GEF SECRETARIAT REVIEW FOR DIRECT ACCESS TO ENABLING ACTIVITY

GEF ID:	**5849**		
Country/Region:	**Ecuador**		
Project Title:	**Support to Ecuador for the development of National Action Programs aligned to the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy and Reporting Process under UNCCD**		
GEF Agency:	**UNDP**	GEF Agency Project ID:	**5370 (UNDP)**
Type of Trust Fund:	**GEF Trust Fund**	GEF Focal Area (s):	**Land Degradation**
GEF-5 Focal Area/ LDCF/SCCF Objective (s):			
Anticipated Financing PPG:	**$0**	Project Grant:	**$136,986**
Co-financing:	**$181,100**	Total Project Cost:	**$318,086**
PIF Approval:		Council Approval/Expected:	
CEO Endorsement/Approval		Expected Project Start Date:	
Program Manager:	**Ulrich Apel**	Agency Contact Person:	**Helen Negret**

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment
Eligibility	1. Is the participating country eligible?	Yes.
	2. Has the operational focal point endorsed the project?*[1]	Yes. Letter dated 23 April 2014.
Agency's Comparative Advantage	3. Is the Agency's comparative advantage for this project clearly described and supported? *	Yes.
	4. Does the project fit into the Agency's program and staff capacity in the country?*	Yes.
Resource Availability	5. Is the proposed Grant (including the Agency fee) within the resources available from (mark all that apply):	
	• the STAR allocation?	n/a
	• the focal area allocation?	n/a
	• focal area set-aside?	Clarification required: Ecuador has applied for LD EA funding with project #5173 under the Direct Access Modality. The project is in pending status and would

[1] Questions 2, 3, 4, 18 and 19 are applicable only to EAs submitted through Agencies.

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment
		need to be dropped by the OFP before this Enabling Activity implemented through UNDP can be funded out of the LDFA set-aside. We have contacted OFP Ecuador accordingly and asked for a confirmation per email or letter on whether the Direct Access project #5173 should indeed be dropped. We would appreciate your follow up with the OFP.
Project Consistency	6. Is the project aligned with the focal areas results framework?	Yes. Aligned with LD-4.
	7. Are the relevant GEF 5 focal areas objectives identified?	Yes. LD-4
	8. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, including NPFE, NAPA, NCSA, or NAP?	Yes.
	9. Does the proposal clearly articulate how the capacities developed, if any, will contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes?	Yes.
	10. Is the project framework sound and sufficiently clear?	Yes.
	11. Is there a clear description of how gender dimensions are being considered in the project design and implementation?	Yes. refer to para 29f.
	12. Is public participation, including CSOs and indigeneous people, taken into consideration, their role identified and addressed properly?	Yes. Refer to para 27f.
	13. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other related initiatives in the country or in the region?	Yes.
	14. Is the project implementation/ execution arrangement adequate?	Yes. Ministry of Environment will execute the EA project.
	15. Is the itemized budget (including consultant fees, travel, office facilities, etc) justified?	Yes.
	16. Is funding level for project management cost appropriate?	Yes.

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment
	17. Is the funding and co-financing per objective appropriate and adequate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?	Yes.
	18. Is indicated co-financing appropriate for an enabling activity?	Yes.
	19. Is the co-financing amount that the Agency is bringing to the project in line with its role?*	Yes.
	20. Comments related to adequacy of information submitted by country for financial management and procurement assessment.	
Agency Responses	21. Has the Agency responded adequately to comments from:*	
	• STAP?	n/a
	• Convention Secretariat?	n/a
	• Other GEF Agencies?	n/a

Secretariat Recommendation		
Recommendation	**22. Is EA clearance/approval being recommended?**	05/12/2014 UA: Ecuador has a pending funding request for Enabling Activity funding under the Direct Access modality (PMIS #5173). Before we can proceed with this request, the OFP would need to confirm that Ecuador wants to drop the previous request #5173. The GEF Secretariat has approached the OFP requesting a written clarification of Ecuador's intent on how to proceed. The agency is requested to follow up with the OFP in this regard. 06/10/2014 UA: Written clarification has been received. YES. Program Manager recommends the project for CEO approval.
Review Date (s)	First review**	May 12, 2014
	Additional review (as necessary)	June 10, 2014
	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.**