

# Strengthening capacity in the Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land-use Sectors for Enhanced Transparency in the Implementation and Monitoring of Vanuatu's Nationally Determined Contribution

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

## Basic project information

**GEF ID**

10761

**Countries**

Vanuatu

**Project Name**

Strengthening capacity in the Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land-use Sectors for Enhanced Transparency in the Implementation and Monitoring of Vanuatu's Nationally Determined Contribution

**Agencies**

FAO

**Date received by PM**

3/17/2022

**Review completed by PM**

6/20/2022

**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**

3/28/2022: Yes, this remains aligned to the PIF. Some adjustments have been made to amounts allocated for each component, but these are minor and overall amounts remain the same.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

6/3/2022: Under project information, please change the expected implementation start date to a future date. It currently shows June 1, 2022. Accordingly adjust the completion date as well.

6/14/2022: This is not cleared. The end date should be 36 months after the implementation start date. Please revise.

6/20/2022: Cleared.

## Agency Response

15 June

addressed

9 June 2022: The expected start and completion dates have been revised to 1 August 2022 and 1 July 2025

19 May 2022

Minor changes have been made to the overall component-wise budget, as reflected in the Project Summary table and in the budget sheet.

## 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

3/28/2022: Yes. However, please completely fill out Component on M&E including expected outcomes and expected outputs.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

6/3/2022: Please ensure that table B matches with the budget table under Annex E and the uploaded budget table in the document section of the Portal. Kindly double check and verify that all budgets match.

6/14/2022: A revised budget needs to be uploaded in the portal as a separate document/xls and match the table B and Annex E. Please see additional comments below.

6/20/2022: A revised budget has been uploaded and match the required tables/annex. Cleared.

## Agency Response

16 June addressed

9 June 2022: The budget is consistent across the documents submitted

19 May 2022: M&E component has been filled with expected outcomes and expected outputs, in Table B.

**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 3/28/2022: Yes, this has been provided.

Agency Response  
**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

3/28/2022: Yes, this demonstrates a cost-effective approach to meet the objectives. However, see comment under M&E section on amount allocated for this component.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response 19 May 2022: Well noted. M&E budget has been revised, as advised.

**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 3/28/2022: Yes, this 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 3/28/2022: Yes, this is the same as in PIF stage and an explanation has been provided.

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

3/28/2022: Yes, this has been provided in detail. However, please note that in several places in the portal document it says that the BUR has not been submitted (#20 for example). Please rectify this as the BUR was submitted in Dec 2021.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response 19 May 2022: Throughout the ProDoc, BUR submission status has been corrected.

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

### Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/28/2022: Please address comments:

1. #64 states "more elaboration on these linkages and status as well as operation of EMIS and MRV will be provided during the PPG phase". Please clarify.
2. In Table 7, please add any REDD+ and/or FREL, FCPF, CAEP and other relevant initiatives.
3. Please provide a brief description of the BUR and how it was organized and what gaps may have been identified through this process.
4. Clarify if any QA/QC has been undertaken for existing MRV.
5. Provide any information on climate finance tracking that may be in place (i.e. baseline information for climate finance tracking).
6. Provide additional information on the National Forest Inventory - its status, objectives, gaps etc.

5/23/2022: These have been addressed. Cleared.

### Agency Response

19 May 2022

1. Activities have been updated based on stakeholders' suggestions during the inception and validation workshops
2. Information on REDD+, FCPF and CAEP are added in Table 7.
3. A brief description on BUR is added as suggested, in paragraph# 106.
4. Information on QA/QC for existing MRV is provided in paragraph# 98.
5. Information on climate finance tracking is provided in paragraph# 98.
6. Additional information on NFI is provided is provided in paragraph# 78.

**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

3/28/2022: Please address comments as below:

1. Activity 1.1.1.2 mentions identification of focal persons and Activity 1.1.1.3 mentions establishment of a national ETF body. Comment on these two may be linked, and what their different objectives, composition etc. are.

2. We note the strong training component in this CBIT project. Comment on how these will be designed to address high staff turnover. We note the mention of universities etc. Comment if these have been identified, will a formal training curricula be built within these, and/or formal collaborations with national/international institutes. We would like to see this element strengthened and reflected accordingly in the budget. We note that the institutional arrangements (#152) mentions Vanuatu National University.

5/23/2022: We note the additional information provided. This is cleared.

Agency Response

19 May 2022:

1. More information has been provided on how activities 1.1.1.2 and 1.1.1.3 will be linked. Please see paragraph# 114.
2. Additional details on training activities on the recently signed MoU between MoCC and National University of Vanuatu supported by FAO to develop and implement GEF-CBIT project activities is added. Please see paragraph# 119. Accordingly, the revised budget now reflects activities to be undertaken with the Vanuatu National University

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/28/2022: Yes, this has been provided.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/28/2022: 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

3/28/2022: 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

3/28/2022: Please strengthen the section on innovation and comment on what considerations are being made for the project to be financially sustainable. Comment also if the project can be scaled up across sectors, or by adding additional gases etc.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response 19 May 2022: The innovation, financial sustainability, and scaling up section has been strengthened.

**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

3/28/2022: This is a national project - a map has been provided.

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

3/28/2022: In the table, it is not clear what the "main points of discussion and observation" are from #3 onwards. As provided in #1 and #2 please provide a brief overview of how many people were consulted and then the details of the meetings. These seem to be outcomes of the consultations but is not clear as the content is in phrases. Please clarify and edit as needed. Comment on how the stakeholder engagements conducted during the design phase were incorporated into the design of the CBIT project.

For the table (under stakeholder engagement plan), please provide additional details on the engagement approach - for example, it says that close communication will be maintained by CSOs/private sector but the frequency of engagement is biannual. In the stakeholder engagement plan add information on how information will be disseminated to the various stakeholder groups.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response  
19 May 2022:

Thanks for the comment. The table has been updated for clarity and consistency.

The stakeholder engagement plan has been revised to provide more clarity.

**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

3/28/2022: This has been provided including a gender action plan and indicators.

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

3/28/2022: Yes, this has been provided. The description mentions the "private sector engagement channel of TNC and BUR". Please provide additional details.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

19 May 2022:

This has been clarified to state that *"during the project implementation, the project will optimise the support of private sector actors previously involved with TNC and BUR. Moreover, private entities of the targeted sectors of this project will be also consulted by involving relevant ministries."*

**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

3/28/2022: We note that a short COVID-19 risk analysis has been presented. Please include a short COVID-19 opportunities analysis as well.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response 19 May 2022: A brief note on COVID-19 opportunities analysis has been added

#### **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

3/28/2022: Provide additional details on how this CBIT project will build on the BUR and NC projects, and the ongoing REDD+ activities, and will not duplicate activities. Consider providing this in a table format.

We note that the project requests execution services by FAO. As per GEF guidance, this is to be provided only on an exceptional basis. Also note the guidance provided by COP at COP26 in relation to this. Please pursue other executing arrangements as has been done by other projects in the country.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

#### Agency Response

19 May 2022:

- Additional details are added on how this CBIT project will build on the NC, BUR, and REDD+ projects in Table 7.

- On receiving this comment from GEFSec, the matter was discussed in detail with the GEF OFP and the government national counterpart. On the latter's advice, most of the activities will be executed by the govt of Vanuatu, as reflected in the revised budget. FAO will provide limited support through recruitment of a) a part-time International consultant on MRV, b) National Project Coordinator and c) a part-time operations assistant, and procurement of IT software for GIMS, AAIMS, Spatial analysis setup for NEPA Climate Change Division, and documentation and archiving system. Vanuatu National University's role has also been defined and budgeted.

#### **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

3/28/2022: Provide a listing of national strategies that the CBIT project aligns with, possibly in a table format, that highlights how the CBIT project aligns with the national strategies/plans etc. Include all relevant plans such as NAP, NAPAs, BUR, NC, NDCs etc.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

#### Agency Response

19 May 2022:

Thanks for the comment. Additional information is provided in tabular format.

#### 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

3/28/2022: Please include a budget, deliverables and timeline and explain how the KM approach will contribute to the project's impact. Also include how lessons learned etc. from this project will inform other country's CBIT/transparency efforts in the region.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

#### Agency Response

19 May 2022:

Additional information has been added to include how the budget, deliverables, timeline, lessons learnt and KM approach will contribute to the project's impact.

#### 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

3/28/2022: This has been marked as low. However there is a typo in this section that says Tuvalu. Please check.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response 19 May 2022: Changes have been made  
**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

3/28/2022: The budget for his component seems high. Please revise accordingly.

5/23/2022: Cleared.

Agency Response

19 May 2022:

Thanks for the comment. The M&E budget is reduced

**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

3/28/2022: Yes.

Agency Response

**Annexes**

**Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

3/28/2022: Annex E - Project budget will need to be revised based on comments made in the alternative scenario section (on building collaboration/partnership with institutes etc.) and on the institutional arrangements. This is not cleared.

5/23/2022: These have been addressed. However, the budget in the portal document is not very easy to read. Please re-upload, so that the legibility is better.

5/27/2022: Cleared.

6/3/2022: On the budget,

1. Project coordinator, finance specialist and project support staff have been charged across the components and the PMC. Per Guidelines, the costs associated with the project's execution have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to PMC. Please revise.
2. Vehicles have been charged to the components. The use of GEF funds to purchase vehicles is strongly discouraged. Such costs are normally expected to be borne by the co-financed portion of PMCs. Please revise.

6/14/2022: Please upload revised budget as indicated above.

**6/27/2022:** We note that the current budget table shows that FAO is responsible for some limited execution services such as consultants and procurement. As per discussions and through the review process, it was agreed that FAO will not provide any execution services. As a result, please align the current budget table with this understanding.

7/5/2022: We note the additional justification to provide limited and targeted execution services.

## Agency Response

**4 July.**

*As elaborated in our response on 19 May 2022 (to the same comment made by the reviewer and **cleared** on 23 May 2022), the matter was discussed with the government at length. To the extent possible, most of the execution functions will be carried out by the government of Vanuatu. FAO will provide limited execution support to enhance the country's capacity to meet the enhanced transparency requirements, on request of the government. The budget was revised accordingly. This limited technical support will be provided at no extra cost for the project with the sole purpose of allowing the climate change division of Vanuatu that will provide the EA for the project administering directly almost 80% of the grant to manage the MRV system in autonomy after the end of the project.*

**15 June Addressed**

9 June 2022:

1. The project management team cost has been charged across the components as they will perform tasks that contribute to different components, as indicated in their ToR. The PMC staff are charged to the GEF funds as there is no cash co-financing provided by the government. The in-kind co-financing will be provided through the government staff time, use of government facilities as well as office space to accommodate the PMU.

2. Well-noted. The vehicle cost has been removed and reallocated

24 May 2022

A more easy-to-read budget has been re-uploaded in the portal

19 May 2022

The budget has been revised to reflect the changes in the institutional arrangements, including the role of the Vanuatu University, as well as the reduced M&E budget.

### **Project Results Framework**

#### **Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request**

3/28/2022: Please include CBIT indicators - "Quality of MRV systems" and "Qualitative Assessment of Institutional Capacity for Transparency" (as per the CBIT Programming Directions).

5/23/2022: We note the inclusion of the CBIT indicators. However, the scale/rating has been provided only for the baseline scenario. The scale/rating should be provided for mid-term target and final target as well. Please include.

5/27/2022: Cleared.

#### **Agency Response**

24 May 2022

The scale/rating for the mid-term and final targets have been added.

19 May 2022:

Thanks for the comment. The CBIT indicators, with ratings and scale, are added in Annex A1: Project Results Framework.

**GEF Secretariat comments**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

**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

3/28/2022: This has been provided.



6/3/2022: The difference between the budgeted amount and the amount spent to date does not match what is remaining and committed. Please provide information on the missing \$ 9,014.

6/14/2022: Cleared.

#### Agency Response

9 June 2022: Thanks for the observation. The PPG utilization table has been updated in the portal and the attached project document.

#### **Project maps and coordinates**

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 3/28/2022: 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

**Review Dates**

	<b>Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement</b>	<b>Response to Secretariat comments</b>
<b>First Review</b>	<b>3/28/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>5/23/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>6/3/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>6/14/2022</b>	
<b>Additional Review (as necessary)</b>	<b>6/27/2022</b>	

**CEO Recommendation**

**Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations**

3/28/2022: Please address comments.

5/23/2022: Please address remaining comments.

5/27/2022: PM recommends technical clearance.

6/3/2022: Please address comments.

6/14/2022: Please address comments.

6/20/2022: PM recommends technical clearance.

7/5/2022: PM recommends technical clearance.

6/27/2022: Please address remaining comment.