

30th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
June 17, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 06

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.30/05, *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising of seven projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 15, 2021.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amount to \$60.73 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 four-week review period.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is the sixth Work Program for LDCF projects to be considered by Council in the GEF-7 cycle. It requests a total of \$60.73 million for seven projects to address urgent and immediate climate change adaptation priorities.¹
2. Among these projects, three are national LDCF projects while four are multi-trust fund (MTF) projects combining resources from the LDCF with the GEF Trust Fund. The four 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 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has compelled the GEF Secretariat and many partners to adapt working conditions to minimize exposure and risks to human health, and to rely on virtual means for project development and consultations.
4. The Work Program includes all projects that have been technically cleared by the GEF Secretariat by approval deadlines. It accounts for a significant share of LDCF resources available for funding decisions as of March 2021, which amounted to \$77.63 million.^{2,3}
5. A number of donors announced voluntary contributions to the LDCF since December 2020, appreciation for which has been shared by the GEF CEO as well as recipient countries. According to the projected available resources information from the Trustee, these contributions are expected to be received from September 2021 and beyond.
6. The Work Program consists of projects from seven least developed countries (LDCs), including two small island developing States (SIDS), namely Bhutan, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Kiribati, Lesotho, Somalia and Timor-Leste. Among them, five LDCs are accessing the LDCF for the first time in the GEF-7 period. All seven LDCs will also reach the initial \$10 million LDCF cap set for the GEF-7 period with this Work Program.
7. These LDCF projects are expected to mobilize \$149.53 million in co-financing for the total LDCF project financing amount of \$55.56 million.⁴ Each dollar provided by the LDCF is to

¹ The requested amounts are inclusive of GEF project financing (\$55.56 million) and Agency fees (\$5.17 million). It does not include project preparation grants (PPGs, \$1.17 million) and PPG fees (\$0.11 million).

² GEF, 2021, *Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund (Financial Report prepared by the Trustee)*, Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.30/Inf.02.

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 \$2.69 in financing provided by a variety of sources.⁵

8. 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 six of the seven projects included in the Work Program, and Objective 2, addressed by five projects. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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

11. The cohort of projects presented in this Work Program was developed as the world continued to face the deepening COVID-19 crisis. The LDCs are facing great risk and vulnerability from the pandemic, as 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. Limited capacity and weaker institutional and policy frameworks also hamper their ability to address climate and other crises.

12. Despite the ongoing situation, the GEF has maintained business continuity throughout the pandemic period to work with the Agencies and countries. Concept submissions and reviews continued without major interruptions, resulting in a robust and ambitious Work

⁵ The co-financing ratio is calculated based the amount of co-financing (\$149.53 million) mobilized for the three LDCF projects and the LDCF portion of the four 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.

Program for consideration by the LDCF/SCCF Council.

13. The projects presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council target various adaptation priorities, and some also address multiple benefits with land degradation and/or biodiversity as MTFs. They seek to protect livelihoods and human capital, and support nature-based solutions and community engagement to help safeguard ecosystems that serve as foundations of economic activities.

14. All Project Managers at the GEF Secretariat, including those addressing LDCF and SCCF projects, reviewed projects applying 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 seven projects included in the LDCF Work Program are presented in Annex B of this document.

15. Countries are addressing COVID-19 impacts in different ways, reflecting a wide range of national and local conditions and needs. For example, one country is experiencing an aggressive and rapid COVID-19 spread. The disruption is deepening vulnerabilities, with reduced economic activities, income, and employment, disruption of essential production and supply chains, and interruption of movement of personnel and essential workers. Reflecting these conditions, the LDCF project focuses on systematic community-level interventions, aiming to enhance the resilience of vulnerable agro-pastoralist and fishing communities along degraded land/seascapes, and to strengthen the productive output of rural food systems as well as climate resilient livelihoods in targeted communities.

16. As another example, one project takes place in a country that closed its borders in early 2020 and anticipates keeping them closed until 2022, which has meant zero COVID-19 cases to date and also no travel by international personnel, including consultants. While broader global economic changes are present, significant downturn for the local economy has not taken place. The LDCF intervention is therefore focused on building resilience to cope with shocks and stresses, including health-related ones, by investing in green recovery through various governance and livelihood diversification.

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

- (a) Enhanced consultations with stakeholders, including women and youth, with deployment of appropriate means such as e-platforms and virtual meetings;
- (b) Working with local organizations to minimize impacts of movement limitations at the national and international levels;
- (c) Monitoring and assessment of COVID-19 risks during the project preparation grant (PPG) phase to analyze and adapt to the evolving situation, and to incorporate appropriate risk mitigation measures in the project design;

- (d) Close consultations with the Government to ensure emerging priorities and responses to the evolving pandemic are well-reflected in the target intervention areas; and
- (e) Organization of training and community mobilization activities outdoors (whenever possible) with public health messages on COVID-19 prevention along with contents specific to core technical objectives of the project.

18. The cohort of projects presented in the Work Program has also identified 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) Opportunities to reduce future risk of zoonotic and other diseases and spillover to humans, by addressing the causes of forest ecosystem degradation, and restoring ecosystem health;
- (b) Strengthening of climate-resilient livelihoods and income-generating activities based on sustainable utilization of natural resources and nature-based solutions
- (c) Investing in green recovery through improved environmental and ocean governance, improved water management and improved agricultural practices, which will also enhance diversification of subsistence, livelihoods and economy; and
- (d) Supporting sustainable approaches to manage rangelands and forests with engagement of pastoralist community organizations, establishing strengthened coordination mechanisms at the federal, national and local levels, and supporting the development and implementation of sustainable pasture management plans, which will take into account specific measures to minimize human and wildlife conflict.

19. Along with the recent cohorts of projects, the seven projects are expected to generate insights and lessons learned on how to address adaptation priorities and align them with COVID-19 responses. These insights and lessons are expected to help inform the development of the next GEF Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation for the LDCF and SCCF.

LDCF WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

20. The LDCF Work Program comprises of seven projects with the total financing of \$62.00 million.⁷

21. These projects support interventions in priority sectors and systems that are important for climate resilience and economic development. All the projects support people-focused

⁷ The total amount comprises of GEF project financing (\$55.56 million), Agency fees (\$5.17 million), and PPGs (\$1.17 million) and fees (\$0.11 million).

initiatives to address needs for income and livelihood diversification that are also well aligned with green and blue recovery.

22. Sectors and systems addressed include agriculture and food security, water resources management, fisheries and agro-pastoral management, and sustainable land management. Nature-based solutions are promoted. Many projects include community- or region-based interventions, coupled with policy and governance support. Innovative approaches with technologies, techniques, and community finance are also proposed.

23. The Work Program proposes to support urgent adaptation needs in seven LDCs, including two LDC SIDS. The seven projects included in this Work Program are for the following countries: Bhutan, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Kiribati, Lesotho, Somalia and Timor-Leste. All projects included in the Work Program are based on current national priorities for climate change adaptation and aligned with the LDCF objectives as confirmed by the Operational Focal Points (OFPs) of respective countries. Some are also aligned with their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

24. Since the start of the GEF-7 phase, the GEF Secretariat has made concerted efforts to reach out to seventeen LDCs that had unfunded projects at the end of GEF-6 in the pipeline, to discuss GEF-7 programming opportunities. As reported to the 29th LDCF/SCCF Council, consultations with these seventeen countries have been completed.⁸ All 21 of the pipelined GEF-6 projects have now been addressed in the GEF-7 period through re-formulation as different priorities, significant revision, or updating. Among the seven countries with proposals included in this Work Program, Timor-Leste had two GEF-6 pipelined projects, one of which had been addressed in an earlier Work Program. The country also decided to address more current national priorities instead of the remaining pipelined project, and presented an MTF for this Work Program. As such, this subject has now been fully addressed.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC LDCF PRIORITIZATION

25. 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 sustainable 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;

⁸ GEF, 2020, [Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund, Council Document](#), GEF/LDCF.SCCF.29/03/Rev.01.

- 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.

26. 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.

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

28. Alignment with national needs and priorities: All projects included in the Work Program articulated their alignments with current national climate adaptation priorities, and are aligned with national climate adaptation strategies and policy approaches to relevant themes, such as agriculture, water resources management, sustainable land management, and/or other key national strategies related to adaptation such as NAPs. Some projects also contribute to, and are aligned with, their NDCs.

29. For example, the project in Somalia by IFAD to enhance the climate resilience of poor rural households in Somalia through sustainable natural resources management is aligned with Somalia's NAPA and INDC, and is designed to contribute to a number of relevant policy frameworks, including the National Development Plan and the National Disaster Management Policy.

30. Another example is a project in Eritrea by FAO. The project seeks to enhance resilience of vulnerable agro-pastoralist and fishing communities along degraded land- and seascapes through an integrated ecosystem-based and market-driven approach, and is closely aligned with its NAPA and NDC. Among the highest priorities identified in its NAPA, actions for strengthening adaptation in the crop and livestock sector rank in the top and second. Other NAPA priorities include water management and marine and coastal areas. Eritrea has taken initial steps to prepare its NAP. Eritrea's NDC from 2018 covers goals for climate change adaptation, focusing on natural resources sectors along with strengthening the resilience of communities and their adaptive capacities.

31. 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. Six

out of seven projects address the first strategic objective, underscoring the important role of LDCF to support innovation and technology transfer. The second objective on mainstreaming adaptation is addressed by five projects.

32. For example, the MTF project in Timor-Leste to increase climate resilience and reduce land degradation in priority watersheds by strengthening collaborative sustainable land management (SLM) by UNEP is aligned with objectives 1 and 2 of the Programming Strategy. The project recognizes the interlinkages between climate change adaptation and land degradation and introduces innovative, integrated measures to address these challenges. In alignment with objective 1, a mix of green and gray technologies will be introduced for adaptation benefits and to create models for private sector support for SLM. Interventions will seek to improve infiltration and protect soil in critical parts of watersheds to reduce the risk of landslides and soil loss. To enhance reliable access to water under increased rain variability and dry periods, water infrastructure including water storage, recharge basins, and rainwater harvesting will be introduced, along with low external input sustainable agriculture. In line with objective 2, the project will also support the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into a range of policies and sectoral planning targets at the national level. Mainstreaming into private sector partnerships will also be supported to facilitate additional investments into achieving the climate adaptation and land degradation neutrality targets of Timor-Leste.

33. 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, and GEF Agencies, as shown in Figure 3. Leveraging opportunities are described in each proposal, with key elements summarized in this document. Among the seven projects, the project in Lesotho by FAO to build climate-resilient livelihoods and food systems mobilizes significant investments from the European Union (EU), FAO, and domestic government resources. The EU-funded Support to Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) in Lesotho project, in particular, is mobilizing co-financing of \$28 million. The LDCF project will work with the EU initiative on the policy framework development, and collaborate to strengthen institutional capacities at the local level. The LDCF project will also support the scale-up of the ICM approach to catchments and sub-catchments outside the EU coverage.

34. Further, the project in Eritrea to build community-based integrated and climate resilient natural resource management will serve as an incubation and accelerator of initiatives at national and regional levels, such as the Great Green Wall (GGW), and particularly with GCF investments envisaged in the near future.

35. Level of LDCF resources previously accessed: Among the seven LDCs included in this Work Program, five are accessing the LDCF for the first time in the GEF-7 period. They are: Bhutan, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Lesotho and Somalia. It is worth highlighting that Eritrea and the Central African Republic had the lowest and second lowest cumulative LDCF access levels, at \$10 million and \$11 million respectively, since the LDCF inception. With this Work Program, both countries have approximately doubled their access LDCF level to \$20 million and over.

36. Geographical balance: The Work Program includes projects from four African LDCs (Central African Republic, Eritrea, Lesotho and Somalia), one Asian LDC (Bhutan), and two SIDS (Kiribati and Timor-Leste).

37. Private sector engagement: Six out of seven projects in the Work Program envisage private sector engagement in various capacities, such as implementation partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. In the context of adaptation and for the LDCF, the importance of nurturing and facilitating the engagement of local private sector actors is increasingly recognized as a means to build socioeconomic resilience during the pandemic and as part of green and blue recovery. As stated in the Programming Strategy, local private sector actors, especially micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), play a critical role for the economy and communities by providing services and access to hard-to-reach populations.

38. For example, the project in the Central African Republic by FAO will include targeted interventions at nature-based small-scale enterprises. Training will be provided to develop business concepts linked to sustainable value chain development and restoration of degraded lands to enable private sector investments, or to get access to microcredit or loans. Grant support may be provided to facilitate testing of business ideas in line with an ongoing World Bank incubator project. Further, the project will benefit from regional and global networks linked to cacao and coffee, which are identified as potential agro-forestry systems in the project area. As the revitalization of these value chains is identified as a government priority, working with partners will help identify business opportunities, value addition, and job creation.

39. Extenuating circumstances, such as natural disasters: All countries in this Work Program are addressing the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, as described earlier and presented in Annex B.

40. Timing of technical approval of projects: These seven proposals were reviewed and technically cleared in April and May 2021. One project that was initially submitted for the December 2020 Work Program, but could not meet technical clearance at that time, is included in the current Work Program. All proposals that were technically cleared by the deadline were considered and included in the Work Program. Overall, the GEF-7 operational enhancements are contributing to more timely and efficient programming.

DISTRIBUTION OF LDCF RESOURCES BY REGION AND AGENCY

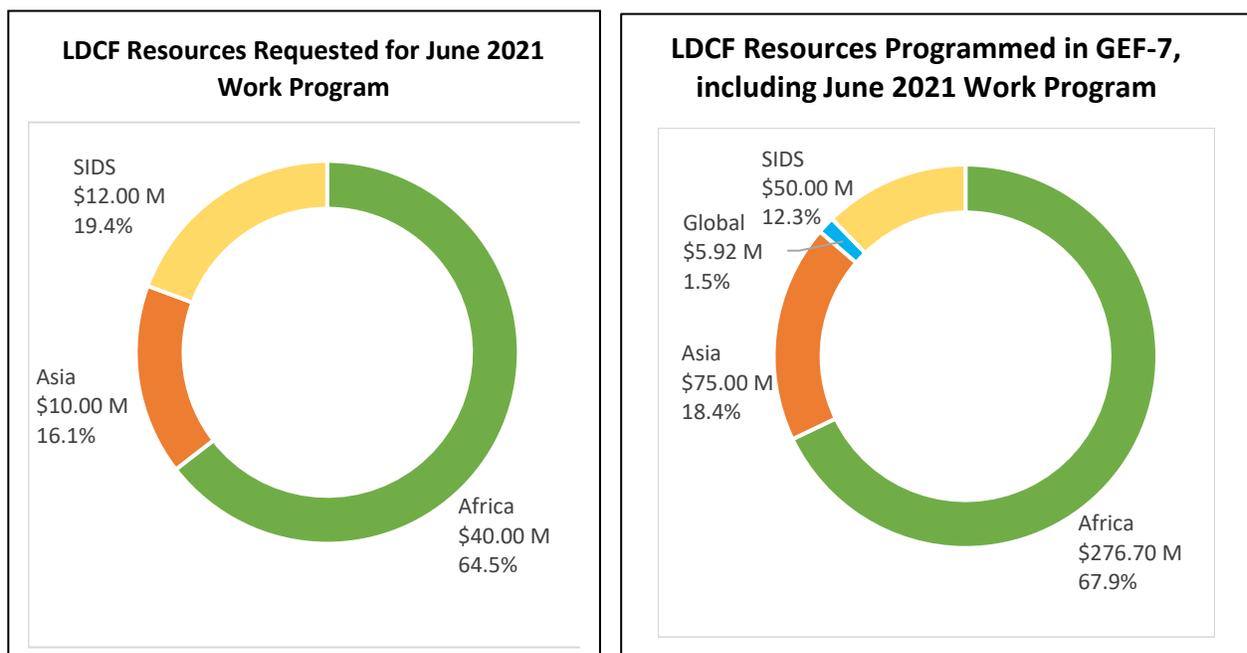
41. Among the seven projects for this Work Program, four countries are in the Africa region, one in Asia, and two are Pacific LDC SIDS. Including this Work Program, 43 out of the 47 LDCs, or 91 percent of LDCs, will have accessed the LDCF resources to address their urgent and immediate adaptation priorities, and/or addressed systemic environmental challenges as MTFs.⁹ Upon approval of the Work Program, 30 LDCs, or 64 percent of all LDCs, will reach the initial \$10 million LDCF cap set for the GEF-7 period, including the seven LDCs included in the

⁹ The total figure of 47 LDCs includes Vanuatu, as the country had accessed the LDCF during GEF-7 prior to its graduation in December 2020.

Work Program.

42. Figure 1 presents distributions of LDCF resources in the June 2021 LDCF Work Program by region, and cumulative GEF-7 LDCF resources programmed by region. The figures include GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees. For this Work Program, \$40.00 million, or 64.5 percent of resources, are programmed in Africa, followed by \$12.00 million or 19.4 percent in SIDS (Pacific), and \$10.00 million, or 16.1 percent in Asia. Cumulatively for the GEF-7 period, \$276.70 million, or 67.9 percent, of the LDCF resources have been programmed in Africa, followed by \$75.00 million, or 18.4 percent, in Asia and 12.3 percent, or \$50.00 million, in SIDS. The Challenge Program projects account for \$5 million, or 1.2 percent of the GEF-7 programmed resources to date, followed by one global project at 0.5 percent, or \$2.22 million.¹⁰ 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 SIDS.

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



43. 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, 30 LDCs have accessed the full \$10 million initial cap for the GEF-7 period. An additional 13 countries have accessed LDCF resources under the cap, of which six have accessed over \$9 million. Altogether, approximately \$407.62 million of LDCF resources have been programmed in the GEF-7 period, inclusive of this Work Program. Countries that have not

¹⁰ The global share shown in Figure 1 comprises of one global project (\$2.22 million) and part of the Challenge Program project resources allocated for global purposes (\$3.69 million).

yet received any LDCF support in GEF-7 are now down to four: Comoros, Madagascar, Niger, and Sao Tome and Principe. The GEF Secretariat has reached out to these countries to encourage LDCF project development.

Table 1: Amount of LDCF Resources by Country in June 2021 Work Program, GEF-7 to Date, and Cumulative Financing since Fund Inception

	Resources Requested in June 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)	GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including June 2021 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including June 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)
Country	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Afghanistan	0.00	\$10.00	\$40.02
Angola	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.43
Bangladesh	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.92
Benin	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.47
Bhutan	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$40.19
Burkina Faso	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.94
Burundi	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$29.79
Cambodia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$35.26
Central African Republic	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$21.17
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	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.01
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	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$33.48
Kiribati	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$33.24
Lao PDR	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.90
Lesotho	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$40.66
Liberia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$25.71
Madagascar	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19.62
Malawi	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$38.45
Mali	\$0.00	\$8.06	\$41.97
Mauritania	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$35.16
Mozambique	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$31.73

	Resources Requested in June 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)	GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including June 2021 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including June 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)
Myanmar	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$30.17
Nepal	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$37.41
Niger	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$29.81
Rwanda	\$0.00	\$9.37	\$40.62
São Tomé and Príncipe	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.74
Senegal	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.01
Sierra Leone	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$36.58
Solomon Islands	\$0.00	\$5.00	\$20.69
Somalia	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$39.65
South Sudan	\$0.00	\$9.50	\$19.77
Sudan	\$0.00	\$9.96	\$41.95
Tanzania	\$0.00	\$9.23	\$27.03
Timor-Leste	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$38.80
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	\$62.00		

44. Table 2 presents the total amount of LDCF resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees, for the June 2021 Work Program as well as cumulative, GEF-7 programming by Agency. Five GEF Agencies are represented in the June 2021 Work Program, namely FAO, IFAD, IUCN, UNDP, and UNEP. FAO has the highest share with 48.4 percent of the June 2021 Work Program, or \$30.00 million, followed by IFAD and UNDP with 16.1 percent or \$10 million each. UNEP and IUCN have \$7.00 million and \$5.00 million, respectively.

45. Up to this point of the GEF-7 period and including the June 2021 Work Program, eleven GEF Agencies have been engaged in LDCF programming. UNDP has \$129.90 million, or 31.9 percent of the GEF-7 cumulative programming volume, followed by FAO at \$125.23 million or 30.7 percent. AfDB has the third-highest share of 9.6 percent at \$38.97 million, followed by UNEP at \$29.12 million, or 7.1 percent.

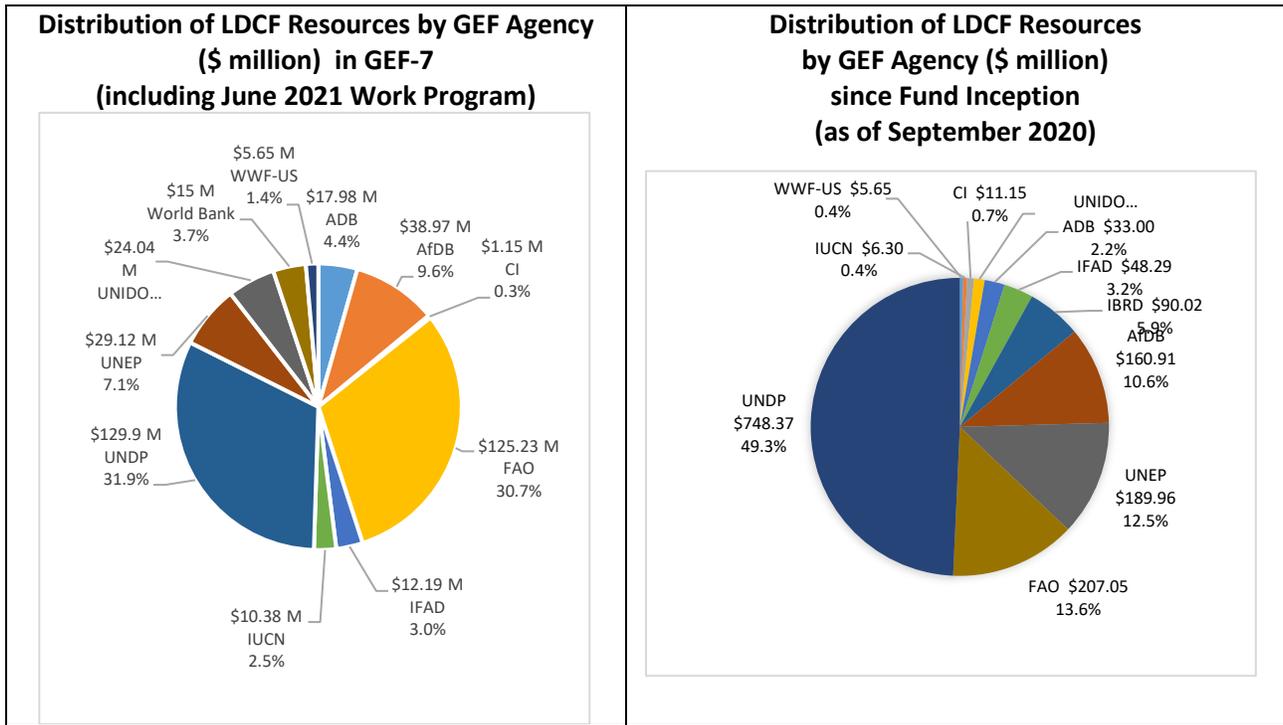
Table 2: Amount of LDCF Resources by Agency in June 2021 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date

Agency	Resources Requested in June 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)		GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources Requested including June 2021 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	
	\$ million	% of resources	\$ million	% of resources
ADB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$17.98	4.4%
AfDB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$38.97	9.6%
CI	\$0.00	0.0%	\$ 1.15	0.3%
FAO	\$30.00	48.4%	\$125.23	30.7%
IFAD	\$10.00	16.1%	\$ 12.19	3.0%
IUCN	\$5.00	8.1%	\$10.38	2.5%
UNDP	\$10.00	16.1%	\$129.90	31.9%
UNEP	\$7.00	11.3%	\$29.12	7.1%
UNIDO	\$0.00	0.0%	\$22.04	5.4%
WB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$15.00	3.7%
WWF-US	\$0.00	0.0%	\$5.65	1.4%
Total	\$62.00	100.0%	\$407.61	100.0%

46. 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. Eleven GEF Agencies have been involved in LDCF projects and programs totaling \$1,518.39 million since the fund inception.¹¹ Of this amount, UNDP holds the largest share of project funding decisions to date, with 49.3 percent; followed by 13.6 percent by FAO and 12.5 percent by UNEP. In comparison, the GEF-7 programming to date shows a more balanced distribution and engagement among eleven Agencies, with no Agency having more than one-third of the portfolio.

¹¹ These figures are based on the Trustee [Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#) (Council document GEF.LDCF.29/Inf.02) as of September 2020 and programming by an additional Agency (WWF-US) that has finalized since the Trustee report was issued.

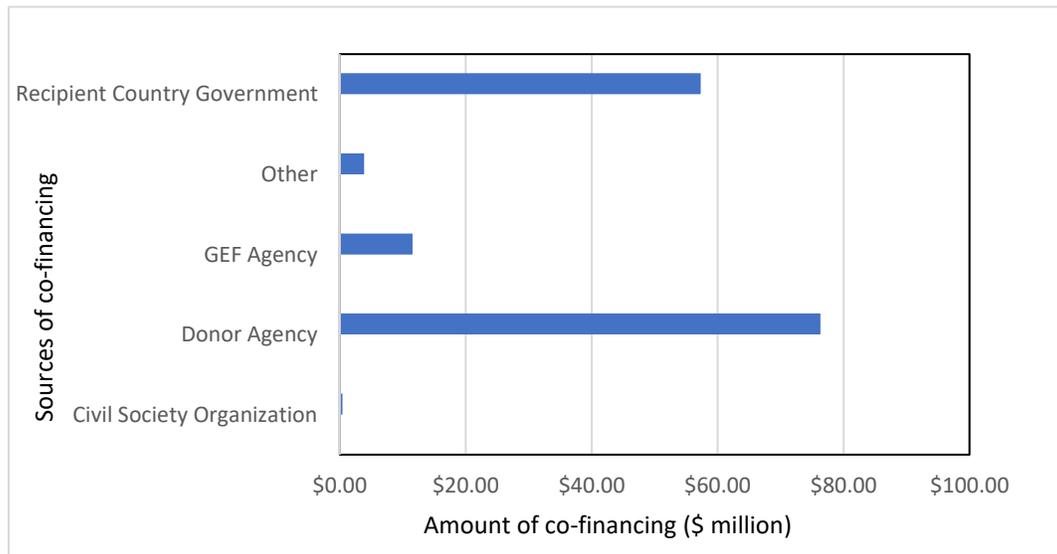
Figure 2: Comparison of Agency Distribution of LDCF Resources (\$ million)



DISTRIBUTION OF CO-FINANCING

47. Distribution of co-financing by co-financier types for the projects in the June 2021 Work Program is shown below in Figure 3. This distribution of co-financing also includes the share of co-financing for the four MTFs mobilized by the LDCF portion. Donor Agencies and recipient country governments are the largest providers of co-financing, followed by GEF Agencies.

Figure 3: Distribution of Co-Financing for June 2021 LDCF Work Program (\$ million)



OBSERVATIONS AND OUTLOOK

48. Leaving no country behind: 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. Upon approval of this Work Program, the number of LDCs benefitting from LDCF support in the GEF-7 period reaches 43. There are only four LDCs that have not accessed any LDCF resources in the GEF-7 period. Thirty LDCs have successfully accessed up to the \$10 million initial cap. An additional 13 countries have accessed LDCF resources under the cap, of which six have accessed over \$9 million. Since January 2021, the GEF Secretariat has reached out to LDCs that had not yet accessed the LDCF in GEF-7, with the facilitation of the LDC group, to understand their climate adaptation priorities, explain how to access the LDCF, and to assist them in applying for LDCF support to address their priorities. As a result of this outreach, five LDCs successfully submitted their proposals, which were included in the Work Program.

49. GEF-GCF coordination: The GEF and GCF continued to collaborate through the ongoing coordinated engagement pilot and close collaboration between the fund Secretariats. A number of projects include GCF investments and readiness support as part of the baseline or as relevant initiatives for partnership. The Long-Term Vision of Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility has been presented to the 60th GEF Council as a decision document.¹² Based on this document, the two funds are ready to explore new opportunities for collaboration and coordination.

50. Resource availability and predictability: Since the start of the GEF-7 period, the LDCF has focused its efforts to provide timely and efficient support to LDCs, aided by significant operational improvements. 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. While no other projects have been technically cleared in time for inclusion this Work Program, the Secretariat is aware of a number of proposals that are being discussed and developed by countries and Agencies.

51. Agencies continue to inquire about resource availability, predictability and the timing of project clearance and Council approval. As included in the previous Work Program cover note, this lack of predictability has restricted the GEF Secretariat from proactively engaging to develop and support a wide array of innovative initiatives. Also, initiatives with potential to benefit the poorest and the most vulnerable at the regional and/or global level have not been pursued, due to the prioritized need to support national projects.

52. There is thus a 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. Other options include expanding the donor base to include more countries, and to consider moving towards a replenishment

¹² GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision of Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council Document GEF/C.60/08.

model. These elements merit further discussion within the context of the process to develop the next GEF Programming Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation for LDCF/SCCF for 2022 to 2022.

53. Additional programming in GEF-7: The Secretariat has received numerous inquiries about the provision of support beyond the initial GEF-7 cap of \$10 million and the current cumulative cap of \$50 million per LDC. The LDCF will continue to prioritize support for all LDCs to reach the initial cap. If additional donor contributions are received in time to enable programming above the \$10 million cap within the remaining GEF-7 period, the GEF Secretariat will notify the countries to accept additional proposals to review. The cumulative cap of \$50 million per LDC will stay for the remainder of the GEF-7 period. All projects will continue to be analyzed by factors for enhanced strategic LDCF prioritization for Work Program inclusion for Council approval, as stated in the current GEF Programming Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation. Resources could be made available for regional and global project support, within the 10 percent ceiling of the expected total LDCF resources as stated in the current Programming Strategy.

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

54. 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 seven proposals on the core indicators are as follows:

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 790,610 persons, of which 402,060 persons or 50.8 percent are female
- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 557,545 hectares
- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: at least 32 policies and plans
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 163,240 persons, of which 74,620 persons or 45.7 percent are female.

55. 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: 18,150,197 persons, of which 9,136,656 persons or 50.3 percent are female
- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 2,223,444 hectares
- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: 547 policies and plans
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 360,286 persons, of which 180,414 or 50.1 percent are female.

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

GENDER

57. 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.

58. Responding to the ambition and requirements set out in the GEF Policy on Gender Equality, all seven 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.

59. In line with GEF's Gender Implementation Strategy, projects provide information on plans to include gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote women's empowerment and efforts to reach out to women's organizations and gender focal points of relevant national ministries, nongovernment organizations and civil society. Most 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. While all projects expect to contribute to closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources and improving women's participation and decision-making, 87 percent (six out of seven projects) expects to generate socio-economic benefits or services for women.

LDCF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS¹³

60. **Bhutan:** *Advancing Climate Resilience of Water Sector (ACREWAS)* (GEF ID 10779); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$25,190,600. This project aims to enhance the resilience and sustainable economic well-being of the people of Bhutan through climate change adaptation in the water sector. The project's objective is to address systemic barriers in water shortages that are being exacerbated by climate change. It proposes specific nature based solutions as logical measures for watershed management that will also help diversifying livelihoods and income sources for rural communities. The project is also expected to stimulate innovations in water management technology through starts-ups. Supporting improved water governance through the establishment of a dedicated national institution for

¹³ 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.

water supply services is an important element of improving the efficiency of service delivery in the water sector, thus contributing to resilience through institutional reform at the national scale. Through its proposed three key components, the project will result in adaptation benefits to approximately 34,000 direct beneficiaries, of whom more than 16,000 are women; bring approximately 38,000 ha of land under climate resilient management; contribute to two policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience; and train 640 people, of whom more than 50 percent will be female.

61. **Central African Republic:** *Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Communities by Up-Scaling Integrated Landscape Management and Restoration in South-West Region* (GEF ID 10711); GEF Agency: FAO; LDCF Project Financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$30,600,000. This project aims to enhance the resilience of rural communities through the valuation of productive and forest landscapes and inclusive governance mechanisms. This will be achieved by integrating climate change adaptation into sustainable landscape management planning and actions at local, regional and national levels; establishing sustainable natural resource managed mechanisms for climate resilience of ecosystems and communities in the South-West and buffer zone of the Bangassou Forest; and strengthening climate resilient livelihoods in the agriculture and forestry sectors through nature-based approaches and income diversification. Innovative elements for the context of the Central African Republic include the systematic integration of climate risks and solutions in land use planning and management practices in an integrated manner at local community, district, and national levels. This project is well aligned with the country's NDC, and the 2011-2015 Strategy for Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security; and will contribute to the associated National Agriculture Investment and Food Security and Nutrition Program. The project expects to directly benefit 75,000 beneficiaries of whom 53.3 percent is female, place 125,000 ha of land under climate resilient management, produce ten policies and plans that will mainstream climate resilience, and train 20,000 people, 50 percent of whom will be female; as well as catalyze a total of \$30.6 million in co-financing from eight different sources.

62. **Eritrea:** *Building Community Based Integrated and Climate Resilient Natural Resources Management and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood in the South-Eastern Escarpments and Adjacent Coastal Areas* (GEF ID: 10789); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF project financing: \$15,680,308 (\$9,002,082 LDCF, \$6,678,226 GEF Trust Fund); Co-financing: \$10,200,000. This MTF project aims to enhance resilience of vulnerable agro-pastoralist and fishing communities along degraded landscapes/seascapes in the south-eastern escarpments and adjacent coastal areas of Eritrea through an integrated ecosystem-based and market-driven approach. In doing so, it will strengthen the productive output of rural food systems including by reducing post-harvest losses, and strengthening climate resilient livelihoods in targeted communities. It will also contribute to the achievement of adaptation goals outlined in the Eritrea's NDC submitted in 2018, including targets for Climate Smart Agriculture, rehabilitation of degraded agricultural lands, and sustainable land management. Results expected to be generated from this project include 119,000 beneficiaries, of whom 52.1 percent are female; 225,835 ha of land under climate resilient management; nine policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience; and 12,000 people trained, with 50 percent female participation.

63. **Kiribati:** *Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected Areas for Community, Atoll, and Island Climate Resilience* (GEF ID: 10775); GEF Agency: IUCN; GEF project financing: \$10,016,195 (\$4,497,354 LDCF, \$5,518,841 GEF Trust Fund); Co-financing: \$10,000,000. This project uniquely blends biodiversity benefits with adaptation support for some of the world's remotest and most vulnerable populations, i.e., residents of five atoll and coral low-lying outer Gilbert Islands. Their economy is extremely non-diversified, relying primarily on *kopra* production, and the islands' remoteness makes it difficult to support tourism. Rising sea levels are eroding coastlines, and tidal and wave events contaminate freshwater lenses through saltwater intrusion. This project will improve the resilience of ecosystems and communities of these islands to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions that support biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods, improved integrated governance of the environment and oceans, and awareness and knowledge management. It will address urgent adaptation needs relating to coastal inundation, and control land loss through improved land use and agricultural practices. It will also focus on improved management of the groundwater lens to reduce saltwater intrusion and the frequent, long, and severe droughts faced. The observed decline in production of food crops will be addressed through climate smart agriculture techniques and practices. Overall, the project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the populations of the targeted five outer islands (total 8,266 people, who constitute 8 percent of Kiribati's population), enable the climate-resilient management of 8,000 ha of land, mainstream climate change adaptation in two policies/plans, and train 3,200 people with 50 percent female participation about climate change risks and adaptation. In parallel, it will support the creation of 14,000 ha of marine and 455 ha of terrestrial protected areas and the improved management of 39,744,700 ha of marine protected areas.

64. **Lesotho:** *Building Climate Resilient Livelihoods and Food Systems* (GEF ID 10793); Agency: FAO; LDCF Project Financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$40,000,000. This project aims to enhance climate resilience of landscapes and communities for food security through sustainable water management. This will be achieved by strengthening policy, planning, and investment frameworks to enable sustainable water management in productive landscapes; strengthening climate resilient agriculture capacities at local and national levels; improving agriculture water management practices and infrastructure to address droughts and floods; and strengthening climate resilience of agriculture value chains to climate shocks. Agricultural water management is a highly valued political and economic urgency for Lesotho. Innovative aspects will include strengthening the enabling conditions and piloting the design of gender-sensitive microfinancing products with partner financial institutions to provide accessible credit to MSMEs and smallholder farmers to invest in climate adaptation; as well as selection and use of irrigation technologies for climate resilience, many of which will be new to Lesotho. Moreover, a system dynamics approach will be used to incorporate both physical and socio-economic processes into water management policy and planning for climate adaptation and resilience at catchment and national levels. With \$10 million in LDCF finance, this project is expected to directly benefit 40,000 people, of whom 50 percent are female, place 15,000 ha of land under climate resilient management, produce six policies/plans to mainstream climate resilience, and train 20,000 people with 50 percent female participation; as well as catalyze \$40 million in co-financing.

65. **Somalia:** *Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2Rs)* (GEF ID 10792); Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$17,039,450 (\$8,995,905 LDCF, \$8,043,545 GEF Trust Fund); Co-financing: \$15,098,778. This MTF project aims to enhance the climate resilience of poor rural households in Somalia through sustainable natural resources management. This will be achieved with improved water resources and rangelands management; eco-agriculture and climate-proofed livelihoods; forest and other habitat rehabilitation for biodiversity conservation; and improved governance and information systems to address land degradation and biodiversity loss. An innovative element of this project is the establishment of a mechanism in partnership with commercial microfinance institutions to provide accessible lending products tailored to poor households for investing in climate resilient sustainable land management practices. The project is consistent with Somalia's intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), and is designed to contribute to implementing the National Development Plan for 2020-2024, National Disaster Managed Policy approved in 2018, and the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) produced in 2013. Expected results include 446,400 direct beneficiaries with 50.7 percent female share; 73,750 ha of land managed for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation, including 12,550 ha of degraded rangeland restored; and 99,200 people trained with 50 percent female participation.

66. **Timor-Leste:** *Adapting to Climate Change and Enabling Sustainable Land Management through Productive Rural Communities* (GEF ID 10713); Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$9,845,662 (\$6,267,126 LDCF, \$3,578,536 GEF Trust Fund); Co-financing: \$18,440,000. Frequent extreme climate events, combined with unsustainable farming practices that cause soil nutrient depletion, loss of topsoil, and gully erosion, place about half of Timor-Leste's land area at risk of land degradation. With rainfall projected to become more erratic, and drought and extreme rainfall events likely to occur more frequently under future climate conditions, climate change presents a substantial threat to the water and food security of rural communities in Timor-Leste. This project will support small-scale farmers in Timor-Leste in adopting climate-resilient sustainable land management (SLM) practices and improving access to and management of climate-resilient water resources for rural communities. Proposed solutions include improved national and sub-national adaptation planning; ecosystem restoration and protection; sustainable agricultural management systems; climate-resilient water supply and management systems; and the transformation of subsistence agriculture to agri-businesses. This transformation will promote access of smallholder farmers to commodity markets and catalyze incentives and resources for communities to engage in improved sustainable water, forest, land and livestock management in priority watersheds. These measures will ultimately result in an increase in food and water security under future climate conditions. Expected results for the project include 68,000 direct beneficiaries of climate-resilience and SLM solutions, 71,300 ha of land brought under climate-resilient management, mainstreaming of climate resilience in three sector policies and plans, 8,200 people trained, 50 percent female, about climate risks and adaptation measures, 2.8 mt CO₂ mitigated through climate-resilient SLM including restoration and climate-resilient agricultural production, and 5,500 ha of (forest and agricultural) land restored.

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

in US \$										
No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects										
<i>Climate Change</i>										
1	10771	Strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities by up-scaling integrated landscape management and restoration in south-west region of Central African Republic	Central African Republic	FAO	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	30,600,000	40,600,000
2	10793	Building climate-resilient livelihoods and food systems	Lesotho	FAO	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	40,000,000	50,000,000
3	10779	Advancing Climate Resilience of Water Sector in Bhutan (ACREWAS)	Bhutan	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	25,190,600	35,190,600
CCM-Sub-Total					600,000	57,000	26,797,260	2,545,740	95,790,600	125,790,600
Multi-Trust Fund										
4	10792	Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2) - Somalia	Somalia	IFAD	178,407	16,057	8,995,905	809,631	15,098,778	25,098,778
5	10789	Building Community Based Integrated and Climate Resilient Natural Resources Management and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood in the South-Eastern Escarpments and Adjacent Coastal Areas of Eritrea	Eritrea	FAO	172,230	15,501	9,002,082	810,187	10,200,000	20,200,000
6	10775	Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience (Securing Kiribati)	Kiribati	IUCN	89,802	8,082	4,497,354	404,762	10,000,000	15,000,000
7	10713	Adapting to climate change and enabling sustainable land management through productive rural communities in Timor-Leste	Timor Leste	UNEP	125,568	11,929	6,267,126	595,377	18,440,000	25,440,000
MTF - Sub-Total					566,007	51,569	28,762,467	2,619,957	53,738,778	85,738,778
GRAND TOTAL					1,166,007	108,569	55,559,727	5,165,697	149,529,378	211,529,378
					-	-	-	-	-	-

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: Bhutan
Project Title: Advancing Climate Resilience of Water Sector in Bhutan (ACREWAS)
Project ID: 10779
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.*

Although UNDP's on-going project activities have not been impacted seriously by COVID-19, it has been identified both 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.

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.*

The project is mindful of the continuing risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the disruptions in of the global supply chain and restrictions on human mobility it has had. However, UNDP's on-going project activities have not been seriously impacted, as most of the supplies, particularly goods, come from India. The special agreement and protocol on export and import of goods have facilitated trade, which has greatly benefitted Bhutan. This practice is expected to continue. The vaccination drive, which has had a successful first round in Bhutan, is also expected to result in easing of domestic travel. There are national experts who could implement the PPG and project activities. When needed, international consultants could provide virtual inputs to the local team. Nevertheless, the situation will be monitored and assessment will be made during the PPG to understand and adapt accordingly to the evolving situation and to incorporate appropriate mitigation measures to overcome any risks. During the PPG, and depending on the evolving COVID-19 situation, consultation with the stakeholders will be enhanced by deploying appropriate means, including using e-platforms.

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

The COVID-19 pandemic reinforces the need for access to adequate and clean water for health as well as food and nutrition security. Frequent handwashing is widely recommended by WHO to stop the spread of COVID-19. Reliable water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities are essential to containing the spread of the virus.

Country: Central African Republic

Project Title: Strengthening the adaptive capacity of communities by up-scaling integrated landscape management and restoration in south-west region of Central African Republic

Project ID: 10771

Agency: FAO

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.

With regards to sustainability, resilience in the project intervention logic is interpreted in a comprehensive manner. This includes building less vulnerable communities to pandemics, putting in place the infrastructure to build back better, such as short value chains, livelihood diversification, extension services that easily and promptly address health related concerns to they do not become social, economic and environmental crises, etc. Moreover, as government priorities potentially shift to address health crises, the project will deliver and increase its sensitization and awareness raising and capacity development efforts in order to advocate for continued support to green and resilient recovery.

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.

During project preparation, the project will follow all sanitary measures to interact with stakeholders. 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 organizations and realities in order to minimize the impacts of limitations on mobility at the national and international levels. Moreover, technological alternatives to face-to-face consultations will be deployed, securing proper participation and engagement of all relevant stakeholder groups, including women and youth.

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

The project advances opportunities to reduce future risk of zoonotic and other diseases to spill over to the human world from the natural world, as it addresses the causes of forest ecosystem degradation, halts the degradation and restores ecosystem health. The causal links between protected and restored natural systems and their ecological functionality have been well documented, and the landscape management and governance work of the project are an opportunity to fully address concerns and forest boundaries, altered habitats, and increasing

pressure on ecosystems. The project will promote sustainable management of ecosystems and income generating activities based on sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Country: Eritrea

Project Title: Building Community Based Integrated and Climate Resilient Natural Resources Management and Enhancing Sustainable Livelihood in the South-Eastern Escarpments and Adjacent Coastal Areas of Eritrea

Project ID: 10789

Agency: FAO

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.

As of April 2021, Eritrea was currently experiencing a second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic that is aggressive and rapidly spreading across the country. The infection rate in April 2021 was increasing by 1.5 times each month (from 754 cases and zero death from the first case until December 19, 2020 to 1,877 cases and 7 deaths by January 15, 2021). The disruption and socio-economic impacts resulting from prolonged containment measures are expected to negatively affect Eritrea’s prospects and deepen vulnerabilities in the short term. In terms of the broad economic impact, however, the following, inter alia, appear to be paramount:

- Reduced economic activity in the country, decreased income and employment
- Disruption of essential production and supply chains;
- Interruption in movement of basic social services personnel;
- Reduced Government revenue and public spending; and
- Limited access to water, food/nutrition and energy for vulnerable women and children, refugees and the displaced, people living with chronic illnesses, distant communities and migrants.

- 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.

The following table lists some of the COVID-related risks and measures specifically for the project:

Category	Risks	Measures
Implications at national level		
Short to medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced financial (co-financing) support from Government and development partners, due to limited overall funding availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough discussion with co-financiers (including government) during the PPG stage to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas.

	resulting from the COVID-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID	•
Implications during PPG roll-out		
Short to medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced involvement by Governments and other partnership actors in project activities during PPG stage • Reduced opportunities for face-to-face interactions with project beneficiaries, for consultation, participation, validation and representation, due to social distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and potential adjustment of implementation and partnership arrangements in the short and medium term. • The ProDoc work plan will be adjusted to reflect the challenges related to COVID-19 as well as for interactions and/or changes to the media and methodologies used for the interactions (for example using remote communication where possible, and/or limiting number of physical participants – which may potentially require relying more on the participation of limited numbers of stakeholder leaders in representation of their constituencies). This will also include taking into consideration whether the effectiveness of the representation of certain stakeholder sectors (e.g. women, the poor, indigenous peoples) may be disproportionately affected by these changes.
Implications for project activities (on the ground)		
Short to medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous disruption of food system logistics is anticipated • Increased losses and spoilage in high value commodities /perishables (meat, fish, dairy, horticulture) • Disruption of markets, due to temporary lockdowns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to farmers and government to meet immediate food needs. • Conduct socio-economic impact assessment (as part of baseline assessment) to inform the project design and implementation. • Ensure close collaboration with private sector entities and logistic/bulking points to understand barriers and establish feasible options. • Support producer organizations in linking with new markets including online and export where feasible.

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.

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

Country: Kiribati
Project Title: Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience
Project ID: 10775
Agency: IUCN

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.*

COVID-19 is not mentioned significantly in the project documents because it has had limited impacts in Kiribati. Kiribati closed its borders in February 2020 and anticipates keeping them closed until 2022, which has meant that it has had no COVID-19 cases. Kiribati has very little tourism in normal circumstances, so it has not represented a significant downturn for the economy other than broader global economic changes.

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.*

It is difficult to say when borders will reopen. The result is that international consultants or staff are not able to visit Kiribati. Developing a full Project Document may require a hybrid approach with consultants in Kiribati and internationally and will rely on virtual meetings. It is anticipated that travel will ease once the project will begin in 2023.

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.*

Though not specifically as a COVID-19 response, the project is certainly investing in efforts that can be conceived as 'green recovery' through its focus on improved environmental and ocean governance, improved water management and improved agricultural practices, which will also enhance diversification of subsistence, livelihoods and economy on these remote islands. Overall, they will be more resilient to cope with shocks and stresses, including health-related.

Country: Lesotho
Project Title: Building climate-resilient livelihoods and food systems
Project ID: 10793
Agency: FAO

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.*

This is a challenging period for the country, with combined impacts of frequent and recent droughts and the COVID-19 pandemic. This has made the transformation of agriculture and food systems and adapting to climate change an urgent priority. There is renewed political will and commitment.

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.*

There is a risk that due to the pandemic, priorities of the Government will change and therefore part of the co-financing may not materialize. To manage and mitigate this risk, the FAO Country Office will follow closely the evolving situation, with regular discussions with project partners. Other co-financing sources not dependent on Public Funding will be identified during PPG and implementation.

There is a further risk that with priorities of the Government changing, part of the co-financing may not materialize. To manage and mitigate this risk, the project will use adaptive action planning where work plans are frequently reviewed revised to adapt to changing circumstances. Meetings and workshops will be conducted virtually. When feasible considering internet limitations, local resource persons will be engaged for consultations with communities.

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.*

Farmers, especially youth, across the target peri-urban and rural landscapes will benefit from improved access and more efficient organization of the agriculture value chain for post COVID-19 recovery. A detailed capacity and awareness program will be developed to increase the farmers' capacity, extension service providers, enterprises and cooperatives on sustainable climate-resilient production and agricultural value chains to enhance resilience to climate and other shocks. Mechanisms for farmer education and training will be established with close involvement of farmers, and youth and women in particular. Building Back Better approach and principles are

accepted as part of the national approach for disaster risk reduction as expressed in the Early Warning System Strategy 2020 and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2021. As of today, Lesotho does not yet have a dedicated economic recovery package for agriculture. Capacity strengthening for building back better at national and sub-national levels will be conducted in close collaboration with local stakeholders and all key ministries, with the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Development Planning.

Country: Somalia
Project Title: Adaptive Agriculture and Rangeland Rehabilitation Project (A2R2)
Project ID: 10792
Agency: IFAD

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.*

Covid-19 impacts in Somalia

Through the year 2020, fewer than 27,000 SARS-CoV-2 detection PCR tests have been conducted in Somalia. Considering its population of more than 15 million people, this represents one of the lowest rates in the world. Fewer than 4,800 cases have been confirmed, including at least 130 deaths. Given limited testing, these figures are certainly largely underestimated. General awareness of the population is low and social distancing recommendations by the government have been largely ignored. Widespread and rapid vaccination is unlikely because of capacity limitations of health services and traditional reluctance to vaccination in the population. On a positive note, Somalia is endowed with a young population, less likely to suffer the most severe forms of the COVID-19 disease. Activities will be designed and implemented to ensure the protection of participants and project staff from the spread of COVID-19 and support the government's response efforts.

- 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.*

- The full project document will feature a contingency plans in the event of COVID outbreaks. This may cause postponement or remote undertaking of certain activities, shifting project locations and/or local partnerships to ensure the safe delivery of project outputs.
- Outreach efforts will be coordinated with public health authorities and/or with health-related projects active in the area. This will contribute to achieve multiple objectives in a cost-efficient manner (e.g. project staff may facilitate the distribution of public health posters, supplies, etc. in target communities).
- All project activities are designed and will be implemented to ensure the protection of participants and project staff from the spread of COVID-19, to raise awareness of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices as well as risks of wild animal consumption.
- Training and community mobilization activities in the field (that can't be undertaken remotely) will be organized outdoors wherever possible and feature public health messages on disease spread prevention, alongside those contents specific to the project's core technical objectives. Seating of participants will ensure physical distancing and protective supplies will be made available (infrared thermometers, masks, hydro-alcoholic gel). If food is provided, it will be

prepared according to strict preventive protocols and served in individual packets (i.e. no “buffet-style” arrangements).

- 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.*

Project components are inherently aligned with the overall objective of stimulating a “green recovery” following the COVID-19 crisis. Also, the project considers the One Health Approach. Increased climate change-induced drought and flooding, and higher temperature have resulted in a higher risk of human-wildlife conflicts and an outbreak of zoonotic disease in Somalia. To address the potential risks, the project will provide a regionally tailored, sustainable approach to manage rangelands and forests by providing training to pastoralist community organizations, establishing strengthened coordination mechanisms on natural resource management at federal, national and local levels, and supporting the development and implementation of sustainable pasture management plans, which will take into account specific measures to minimize human, and wildlife conflict. The project will also contribute to reducing the risk and incidence of infectious diseases through various habitat restoration activities enhancing biodiversity.

Country: Timor-Leste

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

Project ID: 10713

Agency: UNEP

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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.*

As of May 2021, the total number of infected is 3,626 with 5 death. Thus, during the PIF stage consultations, there have been limited in-person meetings with stakeholders. During the PPG and implementation phases, there will likely be restrictions regarding: i) the congregation of people, and ii) national and international travel. Stakeholder engagement could be hindered, impacting assessments and consultation process during PPG phase and project implementation delayed – particularly activities related to capacity development and adaptation interventions.

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.*

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

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

The project has a strong economic growth dimension integrated into the design, specifically in Component 3 where 2,200 ha of unsustainably managed farms will be transformed to climate-resilient and profitable agroforestry systems for growing cocoa and other agri-business commodities, as well as supporting the entry of financial institutions into Timor-Leste’s agricultural market for cocoa, vanilla and other commodities. The project design is based on evidence that SLM programs can be sustained and scaled up if marginalized rural communities living in those landscapes are uplifted economically. Transforming the agricultural sector to bring higher returns to farmers as well as land use planning that protects forests while delivering ecosystem benefits to the communities will prevent zoonotic diseases from occurring in the project watersheds.

The proposed project will respond to COVID-19 by proactively integrating COVID-19 into training activities under Outputs 2.1.4. This Output, focused on the CRIWDPs, will include specific training materials on water management, sanitation, hygiene, and human resilience against zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19. Additionally, training activities under Output 3.1.1 (on climate-resilient agribusinesses) will include materials on the opportunities for green growth – particularly regarding the ways in which investments in climate-resilient income-generating activities can stimulate local economies, create employment and livelihood security, and increase local resilience to recurrent zoonotic diseases. By raising awareness among stakeholders about the linkages between ecosystem resilience and human resilience to COVID-19, the project will build momentum for implementing and scaling up climate-resilient agricultural interventions as well as contribute to global green economic growth and sustainability efforts.