



Elaboration of Combined Third National Communication (NC3) and first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11317

Countries

Venezuela

Project Name

Elaboration of Combined Third National Communication (NC3) and first Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

7/14/2023

Review completed by PM

8/3/2023

Program Manager

Patricia Marcos Huidobro

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

EA

Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Section I - Enabling Activity Summary

Funding elements.

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF funding elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF-8 Programming Directions? Is the General Enabling Activity Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 8.3.2023:

Cleared.

PM 7.17.2023:

No. This project is aligned with the GEF-8 climate change focal area strategy. However, the following information is missing in the General Enabling Activity Information table:

- "Type of Report(s)". Please add the following type of reports: UNFCCC Biennial Transparency Report/National Communication (BTR/NC)

- "Expected Report Submission to Convention". Please add the expected submission date for the combined BTR1/NC3.

Agency's Comments

07.27.2023

Thank you very much for noting this. The type of report and expected submission date have been included.

Cost Ranges.

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

Secretariat's Comments

PM 8.3.2023:

Cleared.

PM 7.14.2023:

No. The project is within the cost range. However, as per Information Note GEF/C.62/Inf.15 - <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>, kindly note the project can access up to US 633,000 for a combined BTR/NC. If the agency decides to update the GEF financing from US 632,190 to US 633,000, please make sure the Letter of Endorsement and the Agency Fee are also updated accordingly.

Agency's Comments

07.27.2023

Thank you for the comment. No changes are required.

Enabling activity summary.

Is the enabling activity summary clear? Are the components in Table B and as described in the enabling activity request sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objectives?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 9.16.2023:

Cleared.

PM 8.19.2023:

No. Please address the following comment on gender: On the Steering Committee membership, while it is acknowledged that 50% of the Project Team member will be women, please include gender experts in the Project Team to ensure that gender perspectives will be considered by the project. Please replace references to gender-sensitive to gender-responsive in 3.1.1, 3.2.1 and 4.1.1. Gender-responsive is the appropriate reference for something that requires action or concrete outcome, for example: gender-responsive planning, management, capacity-building efforts, institutional strengthening. Gender-sensitive is applicable mostly to data or awareness-raising, sensitization efforts. For 3.1.2, suggest rephrasing as follows: Design of gender-responsive tools for monitoring? (or similar wording).

PM 7.17.2023:

No. Please address the following comments:

- *BTR Modality.* Please confirm the type of BTR modality to be used out of the three modalities as identified in Information Note <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15> . We understand Modality 2 "Combined BTR/NC" is the one proposed. If so, please clarify this and update the terminology across the proposal by adding "combined BTR1/NC3" (including in the title of the proposal).

- Similar to comment above, kindly note that a "combined BTR/NC" consists in just one report which combines the information required under both a BTR and a NC, and takes advantage of the areas in common between a BTR and NC. For further information on the elements of a combined BTR/NC report, please see Table 2 in Information Note <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15> In this regard, please update the proposal accordingly, for instance consider merging outputs 5.1. and 5.2.

- *Other related activities/regulations.* Please list the most relevant ETF related activities in Venezuela along with key baseline projects, programs and policies, including for instance more information on the SINAICC and existing MRV systems in the country (if any).

- Under section C "Eligibility Criteria" please consider adding information on the number of NCs submitted so far by Venezuela and their respective approval dates. We understand no BUR has been submitted to date. Please consider adding this information on the proposal as well.

- *Adaptation Communication*. Parties may submit an adaptation communication as a component of, or in conjunction with, a BTR. Please clarify in the proposal whether Venezuela is expected to submit its Adaptation Communication in conjunction with BTR1.

- *Stakeholders*. Please consider adding a list of project's stakeholders, including the role each of them is expected to have in the project and their means of engagement. This list shall include private sector, NGOs, academia and financial institutions.

- Please add #6 before component "Monitoring progress in the implementation and achievement of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)".

Agency's Comments

09.15.2023

Thank you for the comments which are appreciated. The suggestions have been accepted and integrated into the project, including a gender expert in the project team. Draft ToRs are in Annex K of the Agency project document.

07.27.2023

Thank you for the comments.

1. We confirm that Modality 2 is the one proposed, and references have been updated accordingly across the project.
2. Well noted. The results framework and budget have been updated as suggested to better reflect the elaboration of a combined report.
3. A description of the current situation in the country has been added to the summary.
4. Noted. The Eligibility Criteria section has been updated.
5. Venezuela will not submit an adaptation communication in conjunction with BTR1. This has been included into the Enabling Activity summary section.
6. Annex G of the Agency Project Document contains a list of the project's stakeholders, their anticipated roles within the project, and their respective engagement methods. The Annex has been uploaded separately into the portal for easy reference.

7. Thank you, this was a typo and has been corrected.

Section 2 - Enabling Activity Supporting Information

Eligibility Criteria.

Is this enabling activity eligible for GEF funding?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Institutional framework.

Are the institutional arrangements for implementation adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 9.16.2023:

Cleared. An explanation on the type of execution support to be provided by FAO has been included in the CEO Approval document.

PM 8.19.2023:

Request for clarification. A Letter of request from Venezuela for FAO to carry out some executing activities has been submitted under the Documents section of the GEF Portal. However, the CEO Approval document is silence on this. In this regard, please note that the GEF Guidelines states (see footnote 78 on the attached document): *?Before obtaining the GEF OFP?s letter of support, the Agency should contact the Secretariat to explore the feasibility of such request?.* Therefore, in addition to the attached letter of support, we would be grateful if you can please send the GEF(you can send it to Patricia Marcos at pmarcoshuidobro@thegef.org) a formal email with this request, including a more detailed justification on why this execution support is needed and the total estimated budget for the support provided.

As you know, execution support services is not a common approach at the GEF and it is only approved in exceptional cases. For your information, we are attaching below an excerpt of our guidelines.

In the exceptional cases where a GEF Agency carries out both implementation and execution functions of projects, the GEF Agency must separate its project implementation and execution duties and establish each of the following:

(a) A satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Agency; and

(b) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and accountability within the GEF Agency between the project implementation and execution functions.

This separation helps ensure the segregation of accountability and financial management roles, in light of the accountability of the GEF Agency to supervise the entity carrying out project/program execution. Segregation of duties is to be maintained in the following areas, at a minimum: settlement processing, procurement processing, risk management/reconciliations and accounting. Related roles and duties of the separate responsible units within the Agency are subject to a regular review by Agency management and action by the Agency is required when discrepancies and exceptions are noted.

PM 7.14.2023:

No. Please address the following comments:

- This section plans to hire two technical coordinators, one for the development of the NC and another one for the development of the BTR. In line with comment above on the combined BTR/NC modality, please consider re-arranging the composition of the PMU to reflect the fact that just one report, combining BTR and NC elements, will be submitted to the UNFCCC. Please also update the budget accordingly.
- The "Monitoring & Evaluation" section mentions a Lead Technical Officer. This figure hasn't been included in the Institutional Framework section, and it is unclear his/her role.
- Overall, this section needs to be strengthened by adding more information on the composition of the SC and the PMR, including a detailed list of their responsibilities.

Agency's Comments

09.15.2023

Well noted, the agency has contacted Patricia Marcos as requested to provide further context and detail on the request received from the GEF Operational Focal Point of Venezuela.

The CEO approval document has been also updated with mention to the arrangement, which was previously included the Agency Project Document.

07.27.2023

Thank you for the comments.

1. PMU composition and associated budget has been revised to consider only one Executive Coordinator covered by the project and one combined report. MINEC as executing entity will nominate two members from their general directorate of climate change who will lead technically the project. An explanation has been included into this section.

2. Thank you and well noted. The Lead Technical Officer from FAO is central in the role of technical backstopping as implementing agency. A brief description has been included, and more detail is provided in Annex I of the Agency Project Document.

3. The section has been expanded and more detail provided on the composition of the different key roles.

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 9.16.2023:

Cleared.

PM 8.3.2023:

No. The GEF team notes this section has been further strengthened. However, it is missing a M&E table with all the activities identified and their estimated budget (if any) for each of them. This table shall match the M&E activities already identified in the budget table.

PM 7.14.2023:

No. Overall this section needs to be further strengthened to list all the monitoring and evaluation activities to be developed under the project. Please add a M&E table with all the activities identified and their estimated budget (if any) for each of them. This shall match the M&E activities identified in the budget table.

Agency's Comments

09.15.2023

Noted, a M&E table and estimated budget has been included as requested.

07.27.2023

This section has been updated to better describe the different monitoring and evaluation activities to be carried out during the Enabling Activity implementation.

Section 3. Information Tables

GEF resource availability.

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

PM 8.3.2023:

Cleared.

PM 7.17.2023:

Yes, with suggestions. Please see comment above on cost-range.

Agency Response

07.27.2023

Thank you for the comment, as mentioned previously, no changes are being made.

Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

SCCF (Adaptation or Tech Transfer)?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

Yes. This is in line with Information Note

GEF/C.62/Inf.15 - <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Rio Markers.

Are the Rio Markers for CCM ,CCA, BD and LD presented?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Country endorsement.

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point at the time of the EA submission and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database? Are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in Portal

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

Yes. The project has been endorsed by the country's GEF OFP and the endorsed amounts are consistent with the amounts in the Portal.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Response to Comments

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

Gef Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Council comments

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

STAP comments

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

CSOs comments

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

N/A.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

Project Budget Table.

Is the project budget table attached? Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 9.16.2023:

Cleared.

PM 8.19.2023:

No. The GEF noticed that budget table misses the column of the responsible entity. Please include it when resubmitting.

PM 7.17.2023:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

09.15.2023

Noted, a column indicating the responsible entity has been included.

Environmental and Social Safeguards.

**If there are screening documents or other ESS documents available, have these been attached?
(only as applicable)**

Secretariat's Comments

PM 7.17.2023:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

N/A.

**GEFSEC DECISION
RECOMMENDATION.**

Is CEO endorsement/ approval recommended?

Secretariat's Comments

PM 9.16.2023:

Cleared. The project is recommended for further processing.

PM 8.19.2023:

No. Please address comments identified above.

PM 7.17.2023:

No. Please address comments identified above.

REVIEW DATE(S)

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat comments**

First Review
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)