

GEF SECRETARIAT REVIEW FOR FULL/MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECTS* THE GEF/LDCF/SCCF TRUST FUNDS

GEF ID:	4883		
Country/Region:	Mexico		
Project Title:	Integrating the Management of	f Protection and Production Areas for E	Biodiversity Conservation in the
	Sierra Tarahumara of Chihuah	1ua	-
GEF Agency:	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Type of Trust Fund:	GEF Trust Fund	GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity
GEF-5 Focal Area/ LDCF/SCCF	Objective (s):	BD-1; BD-2; Project Mana;	
Anticipated Financing PPG:	\$100,000	Project Grant:	\$4,900,000
Co-financing:	\$40,036,159	Total Project Cost:	\$45,036,159
PIF Approval:	April 20, 2012	Council Approval/Expected:	June 07, 2012
CEO Endorsement/Approval		Expected Project Start Date:	
Program Manager:	Mark Zimsky	Agency Contact Person:	Robert Erath

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment at PIF (PFD)/Work Program Inclusion ¹	Secretariat Comment At CEO Endorsement(FSP)/Approval (MSP)
	1. Is the participating country eligible?	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
Flichille.		Yes, Mexico ratified the CBD in March 1993.	As at PIF stage.
Eligibility	2. Has the operational focal point endorsed the project?	March 28, 2012	
		Yes, the OFP endorsed the project on December 2, 2012.	
	3. Is the Agency's comparative advantage for this project clearly	April 18, 2012	January 6, 2014
Agency's Comparative Advantage	described and supported?	UNEP has provided further information for how this project aligns with its comparative advantage and its program globally and nationally. It aligns	Adequate.

^{*}Some questions here are to be answered only at PIF or CEO endorsement. No need to provide response in gray cells.

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Work Program Inclusion (WPI) applies to FSPs only . Submission of FSP PIFs will simultaneously be considered for WPI. FSP/MSP review template: updated 11-22-2010

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		strongly with UNEP's global sub- programs on ecosystem management and environmental governance. This project aligns well with the similar GEF project UNEP is implementing in the Oaxacan mixteca, in which WWF is partnering with the Government of Mexico.	
		March 28, 2012	
	4. If there is a non-grant instrument in	But the statement on UNEP's comparative advantage, despite being quite long, is rather vague and general. It relates mostly to UNEP's work globally. While we see the alignment with UNEP's global work program, we do not understand how this fits into UNEP's program in Mexico and Central America. What similar projects has UNEP implemented in the region that provide UNEP with a comparative advantage for this project? March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	the project, is the GEF Agency capable of managing it?	There is no non-grant instrument.	As at PIF stage.
	5. Does the project fit into the Agency's program and staff capacity	April 17, 2010	January 6, 2014
	in the country?	This project fits strongly into UNEP's program in Mexico, which includes two existing GEF project on ecosystem management and environmental governance, as well as work that UNEP is doing to promote TEEB outcomes and to conduct integrated environmental assessments tied to the Global Environment Outlook. UNEP has a	Adequate.

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		country office in Mexico, with four staff, that will assist the regional UNEP office in providing oversight and implementation support.	
		March 28, 2012	
		While UNEP has a representative office in Mexico, please explain further what staff UNEP has in country who will work on this initiative? How will they support supervision of this project?	
	6. Is the proposed Grant (including the Agency fee) within the resources available from (mark all that apply):		
	• the STAR allocation?	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
		Taking project approvals and cleared PIFs into account, there is \$32.3 million remaining in Mexico's BD allocation (of \$52 million), which is enough to cover this and other PIFs currently under review for WP inclusion.	As at PIF stage.
Resource	• the focal area allocation?		
Availability	 the LDCF under the principle of equitable access 		
	 the SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)? 		
	Nagoya Protocol Investment Fund		
	• focal area set-aside?		
	7. Is the project aligned with the focal /multifocal areas/	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
Project Consistency	LDCF/SCCF/NPIF results framework?	Yes, this project is aligned with the BD results framework.	As at PIF stage.

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	8. Are the relevant GEF 5 focal/multifocal areas/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	objectives identified?	Objectives BD-1 and BD-2 are both identified.	As at PIF stage.
	9. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, including NPFE, NAPA, NCSA, or NAP?	This is a project that Mexico identified in its National Portfolio Formulation Document, which was the outcome of an extensive inter-agency consultation process. The project aligns with Mexico's approach for implementing the Aichi targets through state-level biodiversity strategies. As it will help conserve forests and other ecosystems in key watersheds, it also aligns with national and state-level water management strategies, which emphasize the conservation of	As at PIF stage.
	10. Does the proposal clearly articulate	watersheds. March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	how the capacities developed, if any, will contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes?	The main two capacities developed that will contribute to the project outcomes are (1) building an environmental governance framework including key state-level, federal, and local actors who will be involved in developing and implementing a Strategic Regional Action Plan that will govern land-use planning and development in the area, and (2) creation of an improved scientific basis and decision making for biodiversity mainstreaming, particularly for land-use and development planning. This will strengthen local level decision-making capabilities and enable	As at PIF stage.

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		coordination among all key actors. The project recognizes that this, and a permanent home and coordinator will be needed for these elements to be sustainable. It is envisioned that the state government could take a lead in this regard.	
	11. Is (are) the baseline project(s), including problem (s) that the baseline project(s) seek/s to address, sufficiently described and based on sound data and assumptions?	March 28, 2012 Yes. The proposal describes weaknesses in terms of availability of information on ecosystems and biodiversity and challenges for integrated watershed management in the region.	January 6, 2014 As at PIF stage.
Project Design	12. Has the cost-effectiveness been sufficiently demonstrated, including the cost-effectiveness of the project design approach as compared to alternative approaches to achieve similar benefits?		January 6, 2014 Adequate.
	13. Are the activities that will be financed using GEF/LDCF/SCCF funding based on incremental/additional reasoning?	April 18, 2012 In revisions to the project, UNEP has further reduced funding for component 1 and demonstrated why all planned activities are necessary. The activities are clearly incremental above the baseline. March 28, 2012 Some of the activities to be funded	January 6, 2014 Adequate.
		address key barriers to sustainable integrated watershed management and landscape level biodiversity in the region, which are incremental to	

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	14. Is the project framework sound and sufficiently clear?	baseline activities. The project will bring 12 threatened or endangered species occurring in Chihuahua, but whose habitat in Chihuahua is not currently protected, under protection. But it is not clear that all of component one and parts of two are needed to accomplish the objective. April 18, 2012 The framework is sound and clear. We believe the reallocation of resources from component 1 to component 3 is justified. March 28, 2012 Yes, the project has three key components, which build on each other progressively and are linked logically. While an additional scientific basis is always helpful, it is not clear that the level of investment is warranted, and parts of component two also do not seem clearly necessary.	January 6, 2014 It is unclear how the 300,000 hectare figure was arrived it with regards to the application of the management effectivenesss tracking tool for protected areas and management of the 300,000 hectares. The project framework presents the figure as if it is a composite of many areas both protected areas and production landscapes while the GEF tracking tool presents it as if it is one contiguous managed area under a PA management plan. Please clarify. In addition, the project framework does not include a target for improving PA management effectiveness, which is the main focus of objective one of the BD strategy and is the entire reason for using the tool. Please include a target or provide an adequate explanation for this oversight. February 24, 2014 The previous review requested a target for improving management

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			effectiveness score for the protected areas that will be supported by the GEF grant and this has still not been provided. The answer provided by UNEP, and the submitted tracking tool which now covers 845,00 hectares and which registers a score of 49, simply confuses the issue with regards to the project's focus on improving management effectiveness and the hectares covered.
			If 5 protected areas totalling "X" hectares, and that are a subset of the 845,000 hectares are going to benefit from the investment, then 5 METTs should be submitted, one for each protected area, and the results framework should reflect what the target is for each of these 5 protected areas in terms of improved METT scores and the hectare coverage for each of the five protected areas.
			With regards to the 13 community managed or privately managed protected areas, if the management effectiveness of these protected areas are to be improved and that is the focus of the project, then that is what the project should be measuring and hence each PA should have its own METT completed as part of the baseline assessment.
			Both of these requests by the GEFSEC are very basic, that is, all of our protected area projects conduct this

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			assessment during the design phase.
			Please resubmit the project with the correct documentation in this regard.
			Furthermore, please also clarify in the project framework, the hectare coverage of landscapes under certification as this is not clear in the project framework, while the tracking tool provides a precise hectare figure. April 2, 2014
			Adequate revisions.
	15. Are the applied methodology and assumptions for the description of the incremental/additional benefits sound and appropriate?	March 28, 2012 The main focus for the pilot interventions that aim to integrate conservation and production is to work with ejidos and build the capacity and political will needed to allocate land for conservation through community-based protected areas. The project recognizes that it will need to increase capacity at the community level so they can mobilize financing for biodiversity conservation on an ongoing basis. We disagree with the inference that there is tension between this "bottom up approach" and opportunities to access financing through the expanding payments for ecosystem services (PES) systems in Mexico. But we also note the statement later in the PIF that the UNEP project will look for opportunities to collaborate with the	Adequate revisions. January 6, 2014 Adequate response to earlier review comments.

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		CONAFOR project on PES expansion implemented by the World Bank.	
		The GEF Secretariat believes that important opportunities for ejidos in the region could arise over time as PES systems expand, and the unit project should seek to enable ejidos to benefit from these opportunities.	
		The GEF Secretariat requests that, during project preparation, UNEP and the project sponsors examine opportunities for ejidos to benefit from PES systems for which they could be eligible.	
		This could be an important income stream to support community-based conservation areas since ejidos could become sellers of ecosystem services, if PES systems have been extended to the region. This would provide a reliable	
		financial incentive for the ejidos to create community-based conservation areas and sustain the conservation effort over time. This would be a more powerful incentive than the ejidos recognition over time of the benefits of	
		better functioning and more resilient ecosystems, the benefits of which take time to become manifest and are diffuse. It also will help counteract the perceived opportunity costs of setting aside land for conservation.	

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	16. Is there a clear description of: a) the socio-economic benefits, including	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	gender dimensions, to be delivered by the project, and b) how will the delivery of such benefits support the achievement of incremental/ additional benefits?	Yes, there is a clear description of socioeconomic benefits that would be realized from improved natural resource management. These are directly linked to the incremental environmental benefits. Gender dimensions are mentioned. At CEO endorsement, we encourage UNEP to consider inclusion in the monitoring framework an indicator that measures changes in socio-economic benefits, gender disaggregated if possible.	Adequate response to earlier review comments.
	17. Is public participation, including CSOs and indigeneous people,	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	taken into consideration, their role identified and addressed properly?	The PIF includes a solid discussion on public participation, including IP issues. The Mexican authorities will be working with local and international CSOs. WWF-Mexico will be playing an important role in the project.	Adequate.
	18. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	consequences of climate change and provides sufficient risk mitigation measures? (i.e., climate resilience)	Yes, the PIF takes into account key risks including climate risks and security risks from the increase in instability and violence in North Mexico in recent years.	Adequate.
	19. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other	March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014
	related initiatives in the country or in the region?	Yes, the project is seeking to align itself with other appropriate initiatives in Mexico, including initiatives to support PES systems and watershed conservation. We support the idea of collaboration between this project and	Adequate.

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		the World Bank implemented PES project in the Rio Fuerte watershed. It does not overlap with the project submitted by the World Bank on watershed conservation.	
	20. Is the project implementation/ execution arrangement adequate?	April 16, 2012 UNEP has fully and adequately explained how its regional office, with assistance from its office in Mexico city will be responsible for oversight and implementation support. March 28, 2012 The Mexican authorities have strong capacity to execute this project, but please describe UNEP's capacity to	January 6, 2014 Adequate.
	21. Is the project structure sufficiently close to what was presented at PIF, with clear justifications for changes?	oversee this project further.	January 6, 2014 Yes.
	22. If there is a non-grant instrument in the project, is there a reasonable calendar of reflows included?		January 6, 2014 NA.
	23. Is funding level for project management cost appropriate?	March 28, 2012 Yes, project management costs are 5% of the total, respectively, for the GEF grants and for the total project.	January 6, 2014 As at PIF stage.
Project Financing	24. Is the funding and co-financing per objective appropriate and adequate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?	April 18, 2012 The Mexican authorities have decided to allocate further resources to support this project. Funding for component 1 has	January 6, 2014 Cofinancing is adequate; however, the presentation of cofinancing and the letters themselves are not coherent. Se

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	25. At PIF: comment on the indicated cofinancing; At CEO endorsement: indicate if confirmed co-financing is provided.	been justified. Funding and cofinancing are appropriate and adequate. March 18, 2012 The GEF funding for the project seems high and the amount of co-financing is low. This is particularly true since Mexico is an OECD country. Please justify the need for component 1 and the later parts of component 2 that are not clearly necessary. This funding will either need to be cut or co-financing will need to be increased. April 18, 2012 Mexico has dedicated additional cofinancing to the project. Cofinancing is sufficient to support this project. March 28, 2012 The cofinancing ratio is 1: 3.1, which is low for a project in Mexico. If the GEF grant cannot be reduced, then UNEP will need to identify additional co-financing for the project for work program inclusion.	#25 below. February 24, 2014 Adequate. January 6, 2014 The presentation of cofinance in Table C and the letters are not aligned with one another, that is, the figures in the letters and the figures in the tables are not consistent. Please correct. In addition, use one line for cash and one line for in-kind, do not combine them. February 24, 2014 Adequate.
	26. Is the co-financing amount that the Agency is bringing to the project in line with its role?	April 18, 2012 UNEP has pledged to commit \$900,000 in cofinancing to the project. At CEO endorsement, please break out how much is in cash, and how much in-kind. March 28, 2012	January 6, 2014 Adequate response to earlier review comments.

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		UNEP is bringing \$450,000 of in-kind cofinancing. We ask UNEP to see if it can increase this amoung and bring additional grant financing to the project.	
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	27. Have the appropriate Tracking Tools been included with information for all relevant indicators, as applicable?		Tracking tool for Objective one is not clear and is not aligned correctly with text. Please clarify if the 300,000 hectares is managed as one unit and as a protected area with management plan etc. How is it classified within the Mexican System of protected areas? Finally, the project framework seems to indicate that the 300,000 hectare amount covers both protected areas and production landscapes. Please clarify this in the way the data is presented in the Tracking Tool and in the project framework. In addition, the project framework does not include a target for improving PA management effectiveness, which is the main focus of objective one of the BD strategy and is the entire reason for using the tool. Please include a target or provide an adequate explanation for this oversight. February 24, 2014 No, a major problem still remains as described under question 14. In addition, there is no reason to

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			complete the section of the tracking tool on invasive species as this is not an invasive species project.
			April 2, 2014
			Adequate revisions.
	28. Does the proposal include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors		January 6, 2014
	and measures results with indicators and targets?		Adequate.
	29. Has the Agency responded adequately to comments from:		
	• STAP?	NA	January 6, 2014
. D			Adequate response to earlier review comments.
Agency Responses	Convention Secretariat?	NA	
	Council comments?		January 6, 2014
			Adequate response to comments from Germany.
	Other GEF Agencies?	NA	
Secretariat Recommen	ndation		
Recommendation at	30. Is PIF clearance/approval being recommended?	April 18, 2012	
PIF Stage		UNEP and Mexico have fixed all the issues mentioned above by adjusting downward financing for component 1, increasing cofinancing for the project, and justifying UNEP's comparative advantage, including how the project fits within its projects in Mexico.	
		April 6, 2012	

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		We ask UNEP to fix the issues above in terms of reducing the overall project grant, increasing the co-financing ratio, and justifying UNEP's comparative advantage to implement this kind of project in Mexico.	
	31. Items to consider at CEO endorsement/approval.	March 28, 2012 The items to consider at CEO endorsement mentioned above are:	
		15: The GEF Secretariat requests that, during project preparation, UNEP and the project sponsors examine opportunities for ejidos to benefit from PES systems for which they could be eligible.	
		16: We encourage UNEP to considering inclusion in the monitoring framework an indicator that measures changes in socio-economic benefits, gender disaggregated if possible.	
		25 & 26: We ask UNEP to identify additional cofinancing during project development, including, if feasible, grant resources of its own.	
Recommendation at CEO Endorsement/ Approval	32. At endorsement/approval, did Agency include the progress of PPG with clear information of commitment status of the PPG?		January 6, 2014 Adequate report.
	33. Is CEO endorsement/approval being recommended?		January 6, 2014 No. Please address issues above related to

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			the presentation of the cofinance letters and Table C, as well as the lack of clarity on the PA that covers 300,000 hectares and for which the Tracking Tool for objective one and protected area management effectiveness is completed.
			In addition, the project framework does not include a target for improving PA management effectiveness, which is the main focus of objective one of the BD strategy and is the entire reason for using the tool. Please include a target or provide an adequate explanation for this oversight.
			Finally, the cover sheet for the project document refers to BD 1 and BD as "GEF strategic long-term objective". There is no such categorization, BD 1 and BD 2 are simply "objectives" of the GEF-V strategy. In addition, it is not clear why the document refers to a "Strategic Program for GEF-5, SP 4 and SP 5". Please clarify.
			February 24, 2014 No. Please address the issues raised in question 14 and 27 and revise the
			project framework, results framework and tracking tools accordingly. If UNEP requires an explanation, please contact the program manager. April 2, 2014

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			Adequate revisions. Project is recommended for CEO endorsement.
	First review*	March 28, 2012	January 06, 2014
	Additional review (as necessary)	April 18, 2012	February 24, 2014
Review Date (s)	Additional review (as necessary)		April 02, 2014
	Additional review (as necessary)		
	Additional review (as necessary)		

^{*} This is the first time the Program Manager provides full comments for the project. Subsequent follow-up reviews should be recorded. For specific comments for each section, please insert a date after comments. Greyed areas in each section do not need comments.

REQUEST FOR PPG APPROVAL

Review Criteria	Decision Points	Program Manager Comments
	1. Are the proposed activities for project preparation appropriate?	April 18, 2012
	r · r · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	The activities for project preparation and program coordination are adequate.
		April 6, 2012
DDC D. I.		We have asked for changes to the project so the PPG will need to be revised in line with the project.
PPG Budget	2. Is itemized budget justified?	April 18, 2012
		The budget is justified for the PIF as reformulated.
		April 5, 2012
		In line with the reduction to the GEF grant, the PPG might need to be revised and reduced.
	3.Is PPG approval being	April 18, 2012
Secretariat Recommendation	recommended?	We recommend the PIF for approval.

		April 5, 2012	
		We will review the PPG again when the revised PIF is resubmitted.	
	4. Other comments	March 28, 2012	
		We would like to emphasize the importance of the capacity building for communities with regard to project planning, implementation, and resource mobilization. In this late regard, we believe the project should train local ejidos how to participate in PES systems.	
Review Date (s)	First review*	March 28, 2012	
Review Date (8)	Additional review (as necessary)	April 18, 2012	

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