



GEF/C.66/04
January 8, 2024

66th GEF Council Meeting
February 5 - 9, 2024
Washington, DC

Agenda Item 04

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR GEF TRUST FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C66/04, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 46 projects and programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by March 6, 2024.

Total GEF resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$916.1 million, including GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFDs): [See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The recommended Work Program is the second largest in the history of the GEF and requests a total of \$840.0 Million from the GEF trust fund and \$76.1 million in associated Agency fees for a total Work Program of \$916.1 million. It contains an indicative \$7.53 billion in co-financing, which that each dollar provided by the GEF is matched by \$8.9 in co-financing provided by other sources.
2. Close to 18% of all GEF-8 resources are programmed in this Work Program. This includes all projects and most programs submitted to the GEF Secretariat that were technically cleared by work program deadlines. This also brings GEF-8 programming to almost 50% at the 38% timeline of the 8th cycle.
3. If approved, a total of \$673.2 million from the Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change (CC), and Land Degradation (LD) Focal Areas will be programmed in this Work Program. In addition, the Work Program includes a request of \$100.1 million from International Waters (IW) and \$62.4 million from the Chemicals and Waste focal areas. Finally, the Work Program includes requests of \$80.6 million from the NGI program.
4. If the Work Program is approved as submitted, 77 (53%) GEF recipient countries will benefit from GEF support across the globe, including 22 Least Developed Countries (48% of all LDCs) and 14 SIDS (37% of all SIDS).
5. The proposed Work Program contains 46 projects and programs consistent with the GEF-8 Programming Directions framework. The Work Program spans all five focal areas and covers a diverse set of themes. First, the Work Program contains 4 of the remaining 5 Integrated Programs proposed in the GEF-8 Programming Directions and 2 addenda to already approved IPs. These 4 IPs represent the most timely and important program portfolio to advance all focal area objectives and ensuring that GEF investments will become transformative for biodiversity, forest conservation, wildlife conservation, food systems transformation, and healthy oceans.
6. This cover note outlines important aspects of the proposed Work Program, including programming trends in the GEF resources relative to focal area strategies and objectives, distribution by regions and GEF Agencies, and highlights of innovative elements including policy coherence inherent in the projects. The Council is requested to review and approve the Work Program for the total resources requested (see Annex A for the financial details of the PIFs and PFDs).

WORK PROGRAM PREPARATION AND THE PIPELINE OF PROJECTS

7. At the deadline for project submission for the February 2024 Work Program, 79 projects and programs were considered eligible¹ for review and consideration.

Table 1. Pipeline of Projects and Programs Considered for the February 2024 Work Program

Project Type	PIFs and PFDs in the Portal by review deadline ²	Technically cleared and included in the WP # (%)	Technically cleared and not included in the WP # (%)	Rejected # (%)	Not ready for technical clearance # (%)
PIF	61	33 (54%)	0 (0%)	4 (6%)	24 (39%)
PFD	10	8 (80%)	1 (10%) ³	0 (0%)	1 (10%)
NGI	8	4 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	2 (25%)

8. Over 54% (33 PIFs) of the 61 eligible projects were technically cleared by the review deadline and were included in the Work Program. Twenty-four projects could not be cleared and were not ready for inclusion at the time of Work Program composition due to incomplete documentation. These will be included in the projects to be considered for the December 2023 Work Program. And finally, four projects were considered ineligible based on technical criteria and were rejected.

9. Eight project concepts were submitted for NGI consideration. After careful review, 4 projects were technically cleared, while 2 other concepts were not ready for final clearance. These 2 concepts not included in this work program will be reviewed by the respective agencies and resubmitted for consideration for the December Work Program. Two concept was deemed to be ineligible for GEF funding and was rejected.

Table 2. Distribution of Projects Not Cleared for the February 2024 Work Program

Total Number of Projects not Ready for Technical Clearance	Focal Area					
	BD	LD	CC	IW	CW	MFA
24	7	0	0	2	0	15

¹ Eligible in this case indicates projects and programs that were submitted by agencies by the deadline, along with projects that were already in the portal from previous Work Program submissions, but that were not ready for clearance at that time. This list excludes projects that have been rejected from previous Work Program cycles.

² This number includes new submissions as well as submissions from previous review cycles that may or may not have been updated by agencies.

³ One Integrated Programs were cleared but could not be included in the Work Program because of lack of financial resources.

TRENDS IN GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

10. The total \$916.1 million of GEF resources requested is drawn from all five focal area envelopes (Table 3).

Table 3. GEF Resources Requested in the February 2024 Work Program

Focal Area	Resources Requested (\$ millions)		
	GEF Project Financing ⁴	Agency Fees ⁵	Total GEF Resources Requested in this Work Program
Biodiversity	385.8	34.9	420.7
Climate Change	104.0	9.4	113.4
Chemicals and Waste	57.1	5.3	62.4
International Waters	91.8	8.3	100.1
Land Degradation	127.4	11.6	139.0
NGI	73.9	6.7	80.6
Small Grants Program	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	840.0	76.1	916.1

11. The programs and projects in this Work Program cover a wide range of innovations to deliver global environmental benefits through the GEF-8 strategies.

- (a) The Biodiversity focal area resources amount to \$420.7 million, programmed in four single focal area projects, thirteen multi-focal area projects, and in six IPs and Addenda and one program.
- (b) Climate Change Mitigation is represented by one single focal area project, eleven multi-focal area projects, six IPs and Addendum and two programs, using \$113.4 million of the focal area resources.
- (c) The Land Degradation focal area is represented by three single focal area projects, ten multi-focal area projects, and in five IPs and Addenda and one program for a total of \$139.0 million.
- (d) The International Waters focal area utilizes \$100.1 million and is represented by three single focal area projects, one multi-focal area project, and in one IP and one program.

⁴ Project financing excludes PPG funding.

⁵ Agency fees are calculated at 9.5% or 9% of the GEF Project Financing for projects requesting up to \$10 million or above \$10 million, respectively. Agency Fees also includes fees associated with PPG.

- (e) The Chemicals and Waste focal area is programming \$62.4 million of the focal area resources into seven single focal area projects, one multi-focal area project, and in two IPs and one PFD.

12. Twenty-one of the 23 KMGBF targets are benefiting from the Integrated Programs included in this Work Program. This represents a significant investment of over \$570 million in this Work Program that will advance most of the targets agreed at COP15. Furthermore, most IPs are delivering benefits to multiple targets through the integrated approach and by focusing on drivers of environmental degradation.

13. The GEF-8 Blended Finance Program was formally approved at the 63rd Council meeting with the approval of the program requirements and the updated policy on non-grant instruments (GEF/C.63/12). \$196 million is available during the GEF-8 replenishment cycle.

14. On July 26th 2024, the GEF Secretariat issued a second call for proposals for the Blended Finance Program and circulated it to the entire GEF partnership including the OFPs. In response to the call, multiple agencies submitted eight project concepts which then went through a screening process to determine eligibility for blended finance funding. The four projects that were screened positively then followed the standard GEFSEC review process for consideration in the work program. Per policy, expert advice from the Advisory Group of Financial Experts was received and included in the project review process. All four positively screened projects are recommended for the work program.

15. The four blended finance projects in the current call for proposals address multiple focal area benefits but have a predominance of climate change mitigation and biodiversity. Three out of the four projects were presented by MDBs including DBSA which had previously only presented project under the NGI window in GEF-6. One project was submitted by FUNBIO and if approved this would be the first Blended Finance project for this Agency.

16. Two out of four projects include innovative capital markets solutions for biodiversity and conservation challenges and three projects specifically target SMEs as the main beneficiaries of the financing. A common theme of the current call for proposals was innovative financing mechanisms with anchor companies as major participants in the blended finance structures, providing increasing engagement and alignment of interests with the private sector to deliver environmental benefits. All four projects are requesting grants from various sources within the GEF funding windows: the project presented by DBSA project mobilized \$1,000,000 from STAR and the project presented by the World Bank-IFC mobilized \$1 million in grants from the CW focal area. One of the MDB projects is larger than the usual size of the blended finance projects. The GEF larger than usual support is allowed under the Updated NGI Policy, and will allow to speed up the much-needed action under the GBF and provides innovative use of the GEF non-grant financing that can benefit the conservation initiatives of the countries directly.

17. Taken together, the four projects request \$73.9 million in GEF funding (excluding agency fees) from the NGI allocation. The projects are expected to mobilize over \$1.36 billion in

investments, a co-financing ratio of 17:1. Notably, at least 60% of the total co-financing is coming from the private sector.

18. Finally, the Work Program also includes 4 Multi-Trust Fund projects between the LDCF, SCCF, and the GEF TF. These projects pool resources from the three trust funds and aim to deliver Adaptation benefits as well as Global Environmental Benefits.

STATUS ON THE USE OF GEF-8 RESOURCES

19. The Work Program provides for significant programming of resources relative to GEF-8 allocations (Table 4 and Figure 1).

Table 4. Resources⁶ Programmed under GEF-8 by Focal Area

GEF-8 Focal Area/ Theme	Target Allocations in GEF-8 Amount (\$ million)	Resources Requested for February 2024 Work Program Including Fees (\$ million)	Total GEF-8 Resources Programmed (including February 2024 Work Program) Including Fees (\$ million)	Percent of Original Focal Area Target Allocation in GEF-8
Biodiversity	1,919	420.7	1,148.7	59.9%
Climate Change	852	113.5	374.5	44.0%
Chemicals and Waste	800	62.4	171.6	21.5%
International Waters	565	100.1	269.9	47.8%
Land Degradation	618	139.0	317.7	51.4%
Non-Grant Instrument Program	195	80.6	132.3	67.8%
Small Grant Program	155	0.0	67.5	43.6%
Innovations Window	12	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Total Resources Programmed⁷	5,116	916.1	2,482.2	48.5%

20. This Work Program represents one of the largest Work Programs in the history of the GEF, with \$916.1 million in GEF resources programmed. This also represents close to 18% of the entire

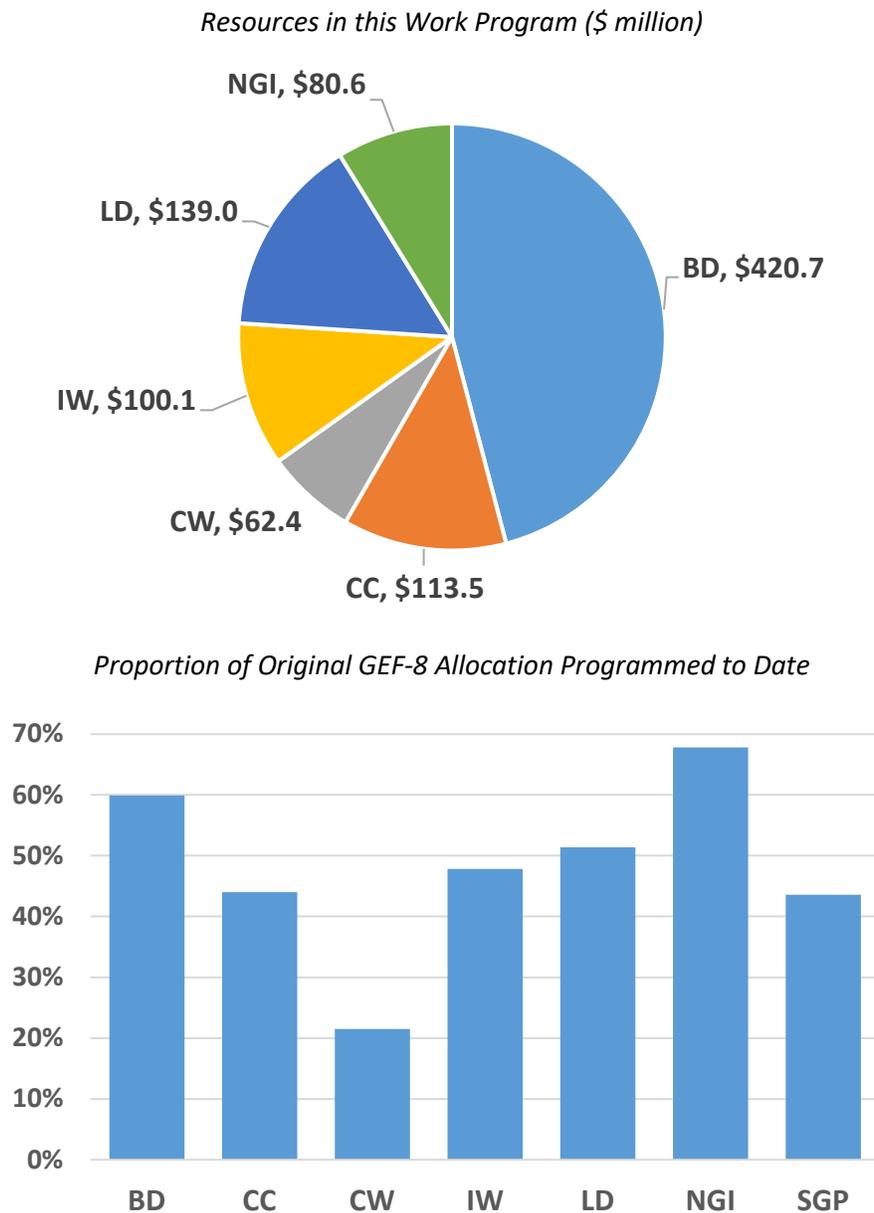
⁶ Funds for MFA projects/programs in this table were charged to the different focal areas based on their respective allocations in the project/program documents. Hence, there is no line item for MFAs in this table.

⁷ The targeted allocations in GEF-8 in this table exclude the Country Engagement Strategy (\$28 million), and the Corporate Budget (\$187.0 million) which were all part of the total GEF-8 replenishment of \$5.330 billion.

GEF-8 resources and brings total programming for this cycle to over 48.5% at the 38% timeline of the GEF-8 cycle.

21. All focal areas are contributing significantly to this Work Program and most, except for chemicals and waste, are between 40% and 60% programmed for GEF-8. Of the 5 Focal Areas in GEF-8, Biodiversity leads the programming in GEF-8 to date with close to 60%, followed by International Water, Climate Change and Land Degradation all well above 40% of their funding allocation already programmed.

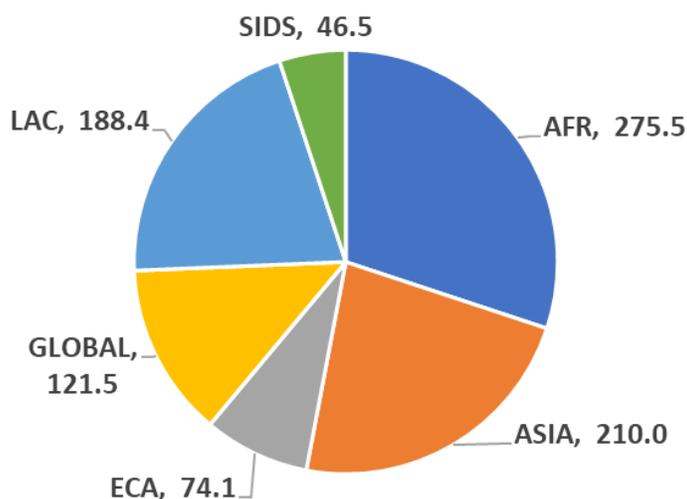
Figure 1. Resources Programmed under GEF-8 by Focal Area in the February 2024 Work Program (top, in million \$) and % of Focal Area Resources Programmed to Date Against GEF-8 Allocations



DISTRIBUTION OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION

22. In all, 77 recipient countries will benefit from this Work Program, including 22 LDCs and 14 SIDS. Africa is the region that has programmed the highest level of resources, followed by Latin America, Asia, East and Central Asia, and SIDS. Much of the resources for “Global” are resources included in the IP Global Coordination Platforms that will also benefit recipient countries participating in the IPs with technical assistance among other services.

Figure 2. Distribution of GEF Project Financing in the February 2024 Work Program by Region (\$ millions)



DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY AGENCY

23. Sixteen of the 18 GEF Agencies are represented in the February 2024 Work Program (Table 5). FAO and UNDP have the highest amounts programmed with over \$256.9 million and \$208.7 million of the Work Program resources respectively (or 28% and 23% of the total resources). IFAD and the World Bank have \$71.6 and \$66.9 million programmed which accounts for 7.6% and 7.3% of the Work Program resources respectively.

Table 5. Amount of GEF Resources by Agency in the February 2024 Work Program and in GEF-8 to Date (including February 2024 Work Program)

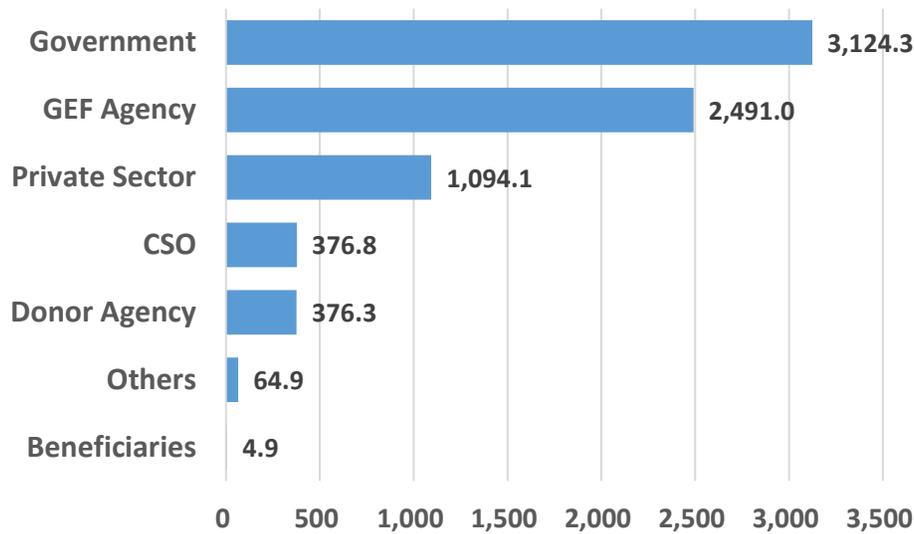
Agency	Resources Requested in February 2024 Work Program Including Fees		Total GEF-8 Resources Inclusive of February 2024 Including Fees	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	16.2	1.8%	33.2	1.3%
AfDB	5.7	0.6%	5.9	0.2%
BOAD	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
CAF	21.4	2.3%	23.0	0.9%
CI	30.1	3.3%	124.4	5.0%
DBSA	16.0	1.7%	16.0	0.6%
EBRD	4.5	0.5%	5.2	0.2%
FAO	256.9	28.0%	461.3	18.6%
FECO	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Funbio	6.8	0.7%	25.4	1.0%
IADB	47.0	5.1%	61.0	2.5%
IFAD	71.6	7.8%	91.0	3.7%
IUCN	48.3	5.3%	140.8	5.7%
UNDP	208.7	22.8%	747.4	30.1%
UNEP	25.9	2.8%	368.2	14.8%
UNIDO	33.4	3.6%	96.4	3.9%
World Bank	66.9	7.3%	192.9	7.8%
WWF-US	56.8	6.2%	90.2	3.6%
Totals	916.1	100.0%	2,482.2	100.0%

24. The Work Program totals \$7.53 billion of expected co-financing, or a ratio of 1:8.9. If we look at the type of co-financing, the “investment mobilized” co-financing category represents \$5.43 billion (72.1%) of the total co-financing. Overall co-financing ratio of “investment mobilized” is 1:6.5 calculated for all projects and programs in the Work Program. These co-financing ratios exceed the targets included in the GEF co-financing policy.⁸

25. The distribution by co-financier shows most co-financing coming from GEF agencies, governments, and the private sector (Figure 3). National Government and GEF Agencies are the biggest co-financiers to GEF projects and programs (41% and 33% respectively). The private sector also contributes significantly with close to 15% of all co-financing.

⁸ https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_PL_01_Cofinancing_Policy_2018.pdf

Figure 3. Distribution of Co-financing in the February 2024 Work Program by Co-financiers (\$ million)



OUTCOME TARGETS FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

Core Indicators

26. This Work Program contributes significantly to the achievement of GEF-8 outcome targets, leading to already surpassing high ambitions for marine protected areas. Less than mid-way through GEF-8, all results metrics pertaining to conserving and using biodiversity, placing land and ecosystems under restoration, and reducing GHG emissions have reached more than 50 percent of their targeted expected results (see Table 6). Notably, the contribution of an additional 42 million hectares of marine protected areas through this Work Program allows to exceed the related target.

27. This Work Program also accounts for about a quarter of the achievement of targets linked to strengthening transboundary water management. This progress includes two significant investments aiming to improve sustainable marine fisheries in countries located in Southern Africa and around the Mekong River, with implementation support from respectively the African Development Bank and IUCN. An additional nine shared water ecosystems will be placed under improved cooperative management under this Work Program, a third of which will come from the Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program.

28. Over 12 million people, about half of which are women, are expected to directly benefit from the proposed projects and programs, particularly around chemicals and waste. Nearly five million people will benefit from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals, of which the majority is expected to come from an investment reducing POPs, highly hazardous pesticides, and industrial chemicals in Argentina through an integrated sustainable management approach. An additional six million people are expected to benefit from GEF investments through biodiversity and land restoration efforts.

Table 6. Contribution of the Proposed February 2024 Work Program to GEF-8 Core Indicator targets⁹

CORE INDICATOR	GEF-8 Targets	Work Program Contribution		Cumulative Progress	
		Number	Share	Number	Share
CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY					
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	150	30.6	20.4%	79.5	53.0%
Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	100	42.0	42.0%	115.9	100.0%
Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha) *	195	40.6	20.8%	114.3	58.6%
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million ha)	70	6.7	9.6%	38.3	54.7%
People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)	Monitored	4.1	..	6.9	..
- of whom women	Monitored	2.0	..	3.4	..
SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND					
Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)	10	1.6	15.6%	7.6	76.2%
People benefiting from sustainable land management and restoration investments (million)	Monitored	1.8	..	2.3	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.9	..	1.1	..
REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS					
Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO2e)	1,850	443.4	24.0%	1,610.0	87.0%
People benefiting from climate change mitigation support (million)	Monitored	1.2	..	1.8	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.6	..	0.9	..
STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT					
Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	40	9.0	22.5%	22.0	55.0%
Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)	2.1	0.6	29.9%	0.9	45.0%
People benefiting from transboundary water management (million)	Monitored	0.7	..	1.0	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.4	..	0.5	..
REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE					
Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)	300	13.6	4.5%	65.8	21.9%
Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)	5,900	273.0	4.6%	1,977.0	33.5%
People benefiting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals (million)	Monitored	4.8	..	9.8	..
- of whom women	Monitored	2.4	..	4.9	..

⁹ This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million hectares for its sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' shared with the grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' under the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework. To date, 35.8 million hectares of this sub-indicator are achieved, within which, 9.8 million hectares are achieved from the proposed work program contribution.

29. The proposed Work Program highlights a substantial contribution toward meeting Core Indicator targets, through large contributions from Integrated Programs (Table 7). This includes creating or improving the management of 22.6 million hectares of terrestrial protected areas mainly through the wildlife conservation for development program, which aims to ensure that countries and communities benefit from these natural assets. This integrated program on wildlife conservation, along with the program aiming to catalyze the transformation to sustainable and regenerative food systems, account for most of the 23 million hectares of landscapes to be placed under improved practices to benefit biodiversity through IPs presented in this Work Program. This program on food systems also contributes the most to progress in placing land and ecosystems under restoration.

30. Integrated programs aiming to sustainably transform food systems and wildlife conservation account for 80 percent of progress in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions among integrated programs. This progress takes place through supporting environmental outcomes in agriculture, forestry, and other land use. This will take place through reorienting food systems by applying climate-smart agriculture and increasing the adaptive capacity of producers, as well as through avoidance of GHG emissions with habitat conservation in wildlife-prone areas.

31. The Clean and Healthy Oceans Integrated Program will support key shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management, across multiple regions. This targeted focus will allow to address marine hypoxic zones by curbing coastal pollution from agriculture, industrial and municipal sources through policy measures and infrastructure investments combined with nature-based solutions. It will engage fourteen countries, including LDCs and SIDS, in a way that fosters the enabling environment to advance efforts toward sustainable blue economy. Altogether, they represent nine Large Marine Ecosystems, including the Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, Caribbean, Red Sea, Black Sea, Humboldt Current and Agulhas Current.

Table 7. Contribution of the Proposed February 2024 Integrated Programs to GEF-8 Core Indicator targets¹⁰

CORE INDICATOR	GEF-8 Targets	IP Contribution	
		Number	Share
CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY			
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	150	22.6	15.0%
Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	100	0.4	0.4%
Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha) *	195	23.0	11.8%
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million ha)	70	6.7	9.6%
People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)	Monitored	3.3	..
- of whom women	Monitored	1.6	..
SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND			
Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)	10	1.0	10.2%
People benefiting from sustainable land management and restoration investments (million)	Monitored	1.1	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.5	..
REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS			
Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO2e)	1,850	282.5	15.3%
People benefiting from climate change mitigation support (million)	Monitored	0.8	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.4	..
STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT			
Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	40	3.0	7.5%
Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)	2.1	0.0	0.0%
People benefiting from transboundary water management (million)	Monitored	0.3	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.2	..
REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE			
Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)	300	0.3	0.1%
Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)	5,900	0.0	0.0%
People benefiting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals (million)	Monitored	0.0	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.0	..

¹⁰ This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million hectares for its sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' shared with the grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' under the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework. To date, 35.8 million hectares of this sub-indicator are achieved, within which, 9.8 million hectares are achieved from the proposed work program contribution, and 7.9 million are achieved from the proposed integrated program contribution.

Gender Considerations

32. All the projects and program proposals considered in the WP substantively reflected gender equality considerations. In compliance with the Policy on Gender Equality and with GEF's guidance, the projects and program proposals integrated key gender equality perspectives in the project description and components, ensuring that actions, plans and systems established consider women's needs, roles and contributions, and benefits them. The Integrated Program proposals included gender considerations in the Theory of Change

33. Women, women's groups, gender experts were among the stakeholders engaged in the project and program design. These stakeholders' views, complemented by an in-depth gender analysis were crucial to ensuring that the projects and program advanced gender equality and women's empowerment. One project's gender-inclusive approach to infrastructure planning incorporated aspects of safety and accessibility, for example in public transportation routes and schedules. This approach also met the needs of people with disabilities, youth, disadvantaged minorities, among others

34. Additionally, projects and programs in this WP included key elements such as incorporating lessons learned or best practices on gender mainstreaming in knowledge products, preparing gender action plans with budgets and systematic monitoring and reporting of gender-results throughout the projects' cycle

35. In line with good gender mainstreaming practice, projects and programs proposals needed to incorporate key elements of the gender action plan in the components of the projects and programs. As such, all the proposals incorporated actions that: i) promote women's leadership and engagements in decision-making, governing or planning bodies; ii) empower women through livelihood and entrepreneurship programs, facilitating their access to finance and other resources, and supporting women's cooperatives; iii) ensure that plans, guidelines, systems, technologies and infrastructure are gender-responsive; and iv) reflect lessons and good practices on gender mainstreaming in knowledge products

36. GEF projects and programs will ensure gender-responsive implementation through sustained engagements of women and women groups, capacity-building and training, awareness-raising, tailored communications and outreach, and support to access finance and other socio-economic benefits, among others.

37. Increasingly, projects and programs are referencing the Gender Action Plans (GAP) or Gender Plan of Action of the Conventions that the GEF serves, as well as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's specific gender-related Targets 22 and 23. Some specifically mention that the project will contribute to the implementation of the gender-specific mandates of the Conventions.

Policy Coherence

38. Current international, political, and scientific conversations are converging around the conclusion that the world's environmental and sustainable development goals to 2030 can only be realized if the funding gap to nature is narrowed. It is increasingly recognized that global funds to the environment, while impacting the size of the gap, may never be enough to completely close it. Alongside increased funding, a reduction of financial needs in parallel can be achieved through the action of countries in the creation of regulatory and policy environments at the national scale that both discourage and eliminate harmful practices and encourage large-scale finance for nature, or policy coherence.

39. Policy Coherence, defined as “the systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies, creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives”, is therefore a key element in narrowing the nature funding gap. Through domestic enabling environments, countries can help to further catalyze the impact of the nature funding flows; alternatively, misaligned domestic policies can serve to lessen their impact. Policy coherence is a critical component of maximizing the benefits of GEF investments, and in the sustainability of those benefits. The GEF has the potential to play a significant role in supporting policy development and reforms that align towards a common sustainability agenda, while recognizing, at the same time, that impact in this sphere can be constrained by enforcement challenges that are beyond the GEF's reach.¹¹ In recognition of the growing importance of the policy coherence agenda, and the potential role of the GEF, the GEF Council at its 65th Session in October 2023 endorsed a set of action areas aimed at enhancing policy coherence in GEF operations.¹² In accordance with that paper, every GEF-8 Work Program Cover Note will now contain a dedicated cross-cutting policy coherence section that give summary examples of how various projects and programs of the proposed Work Program aims to address this matter, with further details to be found in the project descriptions.

40. As the flagship investments of GEF-8, the GEF-8 Integrated Programs aim to contribute to transformational change in key systems through a series of underlying levers, including policy coherence. This is reflected in the four Integrated Programs and addenda under consideration for this Work Program. The *Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program* will support the emplacement of policy and financing structures designed to incentivize adoption of nutrient-pollution-mitigation practices that target marine hypoxia alleviation, with a component specifically targeted towards enhancing policy and investment frameworks to incentivize pollution mitigation. The *Food Systems Integrated Program* adopts a "whole of government" approach to promote inter-sector policy coherence to address potential trade-offs and leakages, and to align policies and plans at national and jurisdictional levels with global commitments. The *Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development Integrated Program* focuses on key elements of policy coherence through the strengthening of the policy framework and other

¹¹ This was identified by the IEO in its OPS-7 Evaluation: GEF/E/C.61/inf.01, Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), [Seventh Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF: Working Toward a Greener Global Recovery](#), Washington, DC: GEF IEO, November 9, 2021

¹² GEF/C.65/04, [Enhancing Policy Coherence through GEF Operations](#), September 10, 2023

elements of the enabling environment for decision-making and investing in sustainable, nature-positive transportation infrastructure services that incorporates biodiversity considerations. The *Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program* will support better aligned and strengthened policy and legal frameworks across sectors to support the development of protected areas and integrated landscape management plans, national strategies for Human Wildlife Coexistence, national wildlife-based economy strategies and nature-based tourism strategies. As identified in the Work Program Cover Note to the 64th GEF Council¹³, an important priority for the *Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program* is to foster national policy reform and planning frameworks that promote the conservation of high ecological integrity forests across sectors and territories, and help countries identify and target regional and domestic policies that are inconsistent or contradictory with global environment goals.

41. Apart from the Integrated Programs, several other programs in this Work Program explicitly aim to address elements of policy coherence. For example, the *Central Asia Water and Land Nexus (CAWLN) for Ecosystem Restoration, Improved Natural Resource Management and Increased Resilience* will through its activities foster an enabling environment for integrated natural resources management transformation, strengthening regional cooperation, building capacities for evidence-based decision making and participatory management, and effectively coordinating efforts across sectors. The *Global Clean Hydrogen Programme* aims to enhance national institutional capacities and enable policy frameworks in order to foster clean hydrogen developments, and has “Policy” as one of its thematic areas.

42. This Work Program also includes a number of Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects that address elements of policy coherence in varying degrees through their proposed actions and outputs. For example, in the Biodiversity focal area, the project *Strengthening the System of Protected Areas and Improvement of its Financial Sustainability* in Paraguay will be implemented through four components, one of which is policy coherence. In the Climate Change focal area, the project *Energy resilience and security for the residential and public sector in Antigua and Barbuda* focuses on policy and institutional interventions to reduce barriers and promote renewable energy. In the International Waters focal area, the project *Program for Improving Sustainable Marine Fisheries Opportunities in SADC – The Case of the Mozambique Channel* will undertake interventions to strengthen collaborative governance frameworks at national and local levels and to promote harmonized regulatory policies. The regional Multi-focal Area project, *Enhancing Transboundary Fisheries Management in the Lower Mekong Basin* in Cambodia, LAO PDR and Vietnam will aim at harmonizing fisheries governance and coherence of water resources related policies and plans to support transboundary fisheries management. The Multi-Trust Fund project, *Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change in Dominican Republic* will support a range of investment, policy and capacity interventions to build resilience. The project *Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia*, also a Multi-Trust Fund project, will strengthen the policy, legal and institutional environment for land rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

¹³ GEF/C.64/04/Rev.01, [Work Program for GEF Trust Fund](#), June 5, 2023

43. In accordance with the action elements outlined at the 65th Council¹⁴, the GEF Secretariat will continue to monitor policy coherence objectives and subsequent achievements through the next steps of design and implementation of all relevant GEF-8 projects and programs.

WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Integrated Programs

44. The recommended Work Program is the second largest in the history of the GEF and requests a total of \$840.0 Million from the GEF trust fund and \$76.1 million in associated Agency fees for a total Work Program of \$916.1 million. Additionally, it includes an indicative amount of \$7,530 million in co-financing, meaning that each dollar provided by the GEF is matched by \$8.9 in co-financing from other sources.

45. The Work Program includes Program Framework Documents (PFDs) for four Integrated Programs (IPs) - Clean and Healthy Ocean, Food Systems, Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development, and Wildlife Conservation for Development - and Addendums for two PFDs under the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes that was approved by Council in June 2023. A detailed report of the country expression of interest process for the IPs is presented in a separate information document (GEF/C.66/Inf.16), following the first one in June 2023 (GEF/C.64/Inf.11). Because of resource limitations, the PFD for Sustainable Cities will be considered in a future Work Program to be presented to Council. Countries already selected to participate in this IP will not be required to resubmit EOIs.

46. If approved, the PFDs included in this Work Program will ensure alignment of GEF programming for the respective IPs with global aspirations for transformative change in key systems, while at the same time responding to demands from the MEAs. Specifically, the IPs included will cover the following global important challenges through the integrated approach:

- *Clean and Healthy Ocean IP*, which focuses on tackling drivers of excessive nutrient loads (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorous, organic waste) entering coastal marine environments. Agricultural, industrial, and municipal sectors are major sources of this excess nutrient pollution, which creates nutrient over-enrichment that causes eutrophication, triggering harmful algal blooms and low levels of oxygen, or hypoxia, leading to declining coastal water quality and associated health impacts; damage to biodiversity, including seagrasses and coral reefs; fish kills; and loss of ecosystem services.
- *Food Systems IP* focused on transforming global food systems from farm to table, so that they are sustainable, regenerative, nature-positive, resilient, inclusive, and pollution-free. The IP will address the underlying drivers of unsustainability along the whole length of the food system by applying holistic and integrated approach to transform and strengthen value chains, business models, incentive and finance frameworks, and policy and institutional conditions, all of which will support the

¹⁴ GEF/C.65/04, [Enhancing Policy Coherence through GEF Operations](#), September 10, 2023

application of models of integrated and sustainable landscape and farm management on the ground.

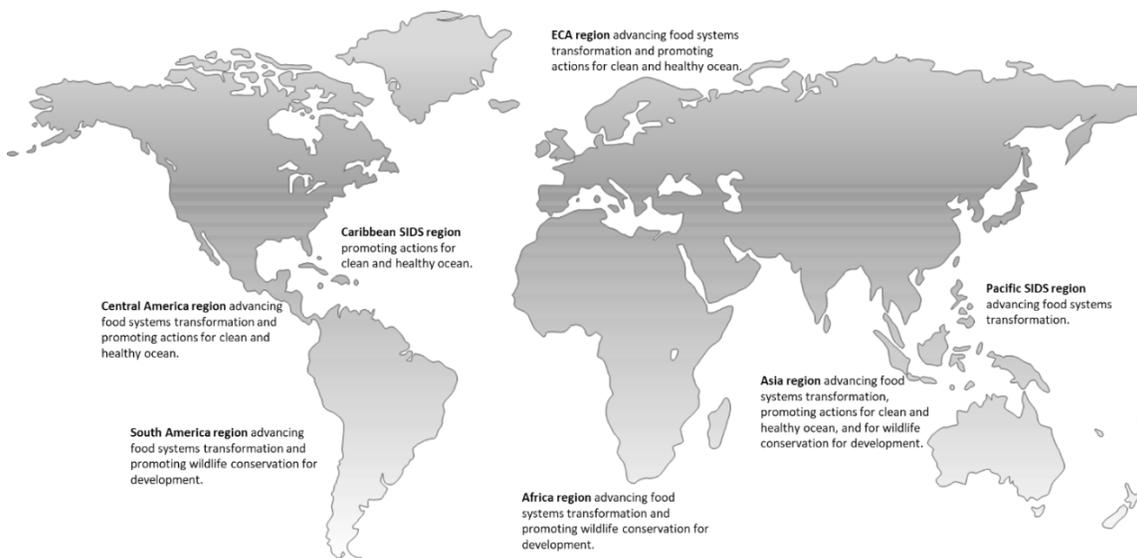
- *Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development IP*, which focuses on supporting countries to advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure that safeguards and enhances key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems. The IP will enhance biodiversity and mitigate and/or eliminate the potential adverse effects associated with the development of transportation infrastructure by focusing on upstream measures (policies and regulations, planning frameworks, capacity, etc.) that will trigger a system change downstream in how infrastructure is built, and natural infrastructure maintained.
- *Wildlife Conservation for Development IP* is designed to conserve wildlife and landscapes by transforming the drivers of species loss and ensuring that countries and communities are benefiting from these natural assets. Integration of wildlife conservation across landscapes and sectors, between countries and regions, and over supply chains is key to safeguarding healthy, stable or increased populations of threatened wildlife; reducing threat from illegal, unsustainable and high zoonotic risk wildlife use and trade; enhancing community benefits to ensure societal buy-in for wildlife conservation.

47. The two PFD Addendums bring additional countries to the *Amazon Sustainable Landscape* and *Guinean Forests of West Africa* under the *Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP*, further strengthening the potential for collective action to safeguard high ecological integrity forest landscapes in these biomes that are irreplaceable in terms of biodiversity and carbon stocks and are critical for other ecosystem services, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

48. Collectively, the four PFDs and two Addenda in this Work Program cover all GEF recipient country regions and include a total of 54 countries that will participate with child projects. As shown in the map below (Figure 4), the coverage of the IPs and representation by countries create an opportunity for potentially amplifying influence of GEF investments globally. Furthermore, and consistent with the proposed GEF strategy, the global coverage of IPs will also strengthen the potential for knowledge exchange and learning, a priority to be addressed through the coordination platforms for each IP in line with the new GEF Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning.¹⁵

¹⁵ [GEF/C.65/03/Rev.01 Global Environment Facility Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning](#)

Figure 4. Regional trends in programming of IPs included in the Work Program



49. The 54 countries include 9 SIDS and 17 LDCs, corresponding to 16.7% and 31.5% respectively of the total number (Table 8). LDCs are represented in all the IPs included in the WP, and all IPs except one (Wildlife Conservation for Development) include a SIDS. The Food Systems IP has the highest number of LDCs participating with 9, followed by the Wildlife Conservation for Development with 7 LDCs. SIDS are well represented in the Food Systems and Clean and Healthy Ocean IPs, with 3 and 4 countries, respectively.

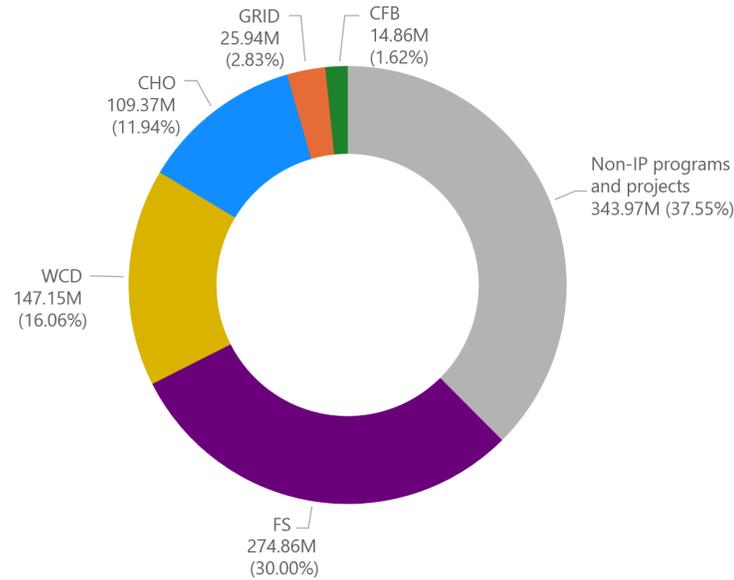
Table 8. SIDS and LDC participation in the Integrated Program

Integrated Program	SIDS	LDCs
Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes (Addendum)	2	2
Clean and Healthy Ocean	4	1
Food Systems	3	9
Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development	1	1
Wildlife Conservation for Development	-	7
Total¹⁶	9	17

50. The total IP resources requested for the four PFDs and two Addenda in this Work Program amount to \$572.17 million, which corresponds to 62.55% of the total GEF resources requested (Figure 5). The Food Systems IP and Wildlife Conservation for Development IP account for 30.00% and 16.06%, respectively, of the total GEF resources requested.

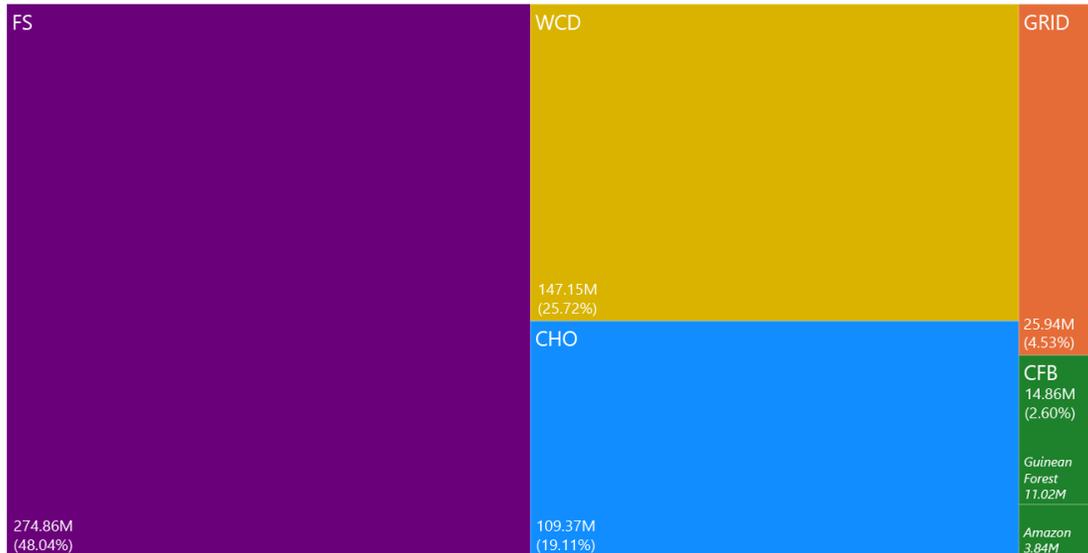
¹⁶ Some SIDS and LDCs are part of more than one IP.

Figure 5. IP resource allocation and share of the entire Work Program (incl. agency fees)



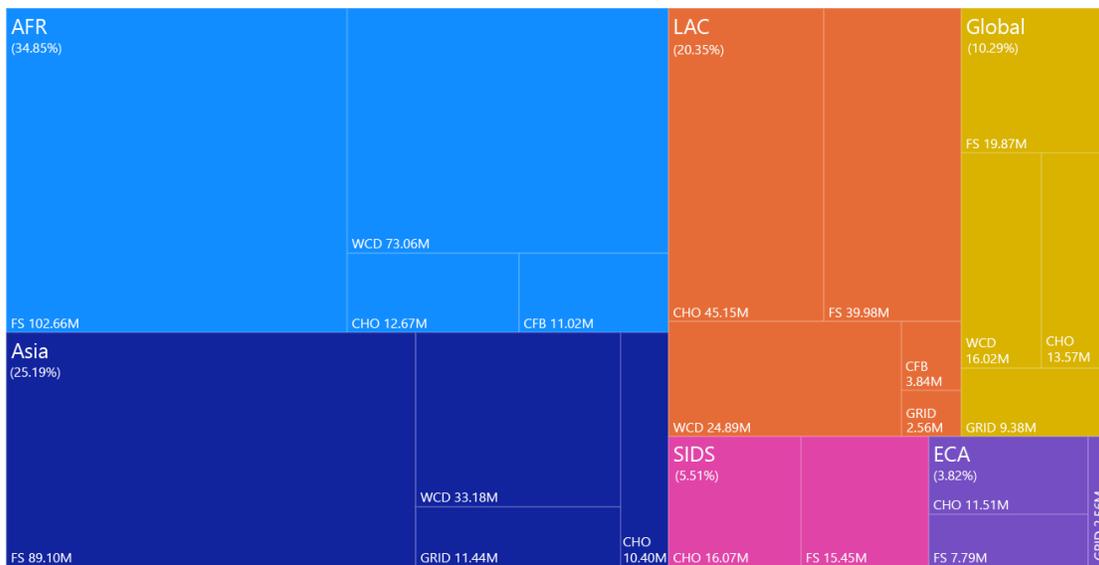
51. As a share of the total \$572.17 million IP resources programmed, Food Systems takes up the largest share (FS, 48.04%), followed by Wildlife Conservation for Development (WCD, 25.72%), Clean and Healthy Ocean (CHO, 19.11%), Greening Transportation Infrastructure for Development (GRID, 4.53%), and Critical Forest Biomes (CFB, 2.60%) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. IP resource allocation and share of total IP resources in the Work Program (incl. agency fees)



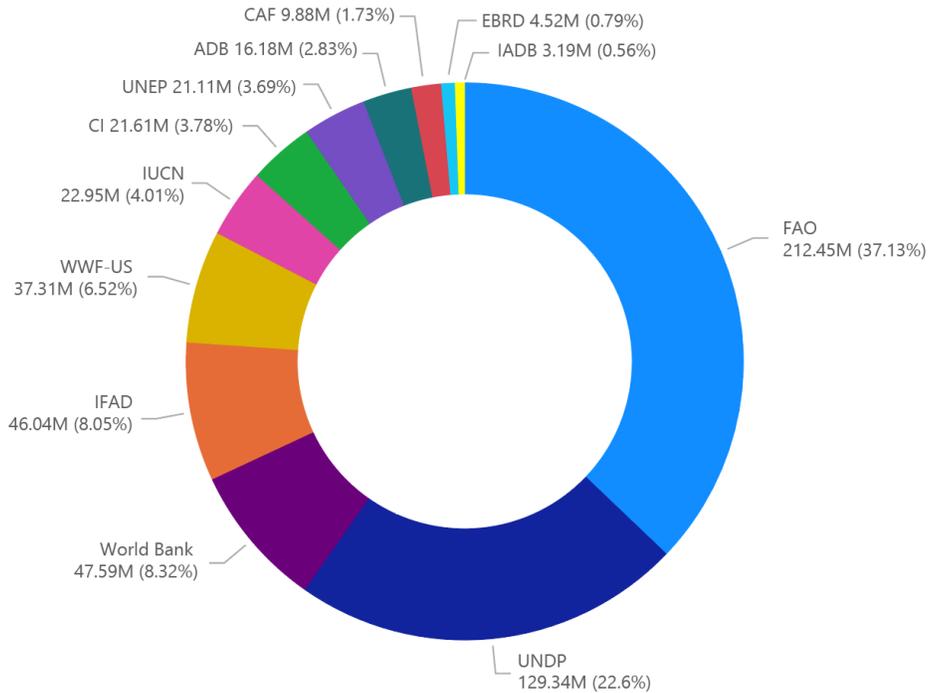
52. Regionally, African countries have the highest amount requested for IPs included in the Work Program, with 34.85% of the total, followed by Asia (25.19%), LAC (20.35%), SIDS (5.51%) and ECA (3.82%) (Figure 7). The breakdown across IPs shows that Food Systems IP has the highest amount for Africa (\$102.66 million) and Asia (\$89.10 million), whereas Clean and Healthy Ocean is highest for LAC (\$45.15 million) and SIDS (\$16.07 million). The total amount requested by LDCs across all IPs amounts to \$159.78 million, which is 27.93% of the total IP envelope for this WP. The share of IP resources for global platforms is \$58.85 million or 10.29% of the total resources requested in this Work Program.

Figure 7. Share of IP Resources by region (incl. agency fees)



53. With respect to agency distribution, FAO and UNDP have the largest shares with 37.13% and 22.60% of total IP resources, respectively, followed by World Bank (8.32%), IFAD (8.05%), WWF-US (6.52%), IUCN (4.01%), CI (3.78%), UNEP (3.69%), ADB (2.83%), CAF (1.73%), EBRD (0.79%) and IADB (0.56%) (Figure 8). The high share of FAO is owed largely to its selection by countries in the Food Systems IP, many of which are LDCs.

Figure 8. IP resource allocation by agency (incl. agency fees)



54. The PFDs in this Work Program are expected to contribute significant global environmental benefits covering most the GEF-8 core indicator targets (Table 9). For example, the Food Systems IP will contribute 13.8 million hectares of landscapes under improved practices (CI 4) and is expected to mitigate 174 million metric tons of greenhouse gas (CI 6), and well as contributing to several other core indicator targets. The Wildlife Conservation for Development IP will bring significant contributions in protecting and sustainably managing 19.6 million hectares of terrestrial protected areas (CI 1). The Clean and Healthy Ocean IP will contribute to a wide range of core indicator targets, including 6.6 million hectares of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (CI 5). The Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development IP will both contribute significantly to multiple core indicator targets. The overall trend reinforces the importance of IPs for generating multiple global environments that map to the GEF focal areas. Overall, the proposed approach presented in PFDs and Addendums in this Work Program will benefit an estimated 5.4 million people, divided overall equally between men and women.

Table 9. Mapping of GEF-8 Core Indicators to the Integrated Programs Submitted for the February 2024 Work program

Integrated Programs	C11. Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	C12. Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	C13. Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)	C14. Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha)	C15. Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million ha)	C16. Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO2e)	C17. Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	C19. Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)	C11.1. People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (million)	C11.1. People benefiting from GEF-financed investments: of whom female (million)
Wildlife Conservation for Development	<u>19.6</u>		0.03	7.0		61.7			1.1	0.5
Food Systems			<u>0.9</u>	<u>13.8</u>	0.004	<u>174.0</u>		<u>0.2</u>	<u>3.4</u>	<u>1.6</u>
Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Addenda	2.2		0.021	0.2002		29.6			0.11	0.053
Clean and Healthy Ocean	0.5	<u>0.4</u>	0.1	1.3	<u>6.6</u>	9.2	<u>3.0</u>	0.1	0.6	0.3
Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development	0.3		0.002	0.6	0.1	8.1			0.3	0.1
Total	22.6	0.4	1.0	23.0	6.7	282.5	3.0	0.3	5.4	2.7

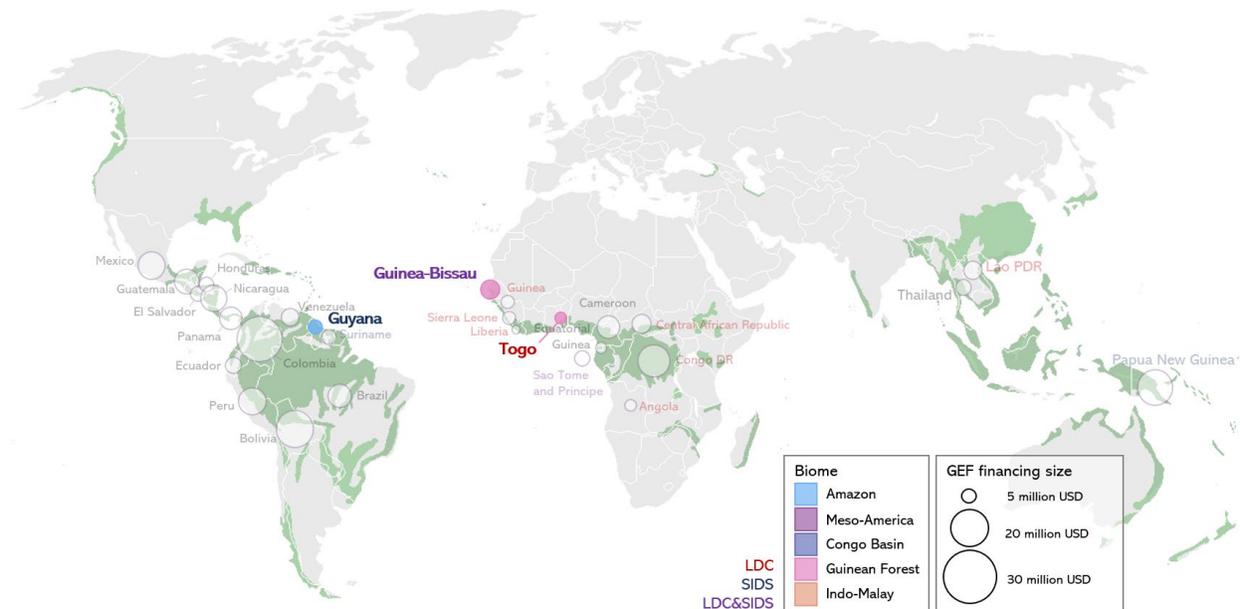
* This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million hectares for its sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' shared with the grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' under the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework. To date, 35.8 million hectares of this sub-indicator are achieved, within which, 7.9 million are achieved from the proposed integrated program contribution.

* Underlined values indicate the IP contributing the most to each Core Indicator. Separately, no integrated program used C18 focused on Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons) and C10 Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent), respectively.

PFD Addendums under Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program (CFB IP)

55. In June 2023, Council approved five PFDs presented under this IP, with a total of 25 countries that together account for an estimated 87% of the existing tropical forest biomes: *Amazon, Congo, Meso-America, Indo-Malay, and Guinean Forests of West Africa*. This approach to delivering the IP will ensure that it builds on and draws from lessons emerging through previous programs in the Amazon and Congo basins, while at the same time accommodating prevailing realities in the other regions. This work program includes PFD addendum for the Amazon and Guinean Forests of West Africa programs, to add countries selected during the second call for Expression of Interest: Guyana in the Amazon; Guinea-Bissau and Togo in West Africa. This brings the number of participating countries to 8 for the Amazon and 5 for the Guinean Forests Biome, and a total of 28 for the overall IP (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Distribution of countries participating in the Amazon, Congo and Critical Biomes IP (with new countries highlighted in bold font)



56. In each of the PFDs approved by Council, a clear rationale and pathway is presented for improving the conservation and effective governance of the forest biome, to sustain flow of vital ecosystem services that underpin lives and livelihoods while contributing multiple global environment benefits. The PFDs also presented a Theory of Change for advancing the integrated framework to address complex interrelated problems and create the conditions for transitions towards lasting systems transformation, notably related to 1) the expanded protection of primary forests with protected areas and OECMs (Other Effective Conservation Measures); 2) increased understanding and valuing of natural capital, 3) expended forest-friendly production, and 4) improved policy coherence and institutional and legal frameworks

57. The implementation framework for each biome reflects the need for concerted and complementary actions across multiple scales, from national and landscape level, to subregional and transboundary, and biome level. The national projects will contribute toward achieving biome and regional level outcomes while a dedicated regional coordination project will support the development and deployment of national actions through knowledge, training, technical expertise, and linkage with other initiatives. A particular focus will be on promoting levers for system transformation, including: 1) fostering inter-sectoral coordination and dialogue to enhance policy coherence on primary forest conservation in pertinent policies and instruments (at local, subnational, national, and regional levels); 2) fostering multi-stakeholder dialogue through establishing or strengthening pertinent multi-sectoral local, national, and regional platforms; 3) promoting innovation and learning in relevant areas such as financing models and tools, use of novel incentives and business models to incentive nature-friendly activities, and new coalitions for change; and 4) promoting the use of financing tools to mobilize more domestic and international resources to channel long-term funding from the public and private sector to support urgently needed actions for safeguarding forests.

58. An important priority for the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP is to foster national policy reform and planning frameworks that promote the conservation of high ecological integrity forests across sectors and territories. The focus on policy coherence will also consider region-wide opportunities across all five biomes, including through transboundary activities involving countries participating in the program. The program will help countries identify and target regional and domestic policies that are inconsistent or contradictory with global environment goals. The dialogues through multiple stakeholder platforms will contribute to reviewing existing laws, regulations, and practices and propose more integrated and cohesive approaches for sustainable forest management, building on the capitalization of traditional knowledge, partnerships with scientific institutions, and innovative financing mechanisms.

59. The overall approach is informed by and will support implementation of MEAs, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁷ the UNFCCC through increased mitigation and resilience measures related to spatial planning and ecosystem protection and restoration (Paris Agreement, Katowice Forest for Climate Declaration, REDD+ framework, net zero decarbonization by 2050), the voluntary UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality agenda (LDN) and its response hierarchy of avoiding, protecting and reversing land degradation. The IP is aligned with the goals of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, notably in the areas of artisanal and small-scale gold mining and mercury use reduction. It is also aligned with the United National Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and potentially serve as anchor for the One Forest Summit in Gabon in March 2023 where several leaders urged for the advancement of innovative nature financing.

60. Global level engagement will be fostered through the coordination projects, which will

¹⁷ Notably the targets 1-3 on spatial planning, biodiversity conservation, and management, including the 30x30 target; target 8 on climate change; targets 10-11 on sustainable use and management of biodiversity and ecosystem services; target 14 on policy and planning; target 18 related to perverse incentives; target 19 on finance; 20 on capacity-building; 21 on data availability; 22 on IPLCs, and; 23 on gender mainstreaming.

establish interoperable platforms to target knowledge and learning opportunities for amplifying influence through the IP. Such a platform will also target cross-cutting themes, including nature-based solutions, gender responsive approaches, resilience, private sector engagement, behavior change, and environmental security. Strengthening the rights, participation, and benefit to IPLCs, as well as women and members of other disadvantaged groups, will be mainstreamed throughout the IP, including through robust safeguard systems. Private sector engagement will focus mainly on investment in bankable projects and other contributions to sustainable financing and biodiversity-friendly value chains development.

Regional. Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3 - Addendum (GEFID 11337). Country: Guyana, Agency - FAO. GEF Project Financing: \$3,519,722. Co-financing: \$20,800,000.

61. The Amazon basin contains the world’s largest rainforests and river system comprising of 650 million hectares (ha) of forests and 100 million ha of freshwater ecosystems. Conserving these ecosystems is of critical importance and relevance at the global, regional, and local levels. The ASL3 seeks to improve regional collaboration and national investments towards integrated landscape conservation and sustainable management in targeted areas, including primary forests, in the Amazon region. The ASL3 will be delivered through four interlinked components geared towards advancing systems transformation: 1) strengthening conservation under different protection regimes; 2) enhancing sustainable production and landscape restoration; 3) fostering a supporting governance, incentives and policy transformations; and 4) promoting capacity building, communications, and regional cooperation.

62. The Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program (ASL3, GEFID 11198) was approved by the Council in June 2023 with GEF project financing of \$88,644,185 and co-financing of \$557,827,180. The inclusion of Guyana in this Work Program brings the total financing to \$92,163,907 in GEF financing and \$578,627,180 in co-financing. With this addendum, ASL3 includes for the first time all the eight Amazon sovereign countries. The inclusion of Guyana augments the collective efforts of the ASL Program in safeguarding the region's critical ecosystems. The additional Guyana project named “Advancing Guyana’s Development through Improved Forest Management” is aligned with the ASL3’s Theory of change and its four components. In targeted National Protected Areas, it will strengthen management including through the establishment of biodiversity credits mechanisms to fund conservation actions to Indigenous People and Local Communities. Restoration interventions will mainly be conducted in the surroundings of the Iwokrama reserve, severely degraded over the last 50 years by indiscriminate mining activities. The project will be completed by the development of sustainable value chains and will generate lessons from community-based monitoring and sustainable forest management.

63. Guyana will add to the global environmental benefits already determined by the other participant countries: additional 1.8 million hectares of protected areas will improve their management effectiveness, 700 additional hectares will be restored, 200 hectares of landscapes outside PAs will be better managed to benefit biodiversity, generating in total 2.2 million tCO₂e of carbon sequestered or emissions avoided; 10,000 beneficiaries are identified.

64. In its entirety, the program will prioritize the conservation of primary forests, and the

promotion of sustainable practices and restoration within protected areas, areas under sustainable management, and beyond. In total with Guyana, the Program is expected to help countries create or improve management effectiveness of over 36 million hectares of terrestrial protected areas, restore more than 104 thousand hectares of land and ecosystems, fostering the regeneration of critical natural habitats at the regional and landscape level, place under improved practices more than 13 million hectares of landscapes, and mitigate around 74 million tCO₂e. The GEF-financed investments will directly be benefiting nearly 400,000 people, of whom around 50% women.

Regional. Guinean Forests Biome – Addendum (GEFID – 11391). Countries: Guinea Bissau, Togo; Agencies - IUCN, FAO. GEF Project Financing: \$10,112,013. Co-financing: \$45,500,000.

65. The Guinean Forests of West Africa biome covers approximately 620,000 square kilometers and is a globally biodiversity hotspot, providing valuable ecosystem services to well over 200 million inhabitants of the region. This biome is one of the most threatened with an estimated 10 million of forest loss since the beginning of the 20th century and only around 15% of the original forest cover still intact. The GEF program focuses on protection and effective governance of the Guinean Forests to sustain flow of vital ecosystem services that underpin lives and livelihoods in the region while contribute multiple global environmental benefits. To achieve this objective, the integrated program approach will operate at regional, transboundary, national, and landscape levels thanks to a regional coordination project and child projects for participating countries.

66. The PFD for the Guinean Forests Biome was approved by the GEF Council in June 2023 with GEF project Financing of \$20,077,828 and co-financing of \$59,664,406. This addendum to the CFB IP is composed of two additional projects with “promoting and strengthening effective conservation of the Cantanhez Primary Forests in Guinea Bissau” with IUCN (GEF: \$5,966,206; co-financing \$20 million) and “Strengthening conservation and resilience of forest landscapes in the subhumid mountainous zone of Togo” with FAO (GEF: \$4,145,807; co-financing: \$25.5 million).

67. This addendum will complete the targets of the Guinean Forests IP, adding 380,767 ha of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management in the Cantanhez landscape on the border with Guinea, and in and around the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park in Togo; 20,000 ha of lands and ecosystems under restoration; 220,767 ha of terrestrial landscapes under improved practices; 27 million tCO₂e; and 100,000 beneficiaries.

Global. Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO IP) (GEF ID 11349). Agencies: FAO (Lead), ADB, CAF, EBRD. GEF Program Financing: \$100,338,691; Co-Financing: \$748,061,993

68. The ocean is central to human wellbeing, providing vital services such as food, climate regulation, energy, coastal protection and marine genetic resources, as well as livelihoods, cultural and spiritual identities, and recreation. More people are living, working and playing along the coastal ocean than ever before. Yet the health of the ocean continues to deteriorate, with

many marine ecosystems at risk of collapse due to numerous anthropogenic stressors, including land-based activities.

69. The agriculture, industrial and municipal sectors are primarily responsible for excess nutrient loads (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorous, organic waste) entering coastal marine environments. This excess creates nutrient over-enrichment, which in turn causes eutrophication, triggering harmful algal blooms and low levels of oxygen, or hypoxia, leading to declining coastal water quality and associated health impacts; damage to biodiversity, including seagrasses and coral reefs; fish kills; and loss of ecosystem services. Areas with very low oxygen are known as dead zones, where most marine life cannot survive. If trends continue, dead zones globally are expected to expand and rise. This expected increase may be reinforced by changed precipitation and runoff patterns driven by climate change.

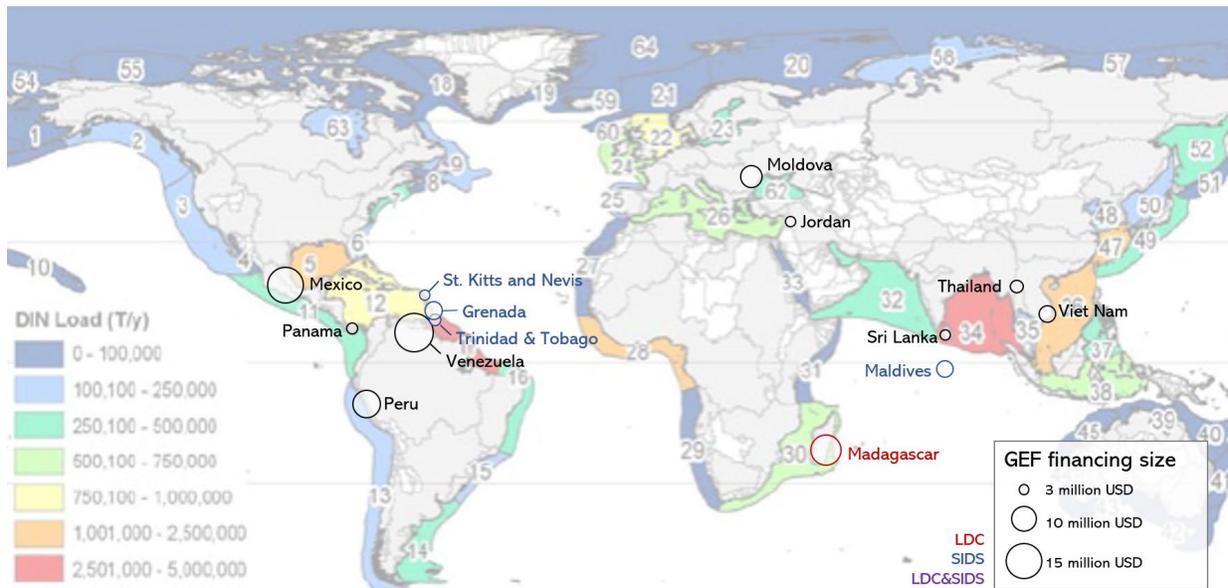
70. Given the complexities and sheer size of the agricultural, industrial and municipal drivers — with each sector including its own broad set of public and private stakeholders, and with challenges not concentrated to a particular region or national context — a highly coordinated, integrated and innovative effort at scale and with speed is required to accelerate needed action to overcome three identified barriers to systematically addressing hypoxic zones across the planet: (1) current knowledge, monitoring and awareness of ocean hypoxia threats, causes, impacts and solutions is inadequate to motivate and mobilize urgently required collective action; (2) policy, regulation, strategic planning and investment ineffectively address nutrient pollution challenges and fail to incentivize innovative solutions and best management practices; and (3) limited access to innovation and best management options, knowledge and financing are resulting in agricultural, municipal and industrial practices that continually expand and increase rates of nitrogen, phosphorous and organic waste pollution impacting oceans.

71. The goal of the Clean and Healthy Ocean IP is to catalyze this effort. It will aim to curb coastal zone pollution from agriculture, industrial and municipal sources by facilitating and promoting policy and regulatory measures and infrastructure investments, combined with nature-based solutions. In doing so, the program will foster an enabling environment to advance countries' efforts toward sustainable blue economy goals. The IP will help prevent new marine hypoxic zones, halt further oxygen depletion in current hypoxic zones, and promote innovations to assist countries to restore hypoxia-degraded ecosystems. And it will establish the global, regional and national architecture to systematically do this through five transformational levers: (1) Motivate Action; (2) Inform Action; (3) Coordinate and Incentivize Action; (4) Finance Action; and (5) Prove, Document and Amplify Action. These levers are nested within the three IP components: (1) Building awareness and knowledge to stimulate action and inform decision making; (2) Enhancing policy and investment frameworks to incentivize pollution mitigation; and (3) Upscaling best management practices and investments to showcase effective solutions.

72. The IP structure includes one Global Coordination child project and 14 national child projects working in nine Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and 14 countries: Jordan, Madagascar (LDC), Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, Venezuela, and SIDS Grenada, Maldives, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago. These child projects will be

implemented by nine GEF Agencies: ADB, CAF, CI, EBRD, FAO, IADB, UNDP, UNEP and WB.

Figure 10. Distribution of countries selected to participate in the Clean and Healthy Ocean IP



The map depicts the dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads (watershed exports) in the world's Large Marine Ecosystems (noted by number) overlaid with the CHO IP's targeted intervention areas. Dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads are one of the root causes of hypoxia and dead zones.

73. The national child projects were selected based on situation within or adjacent to high-risk LMEs, demonstrated country leadership to tackle marine hypoxia, and innovativeness and scalability of intervention. Each project, though unique, will include a subset of common activities—such as science-based monitoring, reporting, information sharing and dialogue engagement, adapted to local contexts and targeting national priorities—to link it with regional and global platforms established via the Global Coordination Project, allowing that project to synchronize action, promote awareness, amplify investments through innovative financing, assist in crafting policies, demonstrate best management practices, and generate tracking and monitoring. The Global Coordination Project will serve as the program lynchpin, facilitating outreach, engagement, knowledge management and coordination among IP stakeholders at global, regional (LME) and national levels. The intended reach of the Global Coordination Project will extend far beyond the IP Child Project countries to advance networks and help build a constituency and advocacy to address marine hypoxia challenges globally. Gender dimensions and youth engagement are crosscutting under the program and considered critical to mobilizing action.

74. The IP will support the emplacement of policy and financing structures designed to incentivize adoption of nutrient-pollution-mitigation practices that target marine hypoxia alleviation. The IP will promote and advance global, regional (LME) and national marine hypoxia reduction framework agreements, marine sustainable planning strategies, and policy instruments informed by science and inclusive best management practices. It will also build national capacities to adopt and implement model point and non-point source-pollution-

reduction policies, strategies and regulations, including streamlined institutional coordination; establish and strengthen partnerships and alliances to specify and advance achievement of global, regional and national hypoxia-reduction targets and strategies; establish and support “investment readiness” and a pipeline of potential investment opportunities for high-priority hypoxia-mitigation projects linked to measurable reduction targets and designed to showcase nature-based-solution potential; strengthen informational programming and initiate multi-stakeholder dialogue, collaboration and action targeting policymakers, researchers, civil society, private business and other relevant interests to accelerate adoption of informed hypoxia-reduction actions and agreements; and gather and disseminate best practices, including designed model policy and financing frameworks to be distributed for upscale and adoption.

75. The IP will create or put under improved management 520,193 ha of terrestrial protected areas (CI 1); create or put under improved management 423,251 ha of marine protected areas (CI2); restore 96,711 of land and ecosystems (CI3); place 1,274,397 ha of landscapes under improved practices (CI4); place 6,629,347 ha of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (CI5); mitigate 9,170,093 mt of GHG emissions (CI6); put three shared ecosystems under improved cooperative management (CI7); reduce 120 mt of chemicals of global concern (CI9); and directly benefit 616,752 people (CI11).

Global. Food Systems Integrated Program (FS IP) (GEF ID 11214). Agencies: FAO and IFAD (leads), IUCN, UNDP, World Bank. GEF Program Financing: \$ 252,162,398; Co-financing: \$ 2,201,647,507.

76. Agri-food systems are essential for the health, food security and nutrition, and economic well-being of people around the globe. While there are many forms of agriculture that support healthy people and a healthy planet, food systems globally are also a key contributor to environmental degradation. Today’s food systems generate \$12 trillion in hidden social, economic and environmental costs. Agriculture occupies about 38% of the world’s total land area, and unsustainable agricultural expansion has resulted in significant loss of forests and biodiversity, land and soil degradation, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It is responsible for up to 90% of global deforestation, and drivers linked to food production cause 70% of terrestrial and 50% of freshwater biodiversity loss. Further, a rising global population and changes in consumption patterns towards higher protein diets will result in more carbon-intensive agriculture that will further strain global land-use systems. With less than a decade remaining to achieve the SDGs (the “2030 Agenda”) and amidst mounting social, political, health, and ecological crises, the global community faces a critical juncture to transform food systems so that they support healthy diets in sustainable, resilient, just, and equitable ways.

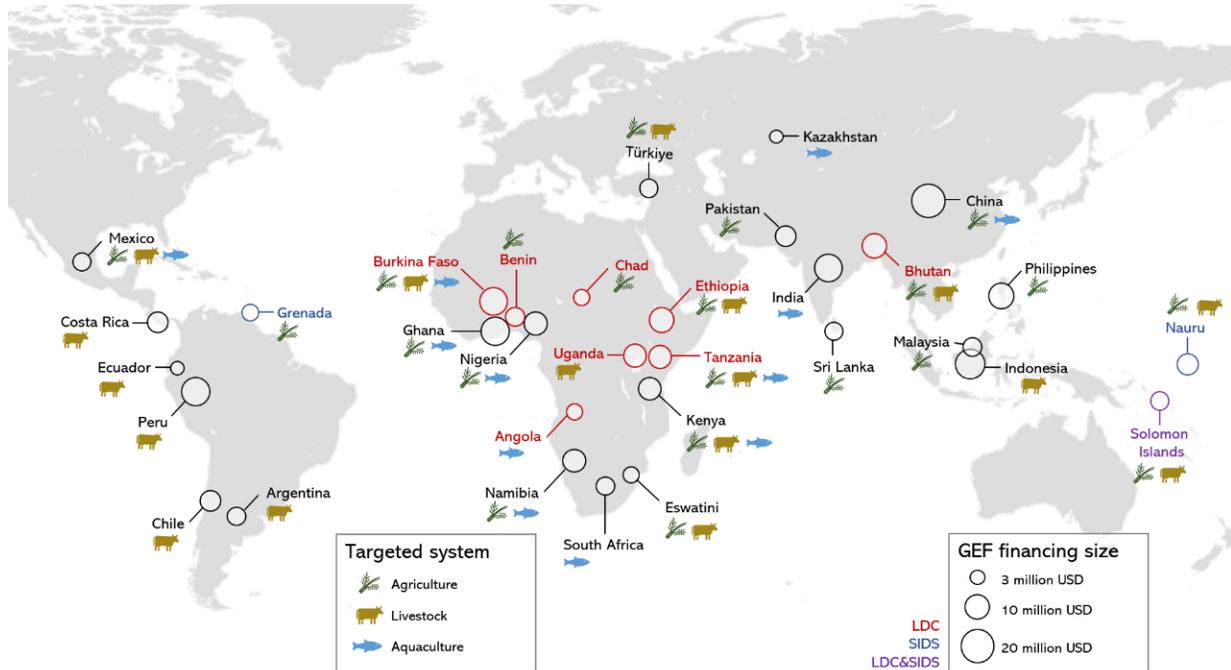
77. The GEF-8 Food Systems Integrated Programme (FS-IP) will meet this challenge by focusing on transforming global food systems from farm to table, so that they are sustainable, regenerative, nature positive, resilient, inclusive and pollution-free. The FS-IP will address the underlying drivers of unsustainability along the whole length of the food system by applying holistic and integrated approach to transform and strengthen value chains, business models, incentive and finance frameworks, and policy and institutional conditions, all of which will

support the application of models of integrated and sustainable landscape and farm management on the ground.

78. The FS-IP will achieve its goal through four interrelated components, each aligning with pathways outlined in the Theory of Change. These include Strengthening the enabling environment to catalyse FS transformation at global, regional and national levels (P1); Improved and increased financing deployed in support of food system transformation (P2); Transforming the management of landscapes, farming systems and value chains (P3); Leveraging and transforming knowledge systems (P4).

79. The FS-IP will be delivered through 32 country “child” projects, spanning Latin America, Africa, the Europe and Central Asia region, Asia and Oceania, and including nine Least Developed Countries and one Small Island Developing State (see map). Country projects cover six crops/commodities (maize, rice, wheat, soy, oil palm and cocoa) as well as livestock and aquaculture that present the greatest opportunities for generating global environmental benefits. Opportunities have been identified for grouping these into regional sector-based project groupings (“Communities of Practice” or CoPs) with the potential to facilitate inter-project learning and generate a critical mass of influence on global policies and value chains, and a critical mass of demand for inputs and services.

Figure 11. Distribution of countries selected to participate in the Food Systems IP



80. The effectiveness of the country projects, and their collective impacts in transforming the policies, structures and attitudes driving food systems globally, will be maximized through the support of the FS-IP Global Coordination Project (GCP). The GCP will serve to crowd in and channel global actors and resources in support of the country projects; and to collate, manage and communicate the models and knowledge generated in the participating countries and communities of practice, feeding them into regional, global and thematic policy fora and the agendas of public and private actors. As a result, the impacts of the FS-IP will be greater than the sum of its parts, setting in motion processes of “scaling out” of impacts far beyond the target geographies of the child projects.

81. The GCP will be structured around four resource hubs, responding to the GEF-8 levers of transformational change (with multi-stakeholder dialogues occurring across all dimensions of the GCP and IP). These include: (1) the Policy and Governance Hub will support policy alignment at global and national levels; (2) the Private Sector, Value Chains and Investment Hub will leverage environmental benefits through the design of FS investment pathways, adequate financial services, and strengthened value chains and innovative business models that target smallholders, SMEs, as well as agribusinesses; (3) the Innovation and Learning Hub will engage in global knowledge outreach on targeted food systems and also establish communities of practice to support iterative learning, support food system actors and link with Food Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR); and (4) the Adaptive Management Hub will provide M&E and management support to all child projects to ensure timely delivery of measurable results, that can be aggregated to monitor the global impact pathway and global environmental benefits generated by the program.

82. The program seeks to catalyze profound changes in global food systems management and impact, extending its reach far beyond the limited geographic areas of individual country projects. This will be achieved by closely engaging with global policy fora, institutions, finance frameworks and networks of private sector and civil society actors; and by establishing communities of practice, formed by thematic groupings of child projects including those from GEF-7 FOLUR Impact Program, which cumulatively will generate a critical mass of evidence and policy influence capable of transforming global thinking, policies and actions on food systems. To ensure consistent and coordinated approaches, and the sharing of lessons and knowledge, the FS-IP will maintain close connections with other GEF- supported projects addressing common challenges. These include Blue and Green Islands, Critical Forest Biomes, Ecosystem Restoration, Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator and Sustainable Cities Integrated Programs, as well as stand-alone GEF projects.

83. The FS IP aims to achieve policy coherence by recognizing the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic dimensions of food systems. It adopts a "whole of government" approach to promote inter-sector policy coherence to address potential trade-offs and leakages, and to align policies and plans at national and jurisdictional levels with global commitments (NBSAPs, NAPs, NDCs, and National Food Systems Pathways). In addition to engaging national institutions from different sectors in project formulation and execution, the program will foster collaboration and coordination in policy development and implementation.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue processes will be used to facilitate and enhance policy frameworks and coherence where diverse perspectives are considered. Planning instruments and decision-making tools will be developed and applied at various levels to ensure policies alignment across sectors for informed decisions. In addition, science-based analyses will inform policy formulation and planning, considering the cross-sector implications of alternative policy scenarios. Finally, the program will support policy coherence at the supra-national level through regional and global policy dialogues, addressing issues like subsidy repurposing, alignment of National Food Systems Pathways with multilateral environmental agreements, and promoting environmentally responsible trade.

84. The FS IP is expected to restore 870,434 hectares of degraded agricultural lands, forest and forest land, natural grass and woodlands, wetlands; and will improve the management practices of over 13,844,336 hectares of lands through improved management to benefit biodiversity (8,142,528 ha), sustainable land management in production systems (5,4417,194 ha), and HCV forest loss avoided (284,644 ha); and marine protected areas under improved management (4,220 ha). The program will mitigate more than 174 million tCO₂e over the 20-year period, 220 metric tons of highly hazardous pesticides eliminated. Furthermore, the project will directly benefit 3,356,681 people (of which 49.1% are females) providing direct livelihood benefits.

Global. Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development (GRID) (GEF ID 11467).

Agencies: World Wildlife Fund-US (lead), ADB, UNEP.

GEF Program Financing: \$ 23,794,476; Co-financing: \$ 408,915,662.

85. The goal of the GRID IP is to enable countries to meet transportation infrastructure needs, including the associated economic and social benefits critical to achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement goals, and the SDGs. The objective of the Program is to advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure that safeguards and enhances key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems. The program will enhance biodiversity and mitigate and/or eliminate the potential adverse effects associated with the development of transportation infrastructure by focusing on upstream measures (policies and regulations, planning frameworks, capacity, etc.) that will trigger a system change downstream in how infrastructure is built, and natural infrastructure maintained.

86. The IP will be delivered through five country child projects as shown in Figure 12 (Malaysia-UNEP, Nepal-ADB, Philippines-ADB, Suriname-WWF-US, Ukraine-UNEP) and a global child project (Global Platform). The program will address the key levers for system change through the following intervention areas: i) Improving the enabling conditions for decision-making and investing in delivering sustainable, nature-positive transportation infrastructure services; ii) Strengthening integrated, multisectoral, and participatory upstream risk assessment, planning, and design standards and practices to maximize nature-based infrastructure services and sustainably engineered approaches at scale; iii) Enhancing financing and de-risking mechanisms for delivery of sustainable, nature-positive approaches to providing transportation infrastructure services; and iv) Building the technical capacity necessary to facilitate integrated

planning and design processes to deliver critically needed transportation infrastructure projects that contribute to, rather than inhibit, sustainability objectives. To address these levers, the program is organized around four components: (1) improved enabling conditions for nature-positive/sustainable transportation infrastructure, (2) integrated and inclusive transportation infrastructure planning, (3) finance and de-risking mechanisms, (4) knowledge management, communications, and project and program-level coordination.

Figure 12. Distribution of countries selected to participate in the IP on Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development



87. Infrastructure development has a broad range of key stakeholders, including i) country and local governments, ii) banks and national/international financial institutions, iii) private sector developers and engineers, iv) NGOs, academic institutions, and think tanks, and v) local and Indigenous communities and civil society organizations, among others. During PPG, the Global Platform and the national projects will consult with key stakeholders to inform project design and will further elaborate on the stakeholder engagement process in Stakeholder Engagement Plans to advance the IP’s theory of change.

88. The IP focuses on key elements of policy coherence as noted above through: a) strengthening the policy framework and other elements of the enabling environment for decision-making and investing in sustainable, nature-positive transportation infrastructure services that incorporates biodiversity considerations; b) strengthening integrated, multisectoral, and participatory upstream risk assessment, planning, and design standards and practices to maximize nature-based infrastructure services and sustainably engineered approaches at scale; and c) building capacity in integrated planning and design processes including data generation and management, spatial planning, stakeholder engagement and cross-sectoral integration, and cumulative impacts, through tools such as scenario modeling.

89. Gender mainstreaming is integral to the GRID IP strategy. It will be a vital component of child project engagement with local and national stakeholder groups. Mainstreaming gender in transportation development and its connection with biodiversity protection and climate change resilience and mitigation is crucial for creating sustainable and equitable societies.

90. The GRID IP knowledge management approach is based on the GEF's knowledge management and learning strategy as well as materials from the STAP and IEO on best practices for GEF knowledge platforms. Knowledge management and learning support along with general program coordination will be the two core functions of the GRID IP Global Platform. The Global Platform knowledge management and learning approach includes the following elements and three main components (organized according to STAP recommendations):

- **Global Platform coordination and knowledge management:** IP overall coordination, general monitoring and reporting rollup to the GEF Secretariat, reviewing existing best practices and lessons, coordinating with child projects to produce new lessons, coordinating with knowledge partners to produce guidance and knowledge products, and organizing training, technical assistance, and annual conferences.
- **Country child projects:** coordinating with the Global Platform team on learning and sharing, participating in knowledge-sharing events, annual conferences, and South-South exchanges, and monitoring and reporting to Global Platform management.
- **Global Platform GRID website (or “knowledge hub”) supporting countries and as a public, global good for:** knowledge products (case studies, lessons learned, guidance notes, tools), exchanges (webinars, broader trainings), and technical assistance (targeted training programs).

91. At the core of the GRID knowledge community is the GRID IP Consortium, a group of GEF Agencies that came together to submit a collaborative proposal to lead the GRID IP. The consortium consists of the AfDB, ADB, EBRD, IDB, and UNEP coordinated by the GRID IP lead agency, WWF. As core ‘knowledge partners’, they provide a solid foundation of deep experience in both infrastructure development and biodiversity conservation and environmental management to the Global Platform.

92. To expand the GRID IP knowledge community as needed to meet country demand and advance global knowledge and awareness, the Global Platform will engage with other coalitions, organizations, academics, and private sector actors working on sustainable transportation infrastructure. It will create linkages that can range from simple hyperlinks on the knowledge hub to potential dual-branded events, cross-posting of resources, and joint knowledge exchanges. The GRID IP knowledge community (or community of communities) will collaborate on thought leadership, knowledge product development, information sharing, tool development, identifying and sharing of global best-in-class models, and delivery of technical assistance and capacity building. Together they will both support the child project countries and help redefine the global state of the art in nature-positive/sustainable transportation infrastructure planning, design, and development.

93. The program is expected to improve management of terrestrial protected areas covering 259,469 hectares, to restore 30,740 hectares of land and ecosystems, to improve management of 582,200 hectares to benefit biodiversity, to improve management of 71, 976 hectares of marine habitat to benefit biodiversity. An estimated 8,115,017 expected metric tons of CO₂e is expected to be mitigated by Program activities. The program will also directly benefit 267,858 people, 143,101 women (53%) and 124,757 men (47%), across the 5 countries and through the activities of the global coordination project.

Global. Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program (GEF ID 11148).

Agencies: World Bank (lead), ADB, CI, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, WWF-US.

GEF Program Financing \$ 135,002,132; Co-financing \$ 892,098,548.

94. Across the world, wild populations of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians have decreased by an average of 69% since 1970 and continue to decline. A complex set of drivers of loss underpin five major threats to the persistence of global wildlife populations: 1) loss of wildlife habitat; 2) killings of animals that cause or are perceived to cause loss to humans; 3) consumption, use of or legal trade in wildlife species at a rate faster than that needed for replacement; 4) illegal trade in wildlife and their products for domestic and international markets; and 5) diseases that spill over from humans or their livestock to wildlife. Significant challenges are also experienced by communities living in proximity to wildlife, including human-wildlife conflict, and spread of disease from wildlife to humans or their livestock.

95. Building on the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) of GEF-6 and GEF-7, the GEF-8 Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program (WCD IP) will enable national, transboundary, regional and global interventions to transform systems that are driving wildlife loss. The program objective is to conserve wildlife and landscapes by transforming the drivers of species loss and ensuring that countries and communities are benefiting from these natural assets. Integrated and innovative interventions through 15 country-level projects (Figure 13), including seven LDCs (Colombia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia), as well as a global coordination project involving strategic partners, will remove barriers to transforming the way in which people coexist with wildlife and the global supply chains through which wildlife products are traded. Integration of wildlife conservation across landscapes and sectors, between countries and regions, and over supply chains will help maximize the program's impact and the potential contributions of wildlife conservation for development.

Figure 13. Distribution of countries selected to participate in the IP on Wildlife Conservation and Development



96. The WCD IP is designed to maximize impact by enabling participating countries to collaborate, addressing challenges beyond national boundaries and across global supply chains, to achieve the conservation of wildlife and landscapes, transform the drivers of species loss and – critically – ensure that countries and communities are benefiting from these natural assets. The Program has four components or entry points for transformation: 1. Coexistence of people and wildlife in connected habitats; 2. Illegal, unsustainable and high zoonotic risk wildlife use and trade; 3. Wildlife for prosperity; and 4. Coordination and knowledge exchange for transformational impact. All four GEF-8 levers of transformation – governance and policy, financial leverage, innovation and multi-stakeholder dialogue – will be targeted by WCD IP. In addition, the lever of behavior change will be pivotal to success of the program, to reduce consumer demand for illegal, unsustainable or high zoonotic risk wildlife products, and to shift unsustainable behaviors towards those that facilitate the protection of wildlife and their habitats. The program aims to make a significant contribution to sustaining populations of globally significant and threatened wildlife species through achieving four outcomes: healthy, stable or increased populations of threatened wildlife; reduced threat from illegal, unsustainable and high zoonotic risk wildlife use and trade; community benefits ensure societal buy-in for wildlife conservation; and collaboration, capacity development and partnerships ensure maximum effectiveness.

97. WCD IP will support better aligned and strengthened policy and legal frameworks across sectors to support the development of protected areas and integrated landscape management plans, national strategies for Human Wildlife Coexistence, national wildlife-based economy strategies and nature-based tourism strategies, etc. The focus on aligning and strengthening policies will be greater in countries that currently have less well-developed policy frameworks for wildlife conservation, without existing government or landscape-level coordination mechanisms or collaboration to build off, or that are tackling more ambitious cross-sector policy reforms. In

contrast, other countries already have strong policy frameworks and WCD projects will be supporting their enhanced implementation, with little focus on progressing new policy development. Potential conflicts with policies that might undermine wildlife conservation or incentives for sustainable management will be identified and opportunities to strengthen policy coherence and alignment integrated into project design. For projects pursuing new policy development or substantial policy reform, strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) might be needed to assess potential upstream risks of new policy positions and define measures to mitigate and manage these and take advantage of emerging opportunities for increased alignment. As identified, interventions to strengthen policy alignment and coherence will be integrated within country project design to ensure success of project interventions. The global coordination project will provide technical support and knowledge exchange to facilitate these processes.

98. The program is expected to improve management or create new terrestrial protected areas covering 19,863,346 ha, and projects to include 30,740 ha of degraded land under restoration. An estimated 141,333,201 metric tons of CO₂-eq is expected to be mitigated by Program activities. The program will also directly benefit 1,069,879 people, 545,835 women (51%) and 524,044 men (49%), across all 15 countries and through the activities of the global coordination project. Beneficiaries include populations in the target landscapes, including those in protected and conserved areas, OECMs, buffer zones and wildlife corridors with a strong focus on benefits from human wildlife conflict mitigation. In addition, other support will be provided to help diversify livelihoods or alternative livelihood generation (including from nature-based tourism) and capacity development activities.

Other Programs

99. **Regional: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.** *Central Asia Water and Land Nexus (CAWLN) for Ecosystem Restoration, Improved Natural Resource Management and Increased Resilience* (GEF ID: 11378). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$26,007,810; Co-financing: \$335,504,935. Central Asia includes one of the most complex watersheds in the world, which comprises the Amu Darya Basin (Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) and Syr Darya Basin (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan). It is the primary source of water for the five countries, supporting around 60 million people and much of their agriculture and energy generation, as well as being critical for other ecosystem services and livelihoods. The river basins see over-extraction of water by multipurpose water management schemes, especially for irrigated agriculture, along with other damaging land and natural resource uses and practices, including over-reliance on water-demanding monocultures, overuse of harmful pesticides and fertilizers, inappropriate forestation management schemes in mountainous areas, and overgrazing of natural grasslands.

100. These drivers are leading to water and food insecurity, salinization, soil loss and land degradation, reduced river flows, pollution, loss and fragmentation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity, and significant negative socioeconomic consequences, especially for rural populations. The barriers to overcoming the environmental problems include (i) weak,

fragmented and outdated policy and regulatory frameworks governing land, water, and natural resource use and management; (ii) limited national institutional capacity and cooperation to carry out effective integrated natural resource management, particularly for sustainable management of agricultural systems; (iii) lack of comparable monitoring data for effective decision making in sustainable use of natural resources, both within and across countries; (iv) low knowledge and resources for application of sustainable agriculture and ecosystem management practices among land, water and natural resource users, including best practice measures to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN); and (v) insufficient incentives to encourage widespread adoption of sustainable natural resource and nature-positive practices across the two river basins.

101. To overcome these barriers, the CAWLN program will promote water-land nexus approaches and facilitate their implementation in the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins to enhance water security, increase resilience and improve rural livelihoods. To this end, it aims to overturn the baseline of self-reinforcing degradation trends within the basins by fostering an enabling environment for integrated natural resources management transformation, strengthening regional cooperation, building capacities for evidence-based decision making and participatory management, and effectively coordinating efforts across sectors.

102. The CAWLN program's targeted key outcomes are: (1) strengthened transboundary and cross-sectoral cooperation within the Amu Darya and Syr Darya basins for advancing a harmonized approach to integrated watershed management (IWM) and exchanging relevant knowledge and best practices and standards across sectors and countries; (2) enhanced national and regional governance frameworks and mechanisms supporting IWM and improved stakeholder capacities to apply nexus approaches in support of national commitments and priorities; (3) improved tools and capacity for earth observation and evidence-based nexus decision making; (4) increased uptake and application of gender-responsive approaches and best practices for sustainable land management in agriculture and ecosystems restoration, including multi-stakeholder mechanisms and incentives, particularly to address LDN; and (5) restoration of key aquatic and terrestrial habitats and ecosystems services, protecting and promoting native biodiversity while improving livelihoods for rural communities.

103. The program is structured as seven child projects. Two basin-level projects will focus on transboundary water-land nexus cooperation in the Amu Darya Basin and Syr Darya Basin; four national projects (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) will address unsustainable agriculture and natural resource management practices affecting water generation, use and conservation, including measures to address deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and ecosystems services deterioration; and one overarching regional coordination project will ensure optimization of child project activities and impacts across the basins and effective knowledge management, lesson learning and sharing of best practices and tools. The coordination project will also have a specific focus on supporting and mainstreaming the LDN approach and the achievement of LDN targets through shared capacity-building activities and disseminating information on best practices. While Tajikistan will not have a national child project under the program, the CAWLN program will set up a special coordination mechanism with the

GEF Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture (TERRA) project, under consideration for this WP, to maximize synergies and impact.

104. The program will restore 5,350 ha of land and ecosystems; place 1,329,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices; mitigate 11,118,670 mt of GHG emissions; put two shared ecosystems under improved cooperative management; and directly benefit 487,000 people (252,000 male and 235,000 female).

105. **Global: Algeria, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa.** *Global Clean Hydrogen Programme* (GEF ID: 11437). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$13,129,820; Co-financing: \$141,196,891. Climate change poses a real and urgent threat to the world. To keep global warming under an agreed 1.5°C threshold, as called for within the context of the 2015 Paris Agreement, emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and to reach net zero by 2050. The energy sector is key to reaching carbon neutrality and to helping countries to meet their NDCs and net zero strategies. Green hydrogen has emerged as a viable solution to decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors and to achieving climate mitigation goals. According to the Hydrogen Council, using green hydrogen in current hard to-abate industries alone could support the reduction of 80 GT of cumulative CO₂ emissions up to 2050, which constitutes about 11% of the emissions reductions required to stay within the 1.5°C goal. The uptake of green hydrogen industries and transport in developing countries and transition economies can provide an opportunity to promote industrial growth and net-zero economic development while creating new jobs and skills.

106. However, the use of hydrogen is in nascent stages and developing countries face various barriers to further integrating green hydrogen in their domestic industries. Thus, addressing systemic barriers on policy and standards, technical assistance, knowledge and capacity building, innovation and global coordination is of particular significance to developing countries and transition economies to foster clean hydrogen developments.

107. The Global Clean Hydrogen Programme aims to enhance national institutional capacities, enable policy frameworks, improve technological readiness and financial mechanisms for the successful uptake of clean hydrogen in developing countries, to ensure their net zero development with social considerations and benefits. The programme targets the production and application of hydrogen, with a focus on the industrial and transport sectors. The programme's work will focus on green hydrogen and clean will be used as a synonym. The programme consists of a global component (through a global child project) and National Child Projects:

- The global component provides a foundation to promote innovation and will enhance the national projects by providing technical assistance, bringing all the knowledge together and sharing good practices regarding clean hydrogen production and application.
- National child projects will be implemented in 8 countries: Algeria, Egypt, Ecuador, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines and South Africa. Each National Child Project will have activities tailored to the country context and in line with the

programme's thematic areas of: (i) Policy; (ii) Technical readiness; (iii) Pilot projects; and (iv) Financing.

108. The programme's key targeted outcomes are: (i) Enhanced clean hydrogen enabling environment of the participating countries for hydrogen production and local application; (ii) Technical readiness for the production and application (industrial or transport) of clean hydrogen improved; (iii) Industrial clusters and companies with great potential to transition to green hydrogen identified, assessed and support provided; (iv) Pilot projects on green hydrogen developed; (v) Bankable project preparation initiated; (vi) Financial mechanisms for clean hydrogen designed; (vii) Global stakeholders have improved understanding of the green hydrogen sector and south-south cooperation in developing the sector established

109. This programmatic approach will enable long-term system transformation from robust public-private stakeholder engagement, by providing recommendations on standards, skills development, policy and environmental and social governance to transition industrial processes and transportation with clean hydrogen. The programmatic approach will also support the development of hydrogen pilots in developing countries and will develop global lessons targeted at developing countries and economies in transition.

110. The Global Clean Hydrogen Programme will support developing countries in achieving their NDCs and meeting their country-specific climate commitments in line with the Paris Agreement goals. The Programme is expected to result in approximately 13.3 tCO₂e reductions.

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

111. **South Africa. *Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature: Mega Living Landscapes Project*** (GEF ID 11347). Agency: WWF-US; GEF Program Financing: \$8,874,312; Co-financing: \$55,080,000. The project objective is to assist SA in breaking the barriers blocking both the expansion of protected areas and pro-nature economic development that benefits local communities. It will create three Mega Living Landscapes (MLL) that contribute to the realization of a dynamic reimagined national conservation vision for South Africa that will become an integral part of the country's sustainable development and nature positive economic future. The project will, bring 2 million hectares of land under conservation –1.4 million hectares being added to the Protected Area (PA) estate or being under improved management within PAs, and 630,000 hectares of landscapes outside declared PAs will be under improved land management in production systems, thereby contributing to Global Environment Benefits. The project will focus on three areas of the country where synergies exist with government's National Development Plan (NDP) and where existing protected areas and initiatives can be built on to create mega living landscapes. These areas are a) the Greater Addo stretching from the coastal town of Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) from the Addo National Park (and its adjacent marine protected area) inland to join up with the Mountain Zebra National Park near the town of Craddock and the Camdeboo National Park around the town of Graaff Reinet, all in the Eastern

Cape Province; b) Barberton/Makhonjwa which stretches from near the town of Barberton to south of the Kruger National Park in the Mpumalanga Province; and c) the Grasslands which will see the declaration of the Grasslands National Park in the Eastern Cape highlands. Due to the scope of the three Mega Living Landscapes (MLL), this GEF project will implement all project outputs in only one, namely Addo, and select project outputs in Barberton and Grasslands.

112. **Argentina.** *Inclusive Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Priority Ecoregions.* (GEF ID 11394) Agency: UNDP, GEF project financing: \$5,279,452, Co-financing: \$39,200,000. The objective of the project is to conserve biodiversity and restore degraded ecosystems through inclusive nature-based solutions that foster connectivity, ecosystem services, and the sustainable use of biodiversity products in the following priority ecoregions: Dry Chaco, Humid Chaco, Upper Parana Atlantic Forest, Parana Delta and Flooded Savanna, Espinal, Low Monte, and Patagonian Andean Forest. To achieve this objective, the project will deliver four components: i) strengthen the governance framework, policies and capacities for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity; ii) apply policies, regulations, and plans and demonstrate inclusive conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity to enhance connectivity and ecosystem integrity; iii) foster innovative financial mechanisms, incentives, and market access for biodiversity-based productive activities; iv) and manage knowledge effectively. The project will also establish the first comprehensive National Restoration Plan for Biodiversity, which will provide guidance and protocols for new models of conservation and restoration that reconcile the protection of biodiversity with its sustainable use in diverse ecosystems. The project will generate global environmental benefits by restoring 19,832 hectares of land and ecosystems and improving practices on 38,080 hectares of landscape (excluding protected areas). The project will benefit approximately 5,000 people (of which 53% are women).

113. **Ecuador.** *Acción Páramos: conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the páramos in Ecuador* (GEF ID 11386). Agency: UNEP, GEF project financing: \$4,416,210, Co-financing: \$25,190,068. The objective of the project is to promote the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the páramo biome in Ecuador and its water resources, biological diversity, and ecosystem services, with strategies and actions that improve the quality of life of the communities and people that depend on páramos. The project has five components: (1) conservation, restoration, and sustainable use (2) strengthened páramo governance and policy coherence (3) sustainable finance and (4) knowledge management. A fifth component covers operational activities for monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The global environmental benefits of this project are: i) declaration of 40,000 hectares of new conservation areas in the páramo landscape and improved management of 140,821 hectares of existing protected areas; ii) restoration of 400 hectares of community-owned areas under wetland ecosystems; iii) sustainable land management practices will be applied to 15,000 hectares of land under production systems. Members of the 15 communities benefiting from the project is estimated to number 7,700 people. Given that particularly in the south there has been a strong outmigration of men, there will be more women than men (53% versus 47%) among the direct beneficiaries.

114. **Paraguay.** *Strengthening the System of Protected Areas and Improvement of its Financial Sustainability.* (GEF ID 11449) Agency: CI, GEF project financing: \$ 5,079,358, Co-financing: \$12,248,000. The objective of the project is to strengthen the system and financial sustainability of the public protected areas in Paraguay using the Project Finance for Permanence methodology to protected area financing. The project will be implemented through four components: 1) institutional strengthening of the national system of protected wilderness areas; 2) development and implementation of a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) program for priority conservation areas in Paraguay; 3) policy coherence; 4) knowledge management and communications. The global environmental benefits of this project are: i) 120,991 hectares of protected areas under effective management; ii) 700,000 of tCO₂e emissions avoided. The contribution of the project over the long term will be the financing and improved management of 29 conservation areas covering 2.3 million hectares. The project will have 80 project beneficiaries (30 men, 50 women).

Climate Change

115. **Antigua and Barbuda.** *Energy resilience and security for the residential and public sector in Antigua and Barbuda* (GEF ID: 11474). Agency: UNDP. GEF Project financing: \$8,393,151; Co-financing: \$20,132,229. The project will create a sustainable market mechanism for climate-resilient distributed renewable energy systems, resulting in significant installation of such systems in the residential and commercial sectors – including amongst vulnerable populations and in storm shelters. The project focuses on policy and institutional interventions to reduce barriers and promote renewable energy, a bulk purchasing program of photo-voltaic (PV) panels and storage equipment, a revolving loan program to facilitate low-cost access to PV systems (via loans / delayed payment and through equipment distributor partnerships), the establishment of an end-of-life program for responsible disposal of renewable energy equipment, public awareness efforts, and monitoring and knowledge management. The project is expected to mitigate approximately 415,000 tCO₂e and benefit approximately 23,000 people directly – including over 15,000 women.

Chemicals and Waste

116. **India.** *Accelerating Transition to a Circular Economy in India's Electrical and Electronic Sector through Sustainable Integrated Approaches* (GEF ID: 11405). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$ 15,000,000; co-financing: \$105,000,000. The project will integrate circular economy principles in the electrical and electronic (manufacturing) sector by implementing measures throughout the entire value chain of products till their end-of-life (including recycling and disposal) through strengthening the institutional mechanisms and develop knowledge-based interventions including design of innovative economic models; improve practices, systems and technologies for the EEE Manufacturing and its Supply Chain through prevention methods and socio-technical ESM models/pilots aimed for future replication; improve the e-waste management ecosystem by deploying investments, prevention measures, infrastructures and technologies for POPs and u-POPs and heavy metals emissions/releases reduction in e-waste processing; and making information and knowledge accessible, raise awareness and build networks and partnerships facilitate knowledge sharing among the EEE sector stakeholders,

national and subnational Governments, and link national action to international/global programmes on e-waste. The project will achieve the reduction of use and emissions of 10,500 metric tons and 232.74 gTEQ of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs and U-POPs), 8,000 metric tons of heavy metals, 2.62 metric tons of mercury and other toxic chemicals in the production of future EEE; collect and dispose of 94,500 metric tons of plastics and recover 365 metric tons of previous metals (Au, Pt, Rh, Pd, Li, Co, Ni). At the same time, it will reduce the emissions of 508,200 of tCO₂e during its lifecycle. The project will benefit 6,400 people (50% female).

117. **Indonesia.** *Polychlorinated Biphenyls-free Indonesia: Financing a shift to more efficient energy systems through the elimination of related waste and contaminated equipment* (GEF ID: 11425). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$ 7,245,000; co-financing: \$ 50,800,000. This project will build on the previous GEF ID 4446 project, which successfully established a PCB disposal facility in the country. The proposed project aims to build on the results of Phase 1 by enhancing the work on sustainable PCB management. The project has two objectives: to strengthen PCB management regulation and to develop a set of robust financing mechanisms for PCB disposal. These two measures will stimulate the market for environmentally-sound disposal of PCBs and are expected to lead to the disposal of at least 10,000 tons of PCB oil and contaminated equipment and reduction of 1.4 million tCO₂e. The project will benefit 5,000 people (30% female).

118. **Morocco.** *Eliminating hazardous chemicals from the supply chain of the construction sector in Morocco* (GEF ID: 11428). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$ 6,000,000; co-financing: \$ 42,000,000. In Morocco, assessments of housing needs reveal a cumulative need of 3 million housing units by 2030. As a tragic consequence of the earthquake of September 2023, these needs have not just increased, but have also accelerated the timelines for transformation of the construction supply chain in the country. The GEF project will therefore be implemented on a topic of high national interest and be concurrent to the reconstruction efforts. The State, as the primary activity provider of construction companies, will be the leader of any transformation in the sector and is already promoting a reduction of its global impact. At COP27, Morocco launched with France the creation of a “Buildings Breakthrough”, with the aim of bringing the building sector closer to zero emission by 2030. To accompany this political will and initiate change, the proposed GEF project will promote a green transformation of the construction supply chain by replacing resource-intensive and hazardous materials with environmentally sound alternatives and promoting circular approaches and regenerative designs across the entire supply chain. The construction industry will be encouraged through regulatory and green public procurement incentives to shift towards transformative building techniques, reduce consumption of materials and energy in buildings and eliminate the use of hazardous chemicals. This will result in a reduction of 1,443.60 tons of POPs, 6.4 gTEQ of UPOPs, and 1.4 million tCO₂e. Additionally the project estimates to result in 400 Ha of Area of landscapes under improved practices. The project will benefit 420,000 people (30% female).

119. **Côte d'Ivoire.** *Sound management of polychlorobiphenyls in Cote d'Ivoire, phase II - objective 2028 of the Stockholm Convention* (GEF ID: 11420). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$4,150,000; Co-financing: \$25,000,000. The objective of this project is to protect

human health and the environment through the Environmentally Sound Management (ESM) and final disposal of PCB-containing equipment. In Côte d'Ivoire, there are approximately 1,000 tons of PCBs to be eliminated. Improper handling of transformers with PCBs represents a serious risk due to the possibility of the release of PCBs into the environment. To achieve the objective, the project will focus on: (1) completing and establishing regulatory and institutional framework for ESM of PCBs; (2) updating the inventory of PCB-containing transformers; (3) developing and implementing mechanisms for ESM and disposal of PCB-contaminated equipment; and (4) capacity building and awareness-raising. Based on these, a scenario in which the ESM of the transformers has been successfully implemented, the risk of exposure to PCBs is negligible and the releases of PCBs into the environment are insignificant, will be possible. The project will ensure that 1,000 tons of PCB-contaminated equipment and waste will be managed in an Environmentally Sound Manner. The project will benefit 300 people (30% female).

120. **Tajikistan.** *Integrated Program for HFC Phasing Down and Sustainable Cooling for Tajikistan* (GEF ID: 11430). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$5,185,900; Co-financing: \$36,550,000. While most Ozone Depleting Substances have been phased out, their main alternatives, Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), have been growing rapidly over the past decade. HFCs are potent greenhouse gases. Exponential growth of HFC consumption is predicted from 2022 to 2030 in Tajikistan and could represent 7% of total GHG emissions of the country by 2030 in a BAU scenario. Inefficient cooling systems also present a challenge for energy transition in Tajikistan, where there is pressure on national grids and energy supply in the peak time of use. Energy efficiency is prioritized in the 2030 National Strategic Document of Tajikistan, which envisions policy coherence and alignment and requires engagement with private sectors and financial institutions for improvement of energy efficiency. Tajikistan ratified the Kigali Amendment on 6 June 2022. The government recently endorsed the regulation of “Hydrofluorocarbon Import and Export Licensing System”. However, due to limited interventions to date, as well as technical and economic challenges, Tajikistan is facing serious challenges to meet its compliance targets. This initiative will assist Tajikistan to reduce 482 metric tons HCFCs and deliver 921,831 tCO₂e of direct GHG emissions reductions. The project will benefit 25,000 people (8,750 women; 16,250 men).

121. **Argentina.** *Integrated Management for Sustainable Reduction (IMSRed) of POPs, Highly Hazardous Pesticides, and industrial chemicals in Argentina* (GEF ID 11451). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$9,240,000; Co-financing: \$46,400,000. Within recovery from the covid-19 pandemic, Argentina has experienced an important growth in its manufacturing capacity in key industrial sectors, largely represented by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Many of these SMEs use or release Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and generate hazardous wastes. Additionally, other relevant productive activities, such as mining, are a main source of mercury emissions in Argentina. In addition, due to its favorable environmental conditions and agricultural tradition, Argentina is one of the world leaders in food production. However, this recovery from pandemic has translated into an increase in the use of many agrochemicals including highly hazardous pesticides. This project intends to ensure the green recovery of economy in Argentina and reduce the use and releases of hazardous chemicals and waste in relevant industries through a comprehensive and integrated interventions, including institutional strengthening, capacity

building, updated regulatory measures, pilots of greening the key supply chains, promotion of clean circular activities, innovative and specific financial instruments, as well as awareness, and knowledge management. This project aims to deliver GEBs, including 330,000 MT of sound disposals of e-waste and other hazardous chemicals, reduction of 301 MT mercury, reduction of 18.4 gTEQ UPOPs, reduction of 825 MT avoided plastic waste, and reduction of 10,000 tCO₂e indirect emissions. A total of 3,587,400 people (1,842,802 women; 1,744,598 men) is expected to benefit from the project's interventions.

122. **Uruguay.** *Towards a more circular Uruguay (Uruguay + Circular)* (GEF ID 11434). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$28,300,000. Over the past few years, Uruguay has made great efforts to transition to a circular economy. Several policies were developed, and more specific measures are under consideration to enhance circularity of materials for resource efficiency. In 2019 the country published its National Waste Management Plan, which constitutes a remarkable milestone as the current strategic planning instrument at the national level setting the pathway to the transition towards a more circular Uruguay with focus on an upstream solution such as the change of product design and business models to minimize the generation of wastes. It generates a set of opportunities for the innovation of new businesses and local initiatives and collaborates in a fairer and more inclusive development. This proposed GEF project is based on the strategic priorities of the "Uruguay + Circular" Plan for structural transformation towards sustainability, zero waste and zero pollution. The project will target several sectors, including food, plastics, vehicles, and construction value chains. The project will be led by the Ministry of Environment with the participation of multiple stakeholders from the public and private sector, academia and organized civil society. The project will result in several GEBs, including 38 MT of POP reduced; 6,184 MT of plastic waste containing POPs avoided; 16.2 gTEQ avoided and 1.1 million tCO₂e mitigated. The project will benefit 685,000 people (328,800 men; 356,200 women)

International Waters

123. **Regional: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay.** *Implementation of the La Plata Basin SAP Priorities through Regional and National Actions* (GEF ID: 11053). Agency: CAF; GEF Project Financing: \$10,605,000; Co-financing: \$221,300,000. The project will support the countries in implementing identified priority actions in their joint Strategic Action Program to promote cooperative management of shared water resources, regional integration, and sustainable development in La Plata Basin. To this end, the project will (1) enhance the functions and strengthen the capacity of the Comité Intergubernamental Coordinador de los Países de la Cuenca del Plata (CIC Plata) as the basin coordination mechanism; (2) introduce and expand the use of conjunctive surface and groundwater approaches and tools; (3) carry out on-the-ground water security activities, including through nature-based solutions, relating to floods and droughts, nutrient pollution, aquifer recharge, and erosion and sedimentation; and (4) improve data and information management, including through new and harmonized monitoring networks and a hydro-environmental observatory. The project aims to restore 5,000 ha of land and ecosystems; place 400,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices; place one shared water

ecosystem under improved cooperative management; and directly benefit 200,000 people (50% female).

124. Regional, Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique. *Program for Improving Sustainable Marine Fisheries Opportunities in SADC – The Case of the Mozambique Channel* (GEF ID: 11452). Agency: AfDB; GEF project financing: \$5,250,000; Co-financing: \$12,200,000. The project will improve aquatic health and marine systems in the marine resource rich Mozambique Channel by instigating critical, harmonized interventions in selected fisheries hotspots. The project will focus around climate resilience, fisheries habitat protection and improvement measures, collaborative frameworks in fisheries governance and management as well as knowledge management and sharing. The planned interventions will strengthen collaborative governance frameworks at national and local levels, support joint and systematic climate and fisheries monitoring, promote harmonized regulatory policies, and plan direct investments specifically targeting fisheries hotspots in marine ecosystems in the coastal zones. Collaborative platforms for information and knowledge sharing by stakeholders and institutions from the community level through national to the regional level will be specially promoted to help create awareness on the marine fish systems as well as encourage peer learning. As a result, the project is expected to contribute to 8,000 ha of new or improved marine protected areas, 4,000 ha of marine habitat under improved practices, 1 shared marine ecosystem under improved management, and 1.2 million metric tons of globally over-exploited fisheries more sustainably harvested and benefitting about 3000 direct beneficiaries.

125. Regional, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania. *Strengthening Integrated Transboundary Source-to-Sea Management of the Ruvuma River Basin and its Coastal Zones to Ensure Ecosystem Health and Livelihood Security* (GEF ID 11410). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project financing: \$ 7,122,018; Co-financing: \$48,365,000. The Ruvuma River Basin covers the Niassa-Selous Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) and the Mnazi Bay-Quirimbas Transfrontier Marine Area (TMCA). Through interlinking governance structures for land and freshwater with coastal and marine management, the project aims to establish the region's first integrated natural resources governance framework, including, practical application of the source-to-sea management approach. The project will engage stakeholders across governance levels, ranging from the transboundary Joint Water Commission, TFCAs stakeholders, coastal management institutions, government, and non-government stakeholders, to community level stakeholders, including women and youth, that directly benefit. It scales up community engagement for basin resource protection, engages the private sector in the development of sustainable financing models, and aims to pilot a replicable approach, easing resource pressure while promoting sustainable livelihoods and environmental protection. The project aims to bring 200,000 ha of terrestrial and 700,00 marine protected areas under improved management, improve the management of 2,000 ha of terrestrial areas to protect biodiversity, bring 1 shared ecosystem under improved cooperative management and directly benefit 2000 people.

Land Degradation

126. **Tunisia.** *Adaptive management and restoration of degraded Aleppo pine forest in the Kasserine governorate (Tunisia) to strengthen resilience to climate change, conserve biodiversity, improve productivity and food security* (GEF ID: 11389). Agency: FAO; GEF Project financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$29,300,000. The Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis* Mill.) natural forest ecosystem of Kasserine, the southernmost in the species' range, plays an essential ecological, socio-economic, and environmental role. Recent episodes of drought, recurrent fires, and inadequate management have contributed to a severe dieback of the Aleppo pine on 19% of the forest in the region, leading to a sharp reduction of ecological services, as well as the goods and services benefitting to communities in one of the country's poorest regions. The project proposes a multi-stakeholder and science-based approach to develop adaptive, integrated, and participatory management plans to restore the ecosystem services and pay a particular attention to local populations and income generation through non-wood forest products and agroforestry value-chains. The project targets 15,000 ha of lands restored, 30,000 ha under improved practices, and 4.4 million tCO₂e, benefitting to 20,000 people, including 50% of women and young.

127. **Lebanon.** *Restoring Ecosystem Connectivity for Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Litani Watershed Project (ECONNECT)* (GEF ID 11348). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project financing: \$ 2,929,935; Co-financing: \$9,024,240. The project's objective is to implement sustainable landscape management approaches in the Upper Litani Basin, with a focus on biodiversity-friendly agriculture, aquaculture and the transformation of the heavily polluting crop and aquaculture sectors, while promoting innovation, learning, and upscaling. The project will foster the adoption of innovative practices in these sectors through a matching grant fund for small-scale producers, fostering the uptake of sustainable aquaculture and agroecological practices, generating new or additional sources of income, including for women and youth. Besides the improved policy and socio-economic framework, GEBs are generated through 3,523 ha area of land and ecosystems under restoration and 4,642 ha of landscapes under improved practices. Overall, the project will benefit an estimated number of 140,000 people (51% women).

128. **Argentina.** *Recovering the Sustainability of Ecosystems Affected by Drought in Northeastern Argentina* (GEF ID 11336). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$2,913,700; Co-financing: \$20,000,000. The project's objective is to strengthen sustainable land management (SLM) of degraded ecosystems in accordance with land degradation neutrality (LDN) in drought-affected areas, prioritizing three landscapes in the Chaco, Formosa, and Santa Fe Provinces in northeastern Argentina. These landscapes were identified based on their potential for SLM and ecosystem restoration, the importance of providing ecosystem services for local social and economic development, the potential for Global Environment Benefits (GEBs) associated with land degradation and climate, and a solid baseline and co-financing by a diverse group of stakeholders. The project will benefit the dry-arid and semi-arid forest, humid and flooded savannas, as well as agroecosystems, which comprise 5,100 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration and 45,900 ha of landscapes under improved SLM practices. In addition, a total of 4,070 people (60% women) will benefit from the investment.

Multi-focal Area Project

129. **Sri Lanka.** *Promoting sustainable economic benefits through the conservation of critical biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Eastern Coastal Region of Sri Lanka* (GEF ID: 11116). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$4,507,534; Co-financing: \$26,500,000. This multi-focal area project is to conserve biodiversity and critical ecosystem services through an integrated, inclusive and climate-resilient resource management approach that generates commensurate benefits for the local economy and communities in Sri Lanka. It targets two mosaic landscapes that encompass more than 15 protected areas, including five national parks, and host globally significant biodiversity, from coral reef ecosystems to the endangered Asian elephant and endemic toque macaque. The project blends interventions on governance, policies, and institutions with interventions on biodiversity finance at the landscape scale and will support on-the-ground activities within the framework of spatially explicit land and sea management plans. It will strengthen the management effectiveness of 15 terrestrial protected areas and one marine sanctuary over a total ca. 254,000 hectares, and improve practices over 96,000 hectares of terrestrial, coastal and marine areas. It will further restore 3,800 hectares of degraded wetland, forest and agricultural lands, mitigate more than 3 million tCO₂e over a 20-year period, and directly benefit 8,500 people.

130. **Mongolia.** *Rehabilitating and conserving the mountain landscapes in Khangai region of Mongolia for improved ecosystem services and community livelihoods* (GEF ID: 11114). Agency: FAO; GEF Project financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$24,000,000. The project will empower local-national level stakeholders to take actions in rehabilitating degraded lands and promoting community-based natural resources management in the Khangai mountain landscapes of Mongolia. Execution of this project will be overseen by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, leveraging their expertise in environmental policies and legislations, as well as their established institutional framework for environmental management. The project will be implemented and achieve its goals through four main interconnected components (1) informed land management policy and planning – incorporating critical environmental concerns, and strengthening policy implementation and institutional mechanisms; (2) development and demonstration of sustainable and climate-adaptive methods – including nature-based solutions for rehabilitating lands degraded lands; (3) community-based models of sustainable natural resources management – using gender-sensitive approaches for development and demonstration; (4) knowledge management and learning. The project is expected to restore 38,000 hectares of damaged lands, improve the management practices of over 742,850 hectares, mitigate more than 4.9 million tCO₂e over the 20-year period, and directly benefit 14,500 people (49.5 % female).

131. **Regional, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam.** *Enhancing Transboundary Fisheries Management in the Lower Mekong Basin* (GEF ID: 11304). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$10,709,176; Co-financing: \$77,600,000. The Lower Mekong Basin (LMB) represents the world's largest inland fishery and home to nearly 1,200 fish species, making it the third most biodiverse river system in the world after the Amazon and Congo. The proposed project aims to improve the management of cross-sector trade-offs taking sustainable fisheries management, fish habitat connectivity and rehabilitation as entry point while focusing on three of the Lower Mekong countries which make up 80 % of fish catch and have the most limited resources. Lead by the

Mekong River Commission working in close partnerships with national line agencies relevant for fisheries management, the project will aim at harmonizing fisheries governance and coherence of water resources related policies and plans to support transboundary fisheries management. Project interventions will make substantial contributions to the safeguarding of food security of local communities as well as to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity. Thereby, the project targets to stabilize fish stocks at 2020 levels, putting 10,000 ha of protected wetlands/Ramsar sites under improved management, bringing an estimated 350,000 ha of landscape under improved management, bringing 1 shared freshwater ecosystem under improved management and directly benefitting 20,000 people.

132. **Lesotho.** *Sustainable Wool and Mohair Value chain Competitiveness project (WaMCoP)* (GEF ID: 11210). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$67,444,000. The project objective is to promote inclusive, biodiversity friendly and environmentally sustainable growth of the wool and mohair value chain by improving sustainable land management, restoration of water and natural ecosystems, biodiversity conservation and catchment management. Through strategic key outcomes related to governance, environmental monitoring, market incentives, development of sustainable standards and Value Chain approaches, the project aims to increase the economic and climate resilience of wool and mohair farmers' livelihood. The expected Global environmental Benefits are: 157,000 ha of degraded land and ecosystems under restoration (including 4,500 ha of agricultural lands, 2,500 ha of forest and 150,000 ha of natural grass and woodlands); 7,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices; and 5 tCO₂e of GHG emission mitigated. 225,000 stakeholders are expected to benefit directly from the project (50% women).

133. **Viet Nam.** *Enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development utilizing a landscape approach* (GEF ID: 11395). Agency: WWF-US; GEF project financing: \$9,000,000; Co-financing: \$ 73,000,000. The project objective is to establish a sustainable, replicable, and collaborative landscape-scale conservation model to promote biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development. The project has three components: Create the enabling environment for biodiversity conservation via collaborative and adaptive landscape conservation/management approach; Sustainable landscape management, biodiversity conservation and application of innovative tools in key globally important wildlife habitats; Enhanced climate resilience and corridor connectivity; and awareness raising and knowledge management to improve landscape management. The focus of this project will be the Central Vietnam Landscape (CVL) which is a trans-boundary landscape that houses one of the largest continuous natural forest areas in continental Asia, renowned for its unique biodiversity and a natural carbon sink. The CVL transects Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Quang Nam provinces, and the centrally administered municipality of Da Nang. The results expected include: 731,446 hectares of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management; 4,400 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration; 130,532 hectares of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas); 896,208 CO₂e (direct) and 5,377,250 Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect); and 3000 people benefiting from GEF-financed investments (45% female).

134. **Brazil.** *Restoration of Wetlands and other important Amazonian Ecosystems - Capacity-building, innovation, development and technological transfer for ecological restoration and climate change mitigation.* (GEF ID 11167) Agency: FAO, GEF project financing: \$5,000,000, Co-financing: \$40,910,000. The objective of this project is to restore wetland and lowland forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the Amazon mainland and coast through strengthening capacity for ecosystem restoration, improving the enabling environment, and initiating restoration in overlooked areas of the Amazon. To achieve this objective, the project will deliver four components covering: (1) the development of a Strategic Plan for the restoration of wetland ecosystems in the Amazon, with focus on varzeas and mangroves, and promotion of its adoption by relevant stakeholders to support conservation of these ecosystems and their globally significant biodiversity; (2) the strengthening of technical capacities for ecological restoration and related value chains; 3) the development of technology and generation of background knowledge to improve restoration initiatives in Amazonian wetlands and lowland forest; (4) the restoration of the three targeted ecosystems of the project; (5) the communication of knowledge and project results, as well as good practices in restoration. The global environmental benefits of this project are: i) the restoration of 25,774 hectares in important Amazonian ecosystems; ii) the improved management of at least 1,869,230 hectares, avoiding emissions of -10,128,438 tCO₂e. Direct project benefits will be delivered to 1,669 people.

135. **Colombia.** *BioSouth: The Pacific-Andean-Amazonian Ecological and Cultural Connectivity Corridor.* (GEF ID 11432) Agency: UNDP, GEF project financing: \$13,736,697, Co-financing: \$69,060,096. The project's objective is to strengthen the ecological and cultural connectivity of the BioSouth Pacific-Andean-Amazonian Corridor, a landscape of remarkable biological and cultural diversity, due to its location at the convergence of the Biogeographic Chocó strip, the Pacific coastal plains, the northern Andes Mountains, and the upper foothills of the Amazon. The project aims to achieve this objective through enhanced environmental governance and sustainable production landscapes. This approach will bring benefits for biodiversity, climate resilience, and local communities, ensuring gender equity and contributing to building peace. This will be achieved through five interrelated components: 1) strengthening governance and sectoral policies for the comprehensive management of biodiversity and climate resilience; 2) improving the conservation and restoration of biodiversity through ecological and cultural connectivity; 3) supporting biocultural sustainable production landscapes for a biodiversity-based economy and climate resilience; 4) promoting knowledge management and learning using an intercultural approach; and 5) Monitoring and Evaluation. This strategy will be implemented in five biodiversity-rich landscapes (Sibundoy Valley, Galeras-La Cocha, Andean, Coastal Piedmont, and Pacific) along the BioSouth Corridor and will deliver the following global environment benefits: i) 136,424 hectares of terrestrial protected areas and 190,282 hectares of marine protected areas under improved management; ii) 5,000 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration; iii) 150,419 hectares of landscapes under improved practices; iv) 4.9 million tCO₂e of 48 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions mitigated. Three-thousand (3,000) people will benefit from the project (50% women and 50% men).

136. **Iraq.** *Restoration and Preservation of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and Ecosystems in Anbar Province.* (GEF ID 11426) Agency: UNDP, GEF project financing: \$5,722,146, Co-financing:

\$ 45,900,000. The objective of the project is to enhance Iraq's natural ecosystem resilience by integrating biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns into environmental land use planning and sustainable land management policies and practices. The project has four components: i) strengthening the enabling environment at national and sub-national levels (Anbar Province) to enhance integrated natural resources management; ii) establishment of protected areas and improved KBA management through comprehensive planning, financing, and adaptive co-management approaches; iii) integrated landscape management and enhanced resilience of natural resource-based livelihoods in Anbar Province; iv) monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management. The global environmental benefits of this project are: i) 388,847 hectares of terrestrial protected areas created; ii) improved management of 11,430,153 hectares to benefit biodiversity; iii) 17,960 tCO₂e emissions avoided. It is estimated that 15% of the Anbar population will be directly benefiting from the project activities, i.e., 225,000 (with over 50% women).

137. **Timor Leste.** *Improving wetlands management for biodiversity and improved human-wildlife coexistence* (GEF ID: 11435). Agency: CI; GEF Project financing: \$ 2,689,908; Co-financing: \$ 12,007,025. The objective of the project is to protect biodiversity through improved wetland management and human crocodile coexistence. To achieve this, the project will work with the government of Timor-Leste to improve the management of five wetland sites, improve government capacities to manage human crocodile conflict, create and implement a national biodiversity and crocodile awareness campaign, improve livelihoods that reduce human encroachment into sensitive wetland ecosystems and increase food- and water-security as well as reduce poverty. The project will focus on wetlands of particular importance for biodiversity with only 1% of the area supported by the project currently in protected areas. These will serve as models for scaling-up by the government. The project is expected to support at least the improved management of 144 ha of protected areas and 13,330 of productive landscapes. The project will benefit 32,759 people (50% female).

138. **Indonesia.** *Lake Ecosystem Restoration in Indonesia through Integrated Governance, Landscape, and Community-based Approaches* (GEF ID: 11422). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$35,000,000. The overall project objective is to strengthen the enabling environment for sustainable lake ecosystem management in Indonesia, demonstration of integrated approaches in priority ecosystems, and upscaling facilitated through improved knowledge sharing and learning. The project will do this by: strengthening the enabling environment for integrated lake ecosystem management and governance; demonstrating multiple environmental and social benefits through implementation of integrated lake ecosystem management; and knowledge management and learning. Innovation will also be realized through demonstrating the role of local producers and communities in effectively managing lake ecosystems, coupling livelihood diversification opportunities and enhanced food and nutrition security with protection and restoration interventions. The demonstrations will ensure a community-driven approach which incorporates local knowledge. The project is expected to support at least the restoration of 6,480 ha, improved management of 130,907 ha of land, and the mitigation of 1.2 million tCO₂e. The project will benefit 10,000 people (50% female).

139. **South Africa.** *Restoration and Sustainable Management of Land for improved livelihoods in the degraded landscapes of Free State and Northwest Provinces of South Africa* (GEF ID 11331). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project financing: \$5,399,954; Co-financing: \$8,686,753. This project builds on lessons from GEF5 and GEF7 Sustainable Land Management (SLM) projects (“securing multiple ecosystems benefit through SLM in the productive but degraded landscapes of South Africa” and “mainstreaming SLM for large-scale impact in the grazing lands of Limpopo and Northern Cape Provinces”). It aims to support South Africa to achieve its Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets in implementing SLM, land rehabilitation and restoration practices and protection interventions in the Free State and Northwest Provinces. The project targets various land tenure systems and will explore private investments to facilitate the access to financial services and strengthen rural value chains. The project targets 30,000 ha of forest lands under restoration (CI 3.2), 20,000 ha under improved management for BD (4.1), and will benefit to 160,000 people (11), including 86,800 females and 73,200 males.

140. **Tajikistan.** *Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture (TERRA) Project* (GEF ID 11398). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project financing: \$8,019,178; Co-financing: \$11,978,050. The project objective is to generate multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits by applying integrated landscape management approaches for restoration of degraded grassland ecosystems in the Lower Panjriver sub-basin in Khatlon province – a global priority area for ecosystem restoration, and an important production area where trends in land degradation and overall ecosystem health are deteriorating. The effort will result in multiple land degradation neutrality (LDN), biodiversity, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits through integrated landscape management (ILM) approaches – in areas of high priority for biodiversity conservation. As a result, 14,000 ha of ecosystems will be restored, 117,000 ha of landscapes will be brought under improved management practices for biodiversity benefits, ecosystem management plans implemented for a further 1.3 million ha, protected area management effectiveness enhanced in 128,700 ha of existing reserves – resulting in the sequestration of 3.1 million tCO₂e and supporting improved/sustained livelihoods for 315,000 people (50% women).

Non-Grants Instrument

141. **South Africa.** *Private Sector Energy Efficiency Programme Phase 2 (PSEEP2)* (GEF ID: 11064). Agency: Development Bank of South Africa; GEF Project financing: \$14,678,968; Co-financing: \$509,000,000. The project will establish and capitalize a risk-sharing facility to foster commercial lending for energy efficiency improvements by SMEs. This project establishes a technical assistance facility, funded in part by a \$1,000,000 STAR allocation, to train SMEs and conduct energy audits. SMEs can then seek loans from approved commercial lenders for investments in lighting, HVAC, motors, refrigeration, and other efficiency projects. The lending will be back-stopped by the risk-sharing guarantee facility, with the commercial lenders accepting 30% of the total risk. The GEF non-grant funding helps capitalize the facility with concessional terms to make the facility attractive to commercial lenders. These risk-sharing facilities are a proven approach, but this project is innovative in focusing on SMEs in an under-served market. Reflows from the GEF non-grant investment are expected to be at least \$12 million with assumed default rate of 7% and could be higher if default rate is lower. The project is expected to support

at least 50 energy audits and yield commercial investments in at least 680 companies, benefiting 2,040 people (60% women), leading to mitigation of 83 million tCO₂e.

142. **Regional: Latin America and Caribbean.** *Innovative use of financial instruments for Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean* (GEF ID: 11324). Agency: Inter-American Development Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$40,180,000; Co-financing: 641,180,000. The goal of this project is to establish a regional facility to support biodiversity conservation and restoration in line with the GBF in at least 3 LAC countries. The new facility will offer credit enhancements for sovereign Debt for Nature Conversions, that will: (i) enable long-term financing for conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of protected areas without increasing the overall debt of a country; (ii) introduce powerful incentives to timely achieve conservation commitments with a GEF financing convertible instrument, described below; and (iii) strengthen national institutional frameworks to support natural resources management. This blended finance structure offers an innovative solution to acute conservation challenges by combining credit enhancement from IDB and GEF guarantees with a powerful incentive for conservation efforts: The GEF guarantee can convert to a grant targeted at conservation efforts if certain conservation milestones are met. Reflows from the GEF non-grant investment are from the premium of the guarantee on a yearly basis (\$1.7 million) and uncalled guarantees that do not have a convertibility event (up to \$39 million, depending on different scenarios of meeting conservation commitments). This project includes \$1,000,000 grant allocation of the Blended Finance Program for TA. The project is expected to improve management of 2.1 million ha of terrestrial protected areas and 40.6 million ha of marine protected areas, as well as restore 200,000 ha of land and benefit 310,000 people (50% female).

143. **Global:** *IFC/GEF Green Global Supply Chain Decarbonization Platform* (GEF ID 11326). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$14,678,889; Co-financing: 165,300,000. The project goal is to reduce Scope 3 emissions in the textile and apparel sector through a first-of-its-kind Global Supply Chain Decarbonization Platform. Scope 3 emissions, or the indirect GHGs that are emitted across an entire value chain are among the most extensive and challenging to mitigate. The platform proposes a financial mechanism that blends the financing from the IFC, a textile and apparel Brand (private sector company) and the GEF to provide long-term, green-linked loans to manufacturers, suppliers of the brand across emerging markets. The project will also take this opportunity to systematically move participating supplier factories to safer chemical alternatives in production, and to that aim, the GEF project financing includes \$ 1,000,000 for TA from the Chemicals and Waste focal area. The GEF non-grant instrument financing consists of a subordinated loan that will be on-lent alongside senior financing of the IFC to small-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the supply chain of the Brand. To ensure alignment of interests, the Brand will provide a first loss guarantee to the financing from IFC-GEF. Reflows from the GEF non-grant investment are expected to include the proceeds of the annual interest rate of the subordinated loan and the principal. The project is expected to mitigate 3 million tCO₂e of GHG and reduce 0.01 metric ton of mercury while benefitting 150,000 people (80% female).

144. **Brazil.** *Living Amazon Mechanism* (GEF ID 11327). Agency: Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO); GEF Project Financing: \$6,200,000; Co-financing: \$46,600,000. The project goal is to

protect the Amazon rainforest by strengthening sociobiodiversity organizations, businesses, and supply chains in the Brazilian Protected Areas System. Living Amazon Mechanism is a new business model that leverages on a capital markets product called CRA (Agribusiness Receivable Certificate) to finance conservation activities of Amazon stewards (ILPCs) and SMEs in the value chain of Natura, a major player in Bioeconomy and a cosmetic company. The Living Amazon Mechanism is composed of two components: (1) a blended finance investment in the agribusiness certificates (CRAs) for the bioeconomy activities of the suppliers of Natura; and (2) an Enabling Conditions Facility (ECF) for technical assistance. The combined action of these two components offers synergies that make it possible to create a virtuous circle of capacity-building, access to financing from capital markets and investment that strengthens sustainable value chains in bioeconomy. The GEF non-grant instrument is structured as a reimbursable grant to be invested in the CRA. Reflows from the GEF non-grant investment are expected to be up to \$6 million minus any losses in the CRAs not covered from the first loss tranche provided by Natura. This project includes \$200,000 grant allocation of the Blended Finance Program for TA. The project is expected to improve management effectiveness of 1.8 million ha of Protected Areas in the Amazon and benefit 20,000 people of which 50% are women.

Multi-Trust Fund

145. **Cambodia:** *Building climate resilience of communities in Cambodia's protected landscapes: biodiversity-friendly crop-livestock systems for adaptation* (GEF ID: 11400); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$6,237,138 (LDCF), \$1,782,040 (GEFTF LD); Co-financing: \$21,500,000. The main objective of the project is to strengthen climate resilience of local communities, ecosystems and livelihoods in protected landscapes in a manner compatible with biodiversity conservation goals through integrated approach. The project will be implemented in two protected areas of Boeung Per Wildlife Sanctuary and Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary within the Northern Tonle Sap basin. The project complements GCF-funded "Public-Social-Private Partnerships for Ecologically-Sound Agriculture and Resilient Livelihood in the Northern Tonle Sap Basin (PEARL) to strengthen climate resilient management of ecosystems, farmlands, and livestock. The interventions will directly benefit 84,835 people (50% women), restore 2,000 hectares of degraded land while bringing at least 92,300 ha of community protected areas under sustainable land management practices.

146. **Barbados:** *Accelerating transition to climate-resilient agrifood systems* (BATCRAS) (GEF ID 11270); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$2,627,226 (SCCF-A) and \$875,742 (GEFTF); Co-financing: \$15,000,002. Effective climate change adaptation in the agriculture sector is inefficient, making Barbadian farmers vulnerable due to lack of knowledge and skills to adopt climate-resilient practices and technologies, as well as inadequate soil, water and nutrient management practices and low access to finance. To accelerate the transition to climate-resilient and low-emission gender-sensitive agrifood systems and strengthen the adaptive capacity of farmers in Barbados, the project aims to support climate-resilient and low emission, gender-sensitive food production, including increasing the climate-responsiveness of decision making. The project will achieve this by (i) increasing availability and use of agrometeorological data in decision making, (ii) provide hands-on gender-sensitive training programs, including

demonstrations of climate-resilient and low-emission practices and technologies that increase water and land productivity; (iii) strengthen organizational capacity of farmer associations to drive climate resilience; and (iv) establish a framework for upscaling of climate-resilient and low-emission gender-sensitive technologies for food production through local businesses, commercial banks and other private sector entities. The project is expected to directly benefit 3,052 people (30 percent female), manage 4,000 hectares of land under climate resilience practices, train 2,180 people (30 percent women) about climate change adaptation, and engage 10 private enterprises in climate change adaptation and resilience.

147. **Dominican Republic:** *Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change in Dominican Republic* (GEF ID 11402); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$4,416,212 (SCCF-A: \$2,649,727; GEFTF: \$1,766,485); Co-financing: \$15,156,920. This project seeks to apply land degradation neutrality related and other adaptation approaches to build climate resilience of the food and agriculture sector for vulnerable communities of the Dominican Republic, a Caribbean SIDS. The Dominican Republic faces a range of climate change-induced threats, including sea-level rise, storm surges, flooding, and saltwater intrusion, which intensify existing stresses contributing to land degradation and disrupting livelihoods. Climate projections include reductions in annual precipitation and severe droughts, which will pose challenges to crop zones, damage infrastructure, and increase economic pressures as well as municipal management challenges. This multi-trust fund project will draw on SCCF-A and GEF Trust Fund Land Degradation resources to support a range of investment, policy and capacity interventions to build resilience. Actions include decision support systems, land restoration with endemic species, silvopasture, drought and flood risk management, drought and flood early warning systems, and agricultural value chain diversification and improvement. The project will deliver climate resilience benefits to 19,732 people (50% female), improve the climate resilient management of 113,346 hectares of land, mainstream climate resilience in two policies, and train 1,500 people on climate risks and adaptation. It will also restore 1,960 hectares of forest and improve the sustainable land management of 15,700 hectares. The project will be co-financed by an indicative amount of \$15.1 million.

148. **Zambia:** *Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia* (GEF ID: 11396); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: \$7,235,114 (LDCE), \$2,992,507 (GEFTF); Co-financing: \$87,200,000. The main objective of the project is to sustainably restore and manage the Miombo forest ecosystems and agro-pastoral landscapes and enhance resilience of the vulnerable communities through the integration of adaptation considerations in land use planning and sustainable management of natural resources. The project's focus is in the Copperbelt, Central and Muchinga Provinces of Zambia where communities are highly vulnerable and ecosystem degradation is high. With co-finance from the World Bank's Transforming Landscapes for Resilience and Development (TRALARD) project, it will strengthen the policy, legal and institutional environment for land rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation, promote an integrated landscape approach for sustainable ecosystem management practices and biodiversity conservation, and introduce community-based adaptation solutions including resilient livelihoods and climate risk insurance products for smallholders. The proposed multi-trust fund project will deliver multiple adaptation and global

environmental benefits which include improved climate adaptation of 100,000 people, 629,400 hectares of land under improved management, and reduction of 1.2 million of greenhouse gas emissions.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE IPs TO THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Context

149. In the GEF-8 Programming Directions, the Integrated Programs noted their potential contributions to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This section of the work program cover note provides a summary presentation of these contributions based on the child project contributions. *It is important to note that the actual outcome indicators measured through the core indicators may change once the child projects are presented for CEO endorsement*

150. Each IP will make contributions to the achievement of Targets 20 (capacity building) and 21 (data/information/knowledge management) and while not specifically measured by the GEF TF core indicators, most if not all child projects and each IP's global coordination project embed support to these targets as relevant to achieve higher level program and project goals and objectives. Similarly, Targets 22 and 23 refer to the way the KMGBF is implemented at national level with Target 22 focusing on equitable, inclusive, and gender-responsive participation and Target 23 focusing on gender equality. GEF's policy framework on IPLCs and gender ensures that all GEF investments under the GEF TF will be contributing to these targets.

151. Collectively, many of the IPs that are contributing to area-based conservation/sustainable use/biodiversity mainstreaming and alignment of policies supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use will produce biodiversity outcomes at scale which will all contribute to the achievement of Target 11 (Restore and enhance ecosystem function)

152. Table 10 present a summary of the contributions of each IP to the 23 KMGBF Targets indicating a fairly broad advancing of the Targets with the GEF-8 TF Integrated Programs. The following section also describes the KMGBF links of each Integrated Program in a more detailed manner.

Table 10. Mapping of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Action Targets to the Integrated Programs

	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 23 Targets ¹⁸																						
Integrated Programs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wildlife Conservation for Development		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X									X	X	X	X
Food Systems	X	X					X	X	X	X	X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Clean and Healthy Ocean		X	X				X	X		X	X	X								X	X	X	X
Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X			X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X

¹⁸ This table depicts the direct contributions of these IPs to the achievement of the 23 Targets of KMGBF. The IPs in this work program cover almost all the 23 targets of the GBF apart from Targets 4, 6, 12, and 17. While some of the IPs make indirect contributions towards Target 4 through area-based conservation and sustainable use investments, the Wildlife Conservation for Development IP to be submitted at a future work program will contribute directly towards achievement of this Target. Target 6 is not directly addressed by any IP although the Blue Green Islands IP may make indirect contributions. The Sustainable Cities IP to be submitted at a future work program may make contributions to Target 12. Target 17 on biosafety is also not addressed through these IPs, however, the Food Systems IP to be submitted to a future work program may make contributions to this target.

Guinean Forests Critical Forest Biome IP (Addendum)

153. The objective of the Guinean Forests IP is to protect and improve the effective governance of the Guinean Forests. The addendum includes Guinea-Bissau and Togo which will make the following *additional* contributions to the KMGBF:

- 380,767 ha. of terrestrial protected areas under improved management: Target 3
- 20,000 ha. of land and ecosystems under restoration: Target 2
- 120,767 ha. of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Target 5, Target 9 and Target 10
- 27,351,413 metric tons (direct) of GHG emissions mitigated (tCO₂e): Target 8 and Target 11
- 100,000 people benefitting from GEF finance investments benefitted (46,000 women and 54,000 men): Target 22 and Target 23.

154. The IP will also support the development of integrated, participatory land-use and spatial plans and update the necessary data and information to do so effectively (Target 1). In addition, the IP aims to improve the policy framework and enabling conditions for forest conservation and management including addressing incentives and subsidies harmful to biodiversity (Target 14 and Target 18). Finally, a key outcome of the program will be the development of sustainable financing strategies for protected areas management and forest conservation (Target 19).

Amazon Sustainable Landscapes IP (Addendum)

155. The objective of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program's third phase (ASL3) is to improve regional collaboration and national investments in support of integrated landscape conservation and sustainable management in targeted areas, including primary forests, in the Amazon region. The addendum includes Guyana which will make the following *additional* contributions to the KMGBF:

- 1,816,932 ha. of terrestrial protected areas under improved management: Target 3
- 700 ha. of land and ecosystems under restoration: Target 2
- 200 ha. of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Target 5, Target 9 and Target 10
- 2,182,841 metric tons (direct) of GHG emissions mitigated (tCO₂e): Target 8 and Target 11
- 10,000 people benefitting from GEF finance investments benefitted (3,000 women and 7,000 men): Target 22 and Target 23.

156. The IP will strengthen governance to improve land-use planning and secure landscape connectivity (Target 1). In addition, the IP will support improvement and/or implementation of

policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks, agreements and tools for conservation, sustainable natural resource use, and combatting illegal activities (Target 13 and Target 14). ASL 3 will continue its previous focus on mainstreaming environmental concerns into economic sectors which currently lead to land clearing and forest degradation (cattle ranching, agriculture, extractive industries, infrastructure development), including incorporating participatory watershed management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles into policies, land use planning, guidelines and/or instruments which engage the private sector as well as the financial sector (Target 14, Target 15, and Target 18). Finally, the IP will mobilize additional resources through support to the design/strengthening of long-term financing mechanisms, which align and maximize the synergies between both public and private sectors (e.g., conservation trust funds, forest resilience bonds, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), forest certification schemes, etc.) (Target 19).

Wildlife Conservation for Development IP

157. The objective of the Wildlife Conservation for Development IP is to conserve wildlife and landscapes to maximize global environmental benefits and ensure that countries and communities are benefiting from these natural assets. The IP aims to achieve the following outcomes which contribute to the KMGBF:

- 206,300 ha. of new terrestrial protected areas created: Target 3
- 19,336,738 ha. of terrestrial protected areas under improved management: Target 3
- 307,400 ha. of land and ecosystems under restoration: Target 2
- 5,681,030 ha. of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Target 5, Target 9 and Target 10
- 61,694,190 metric tons (direct) and metric tons (indirect) of GHG emissions mitigated (tCO₂e): Target 8 and Target 11
- 1,068,489 people benefitting from GEF finance investments benefitted (544,942 women and 523,547 men): Target 22 and Target 23.

158. WCD IP is structured to contribute directly to achieving the GBF, with Targets 3, 4 and 5 of central importance. Support to representative and well-managed protected area networks (Target 3) will flow mainly from site-based conservation, threat reduction and community engagement, with contributions also from expanded conservation financing, improved governance and strengthened community livelihoods. Extinction of threatened species (Target 4) will be prevented through a range of management actions, including site-based conservation and improved financing and benefit-sharing. Reduction of human-wildlife conflict (Target 4) is included as a specific outcome in the IP. Sustainable, safe and legal trade of wild species (Target 5) will particularly be supported by efforts across wildlife trade supply chains, and also by anti-poaching interventions in key landscapes and sustainable use value chains. Zoonotic spillover risk arising from certain wildlife trade and use (Target 5) is captured under targeted activities and associated outcomes in the IP.

Food Systems IP

159. The objective of the Food Systems IP is to catalyze the transformation to sustainable and regenerative food systems that are nature positive, climate resilient, and pollution-free conserve. The IP aims to achieve the following outcomes which contribute to the KMGBF:

- 16,500 ha. of forest, woodlands, and natural grassland under restoration: Target 2
- 8,142,528 ha. of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Target 5, Target 9 and Target 10
- 4,220 ha. of marine habitat under improved practices: Target 10
- 174,017,500 metric tons (direct) and metric tons (indirect) of GHG emissions mitigated (tCO₂e): Target 8 and Target 11
- 3,356,681 people benefitting from GEF finance investments benefitted (1,649,341 women and 1,707,340 men): Target 22 and Target 23.

160. The IP will also support integrated spatial planning (Target 1); promote improved management practices along the length of the value chain to reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution (Target 7); enable business to disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity and provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns (Target 15); address food consumption and waste issues related to food (Target 18); engage a spectrum of financiers to shift investment screening practices toward environmental sustainability and mobilize additional and larger scale financing, including through blended finance mechanisms (Target 19).

Clean and Healthy Ocean IP

161. The objective of the Clean and Healthy Ocean IP is to curb coastal pollution from agriculture, industrial and municipal sources through policy and regulatory measures and infrastructure investments combined with nature-based solutions. The IP aims to achieve the following outcomes which contribute to the KMGBF:

- 3,320 ha. of new terrestrial protected areas created: Target 3
- 58,000 ha. of new marine protected areas created: Target 3
- 516,873 ha. of terrestrial protected areas under improved management: Target 3
- 423,250 ha. of marine protected areas under improved management: Target 3
- 96,011 ha. of forest, woodland, grasslands, and wetlands under restoration: Target 2
- 274,397 ha of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Target 10
- 6,629,347 ha. of marine habitat under improved practices: Target 10
- 9,170,093 metric tons (direct) and 18,000 metric tons (indirect) of GHG emissions mitigated (tCO₂e): Target 8 and Target 11

- Three (3) shared water systems under improved management: Target 10
- 120 metric tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced: Target 7
- 616,752 people benefitting from GEF finance investments benefitted (318,880 women and 297,872): Target 22 and Target 23.

162. The IP will also support activities that will contribute to the achievement of Target 12 (sustainable urban and densely populated areas).

Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development IP

163. The objective of the Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development IP is to advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure that safeguard and enhance key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems. The IP aims to achieve the following outcomes which contribute to the KMGBF:

- 259,469 ha. of terrestrial protected areas under improved management: Target 3
- 30,740 ha. of land and ecosystems under restoration: Target 2
- 582,200 ha. of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Target 5, Target 9 and Target 10
- 71,976 ha. of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity: Target 10
- 8,115,017 metric tons (direct) of GHG emissions mitigated (tCO_{2e}): Target 8 and Target 11
- 267,858 people benefitting from GEF finance investments benefitted (143,101 women and 124,757 men): Target 22 and Target 23.

164. The IP will strengthen policy, regulatory, and legal frameworks to incorporate social and environmental sustainability criteria from the earlier stages of the infrastructure project lifecycle (Target 14), support integrated and inclusive planning and design practices to mainstream biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate resilience into infrastructure transportation projects including developing methodologies for spatial planning, mapping of ecosystem services, and other interventions relevant to the planning and design stage of projects (Targets 1, 11, 14) and mobilize green and inclusive financing and de-risking mechanisms (Target 19).

SUMMARY OF PFDs AND STAND-ALONE PIFs IN THE FEBRUARY 2024 WORK PROGRAM

Integrated Programs

1. **Global (Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Suriname, Ukraine).** Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development (GEF ID: 11467). Agency: ADB, WWF-US, UNEP; GEF Program Financing: \$23,794,476; Co-financing: \$408,915,662.
2. **Regional (Guinea-Bissau, Togo).** Guinean Forests (GEF-8 Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program) Addendum (February 2024). (GEF ID: 11391). Agency: CI, FAO, IUCN. GEF Program Financing: \$10,112,013; Co-financing: \$45,500,000.
3. **Global (Grenada, Jordan, Madagascar, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Viet Nam).** Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO-IP). (GEF ID: 11349) Agency: World Bank, CAF, FAO, IADB, CI, UNEP, UNDP, EBRD, ADB. GEF Program Financing: \$100,338,691. Co-financing: \$748,061,993.
4. **Regional (Guyana).** Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3 - Addendum Council Meeting Feb 5, 2024. (GEF ID: 11337) Agency: FAO, World Bank. GEF Program Financing: \$3,519,722. Co-financing: \$20,800,000.
5. **Global (Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Grenada, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Türkiye, Uganda).** Food Systems Integrated Program. (GEF ID: 11214) Agency: FAO, World Bank, UNDP, IUCN, IFAD. GEF Program Financing: \$252,162,398. Co-financing: \$2,201,647,507.
6. **Global (Colombia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia).** Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program. (GEF ID: 11148). Agency: CI, ADB, IUCN, WWF-US, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank. GEF Program Financing: \$135,002,132. Co-financing: \$892,098,548.

Other Programs

7. **Global (Algeria, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa).** Global Clean Hydrogen Programme (GEF ID 11437). Agency: UNIDO. GEF Program Financing: \$13,129,820; Co-financing: \$141,196,891.
8. **Regional (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan).** Central Asia Water and Land Nexus (CAWLN) for Ecosystem Restoration, Improved Natural

Resource Management and Increased Resilience (GEF ID 11378). Agency: FAO. GEF Program Financing: \$26,007,810; Co-financing: \$355,504,935.

Non-Grants Instrument

9. **Brazil.** Living Amazon Mechanism (GEF ID: 11327). Agency: Funbio. GEF Project financing: \$6,200,000; Co-financing: \$46,600,000.
10. **Global.** IFC/GEF Green Global Supply Chain Decarbonization Platform (GEF ID: 11326). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project financing: \$14,678,899; Co-financing: \$150,600,000.
11. **Regional.** Innovative use of financial instruments for Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEF ID: 11324). Agency: IADB; GEF Project financing: \$40,180,000; Co-financing: \$641,280,000.
12. **South Africa.** Private Sector Energy Efficiency Programme Phase 2 (PSEEP2) (GEF ID: 11064) Agency: DBSA; GEF Project financing: \$14,678,968; Co-financing: \$509,000,000.

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

13. **Paraguay.** Strengthening the System of Protected Areas and Improvement of its Financial Sustainability (GEF ID: 11449). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$5,079,358; Co-financing: \$12,248,000.
14. **Argentina.** Inclusive Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Priority Ecoregions (GEF ID: 11394). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,279,452; Co-financing: \$39,200,000.
15. **Ecuador.** Acción Páramos: conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the páramos in Ecuador (GEF ID: 11386). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,416,210; Co-financing: \$25,190,068.
16. **South Africa.** Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature - Mega Living Landscapes Project (GEF ID: 11347). Agency: WWF-US; GEF Project Financing: \$8,874,312; Co-financing: \$55,080,000.

Climate Change

17. **Antigua and Barbuda.** Energy resilience and security for the residential and public sector in Antigua and Barbuda (GEF ID: 11474). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$8,393,151; Co-financing: \$20,132,229.

Land Degradation

18. **Tunisia.** Adaptive management and restoration of degraded Aleppo pine forest in the Kasserine governorate (Tunisia) to strengthen resilience to climate change, conserve biodiversity, improve productivity and food security (GEF ID: 11389). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$29,300,000.
19. **Lebanon.** Restoring Ecosystem Connectivity for Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Litani Watershed Project (ECONNECT) (GEF ID: 11348). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$2,929,935; Co-financing: \$9,024,240.
20. **Argentina.** Recovering the Sustainability of Ecosystems Affected by Drought in Northeastern Argentina (GEF ID: 11336). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,913,700; Co-financing: \$20,000,000.

Chemicals and Waste

21. **Argentina.** Integrated Management for Sustainable Reduction (IMSRed) of POPs, Highly Hazardous Pesticides, and industrial chemicals in Argentina (GEF ID: 11451). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$9,240,000; Co-financing: \$46,400,000.
22. **Uruguay.** Towards a more circular Uruguay (Uruguay + Circular) (GEF ID: 11434). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$28,300,000.
23. **Tajikistan.** Integrated Program for HFC Phasing Down and Sustainable Cooling for Tajikistan (GEF ID: 11430). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,185,900; Co-financing: \$36,550,000.
24. **Morocco.** Eliminating hazardous chemicals from the supply chain of the construction sector in Morocco. (GEF ID: 11428). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$42,000,000.
25. **Indonesia.** Polychlorinated Biphenyls-free Indonesia: Financing a shift to more efficient energy systems through the elimination of related waste and contaminated equipment. (GEF ID: 11425). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$7,245,000; Co-financing: \$50,800,000.
26. **Cote d'Ivoire.** Sound management of polychlorobiphenyls in Cote d'Ivoire, phase II - objective 2028 of the Stockholm Convention. (GEF ID: 11420). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$4,150,000; Co-financing: \$25,000,000.
27. **India.** Accelerating Transition to a Circular Economy in India's Electrical and Electronic Sector through Sustainable Integrated Approaches. (GEF ID: 11405). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$15,000,000; Co-financing: \$105,000,000.

International Waters

28. **Regional (Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique).** Program for improving sustainable marine fisheries opportunities in SADC – The Case of the Mozambique Channel. (GEF ID: 11452). Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,250,000; Co-financing: \$ 14,200,000.
29. **Regional (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania).** Strengthening integrated transboundary source-to-sea management of the Ruvuma River Basin and its coastal zones to ensure ecosystem health and livelihood security (GEF ID: 11410). Agency: IUCN; GEF project financing: \$ 7,122,018; Co-financing: \$ 48,365,000.
30. **Regional (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay).** Implementation of the La Plata Basin SAP priorities through regional and national actions. (GEF ID: 11053). Agency: CAF; GEF project financing: \$10,605,000; Co-financing: \$ 221,300,000.

Multi-focal Area Project

31. **Timor Leste.** Improving wetlands management for biodiversity and improved human-wildlife coexistence. (GEF ID: 11435). Agency: CI; GEF project financing: \$ 2,689,908; Co-financing: \$12,007,025.
32. **Colombia.** BioSouth: The Pacific-Andean-Amazonian Ecological and Cultural Connectivity Corridor (GEF ID: 11432). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$13,736,697; Co-financing: \$69,060,096.
33. **Iraq.** Restoration and Preservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystems in Anbar Province, Iraq. (GEF ID: 11426). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,722,146; Co-financing: \$45,900,000.
34. **Indonesia.** Lake Ecosystem Restoration in Indonesia through Integrated Governance, Landscape, and Community-based Approaches. (GEF ID: 11422). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$35,000,000.
35. **Tajikistan.** Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture (TERRA) Project (GEF ID 11398). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$8,019,178; Co-financing: \$11,978,050.
36. **Viet Nam.** Enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development utilizing a landscape approach (GEF ID 11395). Agency: WWF-US; GEF Project Financing: \$9,000,000; Co-financing: \$73,000,000.
37. **South Africa.** Restoration and sustainable management of Land for improved livelihoods in the degraded landscapes of Free State and Northwest Provinces of South Africa (GEF ID 11331). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$5,399,954; Co-financing: \$21,790,120.

38. **Lesotho.** Sustainable Wool and Mohair Value chain Competitiveness project (WaMCoP) (GEF ID 11210). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$67,444,000.
39. **Brazil.** Restoration of Wetlands and other important Amazonian Ecosystems - Capacity-building, innovation, development and technological transfer for ecological restoration and climate change mitigation (GEF ID 11167). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000; Co-financing: \$40,910,000.
40. **Sri Lanka.** Promoting sustainable economic benefits through the conservation of critical biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Eastern Coastal Region of Sri Lanka (GEF ID 11116). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,507,534; Co-financing: \$26,500,000.
41. **Mongolia.** Rehabilitating and conserving the mountain landscapes in Khangai region of Mongolia for improved ecosystem services and community livelihoods (GEF ID 11114). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$25,000,000.
42. **Regional (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam).** Enhancing transboundary fisheries management in the Lower Mekong Basin (GEF ID 11304). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$10,709,176; Co-financing: \$77,600,000.

Multi-Trust Fund

43. **Zambia.** Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia (GEF ID 11396); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: \$2,992,507 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$7,235,114 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$87,200,000.
44. **Barbados.** Barbados - Accelerating transition to climate-resilient agrifood systems (BATCRAS) (GEF ID 11270); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$875,742 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$2,627,226 (SCCF); Co-financing: \$19,950,000.
45. **Cambodia.** Building climate resilience of communities in Cambodia's protected landscapes: biodiversity-friendly crop-livestock systems for adaptation (GEF ID 11400); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$1,782,040 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$6,237,138 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$21,500,000.
46. **Dominican Republic.** Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change in Dominican Republic (GEF ID 11402); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$1,766,485 (GEF Trust Fund) and \$2,649,727 (SCCF); Co-financing: \$15,156,920.

ANNEX A: PROJECT AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR GEF COUNCIL APPROVAL UNDER THE GEF TRUST FUND

February 5-9, 2024

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
in US \$											
Integrated Programs											
1	11467	Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development	Multi Focal Area	Global (Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Suriname, Ukraine)	ADB, WWF-US, UNEP	825,300	74,238	23,794,476	2,141,402	408,915,662	435,751,078
2	11391	Guinean Forests (GEF-8 Amazon, Congo and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program) Addendum (February 2024)	Multi Focal Area	Regional (Guinea-Bissau, Togo)	CI, FAO, IUCN	299,999	27,000	10,112,013	910,078	45,500,000	56,849,090
3	11349	Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO-IP)	Multi Focal Area	Global (Grenada, Jordan, Madagascar, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Viet Nam)	World Bank, CAF, FAO, IADB, CI, UNEP, UNDP, EBRD, ADB	2,750,000	247,487	100,338,691	9,030,469	748,061,993	860,428,640
4	11337	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program Phase 3- Addendum Council Meeting Feb 5, 2024	Multi Focal Area	Guyana	FAO, World Bank	150,000	13,500	3,519,722	316,774	20,800,000	24,799,996
5	11214	Food Systems Integrated Program	Multi Focal Area	Global (Angola, Argentina, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana,	FAO, World Bank, UNDP, IUCN, IFAD	6,099,999	548,986	252,162,398	22,694,596	2,201,647,507	2,483,153,486

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
				Grenada, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Nauru, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Türkiye, Uganda)							
6	11148	Wildlife Conservation for Development Integrated Program	Multi Focal Area	Global (Colombia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Paraguay, Philippines, Thailand, Uganda, Zambia)	CI, ADB, IUCN, WWF-US, UNEP, UNDP, World Bank	2,899,999	260,992	135,002,132	12,150,183	892,098,548	1,042,411,854
				IP -Sub-Total		13,025,297	1,172,203	524,929,432	47,243,502	4,317,023,710	4,903,394,144
Other Programs											
7	11437	Global Clean Hydrogen Programme	Climate Change	Algeria, Ecuador, Egypt, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, Global	UNIDO	600,000	54,000	13,129,820	1,181,683	141,196,891	156,162,394
8	11378	Central Asia Water and Land Nexus (CAWLN) for Ecosystem Restoration, Improved Natural Resource Management and Increased Resilience	Multi Focal Area	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Regional	FAO	950,000	85,496	26,007,810	2,340,694	355,504,935	384,888,935
				OP - Sub-Total		1,550,000	139,496	39,137,630	3,522,377	496,701,826	541,051,329

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
in US \$											
Non-Grant Instrument											
9	11327	Living Amazon Mechanism	Biodiversity	Brazil	Funbio	120,000	10,800	6,200,000	558,000	46,600,000	53,488,800
10	11326	IFC/GEF Green Global Supply Chain Decarbonization Platform	Multi Focal Area	Global	World Bank	-	-	14,678,899	1,321,101	150,600,000	166,600,000
11	11324	Innovative use of financial instruments for Biodiversity Conservation and Restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean	Biodiversity	Regional	IADB	-	-	40,180,000	3,616,200	641,280,000	685,076,200
12	11064	Private Sector Energy Efficiency Programme Phase 2 (PSEEP2)	Climate Change	South Africa	DBSA	-	-	14,678,968	1,321,032	509,000,000	525,000,000
				NGI-Sub-total		120,000	10,800	75,737,867	6,816,333	1,347,480,000	1,430,165,000
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects											
Biodiversity											
13	11449	Strengthening the System of Protected Areas and Improvement of its Financial Sustainability	Biodiversity	Paraguay	CI	150,000	13,500	5,079,358	457,142	12,248,000	17,948,000
14	11394	Inclusive Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Priority Ecoregions	Biodiversity	Argentina	UNDP	200,000	19,000	5,279,452	501,548	39,200,000	45,200,000
15	11386	Acción Páramos: conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the páramos in Ecuador	Biodiversity	Ecuador	UNEP	150,000	14,250	4,416,210	419,540	25,190,068	30,190,068

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
in US \$											
16	11347	Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature - Mega Living Landscapes Project	Biodiversity	South Africa	WWF-US	300,000	27,000	8,874,312	798,688	55,080,000	65,080,000
				BD-Sub-Total		800,000	73,750	23,649,332	2,176,918	131,718,068	158,418,068
Climate Change Mitigation											
17	11474	Energy resilience and security for the residential and public sector in Antigua and Barbuda	Climate Change	Antigua and Barbuda	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,393,151	797,349	20,132,229	29,541,729
				CCM-Sub-Total		200,000	19,000	8,393,151	797,349	20,132,229	29,541,729
Land Degradation											
18	11389	Adaptive management and restoration of degraded Aleppo pine forest in the Kasserine governorate (Tunisia) to strengthen resilience to climate change, conserve biodiversity, improve productivity and food security	Land Degradation	Tunisia	FAO	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	29,300,000	32,300,000
19	11348	Restoring Ecosystem Connectivity for Biodiversity and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Litani Watershed Project (ECONNECT)	Land Degradation	Lebanon	IFAD	100,000	9,500	2,929,935	278,342	9,024,240	12,342,017

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
in US \$											
20	11336	Recovering the Sustainability of Ecosystems Affected by Drought in Northeastern Argentina	Land Degradation	Argentina	UNDP	100,000	9,500	2,913,700	276,800	20,000,000	23,300,000
				LD - Sub-Total		300,000	28,500	8,483,361	805,916	58,324,240	67,942,017
Chemicals and Waste											
21	11451	Integrated Management for Sustainable Reduction (IMSRed) of POPs, Highly Hazardous Pesticides, and industrial chemicals in Argentina	Chemicals and Waste	Argentina	UNDP	200,000	18,000	9,240,000	831,600	46,400,000	56,689,600
22	11434	Towards a more circular Uruguay (Uruguay + Circular)	Chemicals and Waste	Uruguay	UNDP	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	28,300,000	31,300,000
23	11430	Integrated Program for HFC Phasing Down and Sustainable Cooling for Tajikistan	Chemicals and Waste	Tajikistan	UNDP	100,000	9,500	5,185,900	492,660	36,550,000	42,338,060
24	11428	Eliminating hazardous chemicals from the supply chain of the construction sector in Morocco	Chemicals and Waste	Morocco	UNIDO	200,000	19,000	6,000,000	570,000	42,000,000	48,789,000
25	11425	Polychlorinated Biphenyls-free Indonesia: Financing a shift to more efficient energy systems through the elimination of related waste and	Chemicals and Waste	Indonesia	UNIDO	200,000	19,000	7,245,000	688,275	50,800,000	58,952,275

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
								in US \$			
30	11053	Implementation of the La Plata Basin SAP priorities through regional and national actions	International Waters	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Regional	CAF	300,000	27,000	10,605,000	954,450	221,300,000	233,186,450
				IW - Sub-Total		650,000	59,250	22,977,018	2,094,182	283,865,000	309,645,450
Multi-focal Area											
31	11435	Improving wetlands management for biodiversity and improved human-wildlife coexistence.	Multi Focal Area	Timor Leste	CI	100,000	9,000	2,689,908	242,092	12,007,025	15,048,025
32	11432	BioSouth: The Pacific-Andean-Amazonian Ecological and Cultural Connectivity Corridor	Multi Focal Area	Colombia	UNDP	300,000	27,000	13,736,697	1,236,303	69,060,096	84,360,096
33	11426	Restoration and Preservation of Key Biodiversity Areas and Ecosystems in Anbar Province, Iraq	Multi Focal Area	Iraq	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,722,146	543,604	45,900,000	52,330,000
34	11422	Lake Ecosystem Restoration in Indonesia through Integrated Governance, Landscape, and Community-based Approaches	Multi Focal Area	Indonesia	IFAD	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	35,000,000	43,000,000
35	11398	Tajikistan Ecosystem Restoration and Resilient Agriculture (TERRA) Project	Multi Focal Area	Tajikistan	IFAD	200,000	19,000	8,019,178	761,822	11,978,050	20,978,050

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
36	11395	Enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Vietnam for sustainable development utilizing a landscape approach	Multi Focal Area	Viet Nam	WWF-US	200,000	18,000	9,000,000	810,000	73,000,000	83,028,000
37	11331	Restoration and sustainable management of Land for improved livelihoods in the degraded landscapes of Free State and Northwest Provinces of South Africa	Multi Focal Area	South Africa	IUCN	150,000	13,498	5,399,954	485,994	21,790,120	27,839,566
38	11210	Sustainable Wool and Mohair Value chain Competitiveness project (WaMCoP)	Multi Focal Area	Lesotho	IFAD	150,000	14,250	5,329,452	506,298	67,444,000	73,444,000
39	11167	Restoration of Wetlands and other important Amazonian Ecosystems - Capacity-building, innovation, development and technological transfer for ecological restoration and climate change mitigation	Multi Focal Area	Brazil	FAO	150,000	14,250	5,000,000	475,000	40,910,000	46,549,250

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
40	11116	Promoting sustainable economic benefits through the conservation of critical biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Eastern Coastal Region of Sri Lanka	Multi Focal Area	Sri Lanka	UNDP	150,000	14,250	4,507,534	428,216	26,500,000	31,600,000
41	11114	Rehabilitating and conserving the mountain landscapes in Khangai region of Mongolia for improved ecosystem services and community livelihoods	Multi Focal Area	Mongolia	FAO	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	25,000,000	28,000,000
42	11304	Enhancing transboundary fisheries management in the Lower Mekong Basin	Multi Focal Area	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Regional	IUCN	300,000	27,000	10,709,176	963,824	77,600,000	89,600,000
				MFA - Sub-Total		2,150,000	198,998	79,859,707	7,378,991	506,189,291	595,776,987
Multi-Trust Fund*											
43	11396	Sustainable Management of Ecosystems in Miombo Ecoregions of Zambia	Multi Focal Area	Zambia	World Bank	43,155	3,884	2,992,507	269,325	26,390,827	29,699,698
44	11270	Barbados - Accelerating transition to climate-resilient agrifood systems (BATCRAS)	Climate Change	Barbados	FAO	37,500	3,562	875,742	83,195	4,949,998	5,949,997

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
45	11400	Building climate resilience of communities in Cambodia's protected landscapes: biodiversity-friendly crop-livestock systems for adaptation	Multi Focal Area	Cambodia	FAO	44,444	4,222	1,782,040	169,294	1,500,000	3,500,000
46	11402	Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change in Dominican Republic	Multi Focal Area	Dominican Republic	FAO	60,000	5,700	1,766,485	167,815	3,955,006	5,955,006
				MTF - Sub-Total		185,099	17,368	7,416,774	689,629	36,795,831	45,104,701
				GRAND TOTAL		20,230,396	1,835,615	840,044,898	76,102,756	7,532,280,195	8,470,493,860

** For Multi-Trust Fund projects, only GEFTF allocation is included in this Annex, the LDCF and SCCF allocation is included in the LDCF and SCCF Annex A accordingly.*