



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.61/06

November 8, 2021

61st GEF Council Meeting

December 6 - 10, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 07

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR GEF TRUST FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C.61/06, Work Program for GEF Trust Fund, approves the Work Program comprising 25 projects and 1 program, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 7, 2022.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$190.7 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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DECEMBER 21 WORK PROGRAM OF THE GEF TRUST FUND IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

1. The GEF Partnership continues to work without interruption since the start of the pandemic. The Secretariat continues to be in close contact with agencies and responds to demands for some flexibility in the workflow as needed. Hence the Secretariat is able to present another quality December 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. As has been the case for the past 1.5 years, all project reviews 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. Many adaptive practices are now mainstreamed in project preparation. These include: 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; and 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.
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 December 2021 Work Program, 37 projects and 1 program were considered eligible¹ for review and consideration. Additionally, 2 NGI project concepts were assessed as part of the 5th Call for Proposals.

Table 1. Pipeline of Projects and Programs Considered for the December 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	37	25 (68%)	0 (0%)	1 (0%)	11 (30%)
PFD	1	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NGI	2	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%) ³	0 (0%)

8. More than 68% (25 PIFs) of the 37 eligible projects were technically cleared by the review deadline and were included in the Work Program. Eleven projects (30%) 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 June 2022 council meeting which will be the last Work Program of the GEF-7 cycle.

9. The single program that was submitted was cleared and is included in the Work Program. The program represents an important priority for the Chemicals and Waste focal area and will deal with agricultural chemicals and their management.

10. Two NGI concepts were submitted and reviewed as part of the call for proposals. Of these, one project was deemed viable, and fitting of the criteria included in the call for proposals, and hence is included for consideration by the Council in the Work Program. The other project did not meet the NGI program criteria for impact, innovation and technical soundness and is 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 December 2021 Work Program

Total Number of Projects not Ready for Technical Clearance	Focal Area					
	BD	LD	CC	IW	CW	MFA
11	0	1	2	4	1	3

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAM

11. The December 2021 Work Program presented here contains 26 programs and projects and is requesting a total of \$190.7 million 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 any resources from the LDCF Trust Fund as there we no Multi-Trust Fund Projects included in both Work Programs.

12. The December 2021 Work Program, the seventh in the GEF-7 cycle, represents the penultimate work program of the 7th replenishment. There has been excellent progress on all programming fronts, with 87% 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. The Work Program contains one important program for Chemicals and Waste that will deal with agricultural chemicals management and removal.

14. The Work Program also includes one project from the 5th Call for Proposals of the NonGrant Instrument (NGI) window for blended finance, seeking funding of \$6.5 million.

15. 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 close to 65% of the total for December Work Program.

16. Many projects in this Work Program will contribute directly to a blue and green recovery. Examples of such investments include the support to work in Cabo Verde to use nature-based solutions to enhance food and nutrition security, improved livelihoods, and resilience in communities hard hit by the pandemic.

17. If approved, a total of \$61.0 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 \$44.7 million from the International Waters (IW) and \$78.4

million from the Chemicals and Waste focal areas. Finally, the Work Program also contains \$6.5 million from the NGI allocation in GEF-7.

18. If approved, 43 recipient countries will benefit from GEF support, including 10 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 16 Small Island Developing states (SIDS).

19. The proposed Work Program is estimated to deliver results on all 10 core indicators and benefit more than 25 million local people in project areas.

20. 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

21. The Work Program presented here is requesting a total of \$190.7 million 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 any resources from the LDCF Trust Fund.

Table 3. GEF Resources Requested in the December 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	26.4	2.5	28.9	15.2%
Climate Change	8.2	0.8	9.0	4.7%
Land Degradation	21.2	2.0	23.2	12.1%
International Waters	40.9	3.8	44.7	23.4%
Chemicals and Waste	71.9	6.5	78.4	41.1%
NGI	6.0	0.5	6.5	3.4%
Small Grants Program	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Total	174.6	16.1	190.7	100.0%

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.

22. Chemicals and Waste and International Waters are the focal areas with the highest proportion of resources being programmed in this Work Program (41 % and 23% respectively). This is followed by Biodiversity and Land Degradation with over 15% and 12% respectively. Finally, resources programmed for Climate Change are slightly less than 5% and for NGI less than 4% of this Work Program.

23. The 26 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.

24. The five focal areas are represented by 26 programs and projects (excluding NGI) as described here:

- The Biodiversity focal area resources amount to \$28.9 million. These are programmed in three single focal area projects, and six multi-focal area projects. Examples of BD focal area projects include the mainstreaming of biodiversity and improving the financing in 2 production landscape in India, to improving the management and financing of terrestrial and marine biodiversity in Cabo Verde.
- Climate Change Mitigation is represented by three single focal area for a total of \$9.0 million of the focal area resources. One such investment will focus on accelerating the transition towards 100% renewable electricity generation and 100% high energy efficiency public buildings in Saint Kitts and Nevis.
- The Land Degradation focal area is represented by two single focal area projects and six multi-focal area projects for a total of \$23.2 million. One example of these projects will aim to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) through sustainable ecosystem-based management and restoration of degraded landscapes across agricultural, forest, and pastoral lands in India.
- A total of \$78.4 million has been allocated from the Chemicals and Waste focal area to four single focal area projects and one program. Investments in this focal area will include making significant changes on waste management practices and the emissions of uncontrolled POPs and other substances in the healthcare sector in Egypt. The global program on agricultural chemical management (FARM) represents the last big Chemicals and Waste focal area priority of the GEF-7 cycle to be presented to council.
- The International Waters focal area utilizes \$44.7 million and is represented by six single focal area and two multi-focal area projects. The Work Program includes one investment, for example, that will focus on reducing bycatch and discards in the fishing sector, and therefore reducing the adverse effects of fishing on habitats in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME).

25. The NGI Program is submitting one NGI project to the Council as part of this Work Program. The project was selected during the fifth competitive call for proposals in which the GEF Secretariat evaluated two new proposals requesting total financing of US\$ 13.4 M. The

proposed project is highly innovative as it seeks to mobilize private sector resources through the issuance of two green bonds for sustainable land use and conservation in the capital markets of Peru and Ecuador. The financing is part of a broader and coordinated effort between several stakeholders including local governments, several GEF agencies, financial intermediaries, and other private sector actors to address both the financing and technical capacity barriers that prevent small holder farmers' adoption of sustainable agricultural practices that support the conservation of biodiversity in prioritized territories of the Dry Forests in Ecuador and Peru.

STATUS ON THE USE OF GEF-7 RESOURCES

26. 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)

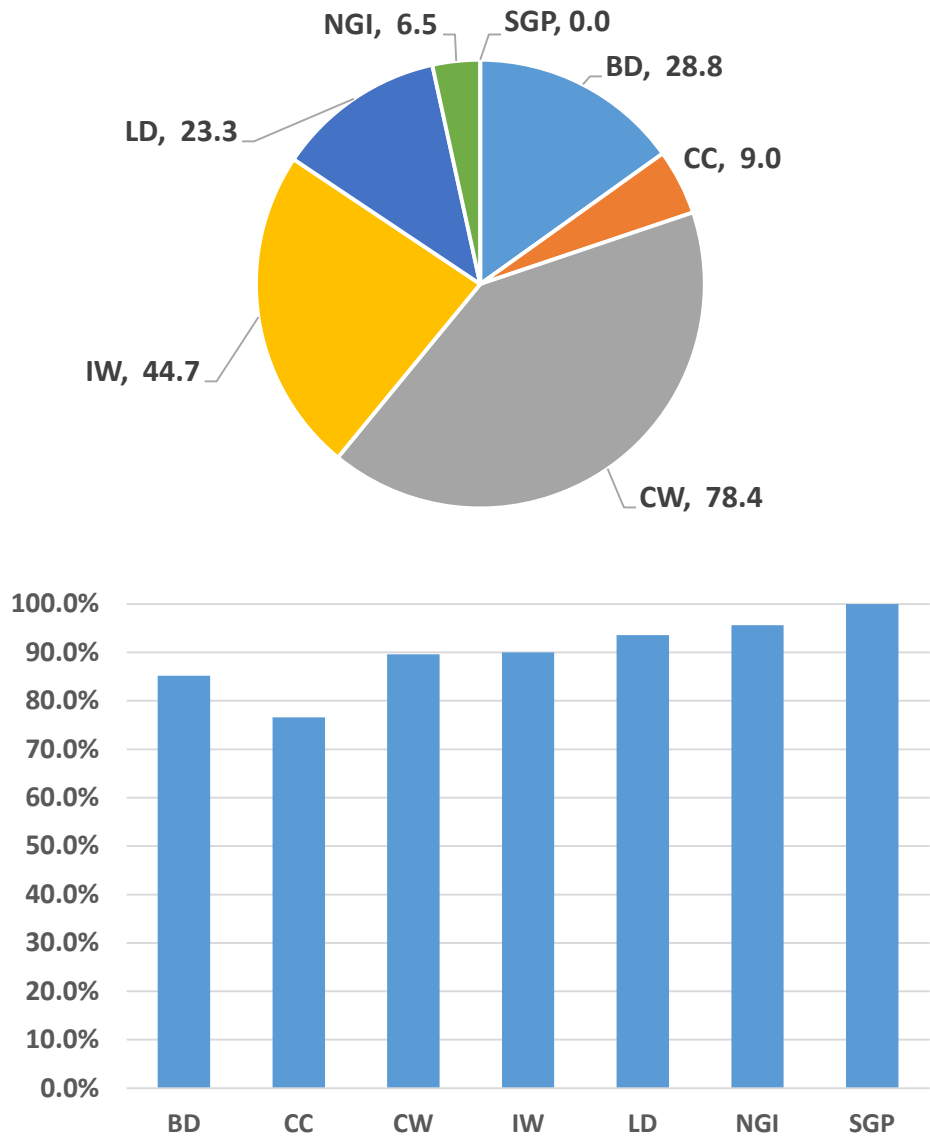
GEF-7 Focal Area/Theme	Target Allocations in GEF-7 Amount (\$ million)	Resources Requested for December 2021 Work Program (\$ million)	Total GEF-7 Resources Programmed (including this Work Program) (\$ million)	Percent of Original Focal Area Target Allocation in GEF-7
Biodiversity	1,292	28.8	1,101.5	85.2%
Climate Change	802	9.0	614.3	76.6%
Land Degradation	475	23.2	445.5	93.6%
Chemicals and Waste	599	78.4	537.6	89.6%
International Waters	463	44.7	417.9	90.0%
Non-Grant Instruments	136	6.5	130.6	95.6%
Small Grants Program	128	0.0	128.0	100.0%
Total Resources Programmed⁶	3,895	190.7	3,375.5	86.7%

27. Overall, 87% of GEF-7 resources have been programmed at the 87% timeline mark in GEF-7 (Table 4, Figure 1). If this Work Program is approved as presented, all Focal Areas, except Climate Change, will be at or ahead of the timeline with programming ranging from 85% for Biodiversity to close to 94% for Land Degradation. Over 95% of the NGI funding allocation would also have been programmed, as well as the totality of the GEF-7 core SGP allocation.

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.

28. Thirteen recipient countries requested a total of \$61.0 million (inclusive of fees) from their respective country STAR allocations for projects and programs addressing objectives of the Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Land Degradation focal areas.

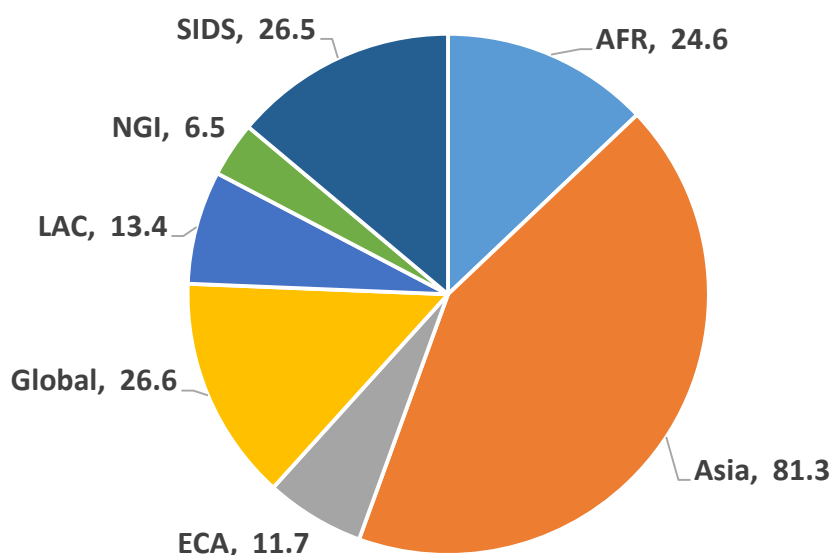
Figure 1. Top: Resources Programmed under GEF-7 by Focal Area in the December 2021 Work Program. Bottom: % of Focal Area Resources Programmed to Date Against GEF-7 Allocations including December 2021 Work Program (in million \$)



DISTRIBUTION OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION

29. The regional distribution of GEF financing in this proposed Work Program is shown in Figure 2. In all, 43 recipient countries will benefit from this Work Program, including 10 LDCs and 16 SIDS. Asia leads programming in this Work Program with \$81.3 million programmed. Africa and SIDS follow with \$24.6 million and \$26.5 million, respectively. Finally, ECA and LAC follow with smaller amounts programmed (\$11.7 million and \$13.4 million). The remaining resources programmed are for global projects (\$26.6) and for NGI (\$6.5).

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



DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY AGENCY

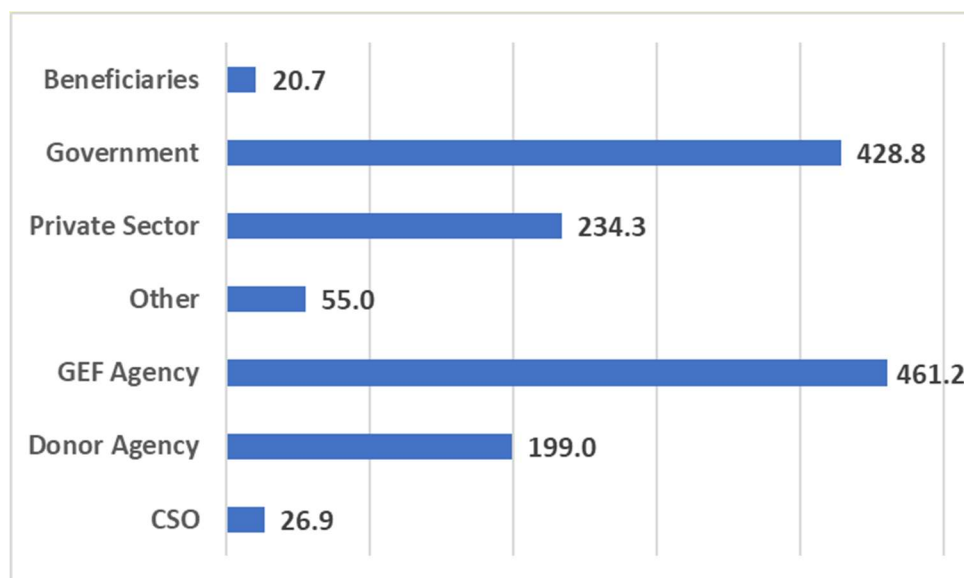
30. Eight of the 18 GEF Agencies are represented in the December 2021 Work Program (Table 5). UNDP has the highest proportion of resources programmed (39.7%), followed by UNEP and the World Bank each with 16.8%. The remaining 27% was split among the remaining five agencies with projects in this Work 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 December 2021 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date (including December 2021 Work Program)

Agency	Resources Requested in December 2021 Work Program Including Fees		Total GEF-7 Resources Inclusive of December 2021 Including Fees	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	13.0	6.8%	50.7	1.5%
AfDB	0.0	0.0%	45.9	1.4%
BOAD	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
CAF	6.5	3.4%	29.6	0.9%
CI	0.0	0.0%	165.4	4.9%
DBSA	0.0	0.0%	5.1	0.2%
EBRD	0.0	0.0%	36.5	1.1%
FAO	14.9	7.8%	508.1	15.1%
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	0.9%
IFAD	0.0	0.0%	42.0	1.2%
IUCN	5.7	3.0%	94.1	2.8%
UNDP	75.8	39.7%	1,063.7	31.5%
UNEP	32.1	16.9%	538.0	15.9%
UNIDO	10.6	5.5%	154.9	4.6%
World Bank	32.1	16.8%	543.9	16.1%
WWF-US	0.0	0.0%	65.4	1.9%
Totals	190.7	100.0%	3,375.5	100.0%

31. The Work Program totals \$ 1.4 billion of expected co-financing, or a ratio of 1:8.2. In terms of the type of co-financing, the “investment mobilized” co-financing category represents \$1.1 billion (79%) of the total co-financing, or an overall co-financing ratio of “investment mobilized” of 1:5.8 for the Work Program. The distribution by co-financier shows most co-financing coming from governments, and GEF agencies, followed by the private sector and donor agencies (Figure 3).

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



RESULTS AND IMPACT FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

32. The proposed Work Program will deliver an 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 marine protected areas and the reduction of chemicals of global concern.

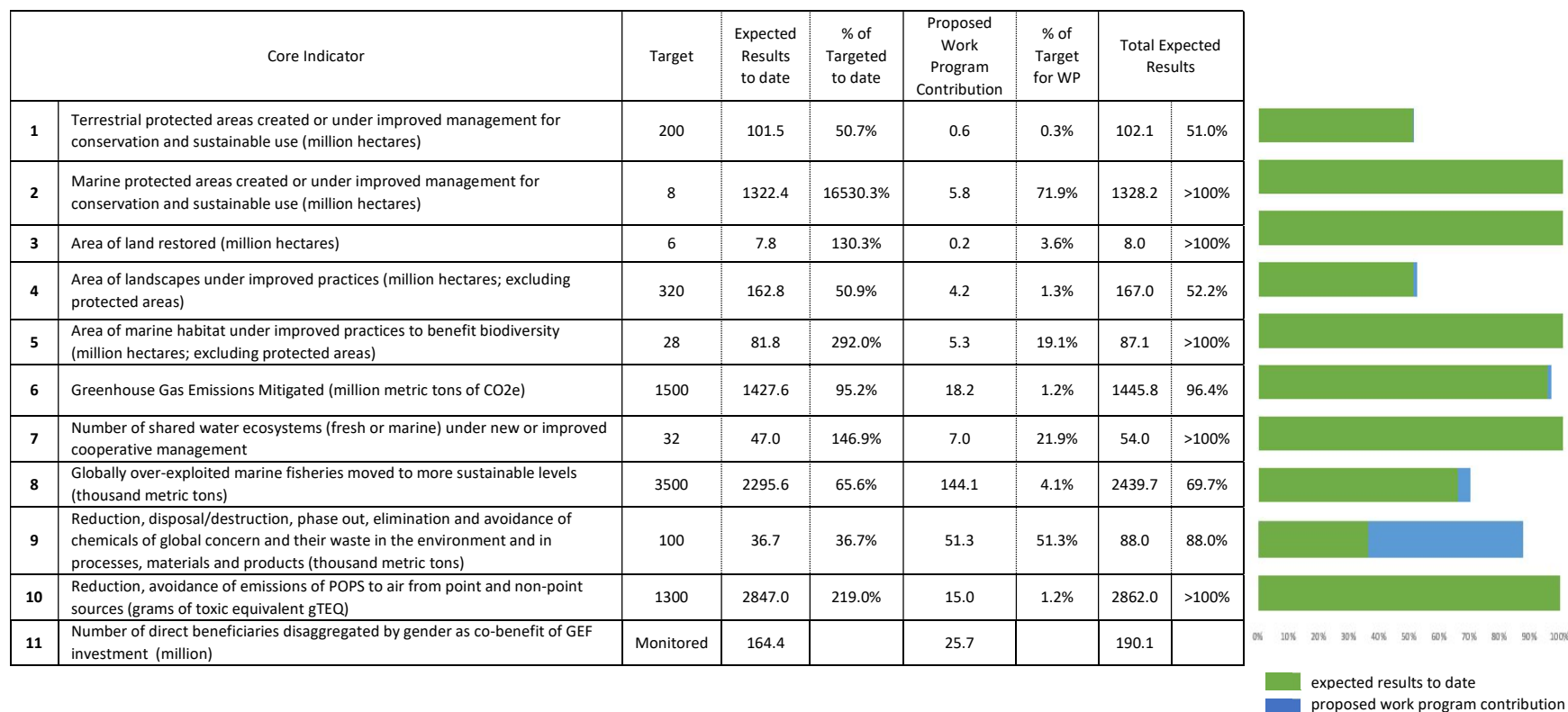
33. Overall, 5 out of the 10 indicators have now reached 100% or more of their GEF-7 targets with 87% of GEF-7 resources being programmed. Two other indicators, GHG emissions reductions and reduction of chemicals of global concern are close to 90% or well above it.

34. 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 final Work Program in June 2022. Finally, this Work Program is estimated to directly benefit over 25 million people.

35. 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 entry points to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment and 92 % indicate that they expect to address gender gaps such as improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance, or targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women. Moreover, all projects included estimated information on the number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by

gender, and 97 % 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 December 2021 Work Program⁷



WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Programs

36. Global (India, Viet Nam, Ecuador, Kenya, Lao PDR, Philippines, Uruguay). *Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM)* (GEF ID 10872). Agency: UNEP, ADB, UNDP, UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$37,441,500; Co-financing: \$341,789,200. Global financial development flows committed to the agriculture sector amounted to US\$19 billion in 2018, with disbursements of US\$11 billion in 2018, up US\$6.8 billion or 154%, compared to those in 2002. Africa (42%), Asia and the Pacific (32%), and Latin America and the Caribbean (10%) are the greatest beneficiaries of these agricultural development flows. Despite the considerable development commitments, the agricultural sector remains dependent on the extensive use of harmful agrochemical some of which are controlled by the Stockholm Convention and others are globally recognized as highly hazardous pesticides and agricultural-plastic inputs, as most of these financial flows are directed towards supporting industrial agriculture and/or increasing efficiency.

37. The Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM) program seeks to address the use of POPs pesticides in the agriculture sector through catalyzing a framework for investment in the sector which looks to detoxify the sector by eliminating the use of the most harmful inputs to food production systems.

38. The program will work in seven countries over three regions and will be led and coordinated by UNEP and supported by FAO, ADB, UNDP and UNIDO.

39. The program will facilitate access to low/nonchemical practices, techniques, chemicals, and technologies to farms and farmers as well as working to unlock access to finance for commercial and other private sources for long term sustainability of the program.

40. The program proposes to work with several well established international and multi-stakeholder platforms working on sustainable agriculture designed to lessen the impacts of agrochemicals. Illustrative platforms include, but are not limited to, the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), generates about €10 million from the private sector and leverages a further €4 million to support field activities, Rainforest Alliance/UTZ, Global Coffee Forum, World Cocoa Foundation, Fair Trade Foundation and the World Banana Forum. Many of these initiatives support training and monitoring to assist member producers to meet better agrochemical use standards. The ISEAL IPM coalition represents eleven standards that aim to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of HHP, and to promote more sustainable alternatives

41. During the programme implementation, the global KM activities will coordinate engagement with relevant experts and networks, including FAO Indigenous Peoples Team and the Family Farming Knowledge Platform. The tools and models developed under these components will feed into global, regional, and national knowledge management platforms. These platforms will be linked through a global network to be connected to the Stockholm

Convention Secretariat, SAICM and Implementing Agency platforms including UNEP, FAO, UNDP, and World Bank.

42. It is expected that this program will deliver significant benefits to multiple core indicators above and beyond those for the CW focal area as follows:

GEBs:

Core Indicator 9: 51,208 metric tons of chemicals (over 50% of core indicator 9 target)

Core Indicator 10: 14.79 gTEQ

Core Indicator 4: 3,144,153 Ha Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Core Indicator 5: 6,534 metric tons of marine litter avoided

Core Indicator 6: 35,108 metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)

Core Indicator 11: 3,845,315 beneficiaries

Non-Grant Instruments Projects

43. NGI- Global. *Green Finance & Sustainable Agriculture in the Dry Forest Ecoregion of Ecuador and Peru* (GEF ID 10852). Agency: CAF; GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$68,200,000. This project seeks to support biodiversity conservation in prioritized territories of the dry forests in Ecuador and Peru by financing sustainable agriculture practices, building capacities and transferring technology to small and medium farmers. The financing of sustainable agricultural practices at adequate financial terms and conditions is to be enabled through the issuance of green bonds in Peru and Ecuador by Cofide and BanEcuador. The bonds will benefit from guarantees provided by GEF and CAF. The GEF guarantee will be first loss to the CAF guarantee. The guarantees will act as credit enhancements, thereby improving the terms of financing of the issuers, and their on-lending terms for the smallholder farmers in the region. The project also includes a technical assistance component funded by the governments of Peru and Ecuador, and other Donor Agencies. The project is expected to generate 140,000 ha of landscapes under sustainable land management in productive systems, 30,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity and 10,000 ha of area of forest and forest land restored. The project is expected to benefit 24,300 smallholder farmers in Peru and Ecuador.

Stand-alone Projects

Biodiversity

44. Tonga. *Implementation of the Fanga'uta Lagoon Stewardship Plan and Replication of Lessons Learned to Priority Areas in Vava'u (Tonga R2R Phase 2)* (GEFID 10518). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,864,685; Co-financing: \$11,960,000. This project will build on the lessons learned and foundation of Tonga's GEF-5 Ridge to Reef project. The project's objective is to implement the Fanga'uta Stewardship Plan (FSP) for strengthened integrated management of the Fanga'uta Lagoon and to replicate lessons learned from the Tonga R2R Phase I to priority

areas in Vava'u. It will achieve this by supporting conservation of critical lagoon ecosystems and management of the catchment to improve biodiversity and ecological services of the Fanga'uta Lagoon and replication in priority areas in Vava'u. It will also work on improving governance including policies, institutions and capacity building for sustainable and adaptive management and biodiversity conservation. Finally, it will raise awareness and improve knowledge management of the ecosystem functions and services of the Fanga'uta Lagoon and priority Vava'u biodiversity sites. The project will support the creation of 1,530 ha of marine PAs and improved management of 3,030 ha of marine PAs

45. **India.** *Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments* (GEF ID 10776). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,880,000; Co-financing: \$29,280,000. The project will mainstream and improve financing for biodiversity across two production and protection landscapes in India. The Garo Hills and the Sathya Mangalam landscapes host Key Biodiversity Areas partially covered by five protected areas with a wealth of globally significant biodiversity, including the Asian elephant, several big cats, and many endemic or range-restricted birds, amphibians, and plants. To implement landscape management strategies that truly integrate biodiversity, the project will strengthen the institutional framework for biodiversity mainstreaming in planning and decision-making across rural development sectors. It will notably enhance horizontal and vertical coordination across the hierarchical administrative structures, stakeholders and sectors that operate in the landscapes, from the local to the State levels, and strengthen capacities and tools for biodiversity mainstreaming, with a focus on mandated local-level institutions. Building on the results of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) in India, the project will also develop and implement resource mobilization strategies at district level and promote biodiversity-friendly business to increase both public and private financing for biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use. Anticipated outcomes include improved land management over a total of 563,260 ha, including 243,260 ha of protected areas, 4,000 ha of forest restored to expand landscape connectivity, and close to 6 tCO₂eq of climate mitigation co-benefits from restoration and avoided forest loss. The project will directly benefit 8,000 people.

46. **Cabo Verde.** *Strengthening Biodiversity Governance Systems for the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources in Cabo Verde* (GEFID 10871). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,484,703; Co-financing: \$ 18,763,038. The objective of this project is to strengthen national and local governance for the conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and species of global and national significance through effective management and sustainable financing, and firmly position biodiversity as being foundational to the country's social and economic resilience. The project will achieve this by strengthening national and local governance for effective biodiversity conservation, improving the management effectiveness of the country's protected area network, and engaging local communities and the private sector in biodiversity governance and benefit sharing. In particular, this project will support the preparatory work to realize a debt-for-nature swap as part of a long-term financing strategy for the protected area system and support the development and implementation of model strategies for community co-management. The project will support the creation of 1,530 ha of marine PAs and improved management of 3,030 ha of marine PAs.

Climate Change

47. **St. Kitts and Nevis.** *Achieving a Rapid Decarbonization of the Energy Sector in Saint Kitts and Nevis* (GEFID 10856). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,318,995; Co-financing: \$11,410,000. The project objective is to accelerate the transition towards 100% renewable electricity generation and 100% high energy efficiency public buildings in Saint Kitts and Nevis. The project activities includes policy and institutional arrangements for decarbonizing the electricity sector and enhancing energy efficiency of public buildings, demonstration of feasibility of high energy efficiency buildings and resilient grid-integrated renewable electricity generation, and scaling up financing for 100% renewable energy and energy efficient measures. The project will support the development of a comprehensive enabling environment for achieving decarbonization of its electricity grid. It sets the ground by providing a revised National Energy Policy (NEP) that updates the goals currently set for 2020, with a roadmap that starts from the current situation and determines a pathway for achieving 100% renewable energy electricity generation. The project will provide the first steps towards the implementation of the roadmap, by demonstrating to local stakeholders the technical, economic, social and environmental feasibility of achieving its ambitious targets. Pilots will demonstrate resilient high energy efficiency buildings and innovative grid-integrated renewable electricity generation. The project will also support the country to obtain investment for implementing its roadmap and investment plan to achieve the goals of its national energy policy. The project is expected to achieve over 16,000 tCO₂eq and more than 455,000 tCO₂eq of direct and indirect GHG emission reductions respectively.

48. **Marshall Islands.** *Marshall Islands Building Energy Efficiency* (GEFID 10859). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$2,193,578; Co-financing: \$2,600,000. The project's objective is to improve energy efficiency in the building sector in Marshall Islands to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help achieve a net zero emission target. The activities include enabling activities and policy for energy efficient buildings in RMI and demonstration of feasibility of high energy efficiency buildings and resilient grid-integrated renewable electricity generation. The project will ensure that government processes and regulations address energy efficiency and conservation measures. it will work with the banking sector in Marshall Islands, including the Marshall Islands Development Bank, and build capacity for banks to develop and deliver loan mechanisms for companies and households to invest in energy efficient appliances. In addition, the project will demonstrate improved energy efficiency of government and private buildings through technology and practices including through nature-bases solutions, while building a monitoring and evaluation system on energy performance. The project is expected to achieve more than 6,250 tCO₂eq and over 118,000 tCO₂eq of direct and indirect GHG emission reductions respectively.

49. **India.** *Improving Thermal Energy Efficiency in the Design, Manufacturing, and Operation of Industrial Boilers for Low Carbon MSMEs in India* (GEF ID 10878). Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,664,690; Co-financing: \$17,797,500. This project will scale up and mainstream thermal energy optimization in manufacturing MSMEs through creation of an enabling ecosystem for design, manufacturing and operation of energy efficient industrial

boilers in India. A large section of manufacturing MSMEs in India operate low efficiency old technology boilers which result in significant loss of expensive thermal energy and also leads to GHG emissions. The project will adopt an integrated approach to work on demand creation of energy efficient boilers through upskilling boiler users, facilitate market development for energy efficient boilers and retrofits through energy efficiency specifications, and facilitate supply by supporting boiler manufacturers through technology demonstration and marketing support. It will focus on seven strategic manufacturing intensive MSME clusters in India and is estimated to result in close to 1.4 million tCO₂eq of GHG emission reduction and benefit nearly 9000 beneficiaries directly.

Land Degradation

50. **Cabo Verde.** *Towards Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience* (GEFID 10863). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,183,105; Co-financing: \$7,528,482. The project aims to promote sustainable land management, landscape restoration and nature-based solutions for improved food security and nutrition, livelihoods and resilience, supporting the achievement of Cabo Verde's Land Degradation Neutrality commitments (LDN). The LDN approach to "avoid, reduce, reverse" allows for perspective and attention of stakeholders from various sectors to work together on land degradation issues and beyond. The project's theory of change proposes causal pathways to address key barriers to LDN in view of improving the enabling environment for LDN decision-making and monitoring, demonstrating the LDN approach in the three target watersheds, using nature-based solutions aiming for food and nutrition security, improved livelihoods, and resilience, and managing land degradation data, information, knowledge, and monitor the project. The project will demonstrate an opportunity for green recovery and "building back better" in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly addressing the needs in islands of Santiago and Santo Antão where the already vulnerable family farmers have been severely affected. The project aims to restore 3,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands, 500 ha of forest and forest lands, and 500 ha of natural grass and shrublands, in addition to 5,500 ha of landscapes under SLM in production systems, and nearly 250,000 tCO₂eq sequestered in the AFOLU sector for the benefit of 21,100 people, including 50% women

51. **India.** *Sustainable Management and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in India* (GEF ID: 10876). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,600,000; Co-financing: \$46,200,000. The objective of this project is to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) through sustainable ecosystem-based management and restoration of degraded landscapes across agricultural, forest, and pastoral lands. The project will assist the Government of India to achieve its goal to combat land degradation and desertification while addressing the negative impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss across the degraded landscapes ultimately supporting the achievement of LDN, NDCs and Post-2020 Biodiversity commitments. Interventions on policy and planning reform will incentivize sustainable land management, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation and remove disincentives, along with enhanced capacity of stakeholders at all levels to support a stronger enabling framework. The project will bring 108,000 ha of degraded lands under

restoration, improve the management on 209,000 ha of agricultural land and forests, sequester 6.8 million tCO₂eq, and benefit 180,000 women and men.

Chemicals and Waste

52. **China.** *Sustainable Mercury Management in Non-ferrous Metal Industry* (GEFID 10864). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$20,300,000; Co-financing: \$140,000,000. The objective of this project is to reduce emissions of mercury from the primary production of non-ferrous metals. This sector globally produces significant emissions of mercury and is one of the top 5 emissive sectors. China is the country that contributes the most to atmospheric mercury emissions worldwide and is the world's largest producer of lead, zinc, and copper. Non-ferrous metal production in China has been increasing, from 34 million tons in 2011 to 58 million tons in 2019, due to increasing domestic and international demand. In 2017, the production of China's refined copper, lead, and zinc was 7.96, 4.4, and 6.15 million tons. The project proposes to identify best available technologies and best environmental practices (BAT/BEP) that reduce emissions of mercury and apply these to the industries. The project will pilot these BAT/BEP and will share the results with the sector to facilitate uptake throughout the sector. The project targets a reduction of 90 tons of mercury.

53. **Sri Lanka.** *Integrated Management and Environmentally Sound Disposal of POPs Pesticides and Mercury in Healthcare and Agricultural Sectors in Sri Lanka* (GEFID 10868). Agency: UNDP; GEF financing: \$5,040,000; Co-financing: \$40,860,000. In Sri Lanka, agriculture and healthcare sectors are considered a source of POPs, and release of mercury and U-POP, respectively, leading to various issues including serious health problem in the country. As such, this project will work on these areas to create long-term solutions by improving the regulatory framework and strengthen national capacities in Agricultural Chemicals and Mercury Management and support the transformation of Healthcare Waste Management Systems. This will be achieved through four key components of the project: strengthening the policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks for the management of chemicals; environmentally sound management disposal of obsolete stocks of agrichemicals POPs, mercury and their wastes; establishment of integrated HCWM systems; and, knowledge sharing. The GEBs are expected to be nearly 30 MT of chemicals of global concern avoided along with 17,000 direct beneficiaries, of which more than half are female.

54. **Egypt.** *Improved Management of E-waste and Healthcare Waste to Reduce Emissions of Unintentionally Produced POPs (UPOPs)* (GEFID 10879). Agency: World Bank; GEF financing: \$9,132,421; Co-financing: \$142,000,000. The objective of this project is to make significant changes on waste management and the emissions of uncontrolled POPs and other substances in the healthcare sector. This will be achieved through continued strengthening of the regulatory framework and enhancing implementation effectiveness, by completing key analytical and feasibility studies to fill knowledge gaps and provide decision makers with needed data and analysis, and by building upon successful pilot initiatives. Examples of such initiatives include formalizing the informal sector for e-waste recycling and expand into new priority areas. The project is expected to contribute to the reduction and avoidance of

emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources. The GEBs are expected to be 7.14gTEQ based on a 10% reduction/avoidance of UPOPs emissions to air. The innovative aspect of this project is that it builds on the economic potential of E-Waste to generate green growth to provide an economic incentive for appropriate E-Waste recycling. The private sector will be involved through demonstration activities to assess recycling capacity and business potential for expanding the market for recycled goods and establishing collection schemes that go beyond the household level. Innovative approaches in the management of e-waste and Healthcare waste will be piloted to reduce waste stream and create economic value through recycling initiatives

International Waters

55. **Regional, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal.** Enhancing the Sustainable Management of Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer System to Ensure Access to Water for Populations Facing Climate Change (SMAS) (GEF ID 10784). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,150,000; Co-financing: \$57,330,000. The Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer System (SMAS) is shared by four countries and the area is crossed by two important transboundary watercourses, the Senegal and the Gambia Rivers. The SMAS basin area is characterized by a great diversity of terrestrial, riverine, and coastal ecosystems, high potential of arable land and provides the majority of the drinking water to several large urban centers. The project will provide the knowledge and information basis to support the conjunctive management of the SMAS for the sustainable use of water resources, to improve food security and resilience to climate change in the region. It will support the development of a Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, identify and implement innovative pilot initiatives, and facilitate the development of a regional Strategic Action Plan to be endorsed on ministerial level and identifying regional and national reforms and investments and aim to mobilize finance for implementation. The project will build on the recently signed ministerial declaration and formation of a regional working group and facilitate the development of an options assessment to help identify a regional governance mechanism for long term conjunctive management of the surface and groundwater resources of the SMAS.

56. **Regional, Thailand and Malaysia.** *Enhancing Environmental Security and Transboundary Cooperation in the Golok/Kolok River Basin* (GEF ID 10794). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$4,000,000; Co-financing: \$28,036,000. The Golok/Kolok River defines the international border between the Thailand and Malaysia. The project will improve transboundary management of flood risks and erosion processes and develop jointly agreed and evidence-based investment plans that will be essential to reverse degradation trends and enhance environmental security in the Golok/Kolok River Basin, including erosion/siltation processes which are driving the shifting of the Golok/Kolok River mouth. The relatively limited dimensions of the Golok/Kolok River basin provide a rare opportunity to pilot comprehensive and effective transboundary cooperative arrangements aimed at improving social stability, easing conflicts at the water nexus, and preserving ecosystem services. The scope of the work includes the introduction of conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in the Golok/Kolok River basin, the design and testing of nature-based solutions for improved water management, flood

mitigation, aquifer recharge, erosion control, buffer zones, and flood expansion areas. The project aims to adopt a deliberate source-to-sea approach that accounts for impacts of upstream activities on coastal and marine resources.

57. **Regional, Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.** *Strategies, Technologies, and Social Solutions to Manage Bycatch in Tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)* (GEF ID 10857). Agency: FAO. GEF Project Financing: \$5,329,452; Co-financing: \$24,565,884. This investment responds to the regional and national needs to manage bycatch and reduce discards and adverse effects of fishing on habitats in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+). In doing so the project promotes more responsible fisheries and the conservation of marine living resources (particularly vulnerable species), while at the same time providing economic (particularly blue growth) opportunities for fishers as well as offering successful solutions to other LMEs. There are a number of challenges to achieving sustainable fisheries in the CLME+ region, as in many other tropical and sub-tropical LMEs, such as unsustainable bycatch and discards. Bycatch - the capture of unwanted sea life while fishing for different species - is closely tied to overfishing and a serious threat that causes needless loss of fish along with thousands of individuals of vulnerable species such as marine turtles and cetaceans. The REBYC-III CLME+ project largely focuses on the management of bycatch and reduction of discards but also addresses the adverse impacts of fishing gear on marine habitats and biodiversity particularly from Abandoned, Lost and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear.

58. **Indonesia, Timor Leste.** *Towards Sustainable and Conversion-Free Aquaculture in Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME)* (GEF ID 10867). Agency: ADB; GEF Project Financing: \$4,449,542; Co-financing: \$124,500,000. The objective of this project is to alter the trajectory towards more sustainable and conversion-free aquaculture production within the Indonesia Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME). The project will work across the ISLME to mitigate the impacts of marine ingredients in shrimp aquaculture feed through greater accountability and transparency in the shrimp feed supply chain (Indonesia) and increase ecosystem services and ocean water quality through value generation for seaweed farmers (Timor Leste). Combined with the leverage provided by the ADB lending, the project will utilize market forces of the Seafood Task Force (STF) and the Safe Seaweed Coalition to bring leverage and current market demands to the project to demonstrate the need for better feeds in shrimp and the need for better product quality in cultivated seaweed. In addition to bringing more than 80,000 tons of globally over-exploited fisheries to more sustainable levels, the project will result in 1 fishery that meets national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations, 200 ha of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity, and 400 tCO₂eq sequestered, or emissions avoided with direct benefits for over 3600 people.

59. **Regional, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Ghana.** *Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions* (GEF ID 10875). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$3,000,000; Co-financing: \$9,000,000. This project is designed to implement a regional mechanism for nature-based solutions for habitat restoration and maintenance using payment for ecosystem services in the

Gulf of Guinea. The project will establish a regional marine spatial plan (MSP) to improve coastal and marine area management for ecosystems critical for fisheries, tourism, carbon sequestration and other benefits. Unique in design, this MSP will be the basis for the establishment of a payment for ecosystem service system, which will support nature-based solutions for the benefit of ecologically important ecosystems. The project is expected to improve 350,000 ha of marine protected areas, restore 25,000 ha of wetlands, improve practices of an additional 70,000 ha of marine habitat, and move 27,000 metric tons of over-exploited fisheries to sustainable levels.

60. **Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia** . Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management (GEF ID 10881). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$7,105,936; Co-financing: \$51,360,000. The Project aims to advance integrated natural resources management in the Drin Basin and the adjacent marine area, and enable sustainable development by supporting the implementation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) developed in the foundational project. The SAP responds to the aims and objectives of and provide the means for the operationalization of the Drin Coordinated Action, that is the framework set by the Drin riparian countries for the implementation of the Drin MoU. Source to Sea (S2S) Management, River Basin Management, and the Water-Food-Energy Nexus are key approaches adopted by the SAP. In addition to bringing an expected 418,000 ha of Marine Protected Areas under improved management effectiveness, the project will implement the agreed upon SAP priorities with direct benefits for an estimated 650,000 people.

Multi-focal Area Projects

61. **Armenia.** *Conservation and Sustainable Management of Land Resources and High Value Ecosystems in Lake Sevan Basin for Multiple Benefits* (GEF ID: 10854). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,598,631; Co-financing: 26,475,000. The objective of this project is to promote land degradation neutrality, and to restore and improve the use of land and water resources in Armenia's Lake Sevan Basin to enhance the sustainability and resilience of livelihoods and globally significant ecosystems. The long-term solution for the conservation and sustainable management of land resources and ecosystems in Lake Sevan Landscape requires achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and integrated landscape planning in the PA/KBAs buffer and productive zones. The project will support biodiversity sensitive LDN-based Integrated Spatial and Land Use Plans (ISLUPs) to put different types of on-the-ground management practices in place that are necessary for an integrated approach to landscape management, such as efficient water management, sustainable and biodiversity friendly land management for arable and pasture land, sustainable forest management, and effective protected area management. The proposed actions are closely aligned to ensure an integrated landscape approach within Lake Sevan basin for sustainable land, biodiversity and water management that safeguards the continuity of ecosystem services on which local livelihoods depend. The project will bring 147,500 ha of protected areas und improved management, restore 2,200 ha of forests, bring 165,800 ha of land under improved practices, and generate carbon benefits of 1.4 million tCO₂eq. The project will directly benefit 7,100 women and men.

62. **Micronesia.** *Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia* (GEFID 10858). Agency: UNDP; GEF resources \$5,155,255; Co-financing \$33,143,251. The proposed project aims to promote SLM and biodiversity mainstreaming in agricultural and other sectors with the goal of achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) for the protection and restoration of ecosystem services and biodiversity. The project will focus on strengthening the strategic framework for addressing land degradation, enhancing information, decision support tools and capacity for addressing land degradation, embedding climate smart SLM in critical landscapes and coastal zones, and promoting effective knowledge management. Four landscapes have been identified in the four States of Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. The project will contribute to the restoration of close to 1,000 ha of lands, improved practices on 7,000 ha of landscapes, notably agroforestry, and 580 ha of marine habitats. The project will also generate more than 3,400 tCO₂e from the AFOLU sector. Finally, this project will also benefit more than 4,800 direct beneficiaries, including 50% of women.

63. **Marshall Islands.** *Sustainable Food Systems and Integrated Land/Seascape Management in the Marshall Islands* (GEF ID 10862). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$2,100,913; Co-financing: \$6,030,000. This project aims to transform agri-food systems and land/seascape management in the Marshall Islands to deliver integrated global environmental benefits and health benefits. The project will strength the enabling environment for integrated environmental and food system management and apply sustainable land management, restoration, improved management in food production landscapes, including a focus on community based natural resource management and key value chains for local producers. Through this project, RMI will also develop knowledge management systems including south-south knowledge exchange with other Pacific Islands to share approaches. The project is expected to restore 150 ha of degraded forests, improve the management of 425 ha of land, improve the management of 3,500 ha of marine protected areas, and mitigate more than 41,000 tCO₂eQ. Finally, more than 5,000 people will directly benefit from this project

64. **Regional, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles.** *Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in AIO SIDS* (GEF ID 10865). Agency: UNDP. GEF Project Financing: \$9,003,847; Co-financing: \$63,275,044.00. This project will support the development of sustainable blue economies in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS through improved governance, national Blue Economy demonstrations, and knowledge management. The economies of most of these SIDS are based on marine sectors, like fisheries and tourism, and are strongly dependent on healthy ecosystems. A multitude of anthropogenic threats are impacting these ecosystems and their productivity, leading to overexploitation in an unsustainable attempt to protect livelihoods. Improving governance of these marine resources will restore the health of marine and ocean ecosystems leading to inclusive and sustainable development. The project will improve the enabling conditions for a Blue Economy transformation, invest in the development and implementation of national sustainable Blue Economy demonstrations specifically tailored for each country, and disseminate learning experiences from the planning work and national demonstrations for replication and up-scale at both the national and regional scales.

65. **Mexico.** *Promoting Sustainability in the Agave-Mezcal Value Chain Through Restoration and Integrated Management of Biocultural Landscapes in Oaxaca* (GEF ID 10869). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,507,534; Co-financing: \$43,720,000. The objective of this project is to foster sustainable practices in the agave-mezcal value chain in the Oaxaca Mezcal Region through an integrated landscape management approach that supports non-monoculture cultivation, species protection, and the maintenance of ecosystems services. The project will support the strengthening of institutional capacity to ensure proper implementation of the laws, regulations, policies, and strategies linked to the agave-mezcal system and the resultant impact on biodiversity and ecosystems services, develop and implement integrated landscape management plans to conserve species of high biological value, and enhance carbon sequestered in vegetation and soils, and enable the commercial viability and market differentiation of the artisanal high-quality mezcal brand linked to a good origin narrative. The project will result in the safeguarding of ancestral cultural practices and livelihoods associated with denomination of origin artisanal mezcal and unlock financial incentives for sustainable production and agroecological landscape restoration. The project will support KBAs, an IBA, threatened endemic species, and keystone species of high biological value. The project area is part of three Key Biodiversity Areas “Sierra Norte”, “Cerro Piedra Larga” and “Sierra de Miahuatlán”. Global Environmental Benefits include 50,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas under improved management, 6,000 ha of land restored, 20,000 ha of land under improved practices, and 200,000 tCO₂eq mitigated. The project will provide direct benefits for at least 76,000 people.

66. **South Sudan.** *Promoting Sustainable Approaches to Ecosystem Conservation in the Imatong Landscape of South Sudan* (GEF ID 10870). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,502,968; Co-Financing: \$15,000,000. After the civil war and with the newly established coalition government, South Sudan is now in a better condition to tackle the depletion of its rich biodiversity due to increasing human pressures and lack of governance. In the Eastern Afromontane landscape, the project will focus on the protection of the Imatong Central Forest Reserve, by enabling policy and regulatory frameworks for biodiversity conservation, developing and implementing a Sustainable Forest Management plan, building capacity for effective PA management, promoting sustainable agriculture practices and community livelihoods improvement around the Reserve and enhancing knowledge management and learning. The approach includes innovations for the country that can be deployed at scale across other sites at the national level. The project is expected to improve the management effectiveness of 110,000 ha of protected areas (the Imatong Central Forest Reserve), restore 50,000 ha of degraded agricultural land around the Reserve, avoid the loss of 10,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forest, and mitigate the emission of 1.5 tCO₂eq. In addition, the project targets 200,000 beneficiaries (including 55% women).

67. **Regional, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia.** *Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS)* (GEFID 10873). GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$12,548,861; Co-financing \$65,047,291. This project is designed to develop and improve the management of networks of marine protected areas and marine corridors within selected Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) in the

ASEAN region for the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and support for sustainable fisheries and other ecosystem goods and services. In line with its emphasis on mainstreaming biodiversity, the project will engage governments and private sector stakeholders, including businesses in crafting financial mechanisms for long-term sustainability of marine resources. The project will employ integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning to support and strengthen actions identified in national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The project is expected to result in more than 4.8 million ha of new or improved MPAs, reduce pollution in at least 4 LMEs, and benefit approximately 1 million people.

MSPs APPROVED SINCE THE 60TH COUNCIL MEETING

68. Thirty-five MSPs were approved during the June 2021 to October 2021 time (Table 6). Total GEF financing for these projects equals \$43,615,134 (excluding fees) with over \$202 million in co-financing for a ratio of \$1 GEF dollar being matched by \$4.6 dollars in co-financing. Thirty-one countries are benefiting from these MSPs with 2 additional global projects in nature.

Table 6. List of Medium-sized Projects approved since June 2021.

GEF Project ID	Project Title	Lead Agency Name	Country Name	Focal Area	GEF Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing
Child MSPS approved							
10271	Transition Towards Low and No-Emission Electric Mobility in the Ukraine: Strengthening Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure and Incentives	UNEP	Ukraine	CC	1,601,376	144,124	8,190,000
10272	Support the Shift to Electric Mobility in Togo	UNEP	Togo	CC	423,716	38,134	1,220,000
10273	Supporting Sierra Leone with the Shift to Electric Mobility	UNEP	Sierra Leone	CC	423,716	38,134	1,651,600
10274	Support the Shift to Electric Mobility in the Seychelles	UNEP	Seychelles	CC	423,716	38,134	1,886,000
10280	Transition Towards Electric Mobility in Armenia	UNEP	Armenia	CC	592,202	53,298	4,835,000
10283	Support the Shift to Electric Mobility in Saint Lucia	UNEP	St. Lucia	CC	785,688	70,712	4,196,863
10286	Enhancing sustainability in e-mobility for low carbon urban transport and an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) approach in batteries and vehicle components	UNDP	Peru	CC	1,784,862	160,638	14,859,835
10289	Supporting Sustainable Transportation through the Shift to Electric Mobility in Jamaica	UNDP	Jamaica	CC	1,784,862	160,638	11,474,500
10302	Integrated, Sustainable and Low Emissions Transport in Côte d'Ivoire	UNEP	Cote d'Ivoire	CC	408,716	36,784	5,687,000
10304	Integrating Landscape Considerations in Wildlife Conservation, with Emphasis on Jaguars	UNDP	Ecuador	BD	1,788,991	161,009	8,256,779
10457	Clean technology innovation programme for SMEs and start-ups in the Republic of Moldova	UNIDO	Moldova	CC	855,000	76,950	7,580,000
10461	Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) to support countries to accelerate the uptake and investment in cleantech innovations	UNIDO	Global	CC	1,784,862	160,638	18,675,000

Stand-alone one step MSPs approved							
10740	Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030	WWF-US	Regional (Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Palau)	IW	2,000,000	180,000	3,653,491
10751	Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Bolivia	UNDP	Bolivia	BD	1,959,132	186,118	3,700,000
10752	Safeguarding the biodiversity of ISLA DEL COCO National Park by enhancing biosecurity	CAF	Costa Rica	BD	572,435	51,903	4,572,000
10807	Effective Conservation of Protected Areas of Galapagos, through Strengthening of Control and Surveillance of the Galapagos Marine Reserve and the Eradication of Invasive Predators from Floreana Island	CAF	Ecuador	BD	1,779,817	160,183	13,580,000
10814	Enabling environment at policy, field and market levels for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Serbia	FAO	Serbia	LD	746,121	70,881	3,183,000
10821	Facilitating agrobiodiversity (ABD) conservation and sustainable use to promote food and nutritional resilience in Tajikistan	FAO	Tajikistan	BD	1,776,484	168,766	12,400,000
10738	Strengthening and Sustaining the Coastal Resource and Fisheries Management in the Leyte Gulf	CI	Philippines	BD	1,804,862	162,438	3,675,357
10755	Establishing the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)	WWF-US	Global	BD	1,698,829	152,895	4,312,858
Stand-alone two-step MSPs PIFs approved							
10635	Enabling Lesotho's Enhanced Transparency Framework	UNEP	Lesotho	CC	1,182,500	112,338	217,800

10648	Building capacities in Burundi to implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework under the Paris Agreement	UNEP	Burundi	CC	1,228,000	116,660	123,000
10668	Tanzania's Climate Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)	UNEP	Tanzania	CC	1,144,000	108,680	113,850
10732	Sustainable and Integrated Water Resource Management in Gediz River Basin in Turkey	FAO	Turkey	MFA	1,143,139	108,598	6,872,500
10760	Strengthening capacity in the agriculture and land-use as well as energy sectors in Solomon Islands for enhanced transparency in implementation and monitoring of Solomon Island's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	FAO	Solomon Islands	CC	1,137,215	108,035	2,676,857
10761	Strengthening capacity in the Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land-use Sectors for Enhanced Transparency in the Implementation and Monitoring of Vanuatu's Nationally Determined Contribution	FAO	Vanuatu	CC	1,137,215	108,035	2,994,500
10772	Capacity-building to establish an integrated and enhanced transparency framework in Uzbekistan to track the national climate actions and support measures received	FAO	Uzbekistan	CC	1,319,863	125,387	500,000
10813	Implementation of the National Biosafety Mechanism in the Kyrgyz Republic in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	FAO	Kyrgyz Republic	BD	1,502,511	142,739	2,400,000
10817	Sustainable energy systems for urban-industrial development in South Africa	UNIDO	South Africa	CC	1,219,722	115,874	10,670,000
10818	Implementing Ecuador's Climate Transparency System	UNEP	Ecuador	CC	1,988,000	188,860	1,080,057
10819	Enhancement of agro-ecological management system through promoting ecosystem-oriented food production	FAO	Turkey	LD	703,425	66,825	6,000,000
10829	Sustainable Management of Agricultural Biodiversity in Vulnerable Ecosystems and Rural Communities of Samtskhe-Javakheti Region in Georgia	UNEP	Georgia	BD	1,776,485	168,765	11,600,000

10830	Creating an Enabling Environment to Support LDN Target Implementation Through Strengthening Capacities and Establishing an LDN Monitoring and Reporting System in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNEP	Bosnia-Herzegovina	LD	863,242	82,008	6,563,000
10839	Achieving biodiversity conservation through effective management and enhanced resilience to climate change in the existing protected area of the North Albanian Mountainous Region	UNEP	Albania	BD	1,411,188	134,062	7,810,000
	Conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives (CWR) and edible wild species (EWS), under an institutional framework and the development of rural community initiatives in Ecuador				863,242	82,008	5,150,000
10855		FAO	Ecuador	BD			
Grand total					43,615,134	4,041,251	202,360,847

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN THE DECEMBER 2021 WORK PROGRAM

Other Programs

1. **Global (Ecuador, India, Kenya, Lao PDR, Philippines, Uruguay, Viet Nam):** Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM), UNEP, UNDP, ADB, UNIDO, [GEF Program Financing: \$37,441,500] [GEF ID 10872]

Non-Grant Instrument

2. **Regional (Ecuador, Peru):** Green Finance & Sustainable Agriculture in the Dry Forest Ecoregion of Ecuador and Peru, CAF, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,000,000] [GEF ID 10852]

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

3. **Tonga:** Implementation of the Fanga'uta Lagoon Stewardship Plan and Replication of Lessons Learned to Priority Areas in Vava'u (Tonga R2R Phase 2), UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,864,685] [GEF ID 10518]
4. **India:** Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,880,000] [GEF ID 10776]
5. **Cabo Verde:** Strengthening biodiversity governance systems for the sustainable management of living natural resources in Cabo Verde, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,484,703] [GEF ID 10871]

Climate Change Mitigation

6. **St. Kitts and Nevis:** Achieving a rapid decarbonization of the energy sector in Saint Kitts and Nevis, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,318,995] [GEF ID 10856]
7. **Marshall Islands:** Marshall Islands Building Energy Efficiency, IUCN, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,193,578] [GEF ID 10859]
8. **India:** Improving thermal energy efficiency in the design, manufacture and operation of industrial boilers for low-carbon micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in India, UNIDO, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,664,690] [GEF ID 10878]

Land Degradation

9. **Cabo Verde:** Towards Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,183,105] [GEF ID 10863]

10. **India:** Sustainable Management and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in India, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,600,000] [GEF ID 10876]

Chemicals and Waste

11. **China:** Sustainable Mercury Management in Non-ferrous Metal Industry, World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$20,300,000] [GEF ID 10864]
12. **Sri Lanka:** Integrated Management and Environmentally Sound Disposal of POPs Pesticides and Mercury in Healthcare and Agricultural Sectors in Sri Lanka, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,040,000] [GEF ID 10868]
13. **Egypt:** Improved Management Of E-waste And Healthcare Waste To Reduce Emissions Of Unintentionally Produced POPs (UPOPs), World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$9,132,421] [GEF ID 10879]

International Waters

14. **Regional (Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal):** Enhancing the sustainable management of Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer System to ensure access to water for populations facing climate change (SMAS), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,150,000] [GEF ID 10784]
15. **Regional (Malaysia, Thailand):** Enhancing Environmental Security and Transboundary Cooperation in the Golok/Kolok River Basin, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,000,000] [GEF ID 10794]
16. **Regional (Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago):** Strategies, technologies and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+), FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,329,452] [GEF ID 10857]
17. **Regional (Indonesia, Timor Leste):** Towards Sustainable and Conversion-Free Aquaculture in Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME), ADB, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,449,542] [GEF ID 10867]
18. **Regional (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo):** Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions, IUCN, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,000,000] [GEF ID 10875]
19. **Regional (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia):** Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,105,936] [GEF ID 10881]

Multi-focal Area

20. **Armenia:** Conservation and Sustainable Management of Land Resources and High Value Ecosystems in Lake Sevan Basin for Multiple Benefits, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,598,631] [GEF ID 10854]
21. **Micronesia:** Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,155,255] [GEF ID 10858]
22. **Marshall Islands:** Sustainable food systems and integrated land/seascape management in the Marshall Islands, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,100,913] [GEF ID 10862]
23. **Regional (Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles):** Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in AIO SIDS, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$9,003,847] [GEF ID 10865]
24. **Mexico:** Promoting sustainability in the agave-mezcal value chain through restoration and integrated management of biocultural landscapes in Oaxaca, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,507,534] [GEF ID 10869]
25. **South Sudan:** Promoting Sustainable Approaches to Ecosystem Conservation in the Imatong landscape of South Sudan, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,502,968] [GEF ID 10870]
26. **Regional (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand):** Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS), UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$12,548,861] [GEF ID 10873]

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

December 10, 2021

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
Other Programs											
1	10872	Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM)	Chemicals and Waste	Global (Ecuador, India, Kenya, Lao PDR, Philippines, Uruguay, Viet Nam)	UNEP, UNDP, ADB, UNIDO	-	-	37,441,500	3,369,735	341,789,200	382,600,435
				OP - Sub-total		-	-	37,441,500	3,369,735	341,789,200	382,600,435
Non-Grant Instrument											
2	10852	Green Finance & Sustainable Agriculture in the Dry Forest Ecoregion of Ecuador and Peru	Multi Focal Area	Regional (Ecuador, Peru)	CAF	100,000	9,000	6,000,000	540,000	68,200,000	74,849,000
				NGI - Sub-total		100,000	9,000	6,000,000	540,000	68,200,000	74,849,000
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects											
Biodiversity											
3	10518	Implementation of the Fanga'uta Lagoon Stewardship Plan and Replication of Lessons Learned to Priority Areas in Vava'u (Tonga R2R Phase 2)	Biodiversity	Tonga	UNDP	150,000	14,250	3,864,685	367,144	11,960,000	16,356,079
4	10776	Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments	Biodiversity	India	UNDP	150,000	14,250	4,880,000	463,600	29,280,000	34,787,850
5	10871	Strengthening biodiversity governance systems for the sustainable management of living natural resources in Cabo Verde	Biodiversity	Cabo Verde	UNDP	150,000	14,250	3,484,703	331,047	18,763,038	22,743,038
				BD - Sub-total		450,000	42,750	12,229,388	1,161,791	60,003,038	73,886,967
Climate Change Mitigation											

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
6	10856	Achieving a rapid decarbonization of the energy sector in Saint Kitts and Nevis	Climate Change	St. Kitts and Nevis	UNEP	60,000	5,700	3,318,995	315,305	11,410,000	15,110,000
7	10859	Marshall Islands Building Energy Efficiency	Climate Change	Marshall Islands	IUCN	100,000	9,000	2,193,578	197,422	2,600,000	5,100,000
8	10878	Improving thermal energy efficiency in the design, manufacture and operation of industrial boilers for low-carbon micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in India	Climate Change	India	UNIDO	75,000	7,125	2,664,690	253,146	17,797,500	20,797,461
				CCM - Sub-total		235,000	21,825	8,177,263	765,873	31,807,500	41,007,461
Land Degradation											
9	10863	Towards Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience	Land Degradation	Cabo Verde	FAO	100,000	9,500	2,183,105	207,395	7,528,482	10,028,482
10	10876	Sustainable Management and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in India	Land Degradation	India	UNDP	200,000	19,000	6,600,000	627,000	46,200,000	53,646,000
				LD - Sub-Total		300,000	28,500	8,783,105	834,395	53,728,482	63,674,482
Chemicals and Waste											
11	10864	Sustainable Mercury Management in Non-ferrous Metal Industry	Chemicals and Waste	China	World Bank	-	-	20,300,000	1,800,000	140,000,000	162,100,000
12	10868	Integrated Management and Environmentally Sound Disposal of POPs Pesticides and Mercury in Healthcare and Agricultural Sectors in Sri Lanka	Chemicals and Waste	Sri Lanka	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,040,000	478,800	40,860,000	46,543,050

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
13	10879	Improved Management of Ewaste and Healthcare Waste to Reduce Emissions of Unintentionally Produced POPs (UPOPs)	Chemicals and Waste	Egypt	World Bank	-	-	9,132,421	867,579	142,000,000	152,000,000
				CW - Sub-Total		150,000	14,250	34,472,421	3,146,379	322,860,000	360,643,050
International Waters											
14	10784	Enhancing the sustainable management of Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer System to ensure access to water for populations facing climate change (SMAS)	International Waters	Regional (Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal)	UNEP	150,000	14,250	3,150,000	299,250	57,330,000	60,943,500
15	10794	Enhancing Environmental Security and Transboundary Cooperation in the Golok/Kolok River Basin	International Waters	Regional (Malaysia, Thailand)	FAO	150,000	14,250	4,000,000	380,000	28,036,000	32,580,250
16	10857	Strategies, technologies and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)	International Waters	Regional (Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)	FAO	150,000	14,250	5,329,452	506,298	24,565,884	30,565,884
17	10867	Towards Sustainable and Conversion-Free Aquaculture in Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME)	International Waters	Regional (Indonesia, Timor Leste)	ADB	137,615	12,385	4,449,542	400,458	124,500,000	129,500,000
18	10875	Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions	International Waters	Regional (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo)	IUCN	100,000	9,000	3,000,000	270,000	9,000,000	12,379,000
19	10881	Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management	International Waters	Regional (Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia)	UNDP	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	51,360,000	59,360,000
				IW - Sub-Total		887,615	83,135	27,034,930	2,531,070	294,791,884	325,328,634
Multi-focal Area											

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
						in US \$					
20	10854	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Land Resources and High Value Ecosystems in Lake Sevan Basin for Multiple Benefits	Multi Focal Area	Armenia	UNDP	100,000	9,500	3,598,631	341,869	26,475,000	30,525,000
21	10858	Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia	Multi Focal Area	Micronesia	UNDP	200,000	19,000	5,155,255	489,749	33,143,251	39,007,255
22	10862	Sustainable food systems and integrated land/seascape management in the Marshall Islands	Multi Focal Area	Marshall Islands	FAO	100,000	9,500	2,100,913	199,587	6,030,000	8,440,000
23	10865	Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in AIO SIDS	Multi Focal Area	Regional (Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles)	UNDP	200,000	19,000	9,003,847	855,365	63,275,044	73,353,256
24	10869	Promoting sustainability in the agave-mezcal value chain through restoration and integrated management of biocultural landscapes in Oaxaca	Multi Focal Area	Mexico	UNEP	150,000	14,250	4,507,534	428,216	43,720,000	48,820,000
25	10870	Promoting Sustainable Approaches to Ecosystem Conservation in the Imatong landscape of South Sudan	Multi Focal Area	South Sudan	UNEP	150,000	14,250	3,502,968	332,782	15,000,000	19,000,000
26	10873	Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS)	Multi Focal Area	Regional (Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand)	UNDP	289,100	26,019	12,548,861	1,129,397	65,047,291	79,040,668
				MFA - Sub-Total		1,189,100	111,519	40,418,009	3,776,965	252,690,586	298,186,179
				GRAND TOTAL		3,311,715	310,979	174,556,616	16,126,208	1,425,870,690	1,620,176,208

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

Project ID: 10518

Project Title: Implementation of the Fanga'uta Lagoon Stewardship Plan and Replication of Lessons Learned to Priority Areas in Vava'u (Tonga R2R Phase 2)

Agency: UNDP

Country: Tonga

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** This project has a limited risk analysis on COVID as Tonga, like many Pacific island countries, is COVID free. Therefore, movement and activities within the country are unrestricted. However, it has meant drastic changes to tourism and has meant that no international consultants can visit. Luckily, Tonga has skilled professionals who can work on this project.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** An opportunity of the lack of international consultants is to support national consultants as part of the project. Other opportunities will have to be examined during the course of the project as when and how tourism returns is a significant question.

Project ID: 10776

Project Title: Strengthening institutional capacities for securing biodiversity conservation commitments

Agency: UNDP

Country: India

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** Risks were identified for timely design and implementation, stakeholder engagement and accelerated resource overexploitation. The risks on co-finance appears relatively low for this project, as it mainly builds on national and state priorities for local development that have not been overly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic so far. COVID-19 has, however, substantially restricted stakeholder engagement during PIF preparation. Consultations during PPG will adapt to the sanitary situation, with continued attention to engaging Indigenous peoples, women, youth, and other underrepresented community members. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan, to be developed during project preparation, will fully address COVID-related restrictions, and mitigate their impact on project implementation.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** The project's approach to biodiversity mainstreaming and biodiversity finance is fully in line with green recovery principles. The project will develop and realign public and private funding to promote green business practices. It will also promote sustainable low impact livelihood activities that support species and habitat conservation. A detailed assessment of the social and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on vulnerable populations will be undertaken during PPG so that corresponding project activities benefit the most affected. More generally, the intent of the project is to improve landscape management to benefit biodiversity and restore connectivity, thereby reducing the possibility of future zoonotic spillovers. It most notably includes an output dedicated to piloting “One Health” strategies in a few sentinel villages located in buffer zones of protected areas.

Project ID: 10784

Project Title: Enhancing the sustainable management of Senegalo-Mauritanian Aquifer System to ensure access to water for populations facing climate change (SMAS)

Agency: UNEP

Country: Regional, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** The project will give particular attention to developing an adaptive management strategy for dealing with the COVID 19 pandemic, both ensuring the safe and efficient implementation of project activities in terms of partners participation in meetings, trainings and capacity building as well as smooth implementation of the pilots on the ground. In that context the project will respect the specific national COVID measures and provide guidance for regional activities to be optimally implemented. This might also include the possibility of hybrid meetings to ensure maximum flexibility in the participation of consultation processes for the TDA and in particular SAP.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** As the region works through and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, the scope of interest for regional cooperation and guidance will play an important role. The RBOs for example, have an important convening potential to regroup stakeholder meetings at regional level and provide a solid framework for coordination for the participating countries. The project activities themselves provide opportunities for addressing COVID related concerns through enhancing long term water and food security to rural and urban populations. The River Basin Organisations will have an important role to play in guiding countries and other partners involved in the implementation of the project activities on the necessary capacity building support, to jointly identify and integrate risks associated with the COVID 19 pandemic and development benefits from the conjunctive use of ground-and surface water and increased resilience to climate and other shocks.

Project ID: 10794

Project Title: Enhancing environmental security and transboundary cooperation in the Golok/Kolok river basin

Agency: FAO

Country: Regional, Kingdom of Thailand, Malaysia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** The design of the proposed project has taken steps to minimize the risks related to the COVID-19 global pandemic in the area of community health. There is a risk that travel to or from areas where COVID-19 is prevalent could pose a risk to the basins' population, and to project staff, consultants/contractors. The project detailed design will include active steps to mitigate this risk, including training on pandemic-related guidance for project staff and stakeholders during the inception phase, and the expansion of standard monitoring of project operations and ensure that they are in conformity with FAO policies regarding travel, risk reduction, and other areas regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Project Manager will report on compliance to the Project Steering Committee and take any necessary steps to protect the health of staff, consultants/contractors, and beneficiaries required by the situation.

- 2. Opportunity analysis:** The COVID-19 pandemic affects jobs and livelihoods in many sectors, including those related to freshwater resources. The proposed project will improve the resilience of communities to climate change, conservation of the integrity of freshwater ecosystems, and fostering environmentally sustainable water resources management, which in combination will improve the COVID related recovery process and improve the long-term resilience of communities to future shocks.

Project ID: 10852

Project Title: Green Finance & Sustainable Agriculture in the Dry Forest Ecoregion of Ecuador and Peru

Agency: CAF

Country: Ecuador, Peru

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** The Covid-19 pandemic is expected to have short-term consequences for the implementation of this project; farmers and other local actors may be more risk-adverse in periods of economic uncertainty, and reluctant to attend gathering such as workshops or training sessions. To ensure the success of this project, is it vital that any face-to-face meetings are held safely and outdoors when possible, with the correct use of face masks. Virtual meetings may also be useful in some contexts, but less so in rural communities. To ensure the continuation of the project despite prolonged social distancing requirements, meetings will be held in the design of the project and participation processes could transition online or a combination of in-person and virtual participants to minimize the risks of contagion. The COVID-related risk analysis will be further developed during the PPG following the pertinent GEF guidelines.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** The pandemic has demonstrated the importance in improving rural communities' resilience to such social and economic crises. This project has the potential to deliver such benefits by promoting crop productivity, improving the resilience of agricultural production in general, and thereby creating more reliable sources of income in rural Ecuador and Peru. In the long run, increased investment in rural areas could promote decentralization, encourage the development of a formal economy, and strengthen the social welfare systems.

Project ID: 10854

Project Title: Conservation and Sustainable Management of Land Resources and High Value Ecosystems in Lake Sevan Basin for Multiple Benefits

Agency: UNDP

Country: Armenia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** The project has addressed the risks and opportunities throughout the PIF. During the PPG Phase, the UNDP Country Office will agree on the measures to mitigate any implementation delays that may result due to COVID-19 related restrictions. UNDP issued corporate guidance on “Managing programmes and projects in the age of COVID-19”. These guidelines will be used during PPG and further included in the Project COVID-19 Response Strategy during the project Inception Stage. Adequate safeguards measures will be implemented during the project formulation and implementation to protect people and environment and to prevent the further virus spread (i.e. use of masks, social distancing, remote meetings whenever possible; remote field data collection as much as possible).
2. **Opportunity analysis:** The project will support the business associations and small-scale tourism businesses to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and adapt to the new reality of the tourism and travel industry while minimizing the potential negative side-effects on vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity. The project will explore possibilities to develop and boost off-peak tourism products and to stimulate travel by specific groups, e.g. through developing nature-based tourism schemes aimed at families, elderly groups, and youth. A further analysis of the potential for livelihood diversification including assessment of COVID-19 impact on small scale tourism in targeted municipalities will be commissioned at PPG stage.

Project ID: 10856

Project Title: Achieving a rapid decarbonization of the energy sector in Saint Kitts and Nevis

Agency: UNEP

Country: St. Kitts and Nevis

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** Risks related to the pandemic have two components. The first is related to the restriction of circulation, which would affect mainly meetings for gathering data as well as workshops and related capacity building activities. This aspect of the risk would be mitigated mostly through remote work, on which the Ministry of Sustainable Development has had successful experiences during the initial outbreak. The second component is related to procurement processes, which can be paralyzed or slowed down depending on the evolution of the pandemic. In this context, at the beginning of project execution, the project timeline and dates of execution of all project activities will be re-evaluated taking into consideration any on-going risks due to COVID-19. Moreover, the business model to be provided as output 1.2. will address this risk beyond the duration of the GEF project.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** St. Kitts and Nevis entered the Covid-19 pandemic from a position of fiscal strength following nearly a decade of budget surpluses. A significant part of the large CBI revenues were prudently saved, reducing public debt to below the regional debt target of 60 percent of GDP and supporting accumulation of large government deposits. The subsequent reopening of borders has been accompanied by strict safety protocols. The response measures effectively mitigated the pandemic's human cost with St. Kitts and Nevis having had the lowest per capita case count in the Western Hemisphere. However, as a tourism-dependent country, the economy of St. Kitts and Nevis was heavily affected by the pandemic. As of July 2021, the borders and the economy are gradually reopening. In this way, a rebound in tourist activity should be a boost for a strong recovery during 2022, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) expects a 10% increase for said year, with the country reaching a pre-pandemic GDP in 2024. This rebound could provide a good opportunity for the Island to introduce reforms that might help boost productivity growth, including the kick start for a transition towards a cleaner energy matrix.

Project ID: 10857

Project Title: Strategies, technologies and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries (REBYC-III CLME+)

Agency: FAO

Countries: Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** The project's COVID-19 mitigation strategies and measures (e.g., for managing travel, workshops etc.) will be aligned with GEF, FAO and participating country Government policies, procedures and guidelines on operating during the pandemic, and lessons learned through execution of other projects in the CLME+ region during 2020-2021 period. The project will not overly rely on individual staff, but on institutions and organizations (Government and other partners) and spreading capacity development within individual countries so that as many individuals are involved and trained as possible. The project will also strengthen institutional coordination both at national (through national fisheries agencies) and regional level (through WECAFC) These will help address some of the potential loss and reallocation of partner staff due to COVID. The REBYC III CLME+ project builds on the successful REBYC II LAC project which operated in several CLME+ countries. The follow-up project resulted from a call for support from countries not involved in REBYC II as well as the recognition by the region's countries that bycatch and discards in non-trawl fisheries needed to be addressed. Consequently, there is high ownership and support by the participating Governments for the REBYC III CLME+ project which is viewed as a priority for sustainable fisheries development by the four participating countries.
- 2. Opportunities:** the project will engage more with local stakeholders and local expertise which will create employment opportunities badly needed in the post-COVID recovery phase.

Project ID: 10858

Project Title: Securing Climate-Resilient Sustainable Land Management and Progress Towards Land Degradation Neutrality in the Federated States of Micronesia

Agency: UNDP

Country: Micronesia (FSM)

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** FSM is particularly vulnerable to the risk of COVID-19 due to its economic reliance on international travel of residents, tourists, and trade. Although up to May 2021 there had been zero confirmed cases of COVID-19 and zero deaths in FSM, the global pandemic has impacted the economy and livelihoods across the country, particularly for the poorest and most vulnerable. It adds to existing social and economic inequalities and environmental challenges and highlights the need to build resilience and wider policies and initiatives to deliver sustainable public goods and services. With support of ADB, the government established a US\$15M economic stimulus package in response to the pandemic to implement the Health Action Plan and support the tourism sector, with loans to SMEs and temporary unemployment assistance. The pandemic is diverting government attention and causing delays to implementation of projects and programs. This proposed project has therefore put a strong focus on building resilience (through reducing land degradation) and promoting green economic recovery and improved livelihoods particularly for small holder farmers. This will be achieved by skills training, promoting local, healthy added value products for local markets and business diversification.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** Human resources will be hired under this project to build government's capacity and the project will have a dedicated PIU housed within the Implementing Partner, DECEM. Staff recruited to build government's capacity may be absorbed by government once project ends. The project strategy will be aligned as far as possible to support the government's longer-term strategy for development, through a focus on SLM. The project includes green recovery elements to address the impacts of COVID-19, under Output 3.3. Post COVID-19 opportunities are expected to return for farmers to engage with the tourism sector – providing farm-tours and farm-stays as part of the cultural experience for visitors.

Project ID: 10859

Project Title: Marshall Islands Building Energy Efficiency

Agency: IUCN

Country: Marshall Islands

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** Marshall Islands implemented one of the earliest full lockdowns of its borders to keep COVID-19 from entering. As of August 2021, it has achieved more than 80% full vaccination rates on Majuro and Ebeye. It is expected that Marshall Islands will continue to be extremely cautious with COVID-19 regulations but may open as vaccines continue to benefit countries of the Pacific and reduce transmission. If borders close again, it is recognized that implementation may be delayed but RMI has good experience with continuing import of goods under pandemic conditions. Marshall Islands has not experienced any community transmission of Covid-19 and there have been no restrictions on meetings within the country. Consultations and meetings during PPG and project implementation will follow all government guidelines and may utilize virtual meeting considerations if necessary.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** N/A

Project ID: 10862

Project Title: Sustainable food systems and integrated land/seascape management in the Marshall Islands

Agency: FAO

Country: Marshall Islands

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** The project submission has provided a comprehensive assessment of the potential risks from COVID including reduced co-financing support from the government due to prioritization of other programs, closure of offices and transport delays with possible effect on project implementation, higher dependencies on natural resources if people lose jobs and income from other sectors, continued disruption to food system supply chains. Specific mitigation options have been incorporated into the project which broadly consider the project scope on green and blue recovery and engaging a range of stakeholders including local actors and private sector to assist with determining and implementing feasible alternatives when problems arise.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** The focus of the project on resilient local food systems based on the environmentally sustainable domestic food production will contribute to blue-green recovery by reducing the country's reliance on imports from global food systems, which have proven to be highly vulnerable to global shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as global climate change and economic crises. Another dimension of blue-green recovery will be its focus on resilient, sustainable and culturally appropriate local livelihood support options, capable of generating food, ecosystem goods and services, employment and income, as fallback options or alternatives to the tourism, commercial fisheries and port-related employment on which much of the population currently depends and which has been heavily impacted by COVID-related restrictions.

Project ID: 10863

Project Title: Towards Land Degradation Neutrality for Improved Equity, Sustainability, and Resilience

Agency: FAO

Country: Cabo Verde

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** COVID-19 impacts in Cabo has significantly affected trade, vital transport, price fluctuation, food security, and overall economy, slowing poverty reduction efforts. The number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise with concentration in the largest island of Santiago, though the recovery rate is high. The tourism sector, a primary income source for many, has collapsed. These risks have been carefully identified in the project concept and measure have been put in place that will be further developed during PPG to ensure proper mitigation of these risks on project implementation and success.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** As the country does not have a dedicated fiscal recovery package for agriculture, the project will demonstrate an opportunity for green recovery and “building back better” in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly addressing the needs in islands of Santiago and Santo Antao where the already vulnerable family farmers have been severely affected. The project is therefore more likely to contribute to an increased interest from development actors and target communities, rather than suffering from re-allocation of already engaged investments. Working around restrictions on mobility, the project PPG and implementation work will further the approach adopted during PPG, with virtual exchanges with stakeholders, a close engagement of experts from national research and government institutes and an enhanced focus on decentralized delivery of project activities.

Project ID: 10864

Project Title: Sustainable Mercury Management in Non-ferrous Metal Industry

Agency: World Bank

Country: China

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** In order to mitigate against risks associated with travel restrictions, quarantine etc, the use of virtual meetings, telework, and following the WHO and local guidelines for gatherings and physical meetings during project preparation and implementation will be done. Working remotely through local staff and hiring local consultants for fieldwork, data collection, assessment, and communication will also facilitate project preparation as well as remote supervision using GIS or other technical means. Occupational Health and Safety risks will be considered and addressed for the project-supported demonstration activities and field investigations, including COVID risks. Initial assessment shows moderate risk associated with labor and working conditions in general country and sector context. Further assessment will be carried out and monitored through dedicated safeguards specialists and regular reporting during preparation and implementation when specific subprojects are identified and implemented.

2. **Opportunity analysis:** Due to the impact of COVID-19, the demand for zinc and lead decreased to some extent. For example, the export volume for lead has decreased due to declining demand for lead acid batteries because some automobile companies outside China had to shut down. Imported zinc and lead concentrate have also declined because the zinc and lead mining and smelting factories in other countries reduced production due to quarantine requirements. On the other hand, the government of China has been promoting secondary non-ferrous metal smelting and will continue to do so in the long term. Therefore, the percentage of secondary smelting will continue to increase to promote reuse of resources and reduce negative impact on the environment. In longer term the non-ferrous metal production in China is expected to stabilize with moderate growth.

Project ID: 10865

Project Title: Supporting Sustainable Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in AIO SIDS

Agency: UNDP

Countries: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** At the PPG phase, the project will pay a special attention to poor communities and marginalized groups during stakeholder engagement meetings and field visits that will be organized to confirm demonstration sites. Also, adequate budget will be allocated to accommodate possible price increases and necessary measures to avoid delays in outsourcing equipment, materials, and services. For instance, where international travels will not be possible, virtual consultations will be organized and local consultants will be hired to support international consultants in organizing physical meetings with stakeholders and collecting data. The project will develop protocols to mitigate possible transmission in line with national directives and WHO best practices, such as social distancing measures; thresholds on numbers of participants in meetings; provision of Personal Protection equipment (masks, hand sanitizers, etc.) and provision of handwashing/sanitizing facilities.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** The project will contribute to green recovery and will build longer-term resilience in the face of future COVID-19 outbreaks or other pandemics. COVID-19 reminded the global community that sustainable management of oceans and terrestrial ecosystems is key to the health of human beings. The project will align interventions on sustainable blue economy and sustainable land management with recovery plans of participating countries.

Project ID: 10867

Project Title: Towards Sustainable and Conversion-Free Aquaculture in Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME)

Agency: ADB

Country: Indonesia and Timor Leste

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** Currently, most national, regional and international meetings are conducted through teleconference. Careful planning and heightened sense of spotting challenges or conflict early need to be institutionalized for the success of the project. Moreover, the authentic engagement at the PIF stage will likely have greater benefit during the project development phase should it be carried out under Covid-19 restrictions. In response to potential changes in government capacity as human resources are mobilized elsewhere in response to Covid-19, the project will apply a mentorship approach to support the potential changing of staff such that there is a transition period where others can be matriculated into the project. The project will also develop an implementation plan for the full concept preparation and roles and responsibilities will be identified with contingency replacement identified ahead of execution and in response to changes in capacity of other executing entities as a result of Covid-19. Such an approach will enhance the effectiveness of the overall project implementation arrangement.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** This project represents an opportunity to “build back blue” in the Indonesian shrimp sector and the Timor-Leste seaweed sector present great opportunities to take stock of what has transpired in the pandemic and what could have or should have been done to safeguard supply chains and the people that work in them.

Project ID: 10868

**Project Title: Integrated Management and Environmentally Sound Disposal of POPs
Pesticides and Mercury in Healthcare and Agricultural Sectors in Sri Lanka**

Agency: UNDP

Country: Sri Lanka

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** In terms of project operation, the major risk related to the impact of the COVID-19 to this project protocol relates to its PPG Phase, to be carried out along 2021/2022. It is believed that the vaccinations program would be under deployment, and this would substantially lower the risks during project implementation, expected to be initiated in 2022/2023. Implementing Agencies and Partners to the project are aware of the risks, and plan to carry out continuous monitoring and assessment of the impacts of COVID-19 on the progress of the project preparation and promote the implementation of the project per the plan through various means, such as online meeting, telephone, if required. In any case, UNDP and the Government of Sri Lanka will consider, during the PPG Phase, the principles of the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, as well UNDP's Guidelines on UNDP's integrated response to COVID-19 potential linked and or parallel actions that could help decision-makers look and design beyond recovery, towards 2030, making choices and managing complexity and uncertainty in the green economy area to support the recovery from COVID-19 impacts.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** The proposed project is well aware of how COVID-19 pandemic is aggravating the pressure over healthcare and municipal solid waste systems in Sri Lanka and consequent environmental impact. As such, in fact, one of the aims of the project is to alleviate this adverse impact from the pandemic, hence generating GEBs.

Project ID: 10869

Project Title: Promoting sustainability in the agave-mezcal value chain through restoration and integrated management of biocultural landscapes in Oaxaca

Agency: UNEP

Country: Mexico

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** A key risk of COVID-19 is prolonged social distancing measures and recurring national quarantine measures in project landscapes. To guarantee the continuation of the project despite prolonged social distancing requirements, project meetings and the engagement processes could transition on-line or a combination of in-person and virtual participants to minimize contagion risks. Remote technological infrastructure would be used to facilitate this type of engagement including easily accessible videoconferencing services. For those who cannot participate remotely and to ensure effective engagement of small-holders from indigenous groups and local communities, in-person meetings could be held with a reduced number of participants and maintaining social distancing and hygiene. The development of the crisis will be closely monitored, and creative responses will be explored and implemented along the way focused on advancing project outcomes through alternative forms of engagement, and flexibility in case meetings and field visits must be rescheduled. Similarly, innovative ways of ensuring co-financing funds can be effectively deployed under a COVID-19 risk scenario may also have to be explored. The project will exercise extreme caution in ensuring that its activities do not increase the risk of transmission and spread. COVID-19 may affect the physical availability of technical expertise to provide in-situ support due to travel restrictions and limitations on physical gatherings imposed by the authorities. As suggested above, virtual means of delivery will be used in such cases and required adjustments to the timeline to accommodate the effects of the pandemic will be given due consideration during the project's annual planning processes.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** The project provides an opportunity for green recovery and building back better through the development of sustainable landscape practices linked to agave-mezcal production, which supports biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and the livelihoods of rural communities.

Project ID: 10870

Project Title: Promoting Sustainable Approaches to Ecosystem Conservation in the Imatong landscape of South Sudan

Agency: UNEP

Country: South Sudan

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** 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. To mitigate that risk, the government of South Sudan has eased movement within the country and stakeholder meetings will be conducted in small groups of people. There is also the risk of limited capacity and experience for remote work and online interactions as well as limited remote data and information access and processing capacities. To overcome these challenges, the Government has procured and installed enough infrastructure in its offices for remote meetings. It also buys data for its staff for use even while working from home. To address the risk affecting project implementation, the project will comply with government directives in order 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, self-isolation and other measures. Implementation may be paused if necessary, in affected areas while government disease prevention or control measures are implemented and resumed at a later time if feasible. The Project Steering Committee will guide project responses through email correspondence for ongoing situations, as required.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** Currently the capacity of GOSS staff in online working and internet-based work in is very low. This project will build that capacity due to the restrictions on movement due to the pandemic. For long term mitigation, the COVID 19 pandemic provides an opportunity for the local communities, CSOs, NGOs, and government agencies to come together for effective planning to mitigate the impacts associated with the pandemic. The project will take care of this during the development of the local landuse plans, state development plans, integrated landscape management plans, and sectoral plans.

Project ID: 10871

Project Title: Strengthening biodiversity governance systems for the sustainable management of living natural resources in Cabo Verde

Agency: UNDP

Country: Cabo Verde

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** General economic slowdown was occurring prior to COVID and with tourism as a major economic driver, the county is struggling with a number of economic challenges that make co-financing difficult. To reduce risk from the COVID shocks, the project will be designed to focus on the diversification of livelihood activities (e.g. fishermen adopting tourism as an additional livelihood so that risks of climate change and disasters affecting livelihoods are more evenly spread between livelihood options).
2. **Opportunity analysis:** Given the financial challenges that COVID has caused, various forms of aid and approaches to a 2030 development vision have been aligned including this project. The project includes planning for a debt-for-nature swap as a funding mechanism that they may not have been eligible for previously because of economic status.

Project ID:10872

Project Title: Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management (FARM)

Agency: UNEP

Country: Ecuador, India, Kenya, Laos PDR, Philippines, Uruguay, and Viet Nam

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** The direct risk from the COVID-19 pandemic to the project is travel restrictions. Countries could close their borders or continue to impose lockdowns. Restrictions on traveling to and within the project countries will impact project execution activities, so considerations will be made for hosting meetings, workshops and consultations on virtual platforms as much as possible. Indirect risks and decreased resilience from the COVID-19 pandemic include decreased local support due to shifted priorities and impacts to project country's economies. The project countries may shift their political priorities to recovery from the pandemic. In order to ensure continued support, activities will be validated with the national stakeholders. During the development of this programme proposal, all work was done via online platforms and consultations. Therefore, it has been proven that online platforms and consultations do function with positive country feedbacks. The same plan will be followed for the preparatory work for CEO endorsement. The design of the programme has taken COVID-19 into consideration and is prepared to deliver all trainings, meetings, workshops, and consultations through online venues and can adapt to country specific situation as well during implementation. In addition, the Executing agencies will use their network to facilitate and ease online interaction based on similar time zones and language requirements.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** This programme will offer an opportunity to transform their food systems and take the necessary steps towards the Blue and Green Recovery post-pandemic to the project countries. As the programme will focus on strengthening sustainable investment flows to the non-contaminating agriculture, they can make strides towards greener economies. Further discussions will be held with all relevant stakeholders to ensure COVID-19 opportunities are supported.

Project ID: 10873

Project Title: Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASEAN Region (ASEAN ENMAPS)

Agency: UNDP

Country: Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** the main risk is caused by travel restrictions. Towards the end of October 2021, the pandemic appears to be waning in the 3 participating countries, with the number of new infections having drastically gone down from their peaks in the preceding months. Travel restrictions are gradually being lifted subject to certain conditions. It is expected that by 2022 with the increased coverage of vaccinations resulting in even smaller number of cases, the international borders of the 3 countries will be further opened. In-country travel is also expected to ease up and that has already happened in Thailand and Indonesia. Consequently, with the PPG starting in 2022, project design activities will adapt to the prevailing conditions. Project design will be primarily undertaken by national consultants who will work closely with a lean team of two international consultants (biodiversity/fisheries specialist and socioeconomics/institutional specialist) complemented by a safeguards/gender/social inclusion expert. The national consultants will coordinate closely with those working in the selected MPAs. With regard to the impacts of COVID19 on the project activities, the pandemic is presenting challenges in delivering GEBs in environment-related projects. With respect to this project, the aspects of the pandemic that would have impacts are the following: lockdown or travel restrictions and over-burdened waste management.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** With the post-pandemic focus on green recovery to address the virus with a likely zoonotic origin, the commitments by the countries to conserve biodiversity and natural ecosystems could be much stronger. This could translate to higher allocations for projects on environmental and natural resource sustainability.

Project ID: 10875

Project Title: Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions

Agency: IUCN

Country: Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** COVID-19 has tremendous, negative impacts in the Gulf of Guinea, especially for vulnerable communities that are in some cases already confronted with hunger or conflict. In terms of activities related to coastal and marine ecosystems, there have been shut-downs of entire fisheries, chain reactions from market failures driven by reduced demand, collapses of seafood prices and increasing health risks for fishers, processors, sellers and associated communities. The project will address these vulnerabilities by helping to build resilient economic systems based on diverse services provided by the ecosystems (e.g. fisheries, tourism, carbon sequestration). The project will also help to build the infrastructure to build back better, such as short value chains for local markets and extension services that easily and promptly address health related concerns, so they do not become social, economic and environmental crises. Further, the project intervention logic has the potential to addresses critical issues around human-wildlife interaction (including increase d exposure to viruses), and the landscape management plans will explicitly integrate this concern. With, in regard to the project execution, measures will be taken to ensure smooth implementation through virtual meetings. To overcome concerns in mobilizing the technical expertise to support project design and implementation, the project will work as much as possible with local 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.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** As government priorities potentially shift to address crises (health or other), the project will deliver evidence and increase its sensitization and awareness raising and capacity development efforts in order to advocate for continued support to green and resilient recovery.

Project ID: 10876

Project Title: Sustainable Management and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in India

Agency: UNDP

Country: India

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** The project has addressed the risks and opportunities throughout the PIF, in the baseline scenario, the co-financing considerations, the sustainability section, and the risk section. In terms of impacts, the Covid-19 poses limitations on project design and implementation and may also impact effective integration of biodiversity into local level planning systems. Covid-19 implications will be built into the project stage to address implications of the disease. Risks associated with Covid-19 and other zoonotic diseases will be considered in terms of management of risks, enhancing opportunities and seeking implications on ecology.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** Opportunities have been discussed, and the awareness for its potential is clearly expressed. In particular the investments made by the project into landscape restoration is seen as a way the stimulate local economies and livelihoods through creation of jobs and bringing investments to the ground effectively.

Project ID: 10878

Project Title: Improving thermal energy efficiency in the design, manufacturing and operation of industrial boilers for low carbon MSMEs in India

Agency: UNIDO

Country: India

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** The project has duly factored in COVID-19 related risks and opportunities in its design. It has identified delay in operation, access to international expertise and barriers to financing as key risks on the project. It presents relevant mitigation measures which include operating in a COVID appropriate manner by maximizing virtual working and utilizing domestic expertise as much feasible. It also proposes to work closely with relevant ministries including the MSME ministry to ensure their continuous co-financing and policy support towards supporting energy efficiency and achieving GHG reduction in MSMEs.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** In terms of opportunity, energy efficiency, and the centrality of boilers and steam systems therein, will be strongly positioned and promoted as an essential part of COVID-19 recovery strategy building on UNIDO's Building Back Business from Crises Initiative in India www.b3cmmsme.org. Taking COVID19 as an example, the project will promote broad-based risk awareness and management, including for climate risks, and business contingency planning, including through GHG mitigation measures. The project activities will highlight and promote co-benefits of efficient boiler and steam systems with regard to reduction of air emissions and waste generation, and their contributions to alleviating severe environmental health concerns.

Project ID: 10879

Project Title: Improved Management of E-waste and Healthcare Waste to Reduce Emissions of Unintentionally Produced POPs (UPOPs)

Agency: World Bank

Country: Egypt

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **Risk analysis:** The economic and human impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Egypt have been severe. As of early August 2020, Egypt had recorded 96,336 cases and 5,141 deaths; Egypt's new cases and fatalities began to decline in mid-June. The COVID-19 pandemic and its disruptive repercussions have impacted the macroeconomic environment, which was at a comfortable level of foreign reserves. The current crisis is causing an uptick in unemployment and threatens to undermine the recent economic recovery and exacerbate the pre-existing structural challenges. Short term measures to mitigate the health and environmental hazards associated with the handling of waste resulting from COVID-19 extended health care services include: (a) allocation of dedicated transfer stations for health care waste; (b) immediate removal and disposal of health care waste from large hot spots; (c) enforcement of the Occupational Health and Safety guidelines for cleanliness/waste workers; (d) imposing the use of Personal Protective Equipment in public places, administration spaces and in public as well as private mass transportation.
2. **Opportunity analysis:** In response to this crisis, Egypt has undertaken measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate its adverse implications for the economy. The emergency response included (a) enforcing a partial lockdown and suspending air traffic between mid-March and end-June. The proposed Greater Cairo Air Pollution and Climate Change Project (US\$200 million) will contribute towards resilient and sustainable recovery which includes specific COVID-19 response in support of Government efforts to mitigate health and environmental hazards. The activities are focused on building responsiveness and resilience into institutions and systems with an emphasis on the health sector in treating and minimizing contaminated waste, the service sector in enhancing worker safety as well as awareness raising on the links between increased risk of respiratory infection and air pollution.

Project ID: 10881

Project Title: Implementing the Strategic Action Programme of the Drin Basin to Strengthen Transboundary Cooperation and Enable Integrated Natural Resources Management

Agency: UNDP

Country: Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

- 1. Risk analysis:** According to current projections the COVID-19 pandemic will persist till at least mid-2022 and then life is expected to gradually return to a normal COVID-free pace. Such a scenario will affect the implementation of the PPG phase. In a worst-case scenario COVID-19 effects will expand in time and affect project implementation. In such a case, the project will use the “know-how” developed and same means used during the foundational project: on-line meetings of the steering committee, conferences etc. using, overall, virtual, modes of interaction with stakeholders. The project implementation arrangements will include one project officer/national coordinator based in each of the project countries allowing “in-situ” interaction with country counterparts and stakeholders for the implementation of all activities and especially the pilot interventions. Depending on the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project timeline of actions/planning will incorporate provisions that will allow response to the effects of the pandemic mitigation measures; timeline adjustments that may become necessary during project implementation, will be discussed by the Steering Committee.
- 2. Opportunity analysis:** As countries and their economies recover and rebuild from the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, governments have been making the choice to build back better and build back greener. Overall, the project is aligned with the above, as its aim is the sustainable management of the natural resources. The project will result in enhanced scientific and technical knowledge, develop management tools and foster the establishment of institutional settings at the regional level in an effort to address the root causes of transboundary issues and environmental degradation, and support sustainable management of the water resources and the water-dependended ecosystems. It will also contribute to the society, and especially the most vulnerable, to adapt and become more resilient to the effects of climate change.