



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.60/04
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Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 03

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR GEF TRUST FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.60/03, Work Program for GEF Trust Fund, approves the Work Program comprising 33 projects and 3 programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 15, 2021.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$281.1 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), Program Framework Documents (PFDs), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity: [See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (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 and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

With respect to the PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the final child project documents fully incorporating and addressing the Council's and STAP reviews shall be circulated for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval.

In light of the recent audit report by the UNDP Office of Audit and Investigations (OAI) of UNDP GEF Management, all projects included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP shall be circulated by email for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval. This shall take place as actions of the Management Action Plan that address the OAI recommendations are being implemented, and as the independent, risk-based third-party review of compliance by UNDP with the GEF Policy on Minimum Fiduciary Standards is being completed. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the external audit and the UNDP management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to the Council during the 4-week review period.

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JUNE 21 WORK PROGRAM OF THE GEF TRUST FUND IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

1. The GEF Partnership has continued to work without interruption since the last council meeting in December. The Secretariat has consulted with the agencies and responded to demands for some flexibility in the workflow as needed. Hence the Secretariat is able to present a high-quality June 2020¹ Work Program for consideration of the GEF council.
2. While the Covid-19 pandemic continues to require new business practices and adapt to more virtual interactions, the GEF partnership has mostly found ways to get back to business and continue the implementation of existing projects, design high quality projects for endorsement, and engage with the proper stakeholders and country agencies to submit a strong pipeline of projects.
3. Internal practices in project review now include a COVID-19 screen that assesses the risks and opportunities associated with each project being submitted for consideration by the GEF. Special attention is given to projects that can contribute to a resilient blue and green recovery. These screens are included in the cover note as Annex II.
4. Among the findings included in projects, it is possible to highlight the following:
 - Many projects now consider some form of virtual engagement for the stakeholder engagement processes and other critical meetings needed for the design and preparation of projects for CEO endorsement
 - The use of local technical expertise has become more prevalent due to the difficulty of travel of consultants.
 - Project execution has been reliant on local government entities in some cases that are closer to the project areas
5. On a more strategic level, agencies are also aligning project objectives to play a central role in the mitigation of the impacts of the pandemic or contributing to the prevention of future pandemics. Examples include:
 - Projects are proposing strategies to ensure that GEF investments can contribute to a green and blue recovery.
 - The promotion of nature-based solutions as a measure to mitigate future pandemics.
6. There is a high degree of confidence that the projects and programs submitted to this Work Program have conducted proper due diligence. In many cases, it is possible to identify innovative thinking incorporated in the proposals that will hopefully ensure that projects are not only managing the new risks created by the pandemic but also contributing to the prevention of future pandemics. Please see the complete list of COVID-19 project design considerations in Annex B.

WORK PROGRAM PREPARATION AND THE PIPELINE OF PROJECTS

7. At the deadline for project submission for the June 2021 Work Program, 47 projects and 3 programs were considered eligible¹ for review and consideration. Additionally, 5 NGI project concepts were assessed as part of the 4th Call for Proposals.

Table 1. Pipeline of Projects and Programs Considered for the June 2021 Work Program

Project Type	PIFs and PFDs in the Portal by review deadline ²	Technically cleared and included in the WP # (%)	Technically cleared and not included in the WP # (%)	Rejected # (%)	Not ready for technical clearance # (%)
PIF	47	31 (66%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	16 (34%)
PFD	3	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NGI	5	2 (40%)	0 (0%)	3 (60%) ³	0 (0%)

8. More than 66% (31 PIFs) of the 47 eligible projects were technically cleared by the review deadline and were included in the Work Program. Sixteen projects (34%) were not ready for clearance at the time of Work Program composition for reasons that include the need for further technical review of concepts by the agencies and missing or incomplete documentation. If eventually cleared, these projects will be considered in the pipeline of projects for the December 2021 council meeting or for a future Work Program, until the closure of the GEF-7 cycle.

9. All programs submitted were addenda to existing programs in GEF-7. As indicated in Table 1, the three programs were cleared and included in the Work Program (GOLD+, African Minigrids, and ISLANDS addenda).

10. Five NGI concepts were submitted and reviewed as part of the call for proposals. Of these, two projects were deemed viable and fitting of the criteria included in the call for proposals, and hence included for consideration by the Council in the Work Program. The other three projects did not meet the NGI program criteria for impact, innovation and technical soundness and were not included in the Work Program.

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

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

³ This high rate of rejection is due to the competitive nature of the NGI process against the relatively limited amount of GEF-7 resources.

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

Total Number of Projects not Ready for Technical Clearance	Focal Area					
	BD	LD	CC	IW	CW	MFA
17	2	1	1	3	2	8

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAM

11. The June 2021 Work Program contains 36 projects and programs for a total request of \$257.3 million from the GEF trust fund and \$23.8 million in associated Agency fees. This total of \$281.1 million corresponds to 7.2% of the resources made available in the GEF-7 replenishment cycle. The Work Program is accompanied by an indicative \$2.6 billion in co-financing, meaning that each dollar provided by the GEF, \$10.1 in co-financing are expected to be provided by other sources. The Work Program presented for Council consideration includes all projects and programs that were technically cleared by the GEF Secretariat by the deadline (Table 1).

12. The June 2021 Work Program, the sixth in the GEF-7 cycle, brings us another step closer to the end of the programming in the 7th replenishment. There has been excellent progress on all programming fronts, with 81% of total resources being programmed in GEF-7 at this point if the Work Program is approved as presented. This Work Program includes various strategic projects addressing important priorities of the GEF-7 Programming Directions document.

13. Four multi-trust fund (MTF) projects combining resources from the LDCF with the GEF Trust Fund are included. The MTF projects are being presented to both the GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council for approval of respective portions to enable coordinated project preparation and implementation.

14. The Work Program contains the three program Addenda for the ISLANDS, GOLD+, and African Minigrids programs.

15. The Work Program includes two projects from the 4th Call for Proposals of the Non-Grant Instrument (NGI) window for blended finance, seeking funding of \$14.4 million.

16. The International Waters and the Chemicals and Waste focal areas are prominently figured in this Work Program with many important programs and projects. Their share of the GEF-7 resources programmed in this Work Program represents a quarter the total for June Work Program each.

17. Many projects in this Work Program will contribute directly to a blue and green recovery. Examples of such investments include the support to the SME hotel industry to invest in low-carbon upgrades to its infrastructure by retrofitting infrastructure and facilities, to

rebuilding a strong nature-based tourism industry in Niue to support the post-COVID economic recovery with blue and green jobs.

18. If approved, a total of \$116.7 million from the Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change (CC), and Land Degradation (LD) Focal Areas will be programmed in this Work Program. The Work Program includes a request of \$72.3 million from the International Waters (IW) and \$66.9 million from the Chemicals and Waste focal areas. Finally, the Work Program also contains \$14.4 million from the NGI allocation in GEF-7.

19. If approved, 92 recipient countries will benefit from GEF support, including 30 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 35 Small Island Developing states (SIDS).

20. The proposed Work Program is estimated to deliver results on all 10 core indicators and benefit more than 18 million local people in project areas.

21. This cover note outlines important aspects of the proposed Work Program, including programming trends in the GEF resources relative to focal area strategies and objectives, distribution by regions and GEF Agencies, and highlights of innovative elements inherent in the programs and projects. The Council is requested to review and approve the Work Program for the total resources requested (see Annex A for the financial details of the PIFs, PFDs, and Non-expedited Enabling Activity).

KEY FEATURES OF THE GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

22. The Work Program presented here is requesting a total of \$281.1million from all five focal area envelopes (Table 3) and from the NGI funding window. This total only includes the resources from the GEF Trust Fund and does not include the resources from the LDCF Trust Fund for Multi-Trust Fund Projects included in both Work Programs.

Table 3. GEF Resources Requested in the June 2021 Work Program

Focal Area	Resources Requested (\$ millions)			Percentage of Total GEF Resources Requested in this Work Program
	GEF Project Financing ⁴	Agency Fees ⁵	Total GEF Resources Requested in this Work Program	
Biodiversity	41.9	3.8	45.7	16.3%
Climate Change	55.0	5.0	60.1	21.4%
Land Degradation	19.8	1.9	21.8	7.7%
International Waters	66.2	6.1	72.3	25.7%
Chemicals and Waste	61.2	5.6	66.9	23.8%
NGI	13.1	1.2	14.4	5.1%
Small Grants Program	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Total	257.3	23.8	281.1	100.0%

23. International Waters is the focal area with the highest proportion of resources being programmed in this Work Program (26%). Additionally, Chemicals and Waste and Climate Change also have high proportions of the programmed resources, allowing them to increase their overall GEF-7 programming on par with other focal areas (24% and 21% respectively). Finally, resources programmed for NGI represent 5% of this Work Program.

24. The 36 programs and projects in the Work Program encompass the full scope of the GEF-7 Programming Directions approved in June of 2018, contributing to the delivery of Global Environmental Benefits through a wide range of themes.

25. The five focal areas are represented by 27 stand-alone (excluding NGI and Enabling Activities) projects as described here:

- The Biodiversity focal area resources amount to \$45.7 million. These are programmed in four single focal area projects, and nine multi-focal area projects. Examples of BD focal area projects include support to the creation of Protected Areas in the Arid regions of Wilaya Adrar in Mauritania and promoting wildlife conservation and nature-based tourism to contribute to the blue and green recovery in Niue.
- Climate Change Mitigation is represented by six single focal area projects (including three Non-expedited Enabling Activity projects), six multi-focal area projects, and one program addendum for a total of \$60.1 million of the focal area resources. Investments will focus on increasing the use of renewable energy in Tuvalu to reduce GHG emissions and supporting China’s energy transition to carbon neutrality.

⁴ Project financing excludes PPG funding and PPG Agency fee.

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

- The Land Degradation focal area is represented by eight multi-focal area projects for a total of \$21.8 million. One example of these projects is the support to national and local efforts for achieving LDN and biodiversity targets in North Macedonia through the application of an integrated landscape approach in the Shar Mountains.
- A total of \$66.9 million has been allocated from the Chemicals and Waste focal area to three single focal area projects (including one Non-expedited Enabling Activity) and two program addenda. Investments in this focal area will include reducing uPOPs by promoting circular economy principles in the waste sector in Lebanon and promoting environmentally sound approaches to waste management in the health sector in the Philippines, with a special focus on the impacts of the pandemic.
- The International Waters focal area utilizes \$72.3 million and is represented in eight single focal area and one multi-focal area projects. The Work Program includes investments to strengthen El Salvador's and Honduras' capacity to manage the transboundary natural resources of the Gulf of Fonseca. Another project will assist 14 Pacific Island nations to develop and implement EEZ-scale marine spatial plans to protect, restore and manage their blue carbon.

26. This Work Program includes two NGI projects for a total of \$14.4 million. The two projects were selected as a result of the fourth competitive call for proposals. The GEF Secretariat evaluated five proposals requesting total financing of US\$ 71.3M. Out of the five projects submitted, one was positively screened in the third call for proposals and one was a resubmission; three were new projects. The selected two projects seek to provide innovative solutions to private sector recipients to ensure a green and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 impact. The "IFC-GEF Hotel Green Revitalization Program (HGRP)" will provide a first loss guarantee to a risk sharing facility created by the IFC and local banks in developing countries in order to support the SME hotel industry 'build back greener'. The "Climate Resilience and Adaptation Finance & Technology Transfer Facility (CRAFT)" will invest in technologies that deliver simultaneously climate resilience solutions and innovative, scalable, enterprise-driven climate change mitigation and sustainable land use solutions.

STATUS ON THE USE OF GEF-7 RESOURCES

27. The Work Program provides for a diverse programming of resources relative to GEF-7 allocations (Table 4 and Figure 1).

Table 4. Resources Programmed under GEF-7 by Focal Area (includes fees)

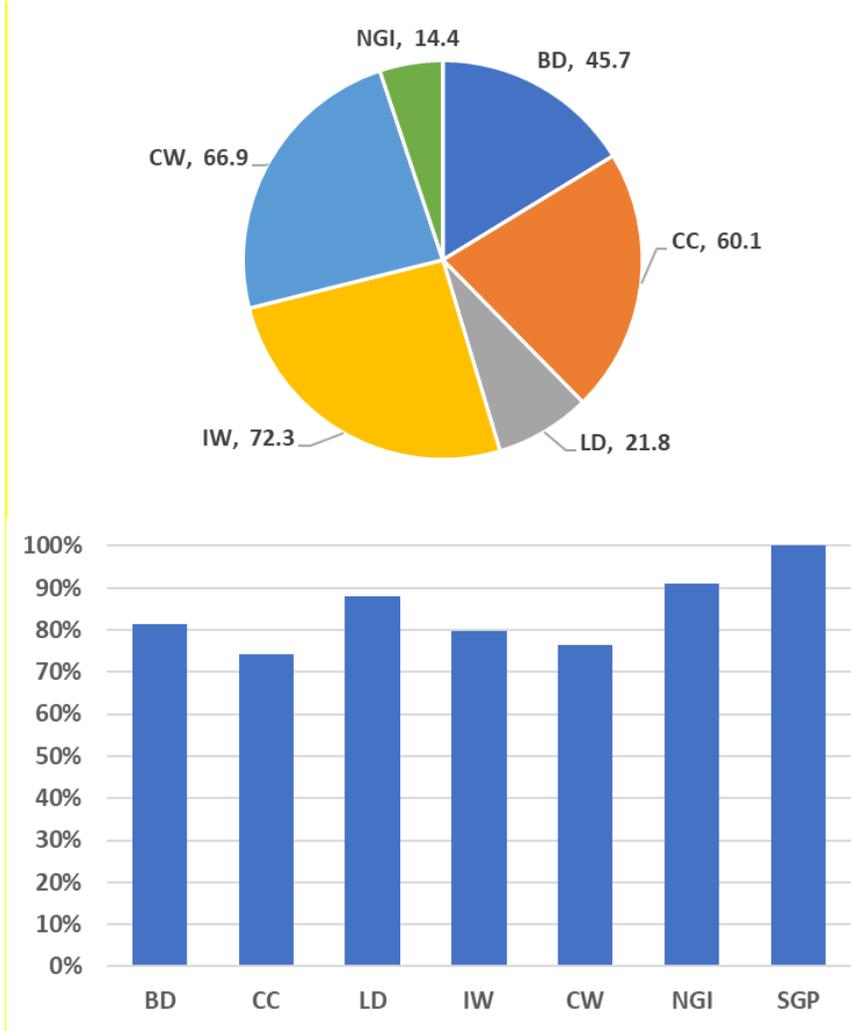
GEF-7 Focal Area/Theme	Target Allocations in GEF-7 Amount (\$ million)	Resources Requested for June 2021 Work Program (\$ million)	Total GEF-7 Resources Programmed (including this Work Program) (\$ million)	Percent of Original Focal Area Target Allocation in GEF-7
Biodiversity	1,292	45.7	1,053.6	81.5%
Climate Change	802	60.1	594.1	74.1%
Land Degradation	475	21.8	418.7	88.1%
Chemicals and Waste	599	72.3	457.3	76.3%
International Waters	463	66.9	369.4	79.8%
Non-Grant Instruments	136	14.4	123.9	91.0%
Small Grants Program	128	0.0	128.0	100.0%
Total Resources Programmed⁶	3,895	281.1	3,144.9	80.7%

28. Overall, 81% of GEF-7 resources have been programmed at the 75% timeline mark in GEF-7 (Table 4, Figure 1). If this Work Program is approved as presented, all Focal Areas will be at or ahead of the timeline with programming ranging from 74% for Climate Change to close to 88% for Land Degradation. Over 90% of the NGI funding allocation would also have been programmed, as well as the totality of the GEF-7 core SGP allocation.

29. Twenty-three recipient countries requested a total of \$121.9 million (inclusive of fees) from their respective country allocations for projects and programs addressing objectives of the Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Land Degradation focal areas.

⁶ The targeted allocations in GEF-7 in this table exclude the Country Support Program (\$21 million), and the Corporate Budget (\$151.9 million) which were all part of the total GEF-7 replenishment of \$4.052 billion.

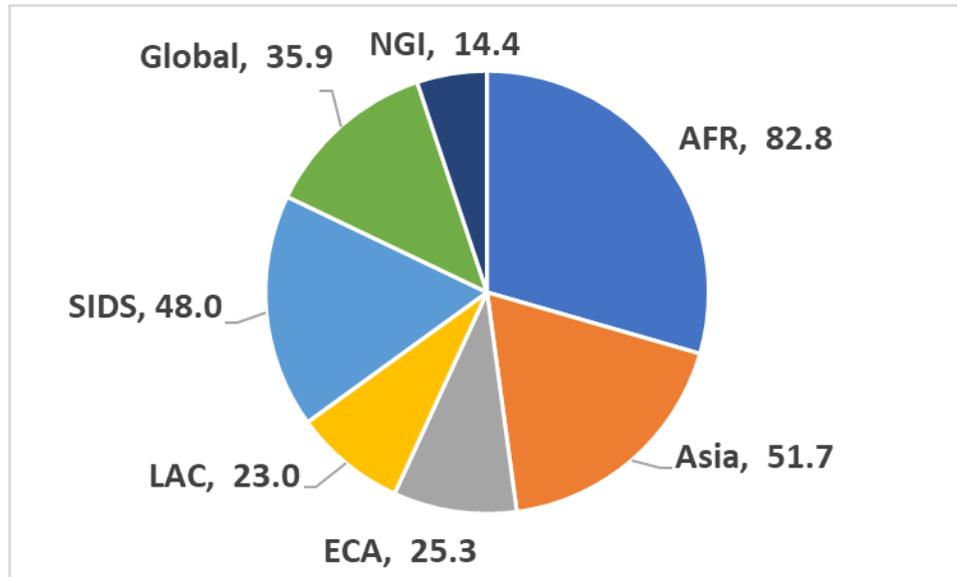
Figure 1. Top: Resources Programmed under GEF-7 by Focal Area in the June 2021 Work Program. Bottom: % of Focal Area Resources Programmed to Date Against GEF-7 Allocations including June 2021 Work Program (in million \$)



DISTRIBUTION OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION

30. The regional distribution of GEF financing in this proposed Work Program is shown in Figure 2. In all, 92 recipient countries will benefit from this Work Program, including 30 LDCs and 35 SIDS. Africa leads programming in this Work Program with \$82.8 million programmed. Asia and SIDS follow with \$51.7 million and \$48.0 million, respectively. Finally, ECA and LAC follow with smaller amounts programmed (\$25.3 million and \$23.0 million). The remaining resources programmed are for global projects (\$35.9) and for NGI (\$14.4).

Figure 2. Distribution of GEF Project Financing in the June 2021 Work Program by Region (\$ millions)



DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY AGENCY

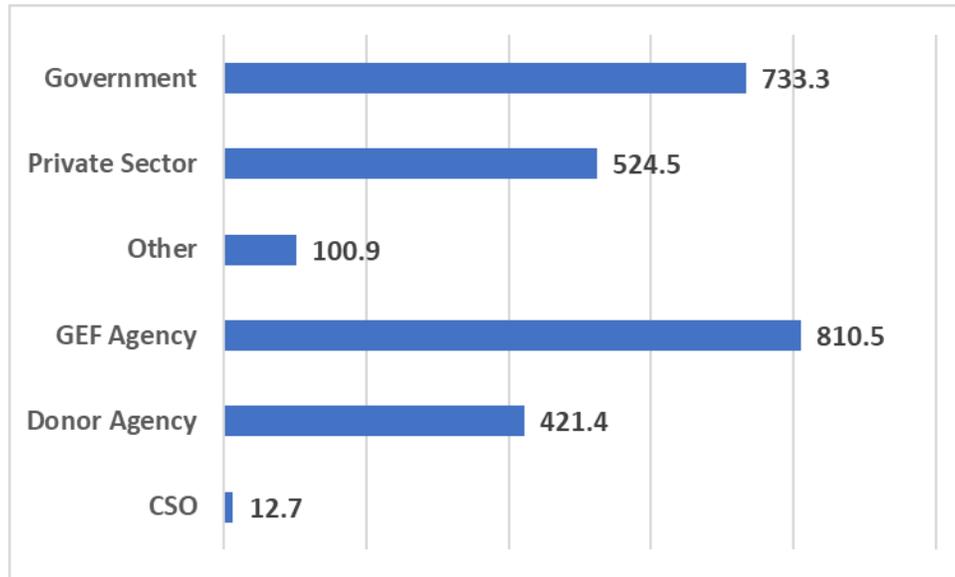
31. Nine of the 18 GEF Agencies are represented in the June 2021 Work Program (Table 5). UNEP has the highest proportion of resources programmed (25.6%), followed by UNDP (22.2%) and the World Bank (21.4%). The remaining 31% was split among the remaining six agencies with projects in this Work Program. In GEF-7 to date, 16 of the 18 agencies have received resources. UNDP, the World Bank, FAO, and UNEP have received the highest proportion of GEF-7 resources, varying from 15% to slightly over 30%.

Table 5. Amount of GEF Resources by Agency in the June 2021 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date (including June 2021 Work Program)

Agency	Resources Requested in June 2021 Work Program Including Fees		Total GEF-7 Resources Inclusive of June 2021 Including Fees	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	6.8	2.4%	37.6	1.2%
AfDB	0.0	0.0%	45.9	1.5%
BOAD	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
CAF	0.0	0.0%	20.5	0.7%
CI	15.5	5.5%	164.1	5.2%
DBSA	0.0	0.0%	5.1	0.2%
EBRD	0.0	0.0%	21.6	0.7%
FAO	21.6	7.7%	495.1	15.7%
FECO	0.0	0.0%	1.9	0.1%
Funbio	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
IADB	0.0	0.0%	30.4	1.0%
IFAD	14.6	5.2%	41.7	1.3%
IUCN	11.5	4.1%	88.2	2.8%
UNDP	62.4	22.2%	983.0	31.3%
UNEP	71.8	25.6%	494.8	15.7%
UNIDO	16.7	5.9%	142.4	4.5%
World Bank	60.2	21.4%	511.4	16.3%
WWF-US	0.0	0.0%	61.2	1.9%
Totals	281.1	100.0%	3,144.9	100.0%

32. The Work Program totals \$ 2.6 billion of expected co-financing, or a ratio of 1:10.1. In terms of the type of co-financing, the “investment mobilized” co-financing category represents \$2.1 billion (81%) of the total co-financing, or an overall co-financing ratio of “investment mobilized” of 1:8.2 for the Work Program. The distribution by co-financier shows most co-financing coming from governments, the private sector, and GEF agencies (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Distribution of Co-financing in the June 2021 Work Program by Co-financiers (\$ millions)



RESULTS AND IMPACT FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

33. The proposed Work Program will deliver a highly impactful set of results across all 10 core indicators and is projected to benefit a significant number of people in the countries where the GEF resources will be invested (figure 4). Overall, the Work Program will deliver significant results on indicators linked to International Waters, more specifically on protecting marine biodiversity and fisheries.

34. Overall, 5 out of the 10 indicators have now reached 100% or more of their GEF-7 targets with 81% of GEF-7 resources being programmed. A sixth indicator, GHG emissions reductions is also very close to reaching its GEF-7 target with 94% of results delivered.

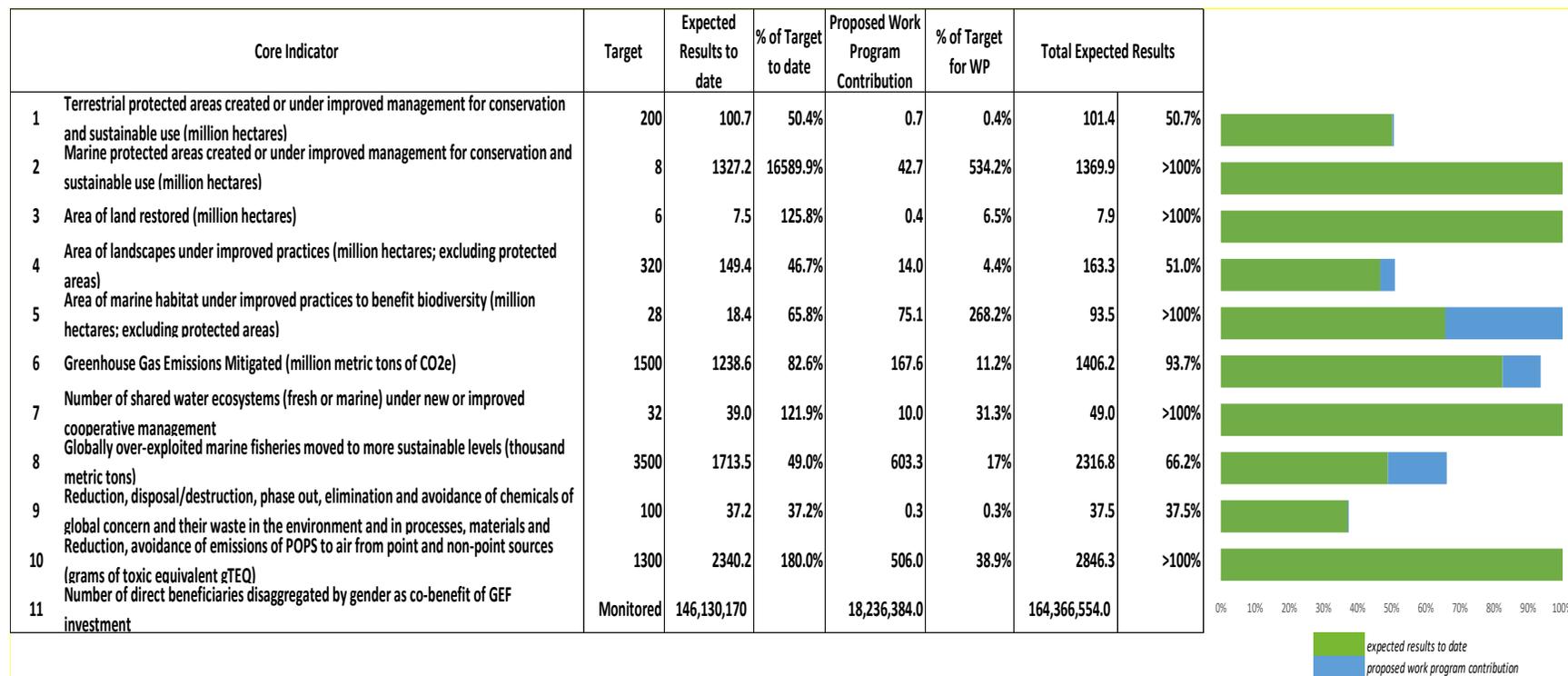
35. For Chemicals and Waste, close to 40% of indicator 10 (reduction and avoidance of POPs) is expected from this Work Program while indicator 1 on terrestrial protected areas is also lagging at slightly above 50%.

36. The progress on delivering integrated results across all core indicators is satisfactory overall, although extra focus on the delivery against a few of the indicators will be made in the coming Work Programs. Finally, this Work Program is estimated to directly benefit over 18 million people.

37. All full-sized projects considered gender dimensions in their initial design and included measures to mainstream gender. Most projects described strategies to ensure gender-responsive stakeholder consultations and provided information on plans to carry out gender assessments and to complete gender action plans in project development. In addition, many projects have already identified potential entry points to address gender gaps or promote

gender equality and women empowerment and 97 % indicate that they expect to address gender gaps such as (i) improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance; (ii) targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women; and (iii) contributing to equal access to and control of natural resources of women and men. Moreover, all projects included estimated information on the number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender, and 93 % of the projects plan to develop sex disaggregated and or gender sensitive indicators.

**Figure 4. Delivery of Global Environmental Benefits against GEF-7 targets for
Core Indicators in June 2021 Work Program⁷**



WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Programs

ISLANDS Program Addendum

38. **Regional, Cabo Verde, Guinea- Bissau, Sao Tomé and Príncipe.** *Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS) (GEF ID: 10786)*; Agency: UNEP; GEF Program Financing: \$9,000,000; Co-Financing: \$23,000,000. The ISLANDS PFD was approved by the 56th Council in June 2019. The program originally included 27 countries in three regions. The program was sequentially amended by the 57th Council in December 2019 to add Bahamas, Cuba, and Dominica. This addendum to the PFD is requesting approval for an additional Child Project in the Atlantic Ocean to include three countries - Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tomé and Príncipe. Additional resources are also being requested for the Global Child project to extend implementation and supervision of the program for the additional 1.5 years of implementation that results from this addendum. The design, component structure and the objective of ISLANDS in this addendum remains the same as that of the approved PFD. The objective is to prevent the build- up of materials and chemicals in the environment that contain POPS and Mercury and other harmful chemicals in SIDS, and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and materials in SIDS. The additional child project is intended to contribute to ISLANDS' objective of preventing the build-up of materials and chemicals in the environment that contain POPS and Mercury and other harmful chemicals in SIDS, and to manage and dispose of existing harmful chemicals and materials in SIDS. The additional child project will increase the number of SIDS participating in ISLANDS from 30 to 33 countries. Bilateral donors and the private sector have also expressed interest in working with the ISLANDS program, and especially in the three additional countries, on waste management and recycling. For example, Iberostar Group has a resort in Cabo Verde and planned collaboration with this group in the Caribbean region will extend there. Bilateral donors have experience in the region which will benefit the design and implementation of the project. Regional development banks have expressed interest to work together on landfill management in the countries. The private sector engagement will be strengthened through the additions of these countries, especially in the tourism sector, which is an important economic sector in Cabo Verde and a growing sector in Sao Tomé & Príncipe. This experience will be documented and replicated in the other regions through the additional funds provided to the global child project, which will be very beneficial to other SIDS highly dependent on land-based tourism. For example, tourism activities in the Caribbean ISLANDS child projects focus on cruise tourism, and experiences from land-based tourism will be beneficial to extend solutions to all tourism products offered in the region.

39. The main additional aspects of the Addendum are:

Revised Program Targets

- Indicator 5.3 (marine litter): Increase by 4,200t (2% increase) to a total of 193,643t
- Indicator 9.1 (POPs): Increase by 70t (11.3% increase) to a total of 689t
- Indicator 9.2 (mercury): Increase by 8t (21% increase) to a total of 46t (excl. ISLANDS 10472)
- Indicator 9.6 (POPs products): Increase by 5721t (10.9% increase) to a total of 58316t (excl. ISLANDS 10472)
- Indicator 10 (uPOPs): Increase by 63g-TEQ (20.5% increase) to a total of 370g-TEQ
- Indicator 11 (beneficiaries): Increase by 441,057 (7% increase) to a total of 6,415,104

Revised GEF-7 financing

- This supplemental PFD is requesting additional and incremental GEF-7 resources estimated at \$9,810,000 (GEF grant amount: \$9,000,000 and Agency fee: \$810,000).

Revised Co-financing

- Additional co-financing resources, in support of the Program objectives, proposed to be mobilized are estimated at \$23,000,000. Cumulatively, the total co-financing leveraged for the ISLANDS PFD including the potential new resources is estimated at \$ 440,214,560.

GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program Addendum

40. **Regional.** *GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program Addendum* (GEF ID #10804) Agency: UNDP; GEF Program Financing: \$8,110,966; Co-financing: \$142,962,000. This Program was originally approved by the 57th Council in December 2019 with 11 countries across the African continent. The countries included in the original PFD are Angola, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Djibouti, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, in addition to the regional child project. This supplemental PFD (PFD Addendum) is requesting approval for the inclusion in the Program of 6 additional National Child Projects. Of these 2nd round countries, 5 will be joining the program with their available CCM STAR resources. These countries include Benin, Mali, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Zambia. In addition, 1 country, Chad, is requesting to join the Program without utilizing GEF STAR resources and only utilizing available UNDP co-financing funding. Chad expressed interest to participate in the program but was facing unavailability of CCM resources. New and additional resources from UNDP's Target for Resource Assignment from the Core (TRAC) system have been made available to fund this child

project's national activities, to complement the regional child project's activities funded by the GEF CCM set-aside.

41. With its approval, this Addendum would bring the total number of countries to 17 and cumulative total GEF financing for the GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program to \$35,257,439 (including agency fees) and projected co-financing to \$485,772,000. The PFD Addendum reflects the increase in GEF-7 resources to be programmed and, reports on incremental information (financial and core indicator targets) in the context of the new participating countries.

42. The addition of the 6 new countries provides the Program with the possibility to significantly increase its footprint and to widen the information base that it will rely on to extract and disseminate lessons learned on how to de-risk clean minigrids development in Africa. The design of national child projects' basic component structure and the objectives of this Addendum remain the same as that of the approved Africa Minigrids Program PFD. The Program objective is to "Support African countries to increase energy access by reducing the cost and increasing commercial viability of renewable energy minigrids."

43. As part of the regional child project, an additional component will be added that will focus on mainstreaming the use of digital tools and solutions across national child projects and other national stakeholders. This component will build knowledge on the potential for use of digital technologies, including leveraging minigrid projects' data, to improve the commercial viability of renewable energy minigrids and assist policy makers in adopting the most effective and context-appropriate solutions. This new component of the regional child project will enable the provision of regional support to the 6 new national child projects together with the 11 national child projects already approved, in addition to other national stakeholders that make up the minigrids sector more broadly

44. With the aim of contributing to collective ownership of the program, it is anticipated that each of the new 6 national child projects will set aside between USD 50,000 to USD 100,000 for specific national-level activities which can contribute to the program's development and learning objectives and to link up with the regional child project's activities. It is worth noticing that this will not involve any transfer or resources to the regional child project, and it will simply cover national child project costs. For example, such national child project budget can cover costs related to: (i) M&E to feed into program framework indicators, (ii) travel to participate in the regional child project's workshops/events; (iii) sharing of research and lessons learned to the regional child project; and (iv), contributions towards the regional child projects knowledge products.

45. This Addendum contributes to widen the scope of the original Program's core indicator targets and funding envelope as follows:

Revised Program Targets

- Indicator 6, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated: Increase by approximately 6 million tCO_{2e}, to a total of 28 million tCO_{2e}

- Indicator 11, Direct Beneficiaries: Increase by 68,000 people to a total of 804,000 people.

Revised GEF-7 financing

- This supplemental PFD is requesting additional and incremental GEF-7 resources estimated at \$8,840,953 (GEF grant amount: \$8,110,966 and Agency fee: \$729,987).

Revised Co-financing

- Additional co-financing resources in support of the Program objectives proposed to be mobilized are estimated at \$141,462,000.

GOLD+ Addendum

46. **Global.** Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) Sector Plus - GEF GOLD + Addendum (GEF ID 10802) Agency: Conservation International; GEF Program Financing: \$30,485,696; Co-financing: \$139,654,570. This program was originally approved in June 2020 with 8 countries. This addendum is requesting approval for 7 additional countries in Latin America and Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guinea, Mali, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, and Zambia) with Conservation International (CI) as the lead Implementing Agency and UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, and CI as the Implementing Agency for the child projects. The GOLD and GOLD+ programs work together under the planetGOLD umbrella, and this would bring the total number of countries to 23 (8 in GOLD, 8 in GOLD+, and 7 in the GOLD+ addendum). The design, component structure and the objective in the addendum remains the same as that of the approved PFD.

47. The objective of this program is “to reduce the use of mercury in the ASGM sector in the participating countries through a holistic, multisectoral integrated formalization approach, and increasing access to finance leading to adoption of sustainable mercury free technologies and access to traceable gold supply chains.” The planetGOLD program works in partnership with governments, the private sector, and ASGM communities in nine countries to significantly improve the production practices and work environment of artisanal and small-scale miners. By working to close the financing gap, supporting formalization, raising awareness, and connecting mining communities with mercury-free technology and formal markets, the program aims to demonstrate a pathway to cleaner and more efficient small-scale gold mining practices that benefit everyone, from mine to market.

48. The additional 7 countries in Latin America and Africa represents an expansion in the coverage of globally important geographies under the program, building upon the 8 countries in GOLD+ already approved and contributing to both scale and sustainability. The additional countries cover an important range of countries, including countries with a large ASGM sector as well as countries with a smaller but significant sector, and countries that will demonstrate the jurisdictional approach to sustainability. The inclusion of these new countries also captures

further potential for private sector engagements, which will contribute to planetGOLD's reach and impact.

49. These countries will focus on bringing new approaches to formalize the ASGM sector by piloting jurisdictional approaches to sustainability that focus on areas defined by local and regional administrative boundaries and that reconcile social, economic, and environmental objectives through participation across stakeholders and sectors and with government involvement. Jurisdictional approaches will explore sub-national level collaboration to find solutions to issues around illicit mercury trade, harmonization of fiscal regimes and policy frameworks, accounting for climate change in ASGM, setting policy targets for mercury reduction, and supporting transparent sourcing of gold that meets criteria for responsible practices and good governance. Through this jurisdictional approach, priorities and initiatives will be identified with potential to provide leverage through collaboration and common objectives, thus institutionalizing the interventions at both the sub-national and national levels.

50. Other integral parts of the program will continue to be introduced and emphasized in these countries, including access to finance and formal markets, mercury-free technology transfer, capacity building, maximizing the impact of communications at the local miner level, and knowledge sharing across the global ASGM sector. New and innovative approaches such as online education opportunities and digital marketing will be used to complement more traditional participatory workshops and training models.

51. The additional countries through this Addendum contributes to the original program core indicator targets and funding envelop as follows:

Revised Program Targets

- Indicator 9, Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products: Increase by 237 Metric Tons to a total of 517 Metric Tons
- Indicator 6, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated: will be assessed during PPG
- Indicator 11, Direct Beneficiaries: Increase by 252,100 to a total of 321,600

Revised GEF-7 financing

- This supplemental PFD is requesting additional and incremental GEF-7 resources estimated at \$33,229,410 (GEF grant amount: \$30,485,696 and Agency fee: \$2,743,714).

Revised Co-financing

- Additional co-financing resources in support of the Program objectives proposed to be mobilized are estimated at \$139,654,570.

Non-Grant Instruments Projects

52. **NGI- Global.** *Scaling Up CRAFT: Mobilizing Private Capital to Mitigate Climate Change and Reduce Land Degradation through Resilience Investments* (GEFID 10765). Agency: Conservation International; Project Financing: \$ 4,00,000; Co-financing \$ 41,000,000. This project will invest in the Climate Resilience and Adaptation Finance & Technology Transfer Facility (CRAFT) to promote climate resilience solutions while simultaneously delivering innovative, scalable, enterprise-driven climate change mitigation and sustainable land use solutions in developing countries. This is a “first of its kind” fund that invests in private sector solutions that deliver both adaptation and mitigation benefits. The GEF will invest equity to unlock non-concessional investments and support increased scale of the fund. This investment builds on an initial grant from SCCF (GEF ID 9941) which has designed the fund structure. In addition to climate adaptation benefits, the project will result in close to 330,000 ha management in production systems and close to 10 million ha of landscapes under improved practices. GHG emission reduction is expected to be 20 million tCO₂e, both from AFOLU and renewable energy sector.

53. **NGI- Global.** *IFC-GEF Hotel Green Revitalization Program (HGRP)* (GEF ID 10766). Agency: WBG; GEF Project Financing: \$9,132,420; Co-financing: \$802,500,000. This project will create a risk sharing program called Hotel Green Revitalization Program (HGRP) to provide a de-risking mechanism that will support the SME hotel industry ‘build back greener’ while also providing a vital rapid access to finance for a sector that has been devastated by the economic consequences of the pandemic. Necessary upgrades for SME hotels present a unique opportunity to pair a counter cyclical COVID response solution with financing in immediate and planned energy efficiency investments. The program creates a risk mitigation structure that will enable immediate access to finance in local currency to SME hotels pursuing green retrofits. The project also includes a technical assistance component solely funded by the agency. The program is designed to reach scale during implementation since it expects to reach 760 SME hotels through 60 financial institutions (FIs) across 30 countries including several SIDs, offsetting over 1.8 million tCO₂e.

Stand-alone Projects

Biodiversity

54. **Mauritania.** *Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)* (GEF ID 10586). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,639,726; Co-financing: \$16,900,000. This project will enhance the conservation of key species in Mauritania through the creation and sustainable management of a new Protected Area (PA) in the arid Wilaya of Adrar. It will have a significant contribution to Mauritania's biodiversity conservation efforts, since the country has currently only 0.62% of its land under protection and almost none in its arid zone, which hosts rare species adapted to the harsh conditions of the Sahara. The new PA will cover the contiguous landscape formed by an important water source designated as a Key Biodiversity Area (El Ghallâouïya), and the Guelb er Richât or “ Eye of the Sahara”, a remarkable geologic structure with unparalleled prehistoric and cultural wealth in Mauritania.

In addition to the creation of a 200,000 ha PA, the project will result in improved practices for biodiversity over 50,000 ha in the surrounding landscape with direct benefits for at least 2,000 people.

55. **Indonesia.** *Strengthened Systems for Community-based Conservation of Forests and Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (CoPLI)* (GEFID 10731). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-finance: \$21,000,000. The project will conserve globally important biodiversity and enhance livelihoods through a strengthened institutional framework and community-based conservation of peatland ecosystems. The project will strengthen the institutional framework for peatland and biodiversity conservation and development of a multi-stakeholder partnership framework to provide underlying sustainable financing, support community-based management and conservation of peatland systems in targeted landscapes, and build and exchange knowledge for forest and peatland conservation and management. The project will be implemented in West Kalimantan, which is one of Indonesia's three provinces characterized by the largest expanse of peatland and forest ecosystems in the country with high biodiversity value. However, West Kalimantan is also facing a growing and increasing diversity of threats to these important ecosystems. Mainstreaming biodiversity considerations into planning presents an opportunity to address the drivers of peatland and biodiversity loss that could prove applicable to many other provinces in Indonesia. The project will result in 235,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness, and 800,000 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity. Additionally, the project will mitigate 2.9 tCO₂e of GHG emissions, and will benefit 20,000 people.

56. **Cook Islands.** *Enhancing biodiversity considerations and effective protected area management to safeguard the Cook Islands integrated ecosystems and species* (GEF ID 10780). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,502,968; Co-financing: \$26,787,412. This project will mainstream biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services safeguards across the Cook Islands key sectors, in partnership with traditional leaders and communities, to deliver sustainably managed protected areas and catchments. The project will do this by mainstreaming safeguards to conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services across key development sectors, improving the management framework to effectively conserve a national protected areas system representative of Cook Islands biodiversity, and raising awareness, managing knowledge, mainstreaming gender, monitoring and evaluation and disseminating project results. The project will focus on incorporating KBAs and other biodiversity values into EIAs and other decision-making processes and focusing on key catchments for their impact on marine biodiversity where improved practices can be piloted for scaling up in the rest of the country. The project will also support the development and implementation of inclusive management plans in collaboration with traditional leaders. This project will result in the creation of 115 ha and improved management of 285 ha terrestrial PAs in KBAs, improved management of 2,400 ha of MPAs, 2,411 ha of landscapes under improved management for biodiversity, and mitigation of close to 800,000 tCO₂e.

57. **Viet Nam.** *Promote Wildlife Conservation and Responsible Nature Based Tourism for Sustainable Development in Vietnam.* (GEF ID 10787). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing:

\$7,150,000 Co-financing: \$40,200,000. The project will promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods through innovative solutions of nature-based tourism. The project seeks to link nature-tourism with biodiversity conservation and the well-being of the local communities to take advantage of the potential for tourism to contribute significantly to nature conservation and the quality of life of local people, while minimizing negative impacts of unsustainable tourism development, including poaching, wildlife overexploitation, trade and consumption and habitat loss and degradation. Project components include: building an enabling policy environment for management of nature-based tourism that generates financing for conservation; demonstrating nature-based tourism and public-private partnerships at project PAs to conserve biodiversity and promote life style improvements of local communities; seeking behavior change across target audiences including tourists, the travel sector and local communities in support of reduction of tourism-related and other illegal wildlife threats and improving conservation outcomes; and establishing and strengthening marketing, networks, and knowledge management for nature-based tourism promotion. This project will result in close to 147,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use, over 7,350 ha of marine protected areas under improved management effectiveness, and 77,000 ha of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (excluding PAs). Finally, 3,000 people will directly benefit from this GEF investment.

Climate Change

58. **China.** *China Energy Transition Towards Carbon Neutrality Project* (GEFID 10770). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$17,431,193; Co-financing: \$352,000,000. The objective of this project is to accelerate energy transition towards carbon neutrality in the power sector through supporting the development of national policies and piloting their implementation in selected provinces. Major project activities include supporting national level policy development, implementing provincial/city level energy transition pilots, and building institutional capacity and knowledge management. The innovative nature of the project includes fostering China's energy system transformation. China's pledge to carbon neutrality is new and the project aims to build this vision and pathways of achieving carbon emission peaking before 2030 and carbon neutrality in the power sector by 2060, which is the key sector for China to achieve carbon neutrality. The project will focus on removing policy barriers and promoting the application of innovative zero carbon energy technologies and use pilots to demonstrate them for further replication. The selected pilot energy transition provinces will build the vision and demonstrate the appropriate pathways of achieving the 2060 carbon neutrality objective. Thus, further replication and scale-up of the application of the project models are very promising. This project will mitigate over 80 million tCO_{2e} in its lifetime operation.

59. **Tuvalu.** *Increasing Access to Renewable Energy in Tuvalu* (GEFID 10788). Agency: ADB; GEF Project Financing: \$2,752,294; Co-financing: \$15,480,000. The objective of this project is to increase the utilization of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by promoting a 100% renewable energy system in Tuvalu. The project has only one key

component: “investment in renewable energy technologies to generate and use renewable energy”. The main activities include the installation of solar PV and battery energy storage systems in Funafuti island (capital of Tuvalu) and three outer islands, and institutional capacity buildings for the country. The project aims at mitigating 46,300 tCO₂e in its lifetime. More importantly, the project will effectively transform the energy systems of the country from fossil fuel-based systems to 100% renewable energy-based ones in the capital of Tuvalu and other three outer islands.

60. **China.** *Pathways for Decarbonizing Transport towards Carbon Neutrality in China* (GEFID 10790). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$10,091,743; Co-financing: \$110,000,000. The objective of the project is to enhance the national policy framework, establish national and sub-national roadmaps, and pilot emerging technologies in selected provinces, to decarbonize green transport towards carbon neutrality. The project has three major components: developing a policy framework and roadmap for transport carbon peaking and neutrality; implement a pilot study on transport carbon peaking and neutrality in key regions; and build capacity for the implementation of policies, strategies, and investment for decarbonizing transport towards carbon neutrality. The project is innovative since it is the first project in China that will assist the Ministry of Transport to develop new and long-term carbon neutrality policy, regulations, and capacity in the transportation sector and in several selected Chinese provinces and cities. The project will demonstrate how these policy and regulations are effective. If the policy, regulation, and demonstrated technologies are successful and scaled up all over China, the project will likely catalyze transforming China’s transportation sector, and have a very significant impact on GHG emission reductions in the transportation sector, aiming to deliver between 20 and 100 million tCO₂e reduction in the lifetime of the project.

Chemicals and Waste

61. **Philippines.** *Reduction of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants and mercury through an environmentally-sound approach on healthcare wastes management in the Philippines with a special focus on the pandemic* (GEF ID 10798). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$4,880,000; Co-financing: \$34,700,000. The project aims to protect human health and the environment through the reduction of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants (uPOPs) and mercury in the healthcare waste sector promoting environmentally-sound approaches. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a significant ramp-up of the generation of waste associated with single-use PPE (face masks, gloves, gowns), both from households and hospitals, increased usage of medical devices containing mercury and a massive increase in the use of chlorine-based chemicals for disinfection. With the increase of waste and poor waste management systems in general, it is expected that there will be an increase in the amount of uPOPs and mercury emissions from the healthcare sector. The project will support the development of policies and environmentally-sound procedures for the minimization of health care wastes, implementing environmentally sound technology for the treatment and recycling of waste generated during the pandemic, improving synergies to support the phase-out of Mercury-added product and environmentally-sound management of mercury and mercury waste, especially in the healthcare sector, demonstrating capacity to adopt best available

technologies and best environmental practices enhancing capacities to implement policies and workplans for the environmentally-sound management of infectious and hazardous wastes in the health care sector, and increasing awareness and knowledge on infectious and hazardous waste to promote a whole-of-nation approach toward health and environmental protection. The project is expected to avoid the use of 10.43 MT of mercury and 422.6 gTEQ of uPOPs.

62. **Lebanon.** *Reduction of UPOPs through Waste Management in a Circular Economy* (GEF ID 10803). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$8,858,447; Co-financing: \$62,000,000. This project aims to assist Lebanon in avoiding and reducing unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants (UPOPs) through promoting circular economy and improving open dumpsites in the waste sector. This project will work along the entire lifecycle of waste, including upstream efforts like green chemistry, extended producer responsibility, green procurement, and product standards. It will also address downstream aspects of waste including reuse and recycling. The GEF funding will be accompanied by a World Bank lending package for Lebanon and the project will also coordinate with the EBRD/UNEP MedProgram. The World Bank Loans and MedProgram together with this project will address sustainable chemicals and waste management in the country. Best available techniques and best available practice will be demonstrated in two or three open dumpsites. This project will result in Global Environmental Benefits including reduction of 20 gTEQ UPOPs emissions.

International Waters

63. **Turkey, Georgia, Ukraine.** *Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME* (GEF ID 10725). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,000,000; Co-financing: \$13,500,000. This project aims to strengthen integrated planning, effective decision-making, and additional efforts at the Black Sea regional scale, including transboundary coordination to achieve sustainability and improved management. The project will promote an innovative approach to adopting EBM, while delivering the first key national strategies on Blue Economy' considerations. GEFs support will advance positive contributions to biodiversity through adoption of Ecosystem Based Management approaches, strengthening the management of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, reduced invasive species issues, etc. The updated TDA and SAP will provide a detailed baseline of the current ecosystem status and the pressures on the environment and a road-map to address the key transboundary pressures for the countries (with the support of the Black Sea Commission) over the next 10 years. In addition to the above, this project will result in Global Environmental Benefits, including close to 420,000 ha of Marine Protected Areas under improved management effectiveness.

64. **Regional, El Salvador, Honduras.** *Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management* (GEF ID 10778). Agency: IBRD; GEF Financing: \$5,000,000; Co-financing: \$35,000,000. The Gulf of Fonseca is a transboundary source of livelihood to close to a million people. The Gulf's ecosystems provide an important source of water, food, and revenue to the riparian population. This investment will strengthen the countries' capacity to manage the transboundary natural resources of the Gulf of Fonseca, leading to a healthier coastal and marine environment, and improved livelihoods of the coastal population in the Gulf. The

project will prepare a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and a Strategic Action Program, to be endorsed by the two participating nations. The TDA/SAP process will enable transboundary management of the Gulf of Fonseca, by developing national and regional mechanisms, designing a trinational monitoring system, and improving adherence to the principles of sustainable management.

65. Regional, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines. *Caribbean BlueFin (Caribbean Blue Economy Financing Project)* (GEF ID 10782). Agency: UNEP; GEF Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$43,427,990. The Caribbean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) directly supports the economies of 34 coastal and small island countries and territories. The shared marine ecosystem resources have the potential to make a tremendous contribution to poverty reduction and shared prosperity for the region's growing population of 40 million. The proposed investment will assist the countries in delivering to the long-term vision of the Caribbean region as outlined in the CLME+ Strategic Action Program, through innovative financing mechanisms working closely with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. The project will be delivering a "Blue Business and Economy Hub", setting-up and testing of at least three regional ocean financing mechanisms and directly deliver over 1 million ha of marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use and more than 2 million ha of area of landscapes under improved practices.

66. Regional, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. *Pacific I2I Regional Project: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent* (GEF ID 10783). Agencies: UNEP and ADB; GEF Project Financing: \$15,000,000; Co-financing: \$129,576,233. The project will assist the 14 Pacific Island nations to build resilience to climate change by assisting countries to develop and implement EEZ-scale marine spatial plans to protect, restore and manage their blue carbon resources, and to invest in soft-engineering approaches to coastal adaptation. Priority actions will be identified and national implementation will be undertaken to demonstrate the conservation and restoration of natural capital and ecosystem services, the management and reduction of pollution waste, and support emerging opportunities in ocean-based economic sectors. Ultimately, the investment will mitigate an expected 5,750 tCO₂e greenhouse gas emissions, 71 million ha of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity and the delivery of one regional and 14 national sustainable blue economy plans.

67. Regional, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius. *GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management in SADC Member States Project Phase 2* (GEF ID 10797). Agency: IBRD; GEF Financing: \$ 4,566,210; Co-financing: \$ 35,000,000. As climate variability is affecting the availability of surface water, groundwater becomes an even more indispensable source of water in SADC. Building on the achievement of the SADC-SGWMP, this second phase, aims to support SADC-GMI in consolidating its position as the region's go-to center of excellence on groundwater management. Building on an ongoing long-term technical engagement with the Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the project will support

SADC-GMI to fulfil its mission to develop, sustain and demonstrate technical and financial knowledge and capacity for inclusive groundwater management in the SADC region, at the national and transboundary levels.

68. **Benin, Togo.** *Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono)* (GEF ID 10799). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000; Co-financing: \$39,350,000. Through enhanced cooperation supported by the Mono Basin Authority, this project aims to advance improved management of Mono basin freshwater resources. Project outputs are particularly important for tackling the major issue of flooding in the basin, which impacts thousands of people annually. Furthermore, increased investment in the basin, through the development of a Climate Investment Plan, will help to enhance the implementation of sustainable development activities in critical sectors in the basin, including agriculture, water resources management, energy generation and supply. The application of the TDA and SAP approach will inform project activities, while the anticipated endorsement of the SAP will inform long-term decision making for planning and investment in specific sectors that have been identified as the sources of ecosystem degradation. This project will result in Global Environmental Benefits, including 2,500 ha of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; 2,500 ha of area of degraded agricultural land restored and 2,500 ha of area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

69. **Regional, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda.** *Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development (PROCARIBE+)* (GEF ID 10800). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$15,429,817; Co-financing: \$129,822,647. This investment will support the implementation of the long-term strategy and vision for managing the shared marine resources of the Caribbean and North Brazilian Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. This demands strong coordination, collaboration, formulation of national policies and coordination of these in a regional context, synergies among numerous stakeholders, organizations, while being supported by a strong data/knowledge base. The project will among others deliver: An ocean coordination mechanism, micro-finance schemes supporting implementation of regional action plans, blue economy & marine spatial plans, enhanced area-based ocean conservation covering at least 1 million ha, sea food traceability investments and bringing up to 28,000 tons of spiny lobster fisheries to sustainable fisheries methods.

70. **Moldova, Ukraine.** *Advancing transboundary co-operation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin through implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)* (GEF ID 10805). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$30,100,000. In the framework of implementing the agreed SAP and coordinated River Basin Management Plans, the GEF funding will enable the consolidation of country and transboundary efforts to reduce transboundary degradation of the Dniester River Basin. Project activities build on an extensive baseline of completed and on-going national and regional

actions, while further strengthening institutional capacity of national bodies and the Dniester Commission and its Working Groups – thereby further enabling countries to effectively implement the SAP, UNECE Water Convention commitments and the EU WFD. The project will support Global Environmental Benefits via its contribution toward improving the environmental situation in the Dniester River Basin, including via integrated land and water management, such as through advancing the nexus approach in watersheds and basins, prevention of nutrient pollution, and adaptation to climate change via increased resilience to naturally induced disasters. The project will implement the newly signed Dniester River Basin SAP, fully operationalize the Dniester Commission, and directly benefit 20,000 men and women.

Multi-focal Area Projects

71. **Senegal** - *Land Degradation Neutrality for biodiversity conservation, food security and resilient livelihoods in the Peanut Basin and Eastern Senegal (Dékil Souf)* (GEFID 10384). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,786,073; Cofinancing: \$32,800,000. Dékil Souf means “revive the soil” in Wolof. The project aims to demonstrate the use of a Land Degradation Neutrality approach (avoid, reduce, reverse land degradation) for biodiversity conservation and delivery of ecosystem services to achieving food security and livelihood resilience in the Peanut Basin and Eastern Senegal. The LDN approach is built on lessons from the GEF and LDCF portfolio in Senegal and particularly in the Peanut Basin. The project will bring several innovations such as the strategic engagement with women, participatory learning, and the use of local knowledge. The project is designed with four components: 1) supporting the enabling environment for large-scale SLM dissemination, 2) scaling up SLM and biodiversity conservation using a landscape approach, 3) enhancing rural employment and livelihoods to sustain improved management of production land, and 4) supporting learning, knowledge management and communication. The project will generate global environment benefits with 12,000 ha of terrestrial landscapes restored (core indicator 3), 400,000 ha of terrestrial landscapes under improved practices (core indicator 4), carbon sequestration and avoided emissions in the AFOLU sector (6.8 million tCO₂e), and will benefit over 87,500 beneficiaries including 75% of women.

72. **North Macedonia**. *Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia* (GEF ID 10676). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,713,422; Cofinancing: \$14,100,000. The objective of the project is to support national and local efforts for achieving LDN and biodiversity targets in North Macedonia through the application of an integrated landscape approach in the Shar Mountains. The project will plan and implement an integrated set of activities related to forestry, pasture, water resources, agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, community awareness and capacity building aimed at avoiding, reducing or reversing land degradation, loss of biodiversity and ecosystem functions, including capacity building for natural capital accounting and for integrated LDN/BD monitoring and reporting. Replication and scaling-out will be ensured through targeted policy recommendations. The project will generate the following Global Environmental Benefits: 62,700 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; 11,500 ha of land under restoration, 7,000

ha of land under improved practices, and 177,000 tCO₂e of carbon sequestered. Finally, 18,400 women and men will directly benefit from this investment.

73. **Eswatini.** *Restoration of ecosystems, integrated water resource management and promotion of sustainable agricultural production systems in the Mbuluzi River Basin of Eswatini* (GEFID 10695). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,916,950; Cofinancing: \$25,768,500. The project will promote the adoption and application of integrated SLM and ecosystem restoration technologies to safeguard the integrity of key ecosystems in the Mbuluzi river basin in Eswatini. It will bring together all the people using land resources within the Mbuluzi river basin to manage their natural resources more sustainably. The project is aligned with Eswatini's Vision 2022, its 6th pillar on Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability, and the National Voluntary Targets on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The project is designed with four components: 1) strengthening policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for Integrated Natural Resource Management in the catchment area; 2) ecosystem restoration through promotion of SLM practices, 3) effective management of three protected areas within the basin: Malolotja, Mlawula, and Hawane reserves all within the Malolotja-Songimvelo Trans-Frontier Conservation Area, and 4) knowledge management, gender and youth mainstreaming and M&E. The project will generate global environment benefits including 60,000 ha of agricultural landscapes under sustainable land management, 35,000 ha of protected areas under improved management effectiveness, 700 ha of degraded lands restored, and benefit 100,000 people of which 50% will be women.

74. **Regional, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Viet Nam.** *Promoting the blue economy and strengthening fisheries governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries* (GEF ID 10703). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$7,320,794; Co-financing: 118,458,645. The project is designed to improve transboundary marine resource governance and cooperation of the Gulf of Thailand through the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries. The project will improve, create and execute fisheries management plans, establish market and behavior incentive mechanisms that reduce ecosystem stress from fishing, integrate habitat and biodiversity conservation considerations into fisheries management, and reduce threats to vulnerable species and critical habitats through improved national and regional protection. As a result, 14,900 ha of new marine protected areas will be established and 261,700 ha of existing MPAs will be improved while 4 million ha of marine habitat will have improved governance practices for biodiversity. In addition 3 fisheries will meet national or international certifications that incorporate biodiversity, at least one regional agreement will be signed to strengthen regional fisheries governance, 4 national or local level reforms and inter-ministerial committees will be established and over 500,000 metric tons of globally over-exploited fisheries will be moved to more sustainable levels.

75. **Niue.** *Robust sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors in Niue supported by biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable land management* (GEF ID 10769). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,502,968; Co-financing: 20,216,167. This project will enhance biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management in Niue through the development of sustainable and biodiversity-friendly tourism and agriculture sectors. It will undertake it

through: a national governance context that recognizes, facilitates and promotes sustainable development of tourism and agriculture sectors; integrated model for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into tourism and agriculture; and knowledge management, awareness, gender mainstreaming and monitoring & evaluation. The project will focus on sustainable biodiversity-friendly management and operation of tourism and agriculture across ecologically important landscapes which will also benefit marine biodiversity. The project will deliver Global Environmental Benefits including the improved management of 2,500 ha of terrestrial PAs, restoring of 2,800 ha of agricultural lands, and improving the management of 2,800 ha of productive lands for biodiversity. Finally, it will mitigate over 475,000 tCO₂e and benefit 1,719 people (over half women).

76. **Egypt.** *Greening Hurghada* (GEF ID 10796). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$3,889,996; Co-financing: \$22,000,000. The tourism sector is the main source of the GHG emissions and the key cause of degradation of natural assets – biodiversity and coral reefs - in the Red Sea coastal city of Hurghada. The project's goal is to reduce environmental pressure from the tourism sector to preserve biodiversity, while promoting low carbon and sustainability practices across the hospitality industry to reduce GHG emissions. Tourism is the main industry in Hurghada, but it is also the sector that was the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the travel restrictions which were introduced. There is now an opportunity to contribute to investments planned for the recovery towards a green, sustainable, and resilient recovery of the tourism sector. Key activities to be financed include the improvement of the management of key touristic sites and diving destinations, the optimization of energy use in hotels, provision of support for the electrification of the transport sector, and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and climate consideration in the key income generating activities for local communities. The GEF investment is expected to contribute to the establishment or improved management and conservation of 180,000 hectares of marine protected areas and to result in an additional 96,000 ha of marine habitat under improved practices benefitting biodiversity. In addition, investments in the energy and transportation sector will contribute to generate approximately 1 million tCO₂e in emissions avoided.

Multi-Trust Fund Projects

77. **Timor Leste:** *Adapting to climate change and enabling sustainable land management through productive rural communities* (GEF ID 10713). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,578,536; LDCF Project Financing: \$6,267,126; Co-financing: \$6,860,000. Frequent extreme climate events, combined with unsustainable farming practices that cause soil nutrient depletion, loss of topsoil, and gully erosion, place about half of the country's land area at risk of land degradation. With rainfall projected to become more erratic, and drought and extreme rainfall events likely to occur more frequently under future climate conditions, climate change presents a substantial threat to the water and food security of rural communities in Timor-Leste. This project will support small-scale farmers in Timor-Leste in adopting climate-resilient sustainable land management (SLM) practices and improving access to and management of climate-resilient water resources for rural communities. Proposed solutions include improved national and sub-national adaptation planning; establishment of an enabling environment for

the achievement of land degradation neutrality (LDN); ecosystem restoration and protection; sustainable agricultural management systems; climate-resilient water supply and management systems; and the transformation of subsistence agriculture to agri-businesses. This transformation will promote access of smallholder farmers to commodity markets and catalyze incentives and resources for communities to engage in improved sustainable water, forest, land and livestock management in priority watersheds. These measures will ultimately result in an increase in food and water security under future climate conditions. Expected results for the project include 68,000 direct beneficiaries of climate-resilience and SLM solutions, 71,300 ha of land brought under climate-resilient management, mainstreaming of climate resilience in three sector policies and plans, 8,200 people trained (50% female) about climate risks and adaptation measures, 2.8 tCO₂e mitigated through climate-resilient SLM including restoration and climate-resilient agricultural production, and 5,500 ha of (forest and agricultural) land restored

78. **Kiribati.** *Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience (Securing Kiribati)* (GEF ID 10775). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$5,518,841; LDCF Project Financing: \$4,497,354; Co-financing: \$19,797,563. This project will improve the resilience of ecosystems and communities in Kiribati to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation that support biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods. This project will achieve this through: improved integrated environment and oceans governance; improved and healthy ecosystems that support biodiversity and are resilient to climate change impacts; ecosystem-based approaches for climate change adaptation and community resilience through nature-based solutions; and awareness and knowledge management. The project will support the creation of 14,000 ha of marine and 455 ha of terrestrial protected areas and the improved management of close to 40 million ha of marine protected areas. The project will also provide direct adaptation benefits to the populations of the targeted five outer islands (8,266 people), mainstream climate change adaptation in 2 policies/plans, and train 3,200 people about climate change risks and adaptation.

79. **Eritrea** - *Building Community Based Integrated and Climate Resilient Natural Resources Management and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood in the South-Eastern Escarpments and Adjacent Coastal Areas of Eritrea* (GEF ID: 10789). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$6,678,226; LDCF Project Financing: \$9,002,082; Co-financing: \$19,292,304. This multi-trust fund project is financed by the GEF Trust Fund and the LDCF. This project aims to enhance resilience of vulnerable agro-pastoralist and fishing communities along degraded landscapes/seascapes in the south-eastern escarpments and adjacent coastal areas of Eritrea through an integrated ecosystem-based and market-driven approach. The project will be focused within the Debub and Northern Red Sea Regions covering 330 villages and an estimated population of 218,015. The project is designed on four technical components: enhancing the enabling environment for adaptation, SLM/SFM, and biodiversity conservation mainstreaming in priority sectors through integrated policies, planning, and finance; promoting ecosystem-based SLM/SFM, climate change adaptation, and biodiversity conservation across the landscapes and seascape for sustainable and resilient livelihoods; scaling up adaptation technologies and innovations in selected value chains, improving market access and resilience

of supply systems; and monitoring, evaluation, communication, and knowledge transfer. The project is aligned with the NAP and LDN targets under UNCCD, its NBSAP, and the adaptation goals outlined in the NDC (2018). The project will generate adaptation and global environment benefits, including 15,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas newly created; 209,000 ha under SLM; and 1,000 hectares of marine habitats under improved practices to benefit biodiversity.

80. **Somalia - Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2Rs)** (GEF ID 10792). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$8,043,545; LDCF Project Financing: \$8,995,505; Co-financing: \$21,000,000. This multi-trust fund project is financed by the GEF Trust Fund and the LDCF. This project aims to enhance the climate resilience of poor rural households in Somalia through sustainable natural resources management. This project will focus on the following actions: improved water resources and rangelands management; eco-agriculture and climate-proofed livelihoods; forest and other habitat rehabilitation for biodiversity conservation; and improved governance and information systems to address land degradation and biodiversity loss. An innovative element of this project is the establishment of a mechanism in partnership with commercial microfinance intuitions to provide accessible lending products tailored to poor households for investing in climate resilient sustainable land management practices. The project is consistent with Somalia's INDC, and is designed to contribute to implementing the National Development Plan for 2020-2024, National Disaster Managed Policy approved in 2018, and the NAPA produced in 2013. Results expected to be generated from this project include 446,400 beneficiaries (50.7 percent female); 73,750 ha of land managed for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation (including 12,550 ha of degraded rangeland restored) and 99,200 people trained (50% female).

Enabling Activity

81. **Global. Umbrella Programme for Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and National Communications (NCs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** (GEF ID 10781). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,090,130; Co-financing: \$408,000. This EA will support eight developing countries to prepare and submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and National Communications (NCs) that comply with the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement reporting requirements and respond to their national development goals. These countries, which include two SIDS and six LDCs, are Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Zambia. Of these countries, seven have prepared and submitted their first BUR, and the eighth is expected to do so over the next few months. Even though as LDCs and SIDS, these countries are afforded additional flexibility under the enhanced transparency framework, they have chosen to embark on the preparation of their first BTR and aim to submit them by December 2024. In addition, three of the eight countries have chosen to also prepare a NC to be submitted alongside their BTR by using the BTR/NC modality. All these countries, except Zambia, have been supported by the CBIT, and the project will ensure close coordination. The umbrella program approach will streamline project approval and funds disbursement.

82. **Global, Bahamas, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, North Macedonia, Peru, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Montenegro.** *Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)* (GEF ID 10785). Agency UNEP; GEF Program Financing: \$8,007,500; Co-Financing: \$737,000. The Stockholm Convention requires Parties to update and review their National Implementation Plans (NIP) when new chemicals are added to the Convention. This non-expedited enabling activity project covering 21 countries over all GEF regions will support the development of updated NIPs covering all chemicals added up to the last Conference of the Parties at COP 9. A non-expedited approach is being taken to allow for harmonization of data collection and south-south cooperation among the countries. The project also takes advantage of the recently launched online data reporting system of the Stockholm Convention which was partially supported by the GEF. These 21 countries will be able to directly upload the data from inventories done during this NIP update as well as upload of all previous NIPs. This project will also use the technical expertise developed by the GEF and the implementing agencies in the regional centers of the BRS conventions which have been executing projects such as ISLANDS and several MIAs, NIPs and NAPs. The project will move the needle in data accuracy and will enable not only the countries and the Convention to make better decisions on the management of chemicals but will also enable the GEF in its forecasting of project needs.

83. **Nigeria.** *Enabling the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Prepare Its Fourth National Communication (4NC) and First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) to the UNFCCC* (GEF ID 10795). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,404,733; Co-financing: \$663,850. This project will support Nigeria in the preparation of its First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) combined with Fourth National Communication (4NC) to be submitted by December 2024. This project will build on the findings and recommendations from previous NCs and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) work as well as recommendations from the International Consultation and Analysis process. Nigeria's objective is to seize the opportunity to continue enhancing the quality of its reporting by building upon the preparation of the past NCs and BURs as well as other findings of previous initiatives. Key results expected from this project include: (i) a detailed review of the socio-economic and environmental situation with regard to climate change challenges; (ii) GHG inventory covering the period 2000 to 2022 in accordance with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines at the Tier 2 level; (iii) improved mitigation assessments based on socio-economic projections for mainstreaming mitigation within the low carbon development agenda; (iv) and assessment of the potential for technology transfer when adaptation and mitigation projects will be implemented; and (v) a strategy to educate and sensitize the different segments of the population towards increasing their resilience to climate change, and preparation and submission of the 4NC and the BTR1.

84. **Brazil.** *Fifth National Communication, Biennial Update Report and Biennial Transparency Reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)* (GEF ID 10801). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$7,500,000; Co-financing: \$52,536,909. This EA will support Brazil to prepare its Fifth Biennial Update Report (BUR5) to be submitted

December 2022, its Fifth National Communication (5NC) to be submitted December 2024, and its first two Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to be submitted December 2024 and 2026, as required to meet obligations under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The project will also enable Brazil to enhance available emission data, perform targeted research, and strengthen technical capacity and institutions to address both mitigation and adaptation. The project will benefit from previous EA's funded by the GEF and technical analyses of its BURs under the UNFCCC International Consultation and Analysis processes. The project will involve a wide variety of relevant stakeholders, including the Brazilian Research Network on Global Climate Change (Rede Clima) through its numerous research institutions and universities. Information reported in BTRs will be considered at a collective level as an essential input into the global stock take, leading to more robust climate action.

MSPs APPROVED SINCE THE 59TH COUNCIL MEETING

85. Fourteen MSPs were approved during the January 2021 to May 2021 time (Table 6). Total GEF financing for these projects equals \$24,914,712 with over \$138 million in co-financing for a ratio of \$1 GEF dollar being matched by \$5.5 dollars in co-financing. Eleven countries are benefiting from these MSPs with an additional 2 projects global in nature.

Table 6. List of Medium-sized Projects approved since December 2020.

GEF Project ID	Project Title	Lead Agency Name	Country Name	Focal Area	Agency Fee	GEF Financing	Co-Financing
Stand-alone one step MSPs approved							
10748	Assessment of existing and future emissions reduction from the coal sector toward the implementation of the Minamata and Stockholm Conventions	UNEP	Global	CW	\$56,430	\$594,000	\$652,000
10611	Strengthening the Palau National Marine Sanctuary for the Conservation and Management of Global Marine Biodiversity and Sustainable Fisheries	UNDP	Palau	BD	\$173,516	\$1,826,484	\$17,250,000
Child MSPs approved							
10301	Integrated, Sustainable and Low Emissions Transport in the Maldives	UNEP	Maldives	CC	\$164,371	\$1,826,339	\$4,408,484
10284	Accelerating the transition to electric public transport in the Greater Metropolitan Area of Costa Rica	UNEP	Costa Rica	CC	\$78,904	\$876,712	\$8,204,090
10277	Accelerating the Adoption of Electric Mobility in Chile	UNEP	Chile	CC	\$160,638	\$1,784,862	\$18,520,000
10266	Communications, Coordination and Knowledge Management Project	UNEP	Global	CW	\$180,000	\$2,000,000	\$10,921,550
Stand-alone two-step MSPs PIFs approved							
10757	Maintaining and Enhancing Water Yield through Land and Forest Rehabilitation (MEWLAFOR)	UNIDO	Indonesia	LD	\$168,655	\$1,775,313	\$15,530,086
10739	Accelerating the adoption and scale-up of climate-smart transport in Malaysia	UNIDO	Malaysia	CC	\$168,766	\$1,776,484	\$16,200,000

10734	Strengthening capacities in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance transparency and tracking of the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.	FAO	Congo DR	CC	\$185,250	\$1,950,000	\$105,428
10669	Strengthening institutional and technical capacities for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Bhutan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	FAO	Bhutan	CC	\$168,766	\$1,776,484	\$1,895,600
10643	Low Carbon Solutions through Nature Based Urban Development for Kutaisi City	UNEP	Georgia	MFA	\$99,770	\$1,050,230	\$12,703,800
10637	Restoration Challenge Grant Platform for Smallholders and Communities, with Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding	IUCN	Regional	LD	\$180,000	\$2,000,000	\$850,000
10627	Programme to sustainably manage and restore land and biodiversity in the Guadalquivir Basin	FAO	Bolivia	LD	\$147,726	\$1,555,012	\$12,250,000
10608	Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Cameroon's Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone	FAO	Cameroon	LD	\$190,000	\$2,000,000	\$18,717,667
TOTAL					\$2,122,792	\$22,791,920	\$138,208,705

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN THE JUNE 2021 WORK PROGRAM

Other Programs

1. **Global (Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Guinea, Mali, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Global):** Opportunities for Long-term Development of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) Sector Plus - GEF GOLD + (addendum), UNEP, CI, UNDP, UNIDO, [GEF Program Financing: \$30,485,696] [GEF ID 10802]
2. **Regional (Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe):** Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$9,000,000] [GEF ID 10786]
3. **Regional (Benin, Mali, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia):** GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$8,110,966] [GEF ID 10804]

Non-Grant Instrument

4. **Global:** IFC-GEF Hotel Green Revitalization Program (HGRP), World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$9,132,420] [GEF ID 10766]
5. **Global:** Scaling Up CRAFT: Mobilizing Private Capital to Mitigate Climate Change and Reduce Land Degradation through Resilience Investments, CI, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,000,000] [GEF ID 10765]

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

6. **Viet Nam:** Promote Wildlife Conservation and Responsible Nature Based Tourism for Sustainable Development in Vietnam, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,150,000] [GEF ID 10787]
7. **Cook Islands:** Enhancing biodiversity considerations and effective protected area management to safeguard the Cook Islands integrated ecosystems and species, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,502,968] [GEF ID 10780]
8. **Indonesia:** Strengthened Systems for Community-based Conservation of Forests and Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (CoPLI), IFAD, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,329,452] [GEF ID 10731]
9. **Mauritania:** Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,639,726] [GEF ID 10586]

Climate Change Mitigation

10. **China:** Pathways for Decarbonizing Transport towards Carbon Neutrality in China, World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$10,091,743] [GEF ID 10790]

11. **Tuvalu:** Increasing Access to Renewable Energy in Tuvalu, ADB, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,752,294] [GEF ID 10788]
12. **China:** China Energy Transition Towards Carbon Neutrality Project, World Bank [GEF Program Financing: \$17,431,193] [GEF ID 10770]

Chemicals and Waste

13. **Lebanon:** Reduction of UPOPs through Waste Management in a Circular Economy, World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$8,858,447] [GEF ID 10803]
14. **Philippines:** Reduction of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants and mercury through an environmentally-sound approach on health care wastes management in the Philippines with a special focus on the pandemic, UNIDO, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,880,000] [GEF ID 10798]

International Waters

15. **Regional (Moldova, Ukraine):** Advancing transboundary co-operation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin through implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP), UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,000,000] [GEF ID 10805]
16. **Regional (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago):** Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development (PROCARIBE+), UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$15,429,817] [GEF ID 10800]
17. **Regional (Benin, Togo):** Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono), IUCN, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,000,000] [GEF ID 10799]
18. **Regional (Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe):** GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management In SADC Member States Project Phase 2, World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,566,210] [GEF ID 10797]
19. **Regional (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu):** Pacific I2I Regional Project: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent, UNEP, ADB, [GEF Program Financing: \$15,000,000] [GEF ID 10783]
20. **Regional (Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines):** Caribbean BluEFin (Caribbean Blue Economy Financing Project), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,000,000] [GEF ID 10782]
21. **Regional (El Salvador, Honduras):** Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management, World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,000,000] [GEF ID 10778]

22. **Regional (Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine):** Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,000,000] [GEF ID 10725]

Multi-focal Area

23. **Egypt:** Greening Hurghada , UNIDO, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,889,996] [GEF ID 10796]
24. **Niue:** Robust sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors in Niue supported by biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable land management, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,502,968] [GEF ID 10769]
25. **Regional (Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, Viet Nam):** Promoting the blue economy and strengthening fisheries governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish), FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,320,794] [GEF ID 10703]
26. **Eswatini:** Restoration of ecosystems, integrated natural resource management and promotion of SLM in Mbuluzi River Basin of Eswatini, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,916,950] [GEF ID 10695]
27. **North Macedonia:** Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,713,422] [GEF ID 10676]
28. **Senegal:** Land Degradation Neutrality for biodiversity conservation, food security and resilient livelihoods in the Peanut Basin and Eastern Senegal (Dékil Souf), FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,786,073] [GEF ID 10384]

Multi-Trust Fund⁸

29. **Somalia:** Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2) – Somalia, IFAD, [GEF Program Financing: \$8,043,545] [GEF ID 10792]
30. **Eritrea:** Building Community Based Integrated and Climate Resilient Natural Resources Management and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood in the South-Eastern Escarpments and Adjacent Coastal Areas of Eritrea, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,678,226] [GEF ID 10789]
31. **Kiribati:** Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience (Securing Kiribati), IUCN, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,518,841] [GEF ID 10775]
32. **Timor Leste:** Adapting to climate change and enabling sustainable land management through productive rural communities in Timor-Leste , UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,578,536] [GEF ID 10713]

⁸ These are multi-trust fund projects. Only the GEF Trust Fund component is presented in this Work Program. The LDCF components are presented separately in the LDCF/SCCF Work Program.

Non-Expedited Enabling Activity

33. **Global (Bahamas, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominica, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Peru, Senegal, Seychelles, Uganda, Uruguay, Zimbabwe):** Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$8,007,500] [GEF ID 10785]
34. **Brazil:** Fifth National Communication, Biennial Update Report and Biennial Transparency Reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,500,000] [GEF ID 10801]
35. **Nigeria:** Enabling the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Prepare Its Fourth National Communication (4NC) and First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) to the UNFCCC, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,404,733] [GEF ID 10795]
36. **Global (Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Zambia):** Umbrella Programme for Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and National Communications (NCs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,090,130] [GEF ID 10781]

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

ANNEX A

PROJECT AND PROGRAM PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR GEF COUNCIL APPROVAL

Under the GEF Trust Fund

June 17, 2021

in US \$											
No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Impact Programs											
IP -Sub-Total						-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Programs*											
1	10802	Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of artisanal and small-scale gold mining ASGM Sector Plus - GEF GOLD + (addendum)	Chemicals and Waste	Cote d'Ivoire,Ecuador,Guinea,Mali, Nicaragua,Sierra Leone,Zambia,Global	UNEP,CI,UNDP, UNIDO	-	-	30,485,696	2,743,714	139,654,570	172,883,980
2	10786	Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)	Chemicals and Waste	Cabo Verde,Guinea-Bissau,Sao Tome and Principe,Regional	UNEP	-	-	9,000,000	810,000	23,000,000	32,810,000
3	10804	GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program	Climate Change	Benin,Mali,Niger,Sao Tome and Principe, Zambia,Regional	UNDP	-	-	8,110,966	729,986	142,962,000	151,802,952
OP - Sub-Total						-	-	47,596,662	4,283,700	305,616,570	357,496,932

Non-Grant Instrument											
4	10766	IFC-GEF Hotel Green Revitalization Program (HGRP)	Climate Change	Global	World Bank	-	-	9,132,420	867,580	802,500,000	812,500,000
5	10765	Scaling Up CRAFT: Mobilizing Private Capital to Mitigate Climate Change and Reduce Land Degradation through Resilience Investments	Multi Focal Area	Global	CI	112,000	10,080	4,000,000	360,000	41,000,000	45,482,080
NGI-Sub-total						112,000	10,080	13,132,420	1,227,580	843,500,000	857,982,080
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects											
Biodiversity											
6	10787	Promote Wildlife Conservation and Responsible Nature Based Tourism for Sustainable Development in Vietnam	Biodiversity	Viet Nam	UNDP	155,936	14,814	7,150,000	679,250	40,200,000	48,200,000
7	10780	Enhancing biodiversity considerations and effective protected area management to safeguard the Cook Islands integrated ecosystems and species	Biodiversity	Cook Islands	UNDP	150,000	14,250	3,502,968	332,782	26,787,412	30,787,412
8	10731	Strengthened Systems for Community-based Conservation of Forests and Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (CoPLI)	Biodiversity	Indonesia	IFAD	150,000	14,250	5,329,452	506,298	21,000,000	27,000,000
9	10586	Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)	Biodiversity	Mauritania	UNEP	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	16,900,000	19,900,000
BD-Sub-Total						555,936	52,814	18,622,146	1,769,104	104,887,412	125,887,412
Climate Change Mitigation											
10	10790	Pathways for Decarbonizing Transport towards Carbon Neutrality in China	Climate Change	China	World Bank	-	-	10,091,743	908,257	110,000,000	121,000,000
11	10788	Increasing Access to Renewable Energy in Tuvalu	Climate Change	Tuvalu	ADB	-	-	2,752,294	247,706	15,480,000	18,480,000
12	10770	China Energy Transition Towards Carbon Neutrality Project	Climate Change	China	World Bank	-	-	17,431,193	1,568,807	352,000,000	371,000,000
CCM-Sub-Total						-	-	30,275,230	2,724,770	477,480,000	510,480,000
Land Degradation											
LD - Sub-Total						-	-	-	-	-	-

Chemicals and Waste											
13	10803	Reduction of UPOPs through Waste Management in a Circular Economy	Chemicals and Waste	Lebanon	World Bank	273,973	26,027	8,858,447	841,552	62,000,000	71,999,999
14	10798	Reduction of unintentionally-produced persistent organic pollutants and mercury through an environmentally-sound approach on health care wastes management in the Philippines with a special focus on the pandemic	Chemicals and Waste	Philippines	UNIDO	150,000	14,250	4,880,000	463,600	34,700,000	40,207,850
CW - Sub-Total						423,973	40,277	13,738,447	1,305,152	96,700,000	112,207,849
International Waters											
15	10805	Advancing transboundary co-operation and Integrated Water Resources Management in the Dniester River Basin through implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)	International Waters	Moldova,Ukraine,Regional	UNDP	150,000	14,250	6,000,000	570,000	30,100,000	36,834,250
16	10800	Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development (PROCARIBE+)	International Waters	Antigua and Barbuda,Bahamas,Belize, Colombia,Costa Rica,Cuba,Dominican Republic,Guatemala,Guyana,Honduras,Jamaica,Panama,St. Kitts and Nevis,St. Lucia,Suriname,Trinidad and Tobago,Regional	UNDP	350,000	31,500	15,429,817	1,388,683	129,822,647	147,022,647
17	10799	Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono)	International Waters	Benin,Togo,Regional	IUCN	150,000	13,500	5,000,000	450,000	39,350,000	44,963,500

18	10797	GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management In SADC Member States Project Phase 2	International Waters	Comoros,Eswatini,Lesotho, Madagascar,Malawi,Mauritius,Mozambique,Namibia, Seychelles,South Africa,Tanzania,Zambia,Zimbabwe,Regional	World Bank	-	-	4,566,210	433,790	35,000,000	40,000,000
19	10783	Pacific I2I Regional Project: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent	International Waters	Cook Islands,Fiji,Kiribati,Marshall Islands,Micronesia,Nauru, Niue,Palau,Papua New Guinea,Samoa,Solomon Islands,Tonga,Tuvalu, Vanuatu,Regional	UNEP,ADB	300,000	27,000	15,000,000	1,350,000	129,576,233	146,253,233
20	10782	Caribbean BluEFin (Caribbean Blue Economy Financing Project)	International Waters	Bahamas,Dominican Republic,Grenada,St. Lucia,St. Vincent and Grenadines,Regional	UNEP	150,000	14,250	6,000,000	570,000	43,427,990	50,162,240
21	10778	Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management	International Waters	El Salvador,Honduras,Regional	World Bank	136,986	13,014	5,000,000	475,000	35,000,000	40,625,000
22	10725	Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME	International Waters	Georgia,Turkey,Ukraine, Regional	UNDP	150,000	14,250	3,000,000	285,000	13,500,000	16,949,250
IW - Sub-Total						1,386,986	127,764	59,996,027	5,522,473	455,776,870	522,810,120

Multi-focal Area											
23	10796	Greening Hurghada	Multi Focal Area	Egypt	UNIDO						
24	10769	Robust sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors in Niue supported by biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable land management	Multi Focal Area	Niue	UNEP	150,000	14,250	3,889,996	369,549	22,000,000	26,423,795
						150,000	14,250	3,502,968	332,782	20,216,167	24,216,167
25	10703	Promoting the blue economy and strengthening fisheries governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (GoTFish)	Multi Focal Area	Cambodia,Malaysia, Thailand,Viet Nam,Regional	FAO	196,465	2,804	7,320,794	681,502	118,458,645	126,660,210
26	10695	Restoration of ecosystems, integrated natural resource management and promotion of SLM in Mbuluzi River Basin of Eswatini	Multi Focal Area	Eswatini	UNEP	150,000	14,250	3,916,950	372,063	25,768,500	30,221,763
27	10676	Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia	Multi Focal Area	North Macedonia	UNEP	100,000	9,499	3,713,422	344,474	14,100,000	18,267,395
28	10384	Land Degradation Neutrality for biodiversity conservation, food security and resilient livelihoods in the Peanut Basin and Eastern Senegal (Dékil Souf)	Multi Focal Area	Senegal	FAO	150,000	14,250	5,786,073	549,677	32,800,000	39,300,000
MFA - Sub-Total						896,466	85,163	28,136,232	2,664,592	233,343,312	265,125,765
Multi-Trust Fund											
29	10792	Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2) - Somalia	Multi Focal Area	Somalia	IFAD	121,593	10,943	8,043,545	723,919	5,901,222	14,801,222
30	10789	Building Community Based Integrated and Climate Resilient Natural Resources Management and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood in the South-Eastern Escarpments and Adjacent Coastal Areas of Eritrea	Multi Focal Area	Eritrea	FAO	127,770	11,499	6,678,226	601,041	9,092,304	16,510,840
31	10775	Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience (Securing Kiribati)	Multi Focal Area	Kiribati	IUCN	110,198	9,918	5,518,841	496,696	9,797,563	15,933,216
32	10713	Adapting to climate change and enabling sustainable land management through productive rural communities in Timor-Leste	Multi Focal Area	Timor Leste	UNEP	74,432	7,071	3,578,536	339,961	6,860,000	10,860,000
MTF - Sub-Total						433,993	39,431	23,819,148	2,161,617	31,651,089	58,105,278

Small Grants Programme

						SGP - Sub-Total					
						-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-expedited Enabling Activity											
33	10785	Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	Chemicals and Waste	Bahamas,Bolivia,Bosnia-Herzegovina,Burundi,Cambodia,Cameroon,Cote d'Ivoire,Dominica,Gambia,Georgia,Guinea,Kenya, Madagascar, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Peru,Senegal,Seychelles,Uganda,Uruguay,Zimbabwe,Global	UNEP	-	-	8,007,500	760,712	737,000	9,505,212
34	10801	Fifth National Communication, Biennial Update Report and Biennial Transparency Reports to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Climate Change	Brazil	UNDP	-	-	7,500,000	712,500	52,536,909	60,749,409
35	10795	Enabling the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Prepare Its Fourth National Communication (4NC) and First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1) to the UNFCCC	Climate Change	Nigeria	UNDP	-	-	2,404,733	228,449	663,850	3,297,032
36	10781	Umbrella Programme for Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and National Communications (NCs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Climate Change	Antigua and Barbuda,Cambodia,Lao PDR,Liberia,Malawi,Maldives,Mauritania,Zambia,Global	UNEP	-	-	4,090,130	388,562	408,000	4,886,692

EA - Sub-Total	-	-	22,002,363	2,090,223	54,345,759	78,438,345
GRAND TOTAL	3,809,354	339,669	257,312,646	23,734,666	2,603,301,012	2,888,497,346

* Program 10802 is an addendum to program 10569 which was approved by Council in its June 2020 meeting. Therefore, program addendum 10802 in its entirety will be merged into program 10569 upon Council approval of the June 2021 Work Program

* Program 10786 is an addendum to program 10185 which was approved by Council in its June 2019 meeting. Therefore, program addendum 10786 in its entirety will be merged into program 10185 upon Council approval of the June 2021 Work Program

* Program 10804 is an addendum to program 10413 which was approved by Council in its December 2019 meeting. Therefore, program addendum 10804 in its entirety will be merged into program 10413 upon Council approval of the June 2021 Work Program

ANNEX II. COVID-19 SCREENS FOR PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE WORK PROGRAM

Project ID: 10384

Project Title: Land Degradation Neutrality for biodiversity conservation, food security and resilient livelihoods in the Peanut Basin and Eastern Senegal (Dékil Souf)

Agency: FAO

Country: Senegal

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The Covid-19 pandemic is taking a heavy toll on Senegal's economy with real GDP growth projected by the IMF in September to contract by 0.7 percent this year, reflecting the larger-than-anticipated disruptions in economic activity stemming from the pandemic and strict containment measures. Despite mitigation measures put in place by the Government, rising Covid-19 cases are deteriorating food insecurity levels and the economy. Prior to the Covid 19 outbreak, the number of food insecure people was projected to peak at about 766,000 during the lean season between June and August 2020, well above the 341,000 food insecure people that were estimated in the same period of 2019. The impacts of the pandemic have been found to vary significantly across regions. The availability of and access to basic cereals (rice, millet, maize) and other basic necessities (oil, sugar, fish, meat, milk) has mostly been disrupted for rural households in areas where the movement of goods and people is usually very dense, notably the central-western part of the Peanut basin (between Thiès and Touba) and the eastern part of the country (around Tambacounda and Kédougou). In addition, significant negative effects of Covid-19 on food consumption patterns have been identified, with the majority of rural households being affected in both the quantity (62%) and quality (70%) of their food consumptions patterns. Senegal has responded with containment measures and a comprehensive economic stimulus plan (PRES) to protect lives and livelihoods. However, limited fiscal buffers and safety nets, a vulnerable healthcare system, and a large informal sector pose challenge. The IMF projects a gradual recovery in 2021 with the economic output to rebound back to above 5 percent, boosted in part by favorable prospects for agriculture.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project intervention logic considers resilience in a comprehensive way, and therefore addresses food sovereignty, rural poverty and livelihood opportunities. It also makes use of approaches, such

as the farmer field school approach, that have proven successful over the past few months, providing extension services despite containment restrictions, and easily and promptly addressing health related concerns so they do not become social, economic and environmental crises. To overcome concerns in mobilizing the technical expertise to support project design and implementation, the project will work with the excellent technical expertise available nationally, and prioritize work with locally rooted (CSOs, NGOs, government institutes, extension services, ...) organizations and realities in order to minimize the impacts of limitations on mobility at the national and international level. Technological alternatives to face-to-face consultations will be deployed, securing proper participation and engagement of all relevant stakeholder groups, including women and youth. Government priorities have been defined, and agriculture and livestock are key sectors. It is therefore unlikely that re-orientation of financing is going to materialize in the coming biennium. Still, should it become difficult to secure co-financing, the project will deliver evidence and increase its sensitization and awareness raising and capacity development efforts under component 4 in order to advocate for continued support to green and resilient recovery.

Project ID: 10586

Project Title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)

Agency: UNEP

Country: Mauritania

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

While COVID-19 has substantively restricted stakeholder engagement during PIF preparation, the strategies and mechanisms of project design and implementation will remain flexible and be adapted to the evolution of the COVID-19 situation in the country, particularly as related to availability of technical expertise and capacity and changes in timelines, stakeholder engagement process, enabling environment, population migration and livelihood declines. The project has been designed to leverage partnerships with organizations mainly located in Mauritania, which reduces the dependency on international travel. Part of the project outputs can also be delivered remotely via on-line tools, and some of the project activities can be reasonably delayed until restrictions are over in the framework of adaptive management and later fast-tracked for implementation. The project relies in good part on eco-tourism development but plans to develop local tourism around the festivals and cultural importance of the ancient villages in the targeted Wilaya to mitigate COVID-19 impacts on international tourism. Loss of co-financing would primarily affect the scale of operations of the project, causing the project to work with a smaller number of communities. It would not prevent the project from building on the planned investments by the Government, development partners, private sector or the Decree towards creation of the protected area or its management arrangements.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project will contribute to a green recovery by directly supporting about 1,775 households with biodiversity conservation-friendly alternative income generating activities. It will further explore during PPG alternative opportunities and mitigation strategies to the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the best practice that can be applied to the local context to promote private sector investments towards conservation and eco and scientific tourism.

Project ID: 10676

Project Title: Biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and sustainable tourism development in North Macedonia

Agency: UNEP

Country: North Macedonia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The team will implement actions that protect human health and also for cost-saving reasons, most of the stakeholders' meetings will be conducted virtually using different online tools. In case of inevitable face-to-face/in-person meetings, the project will adhere to the standardized measures of protection to reduce infections risks (social distancing, masks, disinfectants). Analytic work, capacity development and production of knowledge management materials will be conducted (as much as possible) as desk work, in virtually connected teams or in small groups of people/participants to reduce COVID-19 infection risks. As the project is in its initial development stage, and its technical implementation start is expected in late 2022, all the risks that the project may face by COVID-19 protection measures will be elaborated/redesigned in detail during the PPG phase.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

COVID-19 is having a serious and long-term impact on the economy, society and vulnerable groups, for North Macedonia and its regional Western Balkans neighbors. However, at the same time, the current COVID crisis has stimulated a recognition that fundamental changes in approaches to natural resource use, economy, and sustainability are increasingly urgent and that the situation presents a unique opportunity to initiate such changes i.e. the Green Recovery opportunity. Though North Macedonia has no specific Green Recovery plans in place it is a party to the EU Green Deal initiative for the Western Balkans. The summit in Sofia in November 2020 was an important step taken to advance the regional cooperation and boost socio-economic recovery and convergence with the EU, where the leaders have also committed to the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. Being part of the region, North Macedonia will receive support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, seen as a stimulus to be used as a green recovery post-COVID-19. This project has the potential to be a valuable contributor to this process and should benefit from the greater willingness to consider transformative change and the opportunities this provides in terms of meaningful uptake and absorption of new conceptual approaches to future sustainable development.

Project ID: 10695

Project Title: Restoration of ecosystems, integrated water resource management and promotion of sustainable agricultural production systems in the Mbuluzi River Basin of Eswatini.

Agency: UNEP

Country: Eswatini

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

As of 30 October 2020, Eswatini has had 5,929 total cases of COVID-19 since the start of the epidemic, 117 COVID-19 related deaths and 5,657 recoveries. Although Eswatini has low cases of the as compared to other countries, the global economic slowdown will have an economic impact on it. Under such conditions, the government is expected to focus public resources on rebuilding the economy. This might affect the co-financing of the project and the ability of the project to deliver on the GEBs. Potential impacts on the commitment of co-financiers and partners will be assessed in detail during the PPG phase to develop adequate risk mitigation actions. The COVID-19 poses risks for all aspects of PIF concept and CEO endorsement packages. COVID 19 Restrictions of movement and holding meetings may make it difficult for the project development team to have adequate stakeholder engagement that will be fully inclusive. Limited capacity and experience for remote work and online interactions as well as limited remote data and information access and processing capacities to overcome COVID19 challenges.

- 3. Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The government will recruit enough well knowledgeable consultants at national level to finalize the PPG on time. The government will also allow UNEP to recruit the international consultant with the right expertise to work on the PPG. The government of Eswatini has procured and installed enough infrastructure in its offices for remote meetings. The government of Eswatini has eased movement within the country and so stakeholder meetings will be conducted a in small groups of people. The project will comply with government directives to reduce health risks to project staff and stakeholders. Project start up could be delayed if necessary due to ongoing health risks and operational constraints caused by social distancing and other measures. Implementation may be paused if necessary, in affected areas while government disease prevention or control measures are implemented and resumed if feasible. The Project Steering Committee will guide project responses through email correspondence for ongoing situations, as required. Revision of the project workplan may be necessary, and an extension request may be required if implementation is substantially delayed. If possible, project support for PPE and IT communications to facilitate remote working will be sought.

Project ID: 10703

Project Title: Promoting the blue economy and strengthening fisheries governance of the Gulf of Thailand through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.

Agency: FAO

Country: Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, Viet Nam

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

Regarding COVID19, initial assessments by FAO and SEAFDEC indicate that IUU fishing activities during the COVID-19 in Gulf of Thailand are stable or decreasing. This situation is because the government enforcement and management measures have not been affected significantly so far. Reduced access to fishing labor and lower market demands due to economic downturn means there have also not been significant increases in fishing efforts nor IUU. The project current design will help address the impact of IUU fishing (due to COVID-19 secondary impacts, and other causes), so it will be even more important to enhance fisheries management measures in the four GoT countries. During PPG phase, the longer term COVID-19 impacts on fisheries and livelihoods will be considered in terms of how they will be addressed in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The FAO and SEAFDEC assessments indicate that COVID19 has led to stable or decreasing IUU fishing activities. This situation provides an opportunity for setting in place regulations and enforcement mechanisms that ensure this trend continues during recovery. This aspect will be considered during PPG when the longer term COVID-19 impacts on fisheries and livelihoods will be further investigated.

Country: Timor Leste

Project Title: Adapting to climate change and enabling sustainable land management through productive rural communities

Project ID: 10713

Agency: UNEP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

In light of the risks to project preparation and implementation, mitigation measures include: i) meetings and workshops will take place in outdoor spaces, with social distancing and hygiene measures applied; ii) meetings and workshops will be organized in smaller groups, with a larger number of events such that all stakeholders are engaged and that the same total number of beneficiaries are reached; iii) physical meetings may be replaced with virtual meetings (via Skype, Zoom or an similar platform); iv) capacity building and training may be conducted via videos, online training modules, webinars, and/or podcasts; and v) protective equipment will be provided to all implementing partners and beneficiaries and full access to sanitation points will be ensured. Should national or international travel restrictions be implemented as part of Government COVID-19 regulations, virtual consultations, workshops, and training can be organized.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project has a strong economic growth dimension integrated into the design, specifically in Component 3 where 2,200 ha of unsustainably managed farms will be transformed to climate-resilient and profitable agroforestry systems for growing cocoa and other agri-business commodities. The project design is based on evidence that SLM programs can be sustained and scaled up if marginalized rural communities living in those landscapes are uplifted economically. Transforming the agricultural sector to bring higher returns to farmers as well as land use planning that protects forests while delivering ecosystem benefits to the communities will prevent zoonotic diseases from occurring in the project watersheds. The proposed project will respond to COVID-19 by proactively integrating COVID-19 into training activities focused on the CRIWDPs, This will include specific training materials on water management, sanitation, hygiene, and human resilience against zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19. By raising awareness among stakeholders about the linkages between ecosystem resilience and human resilience to COVID-19, the project will build momentum for implementing and scaling up climate-resilient agricultural interventions as well as contribute to global green economic growth and sustainability efforts.

Project ID: 10725

Project Title: Implementing Ecosystem Based Management approaches in the Black Sea LME

Agency: UNDP

Country: Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

COVID-19 poses a short-medium term risk to the project execution and the project will develop a stakeholder and communication strategy that will describe alternative methods of communications and meetings (e.g. internet) when travel/social contact is not permitted. The project will also assess the longer-term impacts of any on-going COVID restrictions on e.g. sustainability or changes in working practice during project implementation. During the project implementation the Project Manager will be guided by national, regional and UN information on COVID-19 and precautions that are required (for project staff, consultants and national stakeholders).

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The green build back better agenda is being considered by Ukraine and Georgia largely through their interest in the EU Green Deal, publicly availed in December 2019. Mainstreaming of these issues in the project countries is being ensured through the current update of the EU association agreements (started in February 2021), and the Eastern Partnership (stated in June 2020, to be planned in details in the upcoming summit in spring 2021). Ukraine announced aligning its commitment to join the EU Green Deal in January 2020. Such strong political commitments strengthen the projects aim and objectives; moreover, authorities' interest in this topic (other than environment and water ones) is highly relevant and important, as it contributes to ensuring an even stronger country ownership of the Project results.

Project ID: 10731

Project Title: Strengthened Systems for Community-based Conservation of Forests and Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (CoPLI)

Agency: IFAD

Country: Indonesia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

COVID-19 poses several risks to the project including impacts on human resources and delays implementation of travel, workshops and capacity building activities. The project will: conduct COVID19-related risk analysis to inform project design and implementation mitigate the potential effects of COVID-19 (e.g., challenges for stakeholder engagement and mobility) and opportunity (e.g., reductions in habitat fragmentation); adopt COVID-19 mitigation measures (e.g., for managing travel, workshops etc.) in line with GOI policies and procedures; and given strict restrictions of movement resulting from COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia, a full stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during PPG to be implemented throughout the project cycle and undertake full and meaningful consultations and stakeholder participation for all the Project components. The SEP will include a comprehensive stakeholder identification and analysis.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

A key consideration in the selection, design and support of project-supported diversified community livelihoods will be to identify opportunities promoting increased resilience in the production systems to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has been shown to impact food production in Indonesia due to the decrease in purchasing power and food supply chains not being able to run normally. In line with Indonesia's post-COVID recovery activities, under project at least 20,000 smallholders will directly benefit from improved capacity on biodiversity-friendly on-farm and off-farm livelihoods through training/demonstration plots (with at least 40% women beneficiaries; and at least 25% beneficiaries are COVID-19 affected/vulnerable populations).

Project ID: 10765

Project Title: Scaling Up CRAFT: Mobilizing Private Capital to Mitigate Climate Change and Reduce Land Degradation through Resilience Investments

Agency: Conservation International

Country: Global

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significant impact on fundraising for private equity funds. The pandemic risk is already visible, one-in-five investors are expected to make fewer commitments than their original 2020 plans and 12% reducing average size of commitment. COVID-19 has also caused capital flight from developing countries more than during the Global Financial Crisis. The widespread health crisis may adversely affect commercial activity, economies and financial markets globally, which may in turn negatively impact the fund's fundraising efforts, liquidity, hiring, performance of portfolio companies, ability to pursue acquisitions and access to equity capital markets for potential and existing investments. COVID-19 pandemic, executing entity, Lightsmith completed its first investment, added two additional team members and secured \$30M. It will maintain pipeline with promising, near-term investment opportunities including digital mapping company that has grown revenues by ~10% through the pandemic and seek investments with the ability to generate GEBs and financial returns, screening each investment for COVID-19 related risks.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project will invest in various climate resilient technologies that will generate both adaptation benefits and GEBs. COVID-19 has increased the consciousness on the need to build back better and to invest in resilience. This fund is first of its kind since its very essence is to invest in solutions that deliver both adaptation and mitigation benefits. Since the technologies increase the recipient's resilience while delivering climate mitigation and sustainable land use solutions, it will respond to enhanced vulnerabilities created by the pandemic.

Project ID: 10766

Project Title: IFC-GEF Hotel Green Revitalization Program (HGRP)

Agency: WB-IFC

Country: Global

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The project beneficiaries will be in the tourism industry, more precisely in the SME hotels who have been hard hit by the pandemic and whose recovery from COVID-19 pandemic remains uncertain. If the economic situation does not improve, or the downturn lasts longer than expected, the portfolio is likely to be more at risk given the high sector concentration. Effective eligibility criteria based on pre-COVID financials would be in place to ensure the portfolio's ability to recover and some diversification by type and size of hotels (SMEs). Since the delivery of GEBs is linked to investments in energy efficiency and green retrofitting with well established tools (EDGE), the risk of not achieving the estimated results is low.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project was specifically designed to support the SME hotel industry 'build back greener'. The project will offer a comprehensive low-carbon solution specifically for SME hotels affected by COVID-19 pandemic through local financial intermediaries. Necessary upgrades for SME hotels present a unique opportunity to pair a counter-cyclical COVID response solution with build-back-better sustainable and invest in green retrofit solutions. Improvements vital for business economic survival in a post-COVID era, such as improved ventilation and contactless entry, overlap with those that would also enhance energy efficiency, lower operational costs and reduce carbon emissions. In many cases, these COVID-driven upgrades and green retrofits can be done simultaneously. A list of the eligible technologies is provided in the Pro Doc.

Project ID: 10769

Project Title: Robust sustainable tourism and agriculture sectors in Niue supported by biodiversity mainstreaming and sustainable land management

Agency: UNEP

Country: Niue

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

The inception phase of the project will focus on strengthening the enabling environment and laying the basis for interventions on the ground. This will allow some buffer time for tourism to resume after the start of the project. The project will assess the socio, economic and environmental impacts of COVID-19 in Niue to draw lessons which will be disseminated to guide policy development and measures to mitigate the effects of future economic shocks and speed up recovery. The co-financing comes from other projects which are likely to continue even if COVID-19 is still has an impact at the start of the project. To achieve the objective of the project, the PPG team as well as the project management unit of the project during implementation will apply the necessary measures to adapt to COVID19 restrictions as appropriate. Niue has not had any COVID-19 cases and no deaths have been recorded in the country. With this in mind and following the experience gained since the outbreak of the pandemic, in order to protect human health and also for cost-saving reasons, national stakeholders' meetings will be undertaken if the situation continues but any international expertise on the development or implementation of the project will be provided through written means and/or online meetings via the internet. The scenario will obviously change should any in-country cases be recorded. The project design also incorporates a recognition that resilience is linked to the diversity of land uses and livelihoods and that over-dependence on any one option brings risks (as demonstrated currently in terms of tourism during the pandemic). The project will form an integral part of the 'green recovery' post-COVID and increase the resilience of the island country against future pandemic outbreaks. Should the current restriction of travel in the Pacific region continue for longer than the PPG period, the project will be adapted to focus more on the SLM components and effective management of the Huvalu Forest Conservation Area and possibly the Moana Mahu Marine Protected Area as the tourism sector will not have a major negative impact on the biodiversity in such a scenario. However, this is not anticipated at this stage.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

First, the project will complete a comprehensive assessment of the social, economic and environmental impacts, both direct and indirect, of the COVID-19 pandemic on Niue's tourism and agriculture sectors. The assessment and its results will be used to part of the green recovery of Niue related to the impacts of COVID-19. The strategy and plan will assist in building a more sustainable tourism sector and play a part in the green recovery of Niue post-COVID. The project will develop policies and mechanisms to implement financing solutions and economic incentives to support agricultural and tourism development, improve value chains scale-up and build resilience to downturns and shocks, while conserving biological diversity and ecosystem services (Output 1.1.5). Output 1.1.5 will also lead to increase resilience in the agricultural and tourism sectors in the green recovery of Niue post-COVID. Outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 will lead to more resilience in the agricultural sector, include livelihood benefits and green jobs, and food security, as part of the green recovery of Niue post-COVID. Under output 2.1.6, farmers and small businesses will be capacitated and supported to develop and pilot business plans and revenue generation models to access and test the sustainable financing solutions developed under Component 1. The project will review the extensive work done by USAID on Conservation Enterprise to guide the approach. Lessons learned will be recorded and shared for scaling-up. This will lead to resilience in the sector and form part of the green recovery of Niue post-COVID.

Project ID: 10770

Project Title: China Energy Transition Towards Carbon Neutrality Project

Agency: World Bank

Country: China

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

In China, the key impacts of Covid-19 include not only causing economy recession, but also preventing people from working and communicating effectively. It may cause delays in both the project preparation and implementation. To cope with it, the World Bank has developed and used information technologies that have facilitated communications effectively. Due to the government strict control borders and regulations on mandatory uses of masks and social distances, there have been very few COVID-19 cases in China over the past few months. The impact of COVID-19 has been decreasing even with full opening of business in China. Per the most recent report by China Weekly Briefing on April 26, 2021, China reported 11 newly confirmed cases, all imported from abroad (3 cases in Yunnan, 2 cases in Shanghai, 2 cases in Sichuan, 1 case in Jiangsu, 1 case in Fujian, 1 case in Guangdong, and 1 case in Shaanxi). There were 18 new cases of asymptomatic infection (all imported cases from abroad). 325 cases of asymptomatic infection were still under medical observation (314 cases imported from abroad). Zero death was reported.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

In China, Covid-19 has brought opportunities to increase people's awareness in protecting our planet, saving natural resources, and promoting energy transition from fossil fuel-based systems towards clean and zero carbon energy systems. As such, more parties including commercial banks and the private investors are interesting the GEF project which will likely end up with more co-financing for the project, and larger scope of scaling up of the GEF project all over China.

Project ID: 10775

Project Title: Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience (Securing Kiribati)

Agency: IUCN

Country: Kiribati

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

COVID is not mentioned significantly in the project documents because COVID has had limited impacts in Kiribati. They closed their borders in February 2020 and anticipate keeping them closed until 2022, which has meant that they have had no COVID cases. Kiribati has very little tourism in normal circumstances, so it has not represented a significant downturn for the economy other than broader global economic changes. It is difficult to say when borders will reopen. The result is that international consultants or staff are not able to visit Kiribati. Developing a full ProDoc may require a hybrid approach with consultants in Kiribati and internationally and will rely on virtual meetings. It is anticipated that travel will ease once the full project will be in 2023.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

None identified.

Project ID: 10778

Project Title: Gulf of Fonseca Transboundary Management

Agency: IBRD

Countries: El Salvador, Honduras

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

Virtual and telework meetings will follow WHO guidelines for meetings in person during project preparation and implementation. and hiring of the local professional staff for data collection, assessment, and communication. These tools will also be used to produce detailed stakeholder analysis and assessment of potential. Pilot investments/subprojects to address economic and livelihoods, supporting sustainable methods of aquaculture, tourism

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

Lots of opportunities exists wo increase awareness of the extent of environmental issues, climate change and zoonosis and impacts on economic development of the region.

Project ID: 10780

Project Title: Enhancing biodiversity considerations and effective protected area management to safeguard the Cook Islands integrated ecosystems and species

Agency: UNDP

Country: Cook Islands

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

Covid-19 has had significant economic and social impact on the Cook Islands as a SIDS country. To date, Cook Islands Government has shown strong leadership in monitoring and responding the pandemic, with zero cases in the Cook Islands and resilience demonstrated by the Cook Islands people. Pandemic may restrict project activities in some ways due to changes in regular travel, shipping, etc. and these should be considered in the project design and implementation approach.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

Adaptive management can be applied to continue project activities through innovative solutions. Project will assist Government in supporting economic recovery efforts through private sector engagement in project activities, as well as establishing diversified sustainable financing mechanisms for continued support to BD and PA conservation outside of traditional government budget allocations. During PPG, livelihood assessments will be conducted in consultation with communities taking full account of COVID-19 related impacts and risks. Project will promote diversified livelihoods linked to green-blue economy rather than over-rely on tourism. Project livelihoods approach will seek to align with broader government planning and economic recovery processes. For potential support to build tourism-related livelihoods, project approaches will align with UNWTO guidelines and processes for tourism recovery and resilience. Tourism will be considered as only one part/option of a diversified, resilient portfolio of livelihood options.

Project ID: 10782

Project Title: Caribbean BluEFin (Caribbean Blue Economy Financing Project)

Agency: UNEP

Countries: Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

COVID-19 protocol measures and restrictions may limit travel and meeting opportunities. This is expected to be reduced over time as most countries have begun the roll-out of vaccinations. Assuming some time for the Project Planning process, and then inception this risk may be greatly reduced for Project Implementation. During the PPG phase, online and Zoom interactions are not ideal but should suffice as there is not much physical infrastructure to be observed. CBF and UNEP will work to support as needed and, Caribbean and Latin American-based personnel will be targeted. The PIF was formulated during the pandemic and the sources of funding had not demonstrated an effect from the health crisis. The Project Planning process will also consider the reality of the current status of baseline data for the project.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project plans to demonstrate to the private sector interests as they are recovering that the program should incorporate sustainability considerations and finance mechanism ideas that become a win-win for their relaunching. While travel is limited, stakeholder online access has been greatly enhanced. It is anticipated that the roll-out and requests for stakeholder consultations can reach a wider audience - unlimited by room size, or flight costs or limitations. Access to data and the need to design access and storage for gathering and collating information. Partners' and beneficiaries' more regular online access can lead to reproducible social media posts and articles with case studies can be produced/generated.

Project ID: 10783

Project Title: Pacific I2I Regional Project: Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth - The Voyage to a Blue Economy for the Blue Pacific Continent

Agency: UNEP & ADB

Countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

The restrictions on travel is expected to be reduced over time as most countries have begun the roll-out of vaccinations. Assuming some time for the Project planning process, and then inception this risk may be greatly reduced for Project Implementation. During the PPG phase, online and Zoom interactions are not ideal but should suffice. SPREP, UNEP and ADB will scale up their support as needed and the recruitment of local/regional staff to support project formulation will be favored. The project development will benefit from the SPREP, UNEP, ADB and countries combined skills for operating in virtual spaces, through Zoom and other platforms. Further, project preparation efforts can be a mix of virtual meetings, emails and calls. Finally, the SPREP and IAs regional offices will provide useful hubs for the outreach in each country to assist in national level information, baseline research and regional coordination. For the private sector interactions - It is likely that one-to-one socially distanced key meetings will take place as well as online meetings. By June 2022, face to face interaction is expected to be possible for what would therefore be the majority of the project. The PIF was formulated during the pandemic and the sources of funding had not demonstrated an effect from the health crisis. Further, the Project Planning process will also consider the reality of the current status of baseline data for the project.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project plans to demonstrate to the private sector interests as they are recovering that the project should incorporate sustainability considerations and finance mechanism ideas that become a win-win for their relaunching.

Project ID: 10786

Project Title: Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in SIDS (ISLANDS)

Agency: UNEP

Country: Regional, Cabo Verde, Guinea- Bissau, Sao Tomé and Príncipe

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

This project benefits from the experience of the last 13 months during which the CEO endorsements of ISLANDS child projects were developed. The majority of work was done via online platforms and consultations, with the use of national consultants to do in-country preparatory work, where practical in the local context. The same plan will be followed for the preparatory work in this new child proposal.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

This project will work together with the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and tourism operators to identify opportunities to support the 'One Planet Vision' for a responsible recovery of the tourism sector. In particular, activities will be developed for the management of plastic waste and e-waste coming from Cabo Verde's and Sao Tomé & Príncipe's significant and growing tourism sectors. Reduced tourism waste will release pressure on the local waste management sectors and ensure GEBs can still be met despite the possibility of a post-COVID surge in tourism. Finally, as tourism-dependent islands are looking for other economic opportunities, there is an increased incentive to recycle that this project will support.

Project ID: 10787

Project Title: Promote Wildlife Conservation and Responsible Nature Based Tourism for Sustainable Development in Vietnam

Agency: UNDP

Country: Viet Nam

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

Covid-19 and other potential zoonotic disease outbreaks could pose serious difficulties for the project, including: (i) impacts on effective project implementation and socio-economic hardships; (ii) disruptions to the international tourism market and local market causing economic hardship and loss of employment; (iii) acceleration of resource exploitation due to economic disruptions in other livelihoods as a result of reduced demand for certain products and services.

During the PPG stage, an assessment of the social and economic impacts of ongoing Covid-19 (particular if the infection rates that are currently low, do increase significantly) on vulnerable populations (including ethnic minorities) will be undertaken, hotspots will be mapped and plans will be developed to respond to and ensure income recovery for affected vulnerable populations and target specific livelihood interventions to facilitate such recovery as well as improving awareness of risks of zoonotic diseases. Additionally, there is a possibility of delays in project start-up on account of shift in government fiscal priorities. This can be further compounded by limited availability of remote means of communication at the project sites. This would necessitate some adjustment and innovative means of project management to adapt to changing situations.

Specific recommendations for management and mitigation of impacts of COVID-19 include: Given the remoteness of target protected areas, including areas where ethnic minorities are predominant, communities are not equipped with remote means of communication. The project will look at options to use local NGOs, local community mobilizers and local staff to carry out consultations, fieldwork and local level planning. If COVID-19 safety concerns prevail, national and local health protocols will be adhered to including during outreach to vulnerable groups, such as use of masks, hand sanitizer, and social distancing, ensuring communities decide whether they are comfortable with participating given the COVID-19 context. In terms of tourism, an assessment will be made in relation to the potential for recovery of the tourism market and identify specific disease risk mitigation/prevention measures that are needed to promote post-pandemic recovery. Of relevance is the effort to promote green job recovery, including promoting domestic travelers to these destinations until the situation improves.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project provides the following opportunities to increase resilience, build back greener and decrease risk of future zoonotic spillover: 1.) Promotion of a focused approach to ensure more sustainable use of protected area (PA) resources, coupled with alternative tourism based “green” opportunities, as well as promotion of value chains that are related to tourism that can increase livelihoods to reduce poaching and consumption of wild meat (that can be a risk for new zoonotic outbreaks); 2.) Improving the ecological conditions and services provided by these tourist destinations, by promotion of sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism, and others that can enhance the diversity of livelihoods and hence help vulnerable communities to better cope with future disease outbreaks; 3.) Reduction of pollution, improvement in waste management, and increase environmentally friendly hotel and other tourist related enterprise actions to enhance the environmental quality and improve the general health of the biodiversity in these PAs and the tourist experiences; 4.) The enhancement of participation of local communities in nature-based tourism activities that are linked to improved management of the natural environment, reduction of illegal harvest of wildlife and trade (by provision of alternative sources of income linked to nature-based tourism) can help build community institutional capacity and enhance their overall ability to promote a more sustainable approach to resource management, enhance local ownership and success and hence the inherent capacity of the community to better deal with crises; and 5.) Enhanced PPPs that can facilitate capacity building and a better understanding of the links between wildlife and zoonotic disease outbreaks and potentially mitigate the risk.

Project ID: 10788

Project Title: Increasing Access to Renewable Energy in Tuvalu

Agency: ADB

Country: Tuvalu

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

Since September 2020, no commercial flights to/from Tuvalu and the country's borders have been allowed for any non-nationals/residents. Arrivals/departures from Tuvalu are highly regulated. This strict measure has successfully controlled COVID-19 in Tuvalu. From January 3, 2020 – April 27, 2021, 0 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 0 deaths in Tuvalu have been reported to the World Health Organization. It was during the period time that the ADB designed this project by means of effective telecommunications. However, this situation may prevent ADB professionals from working on-site in the country for a period of time, which may delay the time schedule of project implementation. Fortunately, on April 8, 2021, Tuvalu, having received 4,800 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, became the fifth country in the Pacific islands to get COVID-19 vaccine doses that were shipped via the COVAX Facility, a partnership of the WHO. The Department of Health in Tuvalu is targeting frontline staff in line with global recommendations. This will include frontline healthcare workers, frontline officers in law enforcement, border protection and quarantine staff, as well as international travelers. With further wide vaccination in Tuvalu, ADB professionals will soon be able to visit the country, implement the GEF project on ground, and deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The GEF/ADB project will likely offer a few opportunities that are related to post COVID-19 recovery. These include (i) identifying pathways in Tuvalu towards building green recovery, carbon neutrality, and overall resilience to prevent future pandemics; (ii) exploring linkages with the emerging private sector on Tuvalu; (iii) defining possibilities for mutual supports between the project and country stakeholders of post-COVID green recovery/resilience strategies; and (iv) substituting transportation with information technologies in communications and service delivery that will significantly reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption.

Project ID: 10789

Project Title: Building community based integrated and climate resilient natural resources management and enhancing sustainable livelihood in the south-easter escarpments and adjacent coastal areas of Eritrea.

Agency: FAO

Country: Eritrea

- 1. Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

As of April 2021, Eritrea was currently experiencing a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that is aggressive and rapidly spreading across the country. This may result in reduced financial (co-financing) support from Government and development partners, due to limited overall funding availability resulting from the COVID-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID. Thorough discussion with co-financiers (including government) during the PPG stage the team will seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas. Also, we expect potential reduced involvement by Governments and other partnership actors in project activities during PPG stage. This will be reviewed and potential adjustment of implementation and partnership arrangements in the short and medium term.

- 2. Opportunity analysis:** (Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.)

It is anticipated that the project scope will help to support the Government's response to COVID-19 through its focus food security, increased productivity and agribusiness development for vulnerable communities in areas already impacted by environmental degradation and climate risks and hazards. However, project activities will be further discussed with the Government to ensure that emerging priorities and responses, as result of the pandemic's evolution, are well reflected in the project's target areas. Moreover, the project is designed to address and alleviate the current exposure of rural Eritreans to natural resource risks, including those related to climate change, drought and food insecurity. Each of the project activities is directed to take an integrated approach to these issues, shifting current unsustainable management/production regimes to sustainable management/production. This includes enhancing the ability of highland producers to move away from current unsustainable crops to more integrated cropping patterns the provide cash and food security through farmstead diversification. This will directly alleviate impacts related to climate change and, particularly, water scarcity. Likewise, similar approaches will be applied to fisheries and livestock sectors. The project will assist producers to approach these sectors using practices

designed to improve marine and land scape management and production to enhance climate change resilience, reduce drought exposure, and improve long-term food security. In addition, the project's final results framework to be designed during the PPG will integrate these specific natural resource risks. This will include monitoring progress against improvements to climate change resilience/ adaptation, exposure to drought risks, and improvements to food security and nutrition.

Project ID: 10790

Project Title: Pathways for Decarbonizing Transport towards Carbon Neutrality in China

Agency: World Bank

Country: China

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

In China, the key impacts of Covid-19 include causing economy recession and preventing people from working and communicating effectively as well. During the preparation of the Project, COVID-19 has caused some problems of communication indeed. To deal with this issue, the Project Team has employed various IT solutions and innovative project monitoring tools. Due to the government strict control borders and regulations on mandatory uses of masks and social distances, there have been very few COVID-19 cases in China over the past few months. The impact of COVID-19 has been decreasing even with full opening of business in China. During the development and implementation of the project, the Bank will make good use the accumulated experience under unpredictable environment, take advantage of decreased COVID-19 cases and ensure effective development and implementation of the project.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

Transport ridership in China has plummeted during the pandemic, both due to the imposed restrictions and travelers' preference to use individual modes for safety and health reasons. This would therefore be critical for new zero-carbon mobility solutions under the project to factor in the public health and safety consideration in designing of vehicles and operation, to maintain the public's trust and confidence in public transport systems and ensure the Project's impacts. In addition, the pandemic also accelerated the trends towards remote- and flexible-work, which resulted in less travels and may have permanent effects on carbon emission in the transport sector

Project ID: 10792

Project Title: Adaptive agriculture and rangeland rehabilitation projet (A2R2) Somlia

Agency: IFAD

Country: Somalia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

Through the year 2020, fewer than 27,000 SARS-CoV-2 detection PCR tests have been conducted in Somalia. Considering its population of more than 15 million people, this represents one of the lowest rates in the world. Activities will be designed and implemented to ensure the protection of participants and project staff from the spread of COVID-19 and support the government’s response efforts. The full project document will feature a contingency plan in the event of COVID outbreaks. This may cause postponement or remote undertaking of certain activities, shifting project locations and/or local partnerships to ensure the safe delivery of project outputs. Outreach efforts will be coordinated with public health authorities and/or with health-related projects active in the area. This will contribute to achieve multiple objectives in a cost-efficient manner (e.g. project staff may facilitate the distribution of public health posters, supplies, etc. in target communities). All project activities are designed and will be implemented to ensure the protection of participants and project staff from the spread of COVID-19, to raise awareness of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices as well as risks of wild animal consumption. Training and community mobilization activities in the field (that can’t be undertaken remotely) will be organized outdoors wherever possible and feature public health messages on disease spread prevention, alongside those contents specific to the project’s core technical objectives. Seating of participants will ensure physical distancing and protective supplies will be made available (infrared thermometers, masks, hydro-alcoholic gel). If food is provided, it will be prepared according to strict preventive protocols and served in individual packets (i.e. no “buffet-style” arrangements).

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

Project components are inherently aligned with the overall objective of stimulating a “green recovery” following the COVID-19 crisis. Also, the project considers the One Health Approach. Increased climate change-induced drought and flooding, and higher temperature have resulted in a higher risk of human-wildlife conflicts and an outbreak of zoonotic disease in Somalia. To address

the potential risks, the project will provide a regionally tailored, sustainable approach to manage rangelands and forests by providing training to pastoralist community organizations, establishing strengthened coordination mechanisms on natural resource management at federal, national and local levels, and supporting the development and implementation of sustainable pasture management plans, which will take into account specific measures to minimize human, and wildlife conflict. The project will also contribute to reducing the risk and incidence of infectious diseases through various habitat restoration activities enhancing biodiversity.

Project ID: 10796

Project Title: Greening Hurghada

Agency: UNIDO

Country: Egypt

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The tourism sector remains one of most vulnerable sectors to COVID-19, due to travel restrictions and social distancing requirements. The risks connected with COVID-19 which have been identified at project design stage include (i) the likely reduced availability of co-financing resources, (ii) the risk of delays in project implementation and (iii) potential changes in the priorities of stakeholders due to the ongoing economic and social challenges connected to the pandemic or its consequences. As an initial risk mitigation strategy, the development team has indicated that a specific and more complete analysis will be carried during the PPG stage. The analysis will identify the most appropriate ways to carry out project implementation by using safety measures, including by increased use of remote meeting technologies for training and consultation processes, and the increased focus on preventive precautionary protocols. These measures will have to be designed in consideration of the local circumstances of the involved stakeholders (including access to fast-speed internet and videoconferencing, as needed. Adequate consideration of possible delays will be factored in the project implementation timeline, and the risk of possible shift in government priorities will be carefully taken into account and monitored through close consultation with the Government (both local and central) through the further stages of project development.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The opportunities on the national economic recovery mechanisms are incorporated into project design. The project is aligned with Egypt's recovery policies giving particular focus on supporting the suffering tourism sector. The project will target the financial support packages dedicated to tourism sector (e.g., Central Bank of Egypt's stimulus package) to mobilize additional co-financing to steer the investments towards achieving more global environment benefits. Another opportunity which has been identified at the design stage is to assist local touristic enterprises, such as accommodation structures, to plan for and finance the retrofitting of buildings and facilities with modern and energy efficient design, as coupled with investments done to introduce safety protocols and infrastructure

that are required to increase customer's confidence in a post-pandemic world (contactless entrance, separation panels at reception desks, improved air filtering, etc., as a preparation to the uptake of tourism after the pandemic.

Project ID: 10797

Project Title: GEF Sustainable Groundwater Management In SADC Member States Project Phase 2

Agency: IBRD

Countries: Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana, Congo DR, Mauritius

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Southern Africa's economic growth had been projected to recover from an estimated 0.7 percent in 2019 to 2.1 percent in 2020.[3] Recent estimates show that this projection is expected to slow down, and the region is predicted to shed off approximately 7 to 9 percentage points.[4] The COVID-19 pandemic and its associated public health and economic consequences have highlighted the stark realities regarding inequality in the access to potable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and water for livelihoods. Food insecurity is expected to increase dramatically because of currencies weakening, rising staple food prices, and disruptions to agri-food supply chains. All these factors present a particular threat to the poor in Southern Africa and impose a significant burden on women, not only in terms of the disease itself but also in the loss of labor productivity, increasing vulnerability and decreasing resilience to other social and environmental stressors. During the execution of activities such as the installation of boreholes, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring of groundwater levels under component 3, community health risks may include exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore the SADC-GMI will be required to determine the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 during these activities and put the necessary prevention and mitigation measures in place in line with the Bank guidelines.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

Groundwater can play a key role in improving water security. It is a key source of reliable and safe water, which, in turn, allows improved hygiene practice and provides effective mitigation against the spreading of diseases, including COVID-19. It is estimated that over 70 percent of the 345 million people living in the SADC region rely on groundwater as their primary source of water.

Project ID: 10798

Project Title: Reduction of unintentionally produced persistent organic pollutants and mercury through an environmentally-sound approach on healthcare wastes management in the Philippines with a special focus on the pandemic

Agency: UNIDO

Country: Philippines

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The PIF identified the risk that lockdown and relevant COVID-19 restrictions will hinder the planned activities. The Agency is already implementing projects in the Philippines in the current situation, and the executing entities have already established proper measures to sustain activities in a safe way during the pandemic. The project will be implemented in three different environments: In the community (households, public areas); in healthcare facilities; and In project management environment (office space, meetings, workshops, etc.) For each type of environment, a different and specific approach to reduce the risk of infection from handling healthcare wastes will be adopted.

- In the community, the safety will be enhanced mostly through awareness raising campaigns. This will entail the publishing and broadcasting of guidance to explain how the virus can be inactivated (heat, disinfectant), the main procedures to be followed to manage the risk from inappropriate use of chemicals, etc, as well as practical demonstration of risk-management measures. The material to be used for the awareness campaign will be mostly on existing official guidance documents like *“Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19- WHO Interim guidance, July 2020”*
- Healthcare facilities have already in place procedures for the protection of healthcare staff and patients from the health risk arising from contact with patients from the management of healthcare waste, out of which the COVID-19 wastes represent only one of the potential infectious waste. During training for trainer events these measures will be assessed, improved if needed, and demonstrated by practical examples. The project will conduct inspection of the management of medical waste in the participating healthcare facilities to ensure that the risk is properly controlled. The deployment of waste disinfection equipment and of the delivery of training will further enhance the safety of the project activities.
- As far as the activities to be carried out in the project management environment, although some impacts have been observed during the first stage of the pandemic, the Agency’s project management has currently adapted to the situation and the new modality of

arrangements. Noticeably, the current situations allow for workers to reach workplaces. Proper measures will be undertaken to ensure that the infection risk for all the project participant will be reduced at the minimum possible level by adopting all the mandatory risk management measures. For project activities, all the people involved will be adequately equipped with the necessary PPEs especially during face-to-face encounters and other activities involving physical presence. To limit the number of participants as prescribed in social distancing protocols, activities that will require physical presence will be executed multiple times if needed. Open-air facilities will be arranged when needed in order to facilitate flow of air. As best possible, online activities will be preferred.

The PIF also identified the risks that changes in orders/regulations relating to COVID-19 may alter how to treat medical wastes, and increased patients may change the priority of healthcare wastes of the government or the healthcare sector. It is envisaged that the current situation will alter the views and strategy of the government on the management of healthcare waste generated in public and private healthcare facilities and at households. The project intends to take the opportunity to work side by side with the government to ensure that the change will be strategic and not only guided by the emergency, but properly planned with a circular and long-term perspective.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

COVID-19 has intensified the usage of health-related products such as health and laboratory supplies, PPEs, medical device, and sanitation products. The country is working with the Agency to increase the capacity for the local manufacturing of PPEs which will also need to take into account circularity and end-of-life strategies that will mitigate impacts to climate and the environment. The project can also look at approaches that will minimize the usage of health and laboratory supplies including, for instance, the identification of syringes with increased delivery efficiency. The project will also take the opportunity to collaborate with the government to address the increasing concern of PPEs entering the municipal waste stream and into the oceans. Working from home modality and online meetings (virtual modality), if properly managed and integrated with the traditional modality of work, will represent an opportunity for the future development of large metropolis like Manila. They will help in reducing traffic pollution, noise, and road accidents. Virtual modality will not decrease after COVID-19 and will have to be used appropriately without depriving people from the needed social exchange. A well-balanced virtual and physical interaction needs to be integrated in our daily lives.

Project ID: 10799

Project Title: Regional Initiative for Water and Environment in the transboundary basin of the Mono River (RIWE-Mono)

Agency: IUCN

Country: Benin, Togo

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The Mono Basin Authority is developing a COVID management plan which will consider the potential risks to rolling out project activities, in particular the contamination issue of rural areas that are so far less affected than urban centers in both countries. This plan will also include accompanying considerations for budget allocation needs for COVID-19 testing and travel requirements.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

Due to limited access for online working in certain parts of the basin, alternative methods to conducting research is being considered and reviewed. Further development of this plan will be undertaken in the PPG phase, by which time the two countries will have further COVID-19 related information (i.e. more information on vaccine roll out and potential government spending changes) to better inform strategies to mitigate the related risks to project implementation. Overall, project support towards the development of a Climate Investment Plan will advance the green build back better agenda via the implementation of sustainable development activities in critical sectors in the basin, including agriculture, water resources management, energy generation and supply. The expected endorsement of the SAP will ensure a long-term framework for the further development of key sectors, while securing the ecological integrity of the shared basin.

Project ID: 10800

Project Title: Protecting and Restoring the Ocean’s natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue socio-Economic development (PROCARIBE+)

Agency: UNDP

Countries: Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

Key staff will adhere to COVID infection prevention measures, to minimize risks; project activities to the extent possible undertaken in such a way as to reduce/eliminate risk for infection as a consequence of project execution and following bio-security protocols; sound knowledge transfer & management. UNOPS commitment to occupational health and safety and social and environmental aspects across all its projects and facilities is outlined in the UNOPS Policy on HSSE management. Through a number of interventions, the project will also seek to increase the resilience of local coastal communities to natural disasters by for example providing opportunities to improve their livelihoods and restore the natural capital of certain key areas. This is anticipated to help reduce the overall risk of certain communities during climate-related disasters. Countries may also request a change in project activities due to shifting priorities. The project will use flexible approaches while reaching out to countries and partners for feedback and include a clear structure and timeline on when input will be needed. In cases where delays/lengthier timeframes cannot be avoided, the project will also seek to consider, to the extent possible, such likely delays when setting its ambitions, and when determining time frames within which information and feedback is to be obtained. The concept of adaptive management will be embraced.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The project will take advantage of the new opportunities generated (and successfully demonstrated during the pandemic) through the use of online tools to reach-out in cost-effective ways to more stakeholders for consultations, improve outreach targets and use innovative ways to develop local capacities and increase overall levels of engagement and buy-in. The project will greatly benefit from the use of virtual platforms which will allow for continued engagement for the consolidation of the ocean coordination mechanism (Component 1) and an increased dissemination of all data/knowledge management products developed (Component 4), and for overall project

governance and progress tracking. Improved online methods and infrastructure for data-sharing will also support the coordinated development of the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies report. Many countries may wish to restructure their national priorities and economic sectors for COVID recovery. This can lead to an increased focus on the sustainable Blue Economy. The project will therefore work with participating countries during the PPG to fine-tune project investments in ocean-related sectors with a view to align priorities and promote investments that will support post-covid recovery, climate change considerations and sustainable socio- economic development.

Project ID: 10802

Project Title: Global Opportunities for Long-term Development of artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) Sector Plus - GEF GOLD + (addendum)

Agency: Conservation International

Country: Global

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

COVID-19 has presented many challenges for the planetGOLD program. Active projects have been delayed due to government mandated shutdowns and limited access to project sites. Projects in development have also been impacted by shutdowns which has delayed inception workshops as well as site selection activities. ASGM supply chains have also been impacted by COVID19. Restrictions of movement in country has made it difficult for miners to sell their gold to their usual buyers. Refiner's operations halted in early 2020, which caused an initial drop of the price of gold at many sites (less demand, less buyers). Prices recovered in some areas due to the activation of informal supply chains, including refining in non LBMA (London Bullion Market Association)-certified refiners in third countries. Most refiners have restarted operations, but the impacts of COVID-19 are still causing problems today.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

Even though there have been associated challenges with COVID-19, there have also been opportunities. Implementing and executing agencies have adapted by hosting virtual inception workshops, virtually engaging partners on the ground and focusing efforts on project components that can be completed remotely. The time spent in preparation to return to field activities has contributed to increased planning and strategy around project outcomes. Once COVID restrictions are alleviated, there will be opportunities for in-person engagement such as aforementioned global fora, site visits, topical and regional workshops, etc. COVID implications will continue to be monitored throughout development and implementation to ensure that risks are being considered and adaptive measures are in place.

Project ID: 10803

Project Title: Reduction of UPOPs through Waste Management in a Circular Economy

Agency: World Bank

Country: Lebanon

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

COVID-19 Risk. According to the “GEF Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics”, the COVID-19 risks of availability of technical expertise and capacity and change in timeline and enabling environment are considered low, as MOE is fully committed to the proposed project which is fully in line with the country’s priorities on SWM and has strong technical staff to work with the Bank team. The COVID-19 risks of stakeholder engagement process and co-financing are considered moderate, as MOE has good data and information that are needed to shape the PCN and the Litani River lending project which is the main co-financing source to the GEF project. If the project concept is approved in June 2021, the project will prepare a COVID-19 risk mitigation plan for project preparation to manage a possible re-instatement of COVID-19 containment measures, including approaches for managing change in capacity, personnel shifts, limited capacity and experience for remote work and online interactions, change in project preparation timelines, mobility and stakeholder engagement process, financing needs, and price increase in procurement for PPG activities.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

This project will also complement the short-and medium-term interventions proposed by the Beirut Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment after the August 4, 2020 massive explosion of a chemicals storage facility and align with the WBG COVID-19 response approach – Pillar 3 “Ensuring Sustainable Business Growth and Job Creation” and Pillar 4 “Rebuilding Better for Resilient, Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery” – through supporting long-term planning and action plans on prevention and management of municipal solid waste and hazardous waste, therefore, contributing to the country’s green and resilient recovery in the post-COVID-19 era. This project will contribute to building the circular economy as a pathway for Lebanon’s green growth and sustainable development in post COVID-19 era, as the project will promote circular solutions to reduce unsustainable resource extraction and environmental degradation, specifically through demonstrations in selected areas to minimize waste and promote sustainable business practices including green chemistry, extended producer responsibility and green public procurement.

Project ID: 10804

Project Title: GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program

Agency: UNDP

Country: Regional (Benin, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Zambia)

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of reliable and affordable access to electricity for enabling essential health service delivery¹, and underpinning the ability of communities to abide by social-distancing measures and overcome the disruption to economic activity¹. Also, over the medium to long term, access to affordable, clean energy will be crucial to support economic recovery. Not only are investments in off-grid renewable energy important levers to create jobs and generate financial savings but increasing energy access for the most vulnerable population creates opportunities for local economic development that enhance resilience to shocks and crises. Over the long term, access to clean energy reduces pressure on ecosystems and may contribute to reducing the likelihood and spread of zoonotic diseases. Substantial health and socio-economic impacts on AMP participating countries have been documented and described in the national child project Concepts. Government's efforts to promote faster and sustainable growth have been hindered by the coronavirus pandemic. Hard-earned development gains stand to be reversed with existing inequalities, in particular unemployment, poverty and food insecurity - which disproportionately affect women and the youth - exacerbated by the crisis. These impacts are likely to increase the level of energy poverty in these countries; the IEA estimates that across Africa, COVID-19 has pushed 30 million people back into energy poverty. Increased energy poverty can jeopardize response and recovery efforts, including vaccination efforts that are essential to containing the virus and transitioning to a recovery pathway.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The multidimensional COVID-19 crisis creates opportunities for the AMP national child projects to mitigate country- and project-level impacts, to contribute toward green recovery and building back better, and also to leverage global responses to COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

Project ID: 10805

Project Title: Advancing transboundary cooperation and integrated water resources management in the Dniester River Basin through implementation of the strategic Action Programme (SAP).

Agency: UNDP

Country: Moldova, Ukraine

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Briefly describe how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate

COVID-19 poses a short-medium term risk to the project execution and the project will develop a stakeholder and communication strategy that will describe alternative, virtual methods of communications and meetings when travel/social contact is not permitted. The presently on-going foundational project has a good experience from applying these alternative methods and adjusting to changing circumstances imposed by COVID-19 pandemic. The project will assess the longer-term impacts of any on-going COVID restrictions on e.g. sustainability or changes in working practice during project implementation.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.

The build back green agenda is being considered by the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine largely through their interest in the EU Green Deal, publicly unveiled in December 2019. Mainstreaming of these issues in the two project countries is being ensured through the current update of the EU association agreements (started in February 2021), and the Eastern Partnership (started in June 2020, to be planned in details in the upcoming summit in spring 2021). Ukraine announced aligning its commitment to join the EU Green Deal in January 2020. Such strong political commitments strengthen the project aim and objectives; moreover, authorities' interest in this topic (other than environment and water ones) is highly relevant and important, as it contributes to ensuring an even stronger country ownership of the Project results. The SAP implementation, including the pilot activities will naturally fit in the narrow window of opportunities of the global trend of greening the national and local economy in the Dniester river basin, by offering an efficient long-term framework for action, as well as by effectively aligning development needs with ecosystem integrity, as outlined in the SAP. Furthermore, the timing of the initiation of SAP implementation overlaps with the need for change of government/institutional priorities in the midst of a COVID-resource restricted scenario, which will provide an initial best practice example on how building back greener can be further considered and replicated in other areas and sectors.