

Global Opportunities for the Long-term Development of ASGM (GOLD+) in the Republic of the Congo

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10619

Countries

Congo

Project Name

Global Opportunities for the Long-term Development of ASGM (GOLD+) in the Republic of the Congo

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

3/10/2022

Review completed by PM

4/11/2022

Program Manager

Anil Sookdeo

Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

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

Yes

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 Yes

Agency Response

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

Co-financing has been confirmed. Please clarify what type of co-financing is the cofinancing provided by Kian Smith Refiners which is stated as "other".

March 29, 2022 - Comment cleared.

Agency Response

Kian Smith Refiners has an existing initiative called *West Africa ASGM Sourcing* where an earmarked fund is used to directly purchase gold from trusted ASGM actors in the region. The institution would like to partner with the planetGOLD Congo child project in order to increase its presence in the country and to channel the project's access to finance efforts towards a positive outcome. In this regard, the company offered cash co-financing support of USD 5,000,000. The type of co-financing has been modified in the portal.

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

Agency Response

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 The PPG utilization has been provided.

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 Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

Agency Response

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

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes. This project is part of the planetGOLD program and has been designed to be scaled to achieve phase out of mercury use over time.

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

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

Yes. The child project is aligned with the planetGOLD program impacts.

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

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

Agency Response
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

Agency Response
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
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

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

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

PPO comments: Child project to be returned to the Agency due to:

1. On Project Information: please correct the expected completion date to 6/30/2027 in order to meet the duration of 60 months.

2. Co-financing:

- 3 Ministries? co-financing letters: unable to locate English translated co-financing letters. Please submit English translated co-financing letters.

- ARM: change ?grant? to ?in-kind? (as the baseline projects referred in the co-financing letters have been completed).

3. On the M&E Budget: the total that appears in the M&E budget (13,000 +13,500+20,000+40,000 = 86,500) does not seem to match the total expected for M&E in Table B and on the budget table in Annex E (60,000)

4. On the Utilization of the PPG: please provide details on what the sub-contract entails in order to make sure that these do not include any ineligible expenditures

5. On the budget:

(i) The item ?Project Management Support? (\$90,000) is not eligible under PMC unless it is specific (i..e. Project Manager) ? please amend.

(ii) All the expandable equipment stipulated below should be charged to the PMC portion of the budget.

April 11, 2022 - comments cleared (AS)

Agency Response

1. On project information: expected completion date changed to 6/30/2027

2. On Co-Financing: ARM contribution changed to in-kind

3. On M&E Budget: Table amended to reflect the allocated M&E USD 60,000

4. On the Utilization of the PPG funds: Table expanded with detailed information about the use of funds during the PPG phase.

5. On the budget:

i. Item ?project management support amended. Now, it reflects as project manager.

ii. Expandable equipment has been charged to the PMC portion. Due to that, the PMC has been rearranged, but kept at the previous total value of USD 125,000.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Council comments have been addressed.

After four week council circulation please see comments from the US:

We did notice that the prodoc does seem to be out of date. The Minister of Environment no longer has tourism in her portfolio. In May 2021 the President split that out to its own ministry. Additionally the Ministry of Health no longer covers Women?s Promotion, which was also split out to its own ministry.

Please revise the prodoc and resubmit.

June 2, 2022 - Comments addressed

Agency Response

2 June 2022

The Government of Congo Ministries? names have been revised and added to reflect their current names:

Ministry of Environment and Tourism -> Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and Congo Basin
Ministry of Tourism and Leisure
Ministry of Mines -> Min of Mines and Energy
Ministry of Public Health -> Min of Public Health and Population
Ministry of Women Promotion, and Women Integration into Development

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 Provided

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 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

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

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

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Please respond to the question on co-financing.

March 29, 2022 - Technical Comments Cleared. Sending to PPO for policy/operations screen.

Apr 6, 2022 - Please address PPO comments

April 11, 2022 - PPO comments have been addressed and project is recommended for CEO endorsement.

May 31, 2022- Please see council comment after four week circulation.

June 2, 2022 - Council member comments have been addressed and finalization of the CER can be completed.

Review Dates

| | Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement | Response to Secretariat comments |
|---|---|---|
| First Review | 3/24/2022 | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 3/29/2022 | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 4/6/2022 | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 4/11/2022 | |
| Additional Review (as necessary) | 5/31/2022 | |

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations