



GEF/C.68/04/Rev.02  
December 13, 2024

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68<sup>th</sup> GEF Council Meeting  
December 16-20, 2024  
Virtual Meeting

**Agenda Item 04**

**WORK PROGRAM  
FOR GEF TRUST FUND**

### **Recommended Council Decision**

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C68/04/Rev.02, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 31 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 17, 2025.

Total GEF resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$554.6 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 recommended Work Program requests \$508.4 million of project financing and \$46.2 million in associated Agency fees for a total Work Program request of \$554.6 million from the GEF Trust Fund. Additionally, the Work Program contains PPG funding and fees of \$9.7 million, which the GEF CEO has delegated authority to approve, for a total of \$564.3 million. The Work Program includes an indicative \$4.15 billion in co-financing, with each dollar of GEF project financing matched by \$8.17 in co-financing provided by other sources.
2. The Work Program includes 31 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 11% of the entire GEF-8 resource allocation. This further programming of GEF resources would bring total programming for the GEF-8 cycle to 70.5% at 62.5% of the cycle timeline.
4. If approved, a total of \$159.0 million from the Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change (CC) and Land Degradation (LD) focal areas will be programmed. Additionally, the Work Program would program \$253.4 million for the Chemicals and Waste (CW) and \$46.0 million for the International Waters (IW) focal areas. The Work Program includes \$39.9 million for the Non-Grant Instrument (NGI) program and \$66.0 million for the Small Grants Programme (SGP).
5. The Work Program will provide GEF Trust Fund support for work in 133 GEF recipient countries (92%), including 44 of the 45 Least Developed Countries (98% of LDCs) and 37 of the 39 Small Island Developing States (95% of SIDS).
6. The Work Program spans all five Focal Areas, strategically advances use of the non-grant instrument, furthers broad support for CSOs, including through the Small Grants Programme, and advances GEF integration aims with several Multi-Focal Area and Multi-Trust Fund efforts.
7. Three major programs in the Chemicals and Waste focal area aim to stimulate and support global transformations in chemical pollutant and waste management, including agrochemicals management, PCB elimination, and waste management in the tourism industry. In addition to reducing pollution and enhancing sustainable production and consumption, the programs will achieve global environmental benefits across focal areas, including protecting marine and terrestrial ecosystems, improving shared freshwater resources, and reducing GHG emissions.
8. A second phase of GEF's targeted support for Indigenous People' and Local Communities (IP&LC) vital conservation role is proposed. The Inclusive Conservation Initiative (GEF ID 11761) will strengthen IP&LC institutions, increase direct funding flows, and enhance recognition of IP&LC's stewardship of territories, ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity.
9. The eighth phase of the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) is proposed in this Work Program. Building on 30 years of learning, the new SGP projects feature strengthened approaches to social inclusion (women, Indigenous Peoples, youth) and a focus on innovation and up-scaling

successful approaches. Council-endorsed SGP 2.0 Implementation Arrangements, including project financing and non-grant activity ceilings, are followed in project design.

10. Five multi-focal area projects will advance sustainable landscape and watershed management, integrating land restoration and biodiversity conservation efforts, to build resilience in key landscapes and communities of Colombia, Fiji, Liberia, Montenegro, and Tanzania.
11. The Work Program also includes three Multi-Trust Fund programs, pooling resources from the LDCF, the SCCF and the GEF TF. The projects aim to build climate resilience while generating Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable landscape and watershed management and ecosystem-based adaptation efforts in vulnerable communities of Samoa, Togo, and Yemen.
12. This cover note outlines important aspects of the proposed Work Program, including programming trends in GEF resources relative to focal area strategies and objectives, distribution by regions and GEF Agencies, outcome targets, key risks, gender considerations, and policy coherence in the Work Program portfolio.
13. 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**

14. At the deadline for project submission, 53 projects (PIF) and programs (PFD) were deemed eligible<sup>1</sup> for review and consideration for the December Work Program (WP).

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

Project Type	PIFs and PFDs in the Portal by review deadline <sup>2</sup>	Technically cleared and included in the WP # (%)	Technically cleared and not included in the WP # (%)	Rejected # (%)	Not ready for technical clearance # (%)
PIF	44	24 (55%)	0 (0%)	1 (2%)	19 (43%)
PFD	4	4 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NGI	5	3 (60%)	0 (0%)	2 (40%)	0 (0%)

15. Over half of the 44 eligible projects (24 PIFs) were technically cleared and included in the Work Program. Nineteen projects did not meet GEF clearance requirement at the programming deadline. These 19 projects remain candidates for future GEF-8 Work Programs. All four Programs (4 PFDs) that were submitted for consideration met technical, operational and policy clearance requirements and are included in the Work Program (Tables 1 & 2).

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Including new submissions and submissions from previous review cycles, as above.

16. Five project concepts were reviewed under the Blended Finance Program, of which 2 had been screened positively in the previous selection round. After careful review, 3 projects were cleared and 2 were deemed to be ineligible for GEF funding.

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

Number of Projects not Ready for Clearance	Focal Area					
	BD	LD	CC	IW	CW	MFA
19	1	0	2	5	0	11

### TRENDS IN GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

17. The total GEF resources requested of \$554.6 million is drawn from all five focal area envelopes as well as from NGI and SGP allocations (Table 3).

**Table 3. GEF Resources Requested in the December 2024 Work Program**

Focal Area	Work Program Resources Requested (\$ millions)				
	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees <sup>3</sup>	Total GEF Resources Requested <sup>4</sup>	PPG Funding and Fees <sup>5</sup>	Total GEF Resources Programmed
Biodiversity	86.1	7.9	94.0	1.7	95.7
Climate Change	30.1	2.8	32.9	0.5	33.5
Chemicals and Waste	227.4	20.5	247.9	5.5	253.4
International Waters	41.1	3.8	44.9	1.1	46.0
Land Degradation	27.0	2.5	29.4	0.3	29.8
Non-Grant Instrument	36.2	3.3	39.5	0.3	39.9
Small Grants Program	60.4	5.4	65.9	0.1	66.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>508.4</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>554.6</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>564.3</b>

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

<sup>5</sup> GEF CEO has delegated authority to approve PPG funding and PPG fees.

- (a) The Biodiversity (BD) focal area resources proposes to program \$95.7 million in four single focal area projects and three multi-focal area projects.
  - (b) The Climate Change (CC) focal area aims to support two single focal area projects and one program Addendum, programming \$33.5 million of the focal area resources.
  - (c) The Chemicals and Waste (CW) focal area proposes to program \$253.4 million in four single focal area projects and three important global programs.
  - (d) The International Waters (IW) focal area aims to allocate \$46.0 million to three single focal area projects and one multi-focal area project.
  - (e) The Land Degradation (LD) focal area proposes to support three multi-focal area projects for a total of \$29.8 million.
19. Integrating conservation efforts and resources from BD, IW and LD, five multi-focal area projects aim to enhance the resilience of landscapes and communities in Colombia, Fiji, Liberia, Montenegro and Tanzania through sustainable land and water management, yielding biodiversity conservation, land restoration, watershed management, and climate change mitigation benefits. Work in Tanzania’s Wami-Ruvu river basin will be critical to conserving the highly threatened Easter Afromontane biodiversity hotspot and to water security for the country’s major economic hubs and urban populations, including Dar es Salaam (GEF ID 11407).
  20. The GEF-8 Blended Finance Program was formally approved at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting with the approval of the program requirements and the updated policy on non-grant instruments (GEF/C.63/12). \$196 million is available during the GEF-8 replenishment cycle. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, the GEF Secretariat issued the fourth call for proposals for the Blended Finance Program and circulated it to the entire GEF partnership including the OFPs. In response to the call, the Secretariat received three new projects submitted by three agencies and added two projects which had been positively screened in the previous call for proposals. All projects went through the screening process to determine eligibility for blended finance funding, following the approved GEF review process. Per policy, expert advice from the Advisory Group of Financial Experts was received and included in the project review process.
  21. The blended finance projects in the current call for proposals include a “Chimpanzee Bond” in Rwanda, which will be the first outcome bond for an IDA country. In addition, the Green Mobility Financing Facility for Africa will build on groundwork of the GEF-financed Global Mobility Program in GEF 7 and GEF 8. A regional program for Central Asia will support Sustainable and Inclusive Green Acceleration. All three projects seek to mobilize private finance at scale for climate and nature goals. Two of them use results based financing to incentivize positive conservation and climate outcomes. The NGI projects are expected to mobilize over US\$ 955 million in investments, a co-financing ratio of 1:26.
  22. Finally, the Work Program includes three Multi-Trust Fund programs, which program resources from the LDCF, the SCCF and the GEF TF. The projects aim to build climate resilience while generating local and Global Environmental Benefits through sustainable landscape and watershed management, combatting land degradation, and supporting ecosystem-based adaptation efforts in vulnerable communities and landscapes of Samoa, Togo, and Yemen.

## STATUS ON THE USE OF GEF-8 RESOURCES

23. The Work Program provides for a significant level of resource programming relative to GEF-8 allocations. The Work Program proposes to program a total of \$564.3 million in GEF resources, inclusive of PPG funding and fees. This represents 11% of the entire GEF-8 resource allocation and brings the cumulative total of GEF programming for the GEF-8 cycle to 70.5% at the 62.5% timeline (Table 4, Figures 1 & 2).
24. All focal areas are contributing significantly to this Work Program and most are well above 60% funding allocations programmed for GEF-8. Of the five Focal Areas in GEF-8, Land Degradation leads the programming rate in GEF-8 to date with 74.4% allocated, followed by Biodiversity (74.1%). Chemicals and Waste, which was slightly behind in programming at GEF-8 midpoint (June 2024) has over \$253 million programmed in this Work Program, bringing its rate of deployment in line with expectations. All focal areas are on track.

**Table 4. Resources<sup>6</sup> Programmed under GEF-8 by Focal Area**

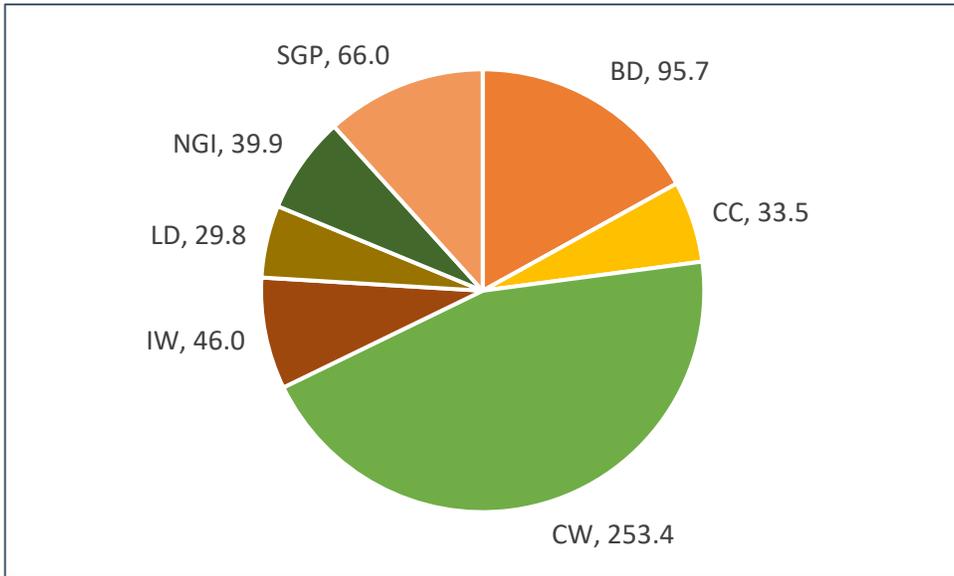
GEF-8 Focal Area or Theme	GEF-8 Target Allocation	December 2024 Work Program <sup>7</sup>	Cumulative Total of GEF-8 Resources Programmed	Proportion of GEF-8 Target Allocation
	(\$ millions)			
Biodiversity	1,919	95.7	1,421.2	74.1%
Climate Change	852	33.5	505.2	59.3%
Chemicals and Waste	800	253.4	549.0	68.6%
International Waters	565	46	365.9	64.8%
Land Degradation	618	29.8	459.9	74.4%
Non-Grant Instrument	195	39.9	172.1	88.3%
Small Grants Programme	155	66	133.5	86.1%
Innovations Window	12	0	0.0	0.0%
<b>Total Resources Programmed<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>5,116</b>	<b>564.3</b>	<b>3,606.8</b>	<b>70.5%</b>

<sup>6</sup> 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.

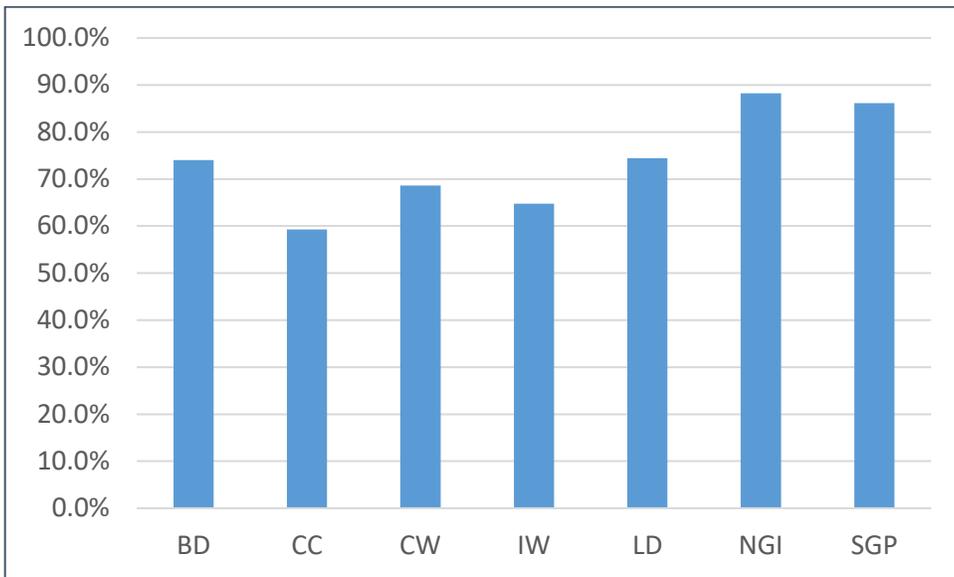
<sup>7</sup> Inclusive of PPG funding and PPG fees

<sup>8</sup> Targeted allocations for GEF-8 in this table exclude the Country Engagement Strategy (\$28 million), and the Corporate Budget (\$187.0 million) which were all part of the total GEF-8 replenishment of \$5.33 billion.

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



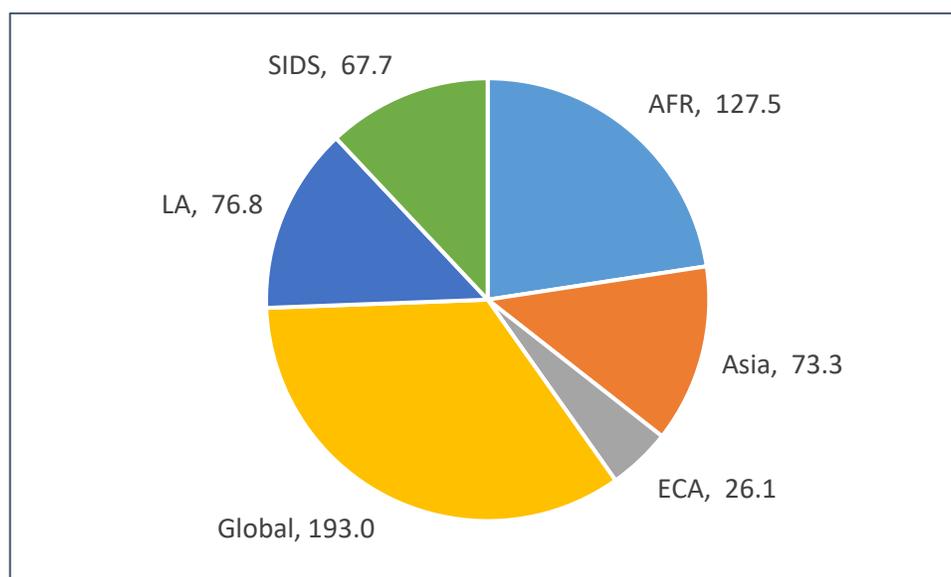
**Figure 2. Cumulative Total % of GEF-8 Resources Programmed by Focal Area**



## DISTRIBUTION OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION

25. In all, 133 (92%) of GEF recipient countries will benefit from GEF support across the globe, including 44 Least Developed Countries (98% of all LDCs) and 37 Small Island Developing States (95% of all SIDS). Africa is the region that has programmed the highest level of resources, followed by Latin America, Asia, SIDS, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Much of the resources for “Global” are resources deployed in three large Chemicals and Waste Programs (FARM+, PCB, iCOAST) and in the Small Grants Programme, all of which are designed to benefit numerous recipient countries. (Figure 3)

**Figure 3. Distribution of GEF Project Financing by Region in the December 2024 Work Program (\$ millions)**



## DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY AGENCY

26. Fourteen of the 18 GEF Agencies will be resourced in the proposed Work Program (Table 5). Five regional and national banks (ADB, AfDB, CAF, EBRD, Funbio, IADB) feature as implementing agencies, collectively receiving \$113.6 million (20.1%) of Work Program resources.

27. UNDP and UNEP have the highest amounts allocated with \$169.8 million and \$88.9 million respectively (or 30.1% and 15.7% of total Work Program resources). UNDP resourcing is particularly high due to the important funding allocated through that Agency in the Small Grants Programme ( \$71.3 million or 12.6% of total Work Program resources).

**Table 5. Amount of GEF Resources by Agency in the December 2024 Work Program and in GEF-8 to Date (including December 2024 Work Program)<sup>9</sup>**

Agency	Resources in December 2024 Work Program		Total GEF-8 Resources Programmed Inclusive of December 2024	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	22.0	3.9%	58.2	1.6%
AfDB	34.5	6.1%	58.8	1.6%
BOAD	0.0	0.0%	8.0	0.2%
CAF	11.2	2.0%	43.2	1.2%
CI	0.0	0.0%	126.1	3.5%
DBSA	0.0	0.0%	24.0	0.7%
EBRD	31.7	5.6%	36.8	1.0%
FAO	50.1	8.9%	589.2	16.3%
FECO	0.0	0.0%	-	0.0%
Funbio	6.1	1.1%	33.5	0.9%
IADB	8.1	1.4%	74.9	2.1%
IFAD	9.2	1.6%	100.2	2.8%
IUCN	10.0	1.8%	165.0	4.6%
UNDP	169.8	30.1%	1,090.5	30.2%
UNEP	88.9	15.7%	576.5	16.0%
UNIDO	50.7	9.0%	216.2	6.0%
World Bank	39.9	7.1%	276.6	7.7%
WWF-US	32.0	5.7%	129.2	3.6%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>564.3</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3606.8</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

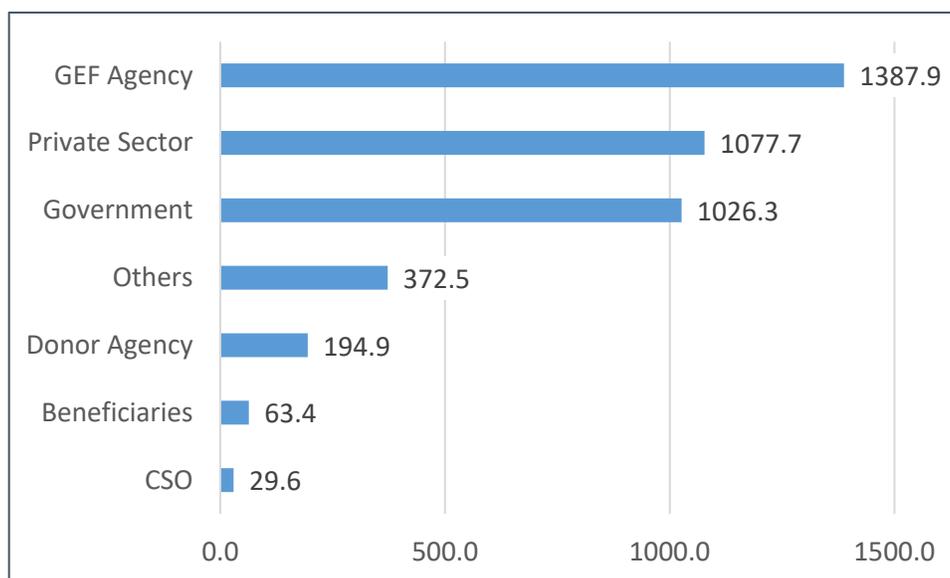
28. The Work Program totals \$4.15 billion of expected co-financing, or a ratio of 1:7.4. The “investment mobilized” co-financing category represents \$3.2 billion (78%) of the total co-financing. The overall co-financing ratio of “investment mobilized” is 1:5.7 calculated for all projects and programs in the Work Program. These co-financing ratios exceed the targets included in the GEF co-financing policy.<sup>10</sup>

29. The distribution by co-financier shows most co-financing coming from GEF Agencies, the Private Sector and Recipient Country Governments (Figure 4) with 33.4%, 26% and 24.7% of the total co-financing in this Work Program, respectively.

<sup>9</sup> Inclusive of Agency Fees, PPG funding, and PPG fees

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF\\_FI\\_PL\\_01\\_Co-financing\\_Policy\\_2018.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_PL_01_Co-financing_Policy_2018.pdf)

**Figure 4. Distribution of Co-financing in the December 2024 Work Program by Co-financiers (\$ million)**



#### **OUTCOME TARGETS FOR THE WORK PROGRAM**

30. If approved, the Work Program will make a strong contribution to achieving GEF-8 outcome targets. Just past the midpoint of the GEF-8 cycle, six out of ten metrics will reach over 80% of their target values and those for marine protected areas and GHG emissions will be fully met (Table 6).
31. The Work Program makes particularly notable contributions to outcome targets for conserving marine habitats for biodiversity, transitioning over-exploited fisheries to sustainable levels, and reducing chemicals and waste of global concern. An International Waters project in the shared marine ecosystems of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador that will strengthen seafood catch documentation and traceability will alone meet the GEF-8 target of transitioning 2.2 million tons of over-exploited fisheries towards sustainability.
32. The Work Program also targets key biodiversity outcomes, including improving practices on 28.6 million hectares of terrestrial landscapes and marine habitats. This includes supporting 16.1 million hectares of marine habitat by managing the spread of Sargassum seaweed along Caribbean shores. Additionally, the Work Program will support the cooperative management of nine shared freshwater and marine ecosystems in the Middle East, East Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Overall, 45 million people, half of whom are women, are expected to benefit.
33. Significant progress is also being made in addressing chemicals of concern and waste. A program aimed at reducing and managing agrochemicals is expected to cut pesticide use by 99,600 metric tons across eight countries. This initiative alone represents a third of the targeted reduction in chemicals and waste for the whole of GEF-8. Another fifth of this target is expected to be addressed by a plastic waste lifecycle management project in China.

**Table 6. Contribution of the Proposed December 2024 Work Program to GEF-8 Outcome Targets**

CORE INDICATOR	GEF-8 Targets	Work Program Contribution		Cumulative Progress	
		Number	Share	Number	Share
<b>CONSERVING &amp; SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY</b>					
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	150	0.9	0.6%	89.8	59.8%
Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	100	0.2	0.2%	123.2	100.0%
Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha)*	195	8.4	4.3%	135.2	69.3%
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million ha)	70	20.2	28.9%	58.9	84.2%
People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)	Monitored	1.7	..	28.2	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.9	..	14.0	..
<b>SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND</b>					
Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)	10	0.6	5.6%	9.1	91.3%
People benefiting from sustainable land management and restoration investments (million)	Monitored	0.4	..	9.2	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.2	..	4.6	..
<b>REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS</b>					
Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO2e)	1,850	126.0	6.8%	1,885.5	100.0%
People benefiting from climate change mitigation support (million)	Monitored	1.8	..	15.9	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.9	..	8.1	..
<b>STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT</b>					
Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	40	9.0	22.5%	35.0	87.5%
Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)	2.1	2.2	100.0%	3.5	100.0%
People benefiting from transboundary water management (million)	Monitored	1.5	..	3.0	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.7	..	1.4	..
<b>REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE</b>					
Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)	300	194.2	64.7%	261.7	87.2%
Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)	5,900	177.0	3.0%	4,447.0	75.4%
People benefiting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals (million)	Monitored	39.7	..	46.2	..
- of whom women	Monitored	20.0	..	23.3	..

\* This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million hectares for its sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' shared with the grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' under the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework. To date, 44.8 million hectares of this sub-indicator are achieved, within which, 2.1 million hectares are achieved from the proposed work program contribution.

## GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

34. All project and program proposals considered in the Work Program complied with GEF Policy and requirements to integrate gender equality and women's empowerment in the project/program components. Gender inequalities in participation and leadership, access to and benefits from resources, and other socio-economic interventions were considered in project outputs and activities.
35. Most projects included activities to support women's empowerment through: i) requiring financing initiatives to have Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) criteria; ii) facilitating women and women-led entrepreneurs to access funding (including seed and pre-seed financing) and providing venture capital dedicated to or supportive of women-led projects and enterprises; iii) fostering greater economic opportunities for women in the industrial workforce; iv) supporting women's efforts to self-organize or form cooperatives; v) providing information and training to women on new technologies and information systems and their use; vi) developing gender-responsive policies and plans that promote women's access to natural resources, including land; vii) ensuring women's equal access to value chains, equipment and supplies, and viii) ensuring that women benefit from the project pilots.
36. Projects are ensuring that a gender lens is applied in the development of policies, plans, frameworks, strategies, roadmap and similar instruments by engaging women, women's groups and gender experts from the very early phases of these activities and/or the development of these outputs. To ensure women's and gender experts' meaningful participation, as well as that of other marginalized groups such as people with disabilities and youth, projects have put in place affirmative measures to facilitate their engagement by addressing barriers such as language, transportation (mobility), time, meeting venue, safe spaces for engagement, and methods or format of discussions (e.g. small group, who should be in the meeting, who facilitates, recording of the conversation, method of feedback, etc.).
37. All projects include capacity-development components aimed at women's self-enhancement and/or build technical skills and understanding. For example, Chemicals and Waste projects train women for more senior waste management positions and also support their promotion to management roles, acknowledging that women's role in the waste sector has traditionally been at the lower levels of the management and value chain. Beyond creating equality of opportunity for women and men, recognizing and supporting women's leadership in the environment and the circular economy will result in broader social and economic benefits. Projects also included capacity development and training for executing agencies, including government departments, local government officials and other partners, to advance gender equality and gender-inclusive approaches and to support women's empowerment.
38. Projects' and programs' knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation components are gender-responsive. This means that projects will capture gender-specific results, best practices and lessons learned, include them in knowledge products, and

disseminate those knowledge products widely. Gender-specific results will be tracked and form part of the regular reporting to the GEF.

39. To ensure that all gender dimensions included in the project will be implemented, projects have included plans to recruit a gender expert to conduct a thorough gender analysis, to develop a gender action plan for the project, and to identify relevant gender indicators that will be integrated in projects' results frameworks. Projects have also specified that sufficient human and financial resources will be allocated for these purposes.

## **POLICY COHERENCE**

40. As one of the cross-cutting principles of GEF-8 programming<sup>11</sup>, the GEF Secretariat continues to explicitly assess the proposed policy coherence impacts of GEF-8 projects and programs at the design stage. Specific elements under consideration include whether the projects and programs will foster policy impacts and policy alignment, undertake cross-sectoral reviews of relevant international, national, or regional policies, support integrated and comprehensive planning and knowledge exchange across relevant Ministries, and/or strengthen multi-scale and multi-stakeholder governance at national and sub-national levels. Several programs and projects being considered for this Work Program address elements of policy coherence across these dimensions. Notable examples are shared below.
41. The global program, *Integrated Collaborative Approaches for Sustainable Tourism Program (iCOAST)* integrates tourism, environmental, and socio-economic policies to address overconsumption and pollution in the tourism sector through collaborative governance and stakeholder inclusion. The addendum to the *Global Clean Hydrogen Programme* brings an additional country to the program approved at the 66<sup>th</sup> Council. This program supports clean (green) hydrogen development by enabling policy frameworks that support decarbonization and green energy development. Similarly, *Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Plus Program (FARM+)* will support governments and other stakeholders to transition to sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, while structuring policies and financial mechanisms that disincentivize harmful agricultural practices and incentivize sustainable alternatives.
42. Several stand-alone projects in this work program also address dimensions of policy coherence. In the biodiversity focal area, *the Conserving Biodiversity and Natural Resources through Spatial Planning and Integrated Landscape Management* project in China will take a "cross-sector, jurisdiction and scale" approach to address drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation. One of the components of this project is to develop and strengthen multi-level coordination mechanisms and tools, including policy and financing, to enhance biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors and landscapes. In Brazil, the *Integrated Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Mitigating Climate Change in the Caatinga - Conecta Caatinga* project aims to enhance the regulatory and policy environment, along with other measures, to address environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in Caatinga,

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<sup>11</sup> GEF/C.62/03, *Summary of the Negotiations of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund*, June 15, 2022

which faces significant threats of deforestation, fire, desertification, wind and solar farm expansion, and unsustainable use of resources.

43. In the chemicals and waste focal area, *Hazardous Waste Management and Policy Development Project for Ukraine* aims to develop policies and regulations on hazardous waste that are consistent with EU regulatory frameworks, while supporting cross-ministry coordination for institutional, policy, and capacity development for hazardous waste management. Interventions of the *Life Cycle Management Project in the Plastic Industry in China* project will strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks along plastic life cycle, fostering transformation of China's plastic industry towards circularity and zero waste.
44. In the climate change focal area, *Accelerating Sustainable Energy Transition project for decarbonization of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)* will consolidate market and policy development efforts by involving ministries with a purview on decarbonization in policy development to orient investments in Indian MSMEs per a shared long-term sustainable energy vision. A central objective of the *Enhanced Transparency Framework project for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* is to support national policymakers in the participating five Caribbean SIDS to incorporate climate data and projections more effectively into their regulatory and planning processes.
45. This work program also includes a number of multi-focal area projects that address elements of policy coherence. In Liberia, the project *Promoting Sustainable Land Management for the Achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience in Rice Landscapes*, addresses the root causes of land degradation by addressing fragmented policies, weak institutional capacities, and supporting Liberia's LDN targets. *The Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities* project in Montenegro will facilitate policy coherence and support a multi-stakeholder approach to resource conservation and management to address threats by promoting integrated and inclusive management of multiple landscapes/seascapes.
46. The multi-trust fund project, *Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change of Natural and Agro Ecosystems, and Communities* in Central Togo emphasizes inter-sectoral coordination and planning at the landscape level. Through a multi-stakeholder platform, this project will support coordinated planning and adoption of ten-year action plans for restoration and regenerative agriculture to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities.
47. In accordance with the action elements outlined at the 65<sup>th</sup> Council<sup>12</sup>, 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.

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<sup>12</sup> GEF/C.65/04, *Enhancing Policy Coherence through GEF Operations*, September 10, 2023

## KEY RISKS ANALYSIS

48. The Work Program was reviewed according to GEF Risk Appetite guidance (GEF/C.66/13), resulting in a risk profile rating of Moderate for Context, Innovation, and Execution Context for the Work Program. The Context dimension has an average rating of 2.4, while Innovation and Execution each average a rating of 2.0 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.
49. Table 9 provides an average for each dimension, calculated using the highest category rating per project. This approach aligns project-level ratings across the nine risk categories with GEF's risk appetite (Substantial for Context, High for Innovation, Moderate for Execution). The approach results in higher dimension-level ratings than category-level ratings. Average ratings across the two Work Programs developed since the adoption of the GEF Risk Appetite (June & December 2024 WPs) are presented for perspective.

**Table 9. Risk Profile of the Work Program (ratings: 1 Low – 4 High)**

	December 2024 WP	June & December 2024 WPs (average)
<b>CONTEXT</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Climate	1.8	2.0
Environmental and Social	2.2	2.1
Political and Governance	1.8	1.9
<b>INNOVATION</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Institutional and Policy	1.7	1.8
Technological	1.5	1.6
Financial and Business Model	1.8	1.7
<b>EXECUTION</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Capacity	1.7	1.7
Fiduciary	1.6	1.6
Stakeholder	1.6	1.6

50. Under the Context risk dimension, the average risk rating is 2.4, indicating that projects and programs generally face Moderate risk from the external environment. The highest risks relate to Environmental and Social risks, followed by Climate and Political and Governance risks. For instance, High Political and Governance risk has been identified for two projects. In Ukraine, reforms may affect the relationship between the central government and ministries responsible for hazardous waste management, mitigated through strong political leadership, stakeholder engagement, and change management. In Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, plans to electronically document fishery catch and establish traceability systems face political risks that will be mitigated by engaging and incentivizing middle managers in the value chain and by working with authorities from tri-national to local levels.

51. The Innovation risk dimension carries a Moderate rating, averaging 2.0. Agencies assessed innovation risks as generally Moderate across the three risk categories: Institutional and Policy, Technological, and Financial and Business Model. Two projects and one program were noted as facing Substantial or High risk in the Financial and Business Model category. The PCB elimination program faces risks from potential reluctance of PCB owners and utilities to participate, high disposal costs, and insufficient counterpart financing, mitigated by leveraging relationships with ministries, integrating PCB activities into standard investment operations, and procuring PCB handling services carefully to reduce financing risks. In Samoa, the establishment of a Trust Fund to strengthen climate adaptation, biodiversity and land degradation faces risks of underfunding and over-reliance on external sources, threatening project sustainability, with mitigations including financial modeling for varied funding scenarios, fostering public-private-community partnerships, and structuring agreements to incentivize private sector involvement.
52. Execution risk for this Work Program is rated Moderate, with an average of 2.0. Capacity risk is the highest within this dimension, averaging 1.7, followed by Fiduciary risk at 1.6 and Stakeholder risk at 1.5. Two projects have been marked as facing High Capacity risk. In India, success hinges on stakeholder capacity to implement sustainable energy solutions, with risks of limited expertise and resources mitigated by comprehensive capacity-building for 1,250 professionals, phased training in pilot factories, collaboration with certified energy experts, and partnerships with government and consulting agencies. In Rwanda, a financial management assessment identified risks to working with a new executing entity as a part of a project rated as Substantial for Fiduciary risk, mitigated by leveraging using an Annual Work Plan and Budget, regular financial reporting, and clear fund flow arrangements, alongside clarifying fiduciary measures during project preparation.

## WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### Other Programs

53. **Global (Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Madagascar, Nigeria, Uganda) Global Elimination Program for PCB (GEP-PCB)** (GEF ID 11749). Agency: World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$ 43,825,000; Co-financing: \$ 163,000,000. The Global Elimination Program for PCB (GEP-PCB) will help recipient countries meet their obligations under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants for the elimination of PCBs by 2028 and contribute to climate change mitigation efforts. PCBs are persistent organic pollutants that pose significant risks to human health and the environment. They can accumulate in the food chain, causing a variety of health problems, including cancer, reproductive disorders, and immune system damage.
54. The program directly responds to guidance to the GEF from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the Stockholm Convention. The convention requires countries to eliminate the use of PCB-containing equipment by 2025 and ensure the environmentally sound management of all PCB-containing liquids and equipment by 2028. The GEP-PCB will support developing countries to meet these deadlines by leveraging electricity sector operations to

engage utilities and using a "Standardized Template Approach" (STA) to integrate the environmentally sound management of PCB into transmission and distribution (T&D) projects. The STA will simplify project preparation, harmonize cooperative procurement and knowledge sharing, and facilitate the scaling up of the global program.

55. The GEP-PCB is also expected to generate significant benefits for climate change mitigation. By encouraging the replacement of old, inefficient transformers with new, more efficient models, the program will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The GEP-PCB is expected to generate the following global environmental benefits: elimination of approximately 8,750 tons of PCBs, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 1,545,828 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, improvement of the operational and energy efficiency of electricity grids in participating countries.
56. **Global (Belize, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Seychelles, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Vanuatu).** *Integrated Collaborative Approaches for Sustainable Tourism Program (iCOAST)* (GEF ID 11729). Agency: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, IADB, EBRD, WWF-US; GEF Project Financing: \$ 81,834,862; Co-financing: \$ 737,768,029. The Integrated Collaborative Approaches for Sustainable Tourism Program (iCOAST) is a multi-focal, multi-national initiative focused on driving change in the tourism sector by creating an enabling environment for sustainable practices. The program aims to achieve global environmental benefits by reducing pollution, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting sustainable consumption and production methods within the tourism industry. The program brings together 7 SIDS, 1 LDC and 6 other developing countries.
57. By promoting responsible consumption and production patterns, the program seeks to significantly reduce the over-consumption of natural resources, products, and materials within the tourism industry, contributing to environmental conservation and sustainability. Through the implementation of nature-based solutions and sustainable land management practices, the program aims to reverse the adverse impact of the tourism sector on biodiversity loss, promoting the conservation and restoration of ecosystems. The program targets a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) through the adoption of energy-efficient technologies, renewable energy sources, and sustainable waste management practices. The GEBs that are estimated to be achieved are: reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 6,101,580 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, protection and restoration of critical coastal and marine ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity conservation, reduction in the use and release of hazardous chemicals by 13,370 metric tons, improving water quality and human health and minimization of waste generation and improvement of waste management practices, particularly addressing 269.267 metric tons of plastic waste.
58. The program places a strong emphasis on inclusivity, with a particular focus on the meaningful participation of women, youth, and IPLCs in tourism development, ensuring that their voices are heard, and their needs are met. It actively promotes workplace

equality and diversity within the tourism sector, encouraging businesses to adopt fair labor practices and provide equal opportunities for all employees, regardless of gender, age, or background. By supporting community-based tourism initiatives, the program empowers local communities, including IPLCs, to manage and benefit from their natural and cultural resources sustainably, ensuring their participation in tourism development. The program aims to achieve socio-economic benefits. By fostering sustainable tourism practices, the program is designed to create equitable livelihoods and jobs for local communities, ensuring that the benefits of tourism are shared equitably.

59. **Global (Pakistan).** *Global Clean Hydrogen Programme – Addendum* (GEF ID 11723). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$1,326,147; Co-financing: \$26,826,484. Green hydrogen has emerged as a viable solution to decarbonizing hard-to-abate sectors and to achieving climate mitigation goals. The uptake of green hydrogen industries and transport in developing countries and transition economies can provide an opportunity to promote industrial growth and net-zero economic development while creating new jobs and skills. However, the use of hydrogen is in nascent stages and developing countries face various barriers to further integrating green hydrogen in their domestic industries. Thus, addressing systemic barriers on policy and standards, technical assistance, knowledge and capacity building, innovation and global coordination is of particular significance to developing countries and transition economies to foster clean hydrogen developments. The programme’s targeted outcomes are: (i) Enhanced clean hydrogen enabling environment of the participating countries for hydrogen production and local application; (ii) Technical readiness for the production and application (industrial or transport) of clean hydrogen improved; (iii) Industrial clusters and companies with great potential to transition to green hydrogen identified, assessed and support provided; (iv) Pilot projects on green hydrogen developed; (v) Bankable project preparation initiated; (vi) Financial mechanisms for clean hydrogen designed; (vii) Global stakeholders improve understanding of the green hydrogen sector and south-south cooperation is established.
60. The Global Clean Hydrogen Programme was approved in February 2024 at the 66<sup>th</sup> GEF Council aiming to enhance national institutional capacities, enable policy frameworks, improve technological readiness and financial mechanisms for the successful uptake of clean hydrogen in developing countries, to ensure their net zero development with social considerations and benefits. The programme targets the production and application of hydrogen, with a focus on the industrial and transport sectors. The initial PDF included 8 countries. With this addendum, Pakistan becomes the ninth country in with a national child project, joining Algeria, Egypt, Ecuador, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines and South Africa. The expanded Global Clean Hydrogen Programme (all 9 countries) is expected to result in approximately 15 million tCO<sub>2</sub> reductions. GEF funding is sought for green hydrogen only.
61. **Global (Benin, Costa Rica, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria).** *Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Plus Program - FARM+* (GEF ID 11682). Agency: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$ 59,074,144 (LDCF – 5,390,302;

GEF TF – \$ 53,683,842); Co-financing: \$ 556,741,692. The Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Plus Program - FARM+ is an innovative and impactful initiative that directly supports the GEF-8 strategic objectives on Chemicals and Waste, Land Degradation, International Waters, and Climate Change. This program builds upon and extends the GEF-7 FARM program. FARM+ will support governments and agricultural stakeholders in transitioning from unsustainable agricultural practices to sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, protecting and improving landscapes, and reducing pollution from harmful agrochemicals. The potential for scale-up is built into the program's design, with a Global Coordination and Knowledge Management component that will facilitate the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, promoting the replication and scaling of successful interventions. Private sector engagement is a core aspect of the FARM+ program. The program will leverage private sector resources, such as co-financing, experience, expertise, and extension services, to support and upscale the implementation of sustainable agriculture and climate-resilient projects.

62. FARM+ interventions will directly address the root causes of land degradation, including climate change, unsustainable land management practices, and the over-application of agrochemicals, and their impacts on food, water, and livelihood security. Through its five components, FARM+ will support a multi-stakeholder, systems-based approach to catalyze transformative change throughout the food system, promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, and increasing access to finance and insurance. The FARM+ program expects to avoid 3,816,870 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, environmentally safely dispose of 99,639 Mt of hazardous waste containing POPs and HHPs, avoid 53gTeq of U-POPs, restore 25,603 hectares (ha) of land and ecosystems, implement improved practices in 1,759,510 ha of land and 40,000 ha of marine habitats and manage 120,000 ha of land for climate resilience.

## **Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects**

### **Biodiversity**

63. **Global.** *GEF-8 Inclusive Conservation Initiative* (GEF ID 11761). Agency: WWF; GEF Project Financing: \$22,535,780; Co-financing: \$83,799,902. The project's objective is to: Increase resources, organizational strength, and recognition for IPs and LCs governance and stewardship of territories, lands, waters and resources to deliver global environmental benefits. This will be achieved by directing eighty percent of the project grant's support to IPs, LCs and their organizations, including for their self-determined priorities and self-strengthening activities under Components 1 and 2. Taking a systems change approach, GEF-8 ICI will 1. enhance the capacities of key actors within the ecosystem of IPs and LCs-led organizations, as well as 2. help strengthen the overall functioning of the system of funding for IP and LC organizations, which together will promote the long-term durability of the project results. Based on initial consultations with IPs and LCs, allied organization representatives, and refined with the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG), the GEF-8 ICI will have two Executing Partner categories that will receive direct grants from the

GEF Agency to self-strengthen and to deliver GEBs based on self-determined plans: 1. Impact Partners - IPs and LCs organizations with adequate institutional capacity (including administrative, project management and M&E capacities) who will receive direct grants to execute local work and be supported with organizational strengthening and networking, as requested. 2. Accelerator Partners - IPs and LCs-led funding mechanisms who will receive direct grants to strengthen their institutional and technical capabilities and make sub-grants to IPs and LCs organizations of various sizes that are well positioned to deliver significant biodiversity outcomes, but not yet on the level of Impact Partners. It is estimated that there will be 125,000 beneficiaries; 150,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas and 100,000 ha of marine protected areas created or under improved management; 10,000 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration; and 2.5M ha of landscape and 150,000 ha of marine habitat under improved practices.

64. **China.** *Conserving Biodiversity and Natural Resources through Spatial Planning and Integrated Landscape Management* (GEF ID 11693). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,509,453; Co-financing: \$59,400,000. China's unique geography hosts globally significant biodiversity, representing over 10% of the world's species. However, land use change, exacerbated by climate change, and unsustainable use of natural resources have led to persistent loss and degradation of biodiversity. The project will take a "cross-sector, jurisdiction and scale" approach to national spatial planning and integrated landscape management, to address drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation and achieve significant national and global environment benefit. This overarching objective will be brought to fruition via the following components: (1) Development and strengthening of multi-level coordination mechanisms and tools, including policy and financing to boost financing, to enhance biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors and landscapes. (2) Landscape-level interventions in the target geography (Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, and Yunnan), involving the implementation of actions related to landscape management and monitoring. This component also includes policy integration with territorial spatial planning to restore habitats and conserve biodiversity. (3) Knowledge management and dissemination to increase public awareness of the importance of biodiversity. Additionally, the project will facilitate capacity strengthening to enhance application of integrated spatial planning and protected area (PA) management. The project will enhance the management effectiveness of 320,000 ha terrestrial and coastal PAs and improve management practices across 680,000 ha of natural and productive landscapes outside PAs to benefit biodiversity. These combined interventions are expected to contribute to the mitigation of 33 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> and directly benefit 100,000 beneficiaries, 50% being women. Scaling up best practices will align with China's Master Plan for Major Projects of Conservation and Restoration of Nationwide Key Ecosystems (2021-2035). The effort aims to bend the curve of biodiversity loss, aligning with Kunming-Montreal GBF for a future of Living in Harmony with Nature, and achieving Global Environmental benefits.
65. **Brazil.** *Integrated Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation and mitigating Climate Change in the Caatinga - Conecta Caatinga* (GEF ID 11565). Agency: Funbio; GEF Project Financing: \$5,504,588; Co-financing: \$17,000,000. The project objective is to

improve biodiversity conservation, diminish GHG emissions, and improve climate change adaptation through sustainable management of areas outside PAs in the Caatinga (drylands) biome, connecting well-conserved areas. The project aims to address environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity in the Caatinga, which faces significant challenges, such as deforestation, fires, desertification, wind and solar farms quick expansion, and unsustainable use of resources. Along with promoting sustainable practices and enhancing the regulatory and policy environment, the project will notably promote the participation of IPLCs in territorial governance. It will be implemented in close synergy with the recently approved GBFF project “ARCA” focused on the Protected Areas of the same landscapes. Expected Global Environmental benefits include 500,000 ha of landscapes under sustainable land management to benefit biodiversity; GHG emission mitigated will be assessed during the PPG phase. 14,000 people will directly benefit from the project, half 50% of whom are women.

66. **Indonesia.** *Strengthening the integrated landscape management and governance for the conservation and sustainable use of forested areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services (AIBDES) in Indonesia* (GEF ID 11530). Agency: FAO. GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$56,000,000. The project addresses biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, and ecosystem service decline in critical landscapes outside Protected Areas (PAs) in South Sumatra and Central Java. The project targets Areas Important for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (AIBDES)—a term specifically chosen to include both areas inside and outside protected areas, encompassing regions crucial for biodiversity and offering ecosystem services like carbon storage. This term aligns with the terminology in Target 3 of the KMGBF. The project will conserve and restore over 91,000 ha of natural ecosystems, ensuring the conservation and recovery of globally significant biodiversity. By focusing on landscapes outside PAs, the project directly supports habitat connectivity to conserve globally threatened and endemic species such as the Javan Leopard, Sumatran Elephant, and various bird species of international conservation concern. Additionally, the project’s activities are anticipated to enhance ecosystem resilience, increase carbon sequestration, and support the livelihoods of local communities, thereby contributing to global efforts to combat biodiversity loss and climate change. The core project objective is to strengthen integrated landscape management and governance to conserve and sustainably use AIBDES, thereby contributing to global biodiversity conservation efforts. The project will establish policies and strategies for biodiversity management across all levels, from national to local. It will also enhance governance and capacities for unified biodiversity management and promote ecologically-sound restoration practices. Innovative finance and investment mechanisms will be employed to boost domestic resource mobilization for biodiversity. Multi-stakeholder engagement, involving governmental bodies, academic institutions, civil society, and the private sector, will be a cornerstone of project implementation.

## Chemicals and Waste

67. **Ukraine.** *Hazardous Waste Management and Policy Development Project for Ukraine (HWM-PDU)* (GEF ID 11712). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$7,214,612; Co-financing: \$38,775,000. This project will enhance Ukraine's capacity to mitigate risks from hazardous pollution that have intensified due to the ongoing conflict. It will focus on building institutional capabilities, developing EU-aligned regulatory frameworks, and implementing pilot projects for the safe management and disposal of hazardous wastes, particularly polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and mercury. Through targeted interventions, the project will safely transport, dispose of, and potentially eliminate approximately 500 tons of hazardous waste across select pilot areas. Additionally, the project will support Ukraine in identifying further high-risk sites for remediation and developing sustainable waste management plans for long-term hazard reduction. The project's interventions are expected to deliver significant Global Environmental Benefits, including reduced exposure to hazardous pollutants for communities and ecosystems and strengthened national capacity for handling chemicals of global concern. The outcomes align with priorities by reducing health and environmental risks associated with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and improving chemical and waste management. The actions will also contribute to the country's alignment with the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions, facilitating safer, more sustainable waste management nationwide.
68. **Brazil.** *Environmentally sound management and disposal of excess mercury and mercury waste from removing mercury electrolytic cells in Brazil's chlor-alkali sector (Chlor-alkali Brazil)* (GEF ID 11697). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$12,000,000; Co-financing: \$344,250,000. The Chlor-alkali project in Brazil aims to reduce negative environmental and social impacts from mercury and mercury wastes originating from the phase out mercury electrolytic cells from three chlor-alkali facilities located in Cubatão, Rio de Janeiro and Igarassu, Brazil. The companies operating these plants which release significant amounts of mercury each year have initiated the conversion and decommissioning of mercury technologies which will be completed by 2030. However, several challenges persist in adopting global Best Available Technologies/Best Environmental Practices (BAT/BEP) and minimizing potential health and environmental impacts due to regulatory, capacity and information and knowledge gaps. The project will offer technical support for the sound disposal of excess mercury/mercury waste resulting from the phase-out of mercury cells in these plants through four main components: 1) national capacity building to manage hazardous chemicals and mercury contamination; 2) introduction and implementation of BAT/BEP during decommissioning of mercury cells and following plant conversion; 3) stabilization, treatment and disposal of mercury and contaminated materials; and 4) knowledge management communications. It will also introduce appropriate technologies and approaches to monitor the decontamination of equipment and facilities, oversee temporary mercury storage and remediate affected areas around each facility. The phase-out of mercury is expected to result in an annual reduction of 53,670 MtonCO<sub>2</sub>eq in emissions, energy savings of approximately 189,600 MWh/ and over the five years of the project, the safe disposal of 240 tons of mercury. The intervention will benefit 6.4 million people (3.4 million

women and 3 million men) and eliminate the risk of mercury contamination from the chlor-alkali industry in Brazil, supporting international compliance with the obligations in the Minamata Convention.

69. **Global.** *Chemicals and Wastes Financing Partnership Facility (CWFPF)* (GEF ID 11681). Agency: ADB, UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$29,083,000; Co-financing: \$ 300,800,000. This project is designed to establish a dedicated financing facility to support investments in the reduction and elimination of chemical and waste pollution (CWP). The project is aligned with the GEF-8 strategic priorities and the goals of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam, and Minamata Conventions. It is a global project that will be executed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as the set-up of the facility will be within the structure of ADB. The project will focus on creating a dedicated trust fund which will support project preparation and the development of investment-ready projects that benefit the global environment. It will Build a knowledge-sharing platform including a policy hub and marketplace will facilitate the exchange of best practices and promote learning. It will implement pilot projects with demonstrations in sectors like electronics, textiles, and pharmaceuticals that will showcase innovative solutions for chemical and waste management. The project aims at mobilizing private sector investment through active engagement with the private sector that will encourage sustainable practices and unlock further financing. The CWFPF is pioneering in its approach by being the first GEF project specifically designed to address the funding gap for sound chemical and waste management. It utilizes a partner-managed fund model which leverages the expertise and resources of various partners, and it applies a chemicals and wastes lens to ensure that environmental and health impacts are considered throughout the project lifecycle. By strengthening decision-making frameworks, establishing a robust project pipeline, and promoting knowledge sharing, the CWFPF is poised to make a significant contribution to global efforts in combating chemical and waste pollution.

70. **China.** *Life Cycle Management Project in Plastic Industry in China* (GEF ID 11543). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$20,265,000; Co-financing: \$182,385,000. The project aims to eliminate the production and use of problematic and avoidable plastics, reduce and prevent toxic and hazardous chemicals release, improve the plastic reuse and recycling system, and promote the utilization of low-value plastic waste, thus facilitating the transformation of plastics industry towards circularity and zero waste in China. The Chinese government attaches great importance to addressing plastic pollution and has issued several regulations over the years. Despite the continuous efforts the country has made over the last decade, there are still gaps in terms of transforming the plastics industry towards life cycle management of plastics. Therefore, it is of great significance to further improve China's full life cycle management framework for plastics. The project will address these barriers through several interventions: (1) Policy and regulatory framework strengthened along the life cycle of plastic; (2) Reduction of POPs and GHG emissions throughout the life cycle of plastic products by introducing technological innovations; and, (3) Financial model for green recycling of plastics. The project is expected to generate Global Environmental Benefits of 71,476 MT of

POPs (HBCDD: 35,738 MT; and, SCCPs: 35,738 MT) and 42.89 gTEQ of uPOPs avoided. The project aims to mitigate over 9 million t-CO<sub>2</sub>-eq GHG.

## Climate Change

**71. India.** *Accelerating sustainable energy transition for decarbonization of micro, small and medium manufacturing enterprises in India* (GEF ID 11758). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$8,982,420; Co-financing: \$71,190,000. The industrial sector in India is responsible for roughly 33% of the nation's total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The project will target eight key industrial sectors representing together about half of these industrial emissions - Textiles, Steel Re-Rolling, Chemicals, Food Processing, Pulp & Paper, Foundry & Forging, Bricks, and Light Engineering. It will focus on supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which employ over 36 million people and contribute 33% to the country's manufacturing output, while consuming about 10% of India's total energy demand. The initiative will consolidate market and policy development interventions by involving ministries with a purview on decarbonization in order to guide future national and international investments in Indian MSMEs with a long-term programmatic vision. A supply chain approach across clusters of MSMEs will be adopted to foster energy efficiency measures, energy switch to renewable energy, and conservation and circularity measures. The project will pilot and scale these interventions across 14,280 MSMEs in three phases through the involvement of industry associations and commercial banks. A proactive knowledge management and learning approach will be adopted, building on existing platforms to offer off-the-shelf benchmarks, trainings and tools adapted to the realities of the targeted value chains. These interventions expect to achieve direct GHG reduction of 5,428,600 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 10 years, along with substantial energy savings. The project will also build capacity by training 1250 professionals and raising awareness among 28,400 individuals (over 30% women), contributing to long-term sustainability of the Indian MSMEs.

**72. Regional (Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname).** *Strengthening national capacities for implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework in Caribbean countries* (GEF ID 11675). Agency UNEP; GEF Project financing: \$6,750,000; Co-financing: \$ 375,000. The project will address the barriers related to designing, establishing and shaping integrated, gender-responsive transparency reporting systems in five Caribbean SIDS, across the full scope of the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), which covers GHG inventories, risks and vulnerabilities, tracking of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for both mitigation and adaptation, and tracking of support received. This regional project will also support the subsequent implementation of the designed reporting systems, and it will bring relevant national stakeholders together to enhance frequency, quality, and usability of the sourced climate data, across the four ETF thematic modules. Finally, the project will support national policymakers within the participating SIDS to incorporate climate data and projections more effectively into their regulatory and planning processes, as well as progress tracking reports. The regional project approach will allow for more efficient, consistent and comprehensive support to be provided, while also being flexible enough to

enable each country to tailor the project design and implementation stages to meet their unique needs and priorities, building on existing foundations, and fill remaining gaps.

## **International Waters**

**73. Regional (Kenya, Tanzania).** *Unlocking the Groundwater Potential of the Kilimanjaro Water Tower* (GEF ID 11547). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$56,500,000. The primary objective of the project is to enhance water security and climate resilience in the Mt. Kilimanjaro region by significantly improving the understanding and management of the shared Kilimanjaro Transboundary Aquifer System (KTAS), increase access to sustainable groundwater resources, promote their holistic governance and enhance the capacity of national and local water managers. This will be accomplished by (1) strengthening transboundary cooperation and aquifer governance; (2) assessment of groundwater resources and “making the invisible visible”; (3) expanding not yet explored groundwater resources and protecting aquifer recharge areas; (4) establishing groundwater management tools, (5) engaging stakeholder across sectors and scales and sharing knowledge and lessons across the region. The project is estimated to contribute to the conservation of 40,000 ha - equivalent to 20% - of the cloud forest area (CI 3); improve cooperative and sustainable management of the KTAS (CI 7); and benefit an estimated 100.000 people living in the aquifer region (CI 11).

**74. Regional (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago).** *Promoting the Integrated Management of Sargassum: Building Resilient Tourism and Fisheries Sectors through the Conservation of Marine Ecosystems in Caribbean countries (SargMarine)* (GEF ID 11526). Agency: CAF; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Co-financing: \$76,300,000. The project aims to establish a multi-level regional governance framework for the integrated management of sargassum to reduce its impacts on marine ecosystems, communities’ livelihoods and local industries (tourism and fisheries) in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME). The project targets seven CLME countries: Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. Mexico and Antigua and Barbuda may join during PPG and other CLME countries are also encouraged to join during PPG. This will be accomplished by (1) establishing effective sargassum regional governance and integrated management in the CLME; (2) improving decision-making and response planning to sargassum influxes by promoting the use of early warning systems; (3) promoting blue-growth initiatives and investment in sargassum bio-businesses; and (4) supporting knowledge management, mobilization and scale-up. It intends to improve 16,150,970 ha of marine habitat with practices that benefit biodiversity (CI-5), strengthen cooperative management in the Caribbean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (CI-7) and benefit over 304,663 individuals (CI-11).

**75. Regional (Chile, Ecuador, Peru).** *The Digital Seafood Revolution: Electronic catch documentation and traceability systems (eCDT) for sustainable and legal fisheries in Chile, Peru, and Ecuador* (GEF ID 11674). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,000,000; Co-financing: \$80,079,269. The project aims to promote the adoption of Electronic Catch Documentation and Traceability (eCDT) systems in fisheries in Ecuador, Peru, and Chile

through the harmonization and strengthening of government traceability schemes and implementing international standards along the fisheries value chain, resulting in improved management of over-exploited marine fisheries. This will be accomplished by (1) harmonization of national eCDT systems; (2) regional cooperation and exchange of good practices, and; (3) industry engagement and stakeholder empowerment, including artisanal fishers. It intends to bring 3 fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations (CI 5.1), improve cooperative management in the Humboldt Current Large Marine Ecosystem (CI 7); move 2,200,000 metric tons of over-exploited marine fisheries to more sustainable levels (CI 8), and benefit at least 10,725 people from the GEF-financed investment (CI 11).

## Multi-Focal Area

76. **Liberia.** *Promoting Sustainable Land Management for the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience in Rice Landscapes of Liberia* (GEF ID 11720). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,114,019; Co-financing: \$37,582,973). The proposed project focuses on rice landscapes in the counties of Lofa, Nimba, and Bong, aiming to improve land use, enhance soil health, and reduce land degradation through the large-scale adoption of sustainable land management practices. The project's Theory of Change identified pathways to tackle the root causes and barriers to Liberia's commitment to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030, building on the UNCCD NAP (2020-2030). Three project components are proposed with i) strengthening the enabling environment for LDN by addressing fragmented policies, weak institutional capacities, and supporting Liberia's LDN targets; ii) integrating SLM and gender-sensitive approaches to achieve LDN outcomes; and iii) promoting knowledge management for scaling innovation in monitoring and evaluating LDN targets. The project will contribute to the restoration of 25,000 ha of rice and vegetable degraded lands in low and upland areas (CI 3.1); 100,000 ha under SLM (CI 4.3); the change in land management will help storing 1,080,200 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (CI6); The total target number of direct beneficiaries is approximately 60,325 people (60% women).

77. **Fiji.** *Revitalizing Ecosystems for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience in Fiji (RESAR)* (GEF ID 11718). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$8,226,629; Co-financing: \$13,200,000. The RESAR project seeks to transform the country's second largest island of Vanua Levu into a model of blue and green economic sustainability. RESAR will mainstream integrated island management by implementing coordinated practices across terrestrial, coastal, and marine areas. The project will introduce climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, and ecosystem restoration in priority landscapes, restoring degraded forest, mangrove, and agricultural lands. Activities will strengthen local value chains by linking agriculture and tourism, expanding market access for rural producers. Institutional capacity-building and knowledge management will support the adoption of sustainable practices across sectors, while partnerships will enhance collaboration across Fiji and the Pacific region. The project's expected global environmental benefits include restoring 3,250 hectares of ecosystems, implementing sustainable practices across 150,000 hectares of landscapes and 500 hectares of marine

habitats, and mitigating 1.127 million tons of CO2 emissions. Directly benefiting 20,000 people—half of whom will be women—RESAR will create a replicable model for resilient livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and climate adaptation in Fiji and beyond.

**78. Colombia.** *Participatory restoration to improve the provision of ecosystem services and connectivity at the landscape scale in Colombia* (GEF ID 11679). Agency: UNEP; Project Financing: \$18,103,569; Co-financing: \$82,668,594. The project objective is to increase ecological integrity and improve population resilience through participatory restoration of degraded landscapes in the Caribbean and Pacific regions of Colombia. The project targets areas important for biodiversity and affected by land degradation in the Pacific and Caribbean coastal regions of Colombia, as prioritized in the National Restoration Strategy 2023-2026, and contributing to Colombia's ambitions under the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration. The project will apply an integrated approach by implementing restoration processes that achieve the recovery of degraded areas, the conservation and connectivity of natural areas, and strengthen the livelihoods of rural communities. The selected areas are representative of larger territories identified in the strategy and will serve as hubs to enable upscaling of best restoration practices, building on a strong baseline of investments by the Government of Colombia. The project aims at restoring 52,800 hectares and include 67,200 hectares under improved practices. It will benefit a total of 99,500 peoples, of which 50% are women. The project will also benefit indigenous peoples and local communities in the coastal regions of Colombia.

**79. Montenegro.** *Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities* (GEF ID 11533). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing \$5,594,293; Co-financing \$48,400,000. The project promotes integrated and inclusive management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities. Work will target three landscapes/seascapes in northern, western, and southern Montenegro, representing distinct habitats from mountains, meadows, lakes, and Illyrian Beech forests to salty wetlands along the Mediterranean coast. The project will help facilitate policy coherence and support a multi-stakeholder approach to resource conservation and management, it will improve financial instruments for biodiversity-positive, nature-based solutions, and it will promote private sector participation. The project is expected to result in the improved management of more than 70,000 ha within 7 terrestrial protected areas, and of 50,000 ha of KBAs and OECMs, enabling the conservation of globally important species (CR, EN, VU on IUCN Red List). It will enable the restoration of 6,000 ha of degraded forests, pastures, and agricultural lands and provide socio-economic benefits to 40,000 people (50% women).

**80. Tanzania.** *Integrated Landscape Management for Sustainable Ecosystem Services and Community Livelihoods in Wami-Ruvu River Basin* (GEF ID 11407). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$27,893,250. Linked to the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot, the Wami-Ruvu Basin in eastern Tanzania provides habitats

for a wide range of globally significant flora and fauna, as well as regulating services that play a vital role in Tanzania's water security, both for rural populations and major urban hubs such as Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Morogoro. The project will conserve biodiversity and halt land degradation in the Wami-Ruvu Basin by leveraging existing watershed management structures and the synergies between land degradation, biodiversity and water resource management. This will be achieved through (i) building technical and institutional capacity for integrated watershed management and cross-sectoral coordination; (ii) targeted sustainable land management, conservation and restoration interventions within and outside selected Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas; (iii) establishment of a payment-for-ecosystem-services scheme for long-term financing of catchment management efforts; (iv) support to alternative livelihoods that enable people to shift away from environmentally destructive practices, and (v) development of a national upscaling strategy. The project will restore 9,000 ha of degraded land in Key Biodiversity Areas, improve management effectiveness of five protected areas covering 118,747 ha, and place a further 100,000 ha of landscape under improved practices. These land-based activities are to generate 6.3 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e of climate mitigation co-benefits. The project will directly benefit 200,000 people, (50% women).

### **Non-Grant Instrument**

81. **Regional (Africa).** *Green Mobility Financing Facility for Africa* (GEF ID 11671). Agency: African Development Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$13,461,468; Co-financing: \$547,450,000. The GMFA project will promote green mobility solutions by attracting private sector investment to support the deployment of electric buses, electric 2-3 wheelers, and associated charging infrastructure with participating countries Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, and South Africa. This proposal builds upon the GEF-7 UNEP Global Mobility Program. GMFA's financial instruments (with concessional loan from the GEF) will help mitigate risks and reduce capital costs for participating partners. Because of the diverse country participation, AfDB envisions establishing one or more special purpose vehicles (SPVs) or partnering with financial intermediaries depending on local needs, with advice and concurrence from GEFSEC during the project implementation. Reflows from the GEF non-grant investment are expected to range from \$13 – 18 million depending on the negotiated terms and tenors of each investment. The project is expected to benefit more than 100,000 people (50% women) and mitigate 9.5 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e.
82. **Rwanda.** *Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Bond* (GEF ID 11514). Agency: The World Bank; GEF project financing: \$9,000,000; Co-financing: \$154,100,000. The proposed Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Bond "Chimp Bond" is the first outcome-based bond for the protection of Chimpanzees and conservation of their habitat with restoration goals in the wider ecosystem surrounding two Rwandan National Parks: Gishwati-Mukura and Nyungwe. Building on the GEF previous experiences in conservation bonds, and seeking to involve additional market players for replication, scalability and new geographies, the GEF participation has anchored WRI and CIFs as two new sources of outcome payment for \$ 5.6 M. This outcome bond will be the first to benefit an IDA country and enables the mobilization of institutional investors financing for wildlife conservation and broader ecosystem restoration outcomes that would

otherwise not be achievable. The project is also designed to embed the local communities in the restoration and conservation efforts and is expected to benefit one million people (50% female). The project will protect and conserve 181,695 ha in the two Rwandan parks and support sustainable landscape development in 130,104 ha between the parks to build connectivity and reduce land use degradation. The project furthermore aims to mitigate 1,084,291 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**83. Regional (Eastern Europe and Central Asia). Sustainable and Inclusive Green Acceleration Programme** (GEF ID 11513). Agency: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; GEF Project financing: \$13,761,469; Co-financing: \$253,808,341. The Sustainable and Inclusive Green Acceleration Programme (SAIGA) in Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye and Uzbekistan aims to accelerate decarbonization and market transformation by leveraging the financial sector to drive private sector investments aligned with national climate objectives. Decarbonizing the private sector is crucial for achieving long-term net-zero goals. SAIGA will aim to bridge the gap in financial access for private sector companies, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), by providing the necessary financial and technical interventions. These efforts will stimulate demand, develop capacity in companies and financing institutions, and demonstrate the viability of climate mitigation investments through commercial financial products. SAIGA's strategy includes three key components: technical assistance to expand climate financing markets (\$1.5 million), investments in climate capital on concessional loan terms (\$4.5 million), and results-based investment incentives (also called Results-based Payment – RBP) for decarbonization (\$7.8 million. Reflows from the GEF non-grant investment are expected to be at least \$4.6 million with additional reflows if performance milestones are not met by beneficiaries. The project is expected to benefit 12,000 people (41% women) and to mitigate 8.1 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

### **Multi-Trust Fund**

**84. Yemen. Building Climate Resilience for Vulnerable Groups in Rural and Urban Areas of Yemen** (GEF ID 11717). Agency: UNDP; Total Project Financing: \$19,883,486 (LDCE: \$18,098,624 and GEFTF: \$1,784,862); Co-financing: \$61,100,000. Yemen is highly vulnerable to worsening climate hazards, including prolonged droughts, more frequent and intense floods, rising temperatures, and land degradation. These hazards severely affect rainfed agriculture, water resources, and food security, particularly in rural areas. The project aims to support communities in 21 districts across 5 governorates in Yemen where households are acutely vulnerable to climate change risks due to their reliance upon traditional rainfed agricultural practices; fragile and/or degraded water availability; deep poverty levels; and, lack of access to modern energy services. This will be achieved by addressing food and water insecurity through an integrated approach to sustainable land and water management and climate-smart agriculture. The project will focus on promoting improved livestock husbandry, introducing climate-resilient agricultural practices, increasing access to modern energy services, and strengthening local capacity to adapt to climate risks. The project is structured around three Components that will result in adaptation benefits of more than 484,000 direct beneficiaries, among about 57% is expected to be female, 25,000 hectares of land under

climate resilient management, a total of 13 policies/plans, more than 48,000 people (57% female) trained or awareness raised and 1,000 private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation. In addition, the proposed project is expected to also contribute to direct emissions reduction of 54,000 metric tCO<sub>2</sub>e and indirect reduction of 108,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

85. **Samoa:** *Strengthening Climate Adaptation, Biodiversity Conservation, and Combating Land Degradation through Ecosystem-based Adaptation* (GEF ID 11700). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452 (SCCF-A: \$2,689,726; GEF TF: \$2,639,726); Co-financing: \$37,024,000. This Multi-Trust Fund project will enhance the climate resilience of Samoa's ecosystems and communities through integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) solutions into watershed management, while simultaneously addressing biodiversity conservation and combating land degradation. Key project strategies include (1) enhancing national EbA capacity to protect and restore ecosystems of high adaptation value; (2) implementing effective EbA measures to improve climate resilience, reduce land degradation, and conserve biodiversity; (3) a comprehensive knowledge management and learning framework to effectively disseminate insights and best practices, thereby facilitating the scaling up of the EbA model; and (4) a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system to systematically track progress, measure impacts, and ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of EbA initiatives. The project aims to establish a replicable EbA model applicable for adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and combating land degradation across Samoa, which faces significant vulnerabilities to climate change such as rising sea levels, extreme weather events among others. GEF finance will be combined with co-finance of \$10 million from the recipient government as well as approximately \$27 million from the ADB. This project will restore 1,000 ha of degraded terrestrial and coastal ecosystems having high adaptation value and 5 ha of coral reef; establish 505 ha of new Community-led Conservation Areas to protect ecosystems of high adaptation value; put 500 ha under sustainable agro-forestry to prevent land degradation and improve slope stability and 500 ha of mangroves and seagrass meadows under the community Blue Carbon projects; prevent emission of 787,867 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent during 20 years from the project start; construct 100 m of hybrid EbA seawall (boulders and mangroves) to protect communities from flooding; and directly benefit at least 10,000 people (50% are women).
86. **Togo:** *Strengthening the resilience of natural and agro-ecosystems and communities to climate change in Central Togo* (GEF ID 11548). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$ 6,649,315 (LDCF: \$3,989,589; GEF TF: \$2,659,726); Co-financing: \$68,523,913. This Multi-Trust Fund, Multi-Focal Area project leverages LDCF and the GEF Trust Fund Biodiversity and Land Degradation focal area allocations to promote sustainable landscape management and climate resilience in Togo's Central Region. At its core, the project emphasizes inter-sectoral coordination and planning at the landscape level, addressing the limitations in integrated landscape management capacities. Through a multi-stakeholder platform, the project will develop coordinated planning, validation, and adoption of ten-year action plans for restoration and regenerative agriculture to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience of communities, ensuring broad stakeholder participation and consensus-building. Strategic restoration efforts will be undertaken in priority areas of Togo's Central Region, aiming to

restore both natural and agro-ecosystems, and thereby enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services while promoting sustainable land use practices. The project will also advance regenerative agriculture practices, promoting climate-resilient agroecological intensification and diversification to bolster resilience to climate change. These practices will advance economic empowerment through strengthened value chains. Through knowledge management initiatives, the project will facilitate the uptake of best practices and innovative approaches, ensuring the sustainability and scalability of project interventions. By integrating these components, the project seeks to foster climate resilience of communities, biodiversity conservation and contribute to land degradation neutrality within the context of current and projected impacts, reduction of climate risks and socio-economic development. This will ultimately contribute to a more climate resilient and sustainable future for Togo's Central Region. With GEF Trust Fund support, the project is expected to create or improve the management of 31,500 terrestrial protected areas; benefit 35,000 people (61,7 percent female); and mitigate 4,801,870 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. impacts from the LDCF, these include strengthening the climate resilience of 35,000 direct beneficiaries (50 percent female); managing 50,000 hectares for climate resilience; producing 10 policies/plans/frameworks; training 35,000 people (50 percent female); and engaging 12 private sector enterprises in climate adaptation action

### **Small Grants Programme**

87. **Global.** *Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme* (GEF ID 11757). SGP CSO Challenge Program. Agency: IUCN; GEF project financing: \$9,075,229; Co-financing: \$ 4,500,000. This project responds to SGP OP8, featuring two CSO Initiatives with \$10 million allocated to each in GEF-8. Aligned with the SGP 2.0 Implementation Arrangements for GEF-8, IUCN was selected to be the implementing agency for the SGP CSO Challenge program in August 2024. This project looks to establish a competitive mechanism with the objective to identify, reward and support high impact innovative environmental approaches and solutions spearheaded by civil society organizations and actors. The project will prioritize youth and youth-led CSOs, women and women groups as well as indigenous peoples and offer finance, on-demand technical support and training, and opportunities for knowledge creation, awareness raising, and peer-to-peer learning supporting replication and scaling up of CSO-led environmental solutions. It is anticipated that a minimum of thirty high impact CSO-led initiatives from approximately twenty-five different countries will be supported in this SGP CSO Challenge Program with the following expected results: 12,000 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration, 159,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices, 3,800 ha of marine habitat under improved practices, and 25,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 12,500 are women.

88. **Global.** *Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme* (GEF ID 11726). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$65,420,307; Co-financing: \$65,420,307. Building on 30 years of experience implementing the Small Grants Program, empowering local civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) the project presented by UNDP, under the second of two SGP OP8 tranches, resembles the project approved by the Council in tranche one (GEF ID 11285). This project corresponds with the Council endorsed SGP 2.0 Implementation Arrangements including the expected project financing and ceilings to non-grant activities. The project features strong focus on innovation, scaling up and social inclusion (including women, Indigenous Peoples, and youth) and as well as on provision of technical and grant assistance to local CSOs and CBOs for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits. This tranche two of the SGP OP8 targets 119 countries (four to be "co-managed" with FAO and one to be "co-managed" with CI) with the following expected results: 150,000 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration, 2,500,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices, 60,000 ha of marine protected areas under improved management, 160,000 ha of marine habitat under improved practices, and 300,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 150,000 are women.
89. **Global.** *Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme* (GEF ID 11698). Agency: FAO; GEF project financing \$17,500,554; Co-financing: \$ 17,500,554. Aligned with the SGP OP8 (SGP 2.0), FAO was selected as one of the two additional SGP implementing agencies in addition to UNDP. This project corresponds with the Council endorsed SGP 2.0 Implementation Arrangements including the expected project financing and ceilings to non-grant activities. It draws on 30 years of experience of the GEF Small Grants Program, featuring strong focus on innovation, scaling up and social inclusion (including women, Indigenous Peoples, and youth) and as well as provision of technical and grant assistance to local CSOs and CBOs for interventions that enhance wellbeing and socioeconomic conditions and generate global environmental benefits. This tranche two of the SGP OP8 targets 14 countries (four to be "co-managed" with UNDP) with the following expected results: 20,000 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration, 350,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices, 25,000 ha of marine habitat under improved practices, and 45,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom 22,500 are women.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

90. GEF-8 Programming Directions were developed to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). This section provides a summary of the cumulative contributions of GEF-8 programming to KMGBF targets to date, inclusive of this Work Program. Note that the actual outcome indicators measured through the core indicators may change once the projects are presented for CEO endorsement.

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

- Target 1: A total of 407.1 million hectares (ha) of land and seas directly impacted to benefit biodiversity; 35 shared water ecosystems under improved management
- Target 2: 9.1 million ha of land and ecosystems under restoration
- Target 3: 213 million ha of protected areas and 25.3 million ha of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) created or under improved management
- Target 7: 261,700 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: 1,885 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated (CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Target 10: 135.2 million ha of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity, 35 shared water freshwater ecosystems under improved management, and 3.5 million metric tons of over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels
- Target 19: \$20.9 billion of co-financing, including \$1.9 billion from the private sector, for a total investment of \$23.9 billion in biodiversity-relevant projects following the Rio marker methodology
- Target 22 and Target 23: 28.2 million people benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity, including 14 million women

92. Table 10 presents a summary of GEF-8 Integrated Programs that contribute to the achievement of each of the 23 KMGBF Targets.

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

Integrated Programs	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework 23 Targets <sup>13</sup>																						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Ecosystem Restoration</b>	X	X						X		X	X			X	X					X	X	X	X
<b>Blue and Green Islands</b>		X	X				X	X		X	X			X					X	X	X	X	X
<b>Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator</b>		X	X					X		X	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution</b>							X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
<b>Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains</b>							X	X		X	X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X
<b>Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes</b>	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Wildlife Conservation for Development</b>		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X									X	X	X	X
<b>Food Systems</b>	X	X					X	X	X	X	X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Clean and Healthy Oceans</b>		X	X				X	X		X	X	X								X	X	X	X
<b>Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development</b>	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X			X		X			X	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Cities</b>	X	X	X				X				X	X		X						X	X	X	X

<sup>13</sup> 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.

93. While no IP directly contributes to its achievement, Target 6 is supported in 11 countries through 9 standalone projects aiming at the prevention, control and management of Invasive Alien Species with a total GEF project financing of \$59.5 million.
94. No submission related to Target 17 (Biosafety) have been received at this point. 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*).
95. 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 to these targets to achieve program and project goals.
96. 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

### Other Programs (PFDs)

1. **Global (Cameroon, Eswatini, Gabon, Madagascar, Nigeria, Uganda)**  
Global Elimination Program for PCB (GEP-PCB) (GEF ID 11749). Agency: World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$ 43,825,000; Co-financing: \$ 163,000,000.
2. **Global (Belize, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Seychelles, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Türkiye, Vanuatu).**  
Integrated Collaborative Approaches for Sustainable Tourism Program (iCOAST) (GEF ID 11729). Agency: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, IADB, EBRD, WWF-US; GEF Project Financing: \$ 81,834,862; Co-financing: \$ 737,768,029
3. **Global (Pakistan).** Global Clean Hydrogen Programme – Addendum (GEF ID 11723). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$1,326,147; Co-financing: \$26,826,484.
4. **Global (Benin, Costa Rica, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria).**  
Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Plus Program - FARM+ (GEF ID 11682). Agency: UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, FAO, AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$ 59,074,144 (LDCF – 5,390,302; GEF TF – \$ 53,683,842); Co-financing: \$ 556,741,692.

### Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects (PIFs)

#### Biodiversity

5. **Global.** GEF-8 Inclusive Conservation Initiative (GEF ID 11761). Agency: WWF; GEF Project Financing: \$22,535,780; Co-financing: \$83,799,902.
6. **China.** Conserving Biodiversity and Natural Resources through Spatial Planning and Integrated Landscape Management (GEF ID 11693). Agency: UNDP. GEF Project Financing: \$5,509,453; Co-financing: \$59,400,000.
7. **Brazil.** Integrated Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation and mitigating Climate Change in the Caatinga - Conecta Caatinga (GEF ID 11565). Agency: Funbio; GEF Project Financing: \$5,504,588; Co-financing: \$17,000,000.
8. **Indonesia.** Strengthening the integrated landscape management and governance for the conservation and sustainable use of forested areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem services (AIBDES) in Indonesia (GEF ID 11530). Indonesia. FAO. GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$56,000,000.

## Chemicals and Waste

9. **Ukraine.** Hazardous Waste Management and Policy Development Project for Ukraine (HWM-PDU) (GEF ID 11712); Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$7,214,612; Co-financing: \$38,775,000.
10. **Brazil.** Environmentally sound management and disposal of excess mercury and mercury waste from removing mercury electrolytic cells in Brazil's chlor-alkali sector (Chlor-alkali Brazil) (GEF ID 11697); Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$12,000,000; Co-financing: \$344,250,000.
11. **Global.** Chemicals and Wastes Financing Partnership Facility (CWFPF) (GEF ID 11681); Agency: ADB, UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$29,083,000; Co-financing: \$ 300,800,000.
12. **China.** Life Cycle Management Project in Plastic Industry in China (GEF ID 11543); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$20,265,000; Co-financing: \$182,385,000.

## Climate Change

13. **India.** Accelerating sustainable energy transition for decarbonization of micro, small and medium manufacturing enterprises in India (GEF ID 11758). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project financing: \$8,982,420; Co-financing: \$71,190,000.
14. **Regional (Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname).** Strengthening national capacities for implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework in Caribbean countries (GEF ID 11675). Agency UNEP; GEF Project financing: \$6,750,000; Co-financing: \$375,000.

## International Waters

15. **Regional (Kenya, Tanzania).** Unlocking the Groundwater Potential of the Kilimanjaro Water Tower (GEF ID 11547). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$56,500,000.
16. **Regional (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago).** Promoting the Integrated Management of Sargassum: Building Resilient Tourism and Fisheries Sectors through the Conservation of Marine Ecosystems in Caribbean countries (SargMarine) (GEF ID 11526). Agency: CAF; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Co-financing: \$76,300,000.
17. **Regional (Chile, Ecuador, Peru).** The Digital Seafood Revolution: Electronic catch documentation and traceability systems (eCDT) for sustainable and legal fisheries in Chile, Peru, and Ecuador (GEF ID 11674). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,000,000; Co-financing: \$80,079,269.

## Multi-Focal Area

18. **Liberia.** Promoting Sustainable Land Management for the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience in Rice Landscapes of Liberia (GEF ID 11720). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,114,019; Co-financing: \$37,582,973).
19. **Fiji.** Revitalizing Ecosystems for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience in Fiji (RESAR) (GEF ID 11718). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$8,226,629; Co-financing: \$13,200,000.
20. **Colombia.** Participatory restoration to improve the provision of ecosystem services and connectivity at the landscape scale in Colombia (GEF ID 11679). Agency: UNEP; Project Financing: \$18,103,569; Co-financing: \$82,668,594.
21. **Montenegro.** Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities (GEF ID 11533). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing \$5,594,293; Co-financing \$48,400,000.
22. **Tanzania.** Integrated Landscape Management for Sustainable Ecosystem Services and Community Livelihoods in Wami-Ruvu River Basin (GEF ID 11407). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$27,893,250.

## Non-Grant Instrument

23. **Regional (Africa).** Green Mobility Financing Facility for Africa (GEF ID 11671). Agency: African Development Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$13,461,468; Co-financing: 547,450,000.
24. **Rwanda.** Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Bond (GEF ID 11514). Agency: The World Bank; GEF project financing: \$9,000,000; Co-financing: \$154,100,000.
25. **Regional (Eastern Europe and Central Asia).** Sustainable and Inclusive Green Acceleration Programme (GEF ID 11513). Agency: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; GEF Project financing: \$13,761,469; Co-financing: \$253,808,341.

## Multi-Trust Fund

26. **Yemen.** Building Climate Resilience for Vulnerable Groups in Rural and Urban Areas of Yemen (GEF ID 11717). Agency: UNDP; Total Project Financing: \$19,883,486 (LDCF: \$18,098,624 and GEFTF: \$1,784,862); Co-financing: \$61,100,000.
27. **Samoa:** Strengthening Climate Adaptation, Biodiversity Conservation, and Combating Land Degradation through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (GEF ID 11700); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452 (SCCF-A: \$2,689,726; GEF TF: \$2,639,726); Co-financing: \$37,024,000.

28. **Togo:** Strengthening the resilience of natural and agro-ecosystems and communities to climate change in Central Togo (GEF ID 11548). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project financing: \$ 6,649,315 (LDCF: \$3,989,589; GEF TF: \$GET is \$2,659,726); Co-financing: \$68,523,913.

### **Small Grants Programme**

29. **Global.** Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF ID 11757); SGP CSO Challenge Program. Agency: IUCN; GEF project financing: \$9,075,229; Co-financing: \$ 4,500,000.

30. **Global.** Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF ID 11726). Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$65,420,307; Co-financing: \$65,420,307.

31. **Global.** Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF ID 11698). Agency: FAO; GEF project financing \$17,500,554; Co-financing: \$ 17,500,554.00.

**ANNEX A: PROJECT AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR 68<sup>TH</sup> GEF COUNCIL APPROVAL UNDER THE GEF TRUST FUND**

**December 16-20, 2024**

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
								USD			
<b>Impact Programs</b>											
<b>Other Programs</b>											
1	11749	Global Elimination Program for PCB (GEP-PCB)	Chemicals and Waste	Cameroon,Eswatini, Gabon,Madagascar, Nigeria,Uganda,Global	UNEP,UNDP, AfDB,World Bank	1,000,000	90,000	43,825,000	3,944,250	163,000,000	211,859,250
2	11729	Integrated Collaborative Approaches for Sustainable Tourism (iCOAST)	Multi Focal Area	Belize,Dominican Republic,Egypt,Honduras,Indonesia, Jamaica,Maldives, Mexico,Morocco,Seychelles,Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago,Türkiye, Vanuatu,Global	FAO,WWF-US,UNEP,UNDP,UNIDO,IA DB,EBRD	2,300,000	207,000	81,834,862	7,365,138	737,768,029	829,475,029
3	11723	Global Clean Hydrogen Programme - Addendum, December 2024	Climate Change	Pakistan,Global	UNIDO	50,000	4,500	1,326,147	119,353	26,826,484	28,326,484
4	11682	Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Plus (FARM+)	Multi Focal Area	Benin,Costa Rica,Egypt,Gambia, Ghana,Mexico,Nepal,Nigeria,Global	FAO,AfDB,UNIDO,UNEP, UNDP	1,405,714	126,515	53,683,842	4,831,546	545,612,831	605,660,448
<b>OP - Sub-Total</b>						<b>4,755,714</b>	<b>428,015</b>	<b>180,669,851</b>	<b>16,260,287</b>	<b>1,473,207,344</b>	<b>1,675,321,211</b>
<b>Non-Grant Instrument</b>											
5	11671	Green Mobility Financing Facility for Africa	Climate Change	Africa,Regional	AfDB	300,000	27,000	13,461,468	1,211,532	547,450,000	562,450,000

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
6	11514	Rwanda Wildlife Conservation Bond (WCB) Operation	Biodiversity	Rwanda	World Bank	-	-	9,000,000	855,000	154,100,000	163,955,000
7	11513	Sustainable and Inclusive Green Acceleration (SAIGA)	Climate Change	Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Regional	EBRD	-	-	13,761,469	1,238,531	253,808,341	268,808,341
				<b>NGI-Sub-total</b>		<b>300,000</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>36,222,937</b>	<b>3,305,063</b>	<b>955,358,341</b>	<b>995,213,341</b>
<b>Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects</b>											
<b>Biodiversity</b>											
8	11761	GEF-8 Inclusive Conservation Initiative	Biodiversity	Global	WWF-US	400,000	36,000	22,535,780	2,028,220	83,799,902	108,799,902
9	11693	Conserving Biodiversity and Natural Resources through Spatial Planning and Integrated Landscape Management	Biodiversity	China	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,509,453	523,397	59,400,000	65,597,100
10	11565	Integrated Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation in the Caatinga - Conecta Caatinga	Biodiversity	Brazil	Funbio	64,000	5,740	5,504,588	495,412	17,000,000	23,069,740
11	11530	Strengthening the integrated landscape management and governance for the conservation and sustainable use of forested areas important for biodiversity and ecosystem	Biodiversity	Indonesia	FAO	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	56,000,000	64,000,000

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
		services (AIBDES) in Indonesia									
				<b>BD-Sub-Total</b>		<b>814,000</b>	<b>74,990</b>	<b>40,655,757</b>	<b>3,722,093</b>	<b>216,199,902</b>	<b>261,466,742</b>
<b>Chemicals and Waste</b>											
12	11712	Hazardous Waste Management and Policy Development Project for Ukraine (HWM-PDU)	Chemicals and Waste	Ukraine	World Bank	-	-	7,214,612	685,388	38,775,000	46,675,000
13	11697	Environmentally sound management and disposal of excess mercury and mercury waste from removing mercury electrolytic cells in Brazil's chlor-alkali sector (Chlor-alkali Brazil)	Chemicals and Waste	Brazil	UNEP	200,000	18,000	12,000,000	1,080,000	344,250,000	357,548,000
14	11681	Chemicals and Wastes Financing Partnership Facility (CWFPF)	Chemicals and Waste	Global	UNIDO,ADB	275,300	24,700	29,083,000	2,617,000	300,800,000	332,800,000
15	11543	Life Cycle Management Project in Plastic Industry in China	Chemicals and Waste	China	UNDP	300,000	27,000	20,265,000	1,823,850	182,385,000	204,800,850
				<b>CW - Sub-Total</b>		<b>775,300</b>	<b>69,700</b>	<b>68,562,612</b>	<b>6,206,238</b>	<b>866,210,000</b>	<b>941,823,850</b>

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
<b>Climate Change Mitigation</b>											
16	11758	Accelerating sustainable energy transition for decarbonization of micro, small and medium manufacturing enterprises in India	Climate Change	India	UNIDO	150,000	14,250	8,982,420	853,330	71,190,000	81,190,000
17	11675	Strengthening national capacities for implementing the Enhanced Transparency Framework in Caribbean countries.	Climate Change	Dominica,Grenada ,St. Kitts and Nevis,St. Lucia,Suriname,Regional	UNEP	100,000	9,500	6,750,000	641,250	375,000	7,875,750
				<b>CCM-Sub-Total</b>		<b>250,000</b>	<b>23,750</b>	<b>15,732,420</b>	<b>1,494,580</b>	<b>71,565,000</b>	<b>89,065,750</b>
<b>International Waters</b>											
18	11674	The Digital Seafood Revolution: Electronic catch documentation and traceability systems (eCDT) for sustainable and legal fisheries in Chile, Peru, and Ecuador	International Waters	Chile,Ecuador,Peru ,Regional	UNEP	200,000	19,000	8,000,000	760,000	80,079,269	89,058,269
19	11547	Unlocking the groundwater potential of the Kilimanjaro Water Tower	International Waters	Kenya,Tanzania,Regional	FAO	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	56,500,000	64,500,000

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
20	11526	Promoting the Integrated Management of Sargassum: Building Resilient Tourism and Fisheries Sectors through the Conservation of Marine Ecosystems in Caribbean countries (SargMarine)	International Waters	Colombia, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Panama, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Regional	CAF	300,000	27,000	10,000,000	900,000	76,300,000	87,527,000
				<b>IW - Sub-Total</b>			<b>700,000</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>25,105,936</b>	<b>2,335,064</b>	<b>212,879,269</b>
<b>Multi-focal Area</b>											
21	11720	Promoting Sustainable land management for the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience in Rice Landscapes of Liberia	Multi Focal Area	Liberia	FAO	150,000	14,250	5,114,019	485,832	37,582,973	43,347,074
22	11718	Revitalizing Ecosystems for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience in Fiji (RESAR)	Multi Focal Area	Fiji	IFAD	200,000	19,000	8,226,629	781,529	13,200,000	22,427,158
23	11679	Participatory restoration to improve ecosystem service provision and	Multi Focal Area	Colombia	UNEP	300,000	27,000	18,103,569	1,629,320	82,668,594	102,728,483

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
		connectivity at the landscape scale in Colombia									
24	11533	Integrated management of multiple use landscapes/seascapes to promote biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, improve land and marine productivity and economic benefits to local communities	Multi Focal Area	Montenegro	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,594,293	531,457	48,400,000	54,690,000
25	11407	Integrated Landscape Management for Sustainable Ecosystem Services and Community Livelihoods in Wami-Ruvu River Basin	Multi Focal Area	Tanzania	UNEP	150,000	14,250	5,329,452	506,298	27,893,250	33,893,250
				<b>MFA - Sub-Total</b>		<b>950,000</b>	<b>88,750</b>	<b>42,367,962</b>	<b>3,934,436</b>	<b>209,744,817</b>	<b>257,085,965</b>
<b>Multi-Trust Fund</b>											
26	11717	Building Climate Resilience for Vulnerable Groups in Rural and Urban Areas of Yemen	Multi Focal Area	Yemen	UNDP	50,000	4,500	1,784,862	160,638	14,050,000	16,050,000
27	11700	Strengthening Climate Adaptation, Biodiversity	Multi Focal Area	Samoa	UNDP	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	18,338,324	21,338,324

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
		Conservation, and Combating Land Degradation through Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Samoa									
28	11548	Strengthening the resilience of natural and agro-ecosystems and communities to climate change in Central Togo	Multi Focal Area	Togo	UNDP	80,000	7,600	2,659,726	252,674	27,409,565	30,409,565
				<b>MTF - Sub-Total</b>		<b>230,000</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>7,084,314</b>	<b>664,086</b>	<b>59,797,889</b>	<b>67,797,889</b>
<b>Small Grant Programme</b>											
29	11757	SGP CSO Challenge Program	Multi Focal Area	Global	IUCN	99,083	8,917	9,075,229	816,771	4,500,000	14,500,000
30	11726	Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (Tranche 2)	Multi Focal Area	Afghanistan,Albania,Algeria,Angola,Antigua and Barbuda,Argentina,Armenia,Azerbaijan,Bahamas,Bangladesh,Barbados,Belize,Benin,Bhutan,Bolivia,Botswana,Brazil,Burkina Faso,Burundi,Cabo Verde,Cambodia,Cameroun,Central African Republic,Chad,China,Colombia,Comoros,Congo DR,Costa Rica,Cote d'Ivoire,Cuba,Djibouti,Dominica,Dominican	UNDP	-	-	65,420,307	5,887,830	65,420,307	136,728,444

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost	
				Republic,Ecuador, Egypt,El Salvador,Eritrea,Es watini,Ethiopia,Fiji ,Gabon,Gambia,Georgia,Ghana,Grenada,Guatemala,Guinea-Guinea-Bissau,Haiti,Honduras,India,Jordan,Kazakhstan,Kiribati,Kyrgyz Republic,Lao PDR,Lebanon,Lesotho,Liberia,Madagascar,Malawi,Malaysia,Maldives,Mali ,Mauritania,Mauritius,Mexico,Micronesia,Moldova,Mongolia,Montenegro,Morocco,Mozambique,Namibia,Nauru,Nepal,Niger,Nigeria,Niue,North Macedonia,Pakistan,Palau,Palestinian Authority,Panama,Papua New Guinea,Paraguay,Peru,Philippines,Rwanda,Samoa,Sao Tome and Principe,Senegal,Seychelles,Sierra Leone,Solomon Islands,Somalia,South Africa,Sri Lanka,St. Kitts and Nevis,St. Lucia,Suriname,Tanzania,Thailand,Ti								

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
				mor Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Tü rkiye, Tuvalu, Ukrai ne, Uruguay, Uzbeki stan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zamb ia, Zimbabwe, Glob al							
31	11698	Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (Tranche II)	Multi Focal Area	Bosnia- Herzegovina, Chile, Cook Islands, Cuba, Guya na, Indonesia, Jama ica, Kenya, Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Tajikistan, U ganda, Venezuela, Global	FAO	-	-	17,500,554	1,578,910	17,500,554	36,580,018
				<b>SGP - Sub-Total</b>		<b>99,083</b>	<b>8,917</b>	<b>91,996,090</b>	<b>8,283,511</b>	<b>87,420,861</b>	<b>187,808,462</b>
				<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>8,874,097</b>	<b>807,722</b>	<b>508,397,879</b>	<b>46,205,358</b>	<b>4,152,383,423</b>	<b>4,716,668,479</b>

## ANNEX B: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECTS (MSPs) APPROVED SINCE THE 67<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL MEETING

Twenty-eight Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) were approved since the 67<sup>th</sup> GEF Council, or between June and December 2024. Total GEF financing for these projects equals \$78.1 million with \$349.5 million in co-financing for a ratio of \$1 GEF dollar being matched by \$4.5 dollars in co-financing. Twenty countries have distinct MSPs and an additional 5 MSPs will serve regional aims, while 2 are global projects.<sup>i,ii,iii</sup>

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	PPG Amount	PPG Fee
(USD)									
<b>Two-step MSP PIFs approved</b>									
11719	Conservation International GEF Small Grants Programme 2.0	CI	Global	Multi Focal Area	\$4,300,460	\$387,040	\$6,300,460	\$0	\$0
11653	Strengthening institutional and technical capacities for greater transparency in the implementation of Article 13 of the Paris Agreement in Nicaragua	FAO	Nicaragua	Climate Change	\$1,950,000	\$185,250	\$1,210,000	\$50,000	\$4,750
11586	Global Opportunities for the Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Senegal – planetGOLD Senegal	UNEP	Senegal	Chemicals and Waste	\$4,500,000	\$427,500	\$12,000,000	\$150,000	\$14,250
11578	Scaling-up conservation and sustainable management of priority wetlands of the East-Asian Australasian Flyway in the Philippines	ADB	Philippines	Biodiversity	\$2,660,600	\$239,400	\$6,783,591	\$91,745	\$8,255
11484	Atlantic Forest Great Reserve Project	Funbio	Brazil	Biodiversity	\$1,784,000	\$160,560	\$6,120,000	\$50,000	\$4,500
11424	Support and build a more Sustainable Blue Economy in Aqaba through Marine Spatial Planning and effective management of the first marine reserve in the country.	UNDP	Jordan	Biodiversity	\$1,776,484	\$168,766	\$20,000,000	\$50,000	\$4,750
11140	Land Restoration and Ecosystem Service Improvement through Use of Fruit and Nut Tree Biodiversity in Armenia	UNEP	Armenia	Multi Focal Area	\$1,971,590	\$187,300	\$5,000,000	\$50,000	\$4,749
11070	Strengthening the capacity of Turkmenistan to comply with the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement.	FAO	Turkmenistan	Climate Change	\$1,776,485	\$168,765	\$600,000	\$50,000	\$4,750
11061	Land Degradation Neutrality for Sustainable Use and Conservation of Uruguay Rangelands	FAO	Uruguay	Land Degradation	\$1,776,484	\$168,766	\$11,300,000	\$50,000	\$4,750
<b>One-step MSPs approved</b>									
11651	Strengthening national capacity for implementing the enhanced transparency framework in Belize.	UNEP	Belize	Climate Change	\$1,500,000	\$142,500	\$300,000	\$50,000	\$4,750
11515	Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions in Uganda to Comply with the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement	CI	Uganda	Climate Change	\$1,500,000	\$135,000	\$1,666,790	\$50,000	\$4,500
11497	Strengthening the National Framework for Climate Transparency of Panama	UNEP	Panama	Climate Change	\$1,500,000	\$142,500	\$421,360	\$50,000	\$4,750
11316	Global capacity building towards enhanced transparency (CBIT-AFOLU+)	FAO	Global	Climate Change	\$2,000,000	\$190,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0

Child MSPs approved									
11561	Promoting circularity and resource efficiency in the electronic value chain in Kazakhstan	UNEP	Kazakhstan	Chemicals and Waste	\$5,000,000	\$450,000	\$35,100,000	\$150,000	\$13,500
11557	Global Electronics Management (GEM) Program Child Project in Cambodia	UNDP	Cambodia	Chemicals and Waste	\$4,000,000	\$360,000	\$26,100,000	\$150,000	\$13,500
11556	Sustainable electronics management in Peru	UNIDO	Peru	Chemicals and Waste	\$5,000,000	\$450,000	\$35,000,000	\$150,000	\$13,500
11555	Sustainable electronics management in the Republic of Türkiye	UNIDO	Türkiye	Chemicals and Waste	\$5,000,000	\$450,000	\$45,000,000	\$150,000	\$13,500
11554	Sustainable electronics management in the Philippines	UNIDO	Philippines	Chemicals and Waste	\$5,000,000	\$450,000	\$35,000,000	\$150,000	\$13,500
11540	Monitoring of POPs and mercury under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in the Latin American Region	UNEP	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	\$4,000,000	\$360,000	\$14,950,500	\$150,000	\$13,500
11539	Monitoring of POPs and mercury under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in the Pacific Region	UNEP	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	\$2,000,000	\$180,000	\$3,680,000	\$100,000	\$9,000
11538	Monitoring of POPs and mercury under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in the Caribbean Region	UNEP	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	\$3,000,000	\$270,000	\$7,750,000	\$100,000	\$9,000
11537	Monitoring of POPs and mercury under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in the Asia Region	UNEP	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	\$4,000,000	\$360,000	\$9,770,000	\$150,000	\$13,500
11536	Monitoring of POPs and mercury under the Stockholm and Minamata Conventions in the Africa Region	UNEP	Regional	Chemicals and Waste	\$5,000,000	\$450,000	\$12,185,000	\$150,000	\$13,500
11518	Accelerating the transition to electric mobility in Rwanda	UNEP	Rwanda	Climate Change	\$1,698,119	\$152,831	\$5,050,000	\$45,000	\$4,050
11517	Enabling the transition to a Zero Emission Transport Sector in Palau	UNEP	Palau	Climate Change	\$1,422,390	\$128,015	\$3,100,000	\$45,500	\$4,095
11491	Validation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) models at the Landscape Scale	UNDP	Cuba	Land Degradation	\$1,352,500	-\$98,582	\$3,450,792	\$0	\$0
11081	Support to the acceleration of sustainable land transport and the introduction of electric mobility in Vanuatu	UNEP	Vanuatu	Climate Change	\$871,560	\$78,440	\$27,304,884	\$45,872	\$4,128
11079	Transformation to Low/Zero Transport sector - Enabling uptake of Electric Mobility in Solomon Islands	UNEP	Solomon Islands	Climate Change	\$1,787,500	\$160,875	\$12,856,302	\$47,362	\$4,263
<b>TOTALS</b>					<b>\$78,128,172</b>	<b>\$6,904,926</b>	<b>\$349,499,679</b>	<b>\$2,275,479</b>	<b>\$207,290</b>

<sup>i</sup> The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons and 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 and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11070 in Turkmenistan.

<sup>ii</sup> The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries that are state sponsors of terrorism, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, and in light of its policies related to development projects in Cuba, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11491 in Cuba.

<sup>iii</sup> The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects in countries whose governments are not addressing trafficking in persons, and in light of its policies related to development projects in Nicaragua, opposes and therefore does not join a Council decision that would support GEF project 11653 in Nicaragua.