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GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GEF-8 RESULTS MEASUREMENT FRAMEWORK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Applicability and Effective Date 3
Purpose and Scope 3
Context for the GEF-8 RMF 4
Application of GEF-8 Core Indicators 5
Characteristics of RMF Indicators and Principles Specific to the Use of Core Indicators 6
Accountability in Reporting on the GEF-8 RMF 7
Definition of GEF-8 RMF Indicators 8
Annex — Numbering of Each Indicator in the GEF Portal 32

APPLICABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE

1. These guidelines cover the GEF-8 cycle and apply for reporting from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2026. They are effective as of July 1, 2022. The use of Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators, commonly called Core Indicators, presented in these guidelines is specific to projects and programs financed by the GEF Trust Fund. It is required for any project and program approved after July 1, 2014. For projects approved before July 1, 2014, and for coordination projects of GEF-8 Integrated Programs, the use of Core Indicators is encouraged, but not required.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

2. This document serves to clarify reporting on the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework (RMF) developed during the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund. It aims to ensure reporting consistency, data quality and transparency in projects and programs as well as through corporate reporting across the portfolio to demonstrate how projects and programs contribute to the GEF's programming directions and partnership priorities in measurable terms. Guidelines on the *Project and Program Results Framework and Monitoring & Evaluation Plans* complement this document[1], which updates the list of Core Indicators. Data entry in the GEF Portal for Core Indicators takes place in the order presented in Annex.

3. These guidelines provide information to ensure a clear and consistent use and understanding of RMF indicators by Agencies, countries and the GEF Secretariat. For Agencies and countries, this document clarifies the use of Tier 1 Core Indicators in projects and programs. This includes identifying intended results, monitoring progress and supporting data with justification. Further details on Core Indicators introduced in GEF-7 (see Box 1) and clarifying edits to their initial definitions (ME/GN/02) are provided. The name of some indicators has also been edited for brevity and to make them easier to understand. For all GEF partners, the guidelines also present the mechanics of the GEF-8 RMF implementation and cover Tier 2 metrics tracking the effectiveness of the GEF Partnership in managing projects and programs.

Box 1. Forming the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework

The GEF-8 RMF builds on the revamped results architecture introduced in GEF-7 as well as on a framework tracking operational performance established during the same cycle.

The GEF pivoted in GEF-7 from monitoring a large number of indicators through focal area tracking tools to gauging progress against a lean set of more relevant and integrated Core Indicators (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.02). This move was supported by findings in *OPS6* from the GEF's Independent Evaluation Office (GEF/ME/C.53/Inf.01). Core Indicators are now tracked in Tier 1 of the GEF-8 RMF. They provide a simplified results framework capturing the most relevant outcomes with streamlined monitoring and reporting requirements.

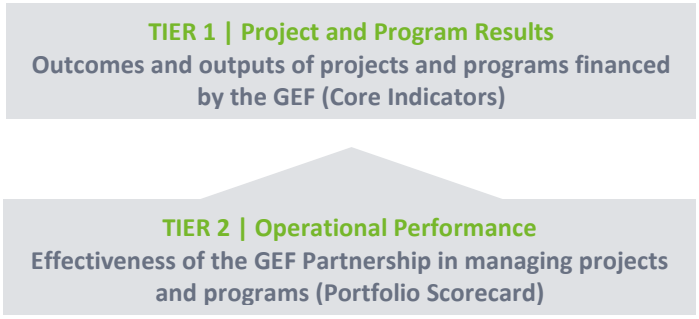
Most Tier 2 metrics were developed during GEF-7 and presented for the first time under a reporting framework called the Portfolio Scorecard in the 2020 Monitoring Report (GEF/C.59/03/Rev.01). This new methodology started to track the GEF Partnership's progress in key areas of operational effectiveness. It provided a consistent approach to reporting progress over time, with indicators that allow for comparability across Agencies and regions, reinforced by the use of a traffic-light system.

[1] Annex 3, Guidelines on the Program and Project Cycle Policy, GEF/C.59/Inf.03.

CONTEXT FOR THE GEF-8 RMF

4. The GEF-8 RMF provides the framework for reporting on the achievement of Global Environmental Benefits and operational performance across the GEF Partnership. It facilitates learning, promotes performance improvement and enhances accountability on the GEF effectiveness with relevant stakeholders. In this context, these guidelines set out methodological guidance and provide clear technical definitions for each indicator. Indicators are presented along the RMF structure divided into two tiers of measurement, with Tier 1 focused on Project and Program Results and Tier 2 on Operational Performance (see Figure 1). Under this structure, the GEF-8 RMF integrates the Global Environmental Benefits it targets in a comprehensive vision of what the GEF aims to achieve, assessing how change is taking place.

Figure 1: Two Tiers of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework



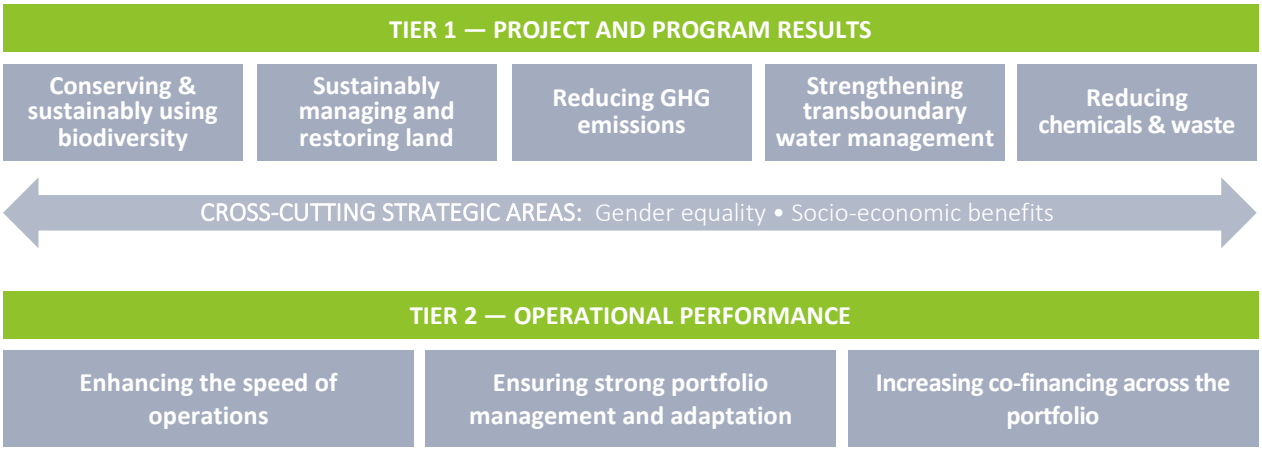
5. The GEF-8 RMF disentangles the way the GEF aims for operational results (Tier 1) from operational inputs and management (Tier 2). Tier 1 measures the GEF's contributions in achieving global environmental benefits, through aggregated Core Indicator data. Tier 2 assesses the GEF Partnership's progress in implementing operations. The two tiers describe the GEF's ability to transform its financing into global environmental benefits. Figure 2 shows the clusters of indicators used for each of the two tiers of the GEF-8 RMF. By vertically aligning the two tiers of measure, the RMF establishes stronger conceptual linkages between the GEF's outcomes (Tier 1) and the inputs, processes and activities (Tier 2) that helped lead to them. This architecture also makes it easier to analyze each field, learn from implementation and report on progress.

6. Tier 1 indicators reflect the GEF-8 strategic priorities along five groups of indicators. The GEF-8 RMF maintains continuity with the GEF-7 Results Architecture by retaining all Core Indicators (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.02), while addressing emerging issues for GEF-8. It tracks the aggregated outputs and outcomes that are supported through GEF-financed projects and programs. They are structured along key environmental themes that overlap with multiple focal areas of funding: Conserving and sustainably using biodiversity, Sustainably managing and restoring land, Reducing GHG emissions, Strengthening transboundary water management, and Reducing chemicals & waste.

7. Metrics under Tier 2 track operational progress. They assess how projects and programs perform in delivering results by leveraging existing project data shared during implementation. This means the use of these metrics do not require reporting efforts other than already existing

ones by Agencies and countries. These metrics provide a consistent approach to reporting on and understanding portfolio progress through different dimensions. They include three groups of indicators tracking different aspects of the GEF business. The first assesses the speed of projects throughout their lifecycle. The second measures key portfolio management indicators, and the third monitors the materialization of project co-financing. Taken together, these groups of metrics provide a picture of how well implementation is taking place.

Figure 2: Two tiers capturing the GEF's aspirations, results, and operational effectiveness



APPLICATION OF GEF-8 CORE INDICATORS

8. Core Indicators apply differently to projects under preparation and implementation depending on their stage and approval date. The use of Core Indicators is required for any new project and program. Agencies should also use Core Indicators presented in these guidelines as they submit for CEO Endorsement or CEO Approval any project approved by Council after July 1, 2014. Ongoing projects from the GEF-6 phase and onward must also use Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators. The use of Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators is only encouraged, but not required, for projects from GEF-5 and earlier and for coordination projects of GEF-8 Integrated Programs.

9. Data provided on Core Indicators are specific to the milestones in which projects and programs stand. At Project Identification Form or Program Framework Document stage, Agencies share expected results. When reaching CEO Endorsement or Approval, Agencies provide adjusted expected results informed by project preparation as appropriate. The Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation are the stages when Agencies assess and share actual results data. In instances where expected results have not been reported at CEO Endorsement or Approval or in the case of newly introduced indicators, Agencies then also share initially envisioned expected results in addition to actual results at Mid-Term Review or Terminal Evaluation stage. Agencies should consider using the Mid-Term Review milestone to assess if the project needs adjustments to adapt implementation to new circumstances and enhance the delivery of results.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RMF INDICATORS AND PRINCIPLES SPECIFIC TO THE USE OF CORE INDICATORS

10. Indicators of this RMF are tied to performance and results by focusing on one or more characteristics of the broader goal of each grouping of indicator, using SMART criteria. The characteristics of SMART indicators are as follows:

- **S**pecific. Indicators should convey clear, precise information that is easy to communicate and understand.

- **M**easurable. The values of indicators should be easy to determine, objectively and with economy and scientific accuracy.

- **A**chievable. Indicators and their measurement units must reflect goals that are achievable during the relevant timespan.

- **R**elevant. Indicators should be directly applicable to the goals and context of the level being measured and be useful for management or analytical purposes.

- **T**ime-bound. Indicators should enable progress to be tracked at a desired frequency for a set period.

11. Overarching principles guide the use of Core Indicators in projects and programs. These principles are informed by evaluative evidence (GEF/E/C.61/Inf.01). They contribute to structure both the type of results to consider and talk to the key attributes of different indicator types making the set of Tier 1 metrics. These are:

- **Only direct** outputs and outcomes are captured through Core and Sub-Indicators except for the climate change mitigation indicator on Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated.

- As GEF projects are made up of both GEF financing as well as co-financing, the GEF Results Measurement Framework seeks to capture Core Indicator and Sub-Indicator values to which the GEF projects have **contributed**. Project teams are not required to determine the portion of results **attributed** to GEF financing.

- There are two types of Sub-Indicators: **component Sub-Indicators**, which sum up to the Core Indicator, while **contextual Sub-Indicators** provide additional context for the Core Indicator, including in the form of ratings for select indicators. These are differentiated within the guidance that follows and in the GEF Portal.

- Expected values should be based on what the GEF-financed project and program **can achieve by its completion** and report as such in Terminal Evaluations. They should be based on past trends, professional judgment and an assessment of what is likely to be achieved considering available resources and planned activities. Only the indicator tracking Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated assesses results to be achieved over the lifetime of the investment.

- A **justification** for the level of expected values should be provided and explain the methodological approach and underlying logic or causal pathway adopted, considering barriers, enablers, risks and assumptions.

- Component Sub-Indicators are mutually exclusive. This means that for example the number of hectares reported under two different indicators for a same project should cover different and separate hectares with no overlap. Further description in the project submission may clarify how double counting is avoided, including with geospatial data.

- A baseline value of zero is expected for Core Indicators to allow measuring the net effect of a project or program receiving GEF financing. This applies to all Core Indicators, except for indicators which use ratings as unit of measure.

- Precision: GEF Agencies should use three significant figures, at most.

- Metric tons: Use of metric tons for Core Indicators refers to the unit that is equal to 1,000 kilograms.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN REPORTING ON THE GEF-8 RMF

12. This section describes the process for RMF data collection, analysis and reporting to GEF stakeholders. Reporting is a shared responsibility of the GEF Secretariat and Agencies working with Executing entities in recipient countries and recipient countries themselves. Details for collecting data at each level of the RMF are presented below.

13. The Annual Monitoring Report tracks progress against the GEF-8 RMF relying on a consistent approach to reporting progress over time. It focuses on the achievement of actual results along Tier 1 indicators and on operational progress with Tier 2 metrics. Different reporting mechanisms are in place for each of the two levels of measure, reflecting their own specific goal. In addition, the Corporate Scorecard tracks aggregate expected results for each Core Indicator against targets to be achieved by the end of the GEF cycle. The same is presented in Cover Notes prepared for each Work Program. Altogether, this helps make evidence-based decisions on work planning, emulates performance, strengthens accountability for results and enhances effectiveness.

14. Mid-Term Reviews and Terminal Evaluations provide the source of data on results achievements used for reporting on Tier 1 of the RMF. These reports include information and data on the extent to which a project achieved its intended development objectives. The information covers relevant Core Indicators, as well as additional indicators pertaining to each project's comprehensive results framework. Systematic reporting on actual results takes place in a way that highlights the GEF's increasing impact over the GEF-8 cycle. To demonstrate the extent of impact in GEF-8, reporting will be cumulative adding each year the level of results achieved during the previous year. This means Tier 2 results will first report progress achieved during FY22 (in the 2022 Monitoring Report); followed by FY22 and FY23; then FY22, FY23 and FY24; and finally, FY22, FY23, FY24 and FY25 covering the full GEF-8 cycle. Average achievement rates are

provided in instances where a large enough number of projects reported on a given indicator to overcome cases where averages may be too sensitive to outliers. Accountability will be focused on Core Indicators primarily, with reporting on Sub-Indicators when a sufficient number of projects start reporting on Sub-Indicators.

15. Progress data provided each year under Tier 2 metrics focus on values specific to the fiscal year of reporting. This allows to highlight latest progress, understand patterns over time and drive actions. Reporting takes place through a three-colored "traffic light" system which helps assess the overall shape of a project portfolio and identify whether projects fall within or outside of a specific standard. Color bands, moving from green (●) to amber (●) and then red (●), denote increasing distance from satisfactory progress. A green light means above 80% of the portfolio responds positively to an indicator's threshold, a yellow one that it responds positively in 60-80% of the cases, and a red one that it responds positively in less than 60% of the portfolio. Grey (●) is used when data are not available. The data are drawn from the GEF Portal, leveraging data provided by Agencies in yearly Project Implementation Reports, project Mid-Term Reviews and project Terminal Evaluations.

16. The GEF Portal serves as the system to receive and collate results and progress information that Agencies share with the GEF Secretariat. Agencies use dedicated online modules to provide data that feed into the RMF, including in the form of Project Implementation Reports, Mid-Term Reviews and Terminal Evaluation reports.

DEFINITION OF GEF-8 RMF INDICATORS

17. This section provides the definition for each indicator tracked in both Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the GEF-8 RMF starting overleaf. This annex lists all indicators according to the structure of the GEF-8 RMF by clusters of indicators. Each indicator has a short description of what it entails and how it is calculated, together with the source, the unit of measure and extent of disaggregation.

TIER 1. OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FINANCED BY THE GEF

The Tier 1 definitions give additional information on the rationale for selecting each Core Indicator and Sub-Indicator, as well as explain how each contributes to tracking progress towards the GEF's environmental objectives.

Conserving and Sustainably Using Biodiversity

Terrestrial protected areas created and under improved management

This indicator is reported as the aggregate total of the following two Sub-Indicators.

Terrestrial protected areas newly created

Definition: This indicator refers to the area (hectare) newly placed under legal protection status.

Details: Terrestrial protected areas are defined as totally or partially protected areas that are newly designated as national parks, natural monuments, nature reserves, or wildlife sanctuaries; protected landscapes; and scientific reserves. The category includes the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) protected area Categories I–VI[2].

The intent is to capture the hectares of new protected areas resulting from project support that meet key Biodiversity Area criteria[3], and which were not established before the start of the project. UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) has also used this indicator for several years as part of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership[4]. For projects that expand current protected areas, only the new expanded hectares should be reported. Existing protected areas (i.e., established before the start of the project) in which projects increase the level of protection (e.g., a change in IUCN category) should not be included.

The name and size of the protected area(s) to be created should be indicated at Project Identification Form and CEO Endorsement stages. By mid-term or final evaluation, projects should indicate the IUCN protected area category (Categories I–VI)[5], as well as the ID number from the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA)[6], if available. In cases where the protected area does not fit IUCN criteria (e.g., some Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas [ICCA]), "Other Category" should be selected. For new protected areas that are not captured in the WDPA, Agencies are encouraged to provide geospatial information depicting the extent of the protected area.

[2] UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, as compiled by the World Resources Institute; definition sourced from World Bank (2016). https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/protected-area-categories
[3] IUCN, 2016. A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas. Version 1.0. Gland, Switzerland.
[4] https://www.bipindicators.net/indicators/protected-area-coverage-of-key-biodiversity-areas
[5] Ibid.
[6] IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). 2018. "World Database on Protected Areas." (Online Database.) Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. Available at www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/world-database-protected-areas.

Protection of new areas implies improved management that accompanies the protection. To avoid double-counting, hectares reported for Sub-Indicator 1.1 should not be reported under Sub-Indicator 1.2.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness

Definition: This indicator refers to the number of hectares of protected area whose management has been improved.

Details: Terrestrial protected areas are totally or partially protected areas that are designated as national parks, natural monuments, nature reserves, or wildlife sanctuaries; protected landscapes; and scientific reserves. The category includes IUCN protected area Categories I–VI[7].

The main data source for this indicator is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score, which is calculated using the GEF-7 BD tracking tool (https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-7-biodiversity-protected-area-tracking-tool). The METT was originally developed by the World Wildlife Fund and the World Bank Forests Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use. It has been applied as the main qualitative measure of management effectiveness at protected areas since 2001[8]. If the score increases over the life of the project, the protected area hectares should be counted. Any increase in METT score will satisfy the threshold for this indicator. If the METT score does not change or decreases, then the protected area hectares should not be counted. Additional analysis of increases in METT scores could further characterize these changes. All METT files from projects should be provided to WCMC, which hosts the global database of METTs[9]. Only the overall METT score will be required for GEF indicator reporting.

The name, WDPA ID, size, IUCN protected area category (Categories I–VI)[10], and METT score should be indicated. The Sub-Indicator will be calculated based on the protected areas that show an increase in METT score. In cases where the protected area does not fit IUCN criteria (e.g., ICCAs), "Other Category" should be noted.

Where the area in question was also newly protected through project implementation, hectares should only be reported under the first Sub-Indicator of this Core Indicator.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Marine protected areas created or under improved management

This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of the following two Sub-Indicators.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Protected Planet. 2014−2018. "Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)." (Online.); Stolton, S. and N. Dudley. 2016. METT Handbook: A Guide to Using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT. Woking, United Kingdom: World Wildlife Fund.

[9] Agencies should send the files to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org and marine.deguignet@unep-wcmc.org

[10] Ibid.

Marine protected areas newly created

Definition: This indicator refers to the marine area (ha) newly placed under legal protection status.

Details: Marine protected areas are defined as totally or partially protected areas that are newly designated as national parks, natural monuments, nature reserves, or wildlife sanctuaries; protected landscapes; and scientific reserves. The category includes IUCN protected area categories (Categories I–VI)[11].

The intent is to capture the hectares of new protected areas resulting from project support that meet Key Biodiversity Area Criteria (IUCN, 2016), and which were not established before the start of the project. UN Environment and WCMC has also used this indicator for several years as part of their Biodiversity Indicators Partnership[12]. For projects that expand current protected areas, only the new expanded hectares should be reported. Existing protected areas (i.e., established prior to the start of the project), in which projects increase the level of protection (e.g., a change in IUCN category), should not be included.

The name and size of the protected area(s) to be created should be indicated at the Project Identification Form and CEO Endorsement stages. By mid-term or final evaluation, projects should also indicate the IUCN protected area category (Categories I–VI)[13], as well as the ID number from the WDPA (IUCN, 2018), if available. In cases where the protected area does not fit IUCN criteria (e.g., some Indigenous and ICCAs), "Other Category" should be selected. For new protected areas that are not captured in the WDPA, projects should ideally provide GIS files depicting the extent of the protected area.

Protection of new areas implies improved management that accompanies the protection. To avoid double-counting, hectares reported for either of the two Sub-Indicators should not be reported under the other Sub-Indicator.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness

Definition: This indicator refers to the number of hectares of protected area whose management has improved.

Details: Marine protected areas are those of intertidal or subtidal terrain — and overlying water and associated flora, fauna, and historic and cultural features — that have been reserved by law or other effective means to protect part or all enclosed environment[14].

The main data source for this indicator is the METT score, which is calculated using the GEF-7 BD tracking tool (https://www.thegef.org/documents/gef-7-biodiversity-protected-area-tracking-tool). The METT was originally developed by World Wildlife Fund and the World Bank Forests Alliance for Forest Conservation and Sustainable Use. It has been applied as the main qualitative measure of management effectiveness at protected areas since 2001 (Protected Planet, 2014; Stolton and Dudley, 2016). If the score increases over the life of the

[11] Ibid.
[12] https://www.bipindicators.net/indicators/protected-area-coverage-of-key-biodiversity-areas
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.

project, then the protected area hectares should be counted. Any increase in METT score will satisfy the threshold for this indicator. If the METT score does not change or decreases, then the protected area hectares should not be counted. Additional analysis may further characterize increases in METT scores. METT files from projects should be provided to WCMC, which hosts the global database of METTs[15]. For GEF indicator reporting, only the overall METT score is required.

The name, WDPA ID, size, IUCN protected area category (Categories I–VI)[16] and METT score should be indicated. The Sub-Indicator will be calculated based on the protected areas that show an increase in METT score.

Where the area in question was also newly protected through project implementation, hectares should only be reported under the first Sub-Indicator of this Core Indicator.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Area of landscapes under improved practices

This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of four Sub-Indicators. To avoid double-counting, hectares reported under each Sub-Indicator must not overlap. Guidance is provided below.

Definition: This indicator captures the total area of landscapes under improved practices, including in production sectors (e.g., agriculture, rangeland, forestry, aquaculture, tourism, extractives [oil and gas]) that lead to improved environmental conditions and/or for which management plans have been prepared and endorsed and are under implementation. This indicator is directly related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 of the Convention on Biological Diversity[17], whereby areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry, by 2020, are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity (CBD, undated). It is, in addition, directly related to country Land Degradation Neutrality targets under the Convention to Combat Desertification. This indicator excludes protected areas.

Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity

Definition: This indicator captures the landscape area being managed to benefit biodiversity, but which is not certified.

Details: The project should qualitatively describe the benefit provided to biodiversity through a change in management. Additionally, while not required, projects should ideally provide GIS files showing the extent of land under this improved management (outside of protected areas).

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

[15] Agencies should send the files to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org and marine.deguignet@unep-wcmc.org

[16] UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, as compiled by the World Resources Institute; definition sourced from World Bank (2016). https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/about/protected-area-categories

[17] CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity). Undated. “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”. (Online.) Montreal: CBD. Available at www.cbd.int/sp/targets.

Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Definition: This indicator captures the landscape area that achieves certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations.

Details: The project should indicate the details of third-party certification (e.g., Forest Stewardship Council, Round Table on Responsible Soy, Global Forest Alliance). References includes a review of tropical agroforestry certification schemes[18] and a general review of biodiversity criteria in various standards and certifications[19]. Furthermore, while not required, it is suggested that projects provide GIS files showing the extent of the land under this improved management (outside of protected areas).

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Definition: This indicator captures the amount of forest that would be lost without implementation of GEF projects that achieve the conservation of these areas. This conservation is achieved through activities such as, reclassification by government policy interventions or through company intervention at the site scale.

Details: Projects must first indicate the names and areas of forests that are targeted. Agencies are encouraged to submit geocoded data. A counterfactual is needed to estimate or calculate the loss avoided. The counterfactual could compare to the baseline or to the "business as usual" scenario. In the case of High Conservation Value Forest, Agencies should submit documentation that the forests targeted meet one or more of the High Conservation Value criteria if the forest has yet to be recognized by the related network[20].

Disaggregation: High Conservation Value Forest[21]; Other forest.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Terrestrial OECMs supported

Definition: This indicator refers to the number of hectares of Other effective terrestrial area-based conservation measures (OECMs) supported by the project.

Details: 'Other effective area-based con*servation measures' (OECMs) means* a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values *(*CBD/COP/DEC/14/8*).*

The name, size and identification of the OECMs to be supported should be indicated at the Project Identification Form and CEO Endorsement request stages. The OECM's identification

[18] Teja Tscharntke et al. 2014. "Conserving Biodiversity Through Certification of Tropical Agroforestry Crops at Local and Landscape Scales". Vol. *(1): 1–13. Wiley Online Library.

[19] UNEP-WCMC, 2011. Review of the Biodiversity Requirements of Standards and Certification Schemes: A Snapshot of Current Practice. CBD Technical Series No. 63., Montreal: Secretariat of the CBD.

[20] HCV Resource Network. 2005–18. "What are High Conservation Values?" (Online.) Oxford, United Kingdom: HCV Resource Network. Available at www.hcvnetwork.org/contact.

[21] https://www.hcvnetwork.org/

registered in the World Database on OECM (WD-OECM) should be provided in the form of a WDPA-ID. If the WDPA-ID is not available, project teams should register the OECM in the WD-OECM and report the WDPA-ID at the next opportunity, or justify why registration has not been completed.

Areas reported under this contextual sub-indicator are also recorded under component sub-indicators of the Core Indicator named Landscapes under improved practices. These sub-indicators capture results in OECMs and beyond, outside of protected areas and in different types of land. Additional supportive GIS files and data may be provided for further clarity.

Type: Outcome indicator, Contextual | **Unit:** Hectare

Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity

Definition: This indicator captures the area of marine habitat under improved management to benefit biodiversity and/or for which management plans have been prepared and endorsed and are under implementation. This indicator excludes protected areas.

Details: For the purpose of the indicators, the GEF defines marine area as the living resources, natural infrastructure, and a range of important habitats such as mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, coastal tidal marshes, seamounts, thermal vents, and cold water corals that are crucial for human well-being and sustainable development. This indicator can include implementation of one or more of the following approaches: marine habitat under Integrated Coastal Management, Locally Managed Marine Area, Marine Spatial Plan, and/or Large Marine Ecosystem (LME). The project should also qualitatively describe the benefits provided to biodiversity through change in management. Finally, while not required, Agencies are encouraged to provide geospatial files showing the extent of the ocean under this improved management.

Three additional Sub-Indicators provide context as relevant to the project.

Type: Outcome indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Hectare

Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Definition: This indicator captures the number of fisheries that are managed to benefit biodiversity, and which are certified through a third-party.

Details: The project should indicate the names of the fisheries and the details of third-party certification (e.g., Marine Stewardship Council, Global Aquaculture Alliance) (UNEP-WCMC, 2011) for a general review of biodiversity criteria in various standards and certifications.

Type: Outcome indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Count

Marine OECMs supported

Definition: This indicator refers to the number of hectares of Other effective marine area-based conservation measures (OECMs) supported by the project.

Details: 'Other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) means a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of

biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values *(*CBD/COP/DEC/14/8).

The name, size and identification of the OECMs to be supported should be indicated at the Project Identification Form and CEO Endorsement request stages. The OECM's identification registered in the World Database on OECM (WD-OECM) should be provided in the form of a WDPA-ID. If the WDPA-ID is not available, project teams should register the OECM in the WD-OECM and report the WDPA-ID at the next opportunity, or justify why registration has not been completed.

Areas reported under this contextual sub-indicator are also recorded under the Core Indicator named Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity, which captures results outside of marine protected areas and including in marine OECMs.

Type: Outcome indicator, Contextual | **Unit:** Hectare

People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity

The definition for this indicator is available under the Cross-Cutting Strategic Area theme.

Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land

Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total of three Sub-Indicators. To avoid double-counting, the hectares reported under each Sub-Indicator should not overlap. Agencies may explain how double counting is avoided, including through sharing geocoded information. Guidance is provided below.

Definition: This indicator captures the total area of land and ecosystems directly undergoing restoration in terms of ecosystem function and/or ecology.

Details: Restoration is defined as the process of repairing and/or assisting the recovery of land and ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, destroyed, or modified to an extent that the land and/or ecosystem cannot fulfil its ecological functions and/or fully deliver environmental services. Activities may include (i) ecosystem restoration that reduces the causes of decline and improves basic functions; and (ii) ecological restoration that enhances native habitats, sustains ecosystem resilience, and conserves biodiversity. The definitions and classification of forests and woodlands relies on FAO's *2020 Global Forest Resources Assessment, Terms and Definitions*.

Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Definition: This indicator captures the area of agricultural land in a degraded state that is being restored. These interventions include restoration practices to enhance soil and water conservation, erosion control, groundwater recharge, and improved vegetative cover.

Details: Degraded lands are defined as per the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification[22]: "reduction or loss […] of the biological or economic productivity and

[22] See website at http://www2.unccd.int/.

complexity of rain-fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest, and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns…"[23] While not required, projects should ideally provide GIS files showing the extent of the degraded land being restored and also to indicate the relative state of the area prior to GEF activities. In addition, restoration is defined as "the improvement of degraded land on a large scale that rebuilds ecological integrity and enhances people's lives"[24].

Disaggregation: Cropland; or Rangeland and pasture.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Definition: This indicator captures the area of forest and forest land that is undergoing ecological restoration.

Details: The intent of this Sub-Indicator is to capture the area of forest and forest land in which best practices for ecological restoration are being applied. Example interventions that may be included within this indicator are the creation of forest corridors between protected areas and reestablishment of native forests, among others.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration

Definition: This indicator captures the ecosystem types that are undergoing ecological restoration.

Details: The intent of this Sub-Indicator is to capture the area of natural grass and woodland in which best practices for ecological restoration are being applied. Example interventions are the creation of grassland corridors between protected areas and reestablishment of native grassland landscapes, among others.

Disaggregation: Woodlands; Natural grass.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

Area of wetlands (including estuaries and mangroves) restored

Definition: This indicator captures the area of wetlands, including estuaries and mangroves that is undergoing ecological restoration.

Details: The intent of this Sub-Indicator is to capture the area of wetlands in which best practices for ecological restoration are being applied. Example interventions that may be included within this indicator are green infrastructure development to provide water to wetlands and erosion control activities, among others.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

[23] Ibid.

[24] Future Terrains. 2018. "What is Landscape Restoration? (Online.) Available at https://futureterrains.org/what-is-landscape-restoration.

Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Definition: This Sub-Indicator to the "Area of landscapes under improved practices" Core Indicator captures the landscape area that is in production (e.g., agriculture, rangeland, and forests) and whose soil, air, and water are managed in a sustainable manner[25].

Details: The project should indicate the details of management practices. Agencies are encouraged to provide GIS files showing the extent of the land under sustainable land management.

This Sub-Indicator is distinguished from the Sub-Indicator tracking "landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification and that incorporates biodiversity considerations" focused on biodiversity of global importance by capturing improved practices that benefit physical improvements in the environment (e.g., soil and soil carbon, nutrient recycling, diversity and functionality of vegetation cover, micro-climates, and water).

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: Hectare

People benefiting from sustainable land management and restoration investments

The definition for this indicator is available under the Cross-Cutting Strategic Area theme.

Reducing GHG Emissions

Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated

This indicator refers to the total reduction of GHG emissions and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs reported in tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e). As such, it is reported as the aggregate of the first two Sub-Indicators.

The mitigation of GHG emissions is defined as a human intervention to reduce the sources, or enhance the sinks, of GHG[26].

Using the methodologies of the GEF and its Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, noted below, two values will be reported for the Core Indicator: (i) lifetime direct GHG emissions mitigated, and (ii) lifetime indirect GHG emissions mitigated.

- Lifetime direct project GHG emissions mitigated are attributable to investments either during the project's supervised implementation period or after it, but supported by financial facilities or regulatory interventions by the GEF project, totaled over the respective lifetime of the investments. For example, financial facilities such as partial credit guarantee facilities, risk mitigation facilities, or revolving funds will remain in operation after the project ends.
- Lifetime indirect GHG emissions mitigated are those attributable to the long-term outcomes of GEF activities that remove barriers, such as capacity building, innovation, and catalytic action for replication.

[25] CEISIN (Center for International Earth Science Information Network). 1997−2018. "What Is Sustainable Land Management?" New York: Earth Institute at Columbia University. Available at www.ciesin.org/lw-kmn/slm/slm.html
[26] IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). 2012.

Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

Regarding the Agriculture, Forestry, and Land Use Change Lifetime, the length of time is defined as 20 years, unless an alternative number of years is deemed appropriate. For emission or removal factors (tons of CO_2e per hectare per annum), the defaults to be applied are those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) or country-specific factors. The GEF recommends its Agencies apply the Ex-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or the GEF's Carbon Benefits Project tools for estimating benefits. It also suggests providing strong justification on the use of an equivalent tool based on IPCC guidelines. The GEF will be further developing guidelines on methodologies for this sector.

Definition: Carbon sequestration is defined as the process of increasing the carbon content of a reservoir/pool other than the atmosphere (IPCC, 2012). Avoided emissions refers to reduced emissions due to avoided deforestation or forest degradation, sustainable forest management, and improved practices on other land uses such as in agriculture.

Details: This element requires information on the quantity of carbon (tons CO_2e) stored or not emitted in forests and soils as a result of the project, the duration of accounting period, and the anticipated start year of accounting. By definition, the benefits should be measured above a baseline value. The estimate must be based on widely recognized methodology to be clearly presented in the project document.

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: metric tons of CO_2e

Emissions avoided

Definition: This indicator captures the amount of GHG emissions expected to be avoided through the interventions of the GEF project in sectors other than the Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use sector. These therefore may include GHG benefits from energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation, and urban projects or project components. These benefits should be measured above a baseline value.

Details: Calculating GHG emissions avoided from GEF projects has several steps, depending on project complexity and the components. Some project components contain investments as an output that lead to direct GHG emission reductions. Other components (e.g., revolving funds) typically lead to both direct and indirect GHG emission reductions. A third group, such as regulatory and policy reform, might lead — first and foremost if not exclusively — to indirect GHG emission reductions.

To calculate total emissions avoided, baseline emissions of the scenario without a GEF contribution to the project are first calculated. Subsequently, emissions for the GEF alternative are calculated, including investments that are tracked in the log frame during project implementation. The difference between this number and the baseline emissions equals the direct emission reductions of the project. If, for the post-project period, a project-sponsored (financial) mechanism will remain in place and continue to provide support for GHG-reducing investments — which would not happen in the baseline case — the direct post-project emission reductions for these investments should be calculated.

Finally, for emission reductions in the post-project period that will have a causal link to GEF intervention, indirect emission reductions should be calculated.

Data and assumptions for this indicator are project- or component-specific. Some general assumptions, however, include the following: all analyses are in tons of CO_2e; avoided emissions reported are cumulative reductions, calculated for the lifetimes of the investments; there is no discounting for future GHG emission reductions; IPCC global warming potentials of non-CO_2 GHG with a 100-year horizon should be used; and emissions factors for the baseline and the GEF alternative should be as specific as possible. For specific guidelines, various methodologies and manuals are available[27].

Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit**: metric tons of CO_2e

Energy saved

Definition: This contextual Sub-Indicator should be used if a project aims to achieve energy savings. It is calculated as the amount of energy use avoided by the intervention over the lifetime of the investment.

Details: Fuel savings should be converted to energy savings by using the net calorific value of the specific fuel. End-use electricity savings should be converted to energy savings by using the conversion factor for the specific supply and distribution system. These energy savings are then totaled over the respective lifetime of the investments[28].

Type: Outcome indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: megajoule (MJ)

Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology

Definition: This Sub-Indicator should be reported on if a project aims to increase renewable energy generation or storage capacity. It refers to the rated capacity of a heat or power generating plant or the aggregate potential output of a collection of such. The Sub-Indicator will also account for projects that increase energy storage capacity of grid power for load shifting and variable renewable energy integration or storage of self-generated renewable power for later use. Among others, energy storage capacity may refer to pumped storage; home-, commercial- or grid-scale batteries; and thermal storage. Each technology should have its own measurement.

Details: Disaggregate by type of renewable energy technology (biomass, geothermal, ocean, small hydro, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, wind power, and storage).

Type: Outcome indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: megawatt (MW)

People benefiting from climate change mitigation support

The definition for this indicator is available under the Cross-Cutting Strategic Area theme.

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[27] GEF, 2008, "Manual for Calculating GHG Benefits of GEF Projects: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects." GEF/C.33/Inf.18; GEF, 2015, "Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounting and Reporting for GEF Projects." GEF/C.48/Inf.09.; ITDP. Undated. Manual for Calculating Greenhouse Gas Benefits GEF Transportation Projects; STAP, 2011, 2013. Calculating Greenhouse Gas Benefits of the GEF Energy Efficiency Projects. Version 1.0. Washington, DC: Global Environment Facility.

[28] IEA (International Energy Agency). 2018. Statistics Database (online). Paris: IEA. Available at www.iea.org/statistics/statisticssearch

Strengthening Transboundary Water Management

Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

Definition: This indicator captures the commitment of countries to cooperatively manage a shared water system (e.g., river, lake, groundwater, or large marine ecosystem). Projects may cover one or more shared water systems.

Details: The approach has been to count (i) foundational/first International Waters projects that provide support to catalyze a cooperative agenda; and (ii) Strategic Action Plan (SAP)/Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) implementation projects. The indicator spans shared freshwater and coastal/marine projects. The indicator will not adequately apply to the open oceans/Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. The names of the shared water systems should be included as per the picklist[29].

Type: Outcome indicator **| Unit**: Count

Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program formulation and implementation

There are four additional contextual Sub-indicators for Core Indicator 7, as described below.

Definition: This indicator is based on a rating for the level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) or Strategic Action Program (SAP) formulation and implementation.

Details: Projects provide a rating on a scale of 1 to 4:

1 = No TDA/SAP developed

2 = TDA finalized

3 = SAP ministerially endorsed

4 = SAP under implementation

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Rating (1 to 4)

Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institution(s) to support its implementation

Definition: This indicator is based on a rating for the level of Regional Legal Agreements or Regional Management Institution(s) (RMI) formulation and implementation.

Details: Projects provide a rating on a scale of 1 to 4:

1 = No regional legal agreement, or neither institutional framework nor RMI in place

2 = Regional legal agreement under development

3 = Regional legal agreement signed and RMI in place

4 = Regional legal agreement ratified and RMI functional

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Rating (1 to 4)

[29] UNEP-DHI and UNEP (UN Environment and DHI Group). 2016. Transboundary River Basins: Status and Trends. Nairobi: UN Environment.

Level of national/local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees

Definition: This indicator is based on a rating for the level of national or local reforms and participation in inter-ministerial committees (IMC).

Details: Projects provide a rating on a scale of 1 to 4:

1 = Neither national/local reforms nor IMCs

2 = National/local reforms in preparation, IMCs functional

3 = National/local reforms and IMCs in place

4 = National/local reforms/policies implemented, supported by IMCs.

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Rating (1 to 4)

Level of engagement in IW: Learn through participation and delivery of key products

Definition: This indicator is based on a rating for the level of engagement in International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN).

Details: Projects provide a rating on a scale of 1 to 4:

1 = No participation

2 = Website in line with IW:LEARN guidance active

3 = As above, plus strong participation in training/twinning events and production of at least one experience note and one results note

4 = As above, plus active participation of project staff and country representatives at International Waters conferences and the provision of spatial data and other data points via project website.

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Rating (1 to 4)

Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels

Definition: This indicator refers to globally over-exploited fisheries having been moved to more sustainable levels[30]. Overexploited is defined as follows[31]: "The fishery is being exploited above a level that is believed to be unsustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse."

There is no strict relationship between the Sub-Indicator related to certified fisheries and this Core Indicator. Certification is only one of several activities that may address over-exploitation of fisheries.

Details: The name of the fishery targeted, the source for the estimate of tonnage, and the initial justification for considering the fishery to be overexploited should be provided.

Type: Outcome Indicator **| Unit**: metric tons

[30] 2012. State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture. Rome: FAO. Available at www.fao.org/3/a-i2727e.pdf.

[31] FAO, Undated. "General Situation of World Fish Stocks." Brief. Rome: FAO. Available at www.fao.org/newsroom/common/ecg/1000505/en/stocks.pdf

Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia

Definition: This Sub-Indicator captures the total number of LMEs that have reduced pollution, including from nutrient loading that would otherwise lead to hypoxia, defined as a state in the oceans where oxygen levels are depleted to less than 2−3 parts per million[32].

Details: Projects should indicate the names of the LMEs, as well as the type and extent (qualitative or quantitative) of pollution reduction achieved through policy and infrastructure investments to address point and non-point sources[33].

Type: Outcome indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Count

People benefiting from transboundary water management

The definition for this indicator is available under the Cross-Cutting Strategic Area theme.

Reducing Chemicals and Waste

Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced

This indicator will be reported as the aggregate total (in metric tons) of four Sub-Indicators tracking reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of solid and liquid Persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury, hydrochlorofluorocarbons and highly hazardous pesticides and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products. Three additional Sub-Indicators are available to provide additional context. Guidance is provided in Section 9.1 to Section 9.6.

Solid and liquid persistent organic pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)[34]

Definition: This indicator tracks the progress in the elimination or disposal of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

Details: Projects should report the amount of POP eliminated or reduced, broken down by type of POP. For disposal projects, information on the technology for and location of disposal should also be included. Finally, project leads should provide details on the methodology used to calculate the quantities of POP.

Disaggregation: Aldrin; Alpha hexachlorocyclohexane; Beta hexachlorocyclohexane; Chlordane; Chlordecone; DDT; Decabromodiphenyl ether; Dieldrin; Endrin; Heptachlor; Hexabromobiphenyl; Hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD); Hexabromodiphenyl; Hexachlorobenzene; Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD); Hexachlorobutadiene; Lindane; Mirex;

[32] USEPA (United States Environmental Protection Agency). 2017. "Hypoxia 101: What is Hypoxia and What Causes It?" Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force. Washington, DC.

[33] STAP, 2011. Hypoxia and Nutrient Reduction in the Coastal Zone. Advice for Prevention, Remediation and Research. A STAP Advisory Document. Washington, DC; STAP, 2011, Marine Debris as a Global Environmental Problem: Introducing a Solutions Based Framework Focused on Plastic. A STAP Advisory Document. Washington, DC.

[34] For POPs, the following websites provide further information:
http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/persistent-organic-pollutants-
popshttp://www.who.int/ceh/capacity/POPs.pdf; http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/science-and-knowledge/persistent-organic-pollutants-pops/pops-monitoring;
http://chm.pops.int/Convention/Media/Factsheets/tabid/527/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

Pentachlorobenzene; Pentachlorophenol; Perfluorooctane; PCB; PCDF; PCDD; Polychlorinated naphthalenes; SCCPs; Technical endosulfan; Tetrabromodiphenyl; Toxaphene.

Type: Outcome Indicator, Component **| Unit**: metric tons

Quantity of mercury reduced

Definition: This indicator captures the amount of mercury reduced[35].

Details: Projects should report the amount of mercury, together with details of the approach and the scale at which the figure is reported (e.g., project site, city, province). Project leads should provide disaggregated information on the reduced amount of emissions from different sources or activities.

Type: Outcome Indicator, Component **| Unit**: metric tons

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons reduced/phased out

Definition: This indicator captures the amount of ozone depletion potential (ODP) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) reduced/phased out[36]. The final ODP figure at project completion should be subtracted from the baseline ODP figure to determine the reduction[37].

Details: Project leads should report the amount of ODP HCFCs reduced/phased out, together with the details of the approach and the scale at which the figure is reported (e.g., project site, city, province).

Project leads should provide disaggregated information on the amount of reduction in emissions from different sources or from various activities. Common HCFCs includes HCFC-22, HCFC-141b, HCFC-142b, HCFC-123, HCFC-124, HCFC-225ca and 225cb, and HCFC-21.

Type: Outcome Indicator, Component **| Unit**: metric tons

Highly hazardous pesticides eliminated

Definition: This indicator captures the amount of highly hazardous pesticides eliminated.
Details: Projects should report the amount of highly hazardous pesticides defined as having at least one of the characteristics identified in the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management[38]. Project leads should provide details on the methodology used to calculate the quantities of highly hazardous pesticides eliminated.
Type: Outcome indicator, Component **| Unit:** Weight (metric tons)

[35] For further reference: UNEP's global mercury assessment http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/what-we-do/technology-and-metals/mercury/global-mercury-assessment
[36] SEPA (Scottish Environment Protection Agency). Undated. "Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).
[37] UNEP, Undated. "Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) of Refrigerants: Which Particular Values are Used?" Ozonaction Fact Sheet OZFS/16/4-2. Nairobi: UN Environment.
[38] https://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/thematic-sitemap/theme/pests/code/hhp/en/

Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste

Definition: This indicator seeks to count the number of countries that are targeting the development of new or improved legislation and policies relating to the control of chemicals and waste.

Details: In projects that are developing new or improved legislation to control GEF-relevant chemicals and their waste, the project leads should indicate legislation being contemplated and its intended impact.

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Quantity (number of countries) and descriptive text on the type of legislation being developed or improved

Low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing, and cities

Definition: This indicator captures the number of low-chemical or non-chemical systems/technologies implemented.

Details: In projects phasing out GEF-relevant chemicals, the project proponents will provide information on the type and number of proposed technologies in the project and the expected impact. These could include use of non-chemical or low-chemicals technologies or techniques such as replacement of POPS pesticides by integrated pesticide management or elimination of POPs by substitution by green chemicals. A description of the technologies or techniques should be added.

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: Count

POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided

Definition: This indicator captures the amount of materials and/or products containing POPs/mercury that has been avoided as a direct result of the GEF project.

Details: This Sub-Indicator should be used in projects where the reduction of the POPs/mercury results in the direct avoidance of a product or material that would have contained the POP/mercury in the absence of the project.

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: metric tons

Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced

Definition: This indicator captures the reduction in emissions of POPs to air. An estimated reduction target is required at the time the project is proposed. The target is based on the baseline calculation of the emissions against the expected reductions that will result from the implementation of the project. At project completion, a final emissions number — in grams of toxic equivalent (gTEQ) — should be subtracted from the baseline emissions number to determine the reduction.

Details: Projects should report the amount of emissions of POPs to air, together with details of the approach used to calculate the figure and the scale at which the figure is reported (e.g., project site, city, province). Project leads should provide information on the amount of emissions from different chemicals listed in Annex C of the Stockholm Convention, as well as an aggregate figure of overall POPs gTEQ reduced.

Note that two additional Sub-Indicators are available to provide context in case they are relevant to the project.

Type: Outcome Indicator **| Unit**: grams of toxic equivalent

Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air

Definition: This indicator captures the number of countries targeted in the project that have legislation and policies implemented to control emissions of POPs to air.

Details: In projects that are developing new or improved legislation to control POPs emissions to air from unintentional sources, the project leads should indicate legislation being contemplated and its intended impact. A description of the legislation should be added.

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: number

Emission control technologies/practices implemented

Definition: This indicator captures the number of emission control technologies or practices implemented as a direct result of the GEF project.

Details: In projects that are reducing POPS emissions to air through implementation of best available techniques (BAT)/best environmental practices (BEP), the project proponents will provide information on the type and number of these technologies or practices proposed in the project and the expected impact. A description of the technology or practice should be added.

Type: Output Indicator, Contextual **| Unit**: count

Avoided residual plastic waste

Definition: This indicator captures the amount of plastic waste that is not recycled and instead enters incinerators, landfills, or the environment.

Details: Project leads should report the amount of plastic that did not enter incinerators, landfills, and the environment as a result of project interventions, which may include strategies that reduced plastic production, extended the use of plastic products, improved waste collection and/or improved recycling. Project leads should provide details on the methodology used to calculate the avoided plastic.

Type: outcome indicator, Contextual **| Unit:** metric tons

People benefiting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals

The definition for this indicator is available under the Cross-Cutting Strategic Area theme.

Cross-Cutting Strategic Areas

People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

Definition: This indicator captures the total number of direct beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex.

Details: This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support or assistance from a given GEF-financed project or program and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving either[39]:

- **Targeted support.** This includes individuals whom can be identified as receiving direct support or assistance, can be counted individually and are aware they are receiving support in some sort and/or use the specific resources. This implies a high degree of attribution to the project.
- **High intensity of support.** This means receiving a high level of support/effort provided per person, assessed on a continuum with broad levels from Low to Medium and High, where only high intensity of support qualifies as direct beneficiary as per Table 1.

Table 1. Direct beneficiaries receive a high intensity of support

High intensity Direct beneficiary	**Medium intensity** Not a direct beneficiary	**Low intensity** Not a direct beneficiary
Conserving & sustainably using biodiversity		
People working in a strengthened agency managing a protected area	People with access to protected areas	People living in a community where other members have been receiving training services by the project
Sustainably managing and restoring land		
People receiving training on climate-smart agriculture	People provided with access to information on sustainable forest management	People living within a land or water area targeted by a management plan supported by the project
Reducing GHG emissions		
People provided with access to clean energy or receiving payment for avoided emissions	People made aware of electric mobility opportunities	People living within an administrative area of an institution targeted by the project
Strengthening transboundary water management		
People working in an organization responsible for facilitating transboundary water management	People whose livelihoods depend on area being placed in sustainable fishery management	People living within a river basin subject to a water resources management plan
Reducing chemicals & waste		
People working as a miner who received training on creating a sustainable mining operation	People who consume crops grown without hazardous pesticides	People living within an administrative area of an institution targeted by the project

Further considerations in identifying the direct number of beneficiaries include:

- Professional judgement should be applied when identifying direct beneficiaries in instances where it may be challenging to assign the appropriate level of intensity.

[39] Derived from BRACED (Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters). Undated. "Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) Programme." London: BRACED.

- In case data is available by households, Agencies may estimate the number of individual direct beneficiaries by using local or national data on household size.
- Direct beneficiaries should be counted only once if several activities of the same project support the same person in different ways.
- Disaggregation by male and female should be grounded on actual data to the extent possible, rather than estimated.

Unit: Count **| Disaggregation**: by sex (male, female)

Corporate reporting on this indicator in the context of GEF publications will take place under five distinct indicators tracking beneficiaries along environmental themes. The number of beneficiaries will be pro-rated to attribute a number reflecting the relative financing share of each focal area contributing to a specific project where financing from the Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Climate Change, International Waters and, Chemicals and Waste focal areas correspond respectively to the indicators tracking:

- People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity
- People benefiting from sustainable land management and restoration investments
- People benefiting from climate change mitigation support
- People benefiting from transboundary water management
- People benefiting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals

TIER 2. OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS OF PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS FINANCED BY THE GEF

This part presents Tier 2 metrics used by the GEF Secretariat to monitor the effectiveness of the GEF Partnership in managing projects and programs. Definitions provide clarity on benchmarks that serve to assess the overall operational performance of the GEF Partnership. These metrics serve an external accountability role and are not meant to be used by Agencies in project and program results frameworks.

Enhance the Speed of Operations

Time from CEO endorsement or CEO approval to first disbursement below 18 months

The time between the endorsement of a project by the GEF's CEO and first disbursement is often a critical aspect of delay in project implementation. It may be an indication of the quality of project design and dialogue with the country, but it may also be due to external factors. The indicator shows how quickly new projects are moving from the beginning of implementation to reaching the actual first disbursement. It is calculated by taking into account all projects that have reported having reached first disbursement for the first time in the most recent fiscal year.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** months**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP together, MSP, FSP

Time from CEO endorsement to mid-term review submission below 4 years

The time between the endorsement of a project by the GEF's CEO and mid-term review is often a critical aspect of delay in project implementation. It may be an indication of the quality of project design and dialogue with the country, but it may also be due to external factors. The indicator shows how quickly new projects are moving from the beginning of implementation to reaching mid-term review. It is calculated by taking into account all projects that have submitted a mid-term review during the most recent fiscal year.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** months**| Disaggregation:** FSP only

MSP age below 4 years / FSP age below 6 years

The speed at which projects are implemented provides an indication of how quickly the intended project's global environmental benefits are delivered in the country. This indicator raises attention on the share of projects that are not overage or below 4 years old in the case of an MSP and 6 years in the case of an FSP within the total active portfolio of active projects as at the end of the most recent fiscal year (excluding projects not eligible to submit their first Project Implementation Report).

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP, FSP

Completed projects with timely submission of Terminal Evaluation (%)

Timely Terminal Evaluation reports help capture results of GEF-financed projects and lessons learnt from completed projects to feed into the design of new projects and programs. The indicator measures the share of Terminal Evaluation reports that were submitted within 12 months after the project completion date as per the Evaluation Policy standard and inclusive of any grace period as appropriate.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP, FSP

Ensure Strong Portfolio Management

Disbursement ratio of ongoing portfolio (%)

By measuring the pace at which the GEF makes resources available to Agencies, this indicator shows the speed with which the GEF implements its portfolio. It captures the ratio of total GEF disbursement since the beginning of the fiscal year over the undisbursed GEF balance of projects at the beginning of the year. It takes into account all ongoing medium- and full-sized projects, with a disbursement value reported in a Project Implementation Report in the most recent fiscal year.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP together

Projects rated in the satisfactory range for both IP and DO, and Projects rated satisfactorily for IP and DO separately

The indicator measures the share of projects that Agencies have rated satisfactorily in both of the following two self-ratings i) implementation progress and ii) likelihood of achieving development objectives on a six-point scale—Highly Unsatisfactory, Unsatisfactory,

Moderately Unsatisfactory, Moderately Satisfactory, Satisfactory and Highly Satisfactory. The implementation progress and development outcomes ratings are also tracked separately to highlight the share of projects rated in the satisfactory range. It is computed by measuring the number of medium- and full-sized projects under implementation rated in the satisfactory range in Project Implementation Reports divided by the total number of rated projects in the portfolio at fiscal year-end.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** IP & DO together, IP, DO

Proactivity index

The extent to which Agencies adapt to improve project implementation indicates whether proactivity actions are being taken to overcome challenges. The proactivity index is the ratio of projects rated moderately unsatisfactory and below for implementation progress and/or the likelihood of achieving development objectives 12 months earlier that have had a proactivity action in the previous 12 months divided by the total number of projects rated moderately satisfactory and below from 12 months earlier. Proactivity actions include an upgrade in project ratings, holding a mid-term review and conducting implementation change, either major (suspension, cancellation, completion, closing) or minor ones such as an update to the results framework, financial management or institutional and implementation arrangements. Note: extensions of completion date or internal reallocations are not considered proactivity actions.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP together

Projects with disbursement in the past year

The speed at which projects disburse financing is an indication of how quickly the intended project's global environmental benefits are delivered in the country. This indicator points the share of projects that have disbursed resources in the past 12 months. It includes only projects that have provided a disbursement value in the latest fiscal year and excludes projects with remaining undisbursed balance of less than 5%.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP together

Over 50% disbursed balance after 3 years of implementation for MSPs and 5 years for FSPs

By ensuring that Implementing Agencies make resources available to countries on time, this indicator shows the speed with which GEF Agencies implement projects. It captures the share of projects that have disbursed over half of the financing available over three years into implementation for MSPs and five years for FSPs. At these points in the respective project's life, MSPs or FSPs should have normally disbursed over 50% of resources available. The cohort covers medium- and full-sized projects which have been under implementation for three years or more at the end of the most recent fiscal year in the case of medium-sized projects and five years or more in the case of full-sized projects.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP, FSP

Projects with financial closure after TE submission

The speed at which GEF Agencies report financial closure to Trustee after terminal evaluation is often a critical aspect of delay in meeting fiduciary requirements. It may be an indication of the project's effectiveness and dialogue with the country, but it may also be due to other factors. The GEF has set the requirement of financially closing all projects within 12 months after terminal evaluation submission or completion date. This indicator looks at all projects that have submitted Financial closure, after submission of a terminal evaluation, in part to assess progress in clearing the backlog of completed projects with outstanding financial closure. The cohort covers projects which have submitted a terminal evaluation at the end of the month of September of the most recent year.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP together

Projects financially closed on time in the last year

The speed at which GEF Agencies report financial closure to Trustee after terminal evaluation is often a critical aspect of delay in meeting fiduciary requirements. It may be an indication of the project's effectiveness and dialogue with the country, but it may also be due to other factors. The GEF has set the requirement of financially closing all projects within 12 months after terminal evaluation submission or completion date. This indicator looks at all projects that have reached Financial Closure during the year under reporting (October 1-September 30) and indicates the share of these projects that have reached this step below the 12-month requirement after submitting a Terminal Evaluation.

Source: GEF Portal and Agencies **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP together

Increase Co-Financing across the Portfolio

Projects with co-financing materialized higher than 35 percent at MTR

This indicator assesses how effectively the project has actually materialized the co-financing promised and expected to take place at the stage of CEO endorsement. This provides a reality check on actual co-financing happening on the ground. Co-financing may materialize in a different way than planned owing to a variety of reasons, including a donor pulling back due to a change of priorities or an additional private sector player coming in given an arising investment opportunity. The cohort covers projects that reached actual Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation during the most recent fiscal year and provided co-financing materialization data. The use of a 35% co-financing materialized threshold accounts for the level of maturity in the project life; defined based on analysis including by taking into account the project disbursement rate at this stage of project life.

Source: GEF Portal **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP

Projects with co-financing materialized higher than 80 percent at Terminal Evaluation (%)

This indicator assesses how effectively the project has actually materialized the co-financing promised and expected to take place at the stage of CEO endorsement when it reaches the Terminal Evaluation. This provides a reality check on actual co-financing happening on the ground. Co-financing may materialize in a different way than planned owing to a variety of reasons, including a donor pulling back due to a change of priorities or an additional private

sector player coming in given an arising investment opportunity. The cohort covers projects that reached actual Terminal Evaluation during the most recent fiscal year. The use of a 80% co-financing materialized threshold accounts for the level of maturity in the project life; defined by considering the fact that the project has reached completion.

Source: GEF Portal **| Unit:** percentage**| Disaggregation:** MSP & FSP

ANNEX — NUMBERING OF EACH INDICATOR IN THE GEF PORTAL

Data entry in the GEF Portal for Core Indicators and Sub-Indicators takes place as per the following numbering, which builds on the GEF-7 results architecture and GEF-8 changes.

Indicator Code		Data entry by Agency	Indicator name
GEF-7	GEF-8		
1	1		Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management
1.1	1.1	✓	Terrestrial protected areas newly created
1.2	1.2	✓	Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness
2	2		Marine protected areas created or under improved management
2.1	2.1	✓	Marine protected areas newly created
2.2	2.2	✓	Marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness
3	3		Area of land and ecosystems under restoration
3.1	3.1	✓	Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration
3.2	3.2	✓	Area of forest and forest land under restoration
3.3	3.3	✓	Area of natural grass and woodlands under restoration
3.4	3.4	✓	Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration
4	4		Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)
4.1	4.1	✓	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity
4.2	4.2	✓	Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations
4.3	4.3	✓	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems
4.4	4.4	✓	Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided
	4.5	✓	Terrestrial OECMs supported
5	5	✓	Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity
5.1	5.1	✓	Fisheries under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations
5.2	5.2	✓	Large Marine Ecosystems with reduced pollution and hypoxia
5.3	5.3		Amount of Marine Litter Avoided (retired)
	5.4	✓	Marine OECMs supported
	6		Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated
6_Direct	6.1		Greenhouse gas emission mitigated in the AFOLU sector
6_Indirect	6.2		Greenhouse gas emission mitigated outside of the AFOLU sector
6.1_Direct	6.5	✓	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (Direct)
6.1_InDirect	6.6	✓	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (Indirect)
6.2_Direct	6.7	✓	Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector (Direct)
6.2_InDirect	6.8	✓	Emissions avoided outside AFOLU sector (Indirect)
6.3	6.3	✓	Energy saved
6.4	6.4	✓	Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology
7	7	✓	Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management

Indicator Code		Data entry by Agency	Indicator name
GEF-7	GEF-8		
7.1	7.1	✓	Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation
7.2	7.2	✓	Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional Management Institutions to support its implementation
7.3	7.3	✓	Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees
7.4	7.4	✓	Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products
8	8	✓	Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels
9	9		Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced
9.1	9.1	✓	Solid and liquid Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) removed or disposed (POPs type)
9.2	9.2	✓	Quantity of mercury reduced
9.3	9.3	✓	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons reduced/phased out
9.4	9.4	✓	Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control chemicals and waste
9.5	9.5	✓	Low-chemical/non-chemical systems implemented, particularly in food production, manufacturing and cities
9.6	9.6	✓	POPs/Mercury containing materials and products directly avoided
	9.7	✓	Highly Hazardous Pesticides eliminated
	9.8	✓	Avoided residual plastic waste
10	10	✓	Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced
10.1	10.1	✓	Countries with legislation and policy implemented to control emissions of POPs to air
10.2	10.2	✓	Emission control technologies/practices implemented
11	11		People benefiting from GEF-financed investments
11.Female	11.1	✓	Female
11.Male	11.2	✓	Male