

Effective Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing of the Nagoya Protocol and Integration into Planned co- management Arrangements in the Nyambai Forest Park of The Gambia

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10677

Countries

Gambia

Project Name

Effective Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing of the Nagoya Protocol
and Integration into Planned co-management Arrangements in the Nyambai Forest
Park of The Gambia

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

12/10/2021

Review completed by PM

11/29/2022

Program Manager

Pascal Martinez

Focal Area

Biodiversity

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
January 19, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response
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

January 19, 2022:

1. At the beginning of the project description, the "Expected Implementation Start" and the "Expected Completion Date" are missing. Please complete as needed ensuring the 2 dates are consistent with the project duration of 48 months.
2. In Table B, please add indicators and targets in the "Expected outcomes" column.

June 30, 2022:

Thank you for the amendments. Cleared.

Agency Response

9 June 2022

1. The expected start and completion dates are now included in the Project Information section. See Part I: Project Information
2. In Table B, the indicators and associated targets have been added

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 19, 2022:

1. In table C, all the co-financing amounts as "grant" are reported as "Recurrent expenditures". Shouldn't they be "Investments mobilized"? Please amend accordingly or clarify what kind of grants are recurrent expenditures.
2. The co-financing from the MRC at LSHTM is mentioned as "Grant" in table C but the supporting letter includes a description of support which seems to be more likely as in-kind

(the use of existing facilities and staff time). Please clarify and consider reporting this co-financing as in-kind in table C.

June 30, 2022:

1. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.
2. No, the co-financing from the MRC at LSHTM is still mentioned as "Grant" in table C. Please correct.

November 1, 2022:

2. Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

Agency Response

9 June 2022

1. In Table C: The designation of the cofinancing is now amended. The explanation is provided for the Investment mobilized.
2. The MRC at LSHTM cofinancing is now corrected as In-kind

25 October 2022

2. The financing from MRC at LSHTM has been updated to "In-Kind" in Table C.

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

January 19, 2022:

1. This project is significantly expensive as compared to usual projects supporting the Nagoya Protocol. It is justified by concrete actions leading to the actual implementation of the protocol and environmental benefits (in addition to the enabling environment). In the description of the alternative scenario, please be sure to clearly demonstrate this additional objective of the project.
2. We don't see any project director in the budget (but there is one in the PMU as described under the Coordination section of the Portal entry). Please explain how his/her cost will be covered considering that it can't be covered by the resources allocated to the project components.

3. The budget includes the purchase of one vehicle. Please note that as per GEF guidance, "the use of GEF funds to purchase vehicles is strongly discouraged. Such costs are normally expected to be borne by the co-financed portion of PMCs. Any request to use GEF funding to purchase project vehicles must be justified by the exceptional specific circumstances of the project/program. The Secretariat assesses such requests and decides whether to approve them, based on following criteria: type of project, operating environment, contribution to achievement of project results, and share of costs covered by co-financing, among others". Please justify or amend as needed.

June 30, 2022:

1 and 2. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

3. The justification provided includes restoration activities. Nevertheless, we don't see such activities described in the alternative scenario nor reported in the core indicator section (core indicator 3). Please clarify.

November 1, 2022:

3. Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. The section 3 is now amended to clarify the additional objective of this project
2. Yes, we confirm that the Project Director is not budgeted under GEF funding. This position is a co-financing from the National Government as the Director of the Executing Agency will be nominated as project Director cumulatively with his/her regular function. This approach will strengthen the project's national ownership and be embedded within the national ABS institutional framework.
3. The Gambia is an underdeveloped country that experienced a long period of Governance issues characterized by a dictatorship regime. Even though the country was able to come back to a civilian regime with a free and fair election, COVID-19 has provoked an economic disruption. The Government consequently faced various financial challenges characterized by an administration relying on foreign aid to function. Under the described circumstances, the project is not benefiting from Government support on the logistical issues. Furthermore, the project is contributing to restoration of PA with related cost to the management of the Parks and necessity for logistical support. Without a vehicle dedicated to the project, there is a high risk of the project being under-equipped for adequate park restoration activities and will have limited access to stakeholders outside the capital. GEF support to the country to purchase a vehicle should be seen as a contribution to the capacity building of the PA management in the country. This is particularly true as the vehicle

purchase is linked to the achievement of some project results related to the restoration activities and the piloting of the ABS regime through the facilitation of the transport of seedlings and plant materials to the designated processing site.

25th October 2022

4. The restoration activities have been included in the alternative scenario. These activities fall under Output 2, Activity 30. The restoration activities will strive to alleviate the burden of tree-cutting and solid waste pollution suffered by the protected areas. The restoration activities will lead to 834 hectares directly benefiting from enhancements in the ecosystem services they offer.

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

January 19, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

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

January 19, 2022:

1. We see that there is no targeted results under the core indicator "4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity" as opposed to what was expected at PIF stage (92,549 ha). As a consequence, the expected result in terms of biodiversity benefits has nearly disappeared. While we note the explanation provided under the "Responses to GEFSEC comments", we also note in this section that "The total area to benefit from project investment is therefore 12,360 ha". Please clarify and consider reporting this area of 12,360 ha in the core indicator section (under core indicator 1.2 as it is all in protected areas) and in the Global Environmental Benefit section where there is no area mentioned.

2. The number of beneficiaries has been drastically decreased from the PIF. Please explain and/or consider increasing the number of beneficiaries.

June 30, 2022:

1. Thank you for the clarification. Nevertheless, the amendments are unclear as the same 834 hectares are reported under both the core indicator 1.2 and 4.1 (which is also a double counting). Also, the 11,526 ha of Protected Areas under improved management are not reported in the core indicator section. Considering this land is actually a protected area, it should be reported under the core indicator 1.2. Please clarify and amend as needed so that the information provided is consistent.

1bis. In addition, the WDPA ID and METT score (baseline at CEO endorsement) are missing under the core indicator 1.2. Please complete as needed.

2. Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

November 1, 2022:

1. Thank you for the clarification. Nevertheless we still have the same 834 hectares reported under both core indicator 1.2 (389 ha + 243 ha + 202 ha = 834 ha) and core indicator 4.1. This is double counting. Please choose what core indicator is the most relevant and report the 834 ha under this core indicator only.

1bis. The METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement) is still missing. Please complete as needed.

November 22, 2022:

1. Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

1bis. The METT scores are to be reported in the core indicators section of the project description in the Portal. Please report the METT scores in the core indicators section of the Portal (along with the core indicators 1.2 targets).

November 29, 2022:

1bis. Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. There was an error reporting the Nyambai Forest Park area. In the PIF, it is reported as 12,360 hectares. This is far larger than any single protected area in The Gambia. The 12,360ha may be referring to all protected areas in The Gambia which will benefit from the project investment. As outlined in the response to GEFSEC (No. 6), During the project development, consultations with local communities and institutional stakeholders led to the decision to combine the three parks (Nyambai Forest Park which is 202 hectares; Kabafita Forest Park with 243ha; and Bamba Forest Park with 389ha for) as one pilot area for the implementation of the project. It was also agreed that the Kiang West National Park should be

added (area 11,526 ha under IUCN category II). This increases the area to benefit from project investment while diversifying the ecologies and genetic resources to benefit from biodiscovery and bioprospecting. The total area to benefit from project investment is therefore 12,360ha. This is the source of the 12,360ha initially reported to benefit from the project.

The Global Environment Benefit is included in the relevant sections of the CEO ER.

2. The number of beneficiaries has now been increased to consider those who will benefit widely from the ABS regime and the capacity building element, in addition to the population in the project site who will be directly involved in the piloting process.

25th October 2022

The Global Environment Benefit is included in the relevant sections of the CEO ER. The GEB now includes an update on the total amount of area that benefits from project investments at 12,360 hectares. Together with the GEP, the amount of 12,360 hectares has been reported in the targeted results under core indicator 1.2 (Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness) as all the areas concerned are Projected Forest.

Ref: Table F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEF 7 CORE INDICATORS, Section 1. 6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)Annex F: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

17 November 2022

Thanks for the observations.

- The number of hectares reported under core indicator 1.2 is 12,360 ha (389 ha + 243 ha + 202 ha + 11,526 ha = 12,360 ha). The figure reported under core indicator 4.1 is removed in the revised version, therefore, resolving the issue of double counting.

- The METT scores are reported now in Annex F: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

25 November 2022

METT Scores now included in the portal section as well.

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF) ⓘ	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) ⓘ	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) ⓘ	Total Ha (Achieved at TE) ⓘ	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)
Bamba Forest Park		National Park		389.00			30.00	
Kabafita Forest Park		National Park		243.00			30.00	
Kiang West National Park		National Park		11,526.00			28.00	
Nyambai Forest Park		National Park		202.00			30.00	

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

January 25, 2022:

1. The description of the problems and root causes are very general while the barriers are very specific to the ABS implementation. While we understand the barriers to overcome justify the choice of the proposed project outputs and outcomes, it is difficult to understand how addressing these specific barriers will solve the identified environmental problems. Please clarify by aligning better in the presentation the problems, the root causes and the barriers.

2. The TOC includes 4 barriers while in the first section on barriers only 3 barriers are described (the lack of awareness is missing). Please complete the description with the missing barrier which is important to justify the proposed activities.

July 11, 2022:

1 and 2. Thank you for the clarification and amendments. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. The project justification section has been reorganized to map each threat to a root cause. To further clarify this mapping, the introductory sentence of the root causes reports this relationship. The root causes are mapped to threats as follows: (i) Deforestation has as major root cause, the high population growth and pressure on natural resources (including demand for fuelwood); (ii) Ecosystem degradation and conversion has as major root cause, poor landscape and natural resources planning; (iii) The unsustainable agricultural practices (including the excessive use of bush burning) is mainly the result of a weak local economy and excessive reliance on rain-fed agriculture, and the challenge of invasive species has as major root cause the impact of climate change.

In the same light, at the end of the analysis of barriers, a narrative has been added that explains the relationship and alignment between threats, root causes, and barriers.

2. ?Barrier 4: Limited awareness on ABS, NP and related benefits? has been added

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 25, 2022:

The baseline scenario is very poor, nearly limited to regional guidelines and the global obligations resulting from the Nagoya Protocol. What are the relevant national initiatives, plans and institutional and regulatory framework? Are there other projects this new project can use to meet its objectives? In the project intervention area, what are the stakeholders involved including the beneficiaries, institutions, private sector, research organizations... and how are they related? What are the land access and use rights? Please describe the existing baseline at national and local level the project will be able to build on and articulate with to

implement its activities. This is critical to understand the environment of project and therefore, its chances of success.

July 11, 2022:

The baseline scenario should not only refer to associated projects. The most important part is still missing. Please consider the comment made in the previous review and elaborate on the national and local context (policy, plans, institutions, stakeholders...).

November 1, 2022:

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

The implementation of NP and ABS is new in The Gambia, and it is good to recall the Enabling Activities nature of the ABS framework development. Nonetheless, a number of projects provide a baseline upon which the current project can build. These projects have been discussed, and the ways in which the current project can build on each one of them are outlined.

25 October 2022

Besides the ongoing projects on which the project draws baseline activities, there are important regional initiatives, policies, plans, and activities that directly influence the direction of ABS in the Sub-Saharan African context, and in the Gambia. A significant section has been added that gives a comprehensive analysis of this baseline, to complement ongoing project-related initiatives. This covers among other things, a look at the 2015 African Union Strategic and Practical Guidelines for a coordinated Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa; The three clusters of the core obligations of the Nagoya Protocol, the institutional framework and other support mechanisms (access obligations, benefit sharing obligations, and compliance obligations); and Lessons learned from private sector engagement in ABS through the UNEP/IUCN e-Conference on Private Sector Involvement in the Great Green Wall.

Ref: Section 1. 2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

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

January 25, 2022:

1. In this section and as indicated in its title, we expect a complete description of each component, with its outcomes and outputs including the detail of all the activities planned. Please complete as needed.
2. The text says "The three inter-related components of the project incorporate the entire value chain from identification through to commercialization and consumption (see Figure below)". We don't find this figure. Please clarify.
3. The paragraphs under "Baseline scenario" are not relevant to this section. According to their content, they should be moved under the section related to the barriers and for some elements under the previous section related to baseline scenario. Please amend accordingly.
4. The paragraphs under "Scenario without GEF intervention" and "Scenario with GEF intervention" should be moved under the section "5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing". Please amend accordingly.
5. The last paragraph is confusing as it doesn't seem fully aligned with the Table B of the Portal entry. In particular the component 2 in the Table B is about supporting research while in this paragraph is about awareness raising and capacity building for implementation of the national ABS framework, which is different. Please clarify and ensure the detailed and structured description of the baseline scenario is well aligned with all the information provided including the Table B.

July 11, 2022:

1. Not addressed. Please complete and organize the description so that we can clearly see under each component the same outcomes and outputs as those in table B and provide a summary description of the activities under the outputs. Also, please note that there isn't any Appendix 5 in the Portal entry and if the Agency needs to refer to another document, please clearly indicate where we can find it.
- 2, 3, 4 and 5. Thank you for the reorganization and amendments. Cleared.

November 1, 2022:

1. Thank you for the clarification and additional information. Nevertheless several names of outcomes and outputs of component 1 are different in this section and in the "Table B. Project description summary". Please correct ensuring the information provided is consistent.

November 22, 2022:

Thank you for the consideration. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. The section has been completed with a description of each Component and associated Outcomes and Outputs. The project has a total of 55 activities detailed in Appendix 5:

Workplan and timetable. Adding them in this section would constitute a lengthy repetition.

2. Instead of below, It meant to say above (referring to the ToC). This has been corrected

Reference: Section 3 CEO document & Section 3.3 Project document

3. Review comment: *The paragraphs under "Baseline scenario" are not relevant to this section. According to their content, they should be moved under the section related to the barriers and for some elements under the previous section related to the baseline scenario. Please amend accordingly.*

Response: The paragraphs have now been transferred to related barriers as per the guidance.

4. Review Comment: *The paragraphs under "Scenario without GEF intervention" and "Scenario with GEF intervention" should be moved under the section "5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing". Please amend accordingly.*

Response: The paragraphs have now been moved to the section 5) Incremental/additional cost

5. Review Comment: *The last paragraph is confusing as it doesn't seem fully aligned with Table B of the Portal entry. In particular, component 2 in Table B is about supporting research while this paragraph is about awareness-raising and capacity building for implementation of the national ABS framework, which is different. Please clarify and ensure the detailed and structured description of the baseline scenario is well aligned with all the information provided including Table B.*

Response: Well noted with thanks. The paragraph has now been amended as per the guidance

25th October 2022

1. Section 1. 3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project has been completed with a description of each Component and associated Outcomes and Outputs and associated activities.

17 November 2022

The names of outcomes and outputs of component 1 under Section 3 ?The proposed alternative scenario ?? have been aligned with "Table B. Project description summary".

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 26, 2022:

1. The project is not aligned with the objective 8 as said in the description, but with the objective DB 3-9. Please correct.
2. There is another element of the BD strategy the project is aligned with and this is not mentioned in this section: The development (or revision) of national measures to implement and enforce the Protocol (e.g. the legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing) (component 1). Please complete.

July 11, 2022:

1 and 2. Thank you for the correction and additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. This has now been corrected. See Section 4 of the CEO endorsement
2. This has also been corrected. See Section 4 of the CEO endorsement

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 26, 2022:

Please complete this section 1- with the relevant elements which are currently under the alternative scenario and 2- with any additional and relevant information clarifying the added value of this project as compared to the completed baseline scenario (as requested above).

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

This section has been completed with a narrative that addresses this lacuna. It breaks down the analysis into components to better elucidate the incremental value for each one.

Reference : Section 5 CEO document ; Section 3.7 Project document.

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

January 26, 2022:

Please add the expected results in terms of improved management as reported un the core indicators section.

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for the additional information. Nervertheless, we note that the number of beneficiaries is now different from the one reported in the core indicators section (5,400 instead of 300,000). Please correct.

November 1, 2022:

1. Not addressed. The GEBs section is still referring to 5,400 households and not 300,000 people as expected to be consistent with the core indicators section (we don't see the change from the previous version). Please correct.

2. In addition, the GEB section mentions 'A total of 5,400 households will directly benefit... This will include 2,400 Women and 3,000 Men'. Are households the same as individuals? Shouldn't the number of women and men be higher than the number of households? Please clarify this sentence.

November 22, 2022:

1 and 2. Please note the following sentence under the section 6 Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF): "A total of 5,400 households will directly benefit from the implementation of agreements for bioprospecting in the Nyambai Forest Park complex. This will include 2,400 Women and 3,000 Men". This doesn't look consistent with the core indicators section. Please replace this sentence by another one clearly mentioning the expected number of beneficiaries will be 300,000 including 150,000 women and 150,000 men.

November 29, 2022:

Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

The expected results in terms of improved management are now included in the in the Section 6 CEO document and 3.1 of the project document.

25th October 2022

The number of beneficiaries to benefit from the project has been updated in the GEBs section to reflect 300,000 people, instead of the 5,400 households that were there before.

17 November 2022

1. The reported beneficiaries were reported as 300,000 (150,000 women and 150,000 men) through all relevant sections. These include in:

- Table F. Project's Target Contributions to GEF 7 Core Indicators
- Incremental cost analysis table in Section 5
- Section 6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)
- Outcome 1.2 in the Project results framework
- Core indicator 11

2. We could not find anywhere in the last version submitted where that the beneficiaries are indicated as 5,400 households

25 November 2022

The text in the portal and CEO endorsement request has been changed to refer to 300,000 people.

Through improved access rights to genetic resources for communities adjoining the Nyambai Forest Park complex, the project will contribute to numerous efforts underway in the country to prevent the extinction of endangered ecosystems and their species. This will be achieved through a multi-sectoral approach in project implementation, awareness creation, and capacity building at the local level thereby enhancing expertise on species conservation as well as human livelihoods. A total of 300,000 people will directly benefit from the [1] implementation of agreements for bioprospecting in the Nyambai Forest Park complex. This will include 50% Women and 50% Men .

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

January 26, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 19, 2022:

Please add the geo-referenced coordinates of the project intervention area.

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

The geo-referenced coordinates are now provided in section 1.b

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation

phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 26, 2022:

1. Please indicate the stakeholders consultations which took place during the project design phase and provide a summary of the results of these consultations.
2. The private sector is said to have been consulted (category checked with a "yes" at the beginning of the session) but it is not mentioned in the table presenting the stakeholders role in the project. Please clarify its role.
3. In "Table 2. Stakeholder engagement plan", please also indicate the timing of the stakeholders engagement.
4. The last column of "Table 2. Stakeholder engagement plan" goes beyond the limit of the Portal entry (on the right, it is just a format issue). Please adjust the size of the table so that it remains within the limit of the Portal entry page.

July 11, 2022:

1. Thank you for the additional information. Nevertheless we don't find any Annex H in the Portal description and in the Prodoc. Please clarify where this Annex is.
- 2, 3 and 4. Thank you for the additional information and adjustment. Cleared.

November 1, 2022:

1. Not addressed. The portal description still refers to an Annex H and the Agency response in the review sheet refers to an Annex I. None of these annexes exist in the CEO endorsement request. Please clarify in the description which Annex the Agency wants to refer to and indicate where exactly this annex can be found.

November 22, 2022:

1. We don't find any reference to Annex I in the Portal (only an Annex H on "Thematic Studies undertaken in support of the project preparation"). Please address the comment made in the previous review.

November 29, 2022:

1. Partially addressed as the reference to the Annex I should be made under the stakeholders engagement section. But this is not critical so the comment is cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. The different consultations, including dates and outcomes, have been added. Section 2 CEO document & Section 5 project document
2. Details on the private sector have been added. These include the different initiatives consulted and their potential contribution to the project. Table 1 in Section 2 of CEO ER and Section 2.5 in the project document
3. The timing has been included. Table 2 CEO endorsement & Table 16 Section 5 project document
4. Well noted. Adjustment of the table is made to make it fit in the portal

25th October 2022

Annex H was wrongly referred to in the Agency response. The consultation with stakeholders has already been provided in Section 2. However, Annex H is about the thematic study conducted which was also summarised in that Annex and situated at the end of the CEO endorsement. The Annex related to stakeholders' consultation is now titled Annex I: Minutes of stakeholders consultation and is attached to the package as a Zip folder. Sincere apology for the confusion.

17 November 2022

The exact Annex is Annex I. It is now corrected in the portal and uploaded in the revised package.

25 November 2022

The exact Annex name is Annex I. It is now corrected in the portal and uploaded in the revised package.

The Annex I PDF file reference is included now in both the CEO endorsement Document and portal under Annex c: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).

(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

International Consultants	30000	30000	0
Travel on Official business	25,000	25,000	0
Meetings and Stakeholders consultations	30,000	30,000	0
Supplies	1986	1986	0
Total	136.986	136.986	0

Key products from the PPG include:

- CEO Endorsement document including relevant annexes
- Project document in UNEP format
- Meetings with stakeholders and partners: Minutes are attached as Annex I (uploaded in the portal's document section)
- Thematic Studies Reports: Attached as annexes

14 December 2022

Noted with thanks. The mention of Annex I is now made in section 2. Stakeholders? engagement

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

January 26, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 26, 2022:

The description is unclear and not necessarily focused on the case of the private sector in Gambia. In particular the general consideration of the official text of the Nagoya Protocol, the potential links with SDGs and the long reference to the GGWI are not necessarily relevant in

this section. Please be more specific about the relevant private sector identified for the project activities in Gambia and in the project area (who are they and what they do) and elaborate on its expected role (or potential role) in the project.

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for providing specific information. Nevertheless, this information only present some private sector entities and their role in the project is not described. Please elaborate further on how the private sector will concretely be engaged in the project components and activities.

November 1, 2022:

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

The private sector engagement section has now been amended and focuses on specific cases in the Gambia

Ref: Section 4 of CEO ER

25th October 2022

The private sector engagement section has now been amended and focuses on specific cases in the Gambia. It describes the approach to engaging the private sector ? through participation in one or more of the pilots that will be funded by the project. While it must be noted that the private sector in the Gambia (especially vis a vis ABS is still in its infancy, there are local initiatives involved in the transformation of local bioresources into finished products that are sold to the local market. Their familiarity with this space can serve as a test bed for new ideas on value addition and transformation in the GR value chain. The pilots are presented in the CEO-ER and the participation of each stakeholder (including the private sector elaborated).

The inclusion of the role of the private sector in relation to the GGWI is to provide a context for drawing lessons that may be useful for the implementation of the project in The Gambia. This has been left at the appropriate section while the description of the role of the private sector is also brought into an appropriate section.

Ref: Section 4 of CEO ER

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

January 26, 2022:

1. The paragraph "The risk of future COVID-19 transmission... ensuring that success of continued face-to-face research efforts is not guaranteed" identifies significant risks for the project. Please complete by clarifying what are the envisioned mitigation measures for these risks.

2. The consideration of the COVID-19 situation should also include a brief analysis on the opportunity this project can provide of building back better and improving the resilience of beneficiaries against future pandemic. Please complete the analysis accordingly.

July 11, 2022:

1 and 2. Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. A mitigation strategy for the COVID-19 risk has been added.

Section 5 CEO endorsement

2. The analysis of the opportunity is now included

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

January 26, 2022:

Please complete the uploaded budget and the Annex E with the name of the entity responsible for each budget item (last column).

July 11, 2022:

1. Thank you for completing the budget. Nevertheless, we note that the name of Executing Agency is different in the Budget ("Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) as the National ABS Focal Institution") and at the very beginning of the Portal entry under Other Executing Partner(s) ("Office of National ABS Focal Point at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources"). Please use the same name for the Executing Agency ("Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM)") throughout all the project description.

2. In the budget, we don't see the project coordination related expense under the PMC. Considering the Project Director will be the Director of the Executing Agency, he will not have the capacity to deal with the daily tasks related to the project management. Please clarify in the budget the expenses related to the project management including the Project Coordinator and ensure these expenses are charged under the PMC.

3. We also note the following text: "See Appendix 5: Terms of Reference for Project Personnel for detailed overview of PMU roles". The Appendix 5 in the Prodoc is actually the Workplan and Timetable. Please correct and indicate where the Appendix is.

November 1, 2022:

1. Not addressed. The name of Executing Agency at the very beginning of the Portal entry under Other Executing Partner(s) has not changed and is still : "Office of National ABS Focal Point at the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources". Please correct as indicated in the previous review.

2. Thank you for the consideration. Nevertheless the name of "Project Coordinator" in the Budget is different from the name of "Project Director" in the "Appendix 11: Terms of Reference". Is it the same person? If yes, please use the same name in both documents. If no, please clarify and in any case, please make sure that the TORs of the Project Coordinator is in the Appendix 11.

3. Not addressed: the description keeps referring to Appendix 5. Please correct with the right reference and indicate clearly that this appendix is in the Prodoc.

November 22, 2022:

1. Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.

2. We don't find the project coordinator in the Annex E: "Project Budget Table" of the Portal. (the attached table seems to be an old version of the budget as several numbers differ from the last Budget uploaded in the document tab (Excel file). Please attach in Annex E the last version of the budget which includes the project coordinator.

3. Not addressed (again). The description keeps saying "See Appendix 5: Terms of Reference for Project Personnel for detailed overview of PMU roles". Please address this comment.

November 29, 2022:

2 and 3. Thank you for clarifying. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

The Last column of the budget is now completed. It is good to note that UNEP as Implementing Agency will sign an agreement and transfer funds only to one entity acting as the Executing Agency which in turn develops sub-contracts with relevant executing partners for specific activities or with consultants to support background works on some specific themes.

25th October 2022

1. The name of the Executing Agency is now uniformized and make consistent throughout the documents
2. Now budget provision is done for a Project Coordinator under PMC
3. The Appendix entry error has been revised to Appendix 11.

17 November 2022

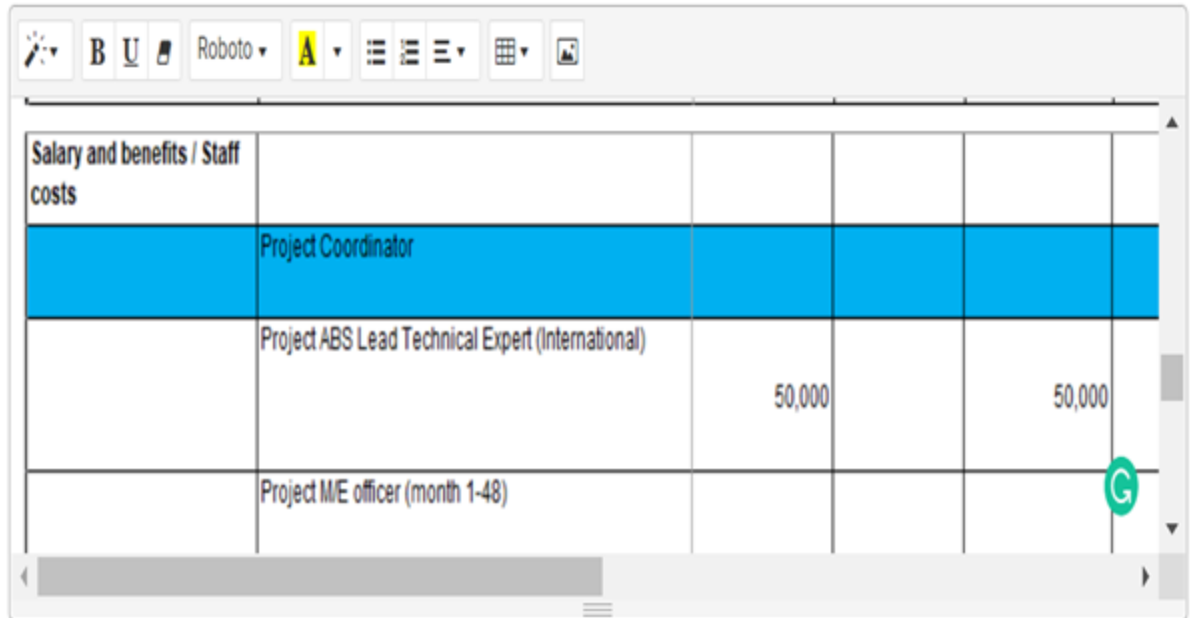
1. The correction is now made in the portal
2. The Project Director is different from the Project Coordinator. The acting Director of the Executing Agency (the DPWM) will be de facto the Project Director. The Project Coordinator on the other hand will be recruited to work as part of the PMU. The terms of reference for the Project Coordinator have been added to Appendix 11 of the UNEP Project Document
3. The appendix related to the Project Coordinator and other personnel is indeed Appendix 11 of the UNEP Project Document, not 5 as mentioned previously. Apology for the mix-up.

25 November 2022

2. Project coordinator is included in Annex E, which has been re-uploaded in the portal to ensure consistency with the latest version of the budget document.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.



Salary and benefits / Staff costs				
Project Coordinator				
Project ABS Lead Technical Expert (International)		50,000		50,000
Project M/E officer (month 1-48)				

3. As indicated in the previous agency response of 17 November 2022, the Appendix 5 reference has been corrected to Appendix 11, which is the correct Appendix for project personnel in the CEO Endorsement. However, we notice that the correction had not been effected in the portal section, which has now been done.

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
January 26, 2022:

The description is general and more relevant to the baseline scenario (institutional framework). Please adjust by focusing specifically on how the project is consistent with the national strategies, plans, reports and assessments under the UNCBD convention.

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for the additional information. As mentioned in the previous review, much information in this section refers to the baseline scenario. Please consider the comment above

under the baseline scenario section and move there the relevant text related to the baseline scenario.

November 2, 2022:

Not addressed (we don't see any changes from the previous version). This section should refer to the national strategies and plans relevant to the Conventions (and notably the UNCBD as this project is funded by the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area). Please move all the other information in the baseline scenario under a section which could be called 'National policies and plans relevant to the project'.

November 22, 2022:

Thank you for the amendments. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

This has been revised to include National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Sustainable Development Goals, Aichi Targets, United Nations Development Assistance Framework

Reference: Section 7 of CEO document; and Section 3.6 of Project document

25th October 2022

The section is adjusted, and it focuses now specifically on how the project is consistent with the national strategies, plans, reports and assessments under the UNCBD convention.

17 November 2022

- All the other information not directly related to CBD is not removed from section 7 and sent to section 3 of the baseline scenario and a new sub-heading is created titled: National policies and plans relevant to the project.
- Section 7 has now been amended by removing all the information not directly related to CBD as per the guidance from the review.

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

January 26, 2022:

The description should include a budget with the key deliverables and a timeline for these deliverable. Please complete accordingly

July 11, 2022:

1. We take note of the cross-cutting dimension of the KM activities. Nevertheless, the Agency should be able to identify a cost for the key deliverables. Please complete the table including the budget for each key deliverable.
2. The "Detailed knowledge management report" doesn't include a timeline. Please complete.
3. In addition, the second table is a repetition of most of the information included in the first one. Please remove the second table.

November 2, 2022:

1. Thank you for the additional information on costs. Cleared.
2. Not addressed. The "Detailed knowledge management report" is still without any timeline. Please complete.
3. Not addressed. The second table which is a repetition of the first one (with on deliverable missing) and without budget information is still included. Please remove this second table.

November 22, 2022:

- 2 and 3. Thank you for the additional information and amendment. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

The KM budget cut across many activities, including reports to be elaborated by experts on specific thematic issues like policy, communication, awareness-raising materials, ABS-related knowledge, etc. These reports and documents will form the basis of the project's KM activities and the lessons learned from the implementation.

25th October 2022

1. Indicative budget for the Knowledge Management activities is now included in table 5
2. The timeline is in the 4th column (Product/Timeline)
3. The second table has been removed

17 November 2022

2. Table 5 (of the CEO End.) titled "Components, products, timeline, and budget of the knowledge management approach" has timelines in column 4, please see highlight.
3. The second table has been removed.

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
January 26, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
January 26, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 26, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 19, 2022:

No, the budget in Annex E is missing. Please attach the budget in this annex.

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for including the budget in Annex E. Cleared

Agency Response

09 June 2022

The Budget is now attached. Apology for the oversight.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 19, 2022:

1. Please mention explicitly the GEF core indicators in the Project Results Framework (core indicators 1.2 and 11) and their targeted results.

2. Some text under the table titled "Key deliverables and benchmarks" is going beyond the limit of the page (on the right, a format issue). Please adjust the format so that all the text provided fits within the limits of Portal entry page.

July 11, 2022:

1. Thank you for the additional information. Nevertheless the GEF core indicators are not explicit in the table. Please complete where appropriate with the exact name of the GEF core indicator such as "Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management

effectiveness" or "Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment".

2. Thank you for the adjustment. Cleared.

November 2, 2022:

1. Not addressed. Please complete the Project Results Framework with the exact name of the GEF core indicators.

November 22, 2022:

Partially. Please also indicate the GEF number of the core indicator. For example **Indicator 1.2**: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness.

November 29, 2022:

Thank you for the amendments. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

1. The GEF Core indicators 1.1; 1.4 and 11 are now included in the project framework and their targeted results Ref: Project Framework Table B and the Annex A- Project Logframe

2. The format of the table "Key deliverables and benchmarks" is adjusted in the portal and now it fits within the limits of the Portal entry page

25 September 2022

1. The project indicators have been mapped to the GEF core indicators and are now explicit in the table. For example, indicators 10 to 1.2.

17 November 2022

- This has been addressed. For example, see Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity and Indicator 10: Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness.

25 November 2022

Tables B : Project Framework and Annex A: Project Results Framework (Logframe) have been amended to include the exact names of the GEF Core Indicators

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 19, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response
Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
January 19, 2022:

The comment from UK is missing. Please complete as needed.

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for including the comment from UK. Cleared.

Agency Response
06 June 2022

The UK comment is now addressed. Please ref to Annex B ? Council Comments

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
January 19, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 19, 2022:

Yes, cleared.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 19, 2022:

Please add the geo-referenced coordinates of the project intervention area.

July 11, 2022:

Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Agency Response

09 June 2022

Maps and geo-referenced coordinates are now provided

Ref: 1b. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates and Annex E

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

January 26, 2022:

Not yet. Please address the comments raised in the review.

July 11, 2022:

Not yet, please address the remaining comments. In doing so, please provide a version of the CEO Endorsement Request highlighting in yellow the modified text in the Portal entry (as done for the previous review).

November 2, 2022:

Not yet, please address the remaining comments. In doing so, please provide a version of the CEO Endorsement Request highlighting in yellow the modified text in the Portal entry. Also, please upload in the documents tab the last version of the Agency Prodoc (the last one currently available was uploaded on 9 June 2022).

November 22, 2022:

Not yet, please address the remaining comments.

December 6, 2022:

Thank you for addressing the comments. Nevertheless, further checking on policy issues revealed the need to address the following additional comments:

1. Core Indicators: Please include the WDPA IDs under core indicator 1.2: Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness. They are required at the CEO endorsement stage.
2. Environmental and Social Safeguards: We note that the project's overall ESS risk is classified as moderate, and UNEP attached the updated Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF). The project risks include activities surrounding access to genetic resources, which may inadvertently cause short-term economic displacement of local communities. The project would also involve in areas where indigenous peoples are resent. The safeguard team recommended that the project team develop the risk mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement plan to minimize and mitigate any potential harms to the local community members at the inception phase. However, it is not clear whether the project developed the risk mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement plan to minimize and mitigate this impact. Please elaborate further about plan to develop the risk management plan at the early stage of the project to minimize, mitigate and monitor impacts related to economic displacement and indigenous peoples and local communities including ensuring FPIC. Note: The project PIF has been approved on Dec 11, 2020, after the Policy on ESS had been effective.
3. Monitoring and Evaluation component lacks Outcomes and Outputs in Table B. Please amend this table adding Outcomes and Outputs.

Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance			GET	210,000.00	650,000.00
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December 14, 2022:

Thank you for addressing the remaining comments. Based on the following, the CEO endorsement is now recommended.

1. We take note of the Agency response in the uploaded document: "Out of the four targeted PA only Kiang West National Park has a dedicated WDPA. The project will ensure that the 3 others (Nyambai Forest Park, Bamba Forest Park and Kabatifa Forest Park have dedicated WDPA IDs within the first year of the project. The WDPAs ID have been included in the Project Logframe Indicators to ensure that the targeted PA have dedicated WDPA IDs. Ref: Activity 30bis of the CEO in Key deliverables and Benchmark Table". Cleared.
2. We take note of the Agency response in the uploaded document: "Plan to develop the risk management plan at the early stage of the project to minimize, mitigate and monitor impacts related to economic displacement and indigenous peoples and local communities including ensuring FPIC, has now been developed. Ref: Table 11 bis: Section 5. Risks of the CEO Endorsement Request". Cleared.
3. Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	1/26/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	7/11/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/2/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/22/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/6/2022	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations