

29th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
December 11, 2020
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 03

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR THE
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.29/03/Rev.01, *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising of nine projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 11, 2021.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amount to \$63.87 million from the LDCF, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

[See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs (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 Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
The Pandemic and the LDCF Work Program	2
LDCF Work Program Description	6
Analysis of Factors Considered for Enhanced Strategic LDCF Prioritization	7
Distribution of LDCF Resources by Region and Agency	9
Distribution of Co-financing	14
Observations and Outlook	15
Results and Impacts	17
Gender	17
LDCF Project Descriptions	18
Annex A: Project Proposals Submitted for LDCF/SCCF Council Approval	24
Annex B: Compilation of Covid-19 Project Design and Review Considerations	26

Tables

Table 1: Amount of LDCF Resources by Country in December 2020 Work Program, GEF-7 to Date, and Cumulative Financing	11
Table 2: Amount of LDCF Resources by Agency in December 2020 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date	13

Figures

Figure 1: Comparison of Regional Distribution of LDCF Resources (\$ million)	10
Figure 2: Comparison of Agency Distribution of LDCF Resources (\$ million)	14
Figure 3: Distribution of Co-Financing for December 2020 LDCF Work Program	15

INTRODUCTION

1. This Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is the fifth Work Program for LDCF projects to be considered by Council in the GEF-7 cycle. It requests a total of \$63.87 million for nine projects to address urgent and immediate climate change adaptation priorities.¹
2. Among these projects, six are national LDCF projects while three are multi-trust fund (MTF) projects combining resources from the LDCF with the GEF Trust Fund. The MTF projects are presented to both the GEF Council and LDCF/SCCF Council for approval of respective portions to enable coordinated project preparations and implementation.
3. These proposals have been developed and finalized after the COVID-19 pandemic began, which has compelled the GEF Secretariat and many partners to severely curtail movements and adapt working conditions to minimize exposure and risks to human health. The GEF Secretariat wishes to express its appreciation to the countries, Agencies, and partners that have contributed to this Work Program, and to recognize dedicated professionals who continued to work under challenging conditions.
4. The Work Program includes all projects that have been technically cleared by the GEF Secretariat by approval deadlines, and accounting for all resources available as of September 2020, and utilizing a significant portion of contributions paid in October 2020 to the LDCF Trust Fund. The expected LDCF resources available for funding decisions as of October 2020 amounted to \$82.45 million.^{2, 3}
5. This Work Program includes projects from eight least developed countries (LDCs), namely Afghanistan, Benin, Burundi, Haiti, Mali, Nepal, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Benin has two proposals in the Work Program. Among them, six LDCs are accessing the LDCF for the first time in the GEF-7 period. Six of these eight LDCs will also reach the initial \$10 million LDCF cap set for the GEF-7 period with this Work Program.
6. These LDCF projects are expected to mobilize \$183.08 million in co-financing for the total LDCF project financing amount of \$58.37 million.⁴ Each dollar provided by the LDCF is to

¹ The requested amounts are inclusive of GEF project financing (\$58.37 million) and Agency fees (\$5.50 million). It does not include project preparation grants (PPGs, \$1.40 million) and PPG fees (\$0.13 million).

² GEF, 2020, [*Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund \(Financial Report prepared by the Trustee\)*](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.29/Inf.0X.

³ No projects for the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) were submitted for consideration for the Work Program.

⁴ The co-financing figure is calculated based on the 2018 Co-Financing Policy (GEF, 2018, Policy: FI/PL/01). The co-financing is applied to GEF project financing, which means a grant or concessional financing provided from any GEF-managed trust fund to support the implementation of any Full-Sized Project, Medium-Sized Project, Enabling Activity or Program, excluding Co-Financing, Agency Fees and PPGs.

be matched by \$3.14 in financing provided by a variety of sources.⁵

7. The projects included in the proposed Work Program all contribute to the goals and objectives of the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.⁶ The Work Program addresses all three strategic objectives set forth in the strategy, in particular Objective 1, which is addressed by all projects included in the Work Program. The three objectives are:

- (a) Objective 1: Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation;
- (b) Objective 2: Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact; and
- (c) Objective 3: Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate adaptation.

8. Reflecting the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and its consequences, the projects presented in this Work Program address the needs to support people, communities, and ecosystems and their vulnerabilities, and also to enhance livelihoods through concrete action as well as supportive policy and capacity needs. Examples include livelihood support through ecosystem management in forestry, landscape management, and other nature-based interventions, disaster and security responses and peace building support, as well as technology transfer and entrepreneurship enhancement with adaptation and employment generation benefits.

9. This cover note summarizes key aspects of the proposed Work Program, including analysis of factors for strategic prioritization, results and impacts through contributions to core indicators, status of LDCF resource use, and project descriptions.

THE PANDEMIC AND THE LDCF WORK PROGRAM

10. The cohort of projects presented in this Work Program was developed under extraordinary circumstances as the world faced a deepening COVID-19 crisis.

11. While the negative impacts of COVID-19 are felt across the board, the least developed countries (LDCs), their people and ecosystems are facing greater risk and vulnerability. They are most susceptible to climate and non-climate shocks and stressors and are largely dependent on natural resources to sustain their economy, jobs, and food security, for instance through agriculture, commodity production, extractive industries, and tourism. Institutional and policy frameworks tend to be weaker to address climate and other crises, compounded by general

⁵ The co-financing ratio is calculated based the amount of co-financing (\$183.08 million) mobilized for the six LDCF projects and the LDCF portion of three MTFs. Co-financing is not required for LDCF projects.

⁶ GEF, 2018, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements July 2018 to June 2022](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF24/03.

lack of capacity.

12. People's livelihoods, such as tourism-related income generation opportunities, service sector occupations, construction and transport jobs, and informal sector engagements, have also been severely hampered by COVID-19. Many migrant workers have been forced to return to their communities with little means of supporting themselves. Additional pressure and burdens are placed on ecosystems, infrastructure, and social fabric as communities are forced to deal with the health impacts of COVID-19 as well as socio-economic and environmental consequences.

13. The projects presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council address various adaptation priorities while also seeking to protect livelihoods and human capital, and support nature-based solutions to help safeguard ecosystems that serve as foundations of economic activities.

14. These proposals have been developed to contribute to economic resilience, health and the overall recovery efforts of affected countries and communities. They aim to strengthen income generation and diversification, build supply chain resilience, enhance local food security, as well as target the vulnerable ecosystems and people that are likely to be hardest hit by both the COVID-19 and climate crises.

15. GEF policies and practices regarding COVID-19 were also applied to the LDCF project development and review. As explained in the Work Program for the GEF Trust Fund Cover Note, the GEF partnership has worked over the past several months to ensure that its work is not disrupted, and that it can adapt to the rapidly changing situation, thereby integrating responses to COVID-19 into GEF's business processes as needed.

16. Since June 2020, the GEF partnership has been investigating how the effects of the pandemic, including risks, impacts, and opportunities, could be properly integrated into the business of the GEF. To support this effort, the GEF Secretariat called on the collective expertise of the COVID Response Task Force,⁷ promoted in-depth surveys and close dialogues with agencies, and developed a guidance framework to help project proponents better incorporate COVID-19 considerations in project design and preparation.

17. Since June 2020, the GEF partnership has worked to ensure that the full effect of the COVID-19 pandemic including risks, impacts, and opportunities were analyzed and integrated into the business of the GEF. This has translated into the development of the GEF Secretariat developing some informal guidance for project design and preparation over the summer months.

18. An interactive discussion session was held with the GEF Agencies to share and discuss the COVID-19 response guidance well before the project submission deadline for the December work program. Reception of this guidance by the Agencies was positive, enabling the GEF

⁷ The Task Force White Paper has been presented to council as an information document.

partnership to compare “best thinking” among various approaches including those being developed by various Agencies.

19. All Project Managers at the GEF Secretariat, including those addressing LDCF and SCCF projects, reviewed projects applying the additional guidance on COVID-19, ensuring that projects and programs for consideration by the Council have identified key COVID-19 impacts, and taken into account the risks and opportunities of the pandemic on the outcomes. The results of the detailed COVID-19 review of the nine projects included in the LDCF Work Program are presented in Annex B of this document.

20. Regarding the identification of COVID-19 impacts, one project for example has established a strong link with the pandemic’s impact on reducing adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable communities. The project highlights the important link of rural poverty, climate vulnerability, and the pandemic in the context of food, water and energy security. The project also supports resilient recovery by strengthening capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which play an important role in delivering services for local communities affected by the pandemic and also generate employment and growth potential.

21. Another project takes place in a country with limited fiscal, monetary, and financial buffers to cope with the crisis, where the public debt is expected to increase due to reduced revenues and higher health expenditures. The pandemic is expected to impact agricultural production capacities and livelihoods, which could exacerbate food insecurity and limit the resilience capacities of the most vulnerable populations. The crisis is expected to have negative effects on food accessibility and price increases have already been observed. The project aims to increase resilience of communities in and around the capital city through a resilient integrated watershed management for landscape restoration.

22. In terms of COVID-19 risk analysis and mitigation strategies, the projects have included the following means among others:

- (a) Use of local experts and institutions to augment international experts, with close consultations;
- (b) Provision of protective equipment and access to sanitation points for implementing partners and beneficiaries;
- (c) Closer evaluation of COVID-19 risks during the PPG phase and integration of mitigation measures in planned project activities and budgets;
- (d) Organization of meetings and workshops with social distancing and hygiene measures if possible and permitted, organization in smaller groups with more frequency, virtual meetings and consultations with use of ICT technology;
- (e) Use of online training modules, videos, webinars and/or podcasts; and
- (f) Development of COVID protocol during PPG, to be executed during the implementation phase.

23. The cohort of projects presented in the Work Program has also identified various potential opportunities to mitigate impacts created by COVID-19 to deliver climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better. These include the following:

- (a) Increased attention of communities and decision makers on the importance of ecosystem-based adaptation, and opportunity to translate increased awareness into national and subnational planning and responses;
- (b) Green entrepreneurship to build a more resilient, greener economy, with applications of digital solutions to keep businesses active, inclusive, and safe, coupled with resilient livelihood options at community level and also through better access to markets;
- (c) Enhancement of digital technology and online sources, which can also help to minimize bureaucracy and time needed for approvals;
- (d) Increased resilience of communities, including of livelihoods, with opportunity for targeted beneficiaries to have access to a safer source of revenues and accumulate savings or invest in insurance, in turn ensuring increased financial security;
- (e) Opportunities for job creation and training, local economic development, and productivity improvements; opportunities for strengthening supply chains, consistent with long-term climate targets, and increasing natural and economic resilience and adaptive capacity; all of which, collectively, contribute toward green recovery through job creation through small business development in climate-smart technologies, productivity improvements
- (f) Integrated water, energy and food approach to help secure supply chains, innovations to improve food, water, energy security that promotes job creation and training, local economic development, productivity improvements and improved access to essential services; building on booming innovation in awareness raising about handwashing and other measures with free cellphone messages, neighborhood broadcasts, and songs created by popular musicians;
- (g) Nature-based innovations to protect natural capital and increase the economic resilience and adaptive capacity of people in the most vulnerable rural regions;
- (h) Supporting the regulation of wildlife trade and consumption through the promotion of hunting alternatives, such as husbandry, and promoting sustainable land uses and limiting deforestation to reduce human-wildlife contact; and
- (i) Supporting land use practices to decrease the risk of human-nature conflicts by ensuring sustainable management of both protected and agricultural areas, by reducing or preventing the encroachment of human land uses (agriculture, pastoralism) into protected areas and remnant forests to reduce fragmentation of ecosystems, contributing to lowering the risk of future zoonoses.

24. The nine projects are also expected to generate insights from various perspectives and

also lessons learned on how to address adaptation priorities aligned with COVID-19 responses, which will be important to capture and share among the GEF partnership.

LDCF WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

25. The LDCF Work Program comprises of nine projects with the total financing of \$65.40 million.⁸

26. These projects support a number of sectors and systems that are important for climate resilience and economic development, and also address needs for income and livelihood diversification that are well-aligned with people's needs and COVID-19 recovery efforts. Examples include livelihood support through ecosystem management in forestry, landscape management, and other nature-based interventions, disaster and security responses and peace building support, as well as technology transfer and entrepreneurship enhancement for adaptation action. One project is addressing urban and peri-urban landscape restoration, while a number of projects are more focused on community-level interventions.

27. The Work Program proposes to support urgent adaptation needs in eight LDCs, including one LDC small island developing State (SIDS). The nine projects included in this Work Program are for the following countries: Afghanistan, Benin (two projects), Burundi, Haiti, Mali, Nepal, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. All projects included in the Work Program are based on current national priorities for adaptation and aligned with the LDCF objectives as confirmed by the Operational Focal Points (OFPs) of respective countries.

28. Since the start of the GEF-7 phase, the GEF Secretariat has made concerted efforts to reach out to seventeen LDCs to discuss the status of 21 GEF-6 pipelined projects. These discussions provided opportunities for the countries to share their current adaptation priorities and how/whether their pipelined initiatives would fit the country priorities to be addressed through the LDCF in GEF-7, in line with operational improvements outlined in the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.

29. The GEF Secretariat has completed consultations with all seventeen countries on the GEF-6 pipelined projects, and have also successfully addressed the GEF-6 pipeline list. With the approval of this Work Program, all seventeen LDCs will have successfully accessed LDCF resources in GEF-7. Among the eight countries with proposals included in this Work Program, three had GEF-6 pipelined projects. Burundi and Benin submitted different proposals addressing national adaptation priorities. The proposal from Haiti was updated from the GEF-6 submissions. Among the 21 pipelined GEF-6 projects, 20 have been addressed in the GEF-7 period through re-formulation as different priorities, significant revision, or updating. For one proposal, the country has decided to address different priorities as an MTF, which has been submitted and is undergoing technical review.

⁸ This amount is for GEF project financing and Agency fees, and PPGs.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC LDCF PRIORITIZATION

30. In line with the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, factors to be considered for the strategic prioritization of projects by the LDCF/SCCF Council for Work Program-based approvals include the following, with the alignment with national needs and priorities being the most important factor to consider:

- Alignment with needs and priorities identified in national plans, such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), and national sustainability development strategies;
- Alignment with priorities in the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, such as opportunities to foster innovation and investments for technology transfer;
- Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support, including GEF multi-trust fund programming and other funding sources including the Green Climate Fund (GCF); and
- Level of LDCF resources previously accessed by the country, to help facilitate access by countries underserved by the LDCF to date.

31. Additional factors were further considered:

- Potential for private sector engagement;
- Geographical balance of LDCF support provided;
- Extenuating circumstances, such as natural disasters; and
- Timing of technical approval of projects.

32. The following sections summarize an analysis of how the proposed Work Program addressed factors for strategic prioritization among proposals that were ready for support.

33. Alignment with national needs and priorities: All projects included in the Work Program articulated their alignments with current national adaptation priorities, such as NAPAs, and are aligned with national climate adaptation strategies and policy approaches to relevant themes, such as agriculture, food security and livelihoods, sustainable land management, and/or other key national strategies related to adaptation such as NAPs. For example, the project in Haiti to increase the adaptive capacity and resilience of communities located in fragile ecosystems and vulnerable to recurring climate disasters is in line with Haiti's NAPA by developing local actions to combat negative climate change impacts, by developing climate adapted management plans for three protected areas. The project will also promote eco-disaster risk reduction measures, and support studies on climate stressors and impacts on water resources, energy scarcity, and supply chain issues. As the NAPA is being updated in Haiti, priorities being addressed by this project, such as disaster risk reduction and governance, are recognized by the NAPA revision team as key topics to be included.

34. Alignment with Programming Strategy priorities: The cohort of projects addresses all three strategic objectives and entry points as articulated in the 2018-2022 Programming Strategy, namely to (i) reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for adaptation; (ii) mainstream adaptation and resilience for systemic impacts; and (iii) foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate adaptation. All nine projects address the first strategic objective, highlighting the innovative nature of projects that have been proposed for LDCF support.

35. One project, the Burundi project for landscape restoration to increase resilience in urban and peri-urban areas by UNDP is aligned with objectives 1 and 3 of the Programming Strategy. The project contributes to strategic objective 3 by supporting capacity building and training to broaden the use of climate information for risk modeling, planning, and decision-making to create the evidence base needed to facilitate adoption of a climate-resilient integrated watershed management approach that can also inform and be informed by key national and urban development plans.

36. Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support: All projects are catalyzing additional financing from a range of sources. These include donor agencies, which is the most significant source of co-financing, followed by governments, GEF Agencies, and the private sector. Leveraging opportunities are highlighted in each proposal, described further in this document. For example, the Work Program includes projects from the Sahel region, where significant opportunities may exist to leverage and build on the ongoing Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative, and to coordinate with the new phase of the GGW initiative under discussion by the GCF and other partners. The project in Senegal on ecosystem-based adaptation for resilient natural resources and agro-pastoral communities will coordinate closely with other ongoing and planned programming under the national and regional GGW, by having a national lead agency for GGW in Senegal as the LDCF project executing partner. The MTF project in Benin by UNDP to restore and enhance the value of degraded land and forest ecosystem to enhance climate resilience will contribute significantly to the objective of the GGWI to restore degraded land. Furthermore, two projects are leveraging GCF investments as co-financing, including \$30 million in Benin by FAO and \$2 million in Mali, as described further below.

37. Level of LDCF resources previously accessed: Among the eight LDCs included in this Work Program, six are accessing the LDCFs for the first time in the GEF-7 period. They are: Afghanistan, Benin, Burundi, Nepal, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. Among them, Burundi has had a historically low utilization of LDCF resources. The country is in the lowest quartile of LDCF resources accessed to date, with less than \$20.00 million programmed to date. Six countries will reach the current \$10 million LDCF cap upon approval of the Work Program. They are: Afghanistan, Benin, Burundi, Haiti, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

38. Geographical balance: The Work Program includes projects from five African LDCs (Benin, Burundi, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone), two Asian LDCs (Afghanistan and Nepal), and the only Caribbean LDC, and which is also a SIDS (Haiti).

39. Private sector engagement: Eight out of nine projects in the Work Program envisage

private sector engagement in various capacities, such as implementation partners, co-financiers, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. Similar to other GEF-7 LDCF projects, these private sector partners are often local, with a number of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and others active in communities. In the context of adaptation and for the LDCF, nurturing and facilitating the engagement of local private sector actors is important. As stated in the Programming Strategy, local private sector actors, especially MSMEs, play an important role for the economy and communities by providing services and access to hard-to-reach populations.

40. In addition, this Work Program includes a number of initiatives targeting private sector for scaling up financing, creation of value chains, and market development. For example, the project in Sierra Leone to promote climate adaptation technology and business model innovations and entrepreneurship aims to increase the resilience of vulnerable populations through an integrated approach that accelerates the development and adoption of adaptation technologies, products, and services in the water, agriculture, and energy sectors. The project seeks to create an ecosystem where adaptation micro, small, and medium enterprises could provide products and services, and vulnerable groups could also have better access to financing to benefit from them. The project also has significant private sector co-financing of \$7.5 million.

41. Extenuating circumstances, such as natural disasters: All countries in this Work Program are addressing the extraordinary COVID-19 crisis, as described earlier. Specific projects aim to address impacts of recent natural disasters faced in countries, such as flooding, cyclones and hurricanes, earthquakes, epidemics (such as Ebola) among others, and to build resilience against future disasters.

42. Timing of technical approval of projects: Eight out of the nine proposals were reviewed and technically cleared in October and November 2020. One proposal was not included in the June 2020 Work Program due to resource constraints, and was also updated in October 2020. The Work Program therefore contains projects that are addressing current priorities. Overall, the GEF-7 operational enhancements are contributing to more timely and efficient programming.

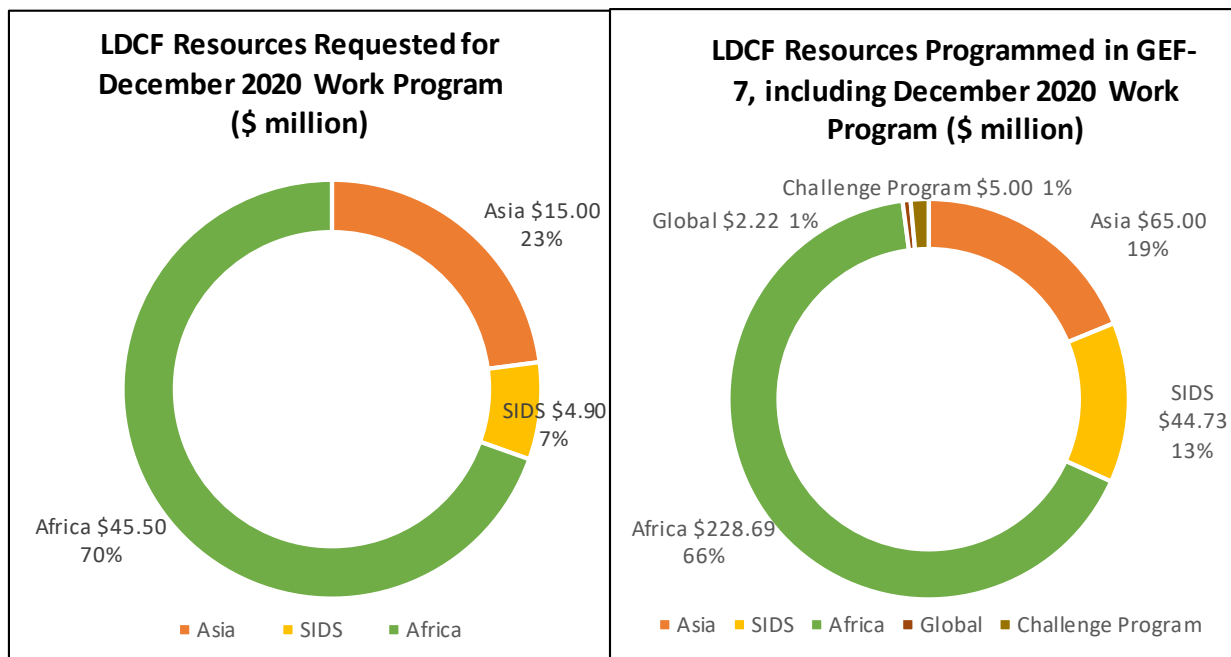
DISTRIBUTION OF LDCF RESOURCES BY REGION AND AGENCY

43. Among the nine projects for this Work Program, five countries are in the African region, two in Asia, and one is a Caribbean LDC SIDS. Including this Work Program, 38 out of the 47 LDCs, or 81 percent of LDCs, will have accessed the LDCF resources to address their urgent and immediate adaptation priorities, and/or addressed systemic environmental challenges as MTFs. Upon approval of the Work Program, 23 LDCs, or 49 percent of all LDCs, will reach the initial \$10 million LDCF cap set for the GEF-7 period, including six LDCs included in the Work Program.

44. Figure 1 presents distributions of LDCF resources in the December 2020 LDCF Work Program by region, and cumulative GEF-7 LDCF resources programmed by region. The figures include GEF project financing, project preparation grants (PPGs), and Agency fees. For this Work Program, 69.6 percent of resources are programmed in Africa, followed by 22.9 percent in Asia,

and 7.5 percent in SIDS (Haiti). Cumulatively for the GEF-7 period, \$228.69 million, or 66.2 percent, of the LDCF resources have been programmed in Africa, followed by \$65.00 million, or 18.8 percent, in Asia and 12.9 percent, or \$44.73 million, in SIDS. The Challenge Program projects account for \$5 million, or 1.4 percent of the GEF-7 programmed resources to date, followed by one global project at 0.6 percent, or \$2.22 million. The cumulative GEF-7 regional distribution is balanced, reflecting that 30 of 47 LDCs, or 64 percent, are in Africa, eight LDCs, or 17 percent, are in Asia, and nine LDCs, or 19 percent, are in SIDS.

Figure 1: Comparison of Regional Distribution of LDCF Resources (\$ million)



45. Table 1 presents a summary of country allocation of resources from the LDCF for this Work Program, as well as for the GEF-7 period. The figures are inclusive of PPGs and fees. With this Work Program, 23 LDCs have accessed the full \$10 million initial cap for the GEF-7 period, while 15 more countries have accessed resources under the cap. Altogether, approximately \$345.64 million of LDCF resources have been programmed in the GEF-7 period, inclusive of this Work Program. Countries that have not yet received LDCF support in GEF-7 include Bhutan, Central African Republic, Comoros, Eritrea, Lesotho, Madagascar, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, and Somalia.

Table 1: Amount of LDCF Resources by Country in December 2020 Work Program, GEF-7 to Date, and Cumulative Financing

	Resources Requested in December 2020 LDCF Work Program	GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including December 2020 Work Program and MSPs	Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including December 2020 LDCF Work Program
	(with PPG and Fees)	(with PPG and Fees)	(with PPG and Fees)
Country	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Afghanistan	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$40.02
Angola	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.43
Bangladesh	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.92
Benin	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$40.47
Bhutan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.19
Burkina Faso	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.94
Burundi	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$29.79
Cambodia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$35.30
Central African Republic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11.17
Chad	\$0.00	\$9.75	\$39.75
Comoros	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.96
Djibouti	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$32.24
DR Congo	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.91
Eritrea	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.01
Ethiopia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$41.02
Gambia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.54
Guinea	\$0.00	\$9.91	\$25.49
Guinea-Bissau	\$0.00	\$6.73	\$24.68
Haiti	\$4.90	\$10.00	\$33.48
Kiribati	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$28.24
Lao PDR	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.90
Lesotho	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.66
Liberia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$25.71
Madagascar	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19.62
Malawi	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$38.45
Mali	\$5.50	\$8.06	\$41.97
Mauritania	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$35.16
Mozambique	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$31.73
Myanmar	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$30.17
Nepal	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$37.41
Niger	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.81

	Resources Requested in December 2020 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)	GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including December 2020 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including December 2020 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)
Rwanda	\$0.00	\$9.37	\$40.62
São Tomé and Príncipe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.74
Senegal	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$40.01
Sierra Leone	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$36.58
Solomon Islands	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$20.69
Somalia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.65
South Sudan	\$0.00	\$9.50	\$19.77
Sudan	\$0.00	\$9.96	\$41.95
Tanzania	\$0.00	\$9.23	\$27.03
Timor Leste	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$31.80
Togo	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$30.00
Tuvalu	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$16.99
Uganda	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$29.80
Vanuatu	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$36.57
Yemen	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$26.53
Zambia	\$0.00	\$7.91	\$35.00
Global	\$0.00	\$2.22	\$15.49
Regional	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$125.79
GEF-7 Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation		\$5.00	\$5.00
Total	\$65.40	\$345.64	

46. Table 2 presents the total amount of resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees, for the December 2020 Work Program as well as cumulative, GEF-7 programming by Agency. Six GEF Agencies are represented in the December 2020 Work Program, namely UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, WWF-US, FAO, and IUCN. UNDP has the highest share with 55.7 percent of the December Work Program, or \$36.42 million, followed by UNIDO with 15.3 percent, or \$10.00 million. FAO, UNEP, WWF-US, and IUCN have approximately \$5.00 million each. IUCN and UNDP have submitted a joint project. This is the first time that WWF-US has submitted a Full-sized Project (FSP) for the LDCF. WWF-US has accessed the LDCF resources for the first time in GEF-7, with a recently approved Medium-sized Project (MSP) supported by the LDCF and SCCF as part of the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation.

47. During the first two years of the GEF-7 period, eleven GEF Agencies have been engaged in LDCF programming. UNDP has \$119.90 million, or 34.7 percent of the GEF-7 cumulative programming volume, followed by FAO at \$95.24 million or 27.6 percent. AfDB has the third

highest share of 11.3 percent at \$38.97 million, followed by UNIDO at \$22.04 million, or 6.4 percent.

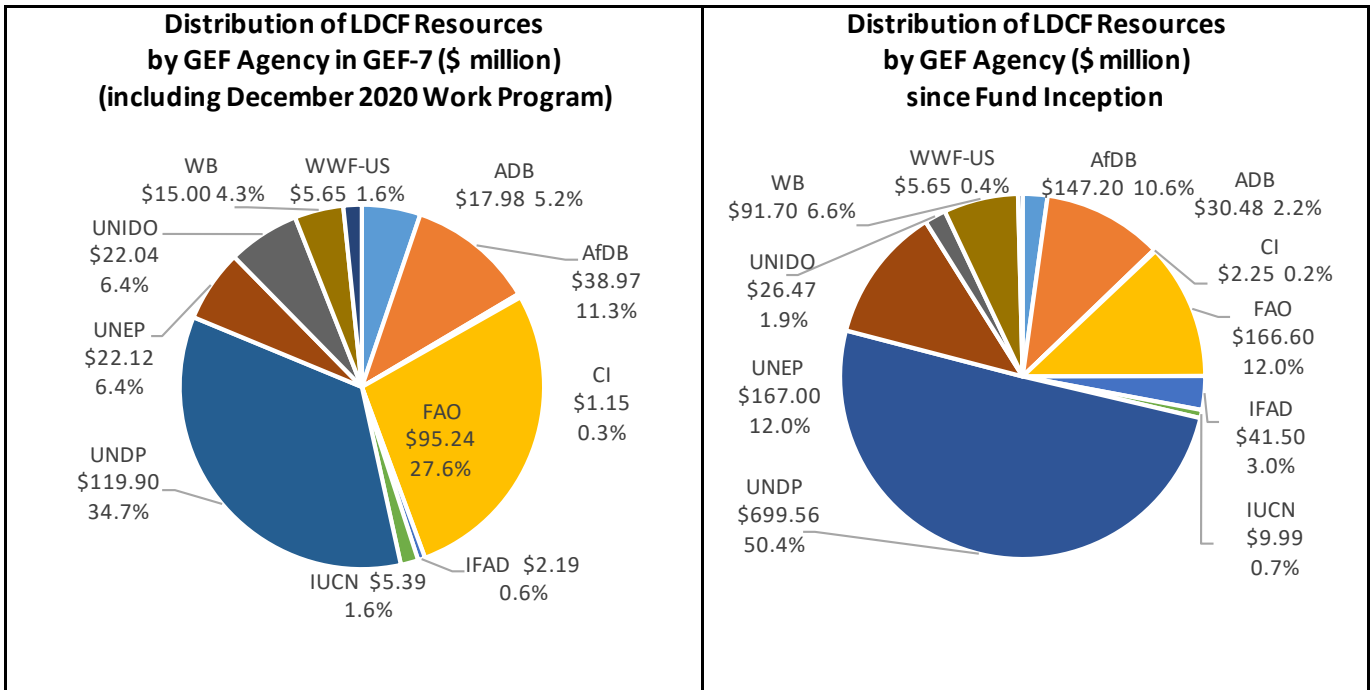
Table 2: Amount of LDCF Resources by Agency in December 2020 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date

Agency	Resources Requested in December 2020 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)		GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources Requested including December 2020 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	
	\$ million	% of resources	\$ million	% of resources
ADB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$17.98	5.2%
AfDB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$38.97	11.3%
CI	\$0.00	0.0%	\$1.15	0.3%
FAO	\$5.00	7.6%	\$95.24	27.6%
IFAD	\$0.00	0.0%	\$2.19	0.6%
IUCN	\$4.09	6.3%	\$5.39	1.6%
UNDP	\$36.42	55.7%	\$119.90	34.7%
UNEP	\$4.90	7.5%	\$22.12	6.4%
UNIDO	\$10.00	15.3%	\$22.04	6.4%
WB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$15.00	4.3%
WWF-US	\$5.00	7.6%	\$5.65	1.6%
Total	\$65.40	100.0%	\$345.63	100.0%

48. The Agency involvement in the GEF-7 period summarized above shows a different trend compared to the Agency programming distribution since the LDCF inception, as shown in Figure 2. According to the GEF Trustee report as of June 2020, ten GEF Agencies have been involved in LDCF projects and programs totaling \$1,505.93 million since the fund inception. Of this amount, UNDP holds the largest share of project funding decisions to date, with 50.4 percent; followed by UNEP and FAO at 12.0 percent each.⁹ In comparison, the GEF-7 programming to date shows a more balanced distribution among eleven Agencies, with no Agency having more than approximately one-third of the portfolio.

⁹ GEF Trustee, 2020, [Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#), Council document GEF.LDCF.29/Inf.02.

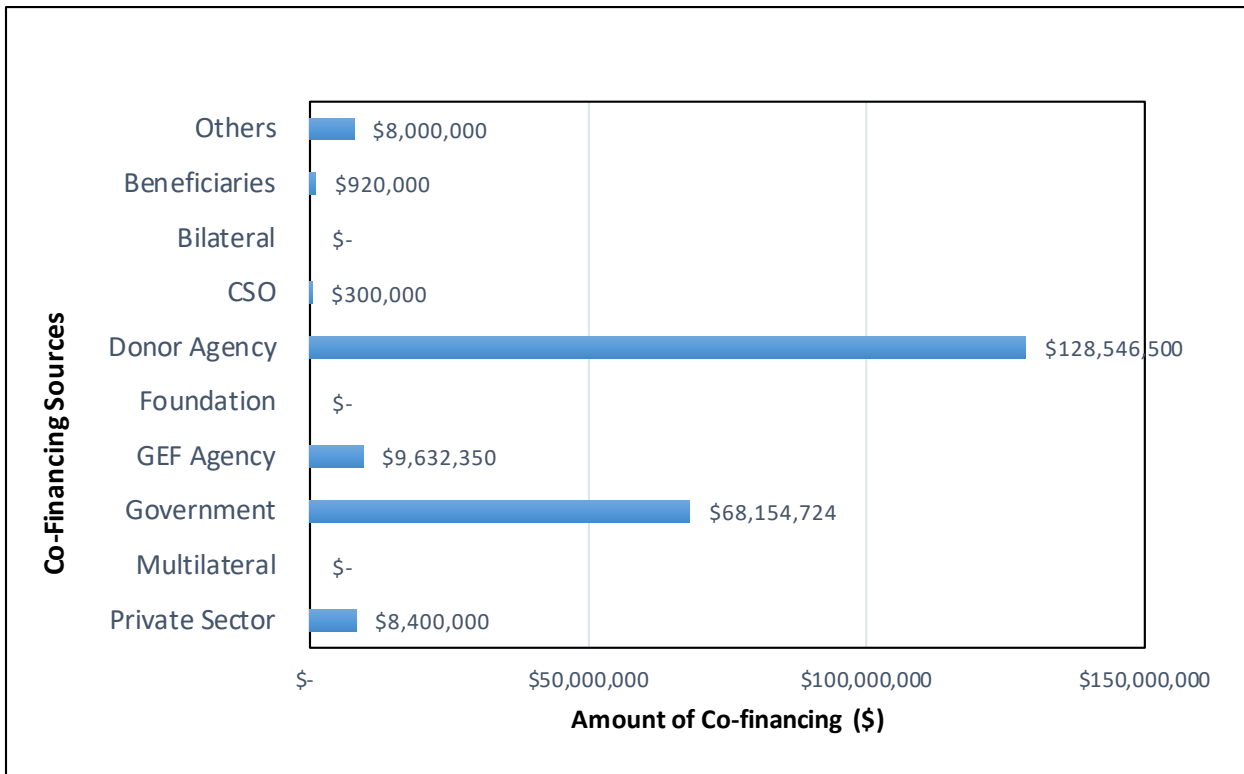
Figure 2: Comparison of Agency Distribution of LDCF Resources (\$ million)



DISTRIBUTION OF CO-FINANCING

49. Distribution of co-financing by co-financier types for the projects in the December 2020 Work Program is shown below in Figure 3. This distribution of co-financing also includes the share of co-financing for the three MTFs mobilized by the LDCF portion. Donor Agencies and governments are the largest providers of co-financing. GEF Agencies and private sector are also providing significant co-financing.

Figure 3: Distribution of Co-Financing for December 2020 LDCF Work Program



OBSERVATIONS AND OUTLOOK

50. Resource availability: The LDCF has been demonstrating its nimbleness and flexibility to provide timely and efficient support to LDCs, aided by significant operational improvements. However, the issue of resource availability and predictability continues to hamper the LDCF and SCCF programming. Each Work Program presented to Council to date has utilized almost all resources available in the LDCF Trust Fund, with occasional concepts that must wait for Work Program inclusion until the next Council meeting. Some Agencies have shared concerns about uncertainties in resource availability and the timing of project clearance and Council approval. The situation has also restricted the GEF Secretariat from proactively engaging to develop and support a wide array of innovative and cross-cutting support with potential to benefit the poorest and the most vulnerable at the regional and/or global level.

51. There is a critical need to strive for continued and more predictable support to the LDCF from donors and to consider expanding the donor base. Requesting more donors to commit to a multi-year contribution agreement may offer some stability. Another option is to expand the donor base to include more countries.

52. Leaving no country behind: After this Work Program is approved, there are nine LDCs that have not accessed resources in the GEF-7 period, along with 15 LDCs who have not reached the initial cap of \$10 million. By the completion of the GEF-7 period in June 2022, the LDCF aims to serve all 47 LDCs by providing support to address their urgent and immediate climate

adaptation needs. This means the GEF Secretariat will redouble its efforts to reach out to countries to understand their climate adaptation priorities and to assist them to consider applying for LDCF support to address them. Some of these remaining LDCs have had very low historical access rates as shown in Table 1, and as such may merit targeted outreach and support.

53. Furthermore, the onset of COVID-19 brought about critical needs and opportunities to address resilience and climate adaptation in synergy with required recovery actions in many countries, including LDCs. These include supporting nature-based and climate-smart infrastructure development, such as irrigation, boosting resilience of basic services, housing and mobility, and supporting adaptation-oriented public works programs with income generation opportunities for communities and vulnerable populations. Some Agencies and countries that have reached the initial cap have inquired about the possibility for the LDCF to support these needs and opportunities. Countries with resources remaining under the initial cap may be encouraged to pursue these synergy opportunities. With more donor support, the LDCF could also support additional projects above and beyond the \$10 million cap before the end of GEF-7.

54. GEF-GCF coordination: The GEF and GCF continued to collaborate through the ongoing coordinated engagement pilot and close collaboration between the fund Secretariats. For this Work Program, the Benin project by FAO and Mali project both include GCF support as co-financing. The Benin project includes a \$30 million co-financing from a new initiative titled the Ouémé Climate Resilience Initiative in support of the similar project objective. The Mali project includes a \$2 million GCF co-financing from an adaptation initiative in the Niger Basin. As explained earlier, the project in Senegal is well-aligned with an anticipated new phase of the GGW wall initiative with significant contributions from the GEF and other donors. Another project (Benin UNDP project) includes a description of a NAP being supported by GCF and how it is expected to help inform the GEF project. Furthermore, the project in Sierra Leone will explore complementarity with GCF's Arbaro Fund – Sustainable Forestry Fund project by supporting adaptation MSMEs which could potentially implement nature-based solutions near the forest areas and support alternative livelihoods of communities in the region. Moving forward, the GEF and GCF Secretariats may engage in further discussion to identify a number of priority countries and/or adaptation themes to proactively develop joint initiatives by the end of GEF-7 period.

55. Inspiring innovation and private sector engagement as part of COVID-19 recovery and response: Virtually all proposals presented in the recent Work Programs include private sector entities as stakeholders, beneficiaries, and/or part of the executing arrangements. However, there is still relatively limited private sector engagement to expand catalytic investments, create enabling conditions, and to act as major financiers. The engagement of private sector partners in various capacities including in currently limited roles is also crucial for many countries to pursue ambitious green recovery agenda from COVID-19.

56. The GEF Secretariat may engage in further consultations with countries to explore opportunities. The GEF Secretariat could consider holding a second call for proposals for the

Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation, also to address this potential and gap. Resources could be made available as part of the regional and global project support, set at 10 percent of the expected total resources.

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

57. The projects presented in the LDCF Work Program cover various interventions to deliver adaptation benefits aligned with the Programming Strategy. The updated results framework for adaptation to climate change for the LDCF and SCCF (2018-2022) introduces four core indicators. Contributions of the nine proposals on the core indicators are as follows:

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 1,098,000 persons, of which 520,000 persons or 47.4 percent are female
- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 395,200 hectares
- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: 62 policies and plans
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 25,580 persons, of which 11,686 persons or 45.7 percent are female.

58. The cumulative contributions on the core indicators of all LDCF projects approved in the GEF-7 period are as follows:

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 17,052,197 persons, of which 8,616,656 persons or 50.5 percent are female
- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 1,828,244 hectares
- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: 485 policies and plans
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 334,706 persons, of which 168,728 or 50.4 percent are female.

59. The Corporate Scorecard now includes a section on adaptation to include core indicators, which will be tracked at the CEO endorsement, mid-term, and terminal stages.

GENDER

60. Women in LDCs are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men. Women constitute the majority of the world's poor and are highly dependent for their livelihoods on the local natural resources threatened by climate change. While women play important roles in sectors affected by climate change such as agriculture and energy, they are often the ones that are the least able to adapt and effectively contribute to climate action and sustainability. Women often face greater barriers than men to accessing technical and financial opportunities

as well as participating in decision making processes.

61. Responding to the ambition and requirements set out in the GEF Policy on Gender Equality, all nine projects in this Work Program considered gender issues in their initial project design. They further describe strategies to ensure gender-responsive stakeholder consultations and plans to complete gender assessments and gender action plans in project development. Many projects have already identified potential actions including efforts to address women's barriers to decision-making, engage women groups, and entry points to improve economic opportunities for women.

62. In line with GEF's Gender Implementation Strategy, all projects provide information on plans to include gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote women's empowerment and explicitly state that they expect to develop sex disaggregated and gender sensitive indicators. In addition, all projects in this Work Program expect to close gender gaps including:

- (a) Access and control of natural resources (67 percent)
- (b) Participation and decision making (100 percent)
- (c) Socio-economic benefits and services (100 percent)

LDCF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS¹⁰

63. **Afghanistan:** *Community-Based Climate-responsive Livelihoods and Forestry (CCLF)* (GEF ID 10312); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing \$8,982,420; Co-financing: \$20,000,000. This project aims to enhance the resilience of local communities to climate change through improved alternative livelihood and land-use options. The driving objective of the proposed project is to diversify livelihoods and sources of income as the main adaptation strategy. Water and land management practices are geared towards supporting this objective. It has three components that will result in adaptation benefits to 80,000 direct beneficiaries, of which 40,000 is women, 800 hectares of land under climate resilient management, contribute to 44 policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience, and 840 people trained, of which more than 330 are female. In terms of policy related impacts, the project will support the integration of climate change considerations into local level planning. The provincial climate-smart natural resource management plans will provide the framework for integration of forest management and rangeland management in the Community Development Councils to institutionalize community-based conservation and sustainable use of resources. In addition to this, valley level conservation and adaptation plans will be further prepared.

64. **Benin:** *Restoring and Enhancing the Value of Degraded Lands and Forest Ecosystems for Enhanced Climate Resilience in Benin* (PIRVaTEFoD-Benin) (GEF ID 10688); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$9,032,877 (\$4,466,210 LDCF, \$4,566,667 GEF Trust Fund, Land

¹⁰ The GEF project financing presented in this section for the MTF includes the LDCF share, and co-financing is the share mobilized by the LDCF portion of the MTF.

Degradation); Co-financing: \$17,805,200. This project aims to support the achievement of Benin's LDN targets through sustainable land and forest management practices, while also strengthening the climate resilience of vulnerable populations in the Niger Valley, Alibori Sud-Borgou, Nord-2KP, and Zou-Couffo Agricultural Development Areas. The project will achieve its objective through activities financed under four components: (i) Political, financial, institutional, and regulatory frameworks to achieve climate risk informed LDN and advance integration of vulnerability assessment and adaptation options within land use decisions; (ii) Restoration of land and forest ecosystems for improved agricultural productivity, prevention of deforestation, and enhanced climate resilience of vulnerable communities; (iii) Building diversified income-generating activities and value chains to strengthen community resilience; (iv) Gender empowerment, knowledge management. The project will directly benefit 36,000 people and restore 15,000 hectares of degraded land, while also placing this land under more sustainable management. The project will integrate adaptation considering while working to achieve land degradation neutrality in the intervention zones, through the adoption of a multi-pronged approach integrating climate-smart agriculture, SLM, SFM, with alternative livelihoods and other income-generating climate adaptation measures. This project is innovative in addressing agricultural input supply, while establishment innovative partnerships at the district level, with the aim of deploying a toolkit of various management tools to implement an integrated land use planning framework. Benin is not formally part of the Great Green Wall Initiative, this project will contribute significantly to the objective of the partnership to restore 100 million hectares of currently degraded land, sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon and create 10 million jobs in rural areas by 2030.

65. **Benin:** *Strengthening Human and Natural Systems Resilience to Climate Change through Mangrove Ecosystems Conservation and Sustainable Use in Southern Benin* (GEF ID 10166); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$7,155,936 (\$4,466,210 LDCF; \$2,689,726 GEF Trust Fund, Biodiversity); Co-financing: \$25,750,000. This project will increase the resilience of mangrove ecosystems and their dependent agricultural, forestry, and fishery communities in southern Benin. The project will achieve its objective through the implementation of three components with complementary financing from the Biodiversity allocation of the GEFTF and the LDCF. The LDCF activities will be executed through (i) Increased adaptive capacity of the natural systems; (ii) Increased adaptive capacity of human systems resulting to livelihood diversification and development; (iii) Enabling environment for sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in a context of climate change. The project will place 120,000 ha of land under more climate resilient management, including 70,000 ha within Ramsar sites and 50,000 ha of surrounding smallholder production land, directly benefitting 350,000 people (of which 50 percent are women). Project activities will result in the strengthening of national institutional and policy frameworks for more sustainable mangrove ecosystem management, integrating both conservation and adaptation principles. The project leverages a GCF investment of \$30,000,000, which was designed in tandem with the proposed intervention while tackling more upstream lands adjacent to the mangrove ecosystems targeted by this intervention. The proposed intervention will also complement the West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project. By funding the additional costs of interventions necessary to integrate the expected impacts of climate change on conservation and restoration of mangrove ecosystems, the project will

contribute to ensure that the risks related to climate change, including variability, are integrated into biodiversity restoration and conservation management plans in mangrove areas. The project will further generate adaptation benefits by facilitating the integration of climate risk into existing legal instruments and institutional arrangements related to mangroves management while mainstreaming climate resilience into a number of policies, plans or development frameworks

66. **Burundi:** *Landscape Restoration for Increased Resilience in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas of Bujumbura* (GEF ID: 10099) Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420 Co-financing: \$16,024,270. This project aims to increase the resilience of watershed communities in and around Bujumbura through a resilient integrated watershed management approach. The project will address the vulnerability of urban and peri-urban communities of Bujumbura and the Ntakangwa watershed to the increased frequency of floods, storm runoffs and landslides projected by climate models. It will achieve this through three components: (i) Developing technical capacities for climate-induced flood and erosion risks mapping and their use to inform climate-resilient integrated watershed management and other planning processes; (ii) Ecosystems services for flood and erosion protection restored and flood protection measures to improve the resilience of communities in the Ntakangwa watershed and in Bujumbura; (iv) Livelihoods options and green entrepreneurship to increase resilience of the urban, peri-urban, and rural communities in the Ntakangwa watershed. The project will build on the previous LDCF intervention in the Ntakangwa watershed to increase the resilience of at least 120,000 people (8percent of the population of the target areas), while benefitting 10,000 (about 80percent of the watershed's estimated area) under more sustainable and climate resilient land practices. The integrated watershed and flood management practices will ensure the increased resilience of both upstream highland communities and downstream lowland communities living in more urban areas through a comprehensive planning and management approach making use of climate information available in the country together with specific investments in landscape restoration, flood management measures and resilient livelihoods support. Landscape restoration in areas connected to Bujumbura will help restore flood-related ecosystem protection for both highland upstream communities and lowland urban communities with adaptive solution ranging from tree planting to watershed protection and reinforcement of riverbanks structures. To complement the restoration efforts, livelihood activities will promote green entrepreneurship and provide better access to markets (at this stage, the main sectors targeted are agriculture and agro-industry as well as the charcoal sector); thus connecting urban communities to peri-urban communities in the watershed. The charcoal sector's reliance on trees makes it a prime sector to target through a climate-resilient value chain approach. The agro-business sector will benefit from increasing the value of agricultural products and creating new investment opportunities. The urban focus of this project opens new doors to tap into the nascent startup ecosystems of Bujumbura while providing support for youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

67. **Haiti:** *Building Resilience in the Wake of Climate Disasters in Southern Haiti* (GEF ID 10175); Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,327,857; Co-financing: \$12,650,000. The project will be implemented in two zones in southwest Haiti, Macaya and Barraderes et

Cayemites, both of which have highly fragile and vulnerable ecosystems whose communities are exposed to a range of climatic hazards including hurricanes, cyclones, floods, droughts, and landslides. The project will establish multi-stakeholder governance systems; provide trainings on climate change risk, vulnerability and adaptation; and support development of participatory, climate-resilient management plans that emphasize ecosystem-based adaptation and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches. It will support national and sub-national programs of the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, and Civil Protection Directorate in advancing practices, methodologies and procedures to enhance climate resilience. Importantly, policy tools will be developed to support national and departmental government in responding to identified risks. Proposed on-the-ground adaptation benefits include implementation of climate smart agriculture on 200 hectares of steep terrain; rehabilitation of 30km of coastlines and 35km of riverbanks through targeted reforestation using climate-resilient coastal and riparian species; building of small-scale water capture and storage infrastructure; and establishment of sustainable woodlots of resilient species. The project will also support agricultural value chain assessment. Overall, it is expected to directly benefit 100,000 people (of which, 50,000 will be women), and mainstream climate resilience in at least two national or sub-national policies or plans, and train at least 240 people in identifying and managing climate change risk, vulnerability and adaptation. A gender gap analysis will be undertaken to determine the main climate change vulnerabilities and solutions for men and women. The project will liaise with the private sector to seek opportunities for private-sector investments in supporting post-harvest supply chains.

68. **Mali:** *Climate Security and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Central Regions of Mali for Peacebuilding* (GEF ID 10687); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$7,512,557 (\$4,872,831 LDCF, \$2,639,726 GEF Trust Fund, Land Degradation); Co-financing: \$16,667,379. This project aims to ensure the long-term sustainability of vulnerable productive landscapes in Mali's central region of Mopti through nature-based solutions that reverse land degradation, strengthen communities' resilience to climate change, and promote environment-based conflict resolution. The project will achieve this through four components: (i) Enhancing coordination and monitoring for land degradation neutrality and climate security; (ii) Enhancing resilience of degraded production landscapes with communities vulnerable to climate change; (iii) Supporting family farms, youth and women to innovate and adopt resilience and sustainable livelihoods; (iv) Monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management for upscaling. The proposed project is innovative in several ways – first in its integrated approach toward assisting Mali in achieving LDN through bundled actions that incorporate climate adaptation and land degradation considerations. The project positions two key research institutes (the Mali Geographic Institute (IGM) and the Institute of Rural Economy (IER)) in supporting a first of its kind multi-stakeholder and intragovernmental coordination. The IGM will bring together a number of different streams of government, supported by development partners, to develop an action plan for achieving LDN targets and the IER will lead a process for refining a methodology for conflict-sensitive climate vulnerability assessments and mapping. The project also takes an innovative approach to building climate-resilient livelihoods, by creating opportunities for local youth to receive entrepreneurship training in existing incubator programs in Mopti city, specifically in agro-processing and climate-smart technologies. The

project will directly benefit 80,000 people, while ensuring a total of 15,000 ha of land under communal lands has ecosystem functioning restored and brought under effective community management and able to deliver ecosystem services; while another 21,000 ha of family farms is brought under improved practices through the usage of agro-ecological techniques that restore land productive, reverse desertification and enhance resilience to disasters. An estimate 1.09 metric tons of CO₂e will be avoided as a result, directly contributing to Mali's NDC ambition for reducing GHGs from the AFOLU sector.

69. **Nepal:** *Managing Watersheds for Enhanced Resilience of Communities to Climate Change in Nepal (MaWRiN)* (GEF ID 10727); Agency: WWF-US; GEF Project Financing: \$4,436,250, Co-financing: \$25,852,350. This project will aim to enhance climate resilience of indigenous people and local communities in the Maru watershed through nature-based solutions and livelihood diversification. Nepal is vulnerable to numerous climate-induced hazards such as floods, landslides and debris flows due to its steep topography along with extended dry spells and drying up of water sources along the mid hills and mountains while glacial melt is significantly increasing the potential risk of Glacial Lake Outburst floods in the high mountains. Among its landscape, Maru watershed is one of the regions having highly vulnerable communities to climate change risks and impacts. The project is structured around three Components that will result in adaptation benefits of 40,000 direct beneficiaries, of which 18,000 are female, 10,000 hectares of land under climate resilient management, and 3,500 people trained, of which 1,800 are female. The project will support integrating climate change in local level policy and planning processes. For this purpose, the project aims to provide trainings, exposure and peer learning opportunities for municipality staff, government line agencies such as Division Forest Office and Community-based organizations on climate change impacts, vulnerability assessment tools and methods, and mainstreaming approaches. The project will further support the review of relevant local plans, sector and development strategies that address climate risks and, where necessary, support the formulation of tools and guidelines for integrating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into these plans and investments that promote ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions.

70. **Senegal:** *Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for resilient natural resources and agro-pastoral communities in the Ferlo Biosphere Reserve and Plateau of Thies* (GEF ID: 10691) Agency: UNDP and IUCN; GEF Project Financing: \$8,949,533, Co-financing: \$26,450,000. This project aims to promote EbA in two target sites: the Ferlo Biosphere Reserve (FBR) and the City of Thies, to strengthen the resilience of agro-pastoral communities, ecosystem services, and biodiversity to the negative impacts of climate change, particularly droughts and floods. The project will do this through three components: (i) Developing regional and local governance for climate resilience through EbA; (ii) Restoration and conservation management to increase resilience of natural assets and ecosystem services; (iii) Investment in climate-resilient value chains; and (iv) Knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation. An estimated 300,000 households will benefit from the restoration activities in the two project zones; while 10,000 households will benefit from the development of ecosystem-based services in economically useful ecosystems as well as trainings on EbA within the localized contexts of the two target sites. The project also aims to support the direct restoration and more climate resilient

management of more than 5,000 hectares of forest and rangelands, as well as an additional 245,000 ha of land in the Wildlife Reserves of Ferlo Nord and Ferlo Sud among others. As the Senegalese Agency for Restoration of the Great Green Wall (ASRGM) is the lead for this project in Senegal, it will ensure strong coordination with planned programming under the national and regional GGWI, while activities in the FBR will contribute directly to GGW activities. EbA re-frames biodiversity and ecosystems in terms of their economic value for humans, bringing together often-siloed strategies of conservation and livelihoods. This approach has not yet been systematically adopted in Senegal and has significant potential to transform existing development projects into climate adaptation activities, within the project areas and beyond, offering significant potential for replication and scaling.

71. **Sierra Leone: Promotion of Climate Adaptation Technology and Business Model Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone** (GEF ID 10680); Agency: UNIDO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$21,880,000. The project aims to transform the market for adaptation solutions in Sierra Leone by supporting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for technological and business model innovations across agriculture-water-energy sectors. The project will support MSMEs in accessing finance and create an enabling policy environment to incentivize adaptation solutions such as water management technologies, climate information services, risk insurance products, cold storage facilities, etc. It will also support community groups to access finance from local financial institutions including micro-finance institutions by developing innovative financial products. The project will address systemic market barriers for adaptation related businesses such as lack of policy support, low awareness of business case and limited flow of finance to MSMEs and community groups. The project plans to create an innovative online marketplace which will link market actors and enable MSMEs to promote their adaptation solutions. The focus on MSMEs is driven by their high potential in delivering climate resilient products and services in water, energy and agriculture sectors. Strengthening MSMEs will also create green jobs in the country thereby contributing to green recovery. The project builds on a good baseline which includes a strong policy support to MSMEs and commitment to improve resilience of vulnerable communities as outlined in the NAPA and Medium-term National Development Plan. It will advance GEF's investment in projects such as CRAFT and ASAP which aims to enhance private sector and MSME role in adaptation. The project is estimated to support up to 200 MSMEs, improve resilience of 256,000 people and enhance climate resilient productivity in 26,000 hectares of land in Sierra Leone particularly in climate vulnerable Bonthe and Port Loko regions. The project will have at least 50 percent of women beneficiaries and will also promote youth's engagement in green entrepreneurial activities.

ANNEX A: PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL APPROVAL

ANNEX A
PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR LDCF/SCCF COUNCIL APPROVAL
Under the LDCF Trust Fund
December 11, 2020

in US \$										
No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Climate Change Adaptation										
1	10312	Community-based Climate-responsive Livelihoods and Forestry (CCLF)	Afghanistan	UNDP	150,000	14,250	8,982,420	853,330	20,000,000	30,000,000
2	10099	Landscape Restoration for Increased Resilience in Urban and Peri-urban Areas of Bujumbura	Burundi	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	16,024,270	26,024,270
3	10175	Building Resilience in the Wake of Climate Disasters in Southern Haiti	Haiti	UNEP	150,000	14,250	4,327,857	411,146	12,650,000	17,553,253
4	10727	Managing Watersheds for Enhanced Resilience of Communities to Climate Change in Nepal (MaWRiN)	Nepal	WWF-US	150,000	13,500	4,436,250	399,263	25,852,350	30,851,363
5	10691	Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Resilient Natural Resources and Agro-pastoral Communities in the Ferlo Biosphere Reserve and Plateau of Thies	Senegal	UNDP, IUCN	200,000	18,550	8,949,533	831,917	26,450,000	36,450,000
6	10680	Promotion of Climate Adaptation Technology and Business Model Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	UNIDO	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	21,880,000	31,880,000
CCA-Sub-Total					1,050,000	98,550	44,560,900	4,192,816	122,856,620	172,758,886
Multi-Trust Fund*										
7	10688	Restoring and Enhancing the Value of Degraded Lands and Forest Ecosystems for Enhanced Climate Resilience in Benin (PIRVaTEFoD-Benin)	Benin	UNDP	100,000	9,500	4,466,210	424,290	17,805,200	22,805,200
8	10166	Strengthening Human and Natural Systems Resilience to Climate Change through Mangrove Ecosystems Conservation and Sustainable Use in Southern Benin	Benin	FAO	100,000	9,500	4,466,210	424,290	25,750,000	30,750,000
9	10687	Climate security and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Central Regions of Mali for Peacebuilding	Mali	UNDP	150,000	14,250	4,872,831	462,919	16,667,379	22,167,379
MTF-Sub-Total					350,000	33,250	13,805,251	1,311,499	60,222,579	75,722,579
Grand Total					1,400,000	131,800	58,366,151	5,504,315	183,079,199	248,481,465

*Only the LDCF component is presented in this Work Program. The GEF Trust Fund components are presented separately in the GEF Trust Fund Work Program.

ANNEX B: COMPILATION OF COVID-19 PROJECT DESIGN AND REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

TEMPLATE

Project ID:

Project Title:

Agency:

Country:

Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics

As the GEF adapts to the impacts the COVID-19 crisis is having on its business, there is a need to document how new proposed projects being presented to Council have integrated and considered the various aspects of COVID-19 on the design and eventual implementation of said projects. This short template is designed to capture how each project presented to Council has addressed this issue.

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **General:** Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

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

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

Country: Afghanistan

Project Title: Community-based Climate-responsive Livelihoods and Forestry (CCLF)
Southern Benin

Project ID: 10312

Agency: UNDP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

As the GEF adapts to the impacts the COVID-19 crisis is having on its business, there is a need to document how new proposed projects being presented to Council have integrated and considered the various aspects of COVID-19 on the design and eventual implementation of said projects. This short template is designed to capture how each project presented to Council has addressed this issue.

1. **General:** Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) COVID has been identified as a risk in this proposal. Further, more in-depth assessment will be undertaken on social and economic impacts on vulnerable populations, mapping of hotspots and developing potential investment plans, at the PPG stage. However, several considerations are incorporated in the project concept. Examples are listed in section. poverty and food/nutrition insecurity in the country.
 - (b) COVID has been also identified as an opportunity in this proposal. In-depth assessment on the opportunity will be conducted during PPG; however, several potentials are already identified in the PIF (section 3).
2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.
 - (a) Restrictions on travel work virtually if travel restrictions due to COVID-19 continue to be in place. will use teleconference platforms and online tools to engage and discuss with stakeholders.
 - (b) The availability of co-financing could be affected: The project will ensure government commitment for co-finance starting from design stage and secure the same as and when annual work plans are approved by the project Board
 - (c) Disruptions to supply chains and restrictions on movement of goods and services: The project design will be built keeping potential disruptions of supply chain in

mind – and the project will maximize use of experts in-country procurement plans, and field activity implementation plans will be prepared in advance with specific timelines to avoid potential delays.

3. **Opportunity analysis** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.
 - (a) Opportunities for the project to function in a more efficient way through enhancement of digital technology and online resources, which will in turn minimize bureaucracy and time taken in securing approvals.
 - (b) In the context of Afghanistan COVID-19 also provides an opportunity for stakeholders and community members to participate in project consultation meetings through remote means, thereby reducing casualties due to frequent security incidences.
 - (c) The project will aim to ensure sustainable procurement, careful waste management (e.g., of PPE) and save resources through remote/online operations and minimum travel thereby avoiding contribution to POPs and GHG emissions.

Country: Benin

Project Title: Strengthening Human and Natural Systems Resilience to Climate Change through Mangrove Ecosystems Conservation and Sustainable use in Southern Benin

Project ID: 10166

Agency: UND

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

As the GEF adapts to the impacts the COVID-19 crisis is having on its business, there is a need to document how new proposed projects being presented to Council have integrated and considered the various aspects of COVID-19 on the design and eventual implementation of said projects. This short template is designed to capture how each project presented to Council has addressed this issue.

1. **General:** . Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits
 - (a) The Project includes a brief analysis on the pandemic and how it has been integrated into the project design. As of 30 September 2020, Benin reported 2,340 cases of COVID-19, including 40 deaths. The negative impact of the pandemic on the agriculture sector includes: limited access to international markets (37 percent decrease in pineapple exports alone), and negative repercussions on animal production and health. This can be expected to have lasting impacts on poverty and food/nutrition insecurity in the country.
 - (b) Several mid to long term objectives to build back better in the agriculture sectors include: (i) Improving production and productivity along food value chains; (ii) Facilitating commercialization of agricultural and agro-food products; and (iii) improving living conditions of vulnerable agricultural households. Immediate priority actions which support these longer term aims include: (i) facilitation of access to production factors and markets; (ii) promotion of digital solutions in the agricultural sectors; and (iii) improvement of social security networks to combat COVID-19 and M&E. The proposed LDCF-GEFTF project is equipped to support some of these priority actions, and also complements them by addressing environmental degradation and conservation of protected areas, which can help mitigate future pandemics.
2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

- (a) Pandemics and COVID-19 specifically are listed as a risk in the risk matrix. Resilience in the project intervention logic is interpreted in a rather comprehensive fashion, and therefore includes building less vulnerable communities to pandemics, putting in place the infrastructure to build back better, such as short value chains for local markets, extension services that easily and promptly address health related concerns so they do not become social, economic and environmental crises, etc. The project intervention logic has the potential to address critical issues around human-wildlife interaction (including increased exposure to viruses), and the landscape management plans will explicitly integrate this concern.
 - (b) To overcome concerns in mobilizing the technical expertise to support project design and implementation, the project will work as much as possible with locally rooted (CSOs, NGOs, government institutes, extension services, ...) organizations and realities in order to minimize the impacts of limitations on mobility at the national and international level. Technological alternatives to face-to-face consultations will be deployed, securing proper participation and engagement of all relevant stakeholder groups, including women and youth.
 - (c) 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.
3. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.
- (a) The project aims to increase the resilience of mangrove ecosystems and the communities that depend on them, through a package of targeted activities focusing on the improved management of critical mangrove ecosystems for their livelihoods. Increased resilience will allow mangrove dependent communities to derive maximum value from the natural infrastructure. The Covid-19 pandemic dramatically exposed the impact of ecosystem degradation on and the vulnerabilities of societies.
 - (b) The planning and management component of the project offers an opportunity to carefully consider the human-wildlife interactions and how to limit these along efforts to strengthen ecosystem's health and limit fragmentation. The project may help identify high-risk areas and consider appropriate mitigation measures. Short-term responses can also be delivered through some project approaches, including the Farmer Field Schools, which have continued to operate during the pandemic (and therefore deliver important extension services), and have successfully integrated modules on hygiene and social distancing measures to contain propagation of viruses. The project will also address market access issues and can integrate lessons from the recent past into its activities. During the PPG phase,

opportunities to build back better will be explored further and continue to be integrated into the project design.

Country: Benin

Project Title: Restoring and Enhancing the Value of Degraded Lands and Forest Ecosystems for Enhanced Climate Resilience in Benin (PIRVaTEFoD)

Project ID: 10688

Agency: UNDP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

As the GEF adapts to the impacts the COVID-19 crisis is having on its business, there is a need to document how new proposed projects being presented to Council have integrated and considered the various aspects of COVID-19 on the design and eventual implementation of said projects. This short template is designed to capture how each project presented to Council has addressed this issue.

1. **General** : Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) The project includes a brief analysis on the pandemic and how it has been integrated into the project design. As of 30 September 2020, Benin reported 2,340 cases of COVID-19, including 40 deaths. The pandemic is having a negative impact on agricultural production in rural areas and comprises a threat to achieving project objectives. Outbreaks of Covid-19 in the project’s intervention zones would negatively affect project beneficiaries and cause losses at target locations.
 - (b) Governments are constantly developing their responses to Covid-19 and Benin is no different, with a newly launched “Benin Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Project” to aid the country’s response to the pandemic and also improve its resilience to health emergencies (World Bank, 2020; UNICEF, 2020)[30] as well as through UNDP, which is leading the UN’s socio-economic response to the pandemic and its aftermath
2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation
 - (a) A COVID-19 specific section has been added to the Risk matrix and table. The submission indicates that while Benin has not been severely impacted by the virus, this may partially be due to insufficient testing as well as the remote nature of rural Benin. As such, risk mitigation measures are built into the project design, mainly to address the risks regarding the availability of technical expertise and/or changing timescales for implementation; difficulties relating to implementing

community engagement activities; stakeholder engagement processes and impacts on potential co-financing. UNDP will develop a COVID protocol specifically for this project, and endeavor to follow all protocols put in place by the government of Benin. Additionally, the project workplan and team will be developed with these risks integrated into the approach, depending on localizing procurement and relying on virtual infrastructure when appropriate.

3. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.
- (a) The project has identified 6 opportunities areas where it can directly contribute to mitigating the negative impacts of COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and adaptation benefits, while also contributing toward building back better and the “green recovery.”
 - (b) Restoring natural systems and ecological functionality through ensuring the long-term integrity, conservation, and sustainable use of the target landscape and ecosystem functions, which will reduce human land use encroachment and fragmentation of ecosystems, which will also contribute to lowering the risk of future zoonoses.
 - (c) Supporting the regulation of wildlife trade and consumption through the promotion of hunting alternatives, such as husbandry
 - (d) Supporting land use practices to decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts - The project focuses on the rural landscape of Benin as a mosaic of protected areas and the adjacent production landscape. Its objective is to ensure the sustainable management of both protected and agricultural areas. A key objective is to reduce or prevent the encroachment of human land uses (agriculture, pastoralism) into protected areas and remnant forests which results in their fragmentation and increased risk of human-wildlife conflicts with increased risk of disease exposure.
 - (e) Supporting COVID economic recovery through: promoting sustainable agriculture, agroforestry and use of non-timber forest products, all of which will contribute to income generation and are geared toward supporting green growth models

Country: Burundi

Project Title: Landscape Restoration for Increased Resilience in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas of Bujumbura

Project ID: 10099

Agency: UNEP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

As the GEF adapts to the impacts the COVID-19 crisis is having on its business, there is a need to document how new proposed projects being presented to Council have integrated and considered the various aspects of COVID-19 on the design and eventual implementation of said projects. This short template is designed to capture how each project presented to Council has addressed this issue.

1. **General** : Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) The project includes a brief analysis on the pandemic and how it has been integrated into the project design, including component by component. Despite a few confirmed cases of COVID-19 - 558 reported cases and one death as of the end of October 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Burundi's economic recovery. Burundi has limited fiscal, monetary and financial buffers to cope with the current crisis, and as a result, public debt is expected to increase to 63.7 percent of the GDP in 2020 from 58.5 percent in 2019 due to reduced revenues and higher spending on health. The GDP of Burundi rose slightly to 1.8 percent in 2019 mostly attributable to higher agricultural yields but is poised to fall to 0.3 percent for 2020. The pandemic is expected to impact agricultural production capacities and livelihoods, which could exacerbate food insecurity and limit the resilience capacities of the most vulnerable populations. The crisis is expected to have negative effects on food accessibility and price increases have already been observed (e.g. the price of maize is 37-61 percent higher compared to the same time last year). Border closure and quarantine requirements have led to a slow-down in trade and a disruption of cross-border markets affecting vulnerable households relying on casual labor and trade with the DRC.
 - (b) The COVID-19 recovery efforts present opportunities for Burundi to use green economy principles and green growth to create jobs and rebuild its economy while addressing climate vulnerabilities and drivers of land degradation, elements of which are integrated into the approach and design of this proposed intervention.
2. **Risk analysis**: Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to

include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.

- (a) A COVID Protocol will be developed during PPG and followed during project implementation. As UNDP has a large portfolio (GEF and non-GEF) of development projects, measures to avoid disruptions are already being used in other UNDP Projects and will also be applied to this project, as appropriate, which will be determined at PPG. A heavy reliance on local experts is integrated into the risk matrix, with the option of effective virtual engagement as the contingency condition when this is not possible. As part of the PPG, UNDP will identify mitigation measures and specific considerations tailored for this intervention to ensure that the project is fit-for-purpose should the COVID-19 crisis linger on or new situations cause disruptions of the same nature.

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

- (a) Through green entrepreneurship, the project will contribute to building a more resilient, greener economy in Burundi, which UNDP is promoting as a key recovery strategy post-COVID-In times of restricted mobility due to the pandemic, digital solutions are emerging as essential to keep businesses active and ensure safety and security. Where possible, the project will use innovative digital tools to make green businesses easier, more inclusive and more capable of sustaining services during the crisis.
- (b) To complement land and forest restoration activities, livelihood activities are necessary to reduce the vulnerability of populations, which this project delivers through the promotion of green entrepreneurship and providing better access to markets (at this stage, the main sectors targeted are agriculture and agro-industry as well as the charcoal sector), connecting urban communities to peri-urban communities in the watershed. Resilient livelihood options and green entrepreneurship, both of which are present in this project, are important strategies to rebuild Burundi's economy as part of its post-COVID-19 recovery efforts.

Country: Haiti

Project Title: Building Resilience in the Wake of Climate Disasters in Southern Haiti

Project ID: 10175

Agency: UNEP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **General:** Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) COVID has been adequately addressed for PIF stage, with elaboration of potential risks and their mitigation measures, as well as potential opportunities the project offers for green recovery and building back better. These aspects are discussed in the relevant sections below (on Risks, Opportunities).
2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.
 - (a) Identified risks: COVID-19 pandemic resurgence during project design (PPG phase) and/or implementation, resulting in implementation delays through impacts on capacity building activities and adaptation interventions.
Risk: High Impact: Medium
 - (b) In a resurgence situation, the project will adhere to Government regulations related to COVID-19 at all times COVID-19 related risks will be closely evaluated during the PPG phase, and the mitigation measures will be integrated in planned project activities and budgets.
 - (c) To mitigate the impact of restrictions on congregation of people, affecting the organization of capacity building activities and consultations including during PPG phase, the agency will adopt various arrangements to allow deployment of activities and projects, while ensuring the protection of beneficiaries and duty of care of implementing partners. Such arrangements include:
 - i. Meetings and workshops organized outdoors, with strict social distancing and hygiene measures (when possible and permitted);
 - ii. Meetings and workshops organized in smaller groups (with fewer participants), with a larger number of events to reach the same total number of beneficiaries;

- iii. Physical meetings replaced or complemented (as necessary) by virtual meetings and consultations, organized through a variety of user-friendly platforms (including e.g. Zoom or Skype, but also WhatsApp and/or telephone calls for one-on-one and small group discussions). Provision of equipment, internet access and training on the use of virtual platforms;
 - iv. For capacity building activities, physical workshops substituted through the development of online training modules, videos, webinars and/or podcasts.
 - v. Implementing partners and beneficiaries provided protective equipment and access to sanitation points.
 - (d) To mitigate the impact of national and/or international travel restrictions, virtual consultations, workshops and training sessions can be organized. In case of international travel restrictions (during project design or implementation), national consultant teams will be strengthened, and their work guided remotely by international consultants where needed. The presence of UNEP field office in the project area is instrumental in facilitating the linkages between international consultants, the project team and national consultants.
3. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.
- (a) In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project will capitalize on opportunities for the delivery of its adaptation benefits, and to contribute toward green recovery and building back better. These opportunities will be further analyzed during the PPG phase, and fully integrated in the project intervention and strategy and activities.
 - (b) The emergence of zoonotic diseases is often associated with environmental changes or ecological disturbances such as agricultural intensification and human settlement or encroachments into forests and other natural habitats. The project will contribute to an enhanced understanding of the linkages between ecosystem and human health, and related risks in the context of zoonotic diseases. In particular, the climate change risk and vulnerability assessments to be undertaken under project Output 1.1.1 can be designed to include a focus on health impacts and zoonoses risk. This analysis can also contribute to integrating climate change-environment-health linkages in the development of national and department-level government policy tools and procedures under project Outputs 1.1.5 and 1.1.6, thus helping to put in place a policy environment that enables green recovery and building back better.
 - (c) The project's climate-resilient land management, ecosystem protection and rehabilitation interventions (under Outcome 2.1) will help to demonstrate how ecosystem-based adaptation approaches can contribute to increasing resilience, including to zoonotic threats. Through its capacity building and training activities, the project will contribute to raising awareness and understanding of government

and other stakeholders on the linkages between ecosystem degradation and the emergence of zoonotic diseases, and thus build momentum for green recovery that fully recognizes the connection between ecosystem and human health. The project interventions will also contribute to improved access to water through ground water recharge pilots, rainwater harvesting and floodwater capture, which will have hygiene and sanitation-related benefits of relevance for COVID-19 recovery.

- (d) The project will enhance ecosystem connectivity and integrity through the establishment of multi-stakeholder protected area governance mechanisms and participatory climate-resilient management plans (Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.4), as well as the implementation of sustainable land management and ecosystem rehabilitation interventions under Outcome 2.1. This can contribute to ensure improved safety and security in the pathways of wildlife and wildlife products, to proactively prevent the emergence of new and shorter pathogen pathways.
- (e) The focus of project Component 3 on strengthening climate-resilient agricultural value chains and increasing the sustainability of ecosystem-based livelihoods offers multiple opportunities for the project to contribute to a transformational green recovery. COVID recovery stimulus packages offer an opportunity for building back better, and the project interventions will demonstrate how investments in sustainable and climate-resilient income-generating activities can stimulate local economies, create employment opportunities, and increase resilience to a recurrent zoonotic threat.
- (f) The project's contributions to green recovery, outlined above, will be firmly rooted in the national post COVID-19 recovery plan. In July 2020, the Government of Haiti initiated a multi-sector COVID-19 socioeconomic impact assessment process, with coordinated support from the United Nations, the World Bank and the European Union. This process will culminate in December 2020 with the adoption of an integrated recovery work plan for 2021-2023. UNEP is actively contributing to the impact assessment and planning process. In collaboration with the Centre National de Sécurité Alimentaire, UNEP is carrying out a large-scale environmental impact assessment through household surveys and expert consultations, including with representative panel in the area of this project in Grand'Anse. The survey will allow to assess the various dimensions of environmental impacts, including on shifting agricultural practices, possible expansion on natural land, increased pressure on wood and other natural resources, and various forms of pollution. It will also highlight opportunities for robust advocacy towards building back better and leaving no one behind through nature-based risk reduction and resilience.
- (g) In summary, COVID-19 has contributed to increase the attention of communities and decision-makers in Haiti on the importance of ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and other natural disasters, and the project will contribute to translating this increased awareness into national and subnational planning and responses.

¹ In addition to facilitating implementing partners' access to protection equipment, UNEP has supported the deployment and maintenance of 1,000 sanitation points to allow beneficiaries and surrounding communities to wash their hands regularly in key areas of communication and transit. It also supported local associations and media to disseminate protection messages through radios, sound trucks and boards. In case of resurgence of the pandemic in Haiti, these actions will be implemented again.

Country: Mali

Project Title: Climate Security and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Central Regions of Mali for Peacebuilding

Project ID: 10687

Agency: UNDP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **General:** Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) As of September 2020, Mali had just over 3,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 infection, with 129 deaths recorded. These figures are likely an under-reflection of the real situation, given the poor healthcare infrastructure across large parts of the country, the low level of testing capacity available, the unavailability of robust data and analysis, and an unreliable system for recording deaths generally. The Government of Mali has designed a National Action Plan for the prevention and response to COVID-19. Among the measures taken so far, the Mali government has introduced restrictions on travels to and from Mali, suspended public gatherings, requested the closure of all schools, and, on 25 March, a curfew from 21:00 to 5:00 has been decreed, along with the closure of land borders. Before the recent 8 years of conflict, Mopti's poverty rate at 79 percent was already much higher than the national average of 43 percent. A UN report in 2011 highlighted that 59.5 percent of the population was living on degraded land and only 29.2 percent had satisfactory water quality. The conflict years have worsened this situation, as a growing population tries to eke out a living on a shrinking area of productive land, without significant technological investment. Competition over scarce resources further fuels conflict, in a vicious cycle. In this context, the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Mali could have a devastating impact on the population.
 - (b) The project contributes to the Government of Mali's response to the pandemic, supported by the UN and other financial and technical partners. According to a rapid analysis by the UN Country Team of the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in Mali, the indirect socio-economic impacts are likely to be even more devastating than the direct health effects. The proposed project strategy is to contribute in two ways to assisting the Government of Mali with a "green recovery" from the pandemic, building on UNDP's support to Government, and on the Government's commitment of new resources for social protection, corresponding to 1.3 percent of GDP, while also delivering environmental benefits. This strategy responds to the guidance document "GEF's Response to COVID-19" and has a dual action framework including for alignment of the project goals with the both national and specific response and recovery strategies for reducing the impact of COVID risks.

2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.
 - (a) During the PPG the UNDP Mali Country Office will support the consultant team to conduct regular assessments of both the security situation and COVID-19 pandemic impacts in the country, and specifically in Mopti Region, and to put in place appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all stakeholders involved in project design and implementation. This will take into account (i) what impact the pandemic (or measures to contain it) has had on government capacity/resources to implement the work proposed in the project (or other baseline initiatives), either at the enabling level or practically; (ii) how targeted project beneficiaries have been affected (e.g. disruption of supply chains, price increases etc); and (iii) how will implementation be affected if there is recurrent outbreaks of this or other diseases during implementation. The project preparation phase and final site selection process will involve using consultants with in-depth local cultural as well as agro-ecological knowledge to undertake a detailed scoping of conditions on the ground and consultations with a wide range of stakeholders at local level (following COVID-19 protocols).
3. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.
 - (a) The proposed project has been designed to maximize opportunities for job creation and training, local economic development, and productivity improvements; as well as to maximize opportunities for strengthening supply chains, consistent with long-term climate targets, and increasing natural and economic resilience and adaptive capacity; all of which, collectively, contribute toward green recovery as follows:
 - i. **Job creation through small business development (climate-smart technologies):** The project supports the development of climate-smart agribusinesses, technologies and services, building on traditional knowledge and local preferences.
 - ii. **Productivity improvements:** Technical and financial support will be provided to farming households (including women headed households) to adapt farming practices to climate change, with the aim of restoring farm productivity. The proposed project has been designed to maximize opportunities for strengthening supply chains, consistent with long-term decarbonization targets, and increasing natural and economic resilience and adaptive capacity.

- iii. Strengthening supply chains “New value chains for climate-resilient crops and processed products are identified and catalysed to support livelihood diversification and green recovery”.
- (b) Increasing natural and economic resilience and adaptive capacity: Land and water resources (outside of family farms) are restored through communal restoration works for ecosystem-based adaptation, contributing to increase household and community resilience in the face of crises and shock

Country: Nepal

Project Title: Managing Watersheds for Enhanced Resilience of Communities to Climate Change in Nepal (MaWRiN)

Project ID: 10727

Agency: WWF-US

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **General:** Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) COVID has been identified as a risk and an opportunity under this proposal. Further and more in-depth assessments will be undertaken at the PPG stage. However, several considerations are incorporated in the project concept. Examples are listed in sections 2 and 3.
2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.
 - (a) With the COVID-19 pandemic, the project area could face additional pressure from returning migrants, as 20-36 percent of households have members employed outside the project area who are highly likely to return. As the pandemic is rapidly affecting the national economy, more people are returning to their households and abandoning travel-dependent and remote employment opportunities. The influx of people in the highly forested project areas could cause additional pressures on the fragile natural resources, such as the watersheds. As the federal government grapples with the effects of the pandemic and focuses on healthcare management, there has been a significant reduction in national funding for adaptation measures. As the project will improve watershed management, attention will be paid to affects that incoming residents may have on the water quality and availability.
 - (b) In a resurgence situation, the project will adhere to Government regulations related to COVID-19 at all times COVID-19 related risks will be closely evaluated during the PPG phase, and the mitigation measures will be integrated in planned project activities and budgets.
3. **Opportunity analysis** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and

building back better.

- (a) Opportunity to do more to protect and restore natural systems and their ecological functionality will include guidelines for communities and municipalities to support more sustainable agriculture, forestry use and rural development, which will protect land and watershed ecosystems.
- (b) Decrease the risk of human/nature conflicts. The project will include guidelines and support to climate smart agriculture and local adaptation solutions which will alleviate pressures on surrounding vulnerable forests, and result in less human encroachment on forested areas.

Country: Senegal

Project Title: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) for Resilient Natural Resources and Agro-pastoral Communities in the Ferlo Biosphere Reserve and Plateau of Thies

Project ID: 10691

Agency: UNDP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **General:** Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) The project includes a brief analysis on the pandemic and how it has been integrated into the project design. As of October 2020, Senegal reported cases of 15,571 COVID-19, including 322 deaths. COVID-19 severely impacted most vulnerable people and communities, that are already under stress as a result of the climate crisis and global biodiversity losses. Since March 2020, the local governments in Senegal have banned large markets (loumas) selling livestock, cutting off a key source of income for agro-pastoralists. Senegal is also dependent on remittances from abroad and is therefore exposed to worldwide job losses and a global recession.
 - (b) According to data compiled by Devex, Senegal has received around \$880 million to date in direct support on the COVID-19 response and recovery from donors. The most heavily impacted economic sectors have been finance, tourism, manufacturing and agriculture, largely due to travel restrictions, a decline in international trade, waning demand for exports, and supply-chain disruptions. In 2019, Senegal received an estimated US\$2.52 billion in remittances, representing 10 percent of the country's GDP [8]. These are likely to shrink dramatically in the short term and highlights the vulnerability of the country to future global emergencies. The impact of COVID-19 is also expected to have an impact on food security in the region. The FAO Index of food prices declined significantly between January and May, falling to their lowest level in seventeen months but have subsequently followed an upward trend in September, with the highest value since February 2020. Land mismanagement, habitat loss, overexploitation of wildlife, and human-induced climate change have created pathways for infectious diseases to transmit from wildlife to humans
 - (c) This project presents several opportunities for contributing to the green recovery from the more immediate impacts of COVID-19 and building longer-term resilience in the face of future outbreaks, or other diseases and pandemics; as well as the opportunities to address these vulnerabilities through ecosystem restoration and

regeneration. It is in this context, the Government of Senegal, through the ASRGM, identified two project sites (the Ferlo Biosphere Reserve (FBR) in the North and Thies in the East of the country) considered a priority in terms of climate vulnerability, environmental degradation and high socio-economic importance. In addition, the implementation of EbA practices in both landscapes (urban and rural) will provide lessons learned and best practices to be replicated at a larger scale and introduced into NAP priorities. Indeed, the FBR is a rural, biodiverse zone, and Thies is in and around a large urban population center. This will enable the project to build a strong knowledge base for future scale up of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) across both urban and rural landscapes.

2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.
 - (a) Pandemics and COVID- specifically are listed as a risk in the risk matrix and in addition to this, a COVID specific risk matrix and accompanying mitigation measures is included. As an adaptation project, holistic resilience is interpreted in a comprehensive fashion in the project intervention logic, which has the potential to addresses critical issues around human-wildlife interaction through better land management. During PPG, an assessment of the COVID-19 situation will be undertaken (as part of the social and environmental safeguard risk screening process) and, based on the best-available data, a simple COVID-19 risk dashboard will be developed to monitor COVID-19-related risks, set risk thresholds, and specify mitigation/avoidance measures to be followed. The dashboard should be used to track: incidence of COVID19 in the project domain (with gender-disaggregation of data), and among project partners and staff involved in implementation (based on best available information and use of simple questionnaires to screen for possible symptoms); partner capacity (human resources, capacity to meet co-financing commitments); evidence of direct, indirect and induced impacts (that may influence implementation). The risk dashboard should be updated monthly and used to inform adaptive management. The submission also indicates that a more comprehensive analysis of risks and opportunities related to the Covid-19 pandemic will be undertaken during the project preparation phase as the situation is still changing and it will be important to have an up-to-date assessment to inform project design. An updated COVID-19 Action Framework will be incorporated in the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework to be developed.
3. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.
 - (a) Specific ways the project has listed for contributing toward green recovery and building back better include:

- i. Protection and restoration of forest ecosystems, including through promoting sustainable use of forest resources and limiting forest fragmentation and degradation through inappropriate land uses. This will reduce the risks of encroachment on natural and wild ecosystems, recognized to be responsible for the development of the COVID-19. In particular, activities under component 2, for the regeneration of rangelands (output 2.1.1) and restoration of agropastoral ecosystems (output 2.1.2) will reduce the incentives to initiate agricultural practices on preserved ecosystems. In addition, the restoration of the climate resilient green belt in the commune of Thies (output 2.1.5) will participate to limit forest fragmentation.
- ii. Promoting NRM practices that generate Global Environmental Benefits and resilience to climate change, with economic benefits for forest adjacent communities. The increased resilience of communities, including of livelihoods (outcomes 3.1 and 3.2), will provide an opportunity for targeted beneficiaries to have access to a safer source of revenues and accumulate savings or invest in insurance (output 3.2.3). This will in turn ensure increased financial security in case of another pandemic, leading to travel restrictions and lockdowns.

Country: Sierra Leone

Project Title: Promotion of Climate Adaptation Technology and Business Model Innovations and Entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone

Project ID: 10680

Agency: UNIDO

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

1. **General:** Describe briefly how the pandemic overall is addressed in the project, including associated impacts, risks and opportunities. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.
 - (a) The project has established a strong link with the pandemic's impact on reducing adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable communities in Sierra Leone. It highlights the important link of rural poverty, climate vulnerability and the pandemic in the context of food, water and energy security. While the PIF acknowledges COVID related risks on project delivery, it also makes a strong case for resilient recovery with a focus on strengthening capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are critical conduit to deliver services for local communities affected by the pandemic and also are key to local economy. The risks and opportunities are well articulated throughout the project design with a specific reference made in the risk analysis and the barriers sections.
2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include consideration to the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation.
 - (a) The PIF clearly identifies likely disruption in project due to COVID on availability of technical expertise in the market, possible challenges for conducting in-person consultation meetings/training, likelihood of withdrawal by co-financing agencies and increased prices of goods and services. Numerical values are assigned for each potential risk based on the probability (P) and Impact (I). The risk value ranges from 2-3 signifying moderate level of risk to the project. In addition to including this in the risk table, a separate analysis is also included along with mitigation measures.

3. **Opportunity analysis:** Describe further how the has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts (if any) created by COVID-19 to deliver GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward a green recovery and building back better.
- (a) The PIF has identified “High” opportunity to deliver climate adaptation and resilience benefits and contribute toward green recovery and building back better. The focus on i) strengthening MSMEs to deliver integrated climate resilience solutions in food, water and energy sectors, ii) enhancing flow of finance to MSMEs and community groups through local and international financial institutions and iii) promoting nature-based solutions that protect natural capital supports this identified opportunity. In addition, tackling pandemic and climate simultaneously requires innovative and bottom up approaches. The project is uniquely positioned in this context to incentivize innovation in climate adaptation solutions and local community engagement

PIF Annex

COVID risk analysis

Risk	Risk level	Mitigation measure
Technical expertise is not readily available due to the pandemic	P=3 I=2	The project will identify alternate technical expertise in case it is required. Planning will be flexible enough to reschedule activities onsite that require specific expertise. This is particularly important if government experts are not available due to emergencies.
Possible re-instatement of COVID-19 containment measures limits available capacity or effectiveness of project execution/ implementation	P=2 I=2	The project will be ready to strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders via online interactions with secured access to commercially available conferencing systems. In the case of strict restrictions against in-person meetings, the accelerator cycles will be ready to be conducted remotely.
Some project supporters, co-financiers or beneficiaries may not be able to continue with project execution/implementation.	P=2 I=2	The project will have to monitor closely the situation of these counterparts in order to find alternate supporters or co-financiers, or to readjust the list of beneficiaries.
Price increases for procurement of goods/services	P=3 I=3	The project team will have to work harder in finding alternate providers and making sure that competitive pricing is obtained.

COVID-19 opportunity analysis

Opportunity	Opportunity	Opportunity optimization measure
New business opportunities created in response to COVID-19 related restrictions and measures	High	Response to COVID-19 restrictions, such as remote working arrangements and no-contact business modalities will require solutions that can be turned into new business models. These opportunities will be analyzed at the national levels and shared with entrepreneurs as part of the market intelligence information. Additionally, based on spurred international trade due to COVID restrictions, this project will support the uptake of domestic markets to substitute missing products from global value chains.
New business opportunities to build back better for business continuity and economic recovery post-COVID-19	High	By design, the project engages the private sector (especially MSMEs) to promote adaptation technologies, business models with resilience to climate change, and circular business practices. New business opportunities and management suggestions will be provided to the Accelerators so that the entrepreneurs are fully informed of the market and environment trends.

With regards to opportunities for the project to address COVID, its integrated water, energy and food approach will help to secure supply chains. Innovations to improve food, water, energy security will also promote job creation and training, local economic development, productivity improvements and improved access to essential services. For instance, continual access to water will support existing MSME initiatives to install handwashing stations in high traffic public spaces and markets. Currently, innovation in the awareness sector is booming in Sierra Leone where ideas like handwashing are being disseminated with free cellphone messages, neighborhood broadcasts, and songs created by popular musicians. Furthermore, nature-based innovations will protect natural capital and increase the economic resilience and adaptive capacity of people in the most vulnerable rural regions. For example, directly related to reducing the spread of COVID, SARS or Ebola, this project will promote sustainable land uses and limit deforestation to reduce human-wildlife contact. In the long-term, adaptation MSME innovations will improve domestic productivity and thereby increase the resilience of the ecologic and socio-economy systems to weather emerging infectious diseases in the future.