

Strengthening institutional and technical capacities for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Bhutan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10669

Countries

Bhutan

Project Name

Strengthening institutional and technical capacities for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Bhutan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

10/15/2021

Review completed by PM

1/19/2022

Program Manager

Namrata Rastogi

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

MSP

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

11/1/2021: Yes, the project remains aligned with the PIF.

12/13/2021: Please ensure that Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency is marked here under Taxonomy.

1/19/2022: Cleared.

1/25/22: Under project information, please set the expected implementation start date to a future date. Currently it says 1/1/2022.

1/31/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE: 13 Dec

The Taxonomy section has been updated accordingly.

RE: 25 Jan

The start date has been updated accordingly.

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

11/1/2021: Yes, the project structure and design are appropriate. However, no co-financing amount for M&E has been filled in. Please revise.

12/13/2021: This has been completed but the co-financing amount seems high for the M&E component. Please clarify and confirm.

1/19/2022: Cleared.

1/25/2022: In Table B, under M&E, the expected outputs and outcomes are missing. Please add.

1/31/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE: 13 Dec

We have updated the M&E project budget by mainly reducing the MTR budget. Although MSPs do not require MTR, we consider that conducting an MTR will greatly benefit the project, especially since this CBIT project is the first FAO-GEF project. As the project budget for MTR has been reduced, the co-financing will complement to ensure the project benefit full review as well as maintaining regular supervision of the project by the government. However, the required M&E co-financing has been reassessed and has now been reduced from USD 150,000 to USD 100,000. This amount represents an estimate of the portion of co-financing that will contribute to the project's M&E tasks.

RE: 25 Jan

Table B has been updated accordingly based on the results framework.

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

11/1/2021: In the co-financing letter from the NEC, under the first bullet (and in the table where relevant) please state that the grant funding will be from the Green Climate Fund (as per the CEO approval document). Also specify the timeframe over which the in-kind co-financing will be provided.

12/13/2021: As indicated by the Agency, this still needs to be submitted. Also note that under Table C - Recipient Country Government it says NEC and other government agencies. Please name these agencies if they are to provide co-financing and upload the letters accordingly. If it is only the NEC, then please delete the phrase "and other government agencies".

1/19/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

The revised co-financing letter will be submitted shortly as discussed with the GEF reviewer.

RE: 13 Dec

The revised co-financing letter has been uploaded, and Table C has been updated to show only NEC as a co-financier.

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

11/1/2021: Yes, this is an overall cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives. However, the column for "Total" which comes after "Fees" is missing in this table. Please revise.

12/13/2021: This has been addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

Consulted the GEF IT team as the issue is related to a system error.

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

11/1/2021: Yes. However, as mentioned above, the column for "Total" which comes after "Fees" is missing in this table. Please revise.

12/13/2021: Please work with ITS to ensure that the "Total" is filled. This is still incomplete.

1/19/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

Consulted with the GEF IT team to resolve the system error.

RE 13 Dec:

We have been following up with the GEF IT team and hope this will be addressed in due course.

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 11/1/2021: Yes, this is sufficient.

Agency Response

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

11/1/2021: Yes, this has been sufficiently elaborated in the description.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/1/2021: Yes, this has been well described.

Agency Response

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

11/1/2021: Please elaborate on the following:

1. It is essential that the establishment of systems etc. under outcomes 2 and 3 builds solid national capacity and build ownership. We note the mention of building partnerships/collaborations with institutes and relevant stakeholders, specifically under Output 1.1.2. However, we encourage the project to be more ambitious, especially in outcomes 2 and 3 to build national capacity and anchor the CBIT project to a university, conduct wider national training, and reduce the dependence on international consultants. To build ownership, one approach would be where there sectoral information is reviewed to ensure alignment with the EIMS, the project instead allows the sectors to come up with the proposal rather than relying on international consultants. Please also review the budget (and see note in the Institutional Arrangement section in the portal).

2. Output 1.1.1: Please clarify how institutional arrangements will be formalized. We note that the Project Results Framework mentions ToRs, inter-agency agreements/procedures. It is essential the this project builds these arrangements that outlive the life of this project and has political buy-in. In that context, please clarify in this section how the institutional arrangements will be formalized and what innovative ways may be used/explored - such as

MoUs, executive order by the Cabinet, regular reporting to the NEC by various agencies etc.

3. Output 1.1.2: We welcome this outcome of the project where partnerships will be identified and established with a key research and training institute. Please provide additional details and further clarity on how this project will further support this partnership. Please provide details on what is envisioned, and which domestic institutes may fit this role and how partnerships with institutes outside Bhutan may be established. Potential partnerships with Royal University of Bhutan, UWICER and Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea may be explored. Also, provide clarity on this partnership be supported beyond this project. Innovative ways of funding such as dedicated funding may be allocated for such partnership activities.

4. Output 1.1.3: Comment on the role of the National Statistics Bureau for this outcome and how it will work in cooperation with the NEC.

5. Outcome 1.2: As stated, the outcome of this is to "strengthen knowledge and capacities for the generation and use of transparency information in policy processes". In that context, Output 1.2.1 is not clear. Based on the current description it seems that the data protocols will be informed by the gender baseline study. Please clarify. We recommend capacity building/training to focus on the generation of data and information and its use for policy and then for the gender element to be mainstreamed to ensure that gender is considered, equal opportunities provided and empowered to influence policy decisions.

6. Output 1.2.3: Either here, or in the previous section, please provide details on what the existing system and guideline to track/tag climate change financing is, and what gaps have been identified so far in this context. Since this output is based on strengthening the current system, please provide additional information on whether the elements of this strengthened system has already been identified - if so what this may entail, if not, then would an analysis be needed to identify those.

7. Output 1.2.4: Comment on how CBIT-AFOLU and/or CBIT forest will be engaged in this output.

8. Output 2.1.3: Please provide additional detail on what is envisioned in this output - is this an IT-enabled/web-enabled system, or an excel based sheet?

9. Output 2.1.5: Para 99. Please clarify if this output is directly related to preparation of BTR. The CBIT resources are for enhancing ETF, for specific BTR preparation GEF resources are provided through EAs. Please clarify this output accordingly.

12/13/2021: We acknowledge the explanations provided in this section. While several comments have been addressed we would like to ensure that the CBIT project contributes to robust national ownership and capacity building within the government/country. In this context, please address remaining comments:

-In the Budget (detailed budget) under Contracts, #5 and all the sub-items under this, we would like to emphasize the importance of national capacity building and would like to

encourage the Agency to consider other means of issuing the work apart from ?Contracts?. For example, funding for the development of country emissions factors could be used for a research grant for a Bhutanese university/student(s) to develop.

- Similarly, in annex H, Output 1.1.2 - #2 - Carry out continuous capacity building and knowledge creation on the GHG inventory, compilation and reporting for training providers and researcher. We see this as an important element and would like to emphasize that the continuous capacity building and knowledge creation through the partnership with an outside institute, has direct linkages to a Bhutanese university. Please provide comments on how this may be incorporated.

- In Annex H, Output 1.1.2 - Establish a formal partnership with an institute outside of Bhutan (still to be determined). It is not clear which part is "to be determined". Please confirm that the CBIT project will indeed result in a formal partnership and it is the ?institute outside of Bhutan? that still needs to be determined.

1/19/2022: This has been explained. Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

1. The point on reducing dependence on international consultants and building national capacity is well taken. We agree that this should be the main aim of the project. Nevertheless, during the PPG consultations, it was identified that there is still a need to bring in international experts to deliver some of the capacity building in these very technical areas. However, the idea is that after completion of the CBIT project, future reports would be prepared mostly with national experts' support, including experts from the national universities. Additionally, the need for international consultants will be carefully reassessed during implementation in close collaboration with NEC, and the budget would be reallocated to other budget lines if deemed feasible.

The capacity building function of the international experts has been further clarified, in particular in Annex H (work plan) and Annex L (terms of reference) of the Project Document. Additionally, the following task is already included in the terms of reference of the National GHG Inventory and Capacity Development Officer (see Annex L of the ProDoc): ?Identify capacity building needs for training programme under all project outputs and provide technical support to build national capacity, in close consultation with the research and training institutes identified under Output 1.1.2.?

The terms of reference of the International Experts have also been clarified. One of the tasks involves to ?Lead and supervise the work of the national project team and contribute to building national capacity under these outputs.?

Regarding anchoring the CBIT project to a university: During the PPG consultations, it was identified that the CBIT project should be first and foremost anchored in the various sectoral institutions/agencies who have been involved in previous UNFCCC reporting processes and have relevant mandates. In line with this, budget is allocated in Annex A2

(budget) to the various sectors through sub-contracts. However, the foreseen partnership with university(ies) under Output 1.1.2 is also a key element of the CBIT project. Responsibilities for implementation have been further clarified in Annex H of the Project Document (work plan, see column 'Responsible?'), including the role of the sector agencies and the involvement of universities.

As described in the CEO ER, under the GCF NAP project collaboration has been initiated with Sherubtse College, the College of Natural Resources and the Wangchuck Institute to establish a Center of Excellence for Climate Change. Potential partner institutes for the CBIT project include the following:

(1) Royal University of Bhutan

- College of Natural Resources
- College of Science and Technology
- Sherubtse College (in particular, for soil analysis and soil carbon estimates)

(2) Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER) (in particular for forests, forest inventory).

Exact modalities for the collaboration with universities will be determined during project implementation, as part of Output 1.1.2. A budget line on 'LOA with research institute(s) on knowledge creation and capacity building' is already included in the current budget. This output is meant not only to ensure involvement of academia/research institutions during the CBIT project, but also beyond to ensure that national expertise is built for the future.

Regarding the EIMS, it has been clarified in Annex H of the Project Document and in the alternative scenario section that this will be done under the lead and ownership of NEC and relevant sectors/agencies. The national and international consultants will only ensure coordination and provide technical inputs based on experiences from other countries. In Annex H (work plan), it has been clarified that the process will be 'coordinated by the NPC and supported by the International Climate Transparency Expert, with close ownership by NEC and sectors/agencies.'

2. Additional information has been added in the alternative scenario section to explain that the institutional arrangements will be formalized beyond the CBIT project duration through inter-agency agreements/MOUs, procedures, and/or revised Terms of Reference.

Annex H (work plan) and the alternative scenario section also note that the project will formalize enhanced institutional arrangements, mandates and procedures within and among sectors through the following:

- Develop data collection, compilation, analysis, archiving and sharing mechanisms/protocols among agencies at national and subnational level (including through inter-agency agreements/MOUs)
- Strengthen linkages with NSB for SEEA reporting with clear ToR

- Strengthen and expand NTWG on climate change
- Identify additional focal points from all relevant agencies, including both technical staff and decision-makers.
- Develop clear Terms of Reference for focal points, including knowledge sharing within their sector or agency and system of proper handing over responsibilities to successor/s.
- Establish data sharing protocols and confidentiality pacts with the private sector (in particular, industry) for providing activity data
- Establish institutional arrangement for the National Forest Monitoring System with respect to GHG inventory and REDD+ (DOF)
- Institute a Climate Change Support Program Cell at DOL with dedicated staff (DOL) (through technical assistance ? salary costs to be borne by the department)

3. As explained above and in the CEO ER, under the GCF NAP project collaboration has been initiated with Sherubste College, the College of Natural Resources and the Wangchuck Institute to establish a Center of Excellence for Climate Change. Potential partner institutes for the CBIT project include the following:

(1) Royal University of Bhutan

- College of Natural Resources
- College of Science and Technology
- Sherubtse College (in particular, for soil analysis and soil carbon estimates)

(2) Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER) (in particular for forests, forest inventory).

Exact modalities for the collaboration with universities will be determined during project implementation, as part of Output 1.1.2. A budget line on ?LOA with research institute(s) on knowledge creation and capacity building? is already included in the current budget. This output is meant not only to ensure involvement of academia/research institutions during the CBIT project, but also beyond to ensure that national expertise is built for the future.

As explained in the CEO ER, Output 1.1.2 may also involve linking local universities with reputable institutes outside of Bhutan, to learn from their experiences and expertise. A note has been added in Output 1.1.2 description (alternative scenario section) that the project will aim to establish a formal partnership with an institute outside of Bhutan (still to be determined). However, this is to be discussed during implementation as part of the stakeholder consultations under Output 1.1.2. The Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Center of Korea has provided some earlier training on GHG inventory to Bhutan and other countries. This will be further explored during implementation.

4. As described in the alternative scenario section, NSB (along with the sector agencies) will be involved in the gap analysis and development of enhanced institutional arrangements under Output 1.1.1. In particular, as explained in Annex H (work plan), the project aims to identify and strengthen linkages with NSB for SEEA reporting, with clear ToR. This is to ensure that relevant data is shared with both NEC and NSB.

Similarly, under Output 1.1.3, the project aims to establish linkages of the EIMS with NSB. As described in Annex H (work plan), the project will ?Establish clear mandates and budget for the maintenance and future development of the EIMS, including interface with NSB, relevant sector agencies and research institutes.?

Finally, under Output 2.1.1, the project will identify correspondence of existing data with SEEA air emissions accounts, of relevance to NSB.

5. The following adjustments have been made/are proposed:

Previous Output 1.2.2 ?Interventions in priority areas of the LEDS/LTS supported.? is now Output 1.2.1 and has been revised as follows:

?Priority areas of the LEDS/LTS and other policy processes supported through the use of data and information generated under Components 1 and 2.? The Output description has been revised accordingly in the alternative scenario section.

Output 1.2.1 on gender is now Output 1.2.2 and has been reworded as follows: ?Gender data and information generated, analysed and framework to mainstream gender aspects into ETF reporting and future NDC updates developed.?

In this way, the Outputs under Outcome 1.2 more clearly contribute to strengthening knowledge and capacities for the generation and use of transparency information in policy processes.

6. Some initial consultations were held during PPG and it was identified that GNHC has an existing system to track funds received and spent. Also, the Ministry of Finance has an existing system for budget release and tracking. However, the linkages with the ETF reporting and related gaps have not yet been established.

Hence, the following has been added in Output 1.2.3 description in the alternative scenario section and Annex H (work plan): ?Conduct a gap analysis to identify the needs for strengthening existing finance tracking systems and link them with ETF reporting.?

7. The following has been added in Output 1.2.4 description and in the Knowledge Management section:

?Lessons learned will be shared with other LDC and middle/upper income countries through various international fora such as the LDC Consortium in Asia, the regional CBIT network, and the global AFOLU ETF network. Bhutan has participated in several capacity building activities of the global CBIT projects (including CBIT-AFOLU and CBIT-Forest) and will continue to be engaged until their completion. The Bhutan CBIT project will build closely on the outcomes and lessons learned of the global CBIT projects, in particular with

regard to knowledge products and training materials/ webinars produced under these projects.?

Additionally, lessons learned from the global CBIT projects on the carbon sink capacity of grasslands and their management will also be taken into account. A point on the sink capacity of grasslands has been added in the work plan (Annex H of the ProDoc).

8. . It is envisaged that the System for NDC tracking would be an IT-/web-enabled system. In Annex H (work plan), it is specified under Output 1.1.3 that the development of the EIMS will also include the System for NDC tracking. This has now also been added in Output 1.1.3 description of the alternative scenario section.

Under Outputs 2.1.3 and 3.1.1, the project will develop indicators, standard reporting format and procedures to track implementation and progress in achieving NDC mitigation and adaptation targets in collaboration with all sectors, incl. training materials. The system itself would then be developed as part of Output 1.1.3 (based on the feasibility assessment conducted as part of this Output).

9. Output 2.1.5 wording has been revised as follows:

?Data collected by national and local stakeholders from public and private sectors ~~in preparation of the biennial transparency report (BTR)~~ to build capacity for future ETF reporting?. The reference to the BTR preparation has been removed.

It is noted that while this Output will not directly support the preparation of the BTR (due for submission in 2024) as well as the Fourth National Communication (due in 2025), it will help build capacity among national institutions to support ETF reporting in the future through enhanced data and data collection processes.

RE 13 Dec:

- Regarding Contract #5 and the sub-items under this are meant to be transferred mainly to the relevant government agencies, thus it aims to contribute to building national capacity. Additionally, these government agencies will likely collaborate with national universities/research institutes to implement these budget items (as they have done in the past, such as for forestry). Please note that in line with FAO's Operational Partners Implementation Modality (OPIM), the modality would still be a sub-contract with clear deliverables/outputs (not grants).

- As for Output 1.1.2 #2, the NEC will seek a partnership with Bhutanese university(ies) as one of the sustainability and national capacity building strategies. The following has been added in Annex H, Output 1.1.2 #2:

*?Carry out continuous capacity building and knowledge creation on the GHG inventory, compilation and reporting for training providers and researchers **of Bhutanese universities/research institutes, in collaboration with the selected institute(s) outside of Bhutan.**?*

- NEC and the project have a strong intention to establish such partnership. However, this will be dependent on the discussions to be held at the beginning of project implementation and is, at least partially, outside of the project's control. Thus, we have added the note 'still to be determined'. Primarily, this indeed refers to the institute that is still to be identified, but also partially to the partnership overall, as explained above.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/1/2021: Yes, this is well elaborated.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/1/2021: Yes, the incremental reasoning provided is clear and sufficient.

Agency Response

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

11/1/2021: Yes, this is well described.

Agency Response

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

11/1/2021: Please provide additional details on how this project may be scaled up to (additional sectors, gases etc.) and how the project will be sustainable in the long run.

12/13/2021: The comment has been partially addressed. Please provide information on how the project will be sustainable (especially financially sustainable) in the long term, including systems such as EIMS.

1/19/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

Current text:

?The developed tools and training programs can be used to scale up the capacity and adoption of tools and approaches within relevant institutions at national and sub-national levels. The training programs will aim to reach a broader audience to expand the network of professionals involved in ETF reporting in Bhutan. The project will also engage in exchange and sharing of best practices and lessons learned under the CBIT Global Coordination Platform, contributing to the adoption and scaling of relevant tools, methodologies and approaches in other countries.?

Added the following:

?In particular, the following opportunities for scaling have been identified and will be further explored during implementation:

- ? ***Inventory guidelines and protocols:*** Although the project covers all sectors, it will focus on selected key categories and gases in each sector (such as for the inventory guidelines to be developed under Output 2.1.2). Thus, there is scope to scale up the developed guidelines and systems functionalities beyond the selected key categories and gases.
- ? ***Information systems:*** The data sharing platform/EIMS and sectoral systems will continue to be operated and developed by NEC and sector agencies after the project ends. Wherever possible, the project will develop interoperable platforms to enable sharing of data among agencies. Data sharing with the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) and linkages with SEEA accounting is also expected to be expanded to other sectors once demonstrated by the project in a pilot sector.
- ? ***Capacity building:*** Capacity building and training provided to national and local level stakeholders will be developed as modules that can be adapted to improve data collection methods and analysis across all sectors. Training programs under Outputs 1.1.2, 2.1.4 and 3.1.2 will be institutionalized within sectors as well as the partner universities, enabling the country to further develop national capacity even after the project ends. Because the CBIT project is largely focused on capacity building, there will be potential for scaling up, expanding the program to include more staff, and over time, introduce more advanced material as new technologies for MRV and CCA/CCM emerge.
- ? ***Institutional mechanisms:*** By working through and strengthening the institutional mechanisms in place for transparency of climate change actions, the project will be able to better facilitate this process of scaling out project-developed systems, processes and partnerships. Over time, the enhanced government capacity will lead to regular national reporting on actions to reduce climate change drivers and impacts as envisioned under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.
- ? ***Sharing of lessons within Bhutan and with other countries:*** The project will ensure dissemination of knowledge and experiences generated under the project, including through the partnership with the universities established under Output 1.1.2. The

information and knowledge sharing will directly contribute to the project's goal to build national capacity and awareness on the ETF and its data collection, monitoring and reporting processes. As described above, lessons learned will also be shared with other countries in the region and globally for potential replication in these countries. The project will engage directly with CBIT's global projects to avail of and contribute to opportunities for sharing best practices and lessons learned.?

RE 13 Dec:

The following has been added in the section on sustainability in the CEO ER:

?NEC and the sectors will be able to use/allocate some of their regular budgets and staff to sustain the capacity developed under the project, such as to ensure regular capacity building activities, contributing to future ETF reporting, as well as the use and maintenance of the EIMS and sectoral systems. As described under Output 1.1.3 Activity #3, the project will establish clear mandates and budget for the maintenance and future development of the EIMS, including interface with NSB, relevant sector agencies and research institutes.?

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

11/1/2021: Yes.

Agency Response

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

11/1/2021: A detailed report for stakeholder engagement during the design phase, list of stakeholders and the means of engagement have been provided. This is sufficient.

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

11/1/2021: Yes, a gender analysis and action plan has been provided including gender-sensitive indicators, and expected results. Based on comment in alternative scenario section, this may need to be revised.

12/13/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

Section 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment has been revised in line with the revised Output 1.2.2 as described above.

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

11/1/2021: Yes, this has been provided.

Agency Response

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

11/1/2021: Yes, this has been elaborated upon, including the COVID risk to the project.

Agency Response

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

11/1/2021: We note the role of the NPC is repeated in points #6 and #8 with #6 being with the climate change specialist. If it not fully clear what the division of responsibilities are (#6) and in some cases the responsibilities between #6 and #8 are repeated. Please confirm and edit as needed. It may be helpful to have a table instead that clearly lists the responsibilities of the NPC vs the CC specialist.

We also note the request for minor execution support and the justification. Considering that the aim is to build national capacity, we encourage less dependence on international consultants, and to adopt innovative approaches such as anchoring the project to a university/institute for longer-run sustainability of the project. In this context, please see the comments provided in the alternative section scenario and consider revising this request.

12/13/2021: Based on the responses provided and in the alternative scenario section, this has been cleared. We note that the Agency weill reassess during the implementation of the project and reallocate as appropriate.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

It has been clarified that the NPC and Climate Change Specialist refer to one single position (i.e., the NPC is also a Climate Change Specialist, i.e. has technical expertise).

The terms of reference have been made clearer in Annex L of the ProDoc.

As explained above, the international experts are still considered required, in view of building national capacity and ownership. The real technical needs will be carefully reassessed during implementation and would be reallocated to national experts if considered appropriate.

RE 13 Dec:

Thank you for your feedback. We will monitor and reassess the situation during implementation accordingly.

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

11/1/2021: Please include the LEDS and NAPA in this table.

12/13/2021: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

Added in table (p. 76-77 of ProDoc).

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

11/1/2021: Please provide details on plans to develop and implement a strategic communication plan to ensure outreach and dissemination of project results. Additionally, comment on how this project learns from and builds on relevant previous experience, and how the KM approach will contribute to the project's overall impact. In addition, based on comments provided in the alternative scenario, you may need to revise the budget in the KM section.

12/13/2021: This has been addressed in the KM section of the portal document. Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

An activity has been added in Output 1.2.4 description and in the work plan (Annex H of ProDoc): ?Develop and implement a KM and communications plan to ensure outreach and dissemination of project results.?

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

11/1/2021: This has been described as low.

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

11/1/2021: Yes, this has been provided. However, the amount seems fairly high. Consider revising.

12/13/2021: This is cleared. However note comment in the co-financing section on the co-financing amount for M&E.

1/18/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 1 Nov:

The items under M&E have been reassessed and are listed below. The amounts have been reduced as follows by reducing the MTR to USD 20,000 and by shifting 50% of the KM and M&E Specialist to Output 1.2.4 on KM:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Inception and final workshop | USD 10,000 |
| 2. KM and M&E Specialist | USD 22,500 |
| 3. MTR, TE, and Terminal Report | USD 66,550 |

Total **USD 99,050**

The budget file (Annex A2 uploaded separately in the Portal) has been revised accordingly. An additional change has been made in the budget: The Finance/Admin Officer has been removed (the function will be provided by NEC) and the budget shifted under training.

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

11/1/2021: Yes.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 11/1/2021: Yes, this is adequate.

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/13/2021: In Annex A2 (Detailed Budget) under Contracts, it is not clear why the sub-categories under #5 do not add up, i.e. 5a-5h do not add up to #5. If #5 is meant as separate budget line items it is not clear what #5 aims to do. To say it in a different way, #5 says "Service contracts to support development of inventory guidelines and country-specific emission factors, incl. development of training materials (2.1.2)" i.e. what sector is #5 developing guidelines and country-specific emission factors? This is the same for #2 under contracts. Please clarify.

1/19/2022: This has been clarified. Cleared.

1/25/2022: The CEO Approval document in the portal does not show the detailed project budget (Annex E). Please add this detailed budget in the portal document, and ensure that this is the same as the one in the Prodoc and appended to the Documents tab. Once provided, this will be reviewed and comments provided accordingly.

1/31/2022: This is not cleared. As mentioned above, please provide a detailed budget in Annex E and ensure that this the same as the one in the ProDoc and the Documents Tab. This should have line by line details and not a summary.

2/3/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

RE 13 Dec:

Kindly note that #5 and 5a-5h are separate items so they are not meant to add up (they are grouped together for clarity). #5 is for NEC as the UNFCCC focal point to develop/consolidate guidelines and training materials for all relevant sectors in consultation with other ministries. Items 5a-5h are to support relevant ministries to build their capacities including REDD+ MRV system, soil/fertilizer data collection, cattle breed composition data collection etc. Similarly to #5, the budget line under #2 is separate from 2a-2e. #2 is the main budget line to develop/enhance the EIMS, while 2a-2e refer to specific items/sectoral systems to be developed by NEC and sectors.

A note has been added in the budget, lines 27 (#2) and 35 (#5), to clarify this, as it may have been confusing:

#2: ?Note: This line is for the development of the EIMS. The lines below refer to specific items/sectoral systems related to the EIMS.?

#5: ?Note: This line refers to overall compilation. The lines below refer to individual sectors.?

RE 25 Jan:

A separate detailed budget has been uploaded in the Portal accordingly.

RE 31 Jan:

A detailed budget has been inserted in Annex E accordingly.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 11/1/2021: This has been provided.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 11/1/2021: This has been provided.

Agency Response

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

1/19/2022: PM recommends technical clearance.

1/25/2022: Please address comments above.

1/31/2022: Please address comments above.

2/3/2022: PM recommends technical clearance.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	11/1/2021	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/13/2021	

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/25/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	1/31/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	2/3/2022	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations