



Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10799

Countries

Regional (Benin, Togo)

Project Name

Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono)

Agencies

IUCN

Date received by PM

9/16/2022

Review completed by PM

10/6/2023

Program Manager

Astrid Hillers

Focal Area

International Waters

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

(10/14/2022) Yes, the overall project is aligned with the GEF focal areas as presented in the PIF.

Yet - as per comments below - the storyline in the prodoc needs to made clearer how the projects strengthens cross-sectoral and transboundary management of the basin in order to assure the desired global environmental benefits. How are sectors such as hydropower and the unique arrangement on Nangbeto dam as well as plans for new dams and mining interests and pollution influencing cooperation. A clearer narrative to show the underlying logic of the project in the Theory of Change is needed. Please address via the questions/comments across the review sheet.

(10/4/2023) Yes, the overall project is aligned with the GEF focal area.

The project write-up has improved compared to the last version, yet there is still little clarity in the PDO and an opportunity missed to address some obvious environmental threats such as water quality concerns from mining. The PDO is incredibly wordy and unclear and the description of the project impact (section 4.2) too focused on the TDA and SAP and small scale measures. The question remains if any of these make a measurable impact - e.g. what is the impact of a water quality warning system if there is nothing planned to enhance the capacities on all levels to measure, regulate and enforce measures to deal with concerns of e.g. heavy metals which will accumulate in sediments and ultimately find their way to water supplies and downstream ecosystems incl. the coast.

(12/11/2023)

The comments have been addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

Section on threats and root causes and barrier analysis addresses mining.

Section 4.2 improved, now highlights the specific impacts.

Pilot 5 has been improved and is aiming to assess drivers and impacts of water quality degradation especially in regards to the mining sector.

15th Sept 2023

The storyline has been improved to strengthen the cross-sectoral and transboundary management, including hydropower/Nangbeto dam and mining sector.

The ToC has also been updated to reflect the updated prodoc.

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

(10/14/2022)

1. Please enhance the clarity/specificity and ambition of the PDO. The endorsement request and prodoc state either "*Generate GEBs through enhanced cooperation ...*" or "*.. the development of good practices related to water, ecosystems, and adaptation to climate change for sustainable services to people and nature..*". Putting this in more concrete words would express much more tangibly what concretely the project aims to achieve.

2. Please add national counterpart agencies as co-executing partners - assuming they do and should have a role in the project.

3. The establishment of intersectoral committees is mentioned in the text. This x-sectoral dialogue to address multiple drivers is key - including the binational operation of the existing (plus anticipated/under construction) HP dams as the alteration of flows for example had

substantial impacts on ecosystems, including at the pilot sites. It would be worth to add the establishment of SMCs as outputs in the results framework (RF).

4. Did the project design consider addressing the clearer establishment of environmental flows and dialogue across sectors to better balance needs for power, irrigation, fisheries, flood protection, and wider ecosystems services ?

5. Re the budget amounts in table B, please also note and address that there seems to be a difference between the total amounts provide in table B and in the budget in Annex E. As an example please see screenshot below where component 1 equals \$2,800,000 in Table B vs. \$2,670,000 (\$1,480,000 + 1,190,000) in Annex E. The same comment applies to component 3 where the numbers differ. Table B stipulated \$692,000 from component 3 (including M&E activities) but this does not match Annex E (519,500+150,000+162,500= \$832,000)

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Sub-Total	M&E	PMC	Total (USDeq.)
		Component 1		Component 2		Component 3					
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2				
Grand Total		1,480,000.00	1,190,000.00	700,000.00	559,905.00	519,500.00	150,000.00	4,599,405.00	162,500.00	238,095.00	5,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)	Component 3 - Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation and Communication	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1: Project implementation is improved through better KM	Outcome 3.2: Project stakeholders are informed and engaged	Output 3.1.1: A project monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) system is developed and implemented	Output 3.1.2: Stakeholders in the
Component 1: Mono River Basin	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1: The threats and potentials of the	Output 1.1.1: A Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) including	GET	2,800,000.00	16,459,073.00					400,000.00	

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		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2				
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6. On PMC proportionality: the co-financing contribution to PMC is not proportionate compared with the GEF contribution to PMC. If the GEF contribution is kept at 5%, for a co-financing of \$18,713,073 the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$935,653 instead of \$550,000 (which is 2.9%). As the costs associated with the project management have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution must be proportional, which means that the GEF contribution to PMC might be decreased and the co-financing contribution to PMC might be increased to reach a similar level. Please ask the Agency to amend either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion.

(10/4/2023)

1. Not addressed. Please revise the PDO to express what the project is aimed to achieve. Reading the PDO should give a clearer indication what the end result of the project will be (and how success can be assessed post project). Please both sharpen and simplify the PDO in this regard.

2. Addressed.

3. Addressed.

4. Not clear where and how environmental flows are addressed and could aid then in the design and later operation of the planned dam.

5. Addressed

6. Addressed and ratios round to similar amount.

7. (new) Activities in Outcome 1.1. are indeed TA, but 1.2 are pilot investment (INV). Please separate and indicate the INV component in "table B".

Please also note: Maybe not in table B , but in the project description, results framework and budget please make sure that gender mainstreaming is addressed within all relevant activities.

(12/11/2023)

Comments have been addressed in the current version. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

1+4) Ambition and impact description has been improved, pilot impact highlighted, pilots improved, see section 4, specifically under component 1. An environmental flows assessment has been included in the activities under component 1 to assess the possibilities for improved flow management for downstream ecosystems and multi-sectoral needs.

7. INV component has been added for Outcome 1.1 in table B

The following outputs will be delivered through mainstreaming gender: Outputs 1.1.1; 1.1.2; 1.2.1 and 2.1.1.

15th Sept 2023

1. The PDO has be clarified, please see the ToC and the RF.

2. National counterpart agencies have been added as co-executing partners. See section on Institutional arrangements under national decision making in the Prodoc p.89 and in the CEO endorsement relevant section.

3. Clarity on how the project will integrate cross-sectoral questions has been integrated into the project design, namely through the establishment of national interministerial committees in the institutional set-up.

4. the adjustments in project design have captured this, reflected in the overall project goal.

5 and 6. Difference in budget has been solved, namely the PMC contributions (standing at 5% for both GEF and co-financing).

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
(10/14/2022)

1. Please elaborate on the drop of co-finance between PIF and endorsement stage. The project listed at PIF appear still highly relevant and related to support a comprehensive approach to cooperation needs in the Mono basin.

2. Thank you for outlining very well in the prodoc other initiatives funded by various development partners in the Mono River and with the MBA. It would be very useful to know why these partners are not considering this project as part of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to support the MBA and did not provide a letter of co-finance.

3. The co-finance from Togo is part in kind and part cash as per their letter of co-finance. Please reflect accordingly in table C.

4. Please request some kind of co-finance from Benin.

5. Please explain the OSS co-finance. The language (text) indicates that this co-finance is from a GEF project (?) - which if that is case cannot be counted as co-finance for another project. The table on other hand states that this is from "requested finance" from the Adaptation Fund. Where is that request in the AF cycle and how close to secure are these funds by the time of endorsement of the current GEF project.

6. IUCN co-finance via an Austrian funded project to IUCN: The letter states USD 1 million and table C only counts one quarter of this ; unless the 250 K refers to the BRIDGE co-finance in another IUCN co-finance letter. Please provide an explanation underneath table c to explain IUCN 's investment mobilized co-finance.

7. Please in fact add a short description on how all of the investment mobilized portions of co-finance were identified below table c.

(10/4/2023)

1. Understood. Many project had co-finance dropped during and due to COVID impacts.

2. Please comment on partners and their lack of letters/co-finance support.

3. Addressed.

4. Please provide a simple/in house english translation of the letter from Benin. Why are the numbers in the text and the table different?

5. Noted.

6. Is there a new IUCN co-finance letter over 2.250.000?

(12/11/2023) Comment 4 - I do not see the translation uploaded to the portal or linked to the co-finance table. Please do so.

(12/12/2023) Received. Thank you. **Cleared.**

Agency Response

IUCN 12 December 2023

Kindly note that a zipped folder containing both the original cofinancing letter in French and the translated version in English is uploaded against the cofinancing table and the specific relevant cofinancier

IUCN, 8 December 2023

2 - During the PPG phase partners were not clear on the co-financing needs despite significant efforts to explain this. Co-financing letters were assumed to oblige the signing organisation to transfer funds to the GEF. This has since been clarified and during the inception phase securing additional co-financing from partners will be a priority action.

4 ? simple/in house translation provided. There was a typo error in text which has been corrected for in the translation

6 ? IUCN has provided two letters, once for USD2m and another for USD300,000. The cofinancing table reflects the overall value of 2,300,000 (and updated total).

15th Sept 2023

1 and 2. The cofinancing has been revised and reflects the current project landscape in the basin. Any drop in co-financing will be a *?cas de force majeure?*.

3 This has been reflected accordingly in table C.

4. This is done.

5. The OSS co-financing come from the Adaptation Fund through the project *?Bouclier-Mono?*, whose preparation is well advanced following the approval of the concept note. It has been better detailed in the baseline.

6. One of IUCN targeted cofinancing was terminated early; however, another co-financing opportunity arose, leading to a new increase in IUCN co-financing. Explanation is provided underneath table C

7. This is done.

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
(10/14/2022)

The FA finance is consistent which was presented at PIF. In itself the project is forming one piece of a larger approach and supported by the countries and other development partners to

strengthen the MBA and address a range of needs in the basin. This overall complementarity on national and regional level initiatives (prodoc pages 40 to 47) needs a more systematic depiction and showing how the different initiatives add up and are possibly anchored already in the MBA work plans. In isolation the project likely would not be standing on solid grounds to address cooperation needs in the Mono river basin. The strength is the synergy with these other efforts which needs to be depicted in a diagram or table somewhere in the prodoc and/or ER.

(10/4/2023)

Please explain the apparent double finance of the establishment of the Mono Basin Authority via this project (output 2.2.2) and the Mono River Basin Authority Project (please also add finance amount and funder) with additional equipment funded by AgirEau (section 3.5.4./pg. 45 of prodoc).

(12/11/2023)

Thanks for that explanation. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

This has been rectified in the text, with clarity on the activities to be funded by the project which will specifically be tailored to work in complement to the support provided by the AgirEau project. Note that the AgirEau project ends in 2024 and so the support it has provided very much initiates the establishment of the Observatory.

15th Sept 2023

The description of synergies has been improved, namely in the baseline and incremental reasoning in both the prodoc and CEO endorsement.

Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

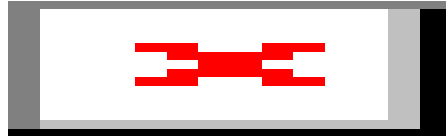
Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

(10/14/2022) On the utilization of the PPG: please provide a breakdown cost of the activities funded by the PPG per the eligible categories included in GEF project cycle guidelines.

(10/4/2023)

The status of the utilization of the PPG: Please provide a breakdown of costs of the activities funded by the PPG per the eligible categories included in GEF project cycle guidelines ? please provide the information in a detailed manner (including the breakdown for the categories you have listed in brackets in the PPG utilization table).

(12/11/2023) Annex C. Done. Cleared.



Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

Information on PPG expenditure provided in detail in Annex C in the CEO endorsement

15th Sept 2023

Annex C has been updated accordingly.

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

(10/14/2022)

1. Sub-indicators 7.1, 7.3, and 7.4 of indicator 7: the rating as 3 for the TDA/SAP, national reforms and IMC participation and [IW:Learn](#) participation appears a high rating at endorsement stage - i.e. when the project has not started yet. Please explain the rating.
2. Please provide a value for 7.2. Kindly please upload a copy of the Mono Basin agreement (if possible in english) in the portal.
3. The indicators for the pilots under indicators 1, 3, 4 are consistent with the PIF (while quite low at 2500 ha each).

4. Please explain a decrease of 10 fold between indicator 1.1 at PIF and ER.

(10/4/2023)

1. and 2. Addressed.

3. Well noted, but please fill in the WDPA ID and IUCN categories for indicator 1.2/protected areas.

4. Noted while truly hundred-fold mismatch of PIF and ER stage should not happen.

(12/11/2023)

Comment 3. not addressed. Please fill the WDPA IDs inside the core indicator table.

(12/12/2023)

The WDPA IDs have been provided, but from yesterday to today the area has **quadrupled** and many protected areas added. This clearly must be a mistake and therefore also does not align with the figures in the Results framework. All Core Indicators in the table have to be found in and **be consistent with the Results Framework.**

Just as reminder: Indicator 1 in the ER document as of yesterday has been 261,150 ha (area split between *Basse Vallée du.../Ramsar 1017* and *Reserve de Faune de Togodo*/another Ramsar Site).

Please address.

(12/13/2023)

Noted that these sites are only a part of the protected area (as analyzed by GIZ and overlapping with the project intervention) and the WDPA therefore was not listed to avoid confusion. The listed area is consistent again with the prodoc and the Results Framework. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 13 December 2023

Kindly note that the core indicator 1 figures have now been corrected to reflect the area representing the overlap between the Mono River Basin and two Ramsar sites, namely Ramsar Site 1017, *Basse Vallée du Couffo*, *Lagune C?tiere*, *Chenal Aho*, *Lac Ah?m?* in Benin and Ramsar Site 736, *Reserve de Faune de Togodo* in Togo. The total

number of hectares shown for each of the sites represents the overlap areas and is determined using GIS analysis.

In order to ensure there is no confusion, the WDPA IDs for the baseline Protected Areas has been removed in the Project Description section of the online CER and deleted and reflected in track changes mode in the uploaded CER track changes version.

IUCN, 12 December 2023

As advised, we have added the WDPA IDs and the IUCN category information for all the PAs included in the GEB section of the CER

IUCN, 8 December 2023

3 ? WDPA and IUCN category information added (see GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet)

4 ? Noted. Adjustments made to ensure realistic impact and delivery.

15th Sept 2023

1. There was an error in rating and this has now been corrected.

2. A copy of the Mono Basin Agreement has been made available, however, it is in French (original text language). Appendix 9.12 of the Prodoc.

3. Core indicator 1 has been revised to include the area of the two Ramsar sites which are found within the Mono Basin (all of 736, ~44% of site 1017).

Indicators 2 and 4 were maintained at 2,500 ha as additional size of degraded land to be restored and add to non-degraded one as they are pilot actions.

4. Indicator 11 was decreased after discussions with the stakeholders and refinement of targets. They fully reflect the number of **direct** beneficiaries of the pilot activities, training and communication related activities.

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

(10/14/2022)

1. There needs to be a better correlation between the barriers and drivers of change (often changes of flows and pollution especially from phosphate mining and processing) and the project approach and actions. It may be that some of the threats, barriers and drivers in the overall basin management are addressed within a wider comprehensive approach via under funding sources to show clearly how the current project is embedded in an overall comprehensive approach and existing MBA strategic plans and is filling that critical gap.

Please provide a succinct but clear picture of the overall activities and support of the MBA in relation to the current project.

2. Please underpin threats with more quantitative facts.

(10/4/2023)

1. and 2. (i) It is surprising why impacts from mining activities and hydropower infrastructure (existing and planned) do not appear in the analysis. (ii) weakness of regulatory frameworks and enforcement of laws in both countries is among key issues. Without coherent policies and right incentives to address threats to the system most intervention will not endure. It would make sense for the project to start addressing some of these weaknesses instead of spreading funds across five pilots. Please respond and discuss with GEFSEC..

(12/11/2023) Comments addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

1 and 2: Addressed, impact from mining and hydropower addressed in threats analysis also addressed in section 4.2 of the Prodoc esp. in pilot projects and Part II, Section 2, Component 1 from the CEO endorsement

15th Sept 2023

1. The correlation between barriers and drivers of change has been refined in the prodoc and in the TOC, and also aligned in the CEO endorsement.

2. The threats analysis has been improved.

This is found in section 1.2 of the CEO Endorsement form, and Chapter 3.3 of the ProDoc.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
(10/14/2022)

Yes, there is an outline of the baseline on national and regional levels.

1. It would be helpful to add start and closure dates especially for the projects on regional level and closely related to the current project (incl. the one on the Mono River Basin Observatory project). Thank you.
2. Please update the socio-economics (around pg 22 or prodoc) past 2017/2018.
3. Baseline scenario on hydropower: the ECOWAS guidelines on large dams are mentioned. Will these inform the design e.g. of the Adjarala dam to balance the needs for HP against other cross-cutting development and ecosystems needs?
4. Pollution: Phosphate mining and processing are a large threat especially on the coast and possibly in the area of one of the pilots. If not in this project, what is expected to be done on this on the regulatory and investment side and by who?

(10/4/2023)

1. YEs, except for the Mono River Basin Observatory Project - please add.
2. Addressed. Note the mention of "explosion of unregulated aquaculture in Lake Nangbeto." Pilot 5 only addresses water quality monitoring and early warning but does nothing to address "water pollution at the source" as actually intended in the title of the sub-component.
3. O.k. noted.
4. Please see earlier comment on the lack of project activities to improve the legal & regulatory framework and their enforcement or any engagement with the mining sector. It seems doubtful that CSOs are the ones that can (or should) address heavy metal and phosphate pollution. Please address.

(12/11/2023) Comments have been addressed and explanations noted. Cleared.

Agency Response
IUCN, 8 December 2023

1 ? Added (see Part I, section 2, Current and planned regional actions and projects, in the CEO endorsement)

2 - Addressed, pilot 5 improved. Also note that a participatory monitoring approach involving the aquaculture will be put in place, thus working with the source of pollution. See additional description of Pilot 5

3 - Noted.

4 - We acknowledge the important threat posed by the large-scale phosphate mining and processing, which this project may not be able to properly address. However, through the TDA/SAP related activities, a thorough analysis of the mining sector will be done to provide accurate information on the potential and actual negative impacts and provide recommendation to improve the legal and regulatory framework in line with the SAP options. TDA/SAP related activities. See outputs 1.1.1 & 1.1.2.

15th Sept 2023

1. Project start and closure dates have been added in the baseline section.
2. The socio-economic section has been updated with more recent data when available (Prodoc, chapter 3.1.2).
3. Yes. This guideline adopted by all ECOWAS Member states in 2017, including Benin and Togo, will now inform the design of all dams.
4. This project can support civil societies led advocacy activities in relation to the mining, including phosphate and others.

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
(10/14/2022)

1. Please address previous comments on clearer overall picture of the work and strategic plan of the MBA on how this and other projects populate this matrix of needs and planned activities. This can provide a very strong basis and justification for the current project.
2. Same as mentioned before (so no need to reply twice): please provide in this spirit a clearer logic and narrative of the Theory of change and what the project aims to achieve and modify this revised , more specific, overall objective in the results framework.
3. There is a clear need to strengthen the capacities of the Mono River Basin Authority (technical and administrative) as well as steady finance. This will be essential to assure sustainability of project activities past closure. Component 2.1.2 (page 55 of prodoc) is to

address this. There are whole large number of activities listed under outcome 2.1 (see table on pg 54/55/56 of the prodoc).

i) the list of outputs and activities is very long and has very good aspects. Please assure that these can be tracked in the Results framework.

ii) Please assure alignment of the above mentioned table with details on outcomes/outputs/activities under sub-components 2.1 and 2.2 with the text on pages 57 and 58.

iii) Besides showing key outputs committed to here in the Results Framework, please also make clear that there is a realistic budget for all this set aside. The range of issues and efforts to achieve them vary vastly from eg. the drafting, negotiation and adoption of certain protocols and a Mono Basin water charter to training workshops and setting up offices or financial guidelines. The sheer range of activities makes it unclear who, when and how this will all be achieved.

iv) Please in the same table, spell out all acronyms and/or assure they are at least spelled out once AND included in the list of acronyms.

4. Pilot activities - please provide clear criteria and describe the process of the selection of the pilots.

5. Please assure that gender aspects are addressed across all relevant component activities and reflected in the Results Framework (RF).

6. Issues of the need for youth involvement are highlighted, but for the project activities the only activity that appears to involve youth is an activity to support youth and women on an activity of non-timber forest products. It is also not clear how this was selected and what the scope of this is.

7. Please fill in all blanks "..." in the RF; assure it reflects outputs listed in the text, and indicator which indicators will be captured sex-disaggregated to capture women's participation in institutional structures, project staffing, trainings. etc..

8. Outcome 2.2: The Results Framework indicates that the MBA is not functional yet ? Please clarify. It would be really helpful to have a para in the prodoc and ER outlining the MBA institutional structure, staffing, location, current or expected country contributions etc.

9. Page 56 (lower half) describes flood control functions on level of Benin and the project (?). Can you please clarify how this relates to component 2?

10. Please explain the status of the Mono River Basin observatory in the baseline (pg. 43 prodoc), what is suggested in the project, and the OSS adaptation fund finance ?

11. What is the engagement with the Benin Electric Community (CEB)?

12. Please clarify in the budget template (Annex E) who is the executing entity for which budget line. Please add a column as per the GEF budget template.

(10/4/2023)

Please note that the simple answer 'addressed' is not sufficient to track where and how comments have been addressed and do not aid a constructive response from our side.

1. This has been improved.

2. As mentioned upfront in the review sheet the PDO needs to be much more clearly expressing WHAT the project aims to achieve. Simple and clear please.

The theory of change does not address key barriers that would lead to endurance of pilots by tackling weak policy frameworks on local and national levels and consistent policies across sectors and the two countries and enhanced enforcement. This project should yield some tangible results e.g. on pollution while also formulating the TDA and SAP. [Note: Activity 2.2.3.2. is not clear and also does not address the lack of local and national level laws and regulations and their enforcement].

What is envisioned engagement with the private sector (e.g. mining, agriculture and aquaculture, and hydropower) ?

Please also take note of a study by CIWA on sustainable finance for the MBA. In the end outside grant finance (incl. the climate funds listed) are project based and do not sustain the MBA's core function as an institution: "A team from CIWA, ECOWAS, and the MBA's ad hoc Technical Committee of Experts recently concluded that study, called Sustainable Financing Mechanism Study for Mono Basin Authority. It looks at the Authority's needs and functions, identifies ways to cut costs, evaluates potential sources of financing, and recommends short-, medium-, and long-term ways to finance the authority. The study focused on potential financing mechanisms, including member state contributions, a dedicated regional tax, user fee-based financing, polluter fee-based financing, sale of data and services, project management fees for infrastructure projects, management and administration fees, dividends from an investment fund, donor contributions, and public-private partnerships.

The study found that a small user-fee-based levy to hydropower and the mining sector would be the best solution. This would generate enough resources to finance a compact version of the Authority focused on key functions, and, importantly, it would allow the organization to function independently from contributions from the states," Toure noted." (see www.worldbank.org and search for Mono Basin).

3.

(i) and (ii) the outputs/activities are tracked in the Results Framework for 2.1.1 , but not 2.1.2 or 2.1.3.

(iii) Budget: the budget should be revisited. The allocation for meetings and exchanges for the TDA and SAP seem extremely high given this is an interaction between two and relatively small adjacent countries. Why would many of these meetings range across 40 - 60 K each. An overall bottom up driven TDA process which should also build on in-country expertise and synthesize existing information hardly seems to take nearly 800 K and a SAP 350 K. Also, the budget for component 3 seems high for a relatively small project and 20 % of the grant for M&E, KM and comms. Could the budgets for comp. 1.1 and 3 be revisited and funds freed up for national regulatory and enforcement reforms and capacities ?

4. The pilots are described but what have been the criteria. While addressing the Ramsar sites and headwaters follows an obvious need, it seems less clear what the measurable impacts of the other three pilots will be. Pilot 3 maybe most clear in mainly aiming for capacity building and cross-border action across communities but not clear is "on what"/what are the key issues identifies that the communities aim to address (flood resilience?). Please clarify.

5. - 9. Addressed.

10. Please point me to where this is clearly explained. What is already in place and what is funded or to be funded by other development partners ? See earlier questions.

11. Please provide a page number in the prodoc where this is addressed. Thank you.

12. Addressed.

(12/11/2023)

Note: The Vehicle is noted and approved given the project needs to oversee pilots and reach local communities and given that the MBA as regional institution does not yet have other substantial financial means to fund or co-fund a vehicle.

Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

2 ? this has been adjusted in the result framework and the theory of change and where needed throughout the document.

Sustainable financing for the MBA is crucial and the project will use the CIWA study to develop a shadow pricing structure for the countries to review and consider during the project. See Output 2.1.2.

3. Additional indicators have been added in the Results Framework for outputs

iii) the budget has been revisited:

? TDA/SAP overall budgets have been reduced (now <USD800,000)

? Additional funds have been included in the pilot projects (including to ensure that the ESMF will be fulfilled) and under Output 2.2.3.

? Component 3 has been reviewed and reduced by ~USD 20,000. While C3 does represent a large portion of the budget, as the MBA is still a young organisation, it seemed important to allocate sufficient budget to sustained communication and visibility, as well as quality knowledge products, to raise its profile at basin, national and regional level.

4. Criteria are provided for the selection of pilots in Output 1.2.1.

10. The Mono Basin Observatory is added into the baseline (section 3.5.4). The observatory was an important project concept which is found in the MBA Strategic Plans. At the point of resubmission, some funding was secured by MBA to undertake certain parts (AgirEau), so the text now reflects this, while the associated activities under Component 2 have been revised to ensure no duplication of activities.

11. BEC are included in Section 9.2 Stakeholder analysis and 9.4 Stakeholder engagement and in the baseline under the energy poverty section. BEC will be specifically engaged on environmental flows and broader energy expansion planning. This is highlighted in Component 1.

15th Sept 2023

These comments have all been addressed in the results framework (Annex A) and/or in section 1.3 of the CEO endorsement form.

1. This has been addressed

2. This has been addressed.

3. All comments (i-iv) have been addressed.

4. This has been addressed

5. This has been addressed.

6. The youth involvement under the project has been clarified and improved.

7. This has been addressed.

8. This has been clarified.

9. This has been clarified.

10. This has been explained further.

11. This has been improved.

12. This has been clarified.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
(10/14/2022) See answer under question 1 part I.

(10/4/2023) No further comment.

Agency Response
15th Sept 2023

See answer under question 1 part I.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
(10/14/2022)

See earlier comments to

- more clearly show how this project addresses key threats and barriers and compliments other development partner finance (incl. this of the IUCN BRIDGE). This also initially reflected in the indicative the co-finance at PIF stage.

- be more specific on IW GEBS - including in the PDO

(10/4/2023)

No further comment. PDO comment has been raised in previous comments in the review sheet.

Agency Response
15th Sept 2023

The incremental reasoning has been improved (Section 1.4 of the CEO endorsement and 4.7 of the prodoc).

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
(10/14/2022)

See earlier comments - please more clearly elaborate

(10/4/2023)

See earlier comments. PDO needs to be strengthened and ambition for impact enhanced.

(12/11/2023) Cleared.

Agency Response
IUCN, 8 December 2023

Completed throughout the document

15th Sept 2023

addressed earlier.

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
(10/14/2022)

1. Please elaborate more clearly on an exit strategy on the regional institutional level.
2. Please do the same for the pilots. The case right now seems to be based on the provision of information, which does not by itself assure continuity of the community actions.
3. Scaling up/replicability. The second of the two sentences is in substance unclear. What are the factors that allow replication which the project will address ?

(10/4/2023)

1. How will the project support a strategy for financing core functions of the MBA. Fund raising internationally is a project by project approach but inherently risks the continuity of the core of the MBA operations. Strategies for sustainable finance needs to be explored, discussed with the two countries and put in place (e.g. increased country contributions; fees from the common hydropower production; etc.).

2. and 3. Please outline questions on the enabling conditions for endurance, replicability and scaleup strategies of the pilots and how the project is aiming to meet these. Also, what could be the role of the private sector in this ?

4./New: as Togo has joined the Water Convention in 2023 and recently finalized its implementation plan: will the project aid in some way to kick-start the role out of key priorities of the Togo Water Convention implementation plan?

(12/11/2023) Comments addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

1 ? with improved internal policy and capacities, MBA will be more credible and acquire capacities to mobilize domestic resources as well. In fact the upgraded MBA Administrative and Financial Management Manual will identify sources of financing and associated mobilisation strategies

2-3 - See description of Output 1.2.1 and Section 7 **?innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up ?**in the CEO Endorsement.

4. addressed under Output 1.1.2, the SAP development will take the UNECE Water Convention implementation plan into account.

15th Sept 2023

The section relating to innovation, sustainability and scaling up (section 1.7 and relevant sections in the Prodoc) has been clarified and improved.

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
(10/14/2022) 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
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
(10/14/2022)

1. Table 9.3. documents the process of consultations with stakeholders during PPG. If you had a list of names/organizations present for each meeting, please annex or upload to the portal. Please note that this will be requested explicitly in GEF 8. addressed.

2. The stakeholder analysis (table 9.2) has many entries but even with comparing with the text the roles of many partners are very unclear and often simply repetitive. E.g. the repeated entries of Technical partners - consultations leaves open what their roles in fact are. All of these agencies will be consulted - when, how often, on what and to what effect ? Others are "executing partners" : in what form ? Are they paid ? What are roles and responsibilities ?

A clearer distinction of roles in the design and execution of specific activities versus e.g. being consulted or simply being informed would aid. As is the list is too unstructured to give an idea of who is involved on what and how.

(10/4/2023)

1. addressed

2. Revision are noted. Please add:

- comments on private sector - see question below

- Under "other projects" Please add the AMCOW lead G4DR project and explain the technical and institutional synergies and cooperation between the Mono Basin groundwater pilot of G4DR and this project. Please be specific. Both projects have similar endorsement deadlines and the interaction between these related efforts needs to be defined in clear and accountable terms.

(12/11/2023) Comments addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

2- The role and involvement of the private sector has been included (see section on *Stakeholders in the CEO endorsement*)

The G4DR project has been added (See section on ?GEF Interventions? in the CEO endorsement.

15th Sept 2023

1. Noted.

2. the stakeholder analysis section has been revised to clarify roles and responsibilities .

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
(10/14/2022)

1. As commented on earlier, gender dimensions should be addressed across all relevant project components and run through the project component descriptions. Please strengthen.
2. Ditto for the RF
3. The actions in the table within the Gender Action plan should be included in the project description and monitored during implementation.
4. Specifically: Please ensure the integration of gender equality considerations in particular to the following: Output 1.1.2: A Strategic Action Plan (SAP) is developed for the period 2024-2038. The process to develop, and the SAP itself should be gender-responsive; Output 3.2.2 and Output 3.1.3 on best practice guidelines and knowledge products, respectively, to take into account gender perspectives in their development and for the products to be gender-responsive.

Note: the majority of the gender action plan is insufficient to guide the project implementation. While we understand that COVID put a challenge on project design this desk analysis of gender data in the countries is too removed from the project to be useful.

(10/4/2023)

1. There is very little consideration on gender dimensions running through the components descriptions. Please strengthen.
2. Addressed. The Gender action plan is updated and integrated in the Results Framework.
3. Not addressed - see also comment 1. Comments were incorporated in the Gender Action Plan only. This is a separate, stand-alone document. Gender dimensions still need to be addressed throughout the project document and especially the project component description/design.
4. Not addressed.
 - For consistency and in line with the practice of gender mainstreaming, please reflect the previously suggested changes in the project components ? both in the ProDoc and in the Portal.

(12/11/2023) Comments now addressed.

Please assure that gender inclusion is well reported on and addressed in PIRs and the MTR.

Agency Response

IUCN, 12 December 2023

Thank you very much for clearing. As advised, we will ensure that gender inclusion is well reported on and addressed in PIRs and the MTR

IUCN, 8 December 2023

1, 3 and 4. More consideration has been added directly in the project activities, namely under Outputs 1.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.2.2., as requested (and as included in the GAP).

15th Sept 2023

1. This has been addressed.

2 and 3. The RF has been improved to include gender objectives and targets, as has the core of the project descriptions.

4. This has been addressed.

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

(10/18/2022)

1. Please describe how the hydropower operators role beyond a pilot on aquaculture. Would the operational rules be discussed to better balance HP needs and other uses ?

2. Will private sector entities be involved in the TDA process?

3. The stakeholder table lists other private sector entities including the exploitation of mineral resources with negative impacts on the river ecosystem? Will these be approached with a goal to decrease their impacts?

(10/4/2023)

1. Please point me to where this has been addressed in the project description: "Would the operational rules be discussed to better balance HP needs and other uses ? ". We understand that e.g. flooding is serious concern. Could adjusting the dam operation provide ones means to lesson peak flows (yet will result in certain decrease of HP output)?

2. o.k.

3. Please better describe the role and opportunities (and challenges) of involving the private sector in the project to address some of the main threats identified.

(12/11/2023) Comments addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

1. More information has been provided on private sector (See section on ?Stakeholders? and Output 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 in the CEO endorsement

3 ? See section on ?Stakeholders? and Output 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 in the CEO endorsement

15th Sept 2023

1. This has been improved.

2. Yes.

3. Yes. MBA will engage and maintain discussion with the private sector entities with a view of influencing the way they do their business.

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

(10/18/2022)

1. Private sector: Given the risks to engage the private sector as described in the prodoc the risk to private sector engagement seem moderate/high.
2. Political commitment - the risk seems significant given that the MB agreement is not yet ratified and there seemly are tensions around the Adjarala dam and phoshate pollution. Please comment.
3. Failure to deliver on time: what is the role of IUCN in the project outside of its role as implementing agency ?
4. Please add a section on climate risks
5. Are there any marginalized groups or any local conflicts in the pilot areas ? How were these pilots selected? Who was involved in the type and location of the selection (see earlier comment on selection criteria)?

(10/4/2023)

Comments addressed. Please in future add a row on climate risks in the risk table as well.

Agency Response

15th Sept 2023

1. The rating has been updated.
2. Comments have been provided accordingly in the risk section table under political engagement.
3. IUCN?s role has been updated to mitigate this risk.
4. A climate risk section has been included under section 4 of the CEO Endorsement and under the risk section in the prodoc.
5. These questions have been addressed.

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

(10/18/2022)

1. There appears to be synergy with other GEF and non-GEF projects in the region and more specifically the projects which support regional cooperation on the Mono River. As commented on before the coordination and complementarities of the various initiatives needs to be better described and likely some coordination mechanism among development partners be put in place.
2. Is there a short/draft TOR for MBAs, OSS, GWP and IUCN's role (if other than implementing)? What are the roles of national institutions and NGOs ?
3. Please translate figure 5-1 to english and add a funds flow diagram which includes e.g, MBA, OSS, and GWP ?
4. Please revise the role of the GEF in the institutional roles. Most of the roles described are the roles for IUCN as implementing agency.
5. Please describe the institutional structure for the implementation of the pilots. How will funds flow from who to who and how?

(10/4/2023)

1. Please address the need for a coordination mechanism as MBA's capacity is not unlimited unless such coordination across initiatives is institutionalized in the internal management structure of the MBA. An annual "partner coordination" group organized by the MBA to report back across projects and funding sources may also be worth to consider.
- 2.- 4. addressed
5. Please respond to question 5 in clearer manner and provide reference to section in the prodoc where this is addressed. It is not clear from section 5 of the prodoc "Institutional Framework and Implementation Arrangements"

(12/11/2023) Comments addressed. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

- 1 ? Addressed in component 3 and sub-sequent outputs 3.1.2 and 3.1.3;
5. The institutional structure of pilots is described in a paragraph after the description of pilot 5

15th Sept 2023

1. The synergies have been improved.
2. This has been clarified ? see Institutional set-up and draft ToR (Annex 9.6).
3. This has been done.
4. This has been revised.
5. The description has been improved.

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
(10/18/2022)

1. Section 4.6 is not adequate.
 - i.) what is the alignment with the National Action plans for IWRM ?
 - ii.) what is the alignment with other relevant sectoral plans ?

(10/4/2023)

Addressed

Agency Response

15th Sept 2023

1. Section 4.6 has been improved, noting the alignment with various national action plans in both countries (water, biodiversity, development, etc.).

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
(10/18/2022)

Yes (despite section 4.11 not reflecting this)

(10/4/2023) addressed.

Agency Response
15th Sept 2023

Section 4.11 has been improved.

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
(10/18/2022)

The ESMS is not complete and ratings are yet to be assigned as well as possible additional safeguards reports to be provided. Please comment and complete the ESMS.

(10/4/2023)

The IUCN ESMS review has not been done in the ESMS Screening document uploaded in the portal. Please assure that grievance mechanisms are outlined and part of the project /ESMF design.

GEF ID 10799 RIWE_ESM S Screening_SEPT 2023	Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	Official Use Only	9/15/2023 10:59 AM
GEF ID 10799 RIWE_ESM S Screening_SEPT 2023	Project Supporting Document	ESS Supporting Document	Official Use Only	9/15/2023 10:59 AM

(12/11/2023) ESMF has been uploaded and addresses the settling of grievances. Cleared.

Agency Response
IUCN, 8 December 2023

Addressed; See new upload

15th Sept 2023

The ESMS screening has been finalized (annex 9.10) with associated ESMF (annex 9.11).

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
(10/18/2022)

Yes, but please include a total for M&E plan and assure the numbers match with the budget template.

(10/4/2023)

Yes, but please include a total for M&E plan and assure the numbers match with the budget template.

Table 7-1: Summary of Monitoring and Evaluation activities.

M&E activity	Frequency	Responsible	GEF Budget (USD)
Inception Workshop and Report	Within first quarter of project inception	RCO	20,000 (Activity 3.1.1.2, 3.2.1.2)
Quarterly progress reports	Quarterly	RCO	[no specific budget - part of PMU tasks ²⁴]
Annual Project Progress Report (APRs)	Annually	RCO	
Mid-term Independent External Evaluation	In the 3 rd quarter of the 2 nd year of the project	RCO IUCN's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit	110,000 (Activity 3.1.1.3)

Table 7-1: Summary of Monitoring and Evaluation activities.

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Mid-term Independent External Evaluation	In the 3 rd quarter of the 2 nd year of the project	RCO IUCN's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit	110,000 (Activity 3.1.1.3)

Dissemination fund	12,000	-	-	6,000	36,000	6,000	60,000	-	60,000	M&E
Sub-Total (USD)	1,152,500	1,152,500	847,550	608,900	573,000	154,500	4,529,400	230,000	240,600	5,000,000

(12/11/2023) Comment addressed and numbers in the M&E table in section 9 of the ER now match the budget table. Cleared.

Agency Response
IUCN, 8 December 2023

Addressed ? the steering committee review was allocated in the budget but not reflected in table 7-1 and narrative.

15th Sept 2023

this has been done.

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
 (10/18/2022)

Many of the benefits of the project are on the regional level and strengthening the MBA. Also the RF is yet to be completed in terms of indicators and targets of the pilots.

(10/4/2023)

Please enhance the description of tangible impacts expected from the pilots - see earlier comment.

(12/11/2023)

Comment has been addressed.

Agency Response
IUCN, 8 December 2023

This has been improved in the document with further information added.

15th Sept 2023

this has been improved.

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
(10/18/2022)

Please see comments above.

(12/11/2023) Addressed and cleared.

Agency Response
15th Sept 2023

All annexes are revised and included.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
(10/18/2022)

Please see previous comments to i) finalize missing indicators and targets for the pilots and ii) including rather substantial deliverable under components 2 - such as e.g. the Mono Basin Charter.

(10/4/2023)

- Still do not see the Water Charter in the RF.

- As per earlier comments the ambitions for impact of the pilot needs to be clearer and not stop at counting of ha's and sites. Example below.

1.1.k % improvement of R-METT score of Ramsar sites (Pilot Activity 1)	1.1.k	1.1.k
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site 736 (TG) • Site 1017 (BJ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD • TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD • TBD
1.1.k % improvement of R-METT score of Ramsar sites (Pilot Activity 1)	1.1.k	1.1.k
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site 736 (TG) • Site 1017 (BJ) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD • TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD • TBD

(12/11/2023) Additions on pilots and comment on Water Charter noted. Cleared.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

The Water Charter is ambitious at this stage for the two countries. This has been incorporated into Output 1.1.2 as an issue for the SAP process to consider based on the impact of the project and use of the TDA to shape a Charter in the future.

Addressed. The following pilots (1, 3, 4 and 5) contain indicators other than ha. See the result framework.

15th Sept 2023

this has been addressed in the RF.

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

(10/18/2022)

The projects will require still considerable revisions. Please also note that the prodoc is log and appears to jump between topics. Especially the first 25 pages of the background could be much less a description but summarized in a way that better relates to the project. Also, the pilots are described in various places which does not aid in the flow of the document and consistency. Furthermore, topics such as flood protection appear in the component description, but are not part of the results. Furthermore, the engagement with countries and involvement of national and local agencies is unclear.

Please feel free to reach out for any discussions and clarification needs to aid the revision and timely resubmission.

(10/4/ 2023) Please address review sheet comments.

(12/11/2023) Please addressed the few remaining comments.


Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

(10/18/2022)

Please include Council comments and how they were addressed in Annex B. Comments were provided by the U.S. and Germany.


- ***Comment by Jennifer Novotney, U.S. Department of State (DOS), Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), Office of Environmental Quality (ENV) , Council, United States made on 7/23/2021*** 

Comment:

ü [United States Comments](#)

- The project team may want to consider risk mitigation for the possible dissolution of the Benin Electric Community (CEB), one of the Mono Basin Authority's stakeholders.

Confidential Comment :

- ***Comment by Kordula Mehlhart, GEF Council Member, Head of Division on Climate Finance, BMZ, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development , Council, Germany made on 7/4/2021*** 

Comment:

ü [Germany Comments](#)

(10/4/2023)

1. Please acknowledge the German support to the " state of the basin report" under "ProSEHA" . This will be an important factual input to the TDA and inform and speed up the TDA formulation even though the TDA process is a bottom up process that will still aid to get sectors and stakeholders to discuss pressures and opportunities on national and regional levels.

2. Though the comments from USA and Germany were presented in Portal, the table is out of the margins ? this will prevent the external audience to have the complete information once the CEO Endorsement request is web posted. Please amend.

(12/11/2023) Comments addressed.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

1 - The utility of the ProSEHA project and state of the basin report are specifically mentioned in the baseline section as a resource to help inform the TDA, and under Component 1 as important information to help improve the efficiency of the TDA development process.

2. The margins have been adjusted as advised

15th Sept 2023

this has been done.

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

(10/18/2022) Please include and address in Annex B

(10/4/2023)

STAP comments are included but following remains:

- need for dialogue with energy sector and planning in government and dam operators
- a clearer articulation how livelihoods will be improved and an indicator for it
- coordination with related initiatives
- clarify measures and incentives to address unsustainable fishing or pollution (see GEFSEC comments as well)
- will flooding be addressed as its mentioned and how
- Sustainable and innovative finance to sustain MBA (See also GEFSEC comments)

(12/11/2023) Comments have been addressed now in the revised document.

Agency Response

IUCN, 8 December 2023

This is addressed through the TDA/SAP processes and the Stakeholder's section

Addressed. See description of Pilot 4 and Result framework

See section on 'Other technical and financial partners' in the CEO endorsement

Nature-based solutions will contribute to addressing flooding (see Pilot 4) and SAP will include action to address flooding as well (see Output 1.1.2).

Deliverable of Output 2.1.2 will provide guidance on sustainable and innovative finance to MBA

15th Sept 2023

this has been done.

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 *see above*

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request *see above*

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

(10/18/2022) Please review and address comments. Please reach out for any clarifications and aid in addressing.

(10/6/2022) Please address comments. Please reach out for any clarifications as needed to aid the speedy revisions and resubmission. Please note: The project took one year to be resubmitted and its extended cancellation deadline is on December 16th, 2023.

(12/11/2023) Please address the two remaining comments (co-finance, core indicators) and resubmit asap given the looming cancelation deadline.

(12/12/2023) Please address comment on Core Indicator 1 and resubmit.

(12/13/2023) The project has been reviewed again and all comments have been addressed. **The project is recommended for endorsement.**

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	10/26/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	10/6/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/11/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	12/12/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations

Background. The Mono River basin is shared between Benin and Togo. The River's source is in the west of Benin, in the Koura mountains (altitude ~900m), with many of the other tributaries coming from Togo. From its source, it flows to the west into Togo, before becoming the border between Togo and Benin in its last 100 kms or so, until it empties into the Atlantic Ocean through large estuary situated in Benin. The Mono basin is home to several protected areas, both on national and international scale. Key pressures, including land degradation due to inappropriate land uses, deforestation, and pollution especially from mining operations. These actions affect the terrestrial ecosystems, decreasing land

productivity, increasing landslide, flood and drought risk; they also impact the freshwater ecosystems themselves, with increased sedimentation, decreased water quality, heightened flood risks, etc. Unfortunately, these pressures are only compounded by the increasing demographic pressure and climate change.

As a shared basin, efforts to better manage it are necessary both on the Togolese and Beninese sides of the border; importantly, this management needs to be coordinated at basin level rather than at national level. The degradation of the basin can only be slowed/halted as a whole as actions in one part of the basin will have knock-on effects in other parts. Providing a cohesive institutional backbone, from local to regional level, will allow for concerted efforts, and provide the appropriate framework and bodies with which to spearhead development and dialogue in the basin and champion transformative inclusive change.

The project, executed by a consortium of agencies, notably the Mono Basin Authority (MBA), the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), and the Global Water Partnership-West Africa (GWP-WA), is designed to support the sustainable development and ecological resilience of the Mono River Basin through the strengthening of IWRM governance and capacity, participatory planning by communities and enhanced cooperation between Benin and Togo. The project is divided into three main components. i.) Mono River Basin water resources, ecological and economic development assessment and planning, including demonstration interventions to address community collaboration across the Benin and Togo border, pollution reduction, and sustainable livelihoods support around some key RAMSAR Sites; ii) Institutional and technical capacity strengthening of the MBA and its institutional bodies; and iii.) Knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation and communication.

The expected results and Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) of the project include: 261,150 hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; 2,500 hectares of productive landscapes under improved practices; 2,500 hectares of degraded forest land restored at the headwaters of the Mono River; 20,665 direct beneficiaries (of which 50% are women); A cross-border diagnosis for the establishment of technical, legal and institutional management tools at a transboundary level; Improving the condition of water resources and ecosystems in the Mono basin through the protection and restoration of basin ecosystems aimed at improving sustainable livelihoods for local populations.