beyond the five CPCs.

civ) Several of the outputs under Component 3 read more like process required for delivering the project rather than outputs (e.g. 3.2.1 formation of program steering committee, thematic groups, advisory committees, etc.). 3.1.2 and 1.2.3 look similar. Suggest reworking into clear outputs.

d) Yes.

e) Please ensure there is proportionality between the GEF project financing and co-financing contributions to PMC.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response March 26, 2025

a) Thank you for this comment, this has been revised and an image of the revision is shown below;

B. Child Project Description Overview

Child Project Objective ⓘ

Advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure by coordinating the GRID IP, leveraging global partnerships, and supporting national and global knowledge sharing and capacity building.

Child Project Component	Component Type	Child Project Outcomes	Child Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Child Project Financing(\$)	Conf Co-Financing
Component 1: Capacity Building and Knowledge Platform	Technical Assistance	1.1. Improved knowledge and strengthened capacities for incorporating nature-positive solutions into transportation infrastructure in country projects.	1.1.1 TA packages (training modules, tools, and guidance documents inclusive of gender-responsive approaches, and methodologies, such as behavior change analysis) designed to address thematic areas that two or more CPCs have identified as	GET	3,917,806.00	3,4

WWF GEF Agency Response March 13. 2025

a) Thank you for this comment, this has been revised

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

a) The project objective has been adjusted.

b) N/A

c) Thank you, this has been addressed.

C.i. The Component title has been adjusted, with 'technical assistance' removed.

C.ii. That is correct. The output has been edited to better reflect this. The language in the Project Description section has also been updated for additional clarity.

C.iii. Component 1 and Component 2 include a mix of CPC and global support. Outcome 1.1. is focused on the five CPCs, while the following outcomes have been clarified to show national AND global focus:

Outcome 1.2

Outcome 2.1

Outcome 2.2

Outcome 2.3

All knowledge management related outputs are now in Component 1. Target groups/audiences have now been specified in the narrative under each outcome.

C.iv. The governance structures have now been captured as a single output under Outcome 3.2.

3.1.2. has been adjusted to only include the Annual Conference. Other webinars, workshops, and training courses are included under 1.2.4 (originally 1.2.3). This has also been clarified in the narrative.

d) (Gender) Yes.

e) Thank you, there is now proportionality between the GEF project financing and co-financing contributions to PMC.

4. Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?

b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?

c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 26 March 2025

Cleared

HF 25 March 2025

Formatting of this text seems okay, but the budget is not readable in the PDF of the CER. PM will link up with ITS helpdesk, Agency and Policy Office.

HF 24 February 2025

a.) The font on pages 35 to 42 of the in the pdf of the CEO endorsement request, including the GHG emissions and other forms of pollution section mentioned below, is very large and not consistent with the font in the rest of the document (please see auto generated pdf or generate yourself to see). It may have something to do with previous 'copy and pastes' etc? Regardless, for support in addressing GEF Portal issues, please reach out directly to the GEF Portal helpdesk who can assist you in addressing this prior to re-submission.

b.) Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

a.) Please make the font for the section on: "GHG emissions and other forms of pollution" the same as the font and point size of the rest of the CER. It is currently different, and point size smaller.

b.) Beyond the country child projects, please address how the global coordination project envisions the engagement and involvement with IPLCs, to the extent it does. From the perspective of inclusive upstream infrastructure planning processes? Or?

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response March 26. 2025

a) Thank you for this comment, the budget has been uploaded to the budget text box from a word document portrait A4 format.

WWF GEF Agency Response March 13. 2025

a) This is noted. WWF GEF Agency met with GEF Portal helpdesk team and the font and formatting were viewed to see if It was possible to make all formatting appear uniform. The material being copied is uniform in font and size, however, there is coding occurring in the background of the portal that the GEF Portal team is unable to see, and it was noted that there is no ability to change font size. The WWF GEF agency attempted to address the formatting and font to the best of our ability given formatting restrictions.

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

a)The portal does not allow this to be formatted differently, unfortunately.

b) This has been addressed and expanded upon, please see Stakeholder Engagement section on IP&LCs and Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Reference has also been made in the outputs (Output 1.1.1., Output 1.2.4, Output 2.1.2).

5 B. Project Description

5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?

b) [If a child project under a program] Is the Theory of change aligned with and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?

c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region? [If a child project under a program] Does the description include how the alternative aligns with and contributes to the overall program goal and approach?

d) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?

f) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?

g) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?

h) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?

i) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?

j) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?

k) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

l) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?

m) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? [If a child project under an integrated program] Are the specific levers of transformation identified and described? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2025

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024

- 1.) For each of the Components and Outcome levels please specify the target audience (or stakeholder group(s)) for engagement. For instance, will component 2 only focus on 5 child project countries (CPCs)? Or will it be CPCs and key infrastructure fora? The point here is to have a clear sense of whether this each component and outcome will be inwardly focused on GRID, and/or external global or regional technical engagement and leadership? This is related to the comments regarding the overall balance and emphasis on CPC vs external audience/stakeholders to trigger transformational change on a broader level (supported and informed by the experience and work of the CPCs).
- 2.) Outcome 2.1: Is this outcome targeted at the CPCs? Or others? Please specify and if it is the CPCs, how does this differ from the scope of the work of the CPCs?
- 3.) Component 3: Please remove or differentiate M&E for the global platform child project itself and include that in the M&E component below. Work of the global platform child project on supporting IP-wide monitoring and reporting and coordination should be clearly differentiated and included in Component 3.
- 4.) Please identify and include an output and activities focused on outreach and mainstreaming of sustainability (BD, CCM and resilience) into strategically identified traditional infrastructure groups, financiers, association, fora and events (maybe in Component 2?). This may already be implicit or included in the results framework, and if so please revise to clarify and emphasize.
- 5.) Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) section: Please reframe the GEBs to also include positive impacts envisioned beyond the 5 country child projects. Also, please include reference to the target for core indicator 11 as a means to an end to achieve greater GEBs via this global project.
- 6.) Sustainability of results: Suggest including reference to partnerships and engagements with other ongoing initiatives or institutions to further ensure sustainability of impacts of this investment.
- 7.) Gender: Please revise this section of text to be affirmative that the results framework etc DOES do these things (rather than 'will do'): "Gender considerations will be integrated into every aspect of the project's Theory of Change, objectives, and results framework. This includes the implementation of a detailed Gender Action Plan that outlines specific activities, responsible entities, and timelines for each gender-related action. Gender-specific indicators and sex-disaggregated data will be mainstreamed into the project's Results Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan to track progress and impact on gender equality effectively." And review for inclusion of gender dimensions and provisions of the action plan throughout project.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

1) This has been addressed. Each Outcome identifies anticipated target audiences and stakeholder groups. Component 1 is focused on CPCs and global audiences, while Component 2 is focused on global levers (building on learning from the 5 CPCs and providing guidance for countries to ensure global-to-national alignment)

2) Outcome 2.1 has been updated to more clearly articulate policy coherence at the global level. While the Outcome is focused on global partnerships for co-delivery, it will also include guidance to countries to help them mainstream biodiversity into infrastructure planning as part of their MEA commitments and reporting.

3) IP-level M&E has been moved to Component 3 (Outcome 3.1), Global Platform Child Project M&E follows in the subsequent section.

4) Multiple outputs in Components 1 and 2 contain activities that address this comment. For example, Component 1, Output 1.2.3, 1.2.4 and 1.2.5 each aim to develop, support and engage partners including CPCs and traditional global infrastructure groups (e.g., engineers, developers, etc). Outcome 2.3 will engage the finance sector (MDBs and private) and opportunities to contribute to infrastructure-related fora and events are addressed across both Components (e.g., relevant webinars, workshops, conferences, etc).

5) Thank you, this has been addressed in the GEB section.

6) Partnerships and engagement with other initiatives or institutions has been added to the section on Sustainability of Results

7) This section has been revised to be in the affirmative.

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project

a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?

b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?

c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).

d) [If a child project under an integrated program] Does the framework for coordination and collaboration demonstrate consistency with overall ambition of the program for transformative change?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2025

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024

- a.) Please include in this section the role of the PSC, the role of the Executive Committee and how they are distinct and describe their working relationship.
- b.) Yes, as anticipated and is the case for many global coordination projects, WWF-US will serve as the Implementing Agency as well as Executing Agency for the Global Platform. The WWF-US forest team will be the executing unit to provide an internal/institutional firewall between these functions within WWF-US.
- c.) Please include the potential/possibility to engage/serve as CBD community of practice on infrastructure or other ideas/plans for alliance building for joint provision of knowledge, capacity or convening. The description of the knowledge partner working group currently sounds more like a group to advise the project activities rather than a global collaboration to advance this agenda. Clarify/revise accordingly.
- d.) Yes.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

- a) Revised, please reference the respective paragraphs for each.
- b) N/A
- c) Potential to engage CBD and support a community of practice is now included in Output 1.2.5 and Output 2.1.1. The knowledge partner working group has been removed; knowledge partners are still included as an important stakeholder group and partners.
- d) N/A

5.3 Core indicators

- a) **Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)? [If a child project under a program] Is the choice of core indicators consistent with those prioritized under the parent program?**
- b) **Are the project's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?**

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes. Consistent with PFD concept paper targets for global platform.

Agency Response

5.4 Risks

- a) **Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?**

b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?

c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2025

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

a.) Should only relate to this child project. Thus if the capacity risk was deemed medium due to country project capacity please review/revise from the perspective of the global platform only.

b.) Please describe how the Overall risk rating was identified.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

A) The risk assessment related to country project capacity has been removed and the risk has been reduced to low.

B) A description to justify the overall risk rating identification has been added. Six of the nine categories have been determined to be low risk to achieving project outcomes. The remaining three categories are rated as moderate risk.

5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy?

b) [If a child project under an integrated program] Is the project adequately aligned with the program objective in the GEF-8 programming directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes

Agency Response

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes

Agency Response

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes

Agency Response

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes

Agency Response

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2025

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

No. Please include the gender action plan for this project and ensure mainstreaming of gender throughout results framework and project activities.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

The Gender Action Plan was uploaded and included in the Annexes document. The Gender Action Plan is now also included as an independent PDF, and has been uploaded to the Portal.

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2025

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes. Please include plans for broader global engagement (e.g. beyond the 5 countries) by the Global Platform in the stakeholder engagement plan.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

The Stakeholder Engagement plan details perspective stakeholders who will be engaged by the Global Platform. The Plan identifies opportunities for engagement at the global level across the life of the IP.

7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes

Agency Response

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestYes

Agency Response

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes

Agency Response

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 24 February 2025

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

PPG: Please itemize the use of PPG funds per the categorization available in this guidance document since the listed activities are ineligible categories. https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_20200731.pdf Please also provide a detailed description of the activities implemented during the PPG.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

Thank you, this has been addressed.

8.3 Source of Funds

Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?

Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

NA

Agency Response

8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 25 March 2025

Cleared.

HF 2 December 2024:

1. Please submit co-finance letters that comply with GEF policy and guidelines for proof of co-finance: <https://www.thegef.org/documents/co-financing>
2. Please ensure that the co-finance letters have not only been included in the documents tab, but also uploaded in the portal view so they are accessible/clickable from there.

Once the co-finance letters have been submitted they will be reviewed at that time.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response March 13, 2025

Please note that WWF-US investment mobilized decreased as co-finance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the ALIGN Project has been removed as that project is officially canceled.

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

The co-finance letters have been updated and included in the portal view.

Annex B: Endorsements

8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:

Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

NA

Agency Response

b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response

c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement RequestNA

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework

8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets

correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

e)[If a regional/global coordination child project under an integrated program] Does the results framework reflect the program-wide result framework, inclusive of results from child projects and specific to the regional/global coordination child project? [If a country child project under an integrated program] Is the child project result framework inclusive of program-wide metrics monitored across child project by the Regional/Global Child project?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 25 February 2025:

Cleared

HF 2 December 2024:

- 1.) Please upload the results framework as an attachment in the documents tab of the portal submission (in addition to including it in Annex C).
- 2.) Please include a note that the program-wide monitoring framework (and corresponding tools such as scorecard) will be developed and included in the global platform results framework when complete.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

1. The results framework is now included as a separate document, in addition to Annex C and in the Annexes document.
2. This has been included in the activities narrative (see output 3.1.3) and in Annex 3.

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes

Agency Response

Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Documentation and Rating

8.8 Have the relevant safeguard documents been uploaded to the GEF Portal? Has the safeguards rating been provided and filled out in the ER field below the risk table?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 25 February 2025:

Cleared

HF 2 December 2024:

Yes. Please remove the Annex 4 Stakeholder Engagement Plan from Annex F section of the Portal view entry. This space is meant for uploads of required SES documents only.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

Thank you, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been uploaded as a separate attachment

Annex G: GEF Budget template

8.9 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?

b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 26 March 2025

Cleared.

HF 25 March 2025:

1.) Budget is still not readable in the portal-generated PDF of the CER that will go to Council for review. PM is following -up by email with WWF, Portal ITS and GEF policy staff.

3,4,5) Cleared.

HF 25 February 2025:

1.) Yes, noted that the budget is uploaded as an annex, but it also must be visible in the CEO endorsement request Portal interface since GEF Council members will only see a pdf version of the CEO endorsement request document and will not have access to annexes. Please address by inputting budget table into Portal interface and double checking the pdf version of the CEO endorsement request document that is generated by the Portal. Currently somehow the budget is included on page 61, but the last budget category (other operating expenses) and budget totals are separated from the body of the budget making it hard to read. If you are having issues with the Portal entry or interface please reach out directly to the GEF Portal helpdesk for support

since the project won't move forward for GEFSEC clearance and Council review until these formatting issues have been fixed.

2.) Clear.

3.) Noted, TORs have been submitted. Based on a review of the TORs and the budget, please address:

i.) Program Director & Technical Lead - Infrastructure Finance and Economic Planning is only allocated 14% (or 17%), whereas from the functions included in the TOR and understanding of the function of the role, this is a key project management position, therefore a commensurate percentage of time should be allocated to PMC versus the components. Please revise accordingly.

4.) & 5.) GEFSEC remains focused on decreasing the elevated percentage of project funds currently wrapped up in GEF Agency staff costs which could act to constrain the execution of the project. Without imposing a GEF budget percentage allocation for either the Program Director & Technical Lead role (or overall), please rework and propose a budget that allows for further flexibility for project execution and financing of emerging issues and opportunities.

6.) Clear.

HF 2 December 2024:

1.) Budget table in the GEF Portal view is illegible. Please use the template provided in the [Guidelines on the Project Cycle](#) and remove the columns ?outcome? and only leave the columns ?components? so that there is more margin for the details on the activities implemented.

Please also include as an attachment. We will review the final budget table per the resubmission and provide comments as appropriate.

2.) Remove the table from the field ?Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here?. It is causing a duplication of information in the CEO Endorsement Request Portal view (which is the document that is circulated and web-posted).

3.) Please submit the Terms Of Reference (TORs) for each of the key project staff funded by GEF and/or co-finance. Once we have the TORs we can proceed with the budget review.

Please re-review the GEF policy and guidelines regarding use of PMC, Agency fees etc. to ensure the budget

complies: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_20200731.pdf

4.) Please reconsider and ensure that the share of resources dedicated to the "staff cost" category doesn't detract from the flexible and full execution of the global coordination project and resourcing of other key project execution areas.

5.) Related to #3 and #4 above, please provide explanation, justification and/or revision of the high level of budget dedicated to the technical lead position, (contributing to the "staff cost" category).

6.) Avoid using decimals and match the totals between the budget table and the project overview section in the GEF Portal. Please revise.

Agency Response

WWF GEF Agency Response March 26. 2025

1) Thank you for this comment, the budget has been uploaded to the budget text box from a word document portrait A4 format.

WWF GEF Agency Response March 13. 2025

1. Thank you for this comment and these suggestions. The budget by Component Level has been uploaded to the portal. Additionally, WWF GEF Agency met with GEF Portal helpdesk team and it was confirmed that unfortunately we cannot check how the budget appears in the PDF version, GEF Agencies are unable to view the PDF that is generated by the portal. The GEF Portal team confirmed the budget may break across pages in the PDF and this is not something that can be addressed.

3) The percentage of the Program Director and Technical Lead's time under PMC has increased to 29% (of the GEF budget allocated to this position). This is reflective of the project management time needed to deliver the global coordination project effectively; the remaining time for this budget is to provide technical expertise and delivery under the components.

4 & 5) The total budget allocated to salaries has been reduced from 30% to 23% to provide flexibility during implementation.



Based on a review of other global coordination projects, this aligns with ? or falls below ? the average

WWF GEF Agency Response Feb. 12. 2025

1. Thank you for this comment, the budget was uploaded as an attachment with the first submission (see screenshots below).

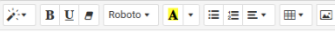
ANNEX G: Project Budget Table

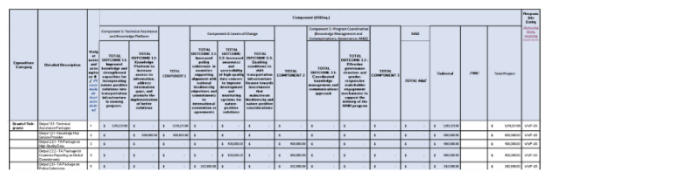
Please upload the budget table here. 📎

Title	Submitted
Annex G: Budget for Global Platform WWF GEF GRID	 

 Upload Attachments

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here





Document Title	Category	Prefix	Classification	Last Modified Date	Published
CEO Endorsement/Approval Review Sheet Document	Project Review Document	GEFSEC review sheet - CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage	Public	12/20/2024 2:40 PM	
FSP CEO endorsement document	Project Document	Child FSP CEO Endorsement document	Public	10/31/2024 1:50 PM	
GRID GP_Annexes CEO Endorsement Request_WWF GEF	Project Document	Annexes/appendixes to the project documents	Public	10/31/2024 11:47 AM	
Annex G: Budget for Global Platform WWF GEF GRID	Project Document	Annexes/appendixes to the project documents	Public	10/31/2024 11:43 AM	
WWF GEF GRID GP_Safeguards Categorization Memo	Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	Official Use Only	10/31/2024 10:07 AM	

« Previous 1 Next »

The portal will not allow for larger images to be uploaded to this box.

2. Thank you, this has been removed.

3. The TOR?s are included in the ?annexes? document that has been uploaded. The project complies with GEF policy and guidelines.

4. The budget has been designed to ensure impactful project execution. Staff costs have been reasonably allocated and balanced against other anticipated budget requirements to ensure full execution of the global coordination project and resourcing for key project execution areas. Execution will be supported by partners and specialized short term technical assistance.

5. Please see proposed TOR for this position ? which combines overall project management and delivery and technical contributions. The allocation of time is appropriate to ensure the effective coordination and delivery of the IP.

6. This has been corrected.

Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.

c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Additional Annexes

9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation

Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

HF 26 March 2025

Cleared

HF 25 March 2025

Two remaining issues: 1.) Please revise the objective language as requested; and 2.) Still need to troubleshoot budget format in PDF issue. PM will send emails in parallel for resolution.

HF 25 February 2025:

No, not yet. Please address remaining issues in review sheet and resubmit. Also, please remove all the highlights in the text as this will go to GEF Council for review. Please reference the section/revised text in the review sheet to point to changes made after this point.

HF 2 December 2024:

No, not yet. Please address all comments in review sheet, revise documentation accordingly while referencing in the review sheet how the comment was addressed and the page number/section where the revision to the project documentation was made. Please highlight the text where the change was made to ease re-review.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
HF 12/16/2024

Under M&E, please ensure that reports submitted (MTR and TE) include gender-specific results and progress in the implementation of the gender action plan.

9.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	12/6/2024	2/13/2025
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/25/2025	3/13/2025
Additional Review (as necessary)	3/26/2025	3/26/2025
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		