



Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10972

Countries

Iraq

Project Name

Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project

Agencies

World Bank

Date received by PM

12/13/2023

Review completed by PM

1/23/2024

Program Manager

Evelyn Swain

Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Project Type

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

Yes, the project is aligned with the PIF.

Agency Response Thank you.

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 Yes, the structure is appropriate and table B well describes the outcomes and outputs.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

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

Co-financing has increased from PIF stage. Co-financing letters are missing. Please upload the co-financing letters.

2/1/24: co-financing letters have been updated.

Agency Response

Thank you.

Co-financing letter uploaded in roadmap. Please note that the \$5million from the Iraq Reform Recovery Reconstruction Fund (I3RF) is included under the letter from the Government of Iraq. The I3RF was established through a multi-donor trust fund at the World bank in 2018 in collaboration with the Government of Iraq and thereby needs the approval to the government to use those funds.

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 Yes, the financing table is appropriate.

Agency Response Thank you.

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 PPG was not utilized and will be returned to the GEF.

Agency Response Thank you.

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 Core indicators remain the same as at PIF.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes this is well elaborated.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes, this is well elaborated.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes, the alternative scenario is sounds.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

NA

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, stakeholder engagement is provided.

Agency Response Thank you.

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, gender analysis is provided.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes, private sector engagement is included.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes, risks are elaborated.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes, institutional arrangements are provided.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes, this project is consistent with the NIP.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request PO reviewed the CEO endorsement for FSP ID 10972 ? Iraq and please find below our consolidated

comments:

1. On Stakeholder Engagement (comment provided by Gabriella): It is noted in the SEP and in the portal section on stakeholder engagement that the project has consulted with local communities and that it envisages an important role of academia, non-governmental organizations and civil society. The project however does not at this stage provide any details on who they have consulted in this stakeholder group and or names of organizations and groups that will be consulted and engaged in the project. Please ask agency to provide further information.

2. On Knowledge Management (comment provided by Yasemin): The agency is requested to ensure that the CEO Endorsement document and the KM annex are connected and consistent with each other. Please include in the CEO Endorsement document a brief KM&L section that provides a brief explanation of how the project will address KM&L, how it is learning from previous lessons/good practice and how it will capture and share lessons during implementation (with reference to the KM annex for details), including a description of the project's communication plan. Please also specify which project components implement which KM&L deliverables; and clarify the budget and implementation timeline for key KM&L activities/deliverables across all components, including training, project website, dissemination and communications. This can be done by including a simple table either in the KM&L section of the CEO Endorsement document or in the KM annex. Finally, please complete the project's results framework by including all key KM&L deliverables (not just staff training)..

3. On Gender (comment provided by Verona): As per GEF guidance, gender equality considerations should be mainstreamed throughout the project, including in the project description and in the project components and outputs. There is no linkage made to gender issues in the project description and in the indicative table. For example, there are relevant gender dimensions with respect to outputs 1.3, 1.4, 2., and Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2. Please ensure and reflect in the project women's representation and participation in stakeholders meetings, capacity training, task force established, etc. Please include the reporting on the Gender Action Plan under The Gender Action Plan should also be designed to address the gender inequalities that the project will address. The Gender Action Plan should also be designed to address the gender inequalities relevant to the project.

4. On core indicator (comment provided by Omid): Please include GEF core indicators 9 and 11 and their targets explicitly in the results framework (annex a). They are mandatory at the CEO endorsement.

5. On Co-financing (comment provided by Omid): Please submit the Co-financing support letters ? they are currently not available.

6. On GEO Location Information (comment provided by Omid): Fields related to the geo location of project activities are empty. Please add the location of project activities, location name, latitude, longitude, Geo Name ID (if applicable), and other relevant information in the dedicated fields.

7. On project information: please request the agency to update the duration to meet the expected implementation/completion dates.

8. On the budget:

- a. Auditor should not be charged to the M&E budget but rather to the PMC
- b. ?salaries and benefits for all personnel who will be working on the project? is not an adequate way to describe the activity. We request the agency to update the description and explain each position and the work that will be done in the component.

Agency Response

Thank you.

1. A specific Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) (included in project roadmap) was prepared for the project in line with the ?Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)? requirements of the Bank and has been approved. Preparation of this plan involved two rounds of formal consultations (Baghdad and Kurdistan) and informal meetings/ consultations with various stakeholders totaling about 40 people. Detailed list of stakeholders consulted is provided in Appendix 1 and 2 of this SEP. Important of them include Salahddin University, Dowbz Organization for environment protection, Million Trees Association, Rwanq Foundation, Iraq Chemist Unit, Iraq Red Cross Society, Al Faya company, along with number of government representatives.

In addition, as explained in (i) para 18 of the PAD, the federal co-ordination committee for NIP will include representatives from NGO/CSOs, academia and Civil Society, (ii) para 63 of the PAD, a functional Grievance Mechanism will also be established for the project which will serve as another medium of communication with stakeholders in addition to receiving complaints.

Para 49 of the PAD further explains the proposed approach for stakeholders and citizens engagement by the project. As explained in this section, stakeholders of primary relevance will be continuously consulted and involved given their interest and potential influence on the project. Among those stakeholders are,

(i) Civil society and nongovernmental organizations which may have in-depth knowledge about the environmental and social issues that may affect project design and implementation. They may also be knowledgeable

of the project areas and the nearby populations, and can help play a role in identifying risks, potential impacts, and opportunities to consider and address. Some of the environmental NGOs working at the national level on issues related to chemicals and waste management include but are not limited to the following: Dowbz Organization for environment protection, Million Trees Association, Rwanq Foundation, Iraq Chemist Unit, Iraq Red Cross Society.

(ii) Academia: Iraq is recognized for having strong academic institutions, many of which conduct research in the field of chemicals and waste management. These include the University of Baghdad, University of Mosul, Tishk International University and University of Babylon.

All these measures will serve as effective means of stakeholder engagement by the project.

2. Updated table in the KM&L annex with information requested has been uploaded in the roadmap.

3. The project has carried out Gender Assessment and Gender Action Plan (uploaded in roadmap) in line with GEF and ?Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)? requirements of the Bank and has been approved. Linkage to gender issues is provided in para 4, para 17, 18, para 36 of PAD and a dedicated section on proposed Gender actions are explained (para 47 and 48) of the PAD. Additional details provided under project description and in the project components and outputs.

In addition to mainstreaming gender actions in the project, the following specific actions are proposed (i) integration of gender dimensions in the policies and regulations to be developed for POPs and hazardous chemicals, (ii) facilitate women empowerment by ensuring equitable representation of women (at least 30 percent) in key decision making bodies such as National Co-ordination Committee for the implementation NIPs and Project Steering Committee (iii) ensure integration of risk reduction measures in the design and implementation of project activities to avoid the adverse effects of chemicals on the health of men and women through focused consultations with different groups, (iv) collecting and analyzing gender disaggregated data in identifying direct beneficiaries of the project and also in all studies/ activities supported by the project, so that project interventions are gender informed and (v) promoting equal opportunities to women by ensuring employment of women in the PMU and other agencies likely to work on the project.

4. The project includes both the above core indicators of GEF. PDO indicator #1 in the results framework is GEF Core Indicator 9 and PDO indicator #4 in the results framework is GEF Core Indicator 11. As explained in the M&E section of the results framework and para 14 of the PAD the gender disaggregated data on project beneficiaries will be collected and this will comprise about 49 percent of women beneficiaries (3,430,000). This has also been updated in the Results framework of the PAD.

5. Co-financing letter has now been uploaded in the roadmap.

6. Main geolocations added in the specified fields. Further detailed geo-referenced coordinates of all sites within specific governates/regions are available in the project CEO Endorsement template.

7. The project is expected to start implementation by September 15, 2024 (after approval in March and effectiveness in September, 2024) and will complete all activities by June 28, 2030. The GEF portal doesn't allow agencies to update project duration. The new project duration is 70 months.

8. Revised budget table uploaded in the roadmap.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes. PPG was not used and will be returned.

Agency Response Thank you.

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes.

Agency Response Thank you.

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

NA

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 NA

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 NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

CEO endorsement is recommended.

ES, 2/1/24: Comments have been addressed. CEO Endorsement is recommended.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	1/23/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)	2/1/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

This project will improve management of Obsolete Pesticides, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Iraq through policy, regulatory and institutional actions, and safe disposal of targeted stockpiles of pesticides, POPs and PCBs. The project will also update National Implementation Plan (NIP) for POPs and completed and system for tracking and management of pesticides. A national inventory of

transformers will be completed and system for tracking and management of PCBs will be set up. POPs and POPs waste will be destroyed, disposed, or contained in an environmentally sound manner. The project will result in global environmental benefits, including 1,000 tons of PCBs and lindane disposed and 3,000 tons of POPs containing materials avoided.