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70th GEF Council Meeting
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Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 03

**WORK PROGRAM FOR
GEF TRUST FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.70/03, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 30 projects and programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 16, 2026.

Total GEF resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$290.6 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 GEF website for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

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Introduction

1. The Work Program requests \$266.0 million of project financing and \$24.6 million in Agency fees for a total request of \$290.6 million from the GEF Trust Fund. The GEF CEO has delegated authority to approve PPG funding and fees of \$5.4 million, for a Work Program total of \$296.0 million. An expected \$1.8 billion will match each GEF dollar with \$7.0 in co-financing.
2. The Work Program includes 30 projects and programs submitted to the GEF Secretariat that were technically cleared by work program deadlines. The Work Program is fully consistent with GEF-8 Programming Directions and with Operational and Policy requirements.
3. The Work Program proposes to program 5.8% of the entire GEF-8 resource allocation. This would bring total programming for the GEF-8 cycle to 83.1% at 87.5% of the cycle timeline.
4. Programming will include \$97.1 million for Climate Change, \$67.8 million for Biodiversity, and an additional \$116.1 million for the Land Degradation, International Waters, and Chemicals and Waste focal areas. A \$15.0 million allocation for the Non-Grant Instrument is also proposed.
5. The Work Program will provide GEF Trust Fund support for work in 56 GEF recipient countries (34%), including 21 of the 38 Small Island Developing States (55% of SIDS) and 21 of the 46 Least Developed Countries (46% of LDCs).
6. The Work Program spans all five Focal Areas, strategically advances use of the non-grant instrument, and continues to advance GEF integration aims with Multi-Trust Fund projects.
7. The Work Program marks important progress towards the achievement of GEF-8 goals. High impact investments across 12 SIDS of the Pacific Ocean significantly enhance cumulative progress on marine habitats, which will far surpass the GEF-8 target for areas managed to benefit biodiversity. This Pacific marine project along with a global effort to combat illegal (IUU) tuna fishing also registers important impacts on bringing over-exploited marine fisheries to sustainable levels.
8. Shared water systems under management increase by six in this Work Program, again surpassing the target of improving the conservation and sustainable use of globally important transboundary freshwater and marine systems. The Work Program will also bring 1.1 million hectares (ha) under restoration, reaching 97.3% of the overall GEF-8 target of 10 million ha of land and ecosystems restored.
9. Important contributions are made to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, with significant projects on China's permafrost peatlands and on regenerative agriculture in Latin America. Projects in the work program mitigate 241.3 million metric tons of CO₂e, enabling the GEF to further surpass the GEF-8 GHG target.
10. The Council is respectfully invited to review and approve this Work Program for the total GEF Trust Fund resources requested (please see Annex A for financial details).

Work Program Preparation and Pipeline of Projects

11. At the deadline for project submission, 45 projects (PIF) and programs (PFD) were deemed eligible¹ for review and consideration for the December 2025 Work Program (Tables 1 & 2). Nine projects did not meet GEF clearance requirements at the programming deadline. These projects remain candidates for future GEF-8 Work Programs.

Table 1. Pipeline of Projects and Programs Considered for the December 2025 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	34	27 (79%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	7 (21%)
PFD	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NGI	9	1 (11%)	0 (0%)	6 (67%)	2 (22%)

12. Twenty-seven of 34 eligible projects (PIF) were technically cleared and included in the Work Program. Two submitted programs (PFDs) met GEF technical, operational and policy clearance requirements and are included in the Work Program.

13. Nine project concepts were reviewed for the Blended Finance (NGI) Program, following the GEF review process for blended finance eligibility, and one NGI project was cleared. Consistent with GEF policy, expert advice from the Advisory Group of Financial Experts informed the NGI project reviews.

Table 2. Projects Not Cleared for the December 2025 Work Program

Number of Projects not Ready for Clearance	Focal Area					
	BD	LD	CC	IW	CW	MFA
9	1	0	2	1	0	5

¹ Eligible in this case indicates projects and programs that were submitted by the deadline, and projects retained in the portal from previous Work Program submissions that were not ready for clearance earlier. Projects and programs that were rejected during previous review cycles are excluded.

² Including new submissions and submissions from previous review cycles, as above.

Trends in GEF Resources Requested for the Work Program

14. GEF resources requested sum to \$290.6 million from focal area and global program allocations.
15. Focal Area investments include the following:
 - (a) Biodiversity (BD): \$67.8 million in 3 single focal area projects and 11 multi focal area, multi-trust fund project.
 - (b) Chemicals and Waste (CW): \$32.4 million in 3 single focal area projects.
 - (c) Climate Change (CC): \$97.1million in 1 single focal area project, 1 program, 1 enabling activity, and 14 multi focal area and multi-trust fund projects.
 - (d) International Waters (IW): \$44.9 million to 4 single focal area projects.
 - (e) Land Degradation (LD): \$38.8 million in 12 multi focal area, multi-trust fund projects.
16. Global Program investments include one Non-Grant Initiative (NGI) project of \$15.0 million.

Table 3. GEF Resources Requested in the December 2025 Work Program

Work Program Resources Requested (\$ millions)					
	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees³	Total GEF Resources Requested⁴	PPG Funding and Fees⁵	Total GEF Resources Programmed
BD	60.5	5.7	66.2	1.6	67.8
CW	29.0	2.7	31.7	0.8	32.4
CC	87.6	8.0	95.7	1.4	97.1
IW	40.5	3.7	44.2	0.8	44.9
LD	34.6	3.3	37.9	0.9	38.8
NGI	13.8	1.2	15.0	-	15.0
Totals	266.0	24.6	290.6	5.4	296.0

³ Agency fees are calculated at 9.5% or 9% of GEF Project Financing for projects requesting up to \$10 million or above \$10 million, respectively.

⁴ GEF Council is requested to approve GEF Project Financing and related Agency fees for the Work Program.

⁵ GEF CEO has delegated authority to approve PPG funding and PPG fees.

17. The Work Program marks important **Progress towards the Achievement of GEF-8 Goals**. High impact investments across 12 SIDS of the Pacific Ocean significantly enhance cumulative progress on marine habitats, which will far surpass the GEF-8 target for areas managed to benefit biodiversity. This Pacific marine project along with a global effort to combat illegal (IUU) tuna fishing also registers important impacts on bringing over-exploited marine fisheries to sustainable levels. Shared water systems under management increase by six in this Work Program – addressing globally important transboundary freshwater and marine systems. The Work Program will also bring 1.1 million hectares (ha) under restoration, reaching 97.3% of the overall GEF-8 target of 10 million ha of land and ecosystems restored. Important contributions are made to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, with projects on China’s permafrost peatlands and on regenerative agriculture in Latin America. Project in the Work Program mitigate 241.3 million metric tCO₂e, enabling the GEF to further surpass the aggregate GEF-8 GHG target.

18. The Work Program includes a particular focus on **Policy Coherence** with 3 FSPs and 1 MSP funded through the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window. Policy coherence projects are proposed in Brazil, China (MSP), Indonesia, and Mexico. The projects aim to foster policy alignment, integrated and comprehensive planning and knowledge exchange across relevant Ministries, and to strengthen multistakeholder governance at national and sub-national levels.

19. The majority of projects in the Work Program address several focal area goals and are pursued in an integrated manner capturing efficiencies in implementation and important scales in GEB generation. Multi-focal area (MFA) and Multi-Trust Fund (MTF) projects, along with Integrated Programs (IPs) projects, are core elements of the **GEF’s Integration approach**. Two MTF projects feature in the Work Program. Select projects of the Work Program are profiled below.

20. *Integrated Management of **Permafrost Peatland in Northern China** for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Actions (GEFID 11989)*. Permafrost peat stores approximately 14% of global soil carbon (C). Historically, this huge soil C store has been largely protected from decomposition by microbial activity under frozen soil conditions. Current widespread permafrost thawing leaves this C store vulnerable to rapid decomposition, with a huge potential of increased release of greenhouse gases, chiefly methane (CH₄). Extensive permafrost peatlands in Northern China are at risk of thawing due to climate change, peat extraction, overgrazing, and damaging infrastructure development. The project adopts a landscape-level approach that links national reform with site implementation and community incentives to establish a new 20,000-ha protected area, improve management across 293,646 ha, restore 10,800 ha of degraded peatlands, and promote sustainable practices on 500,000 ha of adjacent landscapes. The project aims to conserve endemic biodiversity and to mitigate GHG emissions by 1.8 million tCO₂e.

21. A Pacific-wide regional project will leverage The Pacific Community’s Ocean Flagship Programme institutional platform to advance implementation of the **Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) Initiative** - a Pacific-wide effort to sustainably manage and protect the vast ocean territories of the Pacific Islands. Goals of the UBPP are to sustainably manage 100% of Pacific Ocean waters, protect at least 30% by 2030, and build healthy, resilient communities with robust food systems. The GEF project will support 12 Pacific SIDS and hopes to add Papua New Guinea and Nauru before CEO Endorsement. The project aims to achieve 840 million ha of marine habitat under improved practices, 2,900 tons of marine fisheries more sustainably managed, and over 3 million beneficiaries (49% women).

22. A transformative project to address ***Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in Tuna Fisheries*** will upscale Electronic Monitoring (EM) in partnership with Regional Fishery Management Organizations and their member states (GEFID 11996). This CI-led project will work with at least 8 key private sector actors in US, UK, and EU markets, who are signatories of the Tuna Transparency Pledge. The project expects to achieve improved management in at least three Large Marine Ecosystems and, thereby, to move at least 442,712 metric tons of globally over-exploited fisheries to more sustainable levels, directly benefiting at least 8 coastal nations.

23. ***Resilient Ukrainian Forest Landscapes*** (GEF ID 11716) aims to restore forest and agroforestry systems across diverse ecological zones in Ukraine to strengthen climate resilience, enhance ecosystem services, and strengthen local environmental and social resilience. The project will enhance nursery and seed systems, establish demonstration sites of effective restoration models, and mobilize green finance and private sector investment for upscaling and sustainability. The project aims to bring 50,000 ha of landscapes under improved management practices, including the restoration of over 10,000 ha of forest. The project will directly benefit 113,800 people, with a target of 53% women, and strengthen local livelihoods, supporting recovery efforts across Ukraine.

24. A regional project by Angola, Botswana, and Namibia aims to strengthen joint stewardship and sustainable financing of a globally significant and regionally vital water system, the ***Cubango-Okavango River Basin*** (GEF ID 12058). Led by the World Bank, the project will support the operationalization of the CORB Fund, a hybrid conservation trust fund (CTF) that will provide a vehicle for long-term financing of local livelihood development, sustainable natural resource use, and the conservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. CORB Fund investments will support lower-impact, sustainable livelihood development, tourism development, and ecological infrastructure investments, while safeguarding vital ecosystems and ecological services of this globally important river basin. The CORB is a hydrologically complex and biologically unique system that is deeply interconnected across borders, highlighting the importance of transboundary water solutions. The CORB's low human population density, intact ecosystems and diverse habitats make it one of the globally important for biodiversity conservation, including in the Okavango Delta, among world's most pristine wetlands and a World Heritage Site.

25. NGI programming includes the project ***Regenerative Agriculture for Food Supply Chains*** (GEF ID 11866), which aims to provide financing to incentivize adoption of regenerative farming practices in agricultural value chains across Latin America. The RASC is designed to engage with processors, aggregators, and agricultural producers that source food crops grown with regenerative agriculture techniques and with end-beneficiaries, notably smallholder farmers and SMEs to support their use of regenerative agriculture practices. The project, designed to be implemented under the GEF Concurrence Mechanism to increase flexibility during implementation, will blend GEF resources with IFC funds and co-financing from commercial financial institutions to de-risk investments and incentivize sustainable practices. GEF funds will be used either for sustainability-linked loans with interest rate reductions to incentivize regenerative practices or for subordinated loans to derisk the IFC's commercial bank loans to farmers.

26. Unmanaged grazing is a significant driver of land degradation in India, estimated to impact 5.65 million ha of lands, and nearly 78% of forest areas. The ***India multi-focal area project Enabling resilience of livestock keepers through integrated landscape management*** (GEF ID 11403) aims to reduce land

degradation and enhance the livelihood resilience of smallholder livestock keepers through gender-responsive silvopastoral and landscape restoration. Taking a value chain approach, it will catalyze dairy cooperatives and milk producer organizations to champion restoration, sustainable land management, and greening dairy value chains. The project aims to achieve the restoration and sustainable management of 93,750 ha of land, benefit 75,000 people (70% women) and mitigate 4,960,775 tCO₂e.

27. A **Multi-Trust Fund project in the Republic of Marshall Islands *Blue-Green Atolls: Addressing Land Degradation, Groundwater Salinization & Coastal Erosion*** (GEF ID 12087) combines GEF TF and SCCF financing to address vulnerabilities of atoll communities that face a double crisis of worsening droughts and saltwater intrusion contaminating scarce water and soil resources. The project will support climate-smart water and drought-resilient land management, restore soils and ecosystems, and thereby bring 5300 ha of land under improved management and benefit 28% of the Marshall Islands’ peoples.

Status of GEF-8 Resource Use

28. The Work Program proposes to program a total of \$296.0 million in GEF resources, inclusive of PPG funding and fees. This represents 5.8% of the GEF-8 resource allocation

29. The Work Program brings the cumulative total of GEF programming to \$4.25 billion, or 83.1% programmed at 87.5% of the GEF-8 cycle.⁶

30. All focal areas contribute to the Work Program. This brings all focal areas above 80% programming for GEF-8 (Table 4, Figures 1 & 2).

Table 4. GEF-8 Resources Programmed by Focal Area⁷

	GEF-8 Target Allocation	December 2025 Work Program⁸	Cumulative Total GEF-8 Resources Programmed	Proportion of GEF-8 Target Allocation
(\$ millions)				
Biodiversity (BD)	1,919	67.8	1,554.4	81%
Climate Change (CC)	852	97.1	679.1	80%
Chemicals and Waste (CW)	800	32.5	688.9	86%
International Waters (IW)	565	44.9	453.7	80%
Land Degradation (LD)	618	38.8	544.2	88%
Total Resources Programmed	4,754	281.0	3,920.3	82%

⁶ Excluding the Country Engagement Strategy (\$28 million), and the Corporate Budget (\$187.0 million) which were all part of the total GEF-8 replenishment of \$5.33 billion.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Inclusive of PPG funding and PPG fees.

Figure 1. GEF-8 Resources by Focal Area in the Work Program (\$ million)

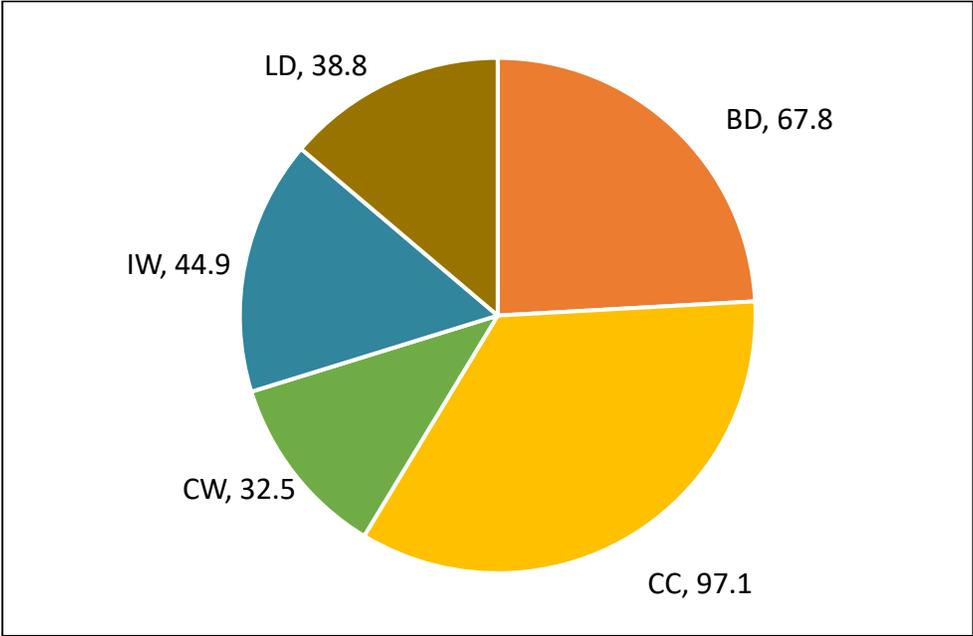
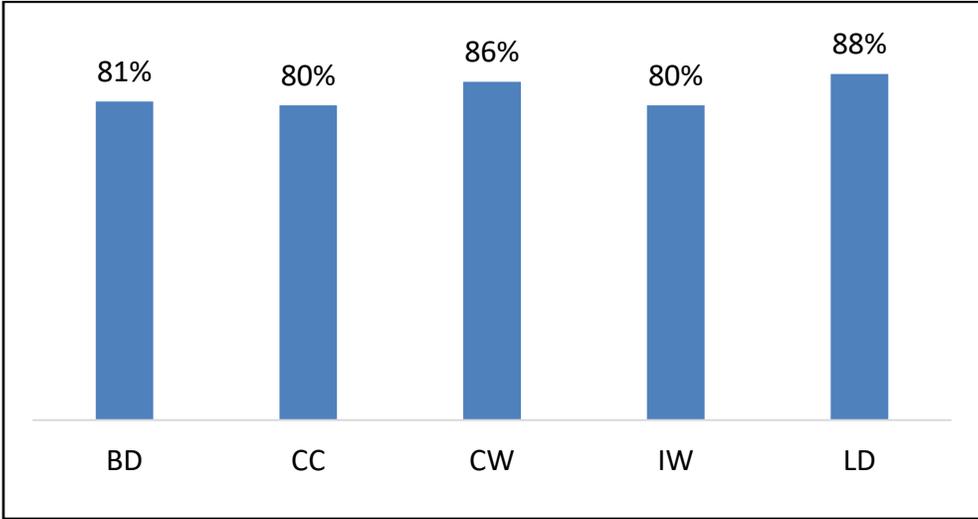


Figure 2. Cumulative Total % of GEF-8 Resources Programmed by Focal Area



31. An ambitious **Non-Grant Instrument (NGI)** project leveraging IFC concessional financing and private sector investment in regenerative agriculture across Latin America is the sole Global Program investment proposed in the Work Program. This will bring NGI, along with the Small Grants Programme, to nearly complete programming for GEF-8 at 93% and 96%, respectively (Table 5). Remaining funds allocated to the Innovation Window will be programmed through MSPs prior to the conclusion of the GEF-8 cycle.

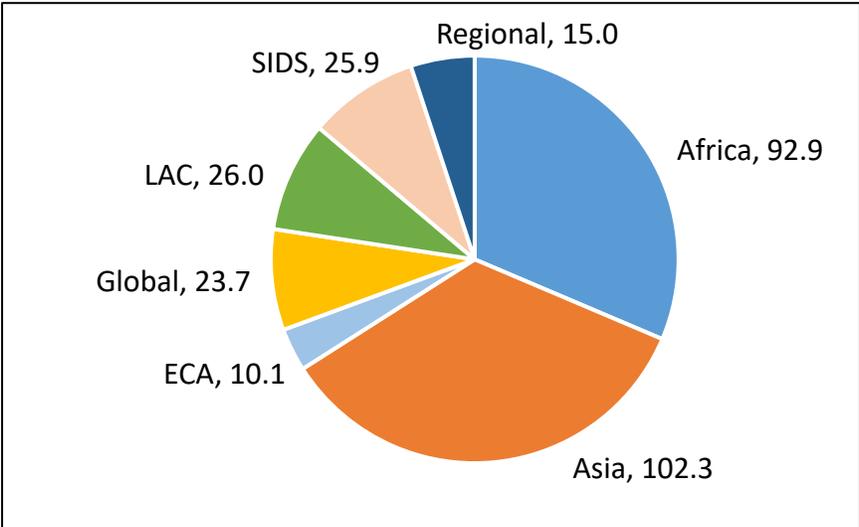
Table 5. GEF-8 Resources Programmed by Global Program

	GEF-8 Target Allocation	December 2025 Work Program ⁹	Cumulative Total of GEF-8 Resources Programmed	Proportion of GEF-8 Target Allocation
(\$ millions)				
Non-Grant Instrument	195	15.0	181.1	93%
Small Grants Programme	155	0.0	148.2	96%
Innovation Window	12	0.0	3.8	32%
Total Resources Programmed	362	15	333	92%

Distribution of GEF Project Financing by Region

32. In all, **56 (34%) of GEF recipient countries** will benefit from this Work Program, including 21 Small Island Developing States (55% of all SIDS) and 21 Least Developed Countries (46% of all LDCs). The Asia region has the highest level of programming, followed by Africa, LAC, and SIDS (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Distribution of GEF Project Financing by Region (\$ millions)



⁹ Inclusive of PPG funding and PPG fees

Distribution of Resources by Agency

33. **Eight of the 18 GEF Agencies** will implement the Work Program. The Agency distribution reflects increased balance with no Agency exceeding 20% of the Work Program allocation, consistent with Council recommendations.

34. UNDP and FAO receive the highest allocations with 19.3% and 18.9% of the Work Program, followed by UNEP (17.8%) and UNIDO (16.2%). One regional bank (AfDB) will participate (5.3%) (Table 6).

35. The Work Program will leverage **\$1.84 billion in co-financing, a ratio of 1:7**. “Investment mobilized” co-financing represents \$1.2 billion (65%) of total co-financing. The co-financing ratio of “investment mobilized” is 1:5 for the Work Program. These ratios exceed GEF policy targets.¹⁰

36. The distribution by co-financier shows that most co-financing is expected from Recipient Country Government (42.7%), while more than 1/3 is forecast from the Private Sector (Figure 4). GEF Implementation Agency and Donor Agency co-financing forecasts are more modest.

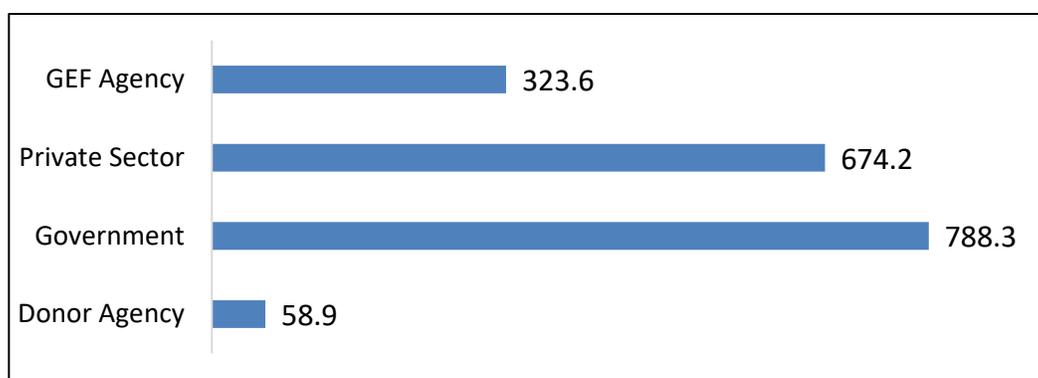
Table 6. Amount of GEF Resources by Agency¹¹

Agency	Resources in December 2025 Work Program		Total GEF-8 Resources Programmed Inclusive of December 2025	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	-	-	58.2	1.4%
AfDB	15.8	5.3%	80.7	1.9%
BOAD	-	-	8.0	0.2%
CAF	-	-	55.3	1.3%
CI	26.0	8.8%	171.2	4.0%
DBSA	-	-	24.0	0.6%
EBRD	-	-	33.8	0.8%
FAO	55.8	18.9%	674.8	15.9%
FECO	-	-	4.2	0.1%
Funbio	-	-	33.5	0.8%
IADB	-	-	74.9	1.8%
IFAD	14.6	4.9%	116.4	2.7%
IUCN	-	-	171.8	4.0%
UNDP	57.0	19.3%	1,241.8	29.2%
UNEP	52.8	17.8%	734.0	17.3%
UNIDO	48.0	16.2%	309.9	7.3%
World Bank	26.0	8.8%	328.7	7.7%
WWF-US	-	-	134.1	3.2%
Totals	296.0	100.0%	4,253.4	100.0%

¹⁰ https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_PL_01_Co-financing_Policy_2018.pdf

¹¹ Inclusive of Agency Fees, PPG funding, and PPG fees

Figure 4. Co-financing in the December 2025 Work Program (\$ million)¹²



Outcome Targets

37. The Work Program marks important progress towards the achievement of GEF-8 goals. High impact investments across the Pacific Ocean significantly enhance cumulative progress on marine habitats, which will far surpass the GEF-8 target for areas managed to benefit biodiversity. This Pacific marine project along with a global effort to combat illegal (IUU) tuna fishing also registers important impacts on bringing over-exploited marine fisheries to sustainable levels.

38. *Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity* brings together 12 Pacific Island nations to tackle urgent threats to marine ecosystems by strengthening regional collaboration, ocean protection, and sustainable blue economy investments. It aims to improve practices in 840 million ha of marine habitat, move 2,900 tons of fisheries to more sustainable levels, and strengthen cooperative management of two LMEs.

39. 19 projects under this Work Program contribute to land restoration objectives, reaching 97.3% of the overall GEF-8 target of 10 million ha of land and ecosystems restored. Projects in the Work Program aim to restore 1.1 million ha of land and ecosystems. Nearly half of this restoration will be achieved with an NGI project supporting Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, and Peru to accelerate and upscale the adoption regenerative agriculture practices in key food supply chains.

40. Important contributions are made to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, with significant projects on China's permafrost peatlands and on regenerative agriculture in Latin America. Projects in the work program mitigate 241.3 million metric tons of CO₂e, enabling the GEF to further surpass the GEF-8 GHG target.

41. Finally, efforts to strengthen policy coherence in Mexico will focus on implementing the country's first deforestation-free, low-emission livestock policy to bring more than 460,000 ha of productive landscapes under sustainable land management and sequester 60 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

¹² Private sector co-financing includes co-financing sourced from Beneficiaries, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, and Others.

Table 7. Contribution of the Proposed December 2025 Work Program to GEF-8 Outcome Targets

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	0.8	0.5%	96.0	64.0%
Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	100	1.4	1.4%	125.9	100.0%
Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha)*	195	4.0	2.0%	139.4	71.5%
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million ha)	70	840.8	100.0%	906.5	100.0%
People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)	Monitored	0.8	..	30.5	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.4	..	15.6	..
SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND					
Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)	10	1.1	11.3%	9.7	97.3%
People benefitting from sustainable land management and restoration investments (million)	Monitored	0.3	..	12.6	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.2	..	6.7	..
REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS					
Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO2e)	1,850	241.3	13.0%	2,184.7	100.0%
People benefitting from climate change mitigation support (million)	Monitored	11.4	..	29.1	..
- of whom women	Monitored	5.7	..	15.1	..
STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT					
Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	40	6.0	15.0%	47.0	100.0%
Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)	2.1	0.6	30.7%	4.4	100.0%
People benefitting from transboundary water management (million)	Monitored	3.2	..	11.7	..
- of whom women	Monitored	1.6	..	6.1	..
REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE					
Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)	300	0.1	0.0%	261.9	87.3%
Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)	5,900	40.0	0.7%	4,487.5	76.1%
People benefitting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals (million)	Monitored	0.1	..	66.2	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.03	..	35.8	..

* This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million ha 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, 42.2 million ha of this sub-indicator are achieved, within which 1.5 million ha are achieved from the proposed work program contribution.

Gender Considerations

42. All projects and programs included in the recent Work Program align with the GEF's Policy on Gender Equality. Gender equality considerations are captured in the project description and project components. Project concepts have outlined indicative actions to promote women's participation in governance and decision-making, strengthen their access to resources, and ensure equitable social and economic benefits. Detailed gender-specific activities will be refined during project design (PPG).

43. Thorough gender analyses, including assessments of social dynamics, health impacts, and value chains, are helping projects identify and address systemic inequalities to be addressed at implementation.

44. Many projects have moved beyond compliance to introduce innovative measures such as integrating gender equality into spatial planning, water management, and landscape governance, by promoting women's rights and leadership roles. Governance structures are being redesigned to promote gender balance and to include women's organizations as active decision-makers.

45. Several new projects are also taking a more transformative approach to women's economic empowerment. These include building the capacity of national financing facilities and private-sector partners to improve women's access to finance and data, supporting women-led initiatives through grants, and piloting blended-finance models that strengthen women's participation in technology transfer and green value chains.

46. All projects with capacity-building components now set explicit targets for women's participation, commonly aiming for equal representation, while also focusing on creating enabling environments for women's leadership. Training efforts extend to implementing agencies, policymakers, and local authorities, fostering inclusive practices and challenging stereotypes. New leadership cohorts and professional accelerators are being launched to help young and mid-career women advance.

47. Knowledge platforms are also evolving to capture and share lessons on gender equality more systematically. Digital tools include gender-specific indicators, data dashboards, and mechanisms to track progress across portfolios. Regular reporting will support learning and adaptive management, ensuring that results inform both project design and future policy.

48. Finally, projects are strengthening institutional capacity by recruiting gender experts, developing fully budgeted Gender Action Plans, and engaging actively with women's networks and gender focal points. Training for project teams will help sustain awareness of gender dynamics and inclusion.

Policy Coherence

49. As one of the cross-cutting principles of GEF-8 programming, the GEF Secretariat continues to assess the proposed policy coherence impacts of GEF-8 projects and programs at the design stage. Specific elements considered include if the projects and programs will foster policy impacts and policy alignment, undertake cross-sectoral reviews of relevant international, national, or regional policies,

undertake integrated and comprehensive planning and knowledge exchange across relevant Ministries, or strengthen multi-scale and multi-stakeholder governance at national and/or sub-national levels.

50. The Work Program addresses policy coherence with a particular focus through three Full Sized Projects (FSPs) and one Medium Sized Project (MSP) that are dedicated to this thematic area. This is the result of the operationalization of the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window.¹³ The Work Program presents the projects selected for the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window for the Council’s consideration. The final selections for this funding window include FSPs in Indonesia, Brazil, and Mexico and an MSP in China. The process of operationalizing this funding window is detailed in Annex C.

51. In Indonesia, the project *Enhancing Policy Coherence for a Sustainable Blue Economy in Indonesia*, will advance policy coherence in sustainable blue economy development by establishing a harmonized framework for data, accounting and decision support, leveraging the ocean accounting framework. In Brazil, the project *Promoting Policy Coherence through Brazil’s Ecological Transformation Plan*, will align policies and reform incentive structure of regional public financing instruments with environmental, social and economic priorities, anchored in the bioeconomy pillar of Ecological Transformation Plan. Similarly, the project *Mexico’s First National Policy for Deforestation-Free and Low-Emission Transforming of the Livestock Sector* will develop Mexico’s first national livestock policy, enhancing policy coherence across governmental sectors and levels and the private sector by aligning national and subnational planning, public incentives, and private investments to enable deforestation-free and low emission production. All the projects under this competitive funding window are underpinned by strong cross-sectoral and interministerial partnerships at the national level and incorporate effective knowledge management and capacity building strategies for potential replication and scaling-up.

52. An additional MSP by China completes the cohort of the projects in the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window on Policy Coherence. The project, *Enhancing Policy Coherence for Supervision & Management on China’s Key Ecological Spaces*, will facilitate sectoral coordination for coherent supervision and management in China’s select Key Ecological Spaces by strengthening legal and policy framework for sectoral coordination, implementing pilot projects and strengthening knowledge management and stakeholder capacity building.

53. In addition to these projects of this competitive window that are dedicated to policy coherence, several programs and projects considered for this Work Program address various elements of policy coherence. The global project, *Control and reduction of mercury emissions from the cement industry in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean region*, promotes policy coherence by ensuring broad engagement of stakeholders in the reduction of mercury emissions focusing on robust regulations and industry standards. The regional project, *Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopó-Salar de Coipasa (TDPS) System*

¹³ The GEF-8 replenishment negotiations resulted in the creation of a competitive window with a thematic focus on enhancing national policy coherence. The objective of this competitive funding window is to “encourage country-driven investments that enhance domestic policy coherence while reflecting the national policy landscape and aligning with other national GEF programming”. This window amounts to a total of USD 38 million, created by pooling 8 percent of the STAR Allocations of the top 5 GEF-8 STAR recipient countries who were then eligible for the competition – Indonesia, China, India, Brazil, and Mexico. GEF/C.62/04, [Updating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources \(STAR\)](#). May 19, 2022

II, will foster a more coherent binational governance framework for the long-term Strategic Action Program implementation between Bolivia and Peru in the TDPS transboundary basin system.

54. In Tanzania, the *Integrated Management of Critical Habitats, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems for Sustainable Blue Economy* project will strengthen institutions and coordination mechanisms for integrated, sustainable governance of coastal ecosystems at local and national levels in Tanzania, led by strong interministerial leadership and built on a multi-stakeholder system. Integrated Land and Water Management (ILWM) for enhanced ecosystem goods and services in Libya will halt and reverse ecosystem, biodiversity, and land degradation in the Ubari Lakes Basin through ILWM by strengthening national and local policy, planning, and institutional frameworks for ILWM and land degradation neutrality. The project *Establishing sustainable wetland management cornerstones in Madagascar* aims to be transformative by creating participatory governance platforms for the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the country's wetlands.

55. The *Supporting an integrated approach for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in Central India* project will enhance policy coherence for integrated biodiversity management through large-scale spatial planning and the creation of an inter-agency, inter-state coordination mechanism to address currently fragmented governance under diverse legal regimes. Similarly, *China's Green Shipping Transition Model and Demonstration* addresses policy fragmentation through enhanced inter-ministerial coordination and coherence mechanisms spanning multiple jurisdictions. The project will develop comprehensive policy frameworks, technical standards, incentive mechanisms and inter-ministerial coordination systems, and establish national knowledge platforms and targeted capacity-building programs.

56. In Ukraine, the *Resilient Ukrainian Forest Landscapes: Combating Land Degradation, Climate Change, and Economic Setbacks through Landscape-Level Forest Restoration* project aims to restore forest and agroforestry systems across diverse ecological zones by strengthening the enabling environment for forest landscape restoration and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration among forestry, agriculture sectors and biodiversity conservation initiatives. The project *Healthy and productive ecosystems for healthy and productive rural communities in DRC* will build an enabling environment by improving multi-sector coordination to scale and sustain the restoration of degraded forest and production landscapes in Haut-Katanga's and Kwango's miombo ecosystems. A multi-trust fund initiative, *Enhancing & Sustaining Kiribati's Resilient Future: Integrating Green Economy Transformations to strengthen Atolls Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Use Management*, will establish centralized data systems and policy frameworks to build institutional capacity for climate-resilient land use and coastal planning in Kiribati.

57. 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. The GEF Secretariat will also be closely monitoring the policy coherence projects of the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window through

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

further design and implementation for the purposes of learning, knowledge generation, knowledge transfer and upscaling of policy coherence through GEF-8 (and forthcoming GEF-9) programming.

Key Risks

58. The risk profile of this fourth Work Program under the GEF Risk Appetite (GEF/C.66/13) is rated as Moderate for Innovation and Execution, and Substantial for Context. The Context dimension has an average rating of 2.7, above the rating for Innovation and Execution, on a four-point scale (1=low, 2=moderate, 3=substantial, 4=high). These ratings are based on Agencies’ assessments of project risks and planned mitigants, with scores reflecting residual risk after mitigation. To align project-level ratings across nine risk categories with GEF’s risk appetite (Substantial for Context, High for Innovation, Moderate for Execution), Table 1 provides an average for each dimension, calculated using the highest category rating per project. This approach produces slightly higher dimension-level ratings than category-level ratings. The average ratings across the two Work Programs since adopting the GEF Risk Appetite are presented from a comparative perspective.

Table 8. Risk Profile of the Work Program (ratings: 1 Low – 4 High)

	December 2025 WP	WPs from June 2024 to date
CONTEXT	2.7	2.6
Climate	2.3	2.1
Environmental and Social	2.2	2.2
Political and Governance	1.9	1.9
INNOVATION	2.0	1.8
Institutional and Policy	1.8	1.8
Technological	1.5	1.6
Financial and Business Model	1.9	1.8
EXECUTION	2.0	2.0
Capacity	1.8	1.8
Fiduciary	1.6	1.6
Stakeholder	1.6	1.6

59. Under the Context risk dimension, the average risk rating is 2.7, indicating that projects and programs generally face close to Substantial risk from the external environment. The highest risks are observed in Climate risk with a 2.3 rating, followed by Environmental and Social risk, and Political and Governance risk, rated respectively at 2.2 and 1.9. For example, in the Marshall Islands, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and more frequent storms pose risks to ecosystems, infrastructure, and freshwater aquifers, while increasing costs and exposing outer atolls to equity concerns. Protecting sensitive habitats and cultural sites requires strong safeguards, inclusive engagement, effective water and waste management, and adaptive monitoring to address interconnected climate and social risks.

60. The Innovation risk dimension carries a Moderate rating, averaging 2.0. Agencies assessed innovation risks across three categories—Institutional and Policy, Technological, and Financial and

Business Model, rating them as generally Moderate. In advancing Indigenous and Local Community livelihoods, cultural practices, and sustainable land management, an initiative in South Africa faces risks linked to market access, community engagement, and the adoption of innovative financial models. To mitigate these, it integrates digital tools for monitoring value chains and participatory planning, while piloting inclusive business models that align conservation incentives with tangible local returns.

61. Execution risk for this Work Program is rated Moderate, with an average of 2.0. Capacity risk is the highest within this dimension, averaging 1.8, followed by Stakeholder risk at 1.6 and Fiduciary risk at 1.6. The Cubango–Okavango Basin Fund faces important institutional capacity and fiduciary risks due to limited procurement experience and faces moderate stakeholder engagement risk. Mitigants central to the World Bank approach for this project include strengthening procurement capacity through targeted training, particularly on contract management, and ensuring robust financial management systems for budgeting, internal controls, fund flows, and reporting are in place.

Work Program Description

Integrated Programs

62. **Global (Tanzania).** *Food Systems Integrated Program – Addendum – December 2025 – (GEF ID 11857).* Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,446,482; Co-financing: \$73,260,000. The “GEF-8 Program Framework Document (PFD) - Food Systems Integrated Program” expands Tanzania’s country project into Zanzibar’s Western Belts landscape, a region renowned for biodiversity and its role in national food systems. Tanzania is allocating an additional \$2 million from STAR resources, bringing total GEF Program Financing to \$2,446,482, plus \$220,184 in agency fees, for an overall total of \$2,666,666. The project is further supported by \$73,260,000 in co-financing, mainly from Zanzibar’s Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resource, and Livestock (MAINL). The addendum aims to transform rice-livestock-aquaculture food systems into nature-positive, resilient, and less polluting. Four integrated components will be implemented: (1) strengthening food systems governance, (2) improving financing for transformation, (3) promoting sustainable landscape management and inclusive value chains, and (4) advancing knowledge management and innovation. Key indicators include 13.87 million ha of landscapes under improved practices, 870,684 ha of land restored, and mitigation of 174 million tCO₂e in greenhouse gas emissions. The project targets improved livelihoods for 3.5 million small-scale producers and rural people, focusing on women, the poor, and disadvantaged groups. The Zanzibar expansion specifically adds 26,263 ha under improved management, 250 ha restored, and 62,000 new beneficiaries. Innovations include strengthening institutional capacity, policy influence, and multi-stakeholder alliances. The addendum promotes new approaches to food systems, land use, restoration, knowledge sharing, capacity development, and technology transfer. It also develops pathways for public and private investment and expands access to financial services, fostering resilient and regenerative agriculture. Led by FAO and IFAD, with FAO as the lead GEF Agency for Tanzania, the project’s executing entities are the Vice President’s Office, MAINL, and the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute.

Other Programs

63. **Global (Madagascar).** *Global Programme to Support Countries to Upscale Integrated Electric Mobility Systems - Addendum 2 – December Council 2025 – (GEF ID 12006)*. Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 1,784,862; Co-financing: \$ 4,450,000. Increasing demand for transportation of people and goods in low and middle-income countries is driving the growth of energy use and GHG emissions from the road transport sector globally. Recognizing the urgency of rapidly scaling up the decarbonization efforts within the transport sector, while also promoting coordination of efforts, efficiency in the provision of support and south-south learning, the GEF has been channeling its support to zero emission transport under the umbrella of its Global Electric Mobility Program. The program, which includes a network of regional support and investment hubs, communities of practices and a global support platform, is currently funding 32 country projects onboarded in GEF-7, with a total GEF envelope approaching \$80 million. Building on these strong existing foundations, the GEF-8 Global Programme to Support Countries to Upscale Integrated Electric Mobility Systems was approved in June 2023 at the 64th GEF Council, aiming to (i) widen the set of countries working on the subject, (ii) support investment into upscaled integrated e-mobility projects and (iii) establish a global framework to address key challenges related to used electric vehicles, end-of-life electric vehicles and batteries & circularity. The initial GEF-8 PFD increased the number of child projects under the global program from 32 to 39, and then 41 with the first Addendum approved in June 2025. This PFD Addendum will onboard one additional country, Madagascar, further expanding the program’s coverage for LDCs and bringing the total GEF financing for the GEF-8 program to \$27 million. The GEF-8 program continues and expands the activities started under GEF-7 and makes use of the governance structures and institutional set-up already established, realizing economies of scale. The program is also cooperating with leading financing institutions including the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to upscale country-level activities funded by the GEF and works together with other initiatives such as the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council to facilitate matchmaking of funding opportunities with project proposals. The expanded GEF-8 program now includes 10 new country projects that are expected to result in GHG emission reductions of about 12.5 million tons of CO₂e (3.5 million direct and 9 million indirect). In addition to the GHG emission savings coming from the country projects, the global project will lead to the reduction of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) for which indicative targets are 3.7 metric tons (sub-indicator 9.1) and 170 metric tons (sub-indicator 9.6). Finally, in total, the program expects to directly benefit 30,960 people (out of which 45% are women).

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

64. **Tanzania.** *Spatial-based Natural Forest Planning and Governance for Robust Ecosystems (SPARE) –Integrated Management of Critical Habitats, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems for Sustainable Blue Economy (GEF ID 12074)*. Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$43,264,000. The project aims to restore critical coastal and marine ecosystems in eight districts within the Tanga-Pemba seascape of Tanzania by involving communities in conservation and supporting nature-positive businesses. The project will address both local constraints and the global biodiversity crisis through a transformative, scalable model implemented to achieve 4 outcomes including: 1) Enhanced ecological

functionality and resilience of critical coastal and marine habitats via community-led restoration and improved local management. 2) Diversified, sustainable, nature-based income streams support conservation and reduce ecosystem pressure. 3) Strengthened institutions and coordination mechanisms for integrated, sustainable governance of coastal ecosystems at local and national levels. 4) Improved information systems and community innovations enable widespread improvements in coastal habitat management. The success of this project will be measured by meeting the following biodiversity targets: 1) Restoration and improved management of critical coastal habitats with 1,377.8 ha of marine protected areas under improved management; 19,000 ha of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) restored; and 18,622 ha of marine habitat under improved management practices outside protected areas.

65. **South Africa.** *Securing Nature's Contribution to People: Advancing Indigenous and Local Community Livelihoods, Cultural Practices, and Sustainable Land Management – (GEF ID 12028).* Agency: UNDP. GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,406,101; Co-financing: \$ 41,092,606. This project aims to foster inclusive socio-economic growth and environmental sustainability in rural South African communities by formalizing and transforming key natural resource industries through sustainable management and utilization. It specifically targets the game meat industry, traditional medicinal plant value chain, and legal ornamental plant trade, addressing biodiversity loss and socio-economic disparities. Biodiversity Targets include: 39,000 ha (9,000 ha medicinal plants, 30,000 ha ornamental plants) of land and ecosystems under restoration; 50,000 ha (game meat production) of landscapes under improved practices; 13,000 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity; 44,000 ha (37,000 ha game meat, 7,000 ha medicinal plants) Terrestrial OECMs supported; 4,100 (2,050 female, 2,050 male) people benefiting from GEF-financed investments

Chemicals and Waste

66. **Liberia.** *planetGOLD Liberia – Sustainable Mercury Reduction in Liberia's ASGM Sector – (GEF ID 11905).* Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$7,000,000; Co-financing: \$24,569,881. This national project will reduce mercury pollution in Liberia's ASGM sector by formalizing operations, strengthening policy and enforcement, expanding access to finance and markets, and scaling mercury-free processing technologies. Over 48 months it targets 50 metric tons of mercury reduced, ~148,000 t CO₂ avoided through efficiency gains, 10,000 ha under improved practices/restoration, and benefits for 20,000 people (12,000 women). The design integrates four components: (1) ASGM formalization and policy strengthening, including at least five policies and training for 5,000 miners and officials; (2) access to finance and markets, with financial literacy for 3,000 miners and three finance partnerships; (3) adoption of mercury-free technologies via five demonstration sites and training for 1,500 miners; and (4) M&E and knowledge-sharing, including nationwide awareness campaigns and an ASGM knowledge platform. Gender and inclusion are embedded through a comprehensive Gender Action Plan, sex-disaggregated targets, and measures to expand women's access to finance, technology, and leadership in cooperatives. Central Bank, miners' groups, gold buyers, civil society, and local communities were consulted and will participate in implementation, with FPIC where required. The project aligns Minamata objectives and contributes to GBF Target 7 and related targets, delivering global environmental benefits while advancing a formal, mercury-free, and economically viable ASGM sector.

67. **Burkina Faso.** *Management of Mercury and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Burkina Faso for a Safe Living Environment – (GEF ID 11904).* Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$7,000,000; Co-financing: \$100,985,160. The project proposes to address mercury and POPs pollution while advancing the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions. The initiative focuses on modernizing policy and enforcement, building practical infrastructure, and strengthening the skills needed to manage hazardous materials safely from collection to final disposal. Over its implementation, the project aims to reduce mercury by about 65 metric tons each year, avoid 40 g TEQ of unintentional POPs annually, eliminate roughly 2.5 tons of POPs-contaminated waste per year, and deliver direct benefits to 30,000 people, including 16,000 women. The design combines policy updates on import, use, and disposal with on-the-ground investments: two centralized storage and treatment facilities, a pilot mercury-waste recycling unit, 20 specialized collection centers, and a national reference center for hazardous chemicals and waste. Capacity building includes training for 500 local actors, nationwide awareness campaigns reaching 100,000 citizens, and a national tracking database. Knowledge and monitoring are supported through a public project website and online platform, digital tracking of mercury and POPs flows, annual impact reports, and regional policy dialogues. Gender equality is built in through sex-disaggregated indicators and targeted support for women working in the waste value chain. Implementation is led by the Ministry of Environment with the Municipal Agency for Major Works, engaging municipalities, private operators, civil society, academia, and informal recyclers. Expected co-benefits include cleaner air, soil, and water, safer livelihoods for waste workers, progress toward a more circular economy, and improved climate resilience through better planning and siting of facilities.

68. **Global (Jamaica, Cuba, Suriname).** *Control and reduction of mercury emissions from the cement industry in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean region – (GEF ID 11882).* Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 15,000,000; Co-financing: \$ 105,000,000. The project will help Cuba, Jamaica and Suriname meet Minamata Articles 8 and 9 by setting harmonized emission limits, deploying continuous emission monitoring systems, and piloting Convention-compliant BAT/BEP in cement kilns. It targets reductions of 3.51 tonnes of mercury and 4.35 million tonnes of CO₂ over five years, locking controls into regulations and industry standards. Private sector engagement is a core strength. Caribbean cement companies tied to CEMEX, Argos and FICEM will co-finance US\$59 million (US\$50 million in kind, US\$9.35 million cash), host demonstration kilns, and test dust shuttling, activated carbon injection and low-carbon clinker substitution, enabling cost-effective replication. Scalability is built in. Component 2 blends low-cost input controls and process optimization with modular secondary abatement suitable for retrofits, while Component 4 delivers a bilingual knowledge platform, regional B2B fora and an ENVEA MoU to expand mercury CEMS. A regional steering committee supports transfer to 17 additional Caribbean states and other SIDS. The design integrates gender and inclusion: a 40 percent participation target, sex-disaggregated health analysis, partner criteria, and support for women-led SMEs aligned with SDG 5. Broad stakeholder engagement ensures policy coherence. Co-benefits include cuts in uPOPs, SO₂ and NO_x, resource savings, healthier ecosystems, and a replicable SIDS model.

Climate Change

69. **China.** *Transforming China's Cooling Sector for Low-Carbon Development – (GEF ID 11885).* Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$11,000,000; Co-financing: \$135,476,600. The project seeks to catalyze a systemic transformation of China's cooling sector by establishing a robust enabling environment for the large-scale deployment of low-carbon technologies in space cooling and cold chain applications. This transformation is driven through comprehensive policy reform, development of integrated standards, institutional coordination, and strategic planning. The initiative validates the technical and financial viability of advanced and passive cooling technologies, district cooling systems, building envelope retrofits, and refrigerant innovations. It also generates financial and institutional momentum for scaling up solutions through the launch of innovative financing models for the cooling sector: Cooling-as-a-Service, ESCO and PAYS models, and microfinance for SMEs. The project is expected to mitigate approximately 38 million tCO₂e and directly benefit 11 million people, with a target of 50% female beneficiary.

International Waters

70. **Regional (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu).** *Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) through the Ocean Flagship – (GEF ID 12069).* Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$ 18,048,624; Co-financing: \$ 102,706,318. Leveraging the institutional platform of The Pacific Community (SPC)'s Ocean Flagship Programme in supporting countries in accessing coordinated technical assistance and regional cooperation for ocean management, this project will help implement the Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) Initiative - a Pacific-led initiative to sustainably manage and protect the vast ocean territories of the Pacific Islands. The goals of UBPP are to sustainably manage 100% of Pacific Ocean waters, protect at least 30% by 2030, and build healthy, resilient communities with robust food systems, all supported by innovative and "fit-for-purpose" financing. The GEF IW investment will support 12 Pacific SIDS, with a goal of including two more Pacific Island Countries, Papua New Guinea and Nauru, before CEO Endorsement. The project aims to have 840 million ha of marine habitat under improved practices, 2,900 tons of marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels, promote shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management and support 3,045,597 direct beneficiaries, of which 1,492,940 are women.

71. **Regional (Angola, Botswana, Namibia).** *Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB): Financing Innovation in Transboundary Waters – (GEF ID 12058).* Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$ 10,000,000; Co-financing: \$ 63,000,000. The Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB) is a hydrologically complex and biologically unique system which is deeply interconnected across borders highlighting the importance of transboundary solutions to support investments in community livelihoods and maintaining the integrity of the ecosystem. Innovations in transboundary water financing are key to achieving predictable long-term financing of sufficient scope to address basin priorities. Applying GEF's experience and a conservation trust fund model to a regional, river basin context is highly innovative and has the potential to provide a leading example for other transboundary basins endowed with unique environmental assets like the Cubango-Okavango- basin and its unique delta environment. The project will support the operationalization and viability of the regional CORB Fund, including a stable

endowment, towards sustainable development in the Cubango-Okavango river basin. The project will (a) support the consolidation and expansion of the CORB Fund and advance collaboration towards its long-term sustainability; (b) strengthening OKACOM's capacity to enable innovative financing to address priority areas, laying the foundation for larger/more complex investments in the future; and (c) support targeted technical assistance to maximize the impact of livelihood interventions and biodiversity conservation. These interventions will contribute to the overall GEF core indicators to improve cooperative management of shared water ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and build resilience.

72. **Regional (Bolivia, Peru).** *Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopó-Salar de Coipasa (TDPS) System II – SAP Implementation – (GEFID 11999)*. Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$64,068,978. In 2025, Bolivia and Peru ministerially endorsed their joint Strategic Action Program (SAP) for the TDPS—an important transboundary basin system in the Andean Altiplano that is approaching ecological and ecosystem service collapse. The SAP, which was developed by stakeholders through a 2018-2022 GEF investment, sets out 25 priority actions and a 25-year roadmap to restore TDPS ecosystem health and enhance water security and livelihoods. This new project will support the countries in implementing the initial five years of the SAP. The project will strengthen institutional coordination and capacities (including for the Autonomous Binational Authority of Lake Titicaca); promote conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources; reduce pollution pressures in priority hotspots; and restore degraded ecosystems through nature-based solutions. The project will also operationalize a binational observatory to integrate satellite and field-based data to support early warning, adaptive management, and evidence-based decision-making. The project will place one shared water ecosystem under improved cooperative management; directly benefit 120,000 people, including 33,000 Indigenous Peoples and Local Community members; restore 5,000 ha of wetlands; place 150,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices; and mitigate 3.3 million metric tons of CO₂e.

73. **Global.** *Accelerating Electronic Monitoring in Tuna Fisheries for Strengthening Transparency and Addressing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (EM4IUU) – (GEFID 11996)*. Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$5,354,587; Co-financing: \$50,000,000. The project will increase transparency in global tuna supply chains by expanding and strengthening Electronic Monitoring (EM) programs, including working with Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) and their member states and private sector actors that are signatories of the Tuna Transparency Pledge. The project expects to achieve improved management in at least three Large Marine Ecosystems, piloting at least three fishery improvement projects (FIPs) following Marine Stewardship Council certification, moving at least 442,712 metric tons of globally over-exploited fisheries to more sustainable levels, and directly benefiting at least 2,510 people. This transformative project will be scaling EM adoption across diverse actors and geographies, including at least three tuna RFMOs, at least six Coastal States, and at least eight private sector actors and government partners in US, UK, and/or EU markets. Specific countries and market actors will be identified during full project development.

Multi-Focal Area

74. **South Sudan.** *Resilient landscapes and Livelihoods through Integrated Landscape Management and Nature-Based Solutions in South Sudan – (GEFID 12086).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 6,711,633; Co-financing: \$ 52,977,666. Decades of protracted conflict and increasing population pressure on natural resources in South Sudan have contributed to weak institutional capacity, overexploitation of resources, and environmental degradation—resulting in the loss of ecosystem diversity, ecological connectivity, and livelihoods. Deforestation, flooding, droughts, declining soil fertility, and food insecurity are among the major drivers of poverty and human suffering. To address these challenges, the project aims to enhance the resilience of landscapes and livelihoods through Integrated Landscape Management and Nature-based Solutions in four priority counties. The proposed approach will strengthen institutional and technical capacities, restore degraded ecosystems, improve natural resource governance, and promote climate-resilient livelihoods by adopting a participatory framework that balances competing land uses, reduces land-use conflicts, and sustains biodiversity and ecosystem services for food, energy, and livelihood security. Successful implementation of the project is expected to deliver several global environmental benefits, including the restoration of 27,000 ha of degraded land; improved management of 10,000 ha benefiting biodiversity and livelihoods; avoidance of more than 1,674,882 tCO₂e emissions (838,520 direct, 836,362 indirect); and direct benefits to 100,000 people, 50% of whom are women.

75. **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).** *Healthy and productive ecosystems for healthy and productive rural communities in DRC – (GEFID 12083).* GEF Agency: FAO. GEF project financing: \$ 6,010,046; cofinancing: \$ 20,800,000. Haut-Katanga and Kwango provinces in DRC face accelerating degradation of miombo woodlands and farming lands, driven by dependence on wood energy, slash and burn practices, mining pollution, recurrent fires, and severe gully erosion. Ecosystem services are declining, biodiversity is fragmented, and livelihoods, particularly for women, youth, and local communities are increasingly vulnerable. The project aims to scale and sustain restoration of degraded forest and production landscapes in Haut-Katanga's and Kwango's miombo ecosystems, strengthening the resilience of rural communities' livelihoods. It is designed on three components to 1) build an enabling environment (developing forest and landscape restoration strategies and improving multi-sector coordination); 2) deliver inclusive restoration of forests and production landscapes (supporting assisted natural regeneration, erosion control, community forestry, agroecological practices, and biodiversity-friendly enterprises with a strong gender focus); and 3) manage knowledge in empowering universities and provincial observatories to monitor ecological and socio-economic outcomes, capture lessons, and disseminate them. The project targets 15,537 ha of forests and woodlands restored, 100,000 ha of landscapes under improved management for biodiversity, 119,136 ha of production landscapes under SLM. The project is intended to benefit to 50,000 beneficiaries, including 50% women, delivering essential co-benefits contributing to resilient livelihoods and food and security.

76. **China.** *China's Green Shipping Transition Model and Demonstration – (GEFID 12076).* Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 17,163,120; Co-financing: \$ 158,286,380. This project aims to accelerate China's transition to green shipping by establishing coordinated national frameworks that integrate clean fuel technologies, sustainable practices, and biodiversity protection across inland waterways,

coastal routes, and international shipping corridors. It addresses policy fragmentation through enhanced inter-ministerial coordination and coherence mechanisms spanning multiple jurisdictions. The approach is operationalized through four components: (i) development of comprehensive policy frameworks, technical standards, incentive mechanisms, and inter-ministerial coordination systems; (ii) implementation of integrated technology demonstrations that combine clean fuel vessels with enabling port infrastructure and market transformation initiatives; (iii) establishment of national knowledge platforms and delivery of targeted capacity-building programs; and (iv) systematic monitoring and evaluation to support adaptive management. Expected outcomes include a reduction of 10.6 million tons of CO₂e emissions, improved management of 15,000 ha of marine protected areas and 4,500 ha of marine habitat, enhanced cooperative governance of two shared water ecosystems, and direct benefits for 20,000 people, with a target of at least 30% women through job creation and capacity development.

77. **Malawi.** *Resilient Integrated Livestock and Aquaculture Project (RILAP) – (GEFID 12072).* Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,344,124; cofinancing \$33,000,000. Malawi's livestock and aquaculture sectors play a vital role in the country's economic development, particularly food security and livelihoods. Within a comprehensive ecosystem-based approach, the development of Malawi's livestock and aquaculture sector can represent a significant force for sustainable development. The project, designed on best practices and lessons from past projects, aims to scale up resilient aquaculture and livestock approaches within integrated farming systems and sustainable land management practices through access to climate-smart technologies. This will be accomplished through 1) strengthening of institutional and policy enabling frameworks, 2) scaling best practices for agrobiodiverse aquaculture and livestock systems within climate-resilient farming and sustainable land management practices, and 3) improving the inclusive knowledge base to support environmental and production benefits. The project targets more than 50,000 ha of land restored, 59,000 ha of landscapes under improved management practices to benefit biodiversity, 59,000 ha of landscapes under SLM in production systems, and 100,000 tCO₂e of GHG emissions mitigated, benefiting to 30,000 individuals, of which half are women.

78. **Bangladesh.** *Integrated Nature-Based Management of Jaflong-Dawki, Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula and Sonadia Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) in Bangladesh – (GEF ID 12033).* Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 9,279,452; Co-financing: \$ 50,000,000. Globally important biodiversity in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula, Sonadia and Jaflong-Dawki River Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs), and adjacent landscapes, is threatened by unsustainable resource extraction, deforestation, pollution, land use change, tourism and climate change. Climate change is also threatening the culture and livelihoods of the Khasi and other ethnic communities. Weak enforcement of regulations, institutional gaps, and lack of alternative livelihoods constrain efforts to conserve biodiversity and sustain ecosystem services. This project is to promote integrated approaches to restoration, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in the three ECAs. It will seek to do so through a landscape approach by (i) improving enabling conditions, (ii) promoting integrated management, and (iii) enhancing access to knowledge and practices. It will work with 55 Village Conservation Groups to improve protection of ecosystems and reduce dependency on natural resources. Expected results include 20,135 ha of improved terrestrial protected areas and 1,029 ha of marine PAs, 12,000 ha of degraded areas restored,

20,164 ha of landscapes under improved practices, 3.103 million tonnes of CO₂e reduced and 328,862 people benefitting.

79. **China.** *Integrated Management of Permafrost Peatland in Northern China for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Actions – (GEFID 11989).* Agency: UNDP. Project financing: \$ 7,105,936; co-financing: \$ 42,000,000. Carbon storage, hydrological regulation, and globally significant biodiversity of the Lesser Khingan and Qilian Mountains are at risk from climate change, overgrazing, peat extraction, and poorly planned infrastructure. Fragmented governance and limited access to conservation finance have left peatlands outside otherwise robust forest and grassland protections. The project adopts a landscape-level approach that links national reform with site implementation and community incentives, by: 1.) strengthening the enabling environment by embedding peatlands in national and provincial planning, developing restoration and carbon-accounting guidelines, integrating peat-sensitive EIA and extraction/drainage controls, and mobilizing sustainable public–private finance; 2.) demonstrating integrated landscape management in two representative regions by restoring hydrology, improving protected-area management, and promoting sustainable grazing and land use across surrounding production mosaics; and 3.) securing durable uptake through co-designed incentives (including PES), transparent benefit delivery, and community-based monitoring and knowledge exchange. The project will establish a new 20,000-ha protected area, improve management across 293,646 ha, restore 10,800 ha of degraded peatlands, and promote sustainable practices on 500,000 ha of adjacent landscapes. Together, these actions reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by 1.8 million tCO₂e and provide a replicable model for integrating peatland conservation into China’s climate and biodiversity strategies.

80. **Madagascar.** *Establishing sustainable wetland management cornerstones in Madagascar – (GEF ID 11879).* Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 6,372,314; Co-financing: \$ 34,836,165. Madagascar’s diverse ecological regions face mounting environmental and socio-economic pressures. The wetlands are among the most ecologically significant and socio-economically vital ecosystems in the country. Areas such as Torotorofotsy, Tsiribihina, Nosivolo, and Tsimembo-Manambolomaty, are particularly vulnerable to habitat degradation and biodiversity loss, pollution and invasive species. They play a critical role in biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and local livelihoods, while also holding cultural importance for the communities. They support endemic and endangered species, sustain traditional livelihoods such as fishing and farming, and provide ecosystem services such as water regulation, carbon sequestration, and coastal protection. The project aims to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage Madagascar’s wetlands by strengthening governance, enhancing ecological integrity, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and building resilience through inclusive, gender responsive approaches. It intends to be transformative by aligning policy reforms with community engagement, creating participatory governance platforms, restoring ecosystems, and scaling sustainable agriculture and eco-enterprises. Innovative financing mechanisms, including a national wetland investment case, will ensure long-term sustainability. Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) include improved management of 81,482 ha of protected areas, restoration of 82,141 ha, and mitigation of 17.5 million tCO₂-e. Adaptation benefits include enhanced resilience to floods, drought, and climate shocks through wetland restoration and nature-based solutions. Other results include improved community capacities, gender equity in natural resource governance, and integrated biodiversity and climate strategies. The project embodies

a systems-based approach to securing ecological sustainability and socio-economic wellbeing across Madagascar's wetland landscapes.

81. **Ukraine.** *Resilient Ukrainian Forest Landscapes: Combating Land Degradation, Climate Change, and Economic Setbacks through Landscape-Level Forest Restoration – (GEF ID 11716).* Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,412,817; Co-financing: \$ 42,640,000. This project aims to restore forest and agroforestry systems across diverse ecological zones in Ukraine to strengthen climate resilience, enhance ecosystem services, and support the country's green recovery. The Project will improve planning, financing, and decision-making for forest restoration, reinforcing the Government of Ukraine's commitment to sustainable forest management and green development. Restoration efforts will focus on accessible areas to rebuild productive landscapes and rural livelihoods, while strengthening the enabling environment for forest landscape restoration and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration among forestry, agriculture sectors and biodiversity conservation initiatives. The project will enhance nursery and seed systems, establish demonstration sites showcasing effective restoration models, and develop strategies to mobilize green finance and attract private investment for long-term sustainability. Overall, the project will generate significant global environmental benefits by placing 50,000 ha of landscapes under improved management practices, including the restoration of 10,700 ha of forests and 1,000 ha of shelter belts. These interventions are expected to mitigate approximately 7,827,733 million metric tons of CO₂e, contributing substantially to global climate change mitigation and the recovery of vital ecosystems. In addition, the project's activities will directly benefit 113,800 people, with a target of 53% women, strengthening local livelihoods and promoting inclusive, sustainable landscape restoration.

82. **Libya.** *Integrated Land and Water Management (ILWM) for enhanced ecosystem goods and services in Libya – (GEF ID 11706).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,150,793; Co-financing: \$ 20,000,000. The project aims to halt and reverse ecosystem, biodiversity, and land degradation in the Ubari Lakes Basin through an Integrated Land and Water Management (ILWM) approach that harmonizes environmental conservation with sustainable economic development. Key interventions include: (i) strengthening national and local policy, planning, and institutional frameworks for ILWM and land degradation neutrality (LDN); (ii) restoring degraded lake, wetland, and oasis ecosystems; (iii) establishing the 100,000-ha Ubari Lakes National Park; (iv) implementing sustainable land and water management practice of production landscapes; (v) introducing micro-finance and training programs for nature-based livelihoods; and (vi) promoting knowledge exchange and replication of ILWM models nationwide. The project will deliver significant global environmental benefits, including the conservation of biodiversity through the protection of endangered species and critical habitats, improved water regulation, and strengthened landscape connectivity—contributing to Libya's commitments under the GBF and UNCCD. Specifically, the project will restore 225 ha of high-value degraded oasis ecosystems, establish the 100,000-hectare Ubari Lakes National Park, and support sustainable land management and climate-resilient livelihoods across 2,000 ha within the Ubari Lakes Basin and adjacent areas. These interventions will enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of at least 2,250 people—half of them women—and create approximately 700 new jobs.

83. **India.** *Supporting an integrated approach for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in Central India (Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) – (GEF ID 11415).* Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 9,891,743; Co-financing: \$ 99,636,050. The project focuses on part of the highly biodiverse Central India Landscape Complex, which encompasses half of India's tiger reserves. The targeted landscape exemplifies the challenge of managing a large, forested landscape, where different patches of forests are governed by different institutions under diverse legal regimes. As a response, the project will support effective integrated landscape management approaches that use multiple forest and land management tools and strategies to respond to the drivers of biodiversity loss within a 2.9-million-hectare landscape mosaic. It will enhance policy coherence for integrated biodiversity management through large-scale spatial planning and the creation of an inter-agency, inter-State coordination mechanism. It will also implement priority conservation, restoration and sustainable use interventions on the ground, with a focus on supporting individuals and communities that have been assigned special rights on forest lands under India's Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act. The project will improve management of 700,000 ha of forest land, including strengthened management over 283,875 ha of protected areas and forest restoration over 82,382 ha. It will benefit 232,000 people and mitigate 4.9 million tons CO₂e greenhouse gas emissions.

84. **India.** *Enabling resilience of livestock keepers through integrated landscape management – (GEF ID 11403).* Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,841,096; Co-financing: \$ 63,371,744. Unmanaged grazing of domestic animals is a significant driver of land degradation in India. It is estimated to impact 5.65 million ha of land degradation in the country, and nearly 78 percent of forest areas. As a response, this project is to reduce land degradation and enhance the climate and livelihood resilience of smallholder livestock keepers through gender-responsive integrated silvopastoral and landscape restoration. Taking a value chain approach, it will catalyze Dairy Cooperative Societies and Milk Producer Organizations (which involve primarily women farmers) to champion transformational change through restoration, sustainable land management, and further greening dairy value chains. This will include promotion of intercropping of indigenous trees with fodder grasses and legumes, soil and water conservation measures for restoration of degraded farms and rangelands, and on-farm improved waste management and circular approaches. This project will complement Food Systems IP interventions in the country, leveraging for example the same knowledge management systems. It aims to achieve restoration and sustainable management of 93,750 ha of land, benefit 75,000 people (70% women) and reduce emissions of 4,960,775 tons of CO₂e.

Non-Grant Instrument

85. **Regional (Latin America and the Caribbean).** *Regenerative Agriculture for Food Supply Chains ("RASC") – (GEF ID 11866).* Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$ 13,761,468; Co-financing: \$ 202,200,000. The RASC project aims to provide financing to incentivize adoption of regenerative farming practices in agricultural value chains in Latin America with Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Mexico, and Peru as being priorities. The project will contribute to reduce fuel use, chemical input and sequester carbon in natural vegetation and soil, reduce land degradation, and restore productive landscapes. The project will focus on corporate agricultural value chains, prioritizing maize, rice, wheat, soy, and other food crops. Importantly, the RASC is designed to benefit both direct medium and large corporate clients (such as

processors, aggregators, and agricultural producers) that source food crops grown with regenerative agriculture techniques and end-beneficiaries with a particular emphasis placed on supporting smallholder farmers and SMEs utilize regenerative agriculture practices to produce food crops. The project, designed to be implemented under the GEF Concurrence Mechanism to increase flexibility during implementation, will leverage blended concessional finance, combining GEF resources with IFC funds and co-financing from commercial financial institutions to de-risk investments and incentivize sustainable practices. GEF funds will be used either for sustainability-linked loans with interest rate reductions to incentivize regenerative practices or for subordinated loans to derisk the IFC's commercial bank loans to the farmers that use the regenerative agricultural practices. The technical assistance component will support farmer adoption of regenerative agriculture practices. The project is expected to restore 500,000 Ha of degraded land and ecosystems, improve management of 500,000 Ha of landscapes, and mitigate 15,973,629 tCO₂e. It will also benefit 10,000 people, with at least 35% women.

Multi-Trust Fund

86. **Kiribati.** *Enhancing & Sustaining Kiribati's Resilient Future: Integrating Green Economy Transformations to strengthen Atolls Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Use Management – (GEF ID 11759).* GEF Agency IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$ 25,922,298 including \$ 7,783,594 from the GEF Trust Fund and \$ 18,138,704 from LDCF; Co-financing: \$ 25,000,000. The project *Enhancing and Sustaining Kiribati Resilient Future: Integrating Green Economy Transformations to strengthen Atolls Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Use Management* aim to strengthen national and community resilience through integrated investments in ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihoods, and adaptive governance. Implemented by IFAD with Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD) as an executing partner, the initiative blends adaptation and resilience benefits with global environmental benefits across four components. The project will (i) build institutional capacity for climate-resilient land use and coastal planning, establishing centralized data systems and policy frameworks; (ii) restore degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems using agroecology, mangrove rehabilitation, and soil regeneration; (iii) conserve biodiversity through community-based management of key habitats and promotion of nature-based livelihoods; and (iv) enhance water, agriculture, and energy resilience via decentralized solar-powered systems, climate-smart farming, and strengthened water infrastructure. By integrating traditional knowledge, gender-responsive action, and data platforms, the project will protect biodiversity, reduce health and livelihood vulnerabilities, and improve carbon sequestration. Ultimately, it provides a transformative model for small island adaptation—linking healthy ecosystems, inclusive governance, and sustainable livelihoods to secure Kiribati's long-term resilience and development.

87. **Republic of Marshall Islands.** *Blue-Green Atolls: Addressing Land Degradation, Groundwater Salinization & Coastal Erosion in RMI via climate-resilient strategies – (GEF ID 12087).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,537,093 including \$ 5,860,082 from the GEF Trust Fund and \$ 2,677,011 from the SCCF; Co-financing: \$ 38,500,000. This project aims to address the acute vulnerabilities of low-lying atoll communities in RMI, which face worsening droughts and saltwater intrusion that contaminate limited freshwater sources and soil. The objective of the project is to strengthen climate resilience of Marshall Islands and prevent land degradation, thereby addressing integrated land-water challenges

affecting key ecosystems and livelihoods. Three components will be applied to deliver this objective. Component 1 provides the foundation of resilience by securing water resources through engagement climate-smart water and drought-resilient land management. Component 2 expands the resilience-building to the natural environment and agriculture to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation by engaging in coastal zone management planning in high risk-atolls as well as EbA/NbS and organic waste-to-compost soil restoration to safeguard soils, freshwater, coasts, and community livelihoods. Component 3 will enhance knowledge management and learning for scaling up of water management, land rehabilitation and restoration practices in other atolls in RMI. The project is expected to restore 3ha of agricultural land, 30–40 ha of mangroves and 9–12 ha of coastal land; bring 5300ha of land under improved land management and deliver 4,258 tCO₂e avoided over 20 years. At least 12,000 direct beneficiaries (50% women) representing 28% of RMI population are expected.

Non-expedited Enabling Activity

88. **Global.** *Umbrella Programme for Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – (GEF ID 12077).* Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 31,749,750. The project will support 25 countries to meet their reporting obligations under the UNFCCC, including the preparation and submission of 25 standalone Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and 25 combined BTRs and National Communications.

Competitive Window on Policy Coherence¹⁵

89. **Indonesia.** *Enhancing Policy Coherence for a Sustainable Blue Economy in Indonesia) – (GEF ID 12073).* Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,069,179; Co-financing: \$ 75,000,000. Policy incoherence is a critical barrier to sustainable ocean management in Indonesia. Responsibilities for ocean and coastal management are spread across multiple ministries and jurisdictions, creating fragmented governance and data silos that lead to conflicting sectoral policies and investments at the land-sea interface. To address this challenge, this project aims to strengthen policy coherence for sustainable blue economy development in Indonesia by establishing a unified data, accounting and decision-support framework that balances economic growth with biodiversity conservation and climate resilience. Leveraging the oceans accounting framework, the project comprises of four key components. Component 1 will advance ecosystem management through comprehensive data integration and ocean accounting by developing robust data infrastructure, digital systems and operational guidelines. Component 2 focuses on strengthening decision-making and spatial planning through assessment of policy alignment, creation of decision-support toolkit and guidelines, and conducting scenario planning and modelling. Component 3 aims to enhance public-private investment for a sustainable blue economy through pilot projects and development of investment frameworks and Component 4 focuses on building capacity for cross-sectoral ocean governance through targeted training programs and policy forums for knowledge exchange and development of replication toolkits. Along with interministerial coordination, this project also facilitates increased public-private investment and innovative financing mechanisms by piloting results-based payment schemes and developing innovative business models.

¹⁵ The Indonesia project is categorized under Biodiversity, while the Brazil and Mexico projects are classified as Multi Focal Area projects in other sections of the Cover Notes.

These interventions will be transformative by institutionalizing an ocean accounting and inter-agency decision-support system, ensuring the availability and harmonization of relevant data, cross-agency coordination, alignment of policies and sustainability principles, and gender-responsiveness. The project is expected to improve management of 1,419,783 ha of marine habitat, restore 50,000 ha of degraded coastal ecosystems, mitigate 2.19 MtCo₂e, and directly benefit 200,000 people (50% women).

90. **Brazil.** *Promoting Policy Coherence through Brazil's Ecological Transformation Plan – (GEF ID 12064).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,019,179; Co-financing: \$ 44,224,489. Public investments in Brazil often lack sufficient prioritization of land-use practices aligned with climate and biodiversity objectives. Strengthening support for sustainable production models in key territories presents a strategic opportunity to advance integrated rural development and environmental conservation. Anchored in Brazil's Ecological Transformation Plan, this project will promote policy coherence by aligning regional public financing instruments with environmental, social and economic priorities, with a particular focus on sustainable agriculture and bioeconomy. It aims to redirect financial flows and credits from two of Brazil's largest development funds, North and Northeast Constitutional Funds, towards ecologically positive practices that support sustainable agriculture, foster bioeconomy initiatives, and support income generation while conserving forests. The project is structured around three main components to deliver this objective. Component 1 will strengthen policy alignment and environmental mainstreaming through development and adoption of targeted policy recommendations. Component 2 will support the restructuring of credit and incentives for nature-positive investments by revising credit criteria, implementing stronger environmental and social safeguards, and establishing robust monitoring indicators. Component 3 will strengthen capacities and support knowledge sharing on environmental finance, sustainable agriculture, and bioeconomy. The anticipated global environmental benefits include 13,000 ha of land restored, 1.068 million ha of landscapes under improved practices with benefits for biodiversity, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from land-use change by 60.4 million tCO₂e, and direct benefits to 48,400 people (50% women).

91. **Mexico.** *Mexico's first national policy for deforestation-free and low-emission: transforming the livestock sector – (GEF ID 12063).* Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,019,180; Co-financing: \$ 64,200,000. The unsustainable expansion of Mexico's livestock sector, which is vital to rural prosperity, is a leading driver of deforestation and land degradation, and a key source of national GHG emissions. These issues arise not only from production pressures but also from a deeper gap in policy coherence: agricultural, environmental, and financial policies remain fragmented across ministries and levels of government, while private sector incentives are often detached from sustainability goals. To address this, this project will develop Mexico's first national livestock policy, enhancing policy coherence across governmental sectors and levels and the private sector by aligning national and subnational planning, public incentives, and private investments to enable deforestation-free and low emission livestock production. It is structured around four integrated components. Component 1 will optimize and harmonize intersectoral public policies for deforestation-free and low carbon livestock production, leading up to the development and adoption of the national livestock policy. Subsequently, component 2 will focus on the optimization and institutionalization of financial and non-financial incentives for sustainable livestock production through scenario modeling, implementation of business models and

financial instruments, and establishment of guidelines, strategies and coalitions. Component 3 will support monitoring, traceability, and verification of the sustainable livestock policy by establishing intersectoral information platforms and participatory field-based mechanisms, and Component 4 will ensure effective knowledge management for potential replication and scaling-up by piloting climate-smart and biodiversity friendly livestock models and institutionalizing lessons learned. Expected global environmental benefits include sustainable management of 459,090 ha, avoidance of 79,188 ha of high conservation value forest loss, mitigation of 63.7 MtCO₂e, and restoration of 111,229 ha of degraded land. The project will directly benefit 150,000 people.

92. Along with these three FSPs, an MSP for China Enhancing Policy Coherence for Supervision & Management on China's Key Ecological Spaces (GEF ID 12061) will complete the cohort of the 4 projects under the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window on Policy Coherence. The MSP will improve the coherence of regulatory policies for the management of "key ecological spaces". Expected outcomes of the project include the development or improvement of more coordinated and consistent regulations and policies for the key ecological spaces at both national and local levels, to be applied to at least 560,000 hectares of land and marine key ecological spaces, enhanced capacity and awareness of stakeholders, and direct benefits to at least 20,000 people (at least 40% women).

Contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

93. GEF-8 Programming Directions were developed to support implementation of the KMGBF. This section provides a summary of the cumulative contributions of GEF-8 programming to KMGBF targets to date, inclusive of this Work Program. Outcome indicators may change once the projects are presented for CEO endorsement. Table 9 presents GEF-8 IP contributions to KMGBF Targets.

94. GEF-8 projects will make the following quantitative contributions to the KMGBF targets:

- Target 1: A total of 1,277 million ha of land and seas directly impacted to benefit biodiversity; 47 shared water ecosystems under improved management
- Target 2: 9.7 million ha of land and ecosystems under restoration
- Target 3: 221.9 million ha of protected areas and 25.5 million ha of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) created or under improved management
- Target 7: 261,900 metric tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced and 4.7 million metric tons of residual plastic waste avoided
- Target 8 and Target 11: 2,185 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated (CO₂e)
- Target 10: 134.6 million ha of landscapes under improved practices, 40 shared water freshwater ecosystems under improved management, and 3.7 million metric tons of over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels
- Target 19: \$24.29 billion of co-financing, including \$1.36 billion from the private sector, for a total investment of \$27.42 billion in biodiversity-relevant projects following the Rio marker methodology
- Target 22 and Target 23: 30.5 million people benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity, including 15.6 million women

Table 9. Mapping of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Action Targets to the Integrated Programs

GEF Integrated Programs	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 23 Targets ¹⁶																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Ecosystem Restoration	X	X					X			X	X			X	X					X	X	X	X
Blue and Green Islands		X	X				X	X		X	X			X					X	X	X	X	X
Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator		X	X				X			X	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution							X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains							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
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
Clean and Healthy Oceans		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
Sustainable Cities	X	X	X				X				X	X		X						X	X	X	X

¹⁶ This table depicts the direct contributions of these IPs to the achievement of the 23 Targets of KMGBF. The IPs cover almost all the 23 targets of the GBF apart from Targets 6 (Invasive Alien Species) and 17 (Biosafety). Target 6 is not directly addressed by any IP although the Blue Green Islands IP may make indirect contributions to this target.

95. While no IP directly contributes to its achievement, Target 6 is supported in 14 countries through 8 standalone projects aiming at the prevention, control and management of Invasive Alien Species with a total GEF project financing of \$49.3 million.

96. One submission related to Target 17 (Biosafety) and a very limited number of submissions related to Target 13 (Access and Benefit Sharing) have been received for funding by the GEF Trust Fund at this point. Four countries are supported through four standalone projects in implementing access and benefit sharing in line with Target 13 with a total GEF project financing of \$19.4 million. Countries are encouraged to submit projects responding to objective 2 of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy (to effectively implement the Cartagena and Nagoya protocols).

97. GEF-8 projects make important contributions to the achievement of Targets 20 (capacity building) and 21 (data/information/knowledge management). While not specifically measured by the GEF TF core indicators, most if not all projects actively support these targets to achieve program and project goals.

98. Similarly, Targets 22 and 23 refer to the way the KMGBF is implemented at the 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 Trust Fund investments contribute to these targets.

Summary of Programs (PFDs) and Stand-Alone Projects (PIFs) in the Work Program

Integrated Programs

99. **Global (Tanzania).** Food Systems Integrated Program – Addendum – December 2025 (GEF ID 11857). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,446,482; Co-financing: \$73,260,000.

Other Programs (PFDs)

100. **Global (Madagascar).** Global Programme to Support Countries to Upscale Integrated Electric Mobility Systems - Addendum 2 – December Council 2025 (GEF ID 12006). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 1,784,862; Co-financing: \$ 4,450,000.

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects (PIFs)

Biodiversity

101. **Tanzania.** Spatial-based Natural Forest Planning and Governance for Robust Ecosystems (SPARE) –Integrated Management of Critical Habitats, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems for Sustainable Blue Economy (GEF ID 12074). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$43,264,000.

102. **Indonesia.** Enhancing Policy Coherence for a Sustainable Blue Economy in Indonesia) (GEF ID 12073). Agency: UNEP. GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,069,179; Co-financing: \$ 75,000,000.

103. **South Africa.** Securing Nature’s Contribution to People: Advancing Indigenous and Local Community Livelihoods, Cultural Practices, and Sustainable Land Management (GEF ID 12028). Agency: UNDP. GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,406,101; Co-financing: \$ 41,092,606.

Chemicals and Waste

104. **Liberia.** planetGOLD Liberia – Sustainable Mercury Reduction in Liberia’s ASGM Sector (GEF ID 11905). Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$7,000,000; Co-financing: \$24,569,881.

105. **Burkina Faso.** Management of Mercury and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Burkina Faso for a Safe Living Environment (GEF ID 11904). Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$7,000,000; Co-financing: \$100,985,160.

106. **Global (Jamaica, Cuba, Suriname).** Control and reduction of mercury emissions from the cement industry in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean region (GEF ID 11882). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 15,000,000; Co-financing: \$ 105,000,000.

Climate Change

107. **China.** Transforming China’s Cooling Sector for Low-Carbon Development (GEF ID 11885). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$11,000,000; Co-financing: \$135,476,600.

International Waters

108. **Regional (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Niue, Palau, Samoa,**

Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu). Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) through the Ocean Flagship (GEF ID 12069). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$18,048,624; Co-financing: \$102,706,318.

109. **Regional (Angola, Botswana, Namibia).** Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB): Financing Innovation in Transboundary Waters (GEF ID 12058). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$ 10,000,000; Co-financing: \$ 63,000,000.

110. **Regional (Bolivia, Peru).** Titicaca-Desaguadero-Poopó-Salar de Coipasa (TDPS) System II – SAP Implementation (GEF ID 11999). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$64,068,978.

111. **Global.** Accelerating Electronic Monitoring in Tuna Fisheries for Strengthening Transparency and Addressing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (EM4IUU) (GEF ID 11996). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$5,354,587; Co-financing: \$50,000,000.

Multi-Focal Area

112. **South Sudan.** Resilient landscapes and Livelihoods through Integrated Landscape Management and Nature-Based Solutions in South Sudan (GEF ID 12086). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 6,711,633; Co-financing: \$ 52,977,666.

113. **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).** Healthy and productive ecosystems for healthy and productive rural communities in DRC. (GEF ID 12083). GEF Agency: FAO. GEF project financing: \$6,010,046; cofinancing: \$ 20,800,000.

114. **China.** China's Green Shipping Transition Model and Demonstration (GEF ID 12076). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$17,163,120; Co-financing: \$158,286,380.

115. **Malawi.** Resilient Integrated Livestock and Aquaculture Project (RILAP) (GEF ID 12072). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,344,124; cofinancing \$33,000,000.

116. **Brazil.** Promoting Policy Coherence through Brazil's Ecological Transformation Plan (GEF ID 12064). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,019,179; Co-financing: \$44,224,489.

117. **Mexico.** Mexico's first national policy for deforestation-free and low-emission: transforming the livestock sector (GEF ID 12063). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,019,180; Co-financing: \$ 64,200,000.

118. **Bangladesh.** Integrated Nature-Based Management of Jaflong-Dawki, Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula and Sonadia Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) in Bangladesh (GEF ID 12033). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$9,279,452; Co-financing: \$50,000,000.

119. **China.** Integrated Management of Permafrost Peatland in Northern China for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Actions (GEF ID 11989). Agency: UNDP. Project financing: \$7,105,936; co-financing: \$42,000,000.

120. **Madagascar.** Establishing sustainable wetland management cornerstones in Madagascar (GEF ID 11879). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 6,372,314; Co-financing: \$34,836,165.
121. **Ukraine.** Resilient Ukrainian Forest Landscapes: Combating Land Degradation, Climate Change, and Economic Setbacks through Landscape-Level Forest Restoration (GEF ID 11716). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,412,817; Co-financing: \$42,640,000.
122. **Libya.** Integrated Land and Water Management (ILWM) for enhanced ecosystem goods and services in Libya (GEF ID 11706). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,150,793 5,804,368; Co-financing: \$ 20,000,000.
123. **India.** Supporting an integrated approach for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in Central India (Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) (GEF ID 11415). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$9,891,743; Co-financing: \$99,636,050.
124. **India.** Enabling resilience of livestock keepers through integrated landscape management (GEF ID 11403). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,841,096; Co-financing: \$63,371,744.

Non-Grant Instrument

125. **Regional (Latin America and the Caribbean).** Regenerative Agriculture for Food Supply Chains (“RASC”) (GEF ID 11866). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$13,761,468; Co-financing: \$202,200,000.

Multi-Trust Fund

126. **Kiribati.** Enhancing & Sustaining Kiribati’s Resilient Future: Integrating Green Economy Transformations to strengthen Atolls Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Use Management (GEF ID 11759). GEF Agency IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$25,922,298 (\$ 7,783,594 GEF TF, \$ 18,138,704 LDCF); Co-financing: \$25,000,000.
127. **Republic of Marshall Islands.** Blue-Green Atolls: Addressing Land Degradation, Groundwater Salinization & Coastal Erosion in RMI via climate-resilient strategies (GEF ID 12087). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,537,093 (\$ 5,860,082 GEF TF, \$ 2,677,011 SCCF); Co-financing: \$ 38,500,000.

Non-expedited Enabling Activity

128. **Global.** Umbrella Programme for Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (GEF ID 12077). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 31,749,750.

ANNEX A: Project and Program Proposals Submitted for 70th GEF Council Approval under the GEF Trust Fund

December 15-19, 2025

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Impact Program											
1	11857	Food Systems Integrated Program – Addendum – December 2025	Multi Focal Area	Tanzania	FAO	-	-	2,446,482	220,184	73,260,000	75,926,666
IP Sub-total						-	-	2,446,482	220,184	73,260,000	75,926,666
Other Program											
2	12006	Electric buses and transit-oriented corridors for innovative urban mobility in Antananarivo	Climate Change	Madagascar	UNEP	50,000	4,500	1,784,862	160,638	4,450,000	6,450,000
OP Sub-total						50,000	4,500	1,784,862	160,638	4,450,000	6,450,000
Non-Grant Instrument											
3	11866	Regenerative Agriculture for Food Supply Chains (RASC)	Multi Focal Area	Regional	World Bank	-	-	13,761,468	1,238,532	202,200,000	217,200,000
NGI Sub-total						-	-	13,761,468	1,238,532	202,200,000	217,200,000
Stand-Alone Full-Sized Projects											
<i>Biodiversity</i>											

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
4	12074	Integrated Management of Critical Habitats, Coastal and Marine Ecosystems for Sustainable Blue Economy	Biodiversity	Tanzania	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,329,452	506,298	43,264,000	49,264,000
5	12073	Enhancing Policy Coherence for a Sustainable Blue Economy in Indonesia	Biodiversity	Indonesia	UNEP	150,000	14,250	8,069,179	766,571	75,000,000	84,000,000
6	12028	Securing Nature's Contribution to People: Advancing Indigenous and Local Community Livelihoods, Cultural Practices, and Sustainable Land Management.	Biodiversity	South Africa	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,406,101	513,580	41,092,606	47,176,537
				BD Sub-Total		450,000	42,750	18,804,732	1,786,449	159,356,606	180,440,537
<i>Climate Change Mitigation</i>											
7	11885	Transforming China's Cooling Sector for Low-Carbon Development	Climate Change	China	UNIDO	300,000	27,000	11,000,000	990,000	135,476,600	147,793,600
				CCM Sub-Total		300,000	27,000	11,000,000	990,000	135,476,600	147,793,600
<i>Chemicals and Waste</i>											

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
8	11905	planetGOLD Liberia - Sustainable Mercury Reduction in Liberia's Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector	Chemicals and Waste	Liberia	AfDB	200,000	19,000	7,000,000	665,000	24,569,881	32,453,881
9	11904	Management of Mercury and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Burkina Faso for a Safe Living Environment	Chemicals and Waste	Burkina Faso	AfDB	200,000	19,000	7,000,000	665,000	100,985,160	108,869,160
10	11882	Control and reduction of mercury emissions from the cement industry in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean region	Chemicals and Waste	Suriname, Cuba, Jamaica, Global	UNIDO	30,000	27,000	15,000,000	1,350,000	105,000,000	121,677,000
				CW Sub-Total		700,000	65,000	29,000,000	2,680,000	230,555,041	263,000,041
International Waters											
11	12069	Unlocking Blue Pacific Prosperity (UBPP) through the Ocean Flagship	International Waters	Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga, Niue, Cook Islands, Palau, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Regional	CI	300,000	27,000	18,048,624	1,624,376	102,706,318	122,706,318
12	12058	Cubango-Okavango River Basin (CORB): Financing Innovation in Transboundary Waters	International Waters	Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Regional	World Bank	-	-	10,000,000	900,000	63,000,000	73,900,000

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
13	11999	TDPS System 2 – SAP Implementation	International Waters	Peru, Bolivia, Regional	UNDP	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	64,068,978	72,068,978
14	11996	Accelerating Electronic Monitoring in Tuna Fisheries for Strengthening Transparency and Addressing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (EM4IUU)	International Waters	Global	CI	150,000	13,500	5,354,587	481,913	50,000,000	56,000,000
				IW Sub-Total		650,000	59,500	40,509,147	3,681,353	279,775,296	324,675,296
Multi-focal Area											
15	12086	Resilient landscapes and Livelihoods through Integrated Landscape Management and Nature-Based Solutions in South Sudan	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	South Sudan	UNDP	200,000	19,000	6,711,633	637,605	52,977,666	60,545,904
16	12083	Healthy and productive ecosystems for healthy and productive rural communities in DRC	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Congo DR	FAO	200,000	19,000	6,010,046	570,954	20,800,000	27,600,000
17	12076	China's Green Shipping Transition Model and Demonstration	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Multi Focal Area	China	UNIDO	300,000	27,000	17,163,120	1,544,680	158,286,380	177,321,180

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
18	12072	Resilient Integrated Livestock and Aquaculture Project (RILAP)	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Malawi	IFAD	150,000	14,250	5,344,124	507,692	33,000,000	39,016,066
19	12064	Promoting Policy Coherence through support for Brazil's Ecological Transformation Plan	Climate Change	Brazil	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,019,179	761,821	44,224,489	53,224,489
20	12063	Mexico's first national policy for deforestation-free and low-emission: transforming the livestock sector	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Mexico	FAO	200,000	19,000	8,019,180	761,820	64,200,000	73,200,000
21	12033	Integrated Nature-Based Management of Jaflong-Dawki, Cox's Bazar-Teknaf Peninsula and Sonadia Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) in Bangladesh	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Bangladesh	FAO	200,000	19,000	9,279,452	881,548	50,000,000	60,380,000
22	11989	Integrated Management of Permafrost Peatland in Northern China for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Actions	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Multi Focal Area	China	UNDP	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	42,000,000	50,000,000
23	11879	Establishing sustainable wetland management cornerstones in Madagascar	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Madagascar	UNEP	200,000	19,000	6,372,314	605,370	34,836,165	42,032,849

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
24	11716	Resilient Ukrainian Forest Landscapes: Combating Land Degradation, Climate Change, and Economic Setbacks through Landscape-Level Forest Restoration.	Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Ukraine	FAO	150,000	14,248	5,412,817	514,217	42,640,000	48,731,282
25	11706	Integrated Land and Water Management (ILWM) for enhanced ecosystem goods and services in Libya	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Libya	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,150,793	489,325	20,000,000	25,804,368
26	11415	Supporting an integrated approach for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in Central India (Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra)	Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	India	FAO	200,000	18,000	9,891,743	890,257	99,636,050	110,636,050
27	11403	Enabling resilience of livestock keepers through integrated landscape management	Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	India	FAO	200,000	19,000	8,841,096	839,904	63,371,744	73,271,744
MFA Sub-Total						2,550,000	239,748	103,321,433	9,680,257	725,972,494	841,763,932
Multi-Trust Fund (and Non-Grant Instrument)¹⁷											

¹⁷ For MTF projects and programs, only GEFTF funding and related co-financing are included in this Annex. The LDCF and SCCF allocations, if any, are included in the LDCF and SCCF Annex accordingly.

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
28	11759	Enhancing & Sustaining Kiribati's Resilient Future: Integrating Green Economy Transformations to strengthen Atolls Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Use Management	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Kiribati	IFAD	90,080	8,106	7,783,594	700,522	7,505,000	16,087,302
29	12087	Blue-Green Atolls: Addressing Land Degradation, Groundwater Salinization & Coastal Erosion in RMI via climate resilient strategies	Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Marshall Islands	UNDP	137,285	13,042	5,860,082	556,707	26,427,396	32,994,512
				MFT Sub-Total		227,365	21,148	13,643,676	1,257,229	33,932,396	49,081,814
Non-expedited Enabling Activity											
30	12077	Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined National Communications/ Biennial Transparency Reports (NC/BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Climate Change	Belize, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo DR, Fiji, Gambia, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Mauritius, Moldova, Mozambique, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe, Mauritania, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh,	UNEP	-	-	31,749,750	2,857,478	-	34,607,228

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
				Guinea, Vanuatu, Zambia, Global							
				EA Sub-Total		-	-	31,749,750	2,857,478	-	34,607,228
				GRAND TOTAL		4,927,365	459,646	266,021,550	24,552,120	1,844,978,433	2,140,939,114

ANNEX B: Enabling Activities (EAs) and Medium-sized Projects (MSPs) Approved Since the 69th Council Meeting

Fourteen Enabling Activities and Fifty-eight Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) were approved since the 69th GEF Council, or between 1 May 2025 and 14 November 2025. Total GEF financing for these projects equals \$176.1 million¹⁸ with \$719.3 million in co-financing for a ratio of \$1 GEF dollar being matched by \$5.7 dollars in co-financing. Thirty-nine countries have distinct EAs and MSPs and an additional 18 EAs/MSPs are global or regional projects.

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
Enabling Activities									
11975	National action plan on mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector in Ethiopia	UNDP	Ethiopia	Chemicals and Waste			500,000	47,500	
11930	Facilitate China to ratify 7 new POPs amendments and update its National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention	UNDP	China	Chemicals and Waste			2,000,000	190,000	
11921 ¹⁹	Minamata Initial Assessment and National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector in Equatorial Guinea	UNEP	Equatorial Guinea	Chemicals and Waste			700,000	66,500	
11959	Enabling Timor-Leste to prepare its First Biennial Transparency Report with a combined Third National Communication (BTR1/NC3) and Second Biennial Transparency Report (BTR2)	FAO	Timor Leste	Climate Change			1,233,000	117,135	
11947	Preparation of the combined Second Biennial Transparency Report and Fourth National Communication (BTR2/NC4) and the Third Biennial Transparency Report (BTR3) of Cambodia under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	UNEP	Cambodia	Climate Change			1,233,000	117,135	
11932	Second Biennial Transparency Report (2BTR) and Combined Third Biennial	FAO	Chile	Climate Change			1,233,000	117,135	

¹⁸ Inclusive of PPG funding and PPG fees.

¹⁹ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights and that do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, opposes Project 11921 in Equatorial Guinea.

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
	Transparency Report and Sixth National Communication (3BTR/6NC) to UNFCCC								
11926	Preparation of the First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) and combined Second Biennial Transparency Report and Fourth National Communication (BTR2/NC4) of Palau under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).	UNEP	Palau	Climate Change			1,233,000	117,135	
11665	Enabling the Philippines to prepare its Second Biennial Transparency Report with a combined Third National Communication (BTR2/NC3) and Third Biennial Transparency Report (BTR3)	FAO	Philippines	Climate Change			1,233,000	117,135	
11970	Umbrella Project for GEF-8 Enabling Activities for National Reporting under the UNCCD – Umbrella IV	UNEP	Global	Land Degradation			930,556	88,394	
11910	GEF Support to the 2026 UNCCD National Reporting Process - Umbrella III	UNEP	Global	Land Degradation			3,016,328	286,523	
11909 ²⁰	GEF Support to the 2026 UNCCD National Reporting Process - Umbrella II	UNEP	Global	Land Degradation			4,565,711	433,702	
One-step MSPs									
11962	TerraMoldova: Expanding Sustainable Land and Biodiversity Management in Moldova	World Bank	Moldova	Land Degradation	-	-	3,652,967	347,032	85,500,000
11961	Strengthening the Capacity of Senegal to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement	UNEP	Senegal	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,452,550	137,992	260,000
11941	Drought Resilience Support Facility	World Bank	Global	Land Degradation	-	-	2,283,105	216,895	5,250,000
11934	Transparency in action: advancing Georgia's national climate reporting system.	UNEP	Georgia	Climate Change	33,000	3,135	1,255,300	119,253	693,615
11922	Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency of an Enhanced Transparency Framework for Namibia	UNDP	Namibia	Climate Change	-	-	1,181,060	112,201	300,000

²⁰ The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that are state sponsors of terrorism, whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, that have engaged in a pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and that do not have in place a functioning system for reporting to civilian authorities audits of receipts and expenditures that fund activities of the armed forces and security forces, and in light of its policies for certain development projects in South Africa, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe, opposes Project 11909 in South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Turkmenistan, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
	under the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (CBIT II Namibia)								
11911	Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Palau	UNEP	Palau	Climate Change	40,000	3,800	1,336,247	126,943	215,873
11856	Strengthening capacities in Serbia to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement - CBIT 2	UNDP	Serbia	Climate Change	-	-	1,450,000	137,750	300,000
11854	Revolutionising indicators of (un)sustainable wildlife use and trade by harnessing social media big data	IUCN	Global	Biodiversity	-	-	1,743,120	156,880	3,726,888
11846	Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Samoa	UNEP	Samoa	Climate Change	40,000	3,800	1,332,176	126,556	206,730
11845	Tonga Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency – strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Tonga	UNEP	Tonga	Climate Change	40,000	3,800	1,332,768	126,612	100,000
11844	Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Cook Islands	UNEP	Cook Islands	Climate Change	40,000	3,800	1,330,000	126,350	30,000
11834	Enhancing data and capacity development resources to support UNCCD country Parties in national reporting and targeting of efforts to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality	CI	Global	Land Degradation	50,000	4,500	1,625,000	146,250	343,529
11831	BBNJ - Global and regional support to the BBNJ Agreement ratification process and implementation readiness.	FAO	Global	International Waters	-	-	4,566,210	433,790	18,140,000
11667	Supporting the Elimination of PCB in the Electricity Sector and other Applications	World Bank	Global	Chemicals and Waste	-	-	2,000,000	190,000	8,000,000
Two-step MSPs									
12070	Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Ecosystems of the Gulf of Fonseca Region in Honduras Generates Environmental and Global Benefits	UNDP	Honduras	Land Degradation	150,000	14,250	4,700,830	446,578	31,773,077
11973	Building Djibouti's national capacities to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement	UNEP	Djibouti	Climate Change	45,000	4,275	1,100,000	104,500	199,950

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
11972	Building Niger's national capacities to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement	UNEP	Niger	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,450,000	137,750	100,000
11966	Enhancing community-based landscape management and nature-based actions to Restore Degraded Ecosystems and Promote Livelihoods Resilience in the Western Highlands and Center region of Cameroon	UNEP	Cameroon	Biodiversity	100,000	9,500	2,877,170	273,330	23,000,000
11956	China Capacity Building for Enhanced Transparency Phase II	FECO	China	Climate Change	100,000	9,000	3,780,000	340,200	1,428,600
11952	A Food Waste Breakthrough: Methane Mitigation	UNEP	Global	Climate Change	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	11,455,000
11938	Strengthening the capacity of Kazakhstan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement	FAO	Kazakhstan	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,320,000	125,250	900,000
11936	Enhancing the Conservation in the Tian Shan mountain regions in Central and Eastern Kyrgyzstan	UNDP	Kyrgyz Republic	Multi Focal Area	100,000	9,500	2,183,104	207,394	15,129,200
11935	Scaling the capacity of UNCCD Parties for inclusive decision support in Land Degradation Neutrality	UNDP	Global	Land Degradation	49,850	4,736	2,000,000	190,000	260,000
11933	Women Ocean Guardians: Empowering Women for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Large Marine Ecosystems	CI	Global	International Waters	150,000	13,500	3,519,725	316,775	24,572,365
11931	Building national institutional capacity and capability to protect and restore biodiversity and increase resilience to climate change by managing invasive species	UNEP	Regional	Biodiversity	136,990	13,010	4,429,225	420,775	14,462,983
11923	Accelerating the Sustainable Transformation of Ecuadorian Banana Industry (Ecuador Green Footprint Project)	FAO	Ecuador	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,750	1,776,484	168,766	7,087,214
11918	Sustainable Transformation of Agriculture: Towards a Biodiverse and Resilient System in Uruguay	FAO	Uruguay	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,750	863,242	82,008	6,000,000
11916	Establishing the National Framework and Operational Capacities for Implementing the Nagoya Protocol through demonstration of replicable models for	UNEP	Equatorial Guinea	Biodiversity	50,000	4,750	1,319,863	125,387	13,500,000

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
	equitable access and benefit sharing (ABS) in Equatorial Guinea								
11889	Supporting Land Degradation Neutrality in St. Kitts and Nevis	FAO	St. Kitts and Nevis	Land Degradation	150,000	14,250	3,959,590	376,160	5,000,000
11873	The Rehabilitation of Degraded Pastures to Promote Land Degradation Neutrality and Improve Livelihoods in Georgia	UNEP	Georgia	Land Degradation	50,000	4,750	1,538,301	146,138	5,426,000
11872	Promoting Sustainable Rangeland Management and Restoration Practices and Strategies to Achieve LDN in the Northern Badia of Jordan	IUCN	Jordan	Land Degradation	50,000	4,500	1,784,862	160,638	12,000,000
11862	Revitalizing natural ecosystems and habitats in Djibouti's Mabla and Madgoul landscapes	UNEP	Djibouti	Multi Focal Area	130,000	12,350	3,522,968	334,682	21,761,250
11855	Accelerating Rapid Transition of Subsidies and Incentives (ARTSI) Grant Mechanism	CI	Global	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,500	1,693,119	152,381	1,765,766
11851	Integrated Management of key biodiversity areas and priority species through other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)	UNDP	Thailand	Biodiversity	50,000	4,750	1,776,484	168,766	20,753,911
11838	Supporting Energy Transition for Remote Settlements in Turkmenistan (SET)	UNDP	Turkmenistan	Climate Change	125,000	11,875	4,173,630	396,495	34,000,000
11828	Operationalizing the Nagoya Protocol Access and Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge Regime in Burkina Faso (ONATRAB)	UNEP	Burkina Faso	Multi Focal Area	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	9,000,000
11824	Transformation of Agrifood Systems through Smart Agriculture in Samoa	FAO	Samoa	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,750	1,776,484	168,766	2,305,000
11680	Transboundary biodiversity conservation between North Macedonia and Albania	UNEP	Regional	Biodiversity	50,000	4,750	1,776,484	168,766	9,000,000
11668	Strengthening Nature-Based Solutions to Restore Ecosystems, and Conserve and Enhance Blue Carbon Stocks and Biodiversity in Viet Nam	UNDP	Viet Nam	Multi Focal Area	150,000	14,250	3,502,968	332,782	23,000,000
11664	Enhanced protected areas network for biodiversity conservation and development	UNEP	Ukraine	Biodiversity	100,000	9,499	3,552,970	337,531	23,000,000
11659	Strengthening the capacity of the Republic of Moldova to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement	FAO	Moldova	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,776,484	168,766	900,000
11585	Global Opportunities for the Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-	UNEP	Costa Rica	Chemicals and Waste	150,000	14,250	4,500,000	427,500	12,692,985

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
	Scale Gold Mining Sector in Costa Rica - planetGOLD Costa Rica								
11578	Scaling-up conservation and sustainable management of priority wetlands of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway in the Philippines (PHIL FLYWAY)	ADB	Philippines	Biodiversity	91,745	8,255	2,660,600	239,400	6,783,591
11424	Support and build a more Sustainable Blue Economy in Aqaba through Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and effective management of the first marine reserve in the country.	UNDP	Jordan	Biodiversity	50,000	4,750	1,776,484	168,766	20,000,000
12061	Enhancing Policy Coherence for Supervision & Management on China's Key Ecological Spaces	FECO	China	Biodiversity	150,000	13,500	5,000,000	450,000	35,000,000
12092	Sustainable Construction Uruguay: Strategic platform for the development of a national policy on sustainable, resilient, and low-emission construction in Uruguay.	UNDP	Uruguay	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,428,151	135,674	9,000,000
11967	Sustainable Wildlife Management and Resilient Communities in the Greater Ruaha-Katavi Landscape of Tanzania	UNDP	Tanzania	Biodiversity	150,000	14,250	3,101,142	294,608	10,900,000
11995	Restoring the Degraded Habitats of Forested Areas in the Agricultural Landscapes of Northern Jordan	UNDP	Jordan	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,750	863,242	82,008	6,045,000
11832	Enhancing Integrated Coastal Forests Biodiversity Hotspot Management and Restoration for Increased Ecosystem Services in Kenya	UNEP	Kenya	Multi Focal Area	100,000	9,500	2,956,621	280,879	13,800,000
Child MSPs									
11539	Monitoring of POPs and mercury under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in the Pacific Region	UNEP	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	100,000	9,000	2,000,000	180,000	1,219,740
11487	Child Project of the Global Clean Hydrogen Programme of Ecuador	UNIDO	Ecuador	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	867,431	78,069	7,756,500
11443	Child Project of the Global Clean Hydrogen Program of Malaysia	UNIDO	Malaysia	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	1,326,146	119,353	12,212,109
11442	Child Project of the Global Clean Hydrogen Programme of Namibia	UNIDO	Namibia	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	497,945	44,815	61,083,100

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
11441	Child Project of the Global Clean Hydrogen Program of South Africa	UNIDO	South Africa	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	863,242	77,692	15,917,100
11440	Child project of the Global clean hydrogen programme of Philippines	UNIDO	Philippines	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	1,000,000	90,000	13,200,140
11439	Child project of the Global clean hydrogen programme for Nigeria	UNIDO	Nigeria	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	1,784,862	160,638	8,149,500
11438	Child Project of the Global Clean Hydrogen Programme of Algeria	UNIDO	Algeria	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	634,932	57,143	2,152,500
11379	Coordinated approach for Land Restoration in Vulnerable Ecosystems of Central Asia	FAO	Regional	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,500	1,784,864	160,636	42,523,143
Total					3,871,585	362,085	157,146,199	14,765,766	719,282,358

ANNEX C: Operationalization of the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window on Policy Coherence

A call for Expressions of Interest (EOI), prepared by the GEF Secretariat in consultation with STAP, was issued to all eligible recipient countries and GEF Agencies on June 17, 2024, with an initial submission deadline of July 29, 2024. In response to requests from eligible countries, the deadline was first extended to September 30, 2024, and subsequently to October 31, 2024. The call for EOI explicitly outlined eligibility criteria resultant from and approved during GEF-8 negotiations²¹. The call also outlined the selection criteria for the review of submitted EOIs.

Eligible countries interested in participating in the Competitive Window were invited to complete the template provided in the Call for EOI, taking note of the Eligibility and Selection Criteria. EOIs were required to be submitted through a GEF agency selected by the respective country. Countries were encouraged to work closely with the GEF Agency(ies) of their choice during the preparation of their submission.

By the final deadline of October 31, 2024, a total of 11 EOIs were received from 7 GEF agencies. Four of the five eligible countries submitted at least one EOI: China (5), Mexico (3), Indonesia (2), and Brazil (1). No EOIs were received from India. These represented submissions across 7 GEF Agencies: UNDP (4), FAO (2), FECO (1), UNEP (1), CAF (1), UNIDO (1) and World Bank (1).

The GEF Secretariat convened a review committee, in consultation with STAP. The committee comprised of representatives from the GEF Secretariat, the STAP Secretariat, and a STAP panel member. To ensure consistency and rigor, a standard template was utilized for the review and assessment of each EOI. Committee members first conducted independent, individual assessments of the projects, followed by a convening to collectively discuss each EOI and formulate recommendations.

All EOIs were assessed on the following criteria: ability to enhance domestic policy coherence; achievability; measurement and assessment of outcomes; ability to advance evidence, knowledge and learning; replicability potential; scalability potential; alignment with GEF-8 programming directions and international environmental goals; agency suitability and potential for financial leverage. Of the 11 EOIs submitted, four were selected and invited for PIF submission in line with the timeline for the December 2025 Council Meeting.

Following the selection process, the GEF Secretariat held separate consultations with the selected countries and agencies to discuss the submitted EOIs and provide feedback in the preparation of the 4 PIFs. The GEF Secretariat has worked closely with all GEF agencies and countries in the development of the PIFs for the GEF-8 STAR Competitive Window on Policy Coherence. Three of these are FSPs that are a part of this work program under consideration at this Council, and the remaining one is an MSP.

²¹ GEF/C.62/04, [Updating the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources \(STAR\)](#), May 19, 2022