

Umbrella Programme for Preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10973

Countries

Global (Argentina, Bangladesh, Bahamas, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Iraq, Kenya, Kiribati, Moldova, Madagascar, Mali, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo DR, Gabon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Zimbabwe)

Project Name

Umbrella Programme for Preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

11/3/2022

Review completed by PM

11/9/2022

Program Manager

Patricia Marcos Huidobro

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

EA

Non-Expedited Enabling Activity req (PIF)
Non-Expedited Enabling Activity req (CEO)

Part 1: Project Information

Focal area elements

Is the enabling activity aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as indicated in Table A and as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/1/2022:

Cleared.

11/8/2022 PM:

Yes, with suggestions. An amendment notification has been submitted along with the CEO Endorsement document to reflect the changes in the number of participating countries and in the revised costing of BTRs and combined BTR/NCs.

Please add a table at the beginning of the CEO Endorsement document explaining the main differences between the PIF and CEO Endorsement documents, including changes in # of countries, BTR cost structure, main outcomes and outputs.

Agency Response

11/30/2022

A table has been added at the beginning of the CEO Endorsement document that provides an overview of the main differences between the PIF and CEO Endorsement documents.

Project description summary

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

11/16/2022 PM:

Yes, with comments. The budget has been revised and was found to be consistent with the proposal. For future submissions the agency is expected to use the GEF budget template, which includes a disaggregation by expenditure categories (i.e. consultants, training/meeting, travel, staff cost, operation costs, etc.). For further information, please see GEF budget template <https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-project-budget-template>

Agency Response

11/30/2022

Recommendation on budget presentation for future umbrella submission has been noted

Co-financing

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

11/8/2022 PM:

N/A. Co-financing is not required for EAs.

Agency Response
GEF Resource Availability

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

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:**

Yes.

Agency Response
**Are they within the resources available from:
The STAR allocation?**

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:**

N/A. This Umbrella Programme will be funded by the set-aside resources from the Climate Change Focal Area.

Agency Response
The focal area allocation?

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:**

N/A. This Umbrella Programme will be funded by the set-aside resources from the Climate Change Focal Area.

Agency Response
The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

**Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:**

N/A. This Umbrella Programme will be funded by the set-aside resources from the Climate Change Focal Area.

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

N/A. This Umbrella Programme will be funded by the set-aside resources from the Climate Change Focal Area.

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

Yes. There are sufficient resources from the Climate Change Focal Area set-aside to support this Umbrella Program.

Agency Response

Is the financing presented adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

Yes. The proposed umbrella program demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives.

Agency Response

Part 2: Enabling Activity Justification

Background and Context.

Are the achievements of previously implemented enabling activities cited since the country(ies) became a party to the Convention?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

Yes.

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/1/2022:

Cleared.

11/8/2022 PM:

No. Please address the following comments:

- Please note that the link to the GEF Information Note on the Financing of the Biennial Transparency Reports for Developing Country Parties to the Paris Agreement is incorrect. The correct link is the following: <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-15>

- Table 1 states that Burkina Faso is requesting funding for BTR1 and BTR2/NC4. However, as per the LoE is BTR1/NC4 and BTR2. Please clarify.

- Table 1 states that Uzbekistan is requesting funding for BTR1 and BTR2/NC5. However, as per the LoE is BTR1/NC5 and BTR2. Please clarify.

- Table 1 states that Zimbabwe is requesting funding for BTR1 and BTR2/NC5. However, as per the LoE is BTR1/NC5 and BTR2. Please clarify.

- Table 1 states that Ghana is requesting funding for BTR1/NC4. However, as per the LoE is only BTR1. Please clarify. Also, Table 1 status that NC5 is at inception phase which seems to contradict the funding request for BTR1/NC4.

- Table 1 states that Moldova is requesting funding for BTR2/NC6. Please confirm that Moldova's BTR1 is indeed at the inception phase.

- The following countries have recently submitted updated NDCs: Bahamas (November 2022), Cote D'Ivoire (May 2022), Gabon (July 2022) and Vanuatu (August 2022). Please update the information accordingly.

- Please note the number of countries, participating in this umbrella, which have undertaken a TNA are 29 countries as supported by the TNA Program funded by the GEF.

Agency Response

11/30/2022

The link to the GEF Information note has been updated in the text of the CEO Endorsement Request.

Thanks for the observations. Table 1 has been revised as follows: -

- ? As per its endorsement letter, Burkina Faso is requesting support for BTR1/NC and BTR2. This information is now reflected in Table 1.
- ? As per its endorsement letter, Uzbekistan is requesting support for BTR1/NC5 and BTR2. This information is now reflected in Table 1.
- ? As per its endorsement letter, Zimbabwe is requesting support for BTR1/NC5 and BTR2. This information is now reflected in Table 1.
- ? As per its endorsement letter and Table 1.D, Ghana is requesting support for a stand-alone BTR. This information is now reflected in Table 1.
- ? Yes, Moldova's BTR is at the inception phase, as indicated in the Table

Update on NDC submission status: -

TABLE 2 presenting Status of NDCs submission has been updated as follows: -

- ? Bahamas (November 2022),
- ? Cote D'Ivoire (May 2022),
- ? Gabon (July 2022) and
- ? Vanuatu (August 2022)

South Africa's and Uzbekistan's submission timelines have also been included as follows: -

- ? South Africa (Sep 2021) and
- ? Uzbekistan (Oct 2021)

Text on TNA has been amended to reflect the correct No. i.e., 29 as funded by the GEF.

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

11/8/2022 PM:

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
11/8/2022 PM:

Yes.

Agency Response
Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:

N/A.

Agency Response
Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:

Yes.

Agency Response
Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:

Cleared, there is no deviation from cost ranges. The budget for the stand-alone BTRs, combined BTR/NC, and top up modalities is in line with the new BTR cost structure available since July 1, 2022.

Agency Response

Part III. Endorsement/Approval by OFP

Country endorsement

Has the project been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

12/1/2022:

Cleared.

11/8/2022 PM:

No. While most of the LoE have been revised to reflect the new BTR cost structure and address inconsistencies from the LoE submitted at PIF stage, please address the following comments:

- LoE from Kyrgyz is missing;

- LoE from Eswatini includes a total GEF funding (amount + fee) of \$1,334,970 instead of \$1,343,970. Please amend since the amount requested in the LoE is smaller than the amount as per the current BTR cost structure.

Agency Response

11/30/2022

? The letter of endorsement for Kyrgyzstan was received on 11/23/2022 and uploaded as a supporting document

? The letter for Eswatini has been amended and re-submitted to reflect a total GEF funding amount of \$1,343,970

Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment

11/8/2022 PM:

N/A.

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

N/A.

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

N/A.

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

N/A.

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

11/8/2022 PM:

N/A.

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
11/8/2022 PM:

N/A.

Agency Response
GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
12/1/2022:

Cleared.

11/8/2022 PM:

No. Please address the comments provided above.

Review Dates

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

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

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat
comments**

**Additional Review
(as necessary)**

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations