



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

GEF ID:	5410		
Country/Region:	Venezuela		
Project Title:	Sustainable Forest Lands Management and Conservation under an Eco-social Approach		
GEF Agency:	FAO	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):	CCM-5; BD-2; LD-2; SFM/REDD+-1; SFM/REDD+-2;		
Anticipated Financing PPG:	\$200,000	Project Grant:	\$8,249,316
Co-financing:	\$25,730,000	Total Project Cost:	\$34,179,316
PIF Approval:		Council Approval/Expected:	
CEO Endorsement/Approval		Expected Project Start Date:	
Program Manager:	Ian Gray	Agency Contact Person:	

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 ?	April 26, 2013 CBD party 1994; FCCC ratified 1994; CCD 1998	
	2. Has the operational focal point endorsed the project?	April 26, 2013 Yes letter dated April 04, 2013 available.	
Resource Availability	3. 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? 	April 26, 2013 Yes. Focal area allocations yet to be programmed stand at BD \$12.99 million CC \$10.27 million LC \$0.35 million The requests are within these figures.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the focal area allocation? 	4/26/13 CCM JS	

		available through the CCM allocation for the country.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the LDCF under the principle of equitable access 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)? 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Nagoya Protocol Investment Fund 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focal area set-aside? 		
Strategic Alignment	<p>4. Is the project aligned with the focal area/multifocal areas/ LDCF/SCCF/NPIF results framework and strategic objectives?</p> <p><i>For BD projects: Has the project explicitly articulated which Aichi Target(s) the project will help achieve and are SMART indicators identified, that will be used to track progress toward achieving the Aichi target(s).</i></p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Please identify which Aichi Targets the project will contribute to and provide indicators.</p> <p>4/26/13 CCM JS Not entirely. The project intends to contribute towards CCM-5 objective. However alignment of the project with the results framework is not clear. Please see comments for section 7.</p> <p>July 11, 2013 Additional details in text provided. Cleared.</p>	
	<p>5. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, including NPFE, NAPA, NCSA, NBSAP or NAP?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013</p> <p>Yes consistent with national strategies.</p> <p>4/26/13 CCM JS Yes. The project is consistent with the First National Communication of Venezuela that stresses to seek opportunities for mitigation through the forest sector.</p>	
	<p>6. 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</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Baseline is adequately described.</p> <p>4/26/13 CCM JS The main threats to Venezuelan forests</p>	

<p>Project Design</p>		<p>urban expansion and mining. The PIF also highlights poor concession planning and lack of compliance with the management plans by the private companies as an issue.</p> <p>Also relevant to CCM, the PIF describes deficiencies in the current NFI and highlights the need to determine methods of determining carbon stored in different forest types in the country.</p>	
	<p>7. Are the components, outcomes and outputs in the project framework (Table B) clear, sound and appropriately detailed?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Please provide some more information on how all the information, standards etc. will result in improved management on the ground.</p> <p>Component 1: Although the improvement of the SINIB could support improved forest management, it is not clear how the project will actually effect a change of management on the ground. How does the project plan to ensure the information available through the SINIB is taken up and used?</p> <p>4/25/13 CCM JS For expected outputs please provide the source of geospatial information. Please provide information about the participative mechanism. How will it be implemented throughout the country and who will be involved in monitoring of forest coverage and emissions.</p> <p>For expected outcome 1.2, please include knowledge and valuation of carbon along with biodiversity in the improved forest</p>	

and carbon hotspots are appropriately managed. Please adjust the outputs accordingly. For example, expected output 1.2.2 could use information from 1.1.4 to include carbon in the thematic maps. Similarly expected 1.2.5 needs to include information that would link forest management to carbon emissions and storage change.

Component 2:

What incentives (mentioned in the Project objective) are going to be used to ensure local communities are willing to follow the AOPs that will be developed? The probity of developing a national certification scheme for forests is questioned. Developing certification schemes relies on demand for certified products. What evidence is there that a Venezuelan scheme will have sufficient standing in the market to be sustainable? What markets are being targeted? Why is this process not linked to existing certification schemes such as FSC?

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Please clarify the locations of the project intervention through this component. It may benefit to rethink this component so that it builds on the information systems and knowledge built in component 1 and implements forest management plans to address the identified drivers.

Component 3:

4/26/13 CCM JS

For output 3.1.2 provide rationale for national coordinating mechanism. For

		<p>level coordination seem more appropriate.</p> <p>For outcome 3.2, please consider focusing on value chain analysis and appropriate market adjustments so that pressures on the forests could be reduced.</p> <p>July 11, 2013 Additional details about certification scheme and links to performance-based incentive measures have been added.</p> <p>Details of SINIB being used for development of management zoning and operational planning as well as within development of management standards for certification have been added.</p> <p>Priorities regarding forest carbon have been included in the project components and the linkages among outputs have been clarified. Clarifications regarding project locations and interest in national level of coordination are appreciated.</p> <p>Cleared.</p> <p>By CEO endorsement it is requested that the process and type of engagement with local stakeholders in forest (carbon) monitoring be elaborated. The details on the selected subsidy and support programmes are also expected during the endorsement stage.</p>	
	<p>8. (a) Are global environmental/adaptation benefits identified? (b) Is the description of the incremental/additional reasoning sound and appropriate?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 The GEBs derived from the project are not clear.</p> <p>Component 1: The link between the information system and changed forest</p>	

Component 2: The development of a certification scheme on its own but rather its uptake and implementation of standards will improve forest management. How is the project ensuring implementation on the ground? Is there any target for area certified under the proposed scheme?

4/26/13 CCM JS

Not clear. In case of CCM the following concerns need to be addressed to understand the GEBs through the project.

- a) Articulation of project activities that would use information generated and capacity built in component 1 and 2 to implement SFM activities designed to address the identified drivers.
- b) An estimate of tCO₂e to be sequestered through the project is provided. However, the calculation used to achieve this estimation is unclear. Estimation of tCO₂e being emitted in the baseline scenario in the project target locations and the amount of tCO₂e emissions that will be reduced due to project SFM interventions should be provided. Preliminary Tier 1 level estimations are sufficient at this stage.

July 11, 2013

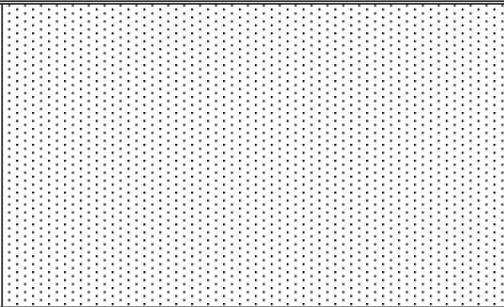
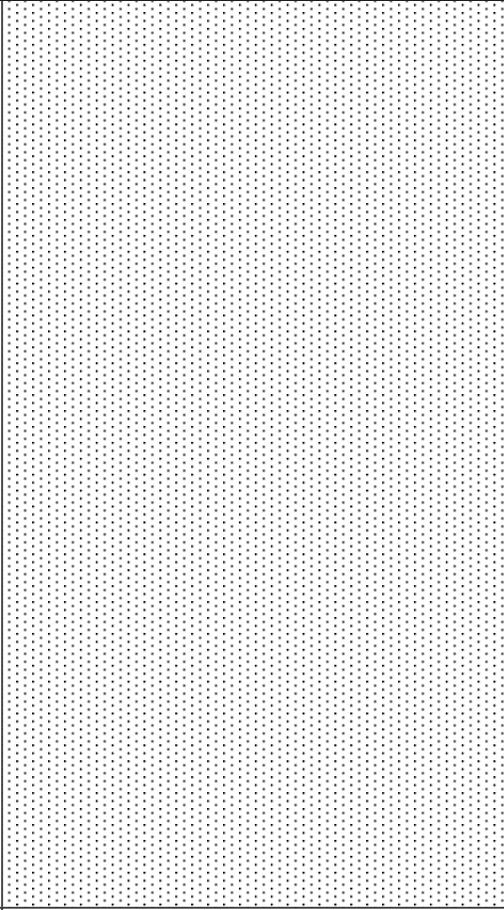
Addressed. Calculations and estimations presented for CO₂e are adequate for PIF stage. Cleared.

By CEO endorsement, please identify deforestation rate, forest types at the target locations, species to be used for agroforestry, and use the location specific information to estimate CO₂ sequestered

	<p>9. 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>10. Is the role of public participation, including CSOs, and indigenous peoples where relevant, identified and explicit means for their engagement explained?</p>	<p>4/25/13 CCM JS No. Please identify organizations that could be trained to track deforestation and GHG emissions.</p> <p>Also fuller description of participation of stakeholders particularly local communities expected at CEO Endorsement.</p> <p>July 11, 2013 Explanation provided is adequate for PIF stage. As requested in the earlier review a full description of local communities including their role in tracking deforestation and carbon monitoring is expected by CEO endorsement. Please also describe at the endorsement stage how the project will deal with the indigenous communities in the reserve.</p>	
	<p>11. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, and describes sufficient risk mitigation measures? (e.g., measures to enhance climate resilience)</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Adequate at PIF stage. Detailed analysis expected at CEO Endorsement.</p> <p>July 23, 2013 By CEO Endorsement please provide clear description of how the project implementation arrangements will be constructed to maximize the potential for ensuring progress of the project and includes adequate provision for monitoring project implementation and means for addressing issues arising.</p>	

	<p>12. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other related initiatives in the country or in the region?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Yes. Full details of how the project will coordinate with other activities is expected at CEO Endorsement.</p>	
	<p>13. Comment on the project's innovative aspects, sustainability, and potential for scaling up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess whether the project is innovative and if so, how, and if not, why not. • Assess the project's strategy for sustainability, and the likelihood of achieving this based on GEF and Agency experience. • Assess the potential for scaling up the project's intervention. 	<p>April 26, 2013 The coordination between BD/CC/LD within the forest context is innovative within a national context. Forest certification is also at a nascent stage in Venezuela and therefore clearly novel in its application. Please provide some more detail on how the longevity of Components 2 and 3 are to be secured. A five year project is a relatively short period of time for the implementation of new forest management practices, certification scheme development and restoration initiatives. What mechanisms are anticipated that will ensure continuation after the project lifetime?</p> <p>July 11, 2013 Links to government policy framework has been strengthened and the synergy with public incentive mechanisms clarified. Cleared.</p>	
	<p>14. Is the project structure/design sufficiently close to what was presented at PIF, with clear justifications for changes?</p>		
	<p>15. Has the cost-effectiveness of the project been sufficiently demonstrated, including the cost-effectiveness of the project design as compared to alternative approaches to achieve similar benefits?</p>		
	<p>16. Is the GEF funding and co-financing as indicated in Table B appropriate and adequate to achieve the expected outcomes</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Yes generally appropriate for each component.</p>	

Project Financing	<p>17. <u>At PIF</u>: Is the indicated amount and composition of co-financing as indicated in Table C adequate? Is the amount that the Agency bringing to the project in line with its role? <u>At CEO endorsement</u>: Has co-financing been confirmed?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Co-finance stands at \$25,700,000 which is equal to a ratio of 1:3.1. Please identify the type of co-finance in Table C. Please also check co-finance totals in Tables A, B and C. FAO is providing \$230,000 in co-finance.</p>	
	<p>18. Is the funding level for project management cost appropriate?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 PMC is at 4.9%</p>	
	<p>19. <u>At PIF</u>, is PPG requested? If the requested amount deviates from the norm, has the Agency provided adequate justification that the level requested is in line with project design needs? <u>At CEO endorsement/ approval</u>, if PPG is completed, did Agency report on the activities using the PPG fund?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 PPG is requested and is within allowable norms.</p>	
	<p>20. If there is a non-grant instrument in the project, is there a reasonable calendar of reflows included?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 There is no NGI.</p>	
Project Monitoring and Evaluation	<p>21. Have the appropriate Tracking Tools been included with information for all relevant indicators, as applicable?</p>		
	<p>22. Does the proposal include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?</p>		
Agency Responses	<p>23. Has the Agency adequately responded to comments from:</p>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STAP? 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention Secretariat? 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council? 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other GEF Agencies? 		

<p>Recommendation at PIF Stage</p>	<p>24. Is PIF clearance/approval being recommended?</p>	<p>April 26, 2013 Not at this stage. Please address issues identified above.</p> <p>July 23,2013 Yes. All pending issues for PIF stage have been addressed. The project is technically cleared and may be included in a subsequent work program.</p>	
<p>Recommendation at CEO Endorsement/ Approval</p>	<p>25. Items to consider at CEO endorsement/approval.</p>	<p>Please see sections 7,8, 10, 11 and 12. By CEO endorsement please ensure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The process and type of engagement with local stakeholders in forest (carbon) monitoring be elaborated. The details on the selected subsidy and support programmes are also expect during the endorsement stage. 2. Please identify deforestation rate, forest types at the target locations, species to be used for agroforestry, and use the location specific information to estimate CO2 sequestered and emissions avoided. 3. A full description of local communities' engagement including their role in tracking deforestation and carbon monitoring is provided. 4. Details of how the project will deal with the indigenous communities in the reserve is provided. 5. Full treatment of risks and mitigation measures is developed including clear description of the project implementation arrangements and adequate provision for monitoring project implementation and means for addressing issues arising. 	
<p>Recommendation at CEO Endorsement/ Approval</p>	<p>26. Is CEO endorsement/approval being recommended?</p>	<p>First review*</p>	<p>April 26, 2013</p>

	Additional review (as necessary)	July 23, 2013	

*** 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.**