The South African Sustainable Cities Planning and Decarbonisation Integrated Programme

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID
11294
Countries
South Africa
Project Name
The South African Sustainable Cities Planning and Decarbonisation Integrated Programme
Agencies
DBSA
Date received by PM
6/20/2025
Review completed by PM

Program Manager
Mia Linnea Callenberg
Focal Area
Multi Focal Area
Project Type
FSP

CEO

Part I - General Project Information

1. a) Is the Project Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

Third review:

The listing of City of Johannesburg and ICLEI as project executing entities is correct, however please these two need to be listed in separate rows. Please list ICLEI as a different entity in the portal, and select the correct Project entity type (ICLEI is considered a CSO and not Government).

Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
City of Johannesburg and ICLEI	Government

Second review:

As discussed via email, please remove DBSA as an executing entity and add ICLEI Africa back as per the initial arrangements.

July 14, 2025:

Yes.

Agency Response

GHG figures amended

N/A

b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 14, 2025:

Yes.

Agency ResponseN/A

2. Project Summary.

a) Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?

b) Does the summary capture the essence of the project and is it within the max. of 250 words?

c) [If a child project under a program] Does the project summary include adequate and substantive link with the parent program goal and approach?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fifth review:

Cleared.

Final updates incorporated in the summary text.

Expected results include the reduction of 617 tons CO_2/year of GHG emissions, and improved management of 418,795 hectares for biodiversity and ecosystem services. Approximately 8,849,246 (48% males, 52% females) people will benefit directly through improved water quality, cleaner energy, restored ecosystems, and strengthened local economies.

Second review:

Cleared.

July 14, 2025:
a) The project summary does not adequately capture the key interventions supported under components 1 and 2. Given that these components align well with the SCIP's integrated approach, they should be included in the summary.
Please also look at the format, as most of the summary text is now shown in bold.
b) Please mention that the project is part of the Sustainable Cities IP, and will build on learnings from the GEF-6 SC-IAP project in South Africa.

Agency Response

a) Font corrected to not be in bold. Updated summary to reflect key interventions of components 1 and 2.

b) Added that the project is part of the Sustainable Cities IP. A description, explaining how this GEF-8 project builds on the GEF-6 investment in Johannesburg has been added under the project summary.

3. Project Description Overview
a) Is the project objective statement concise, clear and measurable?
b) [If a child project under a program] Is there a project Theory of Change that is aligned and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?
c) Are the components, outcomes, and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?
d) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the project components and budgeted for?
e) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?
f) Is the PMC equal to or below 10% (for MSP) or 5% (for FSP)? If above, is the justification acceptable?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Seventh review:

Cleared.

Sixth review:

PMC costs: In the previous submission, cofinanced PMC was $6,040,000 from total project cofinancing of $119,488,000 (corresponding to 5%). In the new submission, cofinanced PMC was halved while project cofinancing increased: $3,040,000 cofinanced PMC out of $122,488,000 total cofinancing or 2.5%. This may have been a typo. Please check and revise so that PMC is proportional between the GEF financed and cofinanced segments (it must be $6,124,000).

Fifth review:

Cleared.

Fourth review:

There is no co-financing allocated to share the M&E budget with the GEF financing. Please allocate some co-financing to share the cost with GEF financing, given that the project has significant co-financing.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)						
M&E	Technical Assistance	Effective project monitoring and evaluation system established to ensure adaptive management, accountability, and learning.	- Periodic progress reports and annual implementation reviews (PIRs) prepared and submitted. - Independent Mid-Term Evaluation conducted to assess progress, identify lessons, and inform course correction. - Independent Terminal Evaluation undertaken at project completion to assess achievement of outcomes, sustainability, and lessons learned for replication.	GET	200,000.00	
				Sub Total ($)	6,799,748.00	119,488,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	339,093.00	6,040,000.00
				Sub Total($)	339,093.00	6,040,000.00
				Total Project Cost($)	7,138,841.00	125,528,000.00

Third review:

Previous comment c) has not been addressed:

c) Please include the outputs and outcomes for the M&E component.

Child Project Components	Component Type	Child Project Outcomes	Child Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-Financing($)
Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)						
M&E	Technical Assistance	Monitoring and Evaluation		GET	200,000.00	
				Sub Total ($)	6,799,748.00	208,528,000.00

All others cleared.

Second review:

b) and d) Cleared.

c) Please include the outputs and outcomes for the M&E component.

Child Project Components	Component Type	Child Project Outcomes	Child Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-Financing($)

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)						
M&E	Technical Assistance	Monitoring and Evaluation		GET	200,000.00	
				Sub Total ($)	6,799,748.00	208,528,000.00

e)-f) We note that the co-financing resources allocated to PMC still aren?t proportional compared with those allocated from GEF resources. The contribution to PMC from co-financing is around 2.9%, compared to 5% from GEF financing. According to GEF policy, the contributions should be proportional. If 5% from co-financing is deemed too high, you can consider also reducing the contribution from GEF financing. The share for PMC can be maximum 5% for an FSP, but can also be lower depending on project needs.

July 14, 2025:
a) Yes.
b)-d) Under component 2, please specifically mention participation in events and trainings under GPSC.
See further comments under Project Description.
e) No. Please adjust so that GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC are proportional.
f) Yes, for the GEF financing. Please also add the same percentage to PMC from the co-financing.

Agency Response

Fourth review:

CO-financing has been allocated to M&E as advised

b) Added activity 2.1.3.3 for participation in events and trainings under GPSC

e)Co-financing contribution is very high due to parallel investment to the City of Johannesburg's solar infrastructure. the indicated PMC co-financing is deemed sufficient to cover implementation costs

f)Co-financing contribution is very high due to parallel investment to the City of Johannesburg's solar infrastructure. the indicated PMC co-financing is deemed sufficient to cover implementation costs

4. Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the project design?
b) Have the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other project outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?
c) If this is an NGI project, is there a description of how the project and its financial structure are addressing financial barriers?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
Cleared.

July 14, 2025:
a) The rationale provided for this project mentions the reduction of traffic congestion as one of its core objectives. However, there are no direct activities aimed at addressing traffic congestion. Please also provide more details on the relevance, linkages and contribution to GEF-8 Sustainable Cities IP.
b) The rationale describes the various stakeholder roles etc.
c) N/A

Agency Responsea) The reduction of traffic congestion has been removed from the core objectives, as it won?t be implemented as the Solar PV project in CoJ, but rather be imbedded in the municipal plans as one of the strategies to reduce GHG emissions.
5 B. Project Description
5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements are contributing to the objective, the identified causal pathways, the focus and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust approach? Are underlying key assumptions listed?
b) [If a child project under a program] Is the Theory of change aligned with and consistent with the overall program goal and approach?
c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region? [If a child project under a program] Does the description include how the alternative aligns with and contributes to the overall program goal and approach?
d) Are the project components (interventions and activities) described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?
e) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Has the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline projects been described? Is the project incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)? Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified?
f) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the project at the national and local levels sufficiently described?
g) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate and demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives? Are items charged to the PMC reasonable according to the GEF guidelines?
h) How does the project design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and adaptive management needs and options (as applicable for this FSP/MSP)?
i) Are the relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) and their roles adequately described within the components?
j) Gender: Does the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities and have these been taken up in component design and description/s?
k) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?
l) Policy Coherence: Have any policies, regulations or subsidies been identified that could counteract

the intended project outcomes and how will that be addressed?
m) Transformation and/or innovation: Is the project going to be transformative or innovative? [If a child project under an integrated program] Are the specific levers of transformation identified and described? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

All cleared.

? ToC has been uploaded with better resolution.

? Component 1-2: The three targeted municipalities for components 1-3 are mentioned in the introduction of the Project Description.

? Component 3: Some additional clarity has been added to this Component, in particular under Output 3.1.2.

Third review:

a)-b) Comment has not been addressed. The Theory of Change diagram (Figure 1) is still blurry and illegible. Please upload in the Portal again with better resolution.

d)-e) Two previous comments still have not been addressed.

Components 1-2: The support for urban planning and capacity building through this project is said to be delivered in a few core municipalities, and previously DBSA had communicated these other participating municipalities were Joe Gqabi, Vhembe and Gert Sibande. However, the project description still doesn?t mention the names of these municipalities in the text. **Please make explicit reference to these three municipalities and what exactly the project will support in these municipalities.** This needs to be clearly described in the Project Description as well as the budget table.

Component 3: The comment on Component 3 has not been addressed, no edits or updates seem to have been made, and there is no response given in the review sheet. Please address this comment:

While the focus on financing is valuable, the proposed activities for output 3.1.2: Financial mechanisms deployed at the municipal level, are lacking. The current activities only aim to identify, map, and train institutions on various options. Under this component, DBSA should be more ambitious in linking with their own municipal financing work and leveraging their investments. **Please update the component description to respond to this comment.**

Second review:
a)-b) The project Theory of Change (ToC) shown in Figure 1 is very blurry and difficult to read. Please try to reupload in the Portal entry with higher resolution or in a different format. It looks like our comments have been addressed also in the diagram, and the barriers and assumptions added, but it is hard to assess with such a low-quality image. In the previous submission, the ToC diagram was clear to read, so you can try to upload in a similar way and format this time.
c) Cleared. (A reference to GEF-6 is made in the project description, and the linkages have also been explained in earlier sections.)
d)-e)
Components 1-2: The support for urban planning and capacity building through this project is said to be delivered in a few core municipalities, and previously DBSA had communicated these other participating municipalities were Joe Gqabi, Vhembe and Gert Sibande. Please make explicit reference to these three municipalities and what exactly the project support in these municipalities. This needs to be clearly described in the Project Description as well as the budget table.

Component 3: The comment on Component 3 has not been addressed and the review sheet currently says ?DBSA to assist please?. Please address this comment in the next round or project revisions.
Component 4: Cleared. (Clarification regarding scope and scalability of the interventions have been provided. This is also reflected in the GHG reduction targets under Core Indicator 6.)
f) and j) Cleared.

July 14, 2025:
a)-b) The Theory of Change does not clearly indicate whether unsustainable urban development leads to biodiversity loss and climate change. It also doesn?t mention urban sprawl and lack of efficient planning at the municipal level as a barrier. Please include in the TOC.
Under input, add enhancing access to financing.
Please also add ?key assumptions? for the envisioned change to happen.
c) It is important to add a description, explaining how this GEF-8 project builds on the GEF-6 investment in Johannesburg. There are several lessons from the GEF-6 project which the proposal should factor into its design and elaborate on.
d)-e)
Component 1: Including activities that facilitate coordination and collaboration across different government agencies would be beneficial. This is particularly important for interventions that integrate nature and biodiversity into urban planning. In this regard the project should also talk about policy coherence and discuss if there are policies which may constrain biodiversity integration in urban land use planning.
The separation between components 1 and 2 can be made clearer. We understand that Component 1 is on planning and policy, and Component 2 is on capacity building. However, the name of Component 2 mentions mainstreaming into policies and plans (which also seems to be covered under Component 1).
Component 2: Please include participation in the GPSC events and trainings, which may be envisioned under activity 2.1.3 but it is not explicitly mentioned in the text. Please make sure that these activities are budgeted for. The GPCS team can provide further guidance on recommended amounts if needed.
Component 3: While the focus on financing is valuable, the proposed activities for output 3.1.2: Financial mechanisms deployed at the municipal level, are lacking. The current activities only aim to identify, map, and train institutions on various options. Under this component, DBSA should be more ambitious in linking with their own municipal financing work and leveraging their investments.
Component 4: The linkage between component 4 and the other components is unclear. It appears that investments will be concentrated in Johannesburg, while planning support is extended to other cities as well. Please provide more information on the scope and extent of this solar energy pilot, and how this is the best use of GEF resources. E.g. How many municipality-owned buildings will be targeted? How will it be scaled up for other building typologies? How will you ensure impact at scale from these investments? (See further comments on the target for GHG reductions further down).
f) The socio-economic benefits section is vaguely described. DBSA should provide more specific details on how these benefits will be generated.
i) Private sector engagement needs further elaboration. There is also a lack of consultation with CSOs and their potential engagement during the implementation phase.

Agency Response

Added the issues of unsustainable urban development urban sprawl and lack of efficient planning at the municipal level as challenges.

Added sentences that describe the assumptions made for the ToC.

Added a description of how this project builds off the GEF-6.

Component 1: Activities that foster coordination between municipal departments have been added. We have also added that this project will also assess policy alignment and identify conflicting policies that may constrain biodiversity integration and propose harmonisation strategies.

The separation between the two components has now been made clearer, and terms such as mainstreaming have been removed from component 2.

Component 2: Included participation in the GPSC events and trainings, which may be envisioned under activity 2.1.3.3.

Component 3: DBSA to assist please

Component 4: More information on the scope of the solar energy project as it is envisaged beyond this project has been added.

f) Relevant sentences within the project rationale have been edited for clarity.

i) Relevant sentences within the project rationale have been edited for clarity

5.2 Institutional Arrangements and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project
a) Are the institutional arrangements, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has an organogram and/or funds flow diagram been included?
b) Comment on proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception). Is GEF in support of the request?
c) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed projects/programs (such as government and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the project area, e.g.).
d) [If a child project under an integrated program] Does the framework for coordination and collaboration demonstrate consistency with overall ambition of the program for transformative change?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

Third review:

Previous comments have not been addressed, and the updated execution arrangements are not reflected in this section. Please address the following comments:

1) 1) The text still refers to DBSA and CoJ as the executing agencies. Please update this to reflect the current execution arrangements with CoJ and ICLEI as executing agencies.

2) 2) Where it says **?Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project?** The answer should be ?No? and the justification text should be removed.

3) 3) Update Figure 2 to show CoJ and ICLEI as Executing agencies. It still shows DBSA and CoJ. See screenshot below.

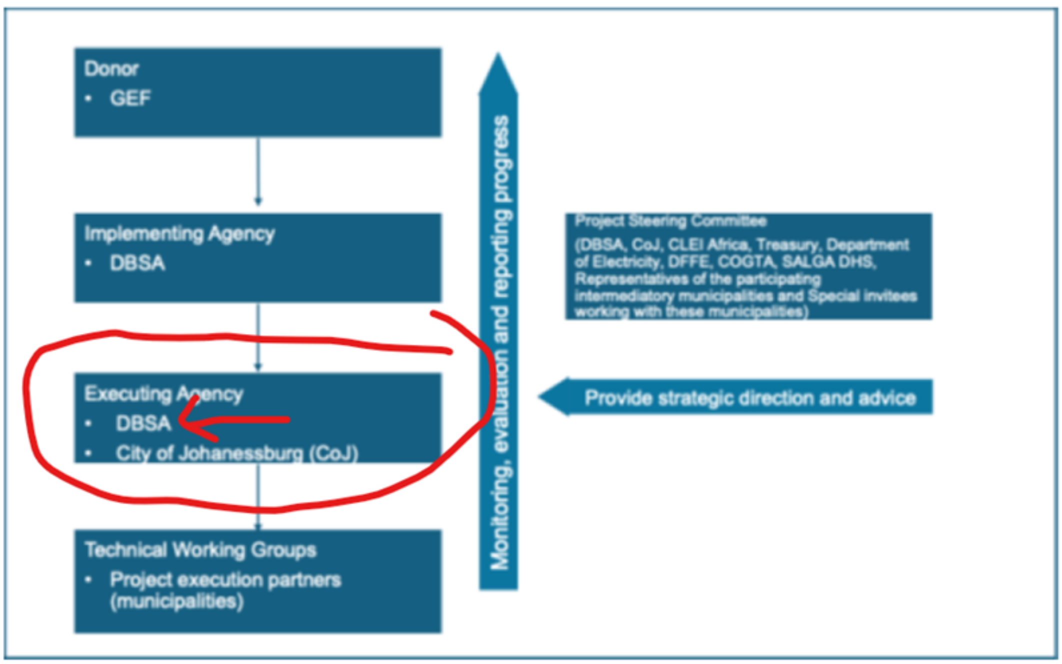

Figure 2: Proposed institutional arrangements

4) The text still says: ?For the intermediary municipalities, the role of ICLEI Africa will need to be defined?? Given that ICLEI is now decided to be an executing entity, their role needs to be defined. Please update the text accordingly.

Second review:

i. It is very welcome to see the addition of City of Johannesburg as an execution partner for Component 4, building on their successful involvement in the GEF-6 SCIAP project. They will also be well placed to benefit from lessons learnt from GEF-6.

ii. In the review sheet, it is stated that ?The role of ICLEI Africa has been refined to indicate supporting the intermediatory municipalities. The CoJ will execute component 4 of this project and will leverage existing expertise, and collaborations established during GEF-6.? This sounds like a good arrangement for the project. However, looking at the GEF Portal entry, ICLEI are no longer mentioned as execution entity and instead it is stated that DBSA as the GEF Agency will be responsible for Components 1, 2, and 3. Please clarify the role and involvement of ICLEI Africa. During the previous review and discussions between DBSA and GEFSEC, the value of having ICLEI involved were recognized and the only concern was regarding component 4 in Johannesburg. Please reassess if ICLEI Africa can still be the executing entity for components 1, 2, and 3. The text still mentions that ?For the intermediary municipalities, the role of ICLEI Africa will need to be defined??

iii. Having DBSA as the implementing GEF agency also executing the project cannot be approved. Any exceptions can only be approved if they align with **GEF/C.69/12 POLICY AMENDMENTS TO STREAMLINE THE GEF PROJECT CYCLE** - referring explicitly to one or several of the criteria outlined there. In the case of this GEF-8 SCIP project in South Africa, none of the exception reasons above seem to apply. The justification for agency execution does not include any information on why DBSA is set to also execute the project. This needs to be discussed further with the agency.

iv. The review sheet mentions that the district will be engaged in the technical working groups and PSC. Please also include this in the project document.

July 14, 2025:
The project is set to be fully executed by ICLEI Africa. Clarification is needed as to why no national or local government entities have been considered as executing agencies. The GEF-6 model in Johannesburg was quite successful with CoJ as an executing agency.
It is also stated that:
?The City of Johannesburg has a GEF desk that oversaw the previous GEF 6 program, and the budget for that program was managed through this desk. It is expected that a similar approach would be used for this project.?
Does this mean that CoJ is in a position to be an execution entity for the project?
While ICLEI can provide support for technical assistance activities, it is uncertain whether they can effectively implement component 4. It is also unclear what role ICLEI will have in supporting the intermediary municipalities. This needs to be clarified.
Further, here are several relevant organizations operating in Johannesburg and other South African cities with complementary activities. Including these key institutions in the program's governance arrangements could enhance coordination and avoid duplication.
In the PSC, are the participating municipalities going to be part? Currently it says ?special invitees?, it needs to be clarified what this means.
Finally, it is good to see the involvement of the district as outlined in the Rationale. Which role will they play for the project governance?

Agency Response

DBSA will not be executing activities. it is reflected as such in the project document

5.3 Core indicators

a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01)? [If a child project under a program] Is the choice of core indicators consistent with those prioritized under the parent program?

b) Are the project?s targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) /adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fifth review:

Cleared.

Fourth review:

For Core Indicator 6:

1. DIRECT EMISSIONS: The spreadsheet provided includes assumptions and calculations. We note that the GHG estimate is quite ambitious, and that DBSA have used a capacity factor of 45% towards the later years which sounds very high. According to the sources we found, the factor for Johannesburg should be around 21%. See for example this reference: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0960148125017306#:~:text=The%20resulting%20capacity%20factors%20for,space%20constraints%20and%20urban%20density.&text=Fig.,PV%20potential%20for%20different%20provinces
Please adjust the capacity factor to be 21% through out the 20 years, unless you have other references that provide evidence that a higher capacity factor can be used. If so, please provide this reference but do not go higher than 30% in any case. We understand that this will reduce the amount of direct GHG emission reductions under core indicator 6, which is fine. It is better to be more conservative at this stage.

2. INDIRECT EMISSIONS: For the indirect GHG emissions mitigated, given that the assumptions are quite vague and without much detailed information at this stage, please remove the target on indirect emissions from the project and do not include any indirect emission target in the GEF portal.
However, since the project has potential to generate indirect emissions reductions later on, please include this in the project description under component 4, and mention it in the Core Indicator methodology text. You can state for example *?The project has the potential to also contribute to significant indirect GHG emissions reductions through excess energy generation and energy efficiency measures. This reduction will be further assessed during implementation, and reflected in the PIRs once specific interventions are identified and supported by the project?*

All other comments and core indicators are cleared.

Third review:

Previous comments from the second review have not been addressed. Please address the following comments:

i. For Core Indicator 6, some assumptions and calculations have been provided. In the review sheet, it is stated that ?A spreadsheet that shows how the emissions were estimated has been included.? However, we cannot find such a spreadsheet uploaded in the GEF Portal. **Please provide this spreadsheet during the next submission.**

ii. Under the methodology, under the GHG explanation text, a lot of other text is copied which seems to refer to the Program Level Results Framework. **Please delete from this section, as this is already included under the heading ?ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK?.**

iii. In the methodology text, please keep the section referring to Regarding Core Indicator 4 and how the 418,795 ha is linked to the amount of municipal land in accordance with revised municipal plans. Please also provide the area per municipality used to come up with this total number.

iv. The target for Core Indicator 11 (Number of people benefitting) is missing. **Please include this number in the portal entry.**

See screenshot here below:

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

11/3/2025 Official Use Only Page 25 of 56

Core indicator 11 is missing, please add.

global environment facility

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions avoided are calculated by first determining the annual electricity generation from the installed solar PV capacity. For a 120 MW system, electricity generation is computed as the product of installed capacity, hours in a day, days in a year, and the capacity factor. In this project, an 80 MWh battery storage system is envisaged, which enables a higher capacity factor of 60% (compared to ~23% without storage). This results in annual electricity generation of 630,720 MWh. The generation is then multiplied by the grid emission factor (0.9871 tCO_2/MWh), yielding annual avoided emissions of 622,584 tCO_2. Over the 20-year lifetime of the project, the cumulative avoided emissions amount to approximately 12.45 million tCO_2.

Please also include a summary of the methodology used to estimate Core Indicator 4, as this is currently missing.

Output

Outcome

Indicator number

Indicator description

Please remove all the text from here and down (12 pages), and instead include a concise summary of aspects directly relevant to the GEF Core Indicators.

Second review:
The Core Indicator targets provided at this stage seem much more aligned with what was envisioned at concept stage, which is positive.
i. For Core Indicator 6, some assumptions and calculations have been provided. In the review sheet, it is stated that ?A spreadsheet that shows how the emissions were estimated has been included.? However, we cannot find such a spreadsheet uploaded in the GEF Portal. Please provide this during the next submission.
ii. Under the methodology, under the GHG explanation text, a lot of other text is copied which seems to refer to the Program Level Results Framework. Please delete from this section, as this is already included under the heading ?ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK?.
iii. In the methodology text, please keep the section referring to Regarding Core Indicator 4 and how the 418,795 ha is linked to the amount of municipal land in accordance with revised municipal plans. Please also provide the area per municipality used to come up with this total number.
iv. The target for Core Indicator 11 (Number of people benefitting) seems to be excluded. Please double check and include this number in the portal entry.

July 14, 2025:
The GHG reduction target under Core Indicator 6 is notably lower compared to those proposed at the concept stage. This contradicts the expectation set by Outcome 4.1, which states, *"Transformative reduction in GHG emissions?"*. Please review these estimates, and also see if there are indirect reductions from e.g. urban planning, replication or restoration work that can be included.
Also please insert in the portal the accumulated reduction for the time period used for the project, not the annual reduction.

Finally, please provide a spreadsheet with all the assumptions and calculations for easy understanding of the methodology used.

Agency Response

Loaded

Adjusted the methodology accordingly to reflect the capacity factor of 21% and changed the description of the methodology as well.

We have removed the estimation for indirect emission and have an qualitative description as per the useful feedback in the comment receive that explains that there are indirect benefits from excess energy generation and improved energy efficiency.

The GHG estimate has been updated to reflect the overall emission reductions expected from the project and to reflect the accumulated reductions for the duration of the project. A spreadsheet that shows how the emissions were estimated has been included.

5.4 Risks
a) Is there a well-articulated assessment of risk to outcomes and identification of mitigation measures under each relevant risk category? Are mitigation measures clearly identified and realistic? Is there any omission?
b) Is the rating provided reflecting the residual risk to the likely achievement of intended outcomes after accounting for the expected implementation of mitigation measures?
c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately assessed and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

The rating of the Environmental and Social risk category is now indicated as Moderate.

Third review:

Comment not addressed: Whereas the ESS rating is medium, the rating of the Environmental and Social risk category is low. Please ensure these two ratings are aligned as per guidance in the GEF Risk Appetite (GEF/C.66/13).

From the risk table:

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	Climate variability could impact long-term potential of the implementation of proposed nature and climate solutions. The project incorporates flexibility in the selection of measures that are selected due their accepted longevity in the face of a changing climate.
Environmental and Social	Low	Potential social concerns regarding acceptance and cultural perceptions on the proposed interventions. Mitigated through early stakeholder engagement, public education, and alignment with environmental and health standards. Safeguards screening will guide risk management.
Political and Governance	Substantial	Risk of policy shifts or delays in local government support. Mitigation includes alignment with national and provincial priorities and early involvement of local authorities.
INNOVATION		

Under Environmental and Social Safeguards:

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

Second review:
Whereas the ESS rating is medium, the rating of the Environmental and Social risk category is low. Please ensure these two ratings are aligned as per guidance in the GEF Risk Appetite (GEF/C.66/13).

Agency Response

The total of 12,451,674 tCO?e represents both direct and indirect emissions reductions. Of this, 7,451,674 tCO?e reflects direct reductions derived from the renewable energy capacity that the City will install, as detailed in the project documentation. The remaining 5,000,000 tCO?e represents indirect emissions reductions expected from the City?s planned energy efficiency initiatives.

5.5 For NGI Only: Is there a justification of the financial structure and of the use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
N/A.

Agency Response
6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities
6.1 a) Is the project adequately aligned with Focal Area objectives, and/or the LDCF/SCCF strategy? b) [If a child project under an integrated program] Is the project adequately aligned with the program objective in the GEF-8 programming directions?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

Third review:

Comment not addressed: Some mention of GEF-8 Sustainable Cities IP and its priorities has been provided, please bring this upfront in this section. As this is an IP project and not a focal area project, the references to focal area objectives can be removed from this section.

Please address this during the resubmission!

Second review:
Some mention of GEF-8 Sustainable Cities IP and its priorities has been provided, please bring this upfront in this section. As this is an IP project and not a focal area project, all references to focal area objectives can be removed from this section.

July 14, 2025:
Please make specific reference to the GEF-8 Sustainable Cities IP and its priorities, and how the project interventions are aligned with these.

Agency Response
6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors).

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
July 14, 2025:
Yes.

Agency Response
6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

Third review:

Comment not addressed:

Reference to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are made, but please also include a brief description for each of the Targets mentioned on **HOW** the project will contribute this this. It can be just one sentence per Target mentioned (i.e. Targets 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 20 and 22). Example:

?The project will contribute to Target 1 (biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning) by improving governance and institutional support at the municipal level, which will increase their capacity to carry out spatial planning that considers biodiversity and nature-positive development.?

Second review:

Reference to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are made, but please also include a brief description for each of the Targets mentioned on HOW the project will contribute this this. It can be just a sentence of two per Target mentioned (i.e. Targets 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 20 and 22). The review sheet mentions that the targets have been linked to the project interventions but this is not very clear in the project document portal entry. It was actually clearer in the previous submission, which just needed to include Target 12 as well.

July 14, 2025:

For the targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, these are listed but please also describe briefly what project interventions that will contribute to each target. This could be for example a table listing the targets and then shortly mapping project interventions to these. Also, will the project contribute to Target 12 which is specifically to ?Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity?? Is so, please add this.

Agency ResponseThis section has been expanded to include reflections on target 12 and the targets have been linked to the project interventions.

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

July 14, 2025:

Yes.

Agency Response

7.2 Is the Gender Action Plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fifth review:

OP to do their final review.

PM notes that the gender sensitive indicators have been included in the Results framework, see Indicator 4, 8, 9 and 13 under the various components. This includes the knowledge products developed. See also overall Gender indicators in table listed below the Core Indicators in the Projects Results Framework Section.

Fourth review:

We request the Agency to include gender- sensitive indicators in the Results Framework, aligned with indicators included in the project GAP, as the project is stating that the Results Framework includes them.

Also, please ensure also that knowledge products developed include lessons learned in advancing gender equality and women?s empowerment in the project.

On M&E, please ensure the regular monitoring and reporting of gender-specific results, including the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

Third review:

Comment not addressed, no response given in the review sheet, and a Gender Analysis has not been provided. See previous comment here below:

Additional comment from GEF?s Operations and Policy team: A gender analysis is missing. This has to be done and its findings integrated into the project document - description, ToC, project components. The Gender Action Plan does not specify the actions/activities that will be taken to address gender inequality and empower women as part of the project. The Gender Action Plan has to be aligned with the project components and outputs. The Results Framework should also include gender indicators aligned with indicators included in the project Gender Action Plan. Please revise the Gender Action Plan accordingly. Please ensure also that knowledge products developed include lessons learned in advancing gender equality and women?s empowerment in the project. On M&E, please ensure the regular monitoring and reporting of gender-specific results, including the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

Second review:
No response to the previous comment has been included in the review sheet. Please provide, and indicate how the previous comment has been addressed.

Additional comment from GEF?s Operations and Policy team: A gender analysis is missing. This has to be done and its findings integrated into the project document - description, ToC, project components. The Gender Action Plan does not specify the actions/activities that will be taken to address gender inequality and empower women as part of the project. The Gender Action Plan has to be aligned with the project components and outputs. The Results Framework should also include gender indicators aligned with indicators included in the project Gender Action Plan. Please revise the Gender Action Plan accordingly. Please ensure also that knowledge products developed include lessons learned in advancing gender equality and women?s empowerment in the project. On M&E, please ensure the regular monitoring and reporting of gender-specific results, including the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.

July 14, 2025:
Yes.
The gender action plan should outline how the proposed gender-related activities will be carried out under various project components.

Agency Response

Please see indicators 4, 8, 9 and 13 that have been integrated into the framework.

The CEO Endorsement template we have stated "The knowledge products developed through the project will capture and disseminate lessons learned in advancing gender equality and women?s empowerment, particularly in the context of climate-resilient urban planning, biodiversity conservation, and municipal governance. These lessons will inform future policy development and guide replication of gender-responsive approaches across other municipalities and national programmes." We have now added an indicator 9 to link to this.

Indicator 13, addresses the need for M&E of the gender action plan.

7.3 Is the stakeholder engagement plan uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fifth review:

OP to do their final review.

PM notes that updates have been made in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as per previous comments, see agency response in review sheet.

Fourth review:

We note that the agency has partly addressed the comment on stakeholder engagement. Agency has provided a revised stakeholder engagement plan but this plan still does not provide details on the projects planned engagement with local communities, informal sectors and vulnerable groups during project implementation beyond a brief mentioning of bi-annual information outreach. **Please provide further details of the role of these groups related to project components and outputs and project plans to meaningfully engage them in project implementation.**

Third review:

There has been no response to the previous comment, and no updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been provided. Please provide this, and indicate in the review sheet how the comment has been addressed. A more detailed stakeholder engagement plan including engagement with local communities, informal sectors and vulnerable groups during project implementation needs to be provided.

Second review:
No response to the previous comment has been included in the review sheet. Please provide, and indicate how the previous comment has been addressed. A more detailed stakeholder engagement plan including engagement with local communities, informal sectors and vulnerable groups during project implementation needs to be provided.

July 14, 2025:
Yes. Stakeholder consultations for the development of the project are not detailed. Table 1 lists key stakeholders but only mentions their role during implementation.

Agency ResponsePlease see paragraphs inserted into the stakeholder plan that describe the community engagement on page 7. Table 6 on Page 7 further specifies activities to be undertaken with local communities, informal sectors and vulnerable groups and links these to the relevant project components.
7.4 Have the required applicable safeguards documents been uploaded?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
Yes.

Agency Response
8 Annexes
Annex A: Financing Tables
8.1 GEF Financing Table and Focal Area Elements: Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):
STAR allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
Yes.

Agency Response
Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
N/A

Agency Response
LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
N/A

Agency Response
SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
N/A

Agency Response
SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
N/A

Agency Response
Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
Yes.

Agency Response

8.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
a) Is the use of PPG attached in Annex: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) properly itemized according to the guidelines?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

The row indicating ?Consultants? has been removed and the amount was relocated to other budget lines.

Third review:

Previous comment has not been addressed: The table on Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) needs to provide more detailed information on the type on consultants to be funded by PPG, if this is still part of the budget. You cannot just say ?consultants?. Please see screenshot below, and update the row where it only says ?Consultants?.

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Service provider assist with CEO ER project documents	75,000.00	75,000.00	
GEF 8 SCIP project preparation Workshop	100,000.00	80,000.00	20,000.00
Consultants	25,000.00		25,000.00
Total	200,000.00	**155,000.00**	**45,000.00**

Second review:
The table is using correct headings ? please provide some more detailed information on the type on consultants to be funded by PPG, if this is still part of the budget.

Agency Response
8.3 Source of Funds
Does the sources of funds table match with the amounts in the OFP's LOE?
Note: the table only captures sources of funds from the country's STAR allocation

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Second review:
Yes.

Agency Response
8.4 Confirmed co-financing for the project, by name and type: Are the amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?
e.g. Have letters of co-finance been submitted, correctly classified as investment mobilized or in-kind/recurring expenditures? If investment mobilized: is there an explanation below the table to describe the nature of co-finance? If letters are not in English, is a translation provided?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

The final DBSA co-financing letter for an amount of 111 million USD has been provided, and has been discussed with OP as acceptable.

All other co-financing and letters are cleared since before.

Third review:

Regarding the latest co-financing letter provided by DBSA, for $111 million:

The letter of cofinancing must be confirmed. The letter states ?The Development Bank of Southern Africa (?DBSA?) is pleased to express its interest to support the submission of the ?Sustainable Cities Programme ? City of Johannesburg Component? for CEO Endorsement?. This is expression of interest rather than confirmed cofinancing letter. Please remove this cofinancing if not confirmed by the source.

Second review:
Based on the comments below, GEFSEC are still waiting for the updated co-financing letters from DBSA. Please provide these.

Additional comment from GEF?s Operations and policy team: The letter of cofinancing must be confirmed. The letter sates ?The proposed co-financing is subject to prior written approval by credit and investment and/or board committees of the DBSA. It is accordingly subject to further modification, adaptation or variation as such committees may decide, at their sole discretion.? Therefore, it is still not confirmed. Additionally, the letter does not indicate the amount of cofinancing. Kindly remove this cofinancing since it is not confirmed. Otherwise, please submit a confirmed letter with correct amount.

July 14, 2025:
The co-financing amount of 444 million USD does not appear to be a firm funding commitment but rather a funding requirement from City Power Johannesburg. For this amount to be included as project co-financing, please revise the co-financing letter or otherwise this amount should be removed from the co-financing table.
If this co-financing of 444 million USD is excluded, the new co-financing total will be quite low, with a ratio of 1:2. Consequently, it is recommended that DBSA explore additional sources of co-financing for the project.
The description text in the GEF portal mentions USD 6,000,000 from the City of Johannesburg, but there is no co-financing from CoJ presented in the co-financing table. Please align the information to make sure it is consistent, and with the right name and type of co-financier.

Agency ResponseUploaded, only one co-financing letter attached. The rest deleted.

Annex B: Endorsements

8.5 a) If ? and only if - this is a global or regional project for which not all country-based interventions were known at PIF stage and, therefore, not all LOEs provided:
Has the project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Second review:

N/A

Agency Response

b) Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Second review:

N/A

Agency Response

c) Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Second review:

N/A

Agency Response

Annex C: Project Results Framework

8.6 a) Have the GEF core indicators been included?

b) Have SMART indicators been used; are means of verification well thought out; do the targets correspond/are appropriate in view of total project financing (too high? Too low?)

c) Are all relevant indicators sex disaggregated?

d) Is the Project Results Framework included in the Project Document pasted in the Template?

e)[If a regional/global coordination child project under an integrated program] Does the results framework reflect the program-wide result framework, inclusive of results from child projects and specific to the regional/global coordination child project? [If a country child project under an integrated program] Is the child project result framework inclusive of program-wide metrics monitored across child project by the Regional/Global Child project?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fifth review:

Cleared.

Gender sensitive indicators have been included in the Results framework, see Indicator 4, 8, 9 and 13 under the various components. This includes the knowledge products developed. See also overall Gender indicators in table listed below the Core Indicators in the Projects Results Framework Section.

Fourth review:

We request the Agency to include gender- sensitive indicators in the Results Framework, aligned with indicators included in the project GAP, as the project is stating that the Results Framework includes them.

Second review:

Cleared.

July 14, 2025:

As this is a child project under the Sustainable Cities IP, in the Project Results Framework please also include the program-wide results framework that has been shared by the GPSC

team. Those indicators identified there will need to be reported on yearly to GPSC. If any questions, please reach out to them for guidance.
Please also include the GEF Core Indicators.

Agency Response

November 2025

The project results framework has been updated as recommended

October 2025

The program-wide results framework has been included.

GEF core indicators applicable to this project are included.

Annex E: Project map and coordinates

8.7 Have geographic coordinates of project locations been entered in the dedicated table? Are relevant illustrative maps included?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

Cleared.

Third review:

Comment not addressed: In Annex E on Project Map and Coordinates, please insert the geographic coordinates of the sites **directly under the dedicated data entry field in the portal**. They are already in a table format, so please just also insert them into the latitude and longitude fields.

Please see example below of what this will look like in the portal:

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kamukunji, Nairobi, Kenya	-1.287713	36.843074	

Location Description:

Kamukunji, pilot neighborhood

Activity Description:

Second review:

In Annex E on Project Map and Coordinates, please consider inserting the geographic coordinates of the sites directly under the dedicated data entry field in the portal. They are already in a table format, please insert them into the latitude and longitude fields.

Agency Response

Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards Documentation and Rating

8.8 Have the relevant safeguard documents been uploaded to the GEF Portal? Has the safeguards rating been provided and filled out in the ER field below the risk table?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Fourth review:

All cleared.

i. Cleared ? The rating has been adjusted and is now aligned.

ii. Cleared ? A detailed ESMF has been provided.

iii. Cleared ? More details on the consultations have been provided.

iv. Cleared ? The Project Grievance Mechanism has been uploaded in the portal, see document named ***?GEF-8_Project Grieviance Mechanism (1)?***

Third review:

No response or update given in the review sheet. Please ensure that this previous comment has been addressed:

We note that DBSA attached the GEF Safeguard Report and stakeholder engagement plan, and an overall ESS risk is classified as Moderate. However, Environmental and Social risk in the Key Risk table mentioned ?Low? risk.

i. Please make the Environmental and Social risk in the Key Risk table consistent as the GEF Safeguard Report, Moderate. Also, ?Explanation of risk and mitigation measures? in the Environmental and Social risk in the Key Risk table is not consistent with the risks identified in the GEF Safeguard Report. Please make this description in the table consistent with the GEF Safeguard Report.

ii. A site-specific Environmental and Social Management Framework for City of Johannesburg needs to be completed by CEO Endorsement stage together with detailed consultations with key stakeholders including local communities.

iii. Please also explain how the results of consultations with local communities are integrated into the project design.

iv. The project grievance mechanisms should be established by the CEO Endorsement stage.

Second review:
We note that DBSA attached the GEF Safeguard Report and stakeholder engagement plan, and an overall ESS risk is classified as Moderate. However, Environmental and Social risk in the Key Risk table mentioned ?Low? risk.
i. Please make the Environmental and Social risk in the Key Risk table consistent as the GEF Safeguard Report, Moderate. Also, ?Explanation of risk and mitigation measures? in the Environmental and Social risk in the Key Risk table is not consistent with the risks identified in the GEF Safeguard Report. Please make this description in the table consistent with the GEF Safeguard Report.
ii. A site-specific Environmental and Social Management Framework for City of Johannesburg needs to be completed by CEO Endorsement stage together with detailed consultations with key stakeholders including local communities.
iii. Please also explain how the results of consultations with local communities are integrated into the project design.
iv. The project grievance mechanisms should be established by the CEO Endorsement stage.

Agency Response

Annex G: GEF Budget template
8.9 a) Is the GEF budget template attached and appropriately filled out incl. items such as the executing partner for each budget line?
b) Are the activities / expenditures reasonably and accurately charged to the three identified sources (Components, M&E and PMC)?
c) Are TORs for key project staff funded by GEF grant and/or co-finance attached?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Seventh review:

Cleared.

Sixth review:

PMC costs: In the previous submission, cofinanced PMC was $6,040,000 from total project cofinancing of $119,488,000 (corresponding to 5%). In the new submission, cofinanced PMC was halved while project cofinancing increased: $3,040,000 cofinanced PMC out of $122,488,000 total cofinancing or 2.5%. This may have been a typo. Please check and revise so that PMC is proportional between the GEF financed and cofinanced segments (it must be $6,124,000).

Fifth review:

OP team to do final review.

PM notes that last round of comments have been addressed. TORs are provided in the ProDoc (under the budget table) and are uploaded in the portal.

Fourth review:

1. As discussed in calls and via email, ?DBSA? had to be removed as ?responsible entity? for the two budget lines related to **financial mechanisms** and **GPSC events** *(this has been addressed in the latest budget table shared via email on November 18.)*

2. As also discussed, more details about activities and breakdowns had to be provided under the line items related to project components *(this has mostly been addressed in the latest budget table shared via email on November 18).* This overall looks much better, just one more comment:
>> For Component 4, can you please split this in two different line items:

Implementation of RE & EE interventions in the City of Johannesburg. Conduct feasibility study on increasing embedded generation in the city through solar PV to 200MW and energy efficiency installations. Procurement and fitting of renewable energy and energy efficiency installations. Assessment of renewable energy and energy efficiency installation performance to capture lessons. Support women-led SMMEs in solar system maintenance, helping to promote women's participation in the green economy.

We suggest putting the **Procurement and fitting** as one line item, and all the **Assessments/studies** are another line item, and list the costs respectively in the Component 4 column.

3. For the expenditure category in the first columns, DBSA have listed ?Contractual Services Local / International?. Please break-down and re-categorize into relevant and accurate expenditure categories as per the GEF budget template;
https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-project-budget-template
See screenshot below for examples of categories used in that template:

Expenditure Category	D
Works	--
	--
Goods	E
	E
	--
Vehicles	
Grants/ Sub-grants	--
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity	--
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	
Contractual Services – Individual	--
Contractual Services – Company	--
International Consultants	Ir
	Ir
	--
Local Consultants	--
	--
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	e C
	e

4. 4. Under ?Salary and benefits / Staff costs?, please list the specific positions, specify the costs for each and where this cost is going to be charged. Currently, the two positions are shown as one line item:

7		stages.
8	Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Project management unit - Two consultants within ICLEI Africa to be assigned to manage the project

Based on discussions, we understand that these two positions are Project Manager and Project Assistant. Therefore, please list these as two separate lines and specify their costs under PMC. See example below:

	...
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Project Manager
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Project Assistant

You need to provide TORs for these two positions, to be uploaded in the GEF portal and also included in the ProDoc. Note that if these are within ICLEI Africa, they are considered ?staff? and not ?consultants?.

5. **5. Under the category ?Travel?:** There is one budget line saying: ?Travel to other workshops and meetings?. Please provide some more details on what these other workshops and meetings might be.

6. Please remove the outdated budget table and only keep the latest version under Annex G:

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Title	
Project Budget Table v2	
GEF-8_Child_project_FSP_MSP_CEO_Endorsement_Approval_Template_16Nov 2025	

Third review:

The correct budget format has now been used. Please see additional comments on the budget table from the Operations and Policy team:

a. Neither DBSA agency fee nor Project Management Costs should be included in the budget table, which should total to the project grant amount only - please exclude both and redistribute these resources through other acceptable budget lines.

>>This means, the total amount in the budget table should equal to the GEF Project Grant ($ 7,138,841) and not the total GEF Financing ($7,999,333). The DBSA Agency fee can just be removed, and the Project management cost is already included as a separate column with a total of $ 355,000, so the additional row of $45,000 needs to be redistributed to other budget lines.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)								Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity ftn1
		Component 1		Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 4.1					
Other Operating Costs	M&E costs: MTR and TE						-	200,000		200,000	DBSA
	DBSA agency fee	107,562	107,562	215,123	215,123	215,123	860,492			860,492	DBSA
	Project management costs	5,625	5,625	11,250	11,250	11,250	45,000			45,000	ICLEI Africa
Grand Total		467,138	467,138	1,288,225	1,996,127	3,226,373	7,445,000	200,000	355,000	8,000,000	

b. Staff costs at 39% of the total budget is high, please streamline and reduce the costs (see guidance in the next point).

RowLabels	Sum of Total (USDeq.)	Share
Contractual Services – Company	494,444	6%
Contractual Services – Individual	-	0%
Goods	5,000	0%
Grants/ Sub-grants	-	0%
International Consultants	-	0%
Local Consultants	-	0%
Office Supplies	3,000	0%
Other Operating Costs	1,105,492	14%
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity	-	0%
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	3,109,383	39%
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity	3,000,000	38%
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	65,755	1%
Travel	216,926	3%
Vehicles	-	0%
Works	-	0%
Grand Total	**8,000,000**	**100%**

c. In absence of TORs, we cannot assess the reasonability of including several Management positions as highlighted in yellow below (Project Manager, several Directors), but it is not possible to approve the use $1,193,190 (17% of the total budget) in four Managerial positions - this must be reduced. Also, the Project Manager cost ($nearly 500K) is excessive for the same position in similar projects in the region, reason why the cost must be reduced. The adequacy of other positions such as Senior Finance Officers, Senior Specialists (Climate Change - Biodiversity - Sustainable Finance Center), Travel Manager can only be assessed whenever the TORs are provided (which must be port of the project document).

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)								Total (USDeq.)	Responsible Entity ftn1
		Component 1		Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 4.1					
International Consultants							-			-	
Local Consultants							-			-	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Project Manager	24,735	24,735	49,469	49,469		148,408		350,000	498,408	ICLEI Africa
	Director: Climate Change, Energy & Resilience	38,599	38,599	77,198	77,198		231,594			231,594	ICLEI Africa
	Director: Biodiversity	38,599	38,599	77,198	77,198		231,594			231,594	ICLEI Africa
	Director: Communications	38,599	38,599	77,198	77,198		231,594			231,594	ICLEI Africa
	Senior Specialist: Climate Change, Energy & Resilience	54,786	54,786	190,843	178,281		478,696			478,696	ICLEI Africa
	Senior Specialist: Biodiversity	54,786	54,786	190,843	178,281		478,696			478,696	ICLEI Africa
	Senior Specialist: Sustainable Finance Centre				574,436		574,436			574,436	ICLEI Africa
	Senior Communications Officer	35,198	35,198	70,397	70,397		211,190			211,190	ICLEI Africa
	Director: Finance	15,487	15,487	30,974	30,974		92,923			92,923	ICLEI Africa
	Senior Finance Officer	6,688	6,688	13,375	13,375		40,126			40,126	ICLEI Africa
	Travel Manager	6,688	6,688	13,375	13,375		40,126			40,126	ICLEI Africa

d. Please revise the budget table to correct the differences with the Portal?s component table as follows:

	Budget table	Component table in Portal	Difference
Component 1	934,275	2,500,000	(1,565,725)
Component 2	1,288,225	781,899	506,326
Component 3	1,996,127	317,849	1,678,278
Component 4	3,226,373	3,000,000	226,373
M&E	200,000	200,000	-
PMC	355,000	339,093	15,907
Total	**8,000,000**	**7,138,841**	**861,159**

e. When resubmitted, we will review the budget table again and provide comments if appropriate.

Second review:

The template presented by the agency is unclear and lacks detailed information. As an example, PMC is presented as one line for a total of $339,093. Detailed information needs to be provided on exactly which positions will be charged to PMC, if any equipment, goods or services, etc. We would kindly request the agency to refer to the GEF Guidelines on the Project Cycle (page 46: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_Guidelines_Project_Program_Cycle_Policy_20200731.pdf) and use the template provided there that also includes the column on the responsible executing entity receiving funds for each activity. The template can be found here: https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-project-budget-template

Once the resubmission and the new template is provided with the correspondent TORs as appropriate, we will review the budget and provide additional comments.

Sub-total																					00
Gender-related costs (attributed within activity budgets listed above; not in addition to budget total)																					
Conduct participatory gender assessments in target municipalities	x	x			x	x															
Develop and implement targeted training for women on solar PV installation				x	x	x															
Support women-led SMMEs in solar maintenance									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Include gender-sensitive indicators in M&E	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Sub-total																					0.00
Cross-cutting costs																					
Mid-term & terminal evaluation						x	x												x	x	200,000.00
PMC	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	339,093.00
DBSA agency fee																					860,492.00
Annual financial audits				x				x				x				x				x	25,000.00
Sub-total																					1,424,585.00
Grand Total																					7,999,333.00

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USD eq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[85]
		Component 1	*Component 2*	*Component 3*	*Sub-total*	*M&E*	*PMC*		
Works	—								
Goods	Equipment 1								e.g. Ministry of Environment
Vehicles						xxx			
Grants/ Sub-grants	—								
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity	—								
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity									
Contractual	Int'l								

July 14, 2025:
The budget table does not align with the GEF budget template. It should include the expenditure heads and provide a yearly breakdown of estimated expenses.

Agency Response

Proposed changes have been amended in the budget table

DBSA is removed as entity responsible to implement the finance mechanisms activity

All project items linked to classified according to the activity category shows in the budget template

Salaries have been split according to the two positions in the project management unit (project manager and project assistant

Furhter detail provided under the travel section of the budget table

Updated budget uploaded, outdated tables removed

Annex H: NGI Relevant Annexes
8.10 a) Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to assess the following criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

b) Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.
c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Second review:
N/A

Agency Response

Additional Annexes

9. GEFSEC DECISION

9.1.GEFSEC Recommendation

Is the project recommended for approval

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Seventh review:

Yes, PM recommends the project for approval.

Sixth review:

Please address the last comment on PMC and resubmit for approval.

Fifth review:

PM recommends the project for approval.

On the ProDoc, PM notes that yellow highlights/shadows have been removed, thank you. PM also notes that some figures under the heading **ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS** are not visible, but these are only the ones that refer to GEFSEC comments that have not copied correctly from the Review Sheet. These are not essential, so should not be required to update.

Fourth review:

The CEO Endorsement Request Portal view, which is the document that is circulated to Council for review (see attached pdf file) still has some yellow shadows/highlights and some figures are not legible. Please remove the shadows/highlight and improve the formatting for the figures to be legible.

PDF

11294_South Africa - CEO End...

11/16/2025

Official Use Only
Page 85 of 91

global environment facility

1) The text still refers to DBSA and CoJ as the executing agencies. Please update this to reflect the current execution arrangements with CoJ and ICLEI as executing agencies.	The figure on Page 22 has been updated to reflect as CoJ and ICLEI Africa as executing agencies. The supporting text has also been revised on Page 22 to indicate the role of ICLEI Africa as an executing agency, and we have removed the sentences indicating that the role of ICLEI Africa would still need to be refined.
i. For Core Indicator 6, some assumptions and calculations have been provided. In the review sheet, it is stated that "A spreadsheet that shows how the emissions were estimated has been included."	i. The spreadsheet is uploaded to the portal.

Example of highlights to be removed is seen in the screenshot below (but please go through the entire document to make sure there are no highlights left)

					climate change and biodiversity goals.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric ton of CO_2e)	0	301799,52 tons CO_2	754498.8 tons CO_2	Tracked electricity generated through solar PV installations and calculated energy saved by efficiency installations	We assume that there will be sufficient area on municipal buildings, exposed to suitable levels of solar radiation to support the solar PV installations. Low risk as solar PV and energy efficient systems are well-supported technologies with continuously improving efficiency.
People benefiting from GEF-financed	0	4000000	~8,849,246	Reports submitted	We assume that people will benefit both directly and indirectly from the adoption of

Third review:

Not yet. Please address the remaining comments and resubmit.

We noted that, during the resubmission on November 3, no agency responses were given in the Review Sheet and many previous comments were still not addressed. When resubmitting, please provide responses and explanations in the Review Sheet to clarify which updates and edits have been made.

When you resubmit, please also upload DBSA?s project document ("ProDoc") with the relevant annexes, if this is available. Please classify the document as ?Public? in the GEF portal, so that this can be circulated to GEF Council together with the GEF Portal entry document. If no Agency Project Document is available, please confirm that in writing in the review sheet.

Second review:
Not yet. Please address the remaining comments and provide documentation as needed before resubmitting, and explain in the review sheet where edits and updates have been made.

9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency during the inception and implementation phase

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9.3 Review Dates

	CEO Approval	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	**7/14/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**10/4/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**11/4/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**11/18/2025**	
Additional Review (as necessary)	**11/21/2025**	