



GEF SECRETARIAT REVIEW FOR FULL/MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECTS*

THE GEF/LDCF/SCCF TRUST FUNDS

GEF ID:	4953		
Country/Region:	Regional (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone)		
Project Title:	Mano River Union Ecosystem Conservation and International Water Resources Management (IWRM) Project		
GEF Agency:	AfDB	GEF Agency Project ID:	
Type of Trust Fund:	GEF Trust Fund	GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi Focal Area
GEF-5 Focal Area/ LDCF/SCCF Objective (s):	IW-3; BD-2; LD-3; SFM/REDD+1; Project Mana;		
Anticipated Financing PPG:	\$0	Project Grant:	\$6,336,364
Co-financing:	\$25,000,000	Total Project Cost:	\$31,336,364
PIF Approval:		Council Approval/Expected:	June 01, 2012
CEO Endorsement/Approval		Expected Project Start Date:	
Program Manager:	Jean-Marc Sinnassamy	Agency Contact Person:	Mr. Albert Mwangi

Review Criteria	Questions	Secretariat Comment at PIF (PFD)/Work Program Inclusion	Secretariat Comment At CEO Endorsement(FSP)/Approval (MSP)
Eligibility	1. Is the participating country eligible? 2. Has the operational focal point endorsed the project?	<p>Three letters of endorsement are available from Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.</p> <p>We take note that Cote d'Ivoire will not commit STAR allocations. However, a letter of endorsement is necessary to reflect their buy-in.</p> <p>Depending on the project budget evolutions, the letters of endorsement should be adjusted.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 We take note of the interest of Cote d'Ivoire, confirmed by email exchanges with the OFP and AfDB. We understand that the OFP is preparing a letter of</p>	

		<p>letter by the June Council. Please confirm.</p> <p>April 19, 2012 A letter of endorsement from Cote d'Ivoire has been included in the package. Cleared.</p>	
Agency's Comparative Advantage	3. Is the Agency's comparative advantage for this project clearly described and supported?	<p>The AfDB is a privileged partner of the Mano River Union countries in agriculture and nature resource management. The project is built on the top of significant support programmes for the conservation and the sustainable management of the Mano River Forest Ecosystem.</p> <p>Cleared.</p>	
	4. If there is a non-grant instrument in the project, is the GEF Agency capable of managing it?		
	5. Does the project fit into the Agency's program and staff capacity in the country?	<p>The project fits with the Agency's program. However, there is no information on staff capacity in the region. Please, clarify.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 Cleared.</p>	
Resource Availability	6. Is the proposed Grant (including the Agency fee) within the resources available from (mark all that apply):		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the STAR allocation? 	<p>Guinea: BD: \$990,000; LD: \$165,000 Liberia: BD: \$990,000; LD: \$165,000 Sierra Leone: BD: \$990,000; LD: \$165,000</p> <p>Please consider the STAR allocations</p>	

		any PPG if needed. If a PPG is needed, please reduce the project grant from the requested budget.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the focal area allocation? 	BD: \$2,770,000 LD: \$495,000 IW: \$1,100,000 SFM: \$1,050,000 If a revised reasoning is provided to support a TDA/SAP process, the IW support could be up to \$2,500,000 (fees included).	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the LDCF under the principle of equitable access 	NA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)? 	NA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nagoya Protocol Investment Fund 	NA	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> focal area set-aside? 	The project is triggering the SFM incentive with \$1,155,000. The total of STAR allocations used in this project is \$3,465,000. The ratio is 3:1. This is acceptable if all STAR allocations are well used on forest issues. Please, confirm, or reduce the SFM part. April 17, 2012 Addressed.	
Project Consistency	7. Is the project aligned with the focal /multifocal areas/ LDCF/SCCF/NPIF results framework?	(4/18/2012 IW/ah): Table A - please revise to use the wording of the GEF IW results framework. No creativity needed/appreciated here. It is better to use the exact wording. April 19, 2012 Addressed.	
	8. Are the relevant GEF 5 focal/multifocal areas/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF	This point will be reviewed after revision of the incremental reasoning	

		<p>(4/18/2012 IW/ah): for IW objective 3 has been appropriately identified in table A.</p> <p>Section A 1.1: Please provide a stronger case and link to the IW strategy: The sentence starting "Finally the project through its international waters component..." does not link well to the IW strategy and furthermore the sentence does not seem to make sense. In addition, the next sentence overstates the results of the IW component of the project. The IW component of the project supports foundational activities which will contribute to identifying root causes and priority action needs to enhance water quality and competing water use in terms of quantity; the project in itself though will not lead to "increased water quality and quantity". Please strengthen this section.</p> <p>April 19, 2012 Addressed.</p>	
	<p>9. 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?</p>	<p>A deeper analysis of existing planning tools and national strategies will probably permit to reinforce the justification of the choices made for the project. Please revise.</p> <p>(4/18/2012 IW/ah): the section is fine, but it would be helpful if the team could send an electronic copy or link to the Mano River 2009-2013 Strategic Action Plan and the Mano River Union Natural Resources Management Strategic</p>	

		<p>references to it in the document, but no summary.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 Please address the point related to IW.</p> <p>April 19, 2012 Addressed.</p>	
	<p>10. Does the proposal clearly articulate how the capacities developed, if any, will contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes?</p>	<p>A better argument needs to be developed to prove the added value of the regional approach.</p> <p>A deeper analysis of national or regional planning tools is necessary to justify the reasoning and the activities.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 Addressed.</p>	
<p>Project Design</p>	<p>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?</p>	<p>- The importance and role of transboundary water (not only watershed) management could be more clearly integrated in the 'storyline' and justification of the project.</p> <p>- The TDA/SAP type process is well formulated for the AfDB funded baseline project, but its objectives and impact less clear within the description of increment in component 2. This issue should be seriously taken into consideration and be reflected upon in the next iteration of this.</p> <p>- The forest sector is a very complex one in the region. However, many partners, as the European Union, have supported the governance sector, the trade, and/or the local and regional private sector that is very active beyond the countries that are involved. Please. provide a rapid</p>	

sure that the component one is designed in good intelligence with these existing initiatives.

- Key baseline projects are described with potentially real cofinancing opportunities. However, a deeper analysis is needed to identify the gaps and barriers that the project will address to justify the GEF increment.

- The section B2 is relatively weak to demonstrate the incremental reasoning, especially to convince about the multi-focal area nature of what is being proposed.

- By not demonstrating links between the two baseline investments at regional level, the GEF increment also appears to be separate for the land-based focal areas and IW. This does not make sense for a project that is advocating regional integration under the Mano River Union umbrella.

- For natural resource management, the MARFOP seems mainly focused on materializing a network of protected areas, supporting ecological centers, supporting the existing institutions, and replanting some areas. It is difficult to figure out the reasoning that leads to the proposed outcomes and outputs. Please, develop the reasoning.

April 17, 2012

We take note that many elements will be addressed during the PPG (sustainability, coordination with other

		<p>Please, could you remind us the status of the TDA/SAP approach. We thought that initial work was undertaken in the 2000's. Please, clarify.</p> <p>(4/18/2012 IW/ah): it is somewhat surprising that future changes in water availability/quantity is mentioned, yet there is no mention of water quality concerns or actions to address these despite the mining activities in the basin. Please address.</p> <p>April 19, 2012 Addressed.</p>	
	<p>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?</p>		
	<p>13. Are the activities that will be financed using GEF/LDCF/SCCF funding based on incremental/additional reasoning?</p>	<p>No. Please, revise the section B1 and B2.</p> <p>We do not see the added value of LD resources or activities that clearly fit with the GEF5 strategy.</p> <p>See comments made on activities in the cell related to the project framework.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 We thank the Agency for the thorough revision of the logical framework. Under the component 1, we understand that the incremental use of GEF resources will focus on 1) the development of integrated land use/management plans, 2) the dissemination of best practises for</p>	

reinforcement of capacities at a landscape level.

Further information and analysis from the MARFOP are needed to complete the demonstration (we will be pleased if you can share a project document).

- Is the enabling environment enough strong to propose land use/management plans?
- Provide elements of sustainability for the productive activities with farmers.
- See if you can bring scientific evidence (from the MARFOP) about the feasibility and the efficiency of economic alternative and livelihoods. If not, please, confirm that you will confirm the scientific rationale during the PPG.
- We believe that agroforestry is a potential response in the buffer zones of protected areas (as mentioned in the section B3). At PPG level, please develop a feasibility study on this option.

(4/18/2012 IW/ah): The summary para at beginning of section B2 still reads confusing and does not really go along with the much clearer incremental reasoning of each component. The para provides little reasoning for IW fund contribution.

Furthermore, as commented on earlier, the project will in the long-term contribute to global benefits such as improved water quality and enhanced water availability , but not lead to this outcome directly. This seems outside the scope of the project as described..

		<p>April 19, 2012 Addressed.</p>	
	<p>14. Is the project framework sound and sufficiently clear?</p>	<p>- The project framework has the merit of simplicity. However, if we understand well the information provided on the baseline projects, we will suggest to have four/five components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Component 1) on nature resource management. However, the scope of outcomes, outputs, and activities needs to be revised based on a better analysis and reasoning. - Component 2) on transboundary watershed planning. That will help to provide a more obvious link between the water resources and forest ecosystems. This will also help to align the baseline investments more constructively and demonstrate the integrated approach that is being advocated for the transboundary resources. In its current form, the framework does not demonstrate Integrated Water Resource Management as implied in the project title. - Component 3) on the TDA/SAP - Component 4) on Monitoring and evaluation, if needed; - Component 5) on management costs, if needed. <p>Comments on the existing framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The development objective needs to be revised. It is not clear what the objective of the project is (transboundary water management and conservation of the Upper Guinea Forest Ecosystem) for what ?) 	

The consistency between the outcome (transboundary ecosystem are managed in a sustainable manner), the outputs (legal and regulatory frameworks, certification programs, integrated management planning, and monitoring), and activities described in the text is not convincing. We suggest to analyze deeper the baseline information and to apply some outcomes/outputs inspired by the GEF5 strategy on BD, LD, and SFM. The section B.2. needs to be completely revised.

- Please, develop further the output linked to "harmonized legal and regulatory framework": on what? what "harmonized" mean?
- Do you think that the budget and the time frame are reasonable to imagine the establishment of forest products certification?
- The output on management planning enabling the generation of sustainable income from forest products and agroforestry is not clear and convincing. Please, give more information of what you mean, and what are the activities behind.
- We do not understand the prioritization of activities and how the project is going to provide alternatives to activities such as poaching, logging, mining. The nature of activities is dubious and the sustainability of the approach needs to be developed.
- The activities related to advocacy, communication, outreach, and school curricula may overload the scope of the project or are baseline activities.
- The final indicators proposed are 1)

activities and 2) increased forest coverage. We have difficulties to see how the proposed activities are going to impact these two indicators.

Component 2:

- The outcome needs to be revised.

Please, refer to the GEF 5 IW framework (see IW objective 3 outcomes).

- Output indicators should be more clear in what is delivered and be quantifiable.

Please use the GEF IW results framework as reference of type of outputs. Also, the text description of activities within component 2 does not seem to be reflected by the output indicators. For example, as functional inter-ministerial committees are part of the GEF finance as described in the text, then this should be reflected as output indicator (this also is line with the GEF 5 IW results framework, which is good).

- The activities linked to communication and awareness on water quality assessment are somehow difficult to understand as priorities for this project. Please, justify or more surely, remove them.

- The AfDB water resources project seems to cover much (or all ?) of the support to the development of a Transboundary Diagnosis Assessment and Investment plan as per the description of the AfDB project on page 7. This contributes to somewhat unclear and weak description of the GEF finance for project incremental activities in component 2 (on page 8). What is GEF financing and what is baseline?

contributes to the TDA and SAP/investment program formulation and adoption, then please insert this as output indicators in the project framework. A commitment of the project to formulate and adopt a TDA/SAP identifying and tying together priority actions on IWRM + NRM would be a strong argument for the IW grant.

- Reference to project contribution to water quality control: as written it appears that much of the 'barrier' to better water quality management seems to be mainly an awareness and outreach issue that the project is addressing by promoting a list of issues (see pg 9; first para; list of item i to iv). Is this really the case? it seems surprising and really not clear what 'promoting water quality control' or 'promoting water treatment' will actually do.

- Please insert in the project overview/problematic a clearer summary on what the key water quality issues are in the basin and based on that rethink what the appropriate measures for water quality control are in the Mano river and how the project can address these.

- The last para in component 2 "The GEF funding for this component 2 will allow: (i)" till end of that para seems full of general wording, but has no specificity to what this actually means in terms of what the project does.

activities and funds dedicated to knowledge dissemination (i.e up to a max. of 5 %), please explicitly mention dedicating at least 1 % of the grant to IW Learn activities, such as produce a couple of experience notes, produce a website according to IWLEARN guidance as well as participate in regional and the biennial IW conferences during the project lifetime.

April 17, 2012

We thank the Agency for the revisions. See the previous cell (13) to provide some needed elements on 1) the enabling conditions of the institutional and capacity framework, 2) the scientific evidence that makes the project feasible, and 3) the sustainability of the approach.

(4/18/2012 IW/ah): component 2 (IW): The current write-up and outcomes and outputs are much more clear and aligned with the GEF IW strategy. There are a few items that we would like you to address in the resubmission:

(1) as written the logical sequence of the TDA-SAP approach is not clearly reflected or rather reversed :
The sequence should be to develop, in a participatory manner, the TDA.
The TDA should be formally reviewed and adopted on national & regional level. The SAP formulation will build on the analysis carried out in the TDA and identify priority actions & investments. Again, the SAP needs to be reviewed and adopted on national &

to develop a pipeline of bankable interventions should - in that logic - take account of and build on the TDA/SAP process. Please make sure that the write-up reflects this thinking.

(2) Component 2 (i), pg. 10: this activity should aim at building capacities for both, the formulation of the TDA AND the SAP. Please add 'the TDA' both in the project framework and in the text. Enhanced experience for participatory planning mechanisms could be part of this foundational work for TDA/SAP formulation.

(3) Comp 2 (ii), pg. 11: TDA and SAP should be developed in participator fashion and ADOPTED. Right now the component talks about "dissemination", which sounds somewhat top-down and may risk to give the impression that the preparation will not include extensive national and regional consultations already. Please add the 'adoption of the TDA and SAP' both to the project framework and component text.

(4) Link to Mano Natural Resources Management Strategic Plan: Please note, that there is no overview of the Mano River Union Natural Resources Management Strategic Plan or the process leading up to it given anywhere in the PIF. Please provide a copy to us and please explain in the PIF how the GEF funded TDA and SAP would link to and build on this existing NRM

strategic action plans build on each other and/or will they be integrated and how. It needs to be assured that the GEF funded SAP will not result in any duplication of efforts.

(5) component 2 (iii) - please edit text on page 11 to include participation of local stakeholders not only in the TDA, but also the SAP.

(6) the text (pg 11) states clear activities related to IW learn on knowledge sharing and dissemination (up to 5 % of GEF grant will be allocated to this). Please reflect this as a distinct output in the project framework (table B).

(4/19/2012):

For component 2 IW:

- Please edit the text on the output related to the awareness raising program. Provide more information (size of the program, scope, indicators, outputs, and activities).
- Please, reword the output related to the TDA and the SAP in the table B. Mention it will be "adopted at ministerial level". You also can remove "disseminated", as the formulation process itself has reached all the stakeholders.
- In the table B, about the output related to IW learn products: please rephrase it in " IW learn products generated and disseminated (website, participation to

		<p>products).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please reword outputs in table B and in text to say 'adoption of the TDA and SAP'. In the text please make clear that adoption means adoption at ministerial level. - In the table B, please, add at least one output related to the outcome "5 transboundary watershed identified and targetted for SAP implementation". Complete with a text in the appropriate section. - In the section B2, it is mentioned that "the project will allocate a maximum of 5 percent of the IW budget to IW learn activities". Please confirm that the minimum will not be under 1 percent. 	
	<p>15. Are the applied methodology and assumptions for the description of the incremental/additional benefits sound and appropriate?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project is triggering the SFM incentive. Please, provide the reasoning and the way to calculate the given number (40 million tons of CO2). Confirm that more accurate numbers will be provided at CEO endorsement, for instance using a Tier2 approach (see IPPC guidelines). Gains in carbon can be justified either by reforestation or avoided deforestation. - The distinction of baseline and increment in terms of IW support needs strenghtening (see also cell. 14). <p>April 17, 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the carbon benefits: 30,000ha times 141 tC/ha times 3.667 to convert to CO2 is 15.51 tCO2. The calculation is made as the project will reduce deforestation to zero. Usually, a deforestation/degradation can be reduced, halved for instance, but to 	

		<p>confirm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the 141 tC/ha only aboveground tree carbon? - What type of systems are funded to improve on these estimates during the project? <p>April 19, 2012 Addressed.</p>	
	<p>16. Is there a clear description of: a) the socio-economic benefits, including gender dimensions, to be delivered by the project, and b) how will the delivery of such benefits support the achievement of incremental/ additional benefits?</p>	<p>The section B3, in relation to the question of socio-economic benefits, is empty or proposes a very generic text. Please, provide more details on the expected social and economic benefits. Include gender issues in the Monitoring plan.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 Addressed and developed in the PPG.</p>	
	<p>17. Is public participation, including CSOs and indigeneous people, taken into consideration, their role identified and addressed properly?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A very generic information is provided. In the text, it is explained that all activities will be participative with a central role of local communities. We have difficulties how the four proposed outputs for natural resource management, very institutional, as well as water resource management plans, will involve local communities. - Please, develop the role of CSO in the project. <p>April 17, 2012 Please reinforce this point at CEO endorsement.</p>	
	<p>18. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change and provides sufficient risk mitigation measures? (i.e.. climate resilience)</p>	<p>Please, provide a full risk analysis at CEO endorsement.</p>	

19. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other related initiatives in the country or in the region?

- There has been a lot of work done in the region on certification, with various degrees of successes. Please, confirm that key partners on the issues will be associated (TROPENBOS, WWF's GFTN for instance) and explain how you will take lessons from these experiences.

- The European Forest Institute provides a support to Liberia for the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). Please, explain how the work proposed in certification is articulated to the FLEGT/VPA approach.

- It is mentioned that the project will take benefit form the GEF SIP/Terrafrica network. It is difficult to figure out how it is possible when none of the countries were involved in that program? Please, clarify.

- USAID and the US Forestry Program worked together to support the Land Rights and Community Forestry Program. After a first phase started in 2007, they are now taking lessons before starting a second phase. We will invite AfDB to coordinate their efforts with them. Please, confirm.

- The STEWARD program supported by USAID, USFWS, USFS, etc, has invested a lot in transboundary conservation and sustainable employment linked to natural resource conservation. Its phase III, until 2015, seeks to promote and strengthen

		<p>management with interventions focused around priority transboundary protected areas of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Ivory Coast. How the GEF project might take lessons from this program, notably for the component 1.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 Please reinforce this point during the PPG.</p>	
	<p>20. Is the project implementation/ execution arrangement adequate?</p>	<p>We understand that the Mano River Union should be the main executing partner for this project and that makes sense for the aspects linked to transboundary water management issues.</p> <p>However, please confirm how you want to develop and implement activities at national level and who are the legitimate partners. You mentioned the experience of the MARFOP with national entities and international partners (IUCN, CIFOR, ICRAF, CIFOR, and WPF), but the implementation arrangement are not described.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 We take note of the explanations and the expected reinforcement of the MRU for regional management of the river basin. However, for NRM/SFM activities on the ground at local level, please develop appropriate partnerships with some of the existing initiative. This point is expected at CEO endorsement.</p>	
	<p>21. Is the project structure sufficiently close to what was presented at PIF, with clear justifications for changes?</p>		

	22. If there is a non-grant instrument in the project, is there a reasonable calendar of reflows included?		
Project Financing	23. Is funding level for project management cost appropriate?	under 5 percent.	
	24. Is the funding and co-financing per objective appropriate and adequate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs?	<p>- Please, explain the consistency between the table A and B or each focal area. For instance, the numbers for the IW funds in table A/B and table D should match (\$952.380 vs. 1 million). Also, co-finance numbers in table A and B should match.</p> <p>- Co-financing ratio for IW component is somewhat low at 1:4 and not clear how it adds to four million (as the AFDB baseline funds and co-finance to that project is given in the detail, it would be good to mention what the 'other' part of the co-finance (i.e. the rest of the US\$ 4 million) is made up off).</p> <p>April 17, 2012 Addressed.</p>	
	25. At PIF: comment on the indicated cofinancing; At CEO endorsement: indicate if confirmed co-financing is provided.	<p>A better cofinancing can be expected with further analysis of existing initiatives in the region.</p> <p>There is no indication of any government co-finance. This should be addressed and at least show some indicative in-kind co-finance. Please address.</p> <p>April, 19 2012</p>	

		around 1:4. Please, be aware that the average under GEF5 has been around 1:5, and it is expected at CEO endorsement that AfDB will be able to provide a better ratio with cofinancing from each government and potentially from other partners (the US for instance).	
	26. Is the co-financing amount that the Agency is bringing to the project in line with its role?	Yes.	
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	27. Have the appropriate Tracking Tools been included with information for all relevant indicators, as applicable?		
	28. Does the proposal include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?		
Agency Responses	29. Has the Agency responded adequately to comments from:		
	• STAP?		
	• Convention Secretariat?		
	• Council comments?		
	• Other GEF Agencies?		
Secretariat Recommendation			
Recommendation at PIF Stage	30. Is PIF clearance/approval being recommended?	<p>The project cannot be recommended yet. Please, address comments raised above.</p> <p>April 17, 2012 The PIF has significantly improved. However, please address the remaining points above.</p> <p>April 19, 2012 Please address the pending comment in the celkl 14. Upon receipt of a revised document, it will be recommended for clearance.</p>	

	endorsement/approval.	<p>outcomes/outputs/activities/indicators. Provide detailed implementation arrangements.</p> <p>Develop a M&E plan.</p> <p>Develop the role of local communities, NGO/CSO, and professional organizations on the ground.</p> <p>Include gender issues.</p> <p>Develop sustainability aspects.</p> <p>Include information on how the GEB will be measured.</p> <p>Confirm cofinancing.</p> <p>Confirm the coordination with other initiatives (notably phase III of the STEWARD program, Peace Parks, USAID/USFS country level activities, etc.).</p>	
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?		
	33. Is CEO endorsement/approval being recommended?		
Review Date (s)	First review*	April 12, 2012	
	Additional review (as necessary)	April 17, 2012	
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* **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
PPG Budget	1. Are the proposed activities for project preparation appropriate?	

Secretariat Recommendation	3. Is PPG approval being recommended?	
	4. Other comments	
Review Date (s)	First review*	
	Additional review (as necessary)	

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