

GEF - PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

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At: 2024-09-13 06:44:55

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UNEP GEF PIR Fiscal Year 2024
Reporting from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Project Details

GEF ID: 10547	Umoja WBS: C&W: SB-020494; IW: SB-021403
SMA IPMR ID: 122562	Grant ID: C&W: S1-32GFL-000816; IW: S1-32GFL-000815
Project Short Title: Marine Plastics LAC Cities	
Project Title: Reduce Marine Plastics and Plastic Pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean Cities Through a Circular Economy Approach	
Duration months planned:	48
Duration months age:	17
Project Type:	Full Sized Project (FSP)
Parent Programme if child project:	
Project Scope:	Regional
Region:	Latin America and Carriibbean
Countries:	Colombia,Jamaica,Panama
GEF Focal Area(s):	Chemicals and Waste,International Waters
GEF financing amount:	\$ 7,000,000.00
Co-financing amount:	\$ 35,407,240.00
Date of CEO Endorsement/Approval:	2022-06-02
UNEP Project Approval Date:	2022-11-28
Start of Implementation (PCA entering into force):	2022-12-22
Date of Inception Workshop, if available:	2023-08-15
Date of First Disbursement:	2024-01-18
Total disbursement as of 30 June 2024:	\$ 2,004,354.00
Total expenditure as of 30 June:	\$ 133,020.00

Midterm undertaken?:	No
Actual Mid-Term Date, if taken:	
Expected Mid-Term Date, if not taken:	2025-01-01
Completion Date Planned - Original PCA:	2027-06-30
Completion Date Revised - Current PCA:	2022-12-22
Expected Terminal Evaluation Date:	2028-06-30
Expected Financial Closure Date:	2027-06-30

1.2 Project Description

The LAC Cities project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) GEF International Waters Unit and GEF Chemicals and Waste Unit as the GEF Implementing Agency and Cartagena Convention Secretariat as the Executing Agency. The project is implemented in Jamaica, Panama and Colombia.

The project has the objective to reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution in the Latin America and the Caribbean region by facilitating circular actions at the city level to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, in line with government and business commitments on addressing marine plastics and plastic pollution.

The project consists of the four following components:

Component 1: City Led Promotion of Circular Economy Policies to Reduce Marine Plastics and Plastic Pollution in Targeted Cities.

Component 2: Private Sector Led Promotion of Circular Economy Actions to Reduce Marine Plastics and Plastic Pollution in Targeted Cities.

Component 3. Inter-City Network on Marine Plastics and Plastic Circular Economy.

Component 4: Capacity Development and Knowledge Management.

1.3 Project Contacts

Division(s) Implementing the project	Industry and Economy Division,Ecosystems Division
Name of co-implementing Agency	
Executing Agency (ies)	Cartagena Convention Secretariat
names of Other Project Partners	
UNEP Portfolio Manager(s)	Hartwig Kremer/Kevin Helps
UNEP Task Manager(s)	Isabelle Vanderbeck/Neha Dharmshaktu
UNEP Budget/Finance Officer	Ruth Irungu/Edward Aput
UNEP Support Assistants	Ivar Ledezma
Manager/Representative	Christopher Corbin
Project Manager	Taylor Clayton
Finance Manager	Alicia Uylett
Communications Lead, if relevant	

2 Overview of Project Status

2.1 UNEP PoW & UN

UNEP Current Subprogramme(s):	Thematic: Chemicals and pollution action subprogramme
UNEP previous Subprogramme(s):	
PoW Indicator(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution: (i) Number of Governments that, with UNEP support, are developing or implementing policies, strategies, legislation or action plans that promote sound chemicals and waste management and/or the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and the existing framework on chemicals and waste • Pollution: (ii) Number of Governments developing or implementing policies, strategies and mechanisms to prevent or reduce waste and ensure environmentally sound waste treatment or disposal, including in the context of disaster or conflict-related environmental emergencies, with UNEP support • Pollution: (iii) Number of policy, regulatory, financial and technical measures developed with UNEP support to reduce pollution in air, water, soil and the ocean • Pollution: (iv) Reduction in releases of pollutants to the environment achieved with UNEP support
UNSDCF/UNDAF linkages	<p>This project contributes to priority area 3, "resilience to climate change and shocks and sustainable natural resource management", as outlined by the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the Caribbean.</p> <p>In Jamaica, the project contributes specifically to outcome 6, "Natural Resource Management - Caribbean countries manage natural resources and ecosystems to strengthen their resilience and enhance the resilience and prosperity of the people and communities that depend on them" within the country's MSCDF outcomes.</p> <p>In Colombia, the project supports the UNCT's 3rd strategic axis, "technical assistance for sustainable development goals (SDGs) catalysts" and in Panama outcome 3, "integrated environmental management and disaster risk reduction", outlined by the country's UNCT.</p>
Link to relevant SDG Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all • Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable • Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns • Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development • Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
Link to relevant SDG Targets:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally • 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality

	<p>and municipal and other waste management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment • 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse • 14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution • 17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
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2.2. GEF Core and Sub Indicators

GEF core or sub indicators targeted by the project as defined at CEO Endorsement/Approval, as well as results

Indicators	Targets - Expected Value			Materialized to date
	Mid-term	End-of-project	Total Target	
5- Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity			5,065	
6- Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated			9,382	
7-Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management			2	
9- Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced			54.9	
9.1-Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)			1.16	
11- People benefitting from GEF-financed investments			990,162	
11.1- Male			430,856	
11.2- Female			559,306	

Implementation Status 2024: 1st PIR

2.3. Implementation Status and Risks

	PIR#	Rating towards outcomes (section 3.1)	Rating towards outputs (section 3.2)	Risk rating (section 4.2)
FY 2024	1st PIR	MU	MS	M
FY 2023				
FY 2022				
FY 2021				
FY 2020				
FY 2019				
FY 2018				
FY 2017				
FY 2016				
FY 2015				

Summary of status

This is the first PIR since the kick-off of the project from 15-17 August 2023. Over the past year, the project timeline has experienced significant delays due to both the Executing Agency (Cartagena Convention Secretariat - CCS) and the country implementation partners. The Executing Agency has faced delays due to lack of dedicated staff, though is working to overcome these challenges in the following ways:

- Ongoing recruitment of P2 AFMO to be present in the CCS office in Kingston, Jamaica from Q4 2024
- Interim, temporary support with part-time FMO based in Geneva
- Recruitment of International UNV to support LAC Cities at 50% from end of Q3 2024
- Recruitment of a Communications Consultant to provide short-term support to the Cartagena Convention Secretariat from Q4 2024

Staffing and resulting delays have impacted contractual matters and the finalization of country agreements which are a clear prerequisite to commencing project activities. It is anticipated that once staff are fully on board, these challenges will be able to be overcome and project activities will be advanced.

From the country implementation side, one of the three project countries remains largely unresponsive and as such is not progressing project activities. The Executing Agency is supporting this country through:

- Dedicated follow-up through formal and informal channels
- Offering in-person meetings at the Ministry offices
- Creation of a procedural workplan and ToRs to hire a dedicated consultant to support inception activities in-country, using project funds
- Escalation of challenges to CCS and UNEP leadership

Activities in the other two project countries are gaining traction and project partners (government, together with implementing partners) have coalesced around common, agreed upon workplans for the project. Regional activities, led by UNEP and designed to support the countries/cities, are already underway.

The next steps for the project include signing agreements with all three countries and disbursing the first tranche of funds to begin project implementation at country/city level. Countries will begin with "Component 1 - City-led Promotion fo Circular Economy Policies to Reduce Marine Plastics and Plastic Pollution in Targeted Cities", as well as "Component 2 - Private Sector Led Promotion of Circular Economy Action to Reduce Marine Plastics and Plastic Pollution in Targeted Cities".

As a result of the delays above, the current expenditure for the project is 2.6% of total project funds on CW side, and 1.2% on the IW side, which is significantly less than the forecasted amounts for mid-2024, given that PCAs have not yet been signed and funds have not been disbursed to the countries.

2.4 Co Finance

Planned Co-finance:	\$ 35,407,240
Actual to date:	3,248,925
Progress	<p>Justify progress in terms of materialization of expected co-finance. State any relevant challenges:</p> <p>Tracking co-financing is challenging due to the delay in project implementation and resulting discordant timelines. Co-financing partners submitted their commitment letters in 2021, and as such, the activities they intended to co-finance do not always align with project activities, given mid-way through 2024 the project has not yet fully started. Further co-financing throughout the duration of the project is anticipated, however, the activities mentioned in the commitment letters may differ from the actuality. Partners who reported co-financing include: UNEP, regional/international partners, NGOs, Ministries of Environment and city-level governments. While only ~40% of partners reported back this year, it is anticipated that this would significantly increase in the years to come, once the project is in full implementation. Co-financing is expected from all of the aforementioned stakeholders, in addition to private sector entities.</p> <p>Actual to date: 3,248,925 USD (9%) as of 30 June 2024.</p>

2.5. Stakeholder

Date of project steering committee meeting	2023-08-15
Stakeholder engagement (will be uploaded to GEF Portal)	<p>The first PSC meeting and inception workshop was held from 15-17 August 2023 in Panama City, Panama. Since then, the project has actively engaged a wide variety of stakeholders in all three countries to enhance coordination and collaboration. Government engagement is strong in two of the three project countries, with respective Ministries of Environment (or equivalent) actively engaged with the Project Manager on a regular basis. In one country, government engagement is much weaker, though measures are being taken to address this, including through offering dedicated consultant support and through escalation within UNEP. Civil society engagement in two of three countries is also very strong. In one of the project countries, a coalition has formed to deliver the project (as a joint implementing partner), constituting a renowned international NGO with presence in-country, a quasi-government agency and an NGO with circular economy expertise. Private sector engagement is a stakeholder group for improved engagement over the next year, with collaboration opportunities already present in at least one project country. In the coming year, the project will update the stakeholder engagement strategy, to ensure the aforementioned groups are engaged across all three project countries, in addition to underrepresented groups and minorities.</p>

2.6. Gender

Does the project have a gender action plan?	Yes
Gender mainstreaming (will be uploaded to GEF Portal):	<p>The project is still in inception phase. Various actions and activities will be put in place across the project to respond to identified gender risks, differences, gaps or opportunities. The adoption of the gender mainstreaming will consider both women and men experiences, concerns, and needs. These proposed activities and target setting are intended to achieve the following strategic priorities: 1) increase women's involvement across the plastics value chain; 2) enhance gender equality in decision making and leadership; and 3) improve women's economic empowerment.</p> <p>An international UNV is currently under recruitment who will in part, support the execution of the gender strategy and related outputs.</p>

2.7. ESSM

Moderate/High risk projects (in terms of Environmental and social safeguards)	<p>Was the project classified as moderate/high risk CEO Endorsement/Approval Stage? Yes If yes, what specific safeguard risks were identified in the SRIF/ESERN? SS2, SS4, SS8</p>
New social and/or environmental risks	<p>Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period? No If yes, describe the new risks or changes? NA</p>
Complaints and grievances related to social and/or environmental impacts	<p>Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential) during the reporting period? No If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail, including the status, significance, who was involved and what actions were taken? NA</p>
Environmental and social safeguards management	<p>UNEP's safeguards approach provides a holistic framework for the identification, assessment and management of a project's potential environmental, social and economic risks at each stage of the project cycle. The project Safeguard Risk Identification (SRIF) indicated that the following are relevant to the project: SS1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management SS2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks SS3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency SS4: Community Health, Safety and Security SS5: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement SS7: Indigenous Peoples SS8: Labor and working conditions Higher-levels risks above are addressed in further detail within the risks section. The project has not yet started full implementation of activities, so a safeguards management approach has not yet been applied. However, each PCA with the project partners will consider a specific article to address this.</p>

2.8. KM/Learning

Knowledge activities and products	None to date.
Main learning during the period	<p>There have been several main learnings during this period:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Some governments in this region have very limited (time) capacity to devote to the project activities. Gaining their attention and assuring the project gains both political and operational traction remains difficult. However, a variety of actions are being undertaken to address this, including by hiring dedicated project support for country partners (via UNEP), and through escalating concerns within UNEP leadership, to ensure solutions are proactively identified.2. It takes several months for the Implementing Partners to understand the GEF project structure, the project aims, the budget, etc. This is perhaps not fully accounted for in the project inception phase.3. Further, UNEP resources are needed to get the project off the ground. Limited capacity in the Cartagena Convention Secretariat is hindering progress. As discussed in a previous section, CCS is currently hiring for multiple positions, which should increase capacity by Q4 of this year.4. There is strong stakeholder engagement and robust circular economy knowledge in at least two of the three project countries. Stakeholders have collectively identified country priorities to formulate a robust workplan for the years ahead.

2.9. Stories

Stories to be shared	None to date.
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3 Performance

3.1 Rating of progress towards achieving the project outcomes

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
Reducing marine plastics and plastic pollution in the Latin America and the Caribbean region by facilitating circular actions at the city level to accelerate the transition to a circular economy, in line with government and business commitments on addressing marine plastics and plastic pollution.	Indicator 5.3 Amount of Marine Litter Avoided	0		5,065 metric tons/tonnes Marine Litter Avoided	0	Too early in execution to report, though project is delayed.	0
	Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU	0		9,382 tonnes of CO ₂ e indirect	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
	Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees	0		At least 2 shared water ecosystems benefiting from local reform on the management of plastic pollution	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
	Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products	0		At least 2 shared water ecosystems engaged in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
	Indicator 9.1 Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)	0		54,9 tonnes of Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	0	Too early in execution to report.	0

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
				removed or disposed (POPs type)			
	Indicator 10 Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources	0		1.16 grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ emission eliminated	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
	Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	0		990,162 direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
1: Circular economy policies developed or adopted by city-level governments to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in targeted cities	Number of cities with new policies/strategies developed or existing policies improved	0		6 cities with new policies/strategies developed or existing policies improved, with municipal capacity in policy planning strengthened.	0	Too early in execution to report, though project is delayed.	0
	Number of new policies adopted and existing policies improved per city	0		1 new policy adopted and 2 existing policies improved per city	0	Too early in execution to report, though project is delayed.	0
2: Circular economy innovations and practices adopted by the private sector to reduce marine	Number of businesses engaging in the project and/or adopting best practices or sustainable	0		120 businesses engaging in the project and/or	0	Too early in execution to report, though project is delayed.	0

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
plastics and plastic pollution in targeted cities	business solutions			adopting best practices or sustainable business solutions			
	Number of business solution pilots conducted per city	0		2 pilots conducted per city	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
3: Increased capacity and cooperation among LAC cities through the LAC Inter-city Network on marine plastics and plastic circular economy	Number of cities joining the inter-city network	0		15 cities joining the inter-city network by Y4	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
	Number of governments, private sector stakeholders, NGOs involved in the inter-city network	0		120 governments, private sector stakeholders, NGOs involved in the inter-city network by Y4	0	Too early in execution to report, though project is delayed.	0
	Number of global and regional initiatives collaborating with the network	0		At least 8 global and regional initiatives collaborating with the network by Y4	0	Too early in execution to report.	0
4: Improved regional awareness and capacity in applying circular economy approaches to reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution	Number of stakeholders with awareness raised and knowledge on circular economy for plastics increased	0		1000 stakeholders with awareness raised and knowledge on circular economy for plastics increased	0	Too early in execution to report, though project is delayed.	0
	Number of knowledge assets	0		At least 5	0	Too early in execution to report.	0

Project Objective and Outcomes	Indicator	Baseline level	Mid-Term Target or Milestones	End of Project Target	Progress as of current period (numeric, percentage, or binary entry only)	Summary by the EA of attainment of the indicator & target as of 30 June	Progress rating
	disseminated and applied in the region			knowledge assets disseminated and applied in the region			
5 Project partners adopt and act upon project results and lessons	Evidence of continuous improvement and changes implemented by Project SC	0		PSC members demonstrate learning has been integrated into programming by Y4	0	Too early in execution to report, though project is delayed and 1 of 3 countries is minimally engaged.	0

3.2 Rating of progress implementation towards delivery of outputs (Implementation Progress)

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
1 City Led Promotion of Circular Economy Policies to Reduce Marine Plastics and	Output 1.1 Policy action plans developed by municipalities to promote circular economy approaches for plastics	2024-12-22	0	0	Delays as the contracts have not yet been signed. Timeline to be adjusted accordingly.	MU
	Activity 1.1.1 Conduct global review of policy framework with recommendations for LAC	2024-11-01	0	50%	First draft of global policy review received by Project Manager and feedback given. Second draft is currently underway.	S
	Activity 1.1.2 Develop policy action plan for six cities	2024-12-22	0	0	Delays as the contracts have not yet	MU

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Plastic Pollution in Targeted Cities					been signed. Timeline to be adjusted accordingly.	
	Output 1.2 Targeted policy interventions carried out to improve circularity	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 1.2.1 Identify global best policy practices and propose recommendations for LAC	2024-11-01	0	50%	First draft of global policy review received by Project Manager and feedback given. Second draft is currently underway.	S
	Activity 1.2.2 Support the implementation of selected policies in six cities	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Output 1.3 Implementation plans for financial instruments developed to facilitate responsible plastics management	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 1.3.1 Identify global best practices on financial instruments	2024-11-01	0	50%	First draft of document received by Project Manager and feedback given. Second draft is currently underway.	S
	Activity 1.3.2 Develop implementation plans for selected financial instruments	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
2 Private Sector Led Promotion of Circular Economy Actions to Reduce Marine Plastics and Plastic Pollution in Targeted	Output 2.1 Approaches developed and tested to facilitate more circular design, production, and consumption of plastics	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 2.1.1 Identify global best practices on business upstream innovations	2025-03-31	0	0	Consultant identified and work slated to begin in Q3.	S
	Activity 2.1.2 Identify business upstream interventions in six cities	2025-06-30	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 2.1.3 Pilot test business upstream interventions in six cities	2025-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Output 2.2 Approaches developed and tested to improve collection and recycling of plastic waste	2025-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 2.2.1 Identify global best practices on collection and recycling	2025-06-30	0	0	Consultant identified and work slated to begin in Q3.	S
	Activity 2.2.2 Pilot test solutions to improve collection and recycling in six cities	2025-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
Cities	Output 2.3 Industry roundtable on plastic circular economy established and roundtable meetings organised	2025-06-30	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 2.3.1 Establish the industry roundtable and organize roundtable meetings	2025-06-30	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
3 Inter-City Network on Marine Plastics and Plastic Circular Economy	Output 3.1 Inter-city network operationalised	2025-06-30	0	0	Consultant has been identified and is the contract is currently being finalized. Significant delays in hiring.	MU
	Activity 3.1.1 Strategy, governance, vision, and missions of the inter-city network developed	2025-06-30	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 3.1.2 Establish the inter-city network	2025-06-30	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Output 3.2 Inter-city network expanded with more participating cities	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	3.2.1 Develop a harmonized action plan for cities and expand the network	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
4 Capacity Development and Knowledge Management	Output 4.1 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy for the project developed and implemented using IW: LEARN platform, GGKP and GPML platforms	2024-12-22	0	1	The Project Manager has begun identifying potential communications agencies to support this work. Progress has stalled over the past weeks due to lack of capacity for the project as a whole.	MS
	Activity 4.1.1 Establish a project website	2026-12-22	0	1	The Project Manager has begun identifying potential communications agencies to support this work. Progress has stalled over the past weeks due to lack of capacity for the project as a whole.	MS
	Activity 4.1.2 Develop and implement the project communication strategy	2024-12-22	0	1	The Project Manager has begun identifying potential communications agencies to support this work. Progress has stalled over the past weeks due to	MS

Component	Output/Activity	Expected completion date	Implementation status as of previous reporting period (%)	Implementation status as of current reporting period (%)	Progress rating justification, description of challenges faced and explanations for any delay	Progress Rating
					lack of capacity for the project as a whole.	
	Activity 4.1.3 Compile and disseminate project knowledge products via various platforms	2026-12-22		0	The Project Manager is hiring a UNV to support this work. Recruitment is underway.	
	Output 4.2 Targeted capacity building activities conducted	2026-12-22	0	0	Delays as the contracts have not yet been signed. Timeline to be adjusted accordingly.	MU
	Activity 4.2.1 Develop capacity building events and training	2026-12-22	0	0	Delays as the contracts have not yet been signed. Timeline to be adjusted accordingly.	MU
	Output 4.3 Long-term monitoring conducted by cities on the implementation of circular economy approaches and associated reduction in plastic pollution	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
	Activity 4.3.1 Develop monitoring indicators and methodologies for progress monitoring	2025-06-30	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	
5 Monitoring and Evaluation	Output 5.1 Monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes and outputs to include quarterly financial reporting	2026-12-22	0	20%	Progress and financial reporting ongoing and on time each quarter.	S
	Output 5.2 Mid-term and terminal evaluations results shared with stakeholders	2026-12-22	0	0	Too early in project implementation.	

The Task Manager will decide on the relevant level of disaggregation (i.e. either at the output or activity level).

4 Risks

4.1 Table A. Project management Risk

Please refer to the Risk Help Sheet for more details on rating

Risk Factor	EA Rating	TM Rating
1 Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	Moderate	Substantial
2 Governance structure - Oversight	Low	Low
3 Implementation schedule	Substantial	Substantial
4 Budget	Low	Low
5 Financial Management	Low	Low
6 Reporting	Low	Low
7 Capacity to deliver	High	High

If any of the risk factors is rated a Moderate or higher, please include it in Table B below

4.2 Table B. Risk-log

Implementation Status (Current PIR)

Insert ALL the risks identified either at CEO endorsement (inc. safeguards screening), previous/current PIRs, and MTRs. Use the last line to propose a suggested consolidated rating.

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
Management structure - Roles and responsibilities	All outputs							M	=	Management structure is not stable. No FMO for nearly one year; temporary remote support is currently being provided from Geneva. This is beneficial though challenging with time zones. No

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										dedicated project management assistant. This risk could affect all outcomes / outputs.
Implementation schedule	All outputs							S	=	Significant delays in project implementation due to delays on both EA side and from country partners. Delays from the EA are largely due to resourcing. This risk could affect all outcomes/outputs.
Capacity to deliver	All outputs							H	=	The current office resourcing is not sustainable for project delivery. Limited capacity within the Cartagena Convention Secretariat is significantly hindering project advancement. This risk could affect all outcomes/outputs.
Climate Change and Disaster Risks (SS2)	All outputs	M						M	=	The highest risk from natural hazards present in all 6 cities are wildfires and floods. These are highly relevant to plastic pollution as flooding can cause transportation of plastic waste to the oceans and collapsing waste management by increasing leakage. This risk could affect all outcomes/outputs.
Community Health, Safety and Security (SS4)	All outputs	M						M	=	Plastic pollution is known to promote vector-borne diseases as they provide breeding sites for the vectors of these diseases (mosquitos, etc.). This

Risks	Risk affecting: Outcome / outputs	CEO ED	PIR 1	PIR 2	PIR 3	PIR 4	PIR 5	Current PIR	Δ	Justification
										risk could affect all outcomes/outputs.
Labor and Working Conditions (SS8)	All outputs	M						M	=	The collection and recycling pilots may risk inequalities in relation to gender, particularly in hiring workers in this stage of the plastics value chain (given present gender imbalances in some geographies). This is most relevant for Outcome 2.
	All outputs	M						S	↑	The current office resourcing is not sustainable for project delivery. Limited capacity within the Cartagena Convention Secretariat is significantly hindering project advancement. Of the external risks, climate-related events such as hurricanes and floodings pose the most significant risk to the project outcomes.

4.3 Table C. Outstanding Moderate, Significant, and High risks

Additional mitigation measures for the next periods

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Management structure - Roles and responsibilities		A P2 AFMO is under recruitment to support the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.	Onboarding of P2 AFMO	Q3 2024	Christopher Corbin. Coordinator. Cartagena Convention Secretariat
Implementation schedule		An international UNV is under recruitment. to support this project at 50%	Onboarding of international UNV	Q3 2024	Taylor Clayton. Project Manager. Cartagena Convention Secretariat
Capacity to deliver		Both of the aforementioned recruitments should help delivery capacity. However. the project still lacks a dedicated project assistant.	Recruitment of shared-cost project management assistant	Q4	Christopher Corbin. Coordinator. Cartagena Convention Secretariat
Climate Change and Disaster Risks (SS2)		NA	Solutions to plastic waste collection and recycling under output 2.2 will take hurricane / flood risk into account when designing waste management practices.	Q4 2025	Taylor Clayton. Project Manager. Cartagena Convention Secretariat
Community Health. Safety and Security (SS4)		NA	The will reduce plastic pollution and as such. communities are expected to see a decrease in vector-borne diseases and flooding.	Q4 2026	Taylor Clayton. Project Manager. Cartagena Convention Secretariat

Risk	Actions decided during the previous reporting instance (PIRt-1, MTR, etc.)	Actions effectively undertaken this reporting period	What	When	By Whom
Labor and Working Conditions (SS8)		NA	The Executing Agency will ensure that the recruitment of local project staff (e.g. projectmanager. national consultants. technical experts) meet national labor laws and international commitments. A gender consultant will be hired under the project to give specific support.	Q4 2026	Taylor Clayton. Project Manager. Cartagena Convention Secretariat

High Risk (H): There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks. Significant Risk (S): There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks. Moderate Risk (M): There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks. Low Risk (L): There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.

5 Amendment - GeoSpatial

Project Minor Amendments

Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5% as described in Annex 9 of the Project and Program Cycle Policy Guidelines. Please tick each category for which a change occurred in the fiscal year of reporting and provide a description of the change that occurred in the textbox. You may attach supporting document as appropriate

5.1 Table A: Listing of all Minor Amendment (TM)

Minor Amendments	Changes
Results Framework:	No
Components and Cost:	No
Institutional and implementation arrangements:	No
Financial Management:	Yes
Implementation Schedule:	
Executing Entity:	No
Executing Entity Category:	No
Minor project objective change:	No
Safeguards:	No
Risk analysis:	No
Increase of GEF financing up to 5%:	No
Location of project activity:	No
Other:	No

Minor amendments

Financial management has changed given flux in FMO / Finance Officer Support. The Cartagena Convention Secretariat will soon have a new FMO on board (Q4 2024). The implementation schedule is significantly delayed. An extension in the agreement is highly likely to be needed, beyond the end of 2026.

5.2 Table B: History of project revisions and/or extensions (TM)

Version	Type	Signed/Approved by UNEP	Entry Into Force (last signature Date)	Agreement Expiry Date	Main changes introduced in this revision
NA					

GEO Location Information:

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Cartagena. Colombia	10.4	-75.5	3687238		Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach in Cartagena. Colombia.
Barranquilla. Colombia	10.963889	-74.796389	3689147		Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach in Barranquilla. Colombia.
Kingston. Jamaica	17.971389	-76.793056	3489854		Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach in

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GEO Name ID	Location Description	Activity Description
Montego Bay. Jamaica	18.466667	-77.916667	3489460		Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach in Montego Bay. Jamaica
Panama City. Panama	8.983333	-79.516667	3703443		Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach in Panama City. Panama
Cólon. Panama	9.357222	-79.898611	3712076		Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and the Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach in C6lon. Panama

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions is taking place as appropriate. *

NA

[Annex any linked geospatial file]

Additional Supporting Documents:

Filename	File Uploaded By	File Uploaded At	
Memo on project delays_GEF LAC Cities_signed.pdf	Executing Agency	2024-07-09 20:55:37	<u>Download</u>