

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella VI

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10956

Countries

Global (Bangladesh, Brazil, Burundi, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Cuba, Fiji, Gabon, Lao PDR, Liberia, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Niue, Serbia, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Uruguay)

Project Name

Strengthening national-level institutional and professional capacities of country Parties towards enhanced UNCCD monitoring and reporting ? GEF 7 EA Umbrella VI

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

4/6/2022

Review completed by PM

4/12/2022

Program Manager

Jean-Marc Sinnassamy

Focal Area

Land Degradation

Project Type

EA

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

April 12, 2022

Addressed.

April 7, 2022

- Please fill in the missing information in the table A.

- And make information coherent in the word document - there are dates in the past (4/1/22).

Type of Reports	Submission Date	Expected Implementation Start	Expected Completion Date	Expected Report Submission to Convention
Duration ⓘ 24 In Months			Agency Fee(\$) 182,175.00	

Agency Response

11 April 2022

Thank you, the dates have been updated in both the EA word project document and the portal.

Agency Response to comment no. 2: Project information:

The correct dates that reflect an exact 24-month implementing period have been updated in the portal and EA project document as guided. Dates are updated to indicate a proposed starting date of 01 June 2022 and a Completion date of 31 May 2024.

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

April 12, 2022

Point taken about the breakdown between the grant and the fee. We thank the Agency for finding a solution by reducing the Agency fees of 1\$ for each country. Addressed.

April 7, 2022

The letters of endorsement mention a GEF grant of \$100.000 with the following breakdown: \$91,324 of project grant + \$8,676 of Agency fees.

- Please, revise all the tables (Part I, table A, B, D, and budget).
- Report the modifications in the portal and the word document.

Agency Response

11 April 2022

Thank you for the guidance.

The budget reflects 21 country agreements of \$91,324 +\$8,675 of fees per country for a subtotal of \$99,999 per country. This represents for 21 countries, a total of \$1,917,804 of GEF grants + \$182,175 of agency fees.

Please be advised that the GEF portal does not permit us to validate a GEF grant of \$91,324 and a fee of \$8,676 for 21 countries as it appears on the country letters of endorsement, because the resulting fee amount represents 9.500241% of the permissible 9.5% fee. Therefore, the agency fee per country has been reduced to \$8,675 to enable portal validation, but the Country project grants of \$91,324 per country remain the same. All tables were revised and updated in both portal and EA project document.

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 NA

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

April 7, 2022

See comment above about the budget.

Agency Response

08 April 2022

The budget tables now reflect 21 country agreements of \$91,324 in GEF grant + \$8,675 of fees per country for a subtotal of \$99,999 per country. This represents for 21

countries, a total of \$1,917,804 of GEF grants + \$182,175 of agency fees.
Please be advised that the GEF portal does not permit us to validate a GEF grant of \$91,324 and a fee of \$8,676 for 21 countries as it appears on the country letters of endorsement, because the resulting fee amount represents 9.500241% of the permissible 9.5% fee. Therefore, the agency fee per country has been reduced to \$8,675 to enable portal validation, but the Country project grants of \$91,324 per country remain the same.

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
The focal area allocation?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response
The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

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 Yes

Agency Response

Goals, Objectives, and Activities.

Is the project framework sufficiently described?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Stakeholders.

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase?

Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Gender equality and women's empowerment.

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation.

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
April 7, 2022

The M&E will be mutualized among all the Umbrella Projects.

Agency Response
Cost Effectiveness.

Is the project cost effective?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response
Cost Ranges

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

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

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
April 7, 2022

21 letters of endorsement are available.

Cleared.

Agency Response
Response to Comments

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

GEF Secretariat Comment

May 5, 2022

Addressed

Agency Response

April 22, 2022, from the Quality Control

1. Other Executing Partners ? Type: UNCCD National Focal Points is not an institution ? we saw several letters mentioning the Ministry where the OFP is located, so it would be accurate to mention ?Ministries? instead of UNCCD National Focal Points; however, this could make the list unmanageable. Being the other two executing partners (The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat) non-governmental organizations, please ask the Agency to (i) remove UNCCD National Focal Points; (ii) leave The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat; (iii) add ?others?; and (iv) in the Executing Partner Type change ?Government? for ?Other?.

05 May 2022: Agency Response to comment on Executing Partners

UNEP has (i) removed 'UNCCD National Focal Points'; (ii) left The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat; (iii) added ?others?; and (iv) in the Executing Partner Type changed it to 'Other'.

2. On Project Information: please request the agency to correct the expected completion date to 5/15/2024 in order to meet the stipulated duration (24 months).

Agency Response to comment no. 2: Project information:

The correct dates that reflect an exact 24-month implementing period have been updated in the portal and EA project document as guided. Dates are updated to indicate a proposed starting date of 01 June 2022 and a Completion date of 31 May 2024.

3. Letters of Endorsement (LoEs): as stipulated in the Milestones section of the portal, this project was submitted on April 6 2022. Kindly note that per Guidelines, the LoEs have to be signed by the official OFP at the time of the project submission. Out of the 21 letters, 1 of them was signed by an OFP who was not the official OFP by the time of submission: Colombia. Below you will find the details. Please ask the Agency to either get new LoEs or obtain an email from the official OFP (in the column ?Current OFP?), so the

email can be uploaded in Portal. The Country Relations Team can help with this.

05 May 2022: Agency Response on LoEs:

UNEP sent out a request for an updated letter of endorsement signed by the current GEF OFP of Colombia. A response is still pending.

UNEP assures the GEF Secretariat that no project activity will be starting in the countries that will not have sent in updated letters of endorsement signed by the current GEF OFPs, or at least an email message from them approving the request for these enabling activities. This means that those countries that will not have availed updated letters of endorsement or emails of confirmation for the project from the current GEF Operational Focal Points, will not sign small-scale funding agreements with UNEP to access the funds.

Other Agencies comments?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

STAP Comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response
GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO Endorsement/approval recommended?

Secretariat comment at CEO Endorsement Request
May 5, 2022

Addressed. No activity will take place in Colombia before having received a revised LoE, or, at least, a message from the GEF OFP confirming the interest of the country for these enabling activities.

April 22, 2022, from the Quality Control

1. Other Executing Partners ? Type: UNCCD National Focal Points is not an institution ? we saw several letters mentioning the Ministry where the OFP is located, so it would be accurate to mention ?Ministries? instead of UNCCD National Focal Points: however, this could make the list unmanageable. Being the other two executing partners (The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat) non-governmental organizations, please ask the Agency to (i) remove UNCCD National Focal Points; (ii) leave The Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Secretariat; (iii) add ?others?; and (iv) in the Executing Partner Type change ?Government? for ?Other?.

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April 12, 2022

The GEF7 EA Umbrella VI project is recommended for approval.

April 7, 2022

Please, address the comments above and make information consistent between the portal and the word document.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	4/7/2022	4/11/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/12/2022	5/5/2022
Additional Review (as necessary)	4/22/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/5/2022	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations