

GEF SECRETARIAT REVIEW FOR FULL/MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECTS

Country/Region: Regional (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen)
 Project Title: Regional (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen): Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Strategic Ecosystem Management
 GEFSEC Project ID: **3809**
 GEF Agency Project ID: 113794 (World Bank) GEF Agency: World Bank
 GEF Focal Area (s): International Waters
 GEF-4 Strategic Program (s): IW-1;IW-2;
 Anticipated Project Financing (\$): PPG:\$100,000 GEF Project Allocation:\$3,000,000 Co-financing:\$15,890,000 Total Project Cost:\$18,990,000
 PIF Approval Date: April 26, 2010 Anticipated Work Program Inclusion: June 08, 2010
 Program Manager: Christian Severin GEF Agency Contact Person: Sophie Herrmann (TTL)

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion	Secretariat Comment At CEO Endorsement(FSP)/Approval (MSP)
Eligibility	1. Is the participating country eligible?	Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and Yemen are eligible under the Instrument. Saudi Arabia will participate with zero GEF contribution.	19th of September 2012 (cseverin): Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and Yemen are eligible under the instrument. Saudi Arabia will participate without acquiring any GEF funds.
	2. If there is a non-grant instrument in the project, check if project document includes a calendar of reflows and provide comments, if any.		19th of September 2012 (cseverin): No
	3. Has the operational focal point endorsed the project?	Endorsement letters from Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan and Sudan are based on the LDCF template rather than the GEF TF template. Endorsement letter from Saudi Arabia is not needed. 11/14/2008: Revised endorsement letters received. -	19th of September 2012 (cseverin): The national endorsement letters have been submitted along with a revised co-financing letter from PERSGA. 5th of December 2012 (cseverin): A revised endorsement letter from Egypt alluding to Egypts participation in the regional activities only, have been recieved.
	4. Which GEF Strategic Objective/ Program does the project fit into?	IW-SP1 (Restoring and Sustaining Coastal and Marine Fish Stocks and Associated Biological Diversity) and IW-SP2 (Reducing Nutrient Over-Enrichment and Oxygen Depletion from Land-Based Pollution of	19th of September 2012 (cseverin): The project still fits under the same Strategic Programmes

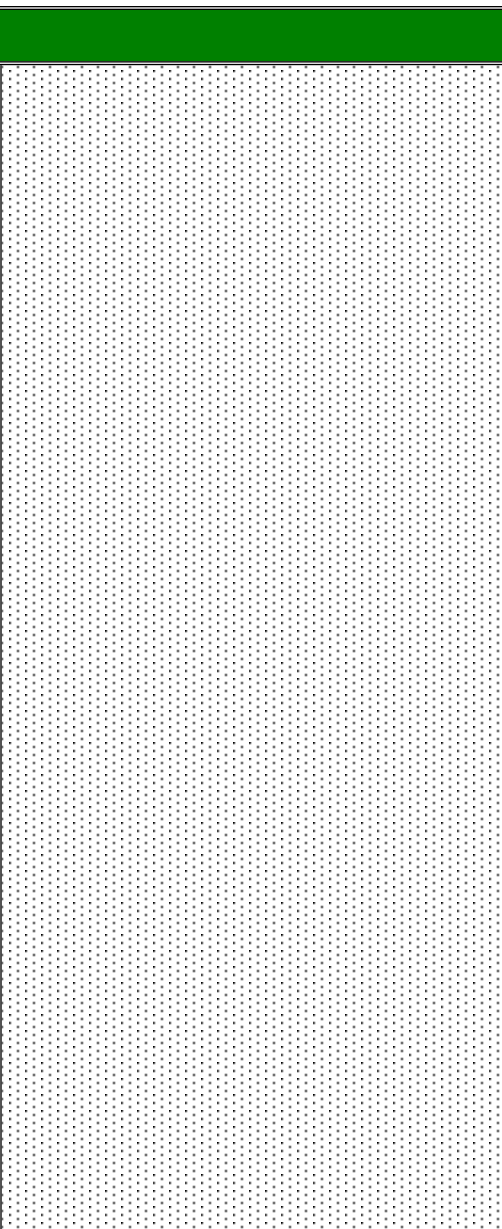
		Coastal Waters)	
	5. Does the Agency have a comparative advantage for the project?	Yes; the project is blended with a 25 million \$ WB loan.	19th of September 2012 (cseverin): The implementing agency has the needed comparative advantage and it work will be further backed up by the regional institution that they will be implementing through.
Resource Availability	5. Is the proposed GEF Grant (including the Agency fee) within the resources available for (if appropriate):		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RAF allocation? • The focal areas? 	<p>NA</p> <p>3 million \$ are presently available under the IW focal area for GEF-4 for this project.</p> <p>10/23/2008: Budget has been reduced to 3 million \$</p> <p>04/20/2009: The remaining amount available for IW programming in GEF-4 is presently uncertain.</p>	19th of September 2012 (cseverin): The amount of requested funding is still available under IW.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic objectives? • Strategic program? 	<p>NA</p> <p>NA</p>	
Project Design	6. Will the project deliver tangible global environmental benefits?	<p>Yes, the project will :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the management and effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas, rehabilitation of endangered habitats and development of sustainable management plans on a regional scale represented by an MPA network covering the entire Red Sea and Gulf of Aden LME. 2. Assess and respond to issues such as overexploitation of fish stocks, pollution, monitoring and sustainable management . 	
	7. Is the global environmental benefit measurable?		19th of September 2012 (cseverin): Yes the project activities will among others provide a data sharing mechanism, which will enable the countries and the regional organisation to make informed choices towards making more sustainable management decisions of the marine

			resources. One direct output of this will be among others be institutional and rights based frameworks (for MPAs) that will effect an estimated 15% increase in larger than 30cm groupers and other fish species.
	8. Is the project design sound, its framework consistent & sufficiently clear (in particular for the outputs)?	<p>In reducing the GEF's contribution to the project to the agreed 3 million \$ (excl. Agency fees), the project should maintain an emphasis on stress reduction, rehabilitation and protection of marine habitats (component 2 of the project).</p> <p>10/23/2008: OK, focus on component 2 maintained in revised budget.</p> <p>15th of April 2010 (cseverin): Please do remove the secondary objectives from the project framework, so that only the overall objective is listed: "to conserve and promote the sustainable exploitation of the marine resources of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and improve the socioeconomic nemefits to the 50 million people of the region"</p> <p>Please include wording that support that the project will report annually using the GEF4 IW Tracking Tool.</p> <p>Please include wording that the project will set up a homepage following the guidance from IWLEARN, as well as allocate a budget line to support IWLEARN activities such as writing up Experience Notes, participation in regional and the biennial IW Conference.</p>	<p>28th of December 2009 (cseverin): Please note that this project has changed Programme Manager recently, which is the background for the additional comments below that needs to be taken into account at CEO Endorsement.</p> <p>Please make explicit mentioning on the fact that the project will be reporting using the GEF4 IW Tracking Tool.</p> <p>Please include at the time of CEO Endorsement a budget line (accounting for a minimum of 1% of the GEF Grant amount) in the project framework, and in more detail further on in the Project Document, for the project to be setting up a website according to IWLEARN guidelines, write up one or two experience notes and actively participate in IWC conferences that may be running during the course of the project.</p> <p>Please include, at time of CEO Endorsement, quantifiable output indicators.</p> <p>19th of September 2012 (cseverin): Above points addressed.</p>
	9. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national priorities and policies?	The project is consistent with the priorities of the Strategic Action Plan for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.	19th of September 2012 (cseverin): Yes the project is in coherency with the priorities in the SAP for the region, and hence responding to key priorities for the
	10. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other related	The Project will coordinate its program closely with several ongoing regional and	

	initiatives in the country or in the region?	national initiatives in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, through PERSGA.	
	11. Is the proposed project likely to be cost-effective?	Cost-effectiveness is enhanced by using an existing regional organization - PERSGA - for project execution.	
	12. Has the cost-effectiveness sufficiently been demonstrated in project design?		5th of December 2012 (cseverin): The proposed project and its activities seem to be sufficiently cost effective.
	13. Is the project structure sufficiently close to what was presented at PIF?		<p>5th of December 2012 (cseverin): The proposed project still is true to the initial project idea, however, the proposed project has experienced a number of changes, however, it is believed that the implementing and executing agency will through fast responds and adaptive management strategies will be able to counter balance these developments. The below two issues are major differences compared to PIF stage and hence have to be mentioned and commented on.</p> <p>A mJOR change compared to PIF stage is the fact that teh project were planning to have five demo projects, one in each of teh participating countries. This was later changed to the present two demo sites. Unfortunately, one of the original countries are now only participating in the regional activites, which effects that one of the two demo sites will have to be identified during the first year of implementation. It is of outmost importance for the successful implementation of the other project components that this demo site is identified as fast as possible, so that they lessons learned from this site can be feeding into the other components.</p> <p>One other point that is noticable different from at PIF stage, is the fact that co-</p>

			financing has dropped considerable, however, the rationale for this is that the associated loan from the World Bank have been analysed and in the co-financing as of today, only relevant activities from this loan is counted as co-financing. So even though a decline can be identified, this is not believed to be a major problem.
	14.Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change and includes sufficient risk mitigation measures?	The PIF lists a number of risks related to lack of capacity and commitment, but argues that PERSGA, building on previous successes, would be able to overcome these.	5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes the project lists a number of risks and associated mitigation measures.
Justification for GEF Grant	15.Is the value-added of GEF involvement in the project clearly demonstrated through incremental reasoning?	The PIF argues that PERSGA's core funds are insufficient to cover the incremental costs of implementing the Strategic Action Plan. The GEF funding will provide a common platform to engage the governments in developing ecosystem-based conservation and sustainability programs in fisheries and MPAs in order to meet the regional objectives.	5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes, the incremental reasoning is clearly described.
	16.Is the type of financing provided by GEF, as well as its level of concessionality, appropriate?	15th of April 2010 (cseverin): Yes, the activities that will be taking place, would not have been able to be undertaken with a loan at normal market loan rates. However, the grant will facilitate a considerable loan from the World Bank.	5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes
	17.How would the proposed project outcomes and global environmental benefits be affected if GEF does not invest?		5th of December 2012 (cseverin): This proposed activities would not be undertaken if the GEF did not invest and hence the strengthening of the regional institution of PERSGA would then not be happening.
	18.Is the GEF funding level of project management budget appropriate?	The GEF contribution towards management costs should be maximum 10% of the total GEF contribution (i.e. max 300,000 \$) and the GEF's share of the management costs should not exceed the GEF's share of the overall costs. 10/23/2008: management costs reduced to <	28th of December 2009 (cseverin): Please note that this project has changed Programme Manager recently, which is the background for the additional comments below that needs to be taken into account at CEO Endorsement. Please note that the GEF Grant part of the

		10 %. GEF proportion (20 %) still higher than GEF proportion of overall budget, however, as management costs for the major loan component would be less, this deviation appears acceptable.	Project Management budget outlined in the PIF, needs to be maximum 10% of the GEF Grant (which it is), but at the same time also have to be showing the same ratio between GEF grant and Co-financing for the Project management as for the over all project. In this case this is not fulfilled, so either the Co-financing has to be increased or the GEF Grant part of the Project Management budget has to be lowered. 5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes, above points has been addressed.
	19. Is the GEF funding level of other cost items (consultants, travel, etc.) appropriate?		5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes
	20. Is the indicative co-financing adequate for the project?	Yes, a total of 35 million \$ of co-funding is envisaged for the project.	
	21. Are the confirmed co-financing amounts adequate for each project component?		5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes, even though a lowering of the co-financing have been taking place, due to a detailed analysis of the associated loan. However, the co-financing ratio is still 1:5.
	22. Has the Tracking Tool been included with information for all relevant indicators?		5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes, the IW tracking tool has been submitted
	23. Does the proposal include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?		5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes, the project document includes a M&E plan.
Secretariat's Response to various comments from:	STAP		
	Convention Secretariat		
	Agencies' response to GEFSEC comments		
	Agencies' response to Council comments		
Secretariat Decisions			

<p>Recommendation at PIF</p>	<p>24. Is PIF clearance being recommended?</p>	<p>Not yet. The GEF contribution should be reduced to 3 million \$ excl. 10 % fees. GEF contribution to project management costs should be in proportion to overall GEF contribution. Endorsement letters need to be resubmitted with correct Fund reference (the GEF Trust Fund) and with the correct amount.</p> <p>11/14/2008: The revised PIF adequately addresses the points raised in the previous review. However, with the expenditures in this focal area in the MNA region and the small amount of funding left in this focal area in GEF 4, this proposal is not recommended for CEO approval at this time. Portfolio balance and lack of funding means this proposal should wait until GEF 5.</p> <p>04/20/2009: Funding remains to be very limited for the IW focal area in GEF-4. In view of the large Mediterranean Program under development by the WB and in order to maintain portfolio balance, this project is not highest priority for IW under GEF-4.</p> <p>Sep 15, 2009 (IZavadsky): The Agency resubmitted the PIF with no changes. Due to lack of funding left in the IW focal area for the rest of GEF 4, this proposal is not recommended for CEO clearance into the Work Programme.</p> <p>December 28, 2009 (cseverin): The Agency resubmitted PIF with no changes. Due to lack of funding left in the IW focal Area for the rest of GEF4, this proposal is not recommended for CEO Clearance into the Work Programme. A number of points (on IWLEARN, GEF 4 IW Tracking Tool and</p>	
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		<p>Project Management costs) have been added to the reviewsheet, that the project needs to address prior to CEO Endorsement.</p> <p>15th of April 2010 (cseverin): No, Please do add wording on IW Tracking Tool, IWLEARN and change the objective as suggested as well as make sure tha the PM budget is in line with the GEF criteria, then the PIF will be ready for recommendation for CEO Clearance. Looking forward to see the PIF resubmitted as soon as possible.</p> <p>20th of April 2010 (cseverin): Yes Pif is recommended for CEO Clearance.</p>	
	25.Items worth noting at CEO Endorsement.		
Recommendation at CEO Endorsement	26. Is CEO Endorsement being recommended?		5th of December 2012 (cseverin): Yes, the Project is being recommended for CEO Endorsement.
Review Date	1 st review		
	2 nd review		
	3 rd review		

REQUEST FOR PPG APPROVAL

Review Criteria	Decision Points	Program Manager Comments
PPG Budget	1. Are the proposed activities for project preparation appropriate?	06/08/2010 (cseverin): Yes the proposed activities are appropriate as they will be supporting the development of the full size proposal.
	2. Is itemized budget justified?	06/08/2010 (cseverin); Yes the budget is itemized, but please make sure that the budget adds up, presently the co-financing does not add up. 06/10/2010 (cseverin): Please make sure that all columns in Table F add up. Please also make sure that there is coherency between the amount of PWs for local consultants mentioned in Table F and the number of PWs listed in Annex A.

		08/03/2010 (cseverin): Yes the itemized budget is justified and adds up.	
	3. Is the proposed GEF PPG Grant (including the Agency fee) within the resources available under the RAF/Focal Area allocation?	xxPPGResorcesxx	
	4. Is the consultant cost reasonable?	06/08/2010 (cseverin); Yes the consultants costs for both national and international consultants are reasonable and within the GEF norm.	
Recommendation	5. Is PPG being recommended?	06/08/2010 (cseverin): No, please do make sure that the budget adds up. 06/10/2010 (cseverin): No, Please make sure that all columns in Table F add up. Please also make sure that there is coherency between the amount of PWs for local consultants mentioned in Table F and the number of PWs listed in Annex A. 06/10/2010 (cseverin): Yes, the PPG is being recommended. 06/16/2010 (cseverin): The PPG request need to revise its budget. The PPG amount requested from the GEF is too high, compared to the \$100k co-financing. Please strongly consider to increase co-financing considerably, while at the same time diminishing the GEF PPG. 06/18/2010 (cseverin): The PPG request is being recommended for CEO Approval. It is understood that the GEF grant to the PPG has been diminished considerable, however, the regional fisheries organisation has not been able to identify more co-financing. But the overall ratio has changed for the better. 06/21/2010 (cseverin): No, please adjust the GEF grant amount to maximum \$100k as well as adjusting the Co-financing amount as well, it has been strongly suggested by the CEO that the WB also includes co-financing towards the ppg on top of the \$100k that the regional fisheries organisation is putting towards this ppg. 08/03/2010 (cseverin): Yes, the PPG is being recommended for CEO Approval. 11/23/2010 (cseverin): Yes, th PPG is being recommended for CEO Approval.	
	Other comments		
	Review Date	1 st review	
		2 nd review	
		3 rd review	

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