

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella III

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10959

Countries

Global (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guyana, Honduras, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Palau, Paraguay, Philippines, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Togo)

Project Name

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella III

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

4/6/2022

Review completed by PM

4/12/2022

Program Manager

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Focal Area

Land Degradation

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Part 1: Project Information

Focal area elements

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

May 5, 2022

Addressed.

April 12, 2022

Addressed.

April 7, 2022

See the table a: 1) the submission date is missing and 2) the implementation start is in the past.

Please, correct.

Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date	Expected Report Submission to Convention
UNCCD Reporting		4/1/2022	3/30/2024	12/31/2022
Duration ⓘ 24 In Months			Agency Fee(\$) 185,662.00	

Agency Response

08 April 2022

Thank you, the dates have been updated on both portal and EA word project document.

05 May 2022

Response to comment no. 1: Other Executing Partners:

UNEP has (i) removed 'UNCCD National Focal Points'; (ii) left The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat; (iii) added 'others?'; and (iv) in the Executing Partner Type changed it to 'Other'.

Response to comment no. 2: Project information:

The correct dates that reflect an exact 24-month implementing period have been updated in the portal and EA project document as guided. Dates are updated to indicate a proposed starting date of 01 June 2022 and a Completion date of 31 May 2024.

Project description summary

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

April 12, 2022

The total pmc for the six Umbrella projects will be under 3%.

April 7, 2022

The pmc budget is \$127,858. The total of pmc in the Umbrella I, II, and III will reach 333,570\$.

Agency Response

08 April 2022

Agree. The Agency appreciates the understanding of the GEF secretariat and reviewer on the related high demand and related cost of implementing the EA. The total amount of 333,500\$ for the 6 Umbrella Projects will be able to cover the staff cost of the 6 umbrella projects and the physical support needed by parties during convention bodies' meetings.

Co-financing

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

April 7, 2022

NA for an Enabling Activity.

Agency Response

GEF Resource Availability

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response

Are they within the resources available from:

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response
The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
NA

Agency Response
Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response
Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

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 Yes

Agency Response

Gender equality and women's empowerment.

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response

Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
April 7, 2022

We agreed with the terms of these enabling activities and their amounts.

Cleared.

Agency Response

Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP

Country endorsement

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
May 5, 2022

Point taken. Addressed.

April 7, 2022

Yes, 20 letters of endorsement are available.

Agency Response

05 May 2022

Response to comment no. 3: On Letters of Endorsement:

UNEP sent out requests for updated letters of endorsement signed by the current GEF OFPs of the following Countries: Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, and Moldova. UNEP continues to follow up with the Countries in obtaining updated letters of endorsement signed by the current GEF Operational Focal Points.

UNEP assures the GEF Secretariat that no project activity will be starting in the countries that will not have sent in updated letters of endorsement signed by the current GEF OFPs, or at least an email message from them approving the request for these enabling activities. This means that those countries that will not have availed updated letters of endorsement or emails of confirmation for the project from the current GEF

Operational Focal Points, will not sign small-scale funding agreements with UNEP to access the funds.

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment NA

Agency Response

April 22, 2022, Comments from the Control Quality

1. Other Executing Partners ? Type: UNCCD National Focal Points is not an institution ? we saw several letters mentioning the Ministry where the OFP is located, so it would be accurate to mention ?Ministries? instead of UNCCD National Focal Points: however, this could make the list unmanageable. Being the other two executing partners (The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat) non-governmental organizations, please ask the Agency to (i) remove UNCCD National Focal Points; (ii) leave The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat; (iii) add ?others?; and (iv) in the Executing Partner Type change ?Government? for ?Other?.

2. On Project Information: please request the agency to correct the expected completion date to 5/15/2024 in order to meet the stipulated duration (24 months).

4. Letters of Endorsement (LoEs): as stipulated in the Milestones section of the portal, this project was submitted on April 6 2022. Kindly note that per Guidelines, the LoEs have to be signed by the official OFP at the time of the project submission. Out of the 20 letters, 4 of them were signed by an OFP who was not the official OFP by the time of submission: Guyana, Honduras, Mexico and Moldova. Below you will find the details. Please ask the Agency to either get ne LoEs or obtain an email from the official OFP (in the column ?Current OFP?), so the email can be uploaded in Portal. The Country Relations Team can help with this.

Agency Response: 05 May 2022

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Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
May 5, 2022

The project is recommended for CEO approval.

April 22, 2022, from the Control Quality

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April 12, 2022

The CEO approval of the Umbrella III EA project is recommended.

April 7, 2022

Please, address the item 1, part I, about the table A.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	4/7/2022	4/8/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/12/2022	5/5/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/22/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/5/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations