



GEF GOLD+ Mali: Enhancing the formalization and mercury reduction in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Mali

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10846

Countries

Mali

Project Name

GEF GOLD+ Mali: Enhancing the formalization and mercury reduction in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Mali

Agencies

UNIDO, CI

Date received by PM

9/16/2022

Review completed by PM

5/9/2023

Program Manager

Anil Sookdeo

Focal Area

Chemicals and Waste

Project Type

FSP

PIF □

CEO Endorsement □

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

It is noted that the co-financing has been increased, however please submit missing letters.

May 9, 2023 - comment addressed

Agency Response

Addressed.

All remaining Co-financing letters have been uploaded into the portal.

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes. Please note that the portal budget tables are difficult to read.

May 9, 2023 - Comment cleared

Agency Response

A summary of the budget table has been reintroduced

Project Preparation Grant

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Yes

Agency Response

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request The core indicators are consistent with the PFD.

Agency Response

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Provided, however please note some maps in the main text are not displaying in the portal.

May 9, 2023 - comment cleared.

Agency Response

The maps have been reintroduced and are now visible.

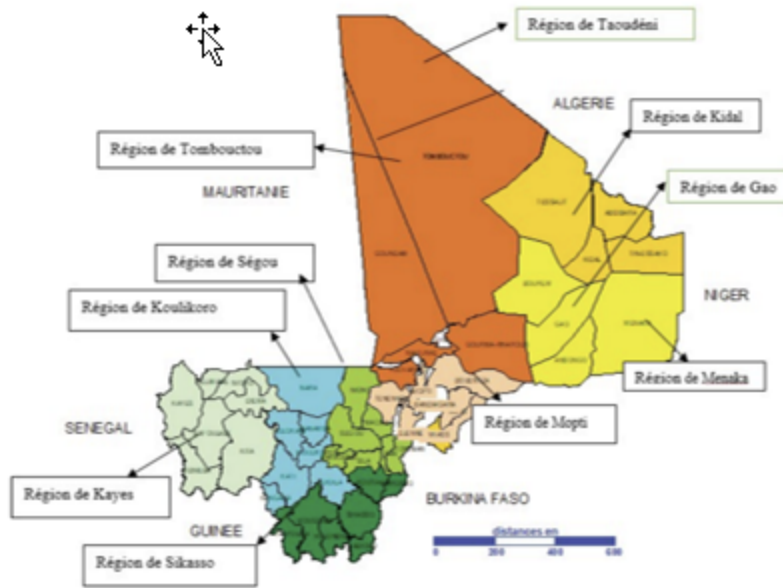


Figure 1.1.3. Administrative Regions of Mali. Source: Minamata Initial Assessment 2018 quoting Ministry of Territorial Administration.

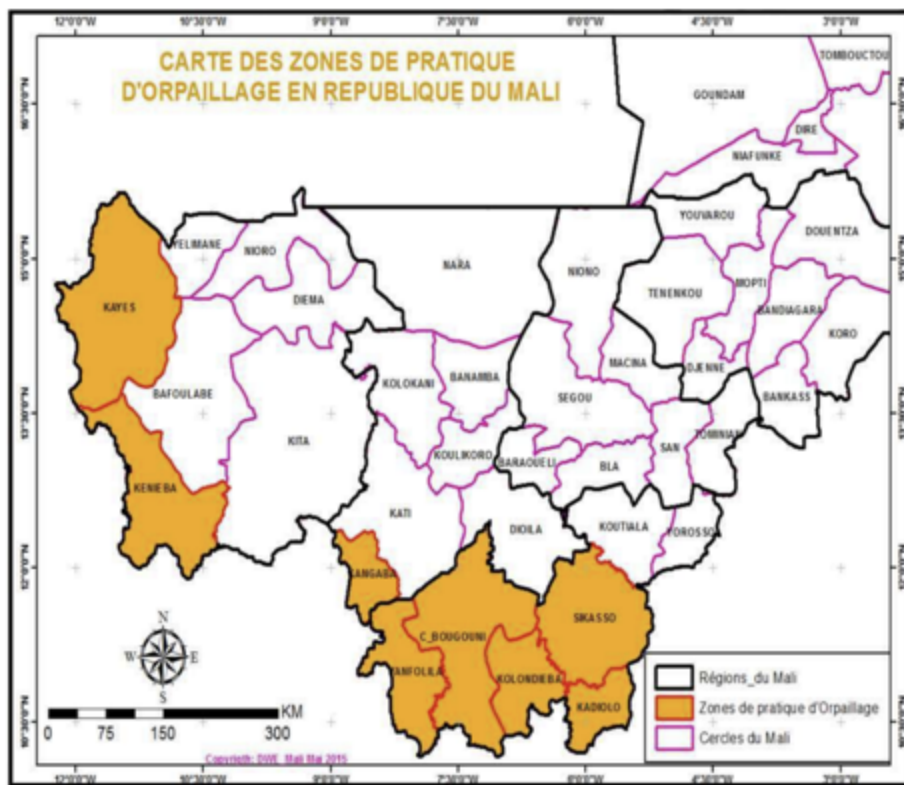


Figure 1.1.4. South West Mali – the Gold Panning Regions. Source: Mali NAP 2020 quoting Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

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

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes, however Mali is considered a conflict risk state so the risks associated with terrorism and conflict should be considered and mitigation presented.

May 9, 2023 - comment cleared

Agency Response

The following two risks were added to the risk table:

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures
Terrorism and conflict			
Restrictions/Accessibility to project areas due to potential exposure to terrorism and conflicts affect project activities	Medium	Medium	-Create a security management and coordination structure at the Project level that would coordinate activities related to high risk Project areas. -Align and coordinate the project activities in high risk areas with the national strategy to fight against insecurity and terrorism.
Project activities result in greater risks of exposure to terrorism and conflicts for project team/beneficiaries	Medium	Medium	-To sensitize and develop project personnel's abilities to grasp security threats; -Preventing situations that represent security risks to the project activities

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

yes

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Yes

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The annex on responses to council comments need to be included.

May 9, 2023 - comment cleared

Agency Response It has been included

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

There seems to be a change in the implementation arrangements of this project which have not been explained. The project is being sent back to the agency for clarification before a review is conducted.

May 9, 2022 - comment cleared

Please see comments on adherence to the GEF policies.

1. The expected start date and completion date accounts for 72 months implementation period for the project, please revise the Project Information Section accordingly:

2. Some sections with images in the Portal entry haven't been fully uploaded while other is off margin ? the Agency may want to look for ITS's assistance to properly upload these

3. There are some differences between table B and the budget table in Annex E:

i. Component 4 in table B is \$479,762 while in the budget table \$380,762;

ii. M&E budget in table B and M&E section of Portal is \$100,000 while in the budget table \$108,000;

iii. PMC in table B is \$245,238 while in the budget table \$285,176.

4. Budget table in Annex E:

i. please provide more details about consultants? positions and Contractual service ?
Company.

ii. Office supplies are charged to both components and PMC, should be only to PMC as appropriate.

5. Knowledge Management: The project document includes a set of knowledge management and communications activities across all components, especially in component 4. The project will capture, store, and distribute knowledge products, experiences and lessons learned to all stakeholders at the national and international levels, through training as well as dissemination through the planetGOLD platform and beyond. The project will implement a communications strategy/plan and the project's results framework lists targeted KM deliverables. While there is no itemized budget provided for KM and communications activities, the overall project budget includes the cost of trainings/conferences/meetings/web portal which are likely associated with KM deliverables.

No further information is needed at this stage. However, the agency is requested to clarify the timeline and budget for the implementation of key KM and communications activities, by including a simple budget & timeline table in the KM section.

6. Core indicators:

- i. Please include the target for core indicator 6 explicitly in the results framework (annex a)

- ii. Please revise the target for core indicator 9. The target in the core indicator table and results framework are not consistent.

7. Co-financing:

- Please provide a translation of this letter in English

- The letter of support lacking a date. please provide an updated estimation of the actual amount that the Agency (with the help of the co-financier if possible) think will really go to the project considering the timeframe of both the co-finance and the GEF project.

- Please divide and re-enter this co-financing into 10 mil as grant and 1 mil as recurrent expenditures as per the letter of support.

- The letter of support lacking a date. please provide an updated estimation of the actual amount that the Agency (with the help of the co-financier if possible) think will really go to the project considering the timeframe of both the co-finance and the GEF project.

- Please provide a translation of this letter in English

Responses received on October 30, 2023.

October 30, 2023 - responses being sent to PPO.

Agency Response

12/12/22 (UNIDO)

All steps for the transfer of implementation of the project from the former co-implementing Agency, Conservation International (CI), fully to UNIDO have been completed and the transfer has also been approved by the GEF CEO (Nov 11, 2022). UNIDO will continue to coordinate with CI and other relevant partners during the project implementation.

06/01/23 (UNIDO)

There seems to be a change in the implementation arrangements of this project which have not been explained. The project is being sent back to the agency for clarification before a review is conducted.

May 9, 2022 - comment cleared

Please see comments on adherence to the GEF policies.

1. The expected start date and completion date accounts for 72 months implementation period for the project, please revise the Project Information Section accordingly:

Agency Response;

New dates have been reintroduced 01.07.2023 - 01.07.2029

2. Some sections with images in the Portal entry haven't been fully uploaded while other is off margin ? the Agency may want to look for ITS's assistance to properly upload these

Agency Response;

All Images and graphics in the CEO Endorsement have been crosschecked.

Figure 1.1.4 below could not be added to the section 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks, even after checking with UNIDO IT services. All other misse graphics in this section have been added.

Annex A has been reintroduced to address the comment on off margin graphics

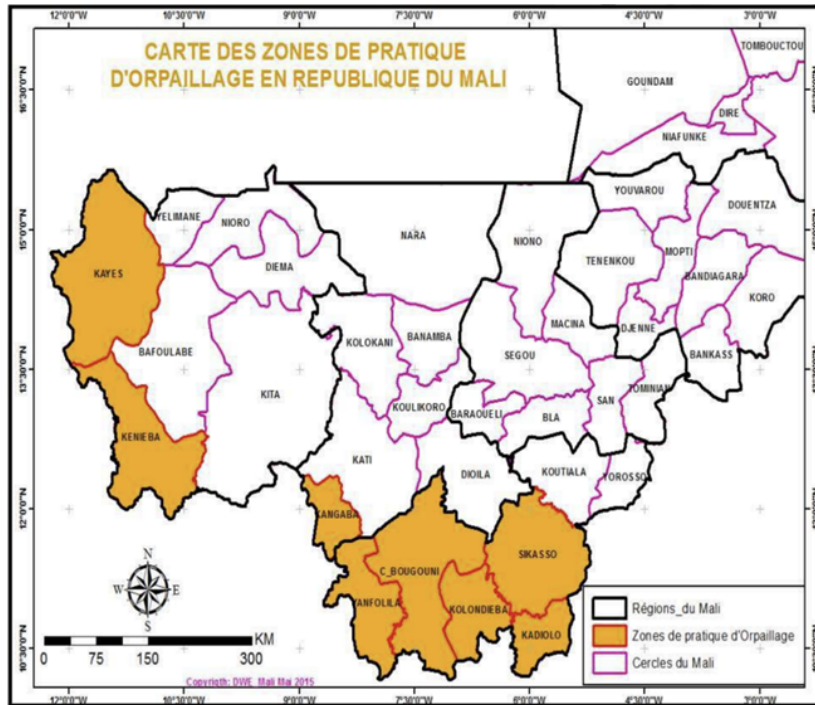


Figure 1.1.4. South West Mali ? the Gold Panning Regions . Source: Mali NAP 2020 quoting Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water

3. There are some differences between table B and

the budget table in Annex E:

i. Component 4 in table B is \$479,762 while in the budget table \$380,762;

ii. M&E budget in table B and M&E section of Portal is \$100,000 while in the budget table \$108,000;

iii. PMC in table B is \$245,238 while in the budget table \$285,176.

Agency Response;

Annex E reviewed and all comments pertaining to the budget addressed. Reviewed budget table has been reintroduced into the portal.

i, ii and iii above addressed

4. Budget table in Annex E:

i. please provide more details about consultants? positions and Contractual service ? Company.

ii. Office supplies are charged to both components and PMC, should be only to PMC as appropriate.

Agency Response;

Find Overview of Technical Consultancies below addressing (i) above

(ii) above has been addressed on the reintroduced Annex E. Office supplies now only charged to PMC and removed from components. We also reduced by USD 4100 and redistributed across some other activities.

Annex 1: Overview of Technical Consultancies

Consultant	Terms of Reference
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Consultant	Terms of Reference
National Project Manager	<p>The Project Manager (PM) will be responsible for the overall management of the project, including the mobilization of all project inputs, and supervision over project staff, consultants, and sub-contractors.</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Manage the overall conduct of the project; ? Plan the activities of the project and monitor progress against the approved workplan; ? Execute activities by managing personnel, goods and services, training and low-value grants, including drafting terms of reference and work specifications, and overseeing all contractors' work; ? Supervise the work of Field Coordinators; ? Monitor events as determined in the project monitoring plan, and update the plan as required; ? Provide support for completion of assessments required by UNIDO, spot checks and audits; ? Manage requests for the provision of UNIDO financial resources through funding advances, direct payments or reimbursement using the FACE form; ? Monitor financial resources and accounting to ensure the accuracy and reliability of financial reports; ? Monitor progress, track any deviations and make course corrections when needed within the project steering committee agreed tolerances to achieve results; ? Ensure that changes are controlled and problems addressed; ? Perform regular progress reporting to the project steering committee as agreed, including measures to address challenges and opportunities; ? Prepare and submit financial reports to UNIDO on a quarterly basis; ? Manage and monitor the project risks ? including social and environmental risks - initially identified; and submit new risks to the Project Board for consideration and decision on possible actions if required; update the status of these risks by maintaining the project risks log; ? Capture lessons learned during project implementation; ? Prepare revisions to the multi-year workplan, as needed, as well as annual and quarterly plans if required; ? Prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop;

Consultant	Terms of Reference
	<p>? Ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the GEF PIR submission deadline so that progress can be reported in the GEF PIR;</p> <p>? Prepare the GEF PIR;</p> <p>? Assess major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNIDO;</p> <p>? Monitor implementation plans including the gender action plan, stakeholder engagement plan, and any environmental and social management plans;</p> <p>? Monitor and track progress against the GEF Core indicators; and</p> <p>? Support the Mid-term review and Terminal Evaluation process.</p>
Project Assistant	<p>Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Manager, the Project Assistant will carry out the following tasks:</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <p>? Provide day-to-day to support to the Project Manager;</p> <p>? Track project implementation progress and update the Project Manager on progress, as appropriate.</p> <p>? Develop project procurement plans;</p> <p>? Facilitate procurement of goods and services in a timely manner, ensuring compliance with GoM regulations;</p> <p>? Prepare reports on procurement;</p> <p>? Generate lessons and share them widely ? in conjunction with the National M&E Expert; and</p> <p>? Perform project tasks delegated by the Project Manager.</p>

Consultant	Terms of Reference
National Project Finance Specialist	<p>Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Manager, the National Project Finance Specialist will carry out the following tasks:</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Keep records of project funds and expenditures, and ensure all project-related financial documentation are well maintained and readily available when required by the Project Manager; ? Review project expenditures and ensure that project funds are used in compliance with the Project Document and Government financial rules and procedures; ? Validate and certify financial report submission to UNIDO; ? Provide necessary financial information as and when required for project management decisions; ? Provide necessary financial information during project audit(s); ? Review annual budgets and project expenditure reports, and notify the Project Manager if there are any discrepancies or issues; ? Consolidate financial progress reports submitted by the responsible parties for implementation of project activities; and ? Liaise and follow up with the responsible parties for implementation of project activities in matters related to project funds and financial progress reports.

Consultant	Terms of Reference
National Gender Expert	<p>Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Manager, the National Gender Expert will be responsible for providing overall guidance and advice to the National Gender Expert and will carry out the following tasks:</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Ensure the mainstreaming of gender in all project activities; ? Monitor the progress in implementation of the project Gender Action Plan ensuring that targets are fully met and the reporting requirements are fulfilled; ? Support overseeing/developing/coordinating implementation of all gender-related work, in particular support the tasks of Component 1, Output 1.4: and Component 4: Output 4.3; ? Support review of the Gender Action Plan annually, and update and revise corresponding management plans as necessary; ? Support the work of the National Monitoring Expert to ensure reporting, monitoring and evaluation fully address the gender issues of the project; ? Support the National Communications Expert regarding the gender-related aspects including providing inputs in the design and implementation of an awareness raising plan; and ? Provide gender -related inputs to the development and implementation of a knowledge management (KM) plan that extracts, compiles, and disseminates experiences, lessons-learned, knowledge and best practices including yearly lessons-learned reports, pilot study reports, and end of project publication;
National Communications Expert	<p>Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Manager, the National Communications Expert will carry out the following tasks:</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Carry out and lead Component 4; ? Prepare and disseminate communications pieces and knowledge products targeting different audiences; ? Facilitate stakeholders to participate in local and national lesson-sharing events and compile lessons learned reports or communications pieces based on this participation; ? Set up a dedicated knowledge management system (web-based) where all information relevant to the project can be accessed, in a well-archived form; and ? Support consultants and institutions in charge of implementing other outputs to reflect on the processes and document lessons to inform adaptive management and implementation of similar initiatives.

Consultant	Terms of Reference
Field Coordinators	<p>Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Manager, the Field Coordinators will carry out the following tasks:</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Manage communications and act as a liaison between Project Manager, government and local miners workers on the project pilot sites; ? In coordination with the Monitoring Expert, oversee impact evaluation implementation including tracking the implementation of the agreed pilot project activities; ? Support the baseline data collection, mid-term and final evaluation data collection as well as other data relevant to project implementation; ? Support pilot site logistics, supervise and monitor implementation of field operations related to the pilot implementation; ? Track program implementation and consult on evaluation related changes to program design. During project implementation, the Coordinator will consult with project team members on the evaluation design and project implementation, making adjustments as necessary; ? Support the process of conducting pilot studies, training and awareness raising on pilot mining sites; ? Provide monthly reports to the Project Manager and the Project Steering Committee on pilot activity implementation reports; and ? Provide support to other related activity necessary for the successful completion of the pilot activities.

Consultant	Terms of Reference
National Monitoring Expert	<p>Under the guidance and supervision of the National Project Manager, the National Monitoring Expert will carry out the following tasks:</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities (M&E)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Monitor project progress and participate in the production of progress reports ensuring that they meet the necessary reporting requirements and standards; ? Ensure project's M&E meets the requirements of the Government and UNIDO including developing project-specific M&E tools as necessary; ? Oversee and ensure the implementation of the project's M&E plan, including periodic appraisal of the Project's Theory of Change and Results Framework with reference to actual and potential project progress and results; ? Oversee/develop/coordinate the implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan; ? Oversee and guide the design of surveys/assessments commissioned for monitoring and evaluating project results; ? Facilitate mid-term and terminal evaluations of the project; including management responses; ? Facilitate annual reviews of the project and produce analytical reports from these annual reviews, including learning and other knowledge management products; ? Support project site M&E and learning missions; ? Visit project sites as and when required to appraise project progress on the ground and validate written progress reports; and ? Under the guidance and supervision of the International MTR and TE experts and in coordination with the National Project Manager, support the mid-term and terminal evaluations and verification of activities related to project implementation.

Consultant	Terms of Reference
International Consultants - Company	<p>The International Consultant - Firm, in coordination with the National Project Manager and the Project Steering Committee will be responsible for providing overall technical backstopping and management support to the implementation of the Project activities.</p> <p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <p>? Provide technical expertise and strategic guidance to all project components, assuming quality control of interventions, and support the National Project Manager, National Technical Experts/Consultants, and Contracted Companies in the coordination of the implementation of project activities as stipulated in the project documents;</p> <p>? Provide a suite of technical advisory, planning, management, and coordination services to the project where key work areas will include: Technical and Management Services; Project Advisory and Guidance; Project Monitoring and Implementation Support; and Training.</p> <p>In addition, support in particular the implementation (in coordination with International and National Experts) of the following activities:</p> <p>? Component 1: Output 1.1. Improve capacities for government, municipalities and community leaders</p> <p>? Component 1: Output 1.2. Strengthen actors in the ASGM sector both at national and local levels to promote formalization processes</p> <p>? Component 1: Output 1.3. Support the piloting of the Jurisdictional Approach (JA) at selected ASGM area</p> <p>? Component 1: Output 1.4. Develop women's capacities to participate in the project and other ASGM-related development activities</p> <p>? Component 2: Output 2.1. Strengthening national financial institutions and micro finance institutions to increase support to ASGM sector</p> <p>? Component 2: Output 2.2. Improve individuals and institutional capacities of ASGM actors in areas of overall management, sustainable agriculture, entrepreneurship, and financial education</p> <p>? Component 2: Output 2.3. Support the establishment of efficiency, control and monitoring of gold commercialization processes increased to build transparent, traceable, and responsible gold supply chains</p> <p>? Component 3: Output 3.1. Support ASGM miners to acquire and implement technologies that use less or no mercury for more profitable and/or environmentally cleaner gold recovery.</p>

Consultant	Terms of Reference
	<p>? Component 3: Output 3.2. Support ASGM productive actors' awareness of the supply of mercury-free equipment including creating links with technology providers.</p> <p>? Component 3: Output 3.3. Provide train-the-trainer training to academic centers, universities, and institutes on responsible gold production.</p> <p>? Component 4: Output 4.1. Support the establishment of Inter-institutional mechanisms and platforms where different stakeholders exchange, disseminate, and share information related to ASGM in Mali established.</p> <p>? Component 4: Output 4.2. support the generation and dissemination of information, knowledge, and lessons learned on key ASGM topics.</p> <p>Component 4: Output 4.3. Support the strengthening of women's leadership capacities including facilitating regional exchanges among women miners in the pilot sites.</p>
MTR and TE experts	<p><u>Duties and Responsibilities</u></p> <p>? Mid-Term Evaluation in line with the UNIDO-GEF ToRs; and</p> <p>? Terminal Evaluation in line with the UNIDO-GEF ToRs.</p>

5. Knowledge Management: The project document includes a set of knowledge management and communications activities across all components, especially in component 4. The project will capture, store, and distribute knowledge products, experiences and lessons learned to all stakeholders at the national and international levels, through training as well as dissemination through the planetGOLD platform and beyond. The project will implement a communications strategy/plan and the project's results framework lists targeted KM deliverables. While there is no itemized budget provided for KM and communications activities, the overall project budget includes the cost of trainings/conferences/meetings/web portal which are likely associated with KM deliverables.

No further information is needed at this stage. However, the agency is requested to clarify the timeline and budget for the implementation of key KM and communications activities, by including a simple budget & timeline table in the KM section.

Agency Response;

Requested simple budget and timeline table below clarifies timeline and budget for the implementation of key KM and communications activities.

The table has been added to the KM section in the final prodoc (page number 110) and also to the Knowledge Management section in the CEO Endorsement

Table 15: Child Project Knowledge Management Approach implementation timeline and Budget

S/N	Knowledge Management Activities	Key Deliverables	Time lines& budget(\$)					Institutional Responsibility
			Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	
1	Inter-institutional mechanisms and platforms where different stakeholders exchange, disseminate and share information related to ASGM in Mali established.	National strategy for sustainable exchange mechanism for the ASGM sector developed	24,900	14,500	28,300	28,300	23,062	MEADD
2	Information, knowledge, and lessons learned on key ASGM topics generated and disseminated at the national and international levels	National knowledge management platform for information dissemination and Record of lessons learnt	29,300	19,000	31,800	30,800	26,500	MEADD

3	Women's capacities in leadership are strengthened and regional exchanges among women miners in the pilot sites are promoted to increase visibility of gender in ASGM	Number of activities related to the sharing lessons arising from the implementation of responsible ASGM activities at national and jurisdiction level organized Number of capacity building leadership programs organized Number of physical/virtual regional events for women miners organized	38,300	22,000	38,300	40,300	35,500	MEADD
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Table 15: Budget and timeline table for the implementation of key KM and communications activities

6. Core indicators:

i. Please include the target for core indicator 6 explicitly in the results framework (annex a)

ii. Please revise the target for core indicator 9. The target in the core indicator table and results framework are not consistent.

Agency Response;

i Explicit target for core indicator six included in the results framework (annex A)

ii Target for core indicator 9 revised and aligned with core indicator 9 on the core indicator table and results framework

7. Co-financing:

- Please provide a translation of this letter in English

- The letter of support lacking a date. please provide an updated estimation of the actual amount that the Agency (with the help of the co-financier if possible) think will really go to the project considering the timeframe of both ?the co-finance and the GEF project.

- Please divide and re-enter this co-financing into 10 mil as grant and 1 mil as recurrent expenditures as per the letter of support.

- The letter of support lacking a date. please provide an updated estimation of the actual amount that the Agency (with the help of the co-financier if possible) think will really go to the project considering the timeframe of both ?the co-finance and the GEF project.

- Please provide a translation of this letter in English

Agency Response;

All flagged issues on the Co-financing letters have been addressed in the portal kindly find below the respective actions.

Co-Financing of Barick Gold divided and re-entered as 10 mil grant and 1 mil recurrent expenditures

Translated copies of the Co-financing letters of the Ministry of Environment and Mines added

Dates added to UCROM and Kakou Mousa Co-financing letters

Finally, Estimates of the actual amount that both Kakou Mousa and UCROM are willing to provide have been elaborated in their respective Co-financing letters.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

The PFD had general comments from Canada, Germany and Norway/Denmark which need to be addressed by all the child projects. Please include in the annex B how the project addresses these comments.

May 9, 2023 - comments cleared

Agency Response

Comments have been addressed and Annex B included. Find again below.

Annex B: Addressed comments from STAP, Minamata Convention on Mercury, Germany, and Switzerland		
<i><u>Comments from the STAP</u></i>		
Comments	Response from GOLD+ Mali	Reference in documents
<p><u>STAP Comment</u> ? This project will involve the convening multi-stakeholders with the associated challenges (see World Bank, 2014, page 5-7 for examples of these challenges ? https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/WP1314-Report1.pdf). For example, the proposed landscape/jurisdiction approach will involve engaging different actors, such as governments, communities, the private sector, and civil societies. STAP wishes to refer the project proponent to its latest publication on "multi-stakeholder dialogue for transformational change" (https://stapgef.org/publications), which presents principles of multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD), analyses the context of MSD, and highlights the process of designing an effective MSD.</p>	<p>Refer to Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the GOLD+ Mali project. The stakeholder engagement plan includes regional and global coalitions to facilitate transformational change. Among the stakeholders are: private sector actors, including multinational corporations, national industry associations and private financial institutions including the local communities.</p>	<p>Annex I ? Stakeholder Engagement Plan</p>

TAP Comment

? The project will adopt the jurisdictional approach (JA) as a framework for structuring interventions. The second paragraph on page 28, however, highlights some of the challenges associated with the JA, including unrealistic expectations, political turnover, limited public sector capacity, and lack of broader support and incentives. Yet, the PIF is silent on how the project will overcome these challenges to ensure success. STAP recommends that this should be done.

The JA has been designed with inputs from local experts taking into account the local context and previous experiences. Further, during the project implementation, the JA activities will be closely coordinated with and leverage on existing national policies, strategies and initiatives on biodiversity and climate change. Refer to assessment of jurisdictional approach for the GOLD+ Mali project and output 1.3 of the logical framework.

CEO
Endorsement
document

STAP Comment

? Component 4 will support capacity building, knowledge sharing, and communication, including "using online education and digital marketing tools to support the traditional participatory workshop and training model to help institutionalize sustainable mining methods at the community level." It is, however, unclear how online education and digital marketing tools will be used given the remoteness of ASGM operations (as noted in the last paragraph of page 19). Does this project intend to provide digital access to ASGM miners? The details of how this component will be achieved need to be elaborated.

Incorporated under component 4 of the GOLD+ Mali project. Mali has a very strong penetration of mobile phones in the rural areas. This project will leverage on this existing infrastructure. While stakeholders in the cities will be served using the traditional digital infrastructure normally available in cities such as Zoom and teams meetings, WhatsApp, facebook, e.t.c .

CEO Endorsement document

<p><u>STAP Comment</u> ? As rightly noted in the risk section of the PIF, the introduction of new technologies or ensuring mercury-free gold mining may inadvertently result in loss of livelihood. In such cases, alternative livelihood strategies may be required to achieve the project objectives. This is particularly important because mercury-based ASGM may be more profitable than other alternative sources of livelihoods in the targeted communities. Hence, a well-considered strategy may be needed to wean miners from their current practices. The proposal, however, seems not to put enough emphasis on interventions for addressing this issue.</p>	<p>Incorporated under component 3 of the GOLD+ Mali project. The project has recognized this risk and will conduct an assessment of the potential adverse impacts that may arise such as loss of livelihood especially for the vulnerable groups such as women before the new technology is implemented. The recommended technology will be evaluated with consideration to local context. Further, alternative livelihood such as supporting the women to eke a living in agriculture, and other business ventures will be provided as options.</p>	<p>CEO Endorsement document</p>
<p><u>STAP Comment</u> ? It is good that the PIF acknowledged that the project would contribute to other GEF core indicators, including the area of land restored, area of landscapes under improved practices, and greenhouse gas emission reduction. The PIF did not, however, present clearly how the interventions will lead to these benefits. We encourage that the project proponent elaborates further on this and provide a detailed estimation of all expected GEBs at the PPG stage (as promised in the PIF).</p>	<p>Refer to (global environmental benefit) GEB core indicators of the GOLD+ Mali projects for co benefits. The CEO endorsement package has elaborated on how this will be achieved.</p>	<p>CEO Endorsement document</p>

<p><u>STAP Comment</u> ? For a project that will depend on significant multi-stakeholder engagement for its success, the stakeholder section of the PIF is inadequate. Please provide a detailed analysis of stakeholders expected to be engaged in the project in the participating countries. Please, also highlight how they will be engaged, their expected role in the project, and whether they have been engaged already or if this is ongoing.</p>	Refer to Stakeholder Engagement Plan of the GOLD+ Mali project.	Annex I ? Stakeholder Engagement Plan
<p><u>STAP Comment</u> ? It is good that the PIF acknowledges the potential impacts of projected climate change, for example, desertification on achieving project objectives. The effects of climate change may also influence decisions on ASGM sites? We recommend that a detailed analysis of climate risk and management strategy should be presented for the project.</p>	Refer to climate change-related risks included in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the GOLD+ Mali project.	Annex J ? Environmental and Social Management Plan
<p><i>Comments from Switzerland</i></p>		
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Response from GOLD+ Mali</p>	
<p><u>Switzerland Comment</u> ? Could you clarify what will happen with the mercury still in use at this stage and the various mercury waste stocks in the ASGM areas of the recipient countries of the program? Where will the mercury waste be treated and by whom? Who will transport it? The treatment of the waste is key to ensure that the mercury intake to the environment will be avoided / limited as much as possible.</p>	Environmentally sound management of tailings is foreseen under component 3 of GOLD+ Mali project.	CEO Endorsement document
<p><i>Comments from the Minamata Secretariat</i></p>		
<p>Comments</p>	<p>Response from GOLD+ Mali</p>	

Minamata Secretariat Comment

? While this project clearly advances implementation of the Minamata Convention, the program description provides limited attention to the Convention requirements, and we are concerned that the various governmental and non-governmental partners going forward will therefore not gain sufficient understanding and advancement of their Convention obligations. We would like to ensure that the child projects clearly focus on Article 7 and Annex C requirements and finalization and implementation of NAPs.

The project has addressed Minamata Convention in detail. Component 3 focuses on the Minamata Convention. The main objective of the project is to reduce and/or eliminate mercury emissions and releases in the activities and processes listed in Annex C of the Minamata Convention, especially those activities that generate the highest emissions and releases. This project will also seek to strengthen national legislation, as well as regulatory capacities to comply with the Minamata Convention obligations. Further, as part of the capacity building, all trainings will start with the introduction of the Minamata Convention, objectives and its obligations, among others is expected to take place.

CEO
Endorsement
document

<p><u>Minamata Secretariat Comment</u> ? Gender - Is the gender distribution noted here a widely used metric when very specific community-based data is not available? Or is it simply a placeholder? We note that gender impacts will be more thoroughly evaluated in the child projects. It would also be useful to ensure good estimates of populations "directly" involved (working in ASGM) as well as impacted by ASGM.</p>	Refer to the Gender Analysis and Action Plan of the GOLD+ Mali project.	Annex K ? Gender Analysis and Action Plan
<p><u>Minamata Secretariat Comment</u> ? Component 2: The activities on collaborating with local financial institutions should also involve linkages with the formalization efforts, such that formalization schemes and financial products are mutually reinforcing.</p>	Interlinkages between formalization and mercury-free technologies and access to finance have been considered in the GOLD+ Mali project. Refer to component 2.	CEO Endorsement document
<p><u>Minamata Secretariat Comment</u> ? Component 3: In section on enhancing uptake of mercury-free technologies, we note that cyanide is appropriately listed as one of the technologies in the chart. However, no mention is made of the Convention's requirement that ASGM National Action Plans elaborate actions to eliminate cyanide leaching in sediment, ore or tailings to which mercury has been added without first removing the mercury.? This requirement should be prominently featured such that any support for cyanide operations focuses on this critical need.</p>	These actions have been considered under component 3 of the GOLD+ Mali project.	CEO Endorsement document
<p><u>Comments from Germany</u></p>		
<p><u>Comment</u></p>	<p>Response from GOLD+ Mali</p>	
<p><u>Germany Comment</u> ? To include the international multi-stakeholder working group on Women and Mining (www.womenandmining.org) as a global knowledge-sharing partner on gender aspects of the proposal.</p>	The GOLD+ Mali project has considered Women and Mining as one of the partners in its Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Analysis and Action Plan for gender related aspects.	Annex I ? Stakeholder Engagement Plan Annex K ? Gender Analysis and Action Plan

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response
Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response
Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response
CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response
Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided

Agency Response
Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Provided

Agency Response
Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

There seems to be a change in the implementation arrangements of this project which have not been explained. The project is being sent back to the agency for clarification before a review is conducted.

Please see comments in the review sheet.

May 9, 2023 - all comments from the technical review have been cleared. The project is being sent for a policy screen.

May 22, 2023 - please see comments from the policy screen.

October 30, 2023 - Agency responses received on October 30, 2023. Responses being sent to PPO for review.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	1/23/2023	2/28/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/9/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/22/2023	

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat comments**

Additional Review (as necessary)	10/30/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations