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31st LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting
December 9, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 04

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.31/03, *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising of three projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 7, 2022.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amount to \$19.62 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 seventh Work Program for LDCF projects to be considered by the LDCF/SCCF Council in the GEF-7 cycle. It requests a total of \$19.62 million for three projects to address urgent and immediate climate change adaptation priorities in three least developed countries (LDCs).¹
2. All three are national LDCF projects, for which the concepts have been developed and finalized amid the COVID-19 pandemic. All concepts submitted and technically cleared have been included in the Work Program. The Secretariat did not receive any concepts for support by the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).
3. The low volume of PIFs and modest resources requested for this Work Program are due primarily to two factors. First is that outreach has prioritized the LDCs that have not yet accessed the LDCF in the GEF-7 period, or have resources remaining under the initial \$10 million cap. The second factor is resource availability: As of September 30, 2021, total funds available in the LDCF to support Council and CEO decisions were \$36.91 million.² The Work Program is therefore utilizing a major share of the resources made available by the donors at the date of the Work Program constitution.
4. A number of donors announced voluntary pledges 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, most of the pledged contributions are expected to be received from September 2021 and beyond. Also, twelve donors committed \$413 million for the LDCF at a pledging event held at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on November 9, 2021. As such, the Secretariat expects to be able to propose more LDCF projects in the eighth and final Work Program of the GEF-7 period for the 32nd LDCF/SCCF Council in June 2022.
5. The Work Program consists of projects from three LDCs, namely Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, and the Solomon Islands. Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands are also small island developing States (SIDS). Among the three, Sao Tome and Principe is accessing the LDCF for the first time in the GEF-7 period. All three 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 \$44.97 million in co-financing for the total LDCF project financing amount of \$17.91 million.³ Each dollar provided by the LDCF is to be

¹ The requested amounts are inclusive of GEF project financing (\$17.91 million) and Agency fees (\$1.70 million). It does not include project preparation grants (PPGs, \$0.35 million) and PPG fees (\$0.03 million).

² GEF, 2021, *Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund (Financial Report prepared by the Trustee)*, Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.31/Inf.02.

³ 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

matched by \$2.51 in financing provided by a variety of sources.⁴

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.⁵ The Work Program addresses all three strategic objectives set forth in the strategy, in particular Objectives 1 and 2, which are addressed by all three of the projects included in the Work Program. Objective 3 is addressed by one project. 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 pandemic 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 improved irrigation for agriculture, mainstreaming climate resilience in provincial development investments and policies, and support for climate-resilient agriculture, fisheries and alternate livelihoods using ecosystems-based approaches.

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 as the pandemic continued to persist deep into 2021. LDCs 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. Despite the ongoing situation, the GEF has maintained business continuity throughout the pandemic period to work with the Agencies and countries. As many developing countries have nearly exhausted their little reserve and capacity, the GEF is helping countries to support blue, green, and resilient

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.

⁴ The co-financing ratio is calculated based on the amount of co-financing (\$44.97 million) mobilized for the three LDCF projects. Co-financing is not required for LDCF projects.

⁵ 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.

recovery.

11. The projects presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council target various adaptation priorities, such as seeking to protect and diversify livelihoods, sustain rural economy and services to ensure resilient recovery, enhance nature-based solutions, conserve water, and increase net incomes through water savings.

12. All Program 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 three projects included in the LDCF Work Program are presented in Annex B of this document.

13. The three countries included in this Work Program are all addressing COVID-19 impacts through various measures, and the LDCF interventions have been designed to contribute towards various aspects of blue, green, and resilient recovery. For instance, Malawi has declared a state of national disaster in January 2021, and concerns have been raised that some measures to address the pandemic may result in increased climate-vulnerability of local communities. As such, the project proposed by UNDP seeks to provide beneficiaries with opportunities to rebuild and expand their livelihoods following the pandemic that disrupted production, incomes, value chains and local enterprises. The project also seeks to implement ecosystem-based adaptation interventions and sustainable management of the natural resource base on which rural communities depend, including forests, riparian areas, and wetlands. Diversified livelihoods and value-addition services through the project are expected to enable vulnerable communities to build their resilience to climate change, while fostering continued delivery of ecosystem goods and services. There will be synergies between the project and COVID-19 recovery efforts.

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

- (a) Support to project partners, including government and local authorities, with diversified communications approaches that can be used under COVID-19 disruptions;
- (b) Application of appropriate GEF Agency risk mitigation strategies pertaining to potential transmission, or identification of alternatives for consultations and aspects requiring congregation;
- (c) Readiness to strengthen stakeholder capacity via available online conferencing systems;
- (d) Organization of remote meetings with stakeholders with internet access in case of strict restrictions against in-person meetings; and
- (e) Setting of realistic timeframes and budgets that take into account COVID-related challenges during the PPG phase.

15. The three projects presented in the Work Program have 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) Improving the delivery of essential services and cushioning the effects of the pandemic on the local economy and vulnerable populations, and by promoting investment in strategic economic infrastructure to support growth and development, through alignment with the COVID-19 strategy of the International Development Association (IDA) for “Saving Lives and Livelihoods while Supporting Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development”;
- (b) Building resilience in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through promotion of ecosystem approach to water and soil resource management, thus increasing the productivity of farmlands and avoiding expansions in areas of high natural and biodiversity value, and by improving the quality and productivity of agricultural systems to generate additional income;
- (c) Supporting broader climate resilience building while also responding to the root causes of vulnerability that are being exacerbated by the pandemic;
- (d) Creating a fund at national level to support investment in climate adaptation solutions which will directly contribute to mobilizing national funds for green recovery; and
- (e) Building capacities at the national, subnational and community level to prepare and respond to natural disasters, including health emergencies such as COVID-19.

16. Along with the recent cohorts of projects, the three 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 Programming Strategy on Climate Change Adaptation for the LDCF and SCCF.

LDCF WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

17. The LDCF Work Program comprises of three projects with the total financing of \$20.00 million, comprising of GEF project financing of \$17.91 million, and Agency fees and PPGs (\$2.08 million).⁶

18. The Work Program proposes to support urgent adaptation needs in three LDCs, including two LDC SIDS. The three projects included in this Work Program are for the following

⁶ The total amount comprises of GEF project financing (\$17.91 million), Agency fees (\$1.70 million), and PPGs (\$0.35 million) and fees (\$0.03 million).

countries: Malawi, Sao Tome and Principe, and Solomon Islands. These projects are based on current national priorities for climate change adaptation and aligned with the LDCF programming strategy objectives, as confirmed by the Operational Focal Points (OFPs) of respective countries. The PIFs for Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands are also aligned with their adaptation priorities in their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The project from Malawi is also aligned with mitigation priorities in the NDC.

19. These projects support interventions in priority sectors and systems that are important for climate resilience and economic development. All the projects support people-focused initiatives to address needs for income and livelihood diversification that are aligned with blue, green, and resilient economic recovery.

20. Sectors and systems addressed include natural resources management; agriculture, food security; water resources management; and sustainable and resilient economic infrastructure. These projects also include sub-national or community-based interventions, coupled with policy and governance support. Innovative technology promotion is also a key theme in two projects. Use of financial instruments, such as performance-based grants and financing facility, is envisaged in two projects.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC LDCF PRIORITIZATION

21. 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;
- 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.

22. 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.

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

24. Alignment with national needs and priorities: All projects included in the Work Program articulated their alignments with current national climate adaptation priorities, and contribute towards national climate adaptation strategies and policy approaches. All projects are also aligned with their NDCs.

25. For example, the project in Sao Tome and Principe by the African Development Bank (AfDB) addresses risks identified in the country's Third National Communication (2019), which articulated agriculture as one of the three sectors most sensitive to climate change, including risk to cacao as the main export cash crop and taro and maize as the major food crops. The project is also aligned with its National Development Plan 2017-2021, which outlines a number of objectives and programs including diversification of the economy and increased production and diversification of food and export crops. The project is aligned with the 2021 NDC, and has been prepared under the NDC Partnership framework to contribute to the objectives of the NDC Implementation Plan to reduce climate-reduced risks and increase the resilience of communities and sectors, and to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, and create socioeconomic alternatives for forest-based products.

26. The project in Malawi by UNDP is based on the the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA), and is aligned with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UN Convention on Biological Diversity, National Communications, Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, among others. Furthermore, the project supports the implementation of Malawi's NDC on clean energy and its mitigation goal.

27. 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 three projects address the first and second strategic objectives, underscoring the important role of LDCF to support innovation and technology transfer and mainstreaming adaptation. The AfDB project in Sao Tome and Principe also addresses the third objective in the agricultural and water sectors, by creating a supportive enabling environment for replicating and scaling up with strengthened local and national capacities and improved governance systems.

28. Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support: All projects are catalyzing additional financing from the GEF Agencies and recipient governments, as shown in Figure 3. Leveraging opportunities are described in each concept, with key elements summarized in this document. The World Bank project in Solomon Islands is mobilizing IDA investments, as a \$9.0 million grant and a \$6.0 million loan, sourced from the country's IDA 19 funding allocations to support

priorities identified in the National Sustainable Development Plan and its Climate Change Policy. The AfDB project in Sao Tome and Principe is co-financed with a \$8.0 million loan from the Agency. The UNDP project in Malawi mobilizes the majority of its co-financing from the national government, with \$15.9 million in in-kind recurrent expenditures from the Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources and \$3.6 million in grant from the Ministry of Finance. UNDP is mobilizing \$2.0 million in grant.

29. Level of LDCF resources previously accessed: Among the three LDCs included in this Work Program, one, Sao Tome and Principe, is accessing the LDCF for the first time in the GEF-7 period. Malawi and Solomon Islands are reaching the \$10 million initial cap for GEF-7 with these proposals.

30. Geographical balance: The Work Program includes projects from two African LDCs (Malawi and Sao Tome and Principe), of which one is also a SIDS, and one Pacific SIDS (Solomon Islands).

31. Private sector engagement: All three projects envisage private sector engagement in the projects as stakeholders, beneficiaries, and implementation partners. For example, the project in Solomon Islands by the World Bank expects to engage the private sector at two levels: as the stakeholder in the Ward (administrative division) development planning, and as contractors for works and constructions activities, based on competitive bidding.

32. The project in Malawi by UNDP seeks to address the limited progress in engaging the private sector in relevant climate adaptation activities by supporting decision making on planning and investment in ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-resilient enterprises, and risk management. The project will further encourage the expansion and strengthening of value chains across multiple priority sectors and awareness raising. The project will also facilitate private sector engagement through a Sustainable Climate Finance Facility (SCFF), which seeks to facilitate investments in innovative climate-resilient livelihoods, enterprises, and value chains with funds from private investors. The SCFF will be transferred to the National Climate Change Fund upon its development.

33. 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.

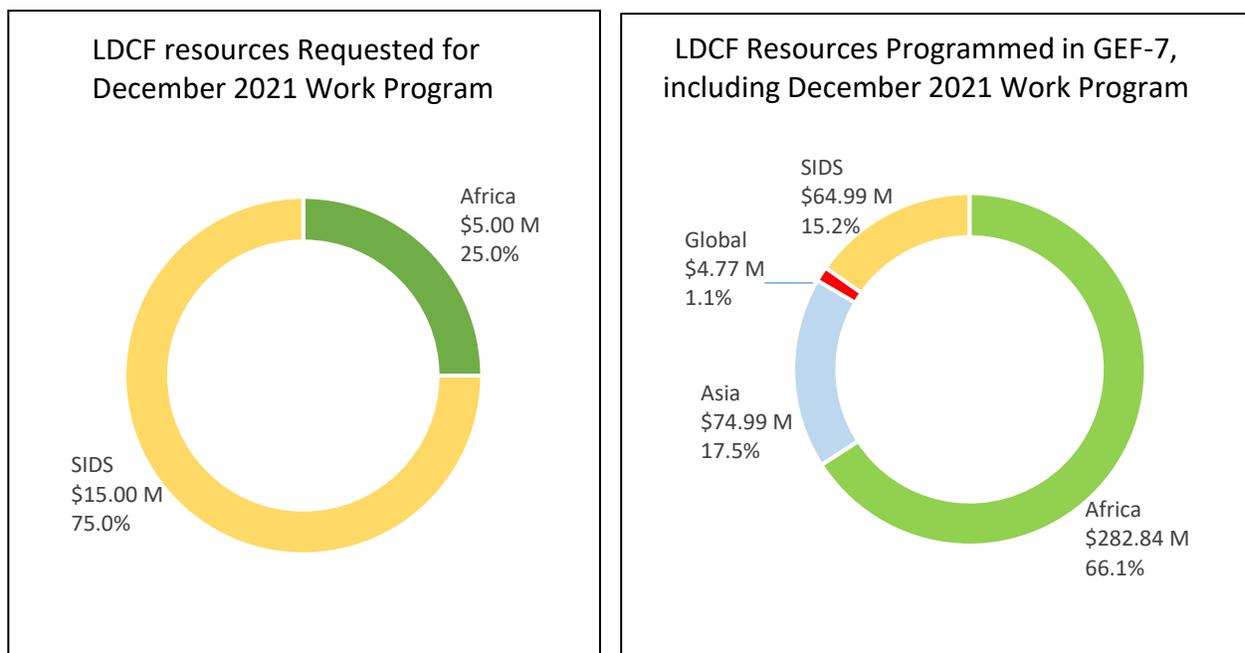
34. Timing of technical approval of projects: All proposals that were technically cleared by the deadline were considered and included in the Work Program. The UNDP Malawi project was submitted on March 24, 2021 but did not reach technical clearance for the June 2021 Work Program. It reached the CEO PIF clearance stage on November 12, 2021. The other two projects were submitted to the Secretariat on September 14 and 15, 2021, and reached the CEO PIF clearance stage by November 16, 2021. As a cohort, the time from the initial PIF submission to the CEO PIF clearance is 119 days (4 months), ranging from 60 days (2 months) to 234 days (7.8 months). The GEF-7 operational improvements continue to support more timely and efficient programming.

DISTRIBUTION OF LDCF RESOURCES BY REGION AND AGENCY

35. Among the three projects for this Work Program, two countries are in the Africa region, one in the Pacific, and two are also SIDS. Including this Work Program, 44 out of the 47 LDCs, or 94 percent of LDCs, will have accessed the LDCF resources to address their urgent and immediate adaptation priorities.⁷ Upon approval of the Work Program, 33 LDCs, or 70 percent of all LDCs, will reach the initial \$10 million LDCF cap set for the GEF-7 period. Upon approval of this Work Program, only three LDCs, namely Comoros, Madagascar, and Niger, have yet to access any LDCF resources in the GEF-7 period.

36. 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, \$15.00 million, or 75.0 percent of resources, are programmed in SIDS, followed by \$5.00 million or 25.0 percent in Africa. Cumulatively for the GEF-7 period, \$282.84 million, or 66.1 percent, of the LDCF resources have been programmed in Africa, followed by \$74.99 million, or 17.5 percent, in Asia and 15.2 percent, or \$64.99 million, in SIDS. Global programming accounts for 1.1 percent of total programming in GEF-7, and includes one global project for \$2.22 million and the LDCF portion of resources allocated to global projects under the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation (\$2.55 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 SIDS.

Figure 1: Comparison of Regional Distribution of LDCF Resources



⁷ 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.

37. 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, 33 LDCs have accessed the full \$10 million initial cap for the GEF-7 period. An additional 12 countries have accessed LDCF resources under the cap, of which six have accessed over \$9 million. Altogether, approximately \$427.61 million of LDCF resources have been programmed in the GEF-7 period, inclusive of this Work Program. Countries that have not yet received any LDCF support in GEF-7 are now down to three: Comoros, Madagascar, and Niger. The GEF Secretariat has reached out to these countries to encourage LDCF project development. Five LDCs, namely, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Nepal, Tuvalu, and Zambia, have \$1.9 million to \$5.0 million remaining under the \$10 million initial cap for LDCF programming.

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

| | Resources Requested in December 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees) | GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including December 2021 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees) | Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including December 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 | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$33.24 |
| Lao PDR | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$39.90 |

| | Resources Requested in December 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees) | GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including December 2021 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees) | Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including December 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees) |
|---|--|---|--|
| Lesotho | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$40.66 |
| Liberia | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$25.71 |
| Madagascar | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$19.62 |
| Malawi | \$5.00 | \$10.00 | \$43.45 |
| Mali | \$0.00 | \$8.06 | \$36.97 |
| Mauritania | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$35.16 |
| Mozambique | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$31.73 |
| 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 | \$10.00 | \$10.00 | \$36.74 |
| Senegal | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$40.01 |
| Sierra Leone | \$0.00 | \$10.00 | \$36.58 |
| Solomon Islands | \$5.00 | \$10.00 | \$25.69 |
| Somalia | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$0.00 | \$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 | \$15.69 |
| Regional | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$125.79 |
| GEF-7 Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation | | \$5.00 | \$5.00 |
| Total | | | |

38. Table 2 presents the total amount of LDCF resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees, for the December 2021 Work Program as well as cumulative,

GEF-7 programming by Agency. Three GEF Agencies are represented in the December 2021 Work Program, namely AfDB, UNDP, and World Bank. AfDB has a 50.0 percent share of the December 2021 Work Program, or \$10.00 million, followed by UNDP and World Bank with 25.0 percent or \$5.00 million each.

39. With seven Work Programs in the GEF-7 period, eleven GEF Agencies have been engaged in LDCF programming. The Agency concentration is much more balanced in the GEF-7 period, with no Agency with more than one-third of the GEF-7 portfolio. UNDP has \$134.90 million, or 31.5 percent of the GEF-7 cumulative programming volume, followed by FAO at \$125.23 million or 29.3 percent. AfDB has the third-highest share of 11.5 percent at \$48.97 million, followed by UNEP at \$29.12 million, or 6.8 percent.

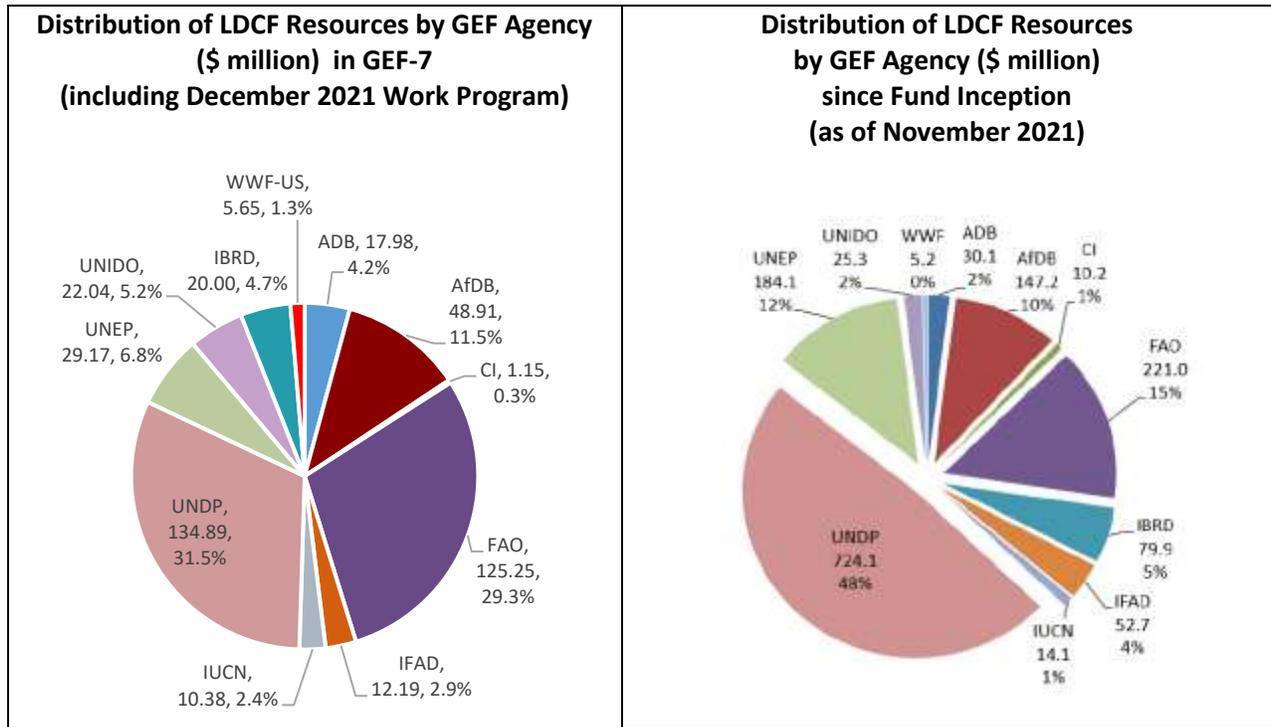
Table 2: Amount of LDCF Resources by Agency in December 2021 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date

| Agency | Resources Requested in December 2021 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees) | | GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources Requested including December 2021 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees) | |
|--------------|--|----------------|---|----------------|
| | \$ million | % of resources | \$ million | % of resources |
| ADB | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$17.98 | 4.2% |
| AfDB | \$10.00 | 50.0% | \$48.97 | 11.5% |
| CI | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$ 1.15 | 0.3% |
| FAO | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$125.23 | 29.3% |
| IFAD | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$ 12.19 | 2.9% |
| IUCN | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$10.38 | 2.4% |
| UNDP | \$5.00 | 25.0% | \$134.90 | 31.5% |
| UNEP | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$29.12 | 6.8% |
| UNIDO | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$22.04 | 5.2% |
| WB | \$5.00 | 25.0% | \$20.00 | 4.7% |
| WWF-US | \$0.00 | 0.0% | \$5.65 | 1.3% |
| Total | \$20.00 | 100.0% | \$427.61 | 100.0% |

40. The Agency involvement in the GEF-7 period summarized above shows a different and more balanced 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 \$1,637.92 million since the fund inception.⁸ Of this amount, UNDP holds the largest share of project funding decisions to date, with 48.47 percent; followed by 14.79 percent by FAO and 12.32 percent by UNEP. The large historical UNDP share is in part due to the limited number of Agencies that were engaged in climate adaptation in the early period of LDCF operations. Over time, the number of GEF Agencies active in climate adaptation has increased. The GEF-7 LDCF programming is more balanced.

⁸ These figures are based on the Trustee [Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#) (Council document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.31/Inf.02).

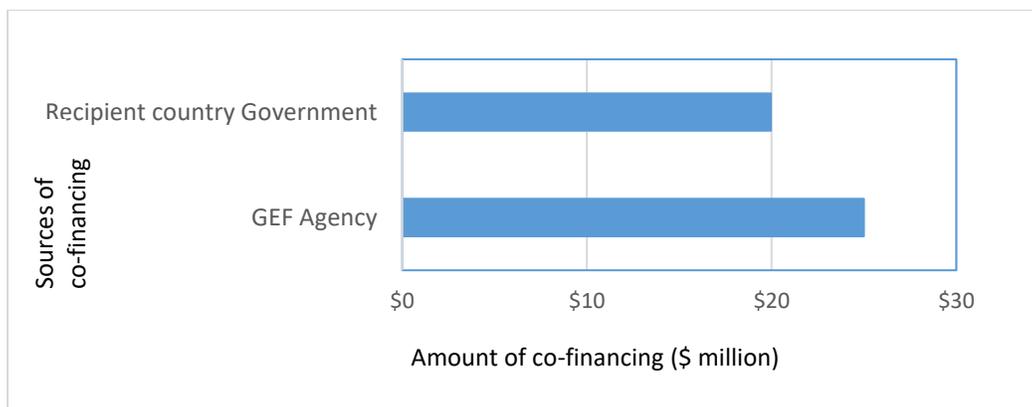
Figure 2: Comparison of Agency Distribution of LDCF Resources (\$ million)



DISTRIBUTION OF CO-FINANCING

41. Distribution of co-financing by co-financier types for the projects in the December 2021 Work Program is shown below in Figure 3. GEF Agencies and recipient country governments are the main providers of co-financing, of which \$25.0 million is investment mobilized.

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



OBSERVATIONS AND OUTLOOK

42. Leaving no LDCs 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 44. The three remaining LDCs that are yet to access LDCF resources in the GEF-7 period are Comoros, Madagascar, and Niger. The GEF Secretariat has continued to reach out to these countries, and it is likely that they will submit a proposal for the June 2022 Work Program. Thirty-three LDCs have successfully accessed up to the \$10 million initial cap. An additional 12 countries have accessed LDCF resources under the cap, of which six have accessed over \$9 million. The GEF Secretariat organized a briefing at UNFCCC COP 26, with the facilitation of the LDC group, to provide an update on GEF-7 programming, explain how to access the LDCF, and to reiterate our offer to assist countries in applying for LDCF support to address their climate adaptation priorities.

43. GEF-GCF coordination: Among the three projects included in this Work Program, the Malawi project has identified two GCF projects to coordinate to ensure complementarity and scaling up of practices. The first project is Scaling up the use of Modernized Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Malawi, which aims to protect the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities from climate-related disasters and to enhance their climate resilience. The second project is Climate Investor One, which seeks to provide financing to develop renewable energy projects in regions with power deficits.

44. For Sao Tome and Principe and Solomon Islands, LDCF is currently the primary means of climate adaptation support from the UNFCCC financial mechanism, as the GCF has not yet supported climate adaptation projects in these countries. In Solomon Islands, the GCF has one cross-cutting project on hydropower development under implementation. In Sao Tome and Principe, there are no national projects approved by the GCF to date. Sao Tome and Principe is one of the nine countries taking part in the Cooling Facility project, which was recently approved by the GCF board in October 2021. As such, the LDCF is providing timely support to these LDC SIDs to address their urgent adaptation priorities. Efforts will be made to facilitate coordination if and when adaptation projects are approved by the GCF in these two countries.

45. Resource availability and predictability: This Work Program, while supporting all technically cleared projects, is the smallest among the seven Work Programs in the GEF-7 period in terms of the number of projects and resources requested. As explained earlier, the limited resource availability prevented the Secretariat from engaging in proactive discussions to facilitate the development of additional innovative initiatives. Also, beyond the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation, 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.

46. As discussed during the first meeting of the GEF Programming Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation for the LDCF/SCCF on October 19, 2021, there is a need to strive for more predictable and enhanced support to the LDCF. The pledging of \$413 million made at the COP 26 event on November 9, 2021 confirms enhanced donor confidence and support, and presents a good basis to build more robust and predictable LDCF support to countries in GEF-8.

47. Additional programming in GEF-7: The GEF Secretariat indicated in the June 2021 Work

Program Cover Note that it will notify the countries to accept additional proposals to review if additional donor contributions are received in time to enable programming above the \$10 million initial cap within the remaining GEF-7 period. With approximately \$37 million in the LDCF at the time of this Work Program constitution, it has not been possible to accept or consider projects beyond the initial \$10 million cap. With one Work Program remaining in the GEF-7 period, the LDCF will prioritize support for all LDCs to reach the initial cap, including three LDCs that have yet to access resources in the GEF-7 period and five countries with remaining balance above \$1.9 million.

48. If pledged donor contributions are finalized in early 2022 at a level significantly above the amount needed to address the needs of these nine LDCs, the Secretariat will notify countries of additional opportunities. Resources may also 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. 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.

RESULTS AND IMPACTS

49. 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 three proposals on the core indicators are as follows:

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 545,000 persons, of which 259,550 persons or 47.6 percent are female
- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 128,500 hectares
- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: at least 133 policies and plans
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 49,720 persons, of which 27,067 persons or 54.4 percent are female.

50. The cumulative contributions on the core indicators of all LDCF projects approved in the GEF-7 period, including the three projects for this Work Program, are as follows:

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 19,024,733⁹ persons, of which 9,594,173 persons or 50.4 percent are female
- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 2,479,569 hectares

⁹ This and other cumulative figures provided are based on Core Indicator values provided at time of Council or CEO approval of FSP or MSP PIF approvals, respectively. For projects that have been CEO endorsed, the updated (endorsement stage) Core Indicator values are used to provide more accurate cumulative figures.

- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: 704 policies and plans
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 617,118 persons, of which 291,759 or 47.3 percent are female.

51. 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

52. In LDCs, women and girls are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change. Climate change can deepen existing gender inequalities, especially for those that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. 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 influence and contribute to climate action and sustainability. In line with the ambition and requirements set out in the GEF Policy on Gender Equality, the LDCF Fund is making specific efforts to ensure that projects identify possible gender gaps and incorporate inclusive and gender-responsive approaches early in project design.

53. All three projects in this Work Program considered gender issues in their initial project design. They incorporate project specific gender dimensions and outline plans and preliminary entry points to address women's barriers to decision-making and other gender-responsive measures to promote women's empowerment. All three projects explicitly state that they expect to develop sex disaggregated and gender sensitive indicators. In addition, all three projects expect to contribute to closing gender gaps related to women's participation and decision-making as well as generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Two projects specifically highlight that they expect to contribute to closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources. In line with GEF Policy on Gender Equality, these three projects will be required to carry out a gender analysis during project preparation as well as developing gender action plans and providing further details on proposed sex-disaggregated indicators prior to CEO Endorsement.

LDCF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

54. **Malawi:** *Transformational Adaptation for Climate Resilience in Lake Chilwa Basin of Malawi (TRANSFORM)* (GEF ID: 10777); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$4,416,210 LDCF; Co-financing: \$21,451,000. This LDCF project aims to reduce vulnerability of communities in Malawi by adopting an ecosystem-based adaptation approach, enhancing flow of climate finance and engaging communities and private sector enterprises to develop climate resilient livelihoods. The project will focus on the Lake Chilwa Basin of Malawi, which is one of the most vulnerable regions of the country. The project will facilitate creation of an adaptation financing mechanism at the national level, support implementation of adaptation solutions such as resilient agriculture, fisheries and alternate livelihoods using ecosystem-based

adaptation approaches, and build capacity of local governments, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and communities in project planning and development. The project will benefit 100,000 people directly with 55 percent of the beneficiaries being women. It will also bring 121,000 hectares of land under climate resilient management, build technical capacity of 5,000 community members and raise awareness on climate adaptation planning of 40,000 community members.

55. The project has an explicit focus on empowering women and youth for the transformative shift towards a gender-sensitive, sustainable and climate-resilient development pathway in the Lake Chilwa basin. More specifically, it will engage and build capacity of women and youth in participatory ecosystem-based adaptation planning and developing climate resilient livelihoods and business enterprises. In addition, the project proposes to have an equitable representation of women and youth in the Project Coordination Committee responsible for implementation of the annual work plans.

56. **Sao Tome and Principe:** *Co-management of Climate Extremes for Agriculture Resilience via Innovative Technologies for Irrigation in Sao Tome and Principe* (GEF ID: 10883); GEF Agency: AfDB; GEF project financing: \$8,932,420 LDCF; Co-financing: \$8,518,000. The project will target the Lobata and Cantagalo districts on the island of Sao Tome, with a focus on innovative technologies for drought and water management to enhance the resilience of vulnerable farming communities. Specific areas of focus include: (a) water storage infrastructure to reduce runoff and enhance soil infiltration, with a focus on both groundwater storage and surface storage; (b) conservation agriculture practices, including minimum tillage, permanent soil cover with crop residues and live mulches, crop rotation and intercropping; (c) efficient irrigation technologies, such as solar photovoltaic pump systems and drip irrigation systems, which will increase water management efficiency and translate to increased savings.

57. The project will pilot the practice 'Underground Taming of Floods for Irrigation (UTFI)' for the first time in Sao Tome and Principe, a technique which mitigates flood damage by retaining water than can be harvested or recharge underground aquifers. Farmers will be trained in the use and maintenance of the technologies, and farmer associations will be helped to create a fund to guarantee the maintenance of the equipment so its sustainability is guaranteed. The project seeks to foster cross-sectoral collaboration across water, agriculture and energy sectors; has a strong focus on women's resilience; and will coordinate with existing initiatives, creating a technical advisory group comprising experts from relevant initiatives. The project will directly benefit 150,000 people, bring 7,500 hectares of land under climate resilient management, mainstream climate resilience in three policies/plans, and train 3,000 community members about climate change risks and adaptation measures. 60,000 of the direct beneficiaries will be women.

58. A social and gender analysis will be conducted as part of project preparation to seek input from vulnerable groups, and to ensure that the project design affords both women and men equal opportunities to participate and benefit from the project. The technologies and solutions for water storage and irrigation deployed by the project will be targeted specifically at women farmers, thus improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural

resource governance and contributing to closing the gender gap in access and control of water for irrigation. Activities to establish local leadership councils or Resource Users Associations in particular will be designed and implemented to encourage women's participation and leadership. Cross-sectoral dialogues will be conducted in a way that ensures women's participation, and women will be part of the decision-making process.

59. **Solomon Islands: *Integrated Economic Development and Community Resilience (IEDCR)*** (GEF ID: 10861); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: \$4,566,211 LDCF; Co-financing: \$15,000,000. The proposed project will blend LDCF funding with an IDA grant targeted at socio-economic development across all of Solomon Islands' provinces outside the capital city, to focus on delivery of inclusive, sustainable and resilient development, including resilience to climate change impacts. This will be done using institutional mechanisms already in place in the country—namely via the Provincial Capacity Development Fund (PCDF) under the Provincial Governance Strengthening Program. In turn, the provincial governments are strengthening connections with communities through Ward Development Committees (WDCs), so that the project structure connects all levels of governance ranging from national to Ward level. The LDCF-IDA blended project will focus on the delivery of resilient infrastructure and services in rural areas to stimulate economic activity, mainstreaming climate and disaster risk planning from the national down to the community levels. It will support vulnerability assessments, climate risk screening tools and climate-resilient design standards. The project will delivering direct adaptation benefits to 295,000 people, mainstream climate resilience in 129 policies and plans, and train 1,720 people in climate risk management approaches. The project will directly reduce the climate vulnerability of 144,550 women and girls, through more resilient economic infrastructure and services, such improved access to produce markets. It will also strengthen the country's COVID-19 response by promoting investment in strategic and resilient economic infrastructure to support growth and development.

60. The project will support progressive increase in the minimum representation standards for women and youth in the WDCs and PPDCs. Ward Support Officers (WSOs) will supervise the works; identify operations and maintenance needs; implement a range of communications and awareness raising activities concerning the PCDF and on climate risk and adaptation measures. It will work towards ensuring 30 percent of the 172 WSOs are women, and ensure that all PPDCs and WSOs are trained in gender and inclusion approaches to ensure meaningful participation and inclusion of vulnerable groups. To ensure women's effective participation in committee decision-making, the project will provide training to female and male committee members on the PCDF and in other related areas to facilitate and optimize their participation and engagement

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

December 10, 2021

| No. | GEF ID | Project Title | Focal Area | Country | Agency | PPG Amount | PPG Fee | GEF Project Financing | Agency Fee | Co-financing | Total Project Cost |
|--|--------|--|----------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | in US \$ | | |
| Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Climate Change</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 10861 | Integrated Economic Development and Community Resilience (IEDCR) | Climate Change | Solomon Islands | World Bank | - | - | 4,566,211 | 433,789 | 15,000,000 | 20,000,000 |
| 2 | 10777 | Transformational Adaptation for Climate Resilience in Lake Chilwa Basin of Malawi (TRANSFORM) | Climate Change | Malawi | UNDP | 150,000 | 14,250 | 4,416,210 | 419,540 | 21,451,000 | 26,451,000 |
| 3 | 10883 | Co-management of climate extremes for agriculture resilience via innovative technologies for irrigation in São Tomé and Príncipe | Climate Change | Sao Tome and Principe | AfDB | 200,000 | 19,000 | 8,932,420 | 848,580 | 8,518,000 | 18,518,000 |
| CCA-Sub-Total | | | | | | 350,000 | 33,250 | 17,914,841 | 1,701,909 | 44,969,000 | 64,969,000 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | 350,000 | 33,250 | 17,914,841 | 1,701,909 | 44,969,000 | 64,969,000 |

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: Malawi
Project Title: Transformational Adaptation for Climate Resilience in Lake Chilwa Basin of Malawi (TRANSFORM)
Project ID: 10777
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.*

The country declared COVID-19 pandemic as national disaster in January 2021. This impacted the country on many fronts both economically and socially in addition to the climate risk it is facing. The project aims to be well placed in this context with an overall objective of strengthening resilience of the most vulnerable communities by supporting their core livelihoods which are agriculture and fisheries, and also support development of alternative livelihoods which will create new jobs at local level including through local medium and small enterprises.

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 current COVID-19 pandemic may not only disrupt the implementation of the proposed project, but also response measures to mitigate the spread of the virus may result in increased climate-vulnerability of local communities in Malawi. The proposed project will mitigate the risks of COVID-19 while vaccinations across the country progress by building synergies between project activities with COVID-19 recovery — with specific focus given to green recovery. Project partners (government, local authorities) will be supported with diversified communications approaches that can be used under COVID-19 disruptions. During PPG stage, realistic timeframes and budgets will be set to take into account COVID-related challenges.

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

The COVID-19 Response strategy, to be elaborated at PPG stage, will undertake a full analysis of the risks posed by the pandemic, especially to the vulnerable communities, their production system and the value chains that they are involved in. While maintaining a COVID-19 appropriate protocol in delivering the project activities, the projects response to the issue is largely based on its focus on awareness generation, training and capacity enhancement, stabilizing production, markets and value chains, enhancing the natural resource base and agricultural production. These naturally lends itself to supporting opportunities for building back better and greener for Malawi by supporting resilient livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries and other economic sectors. It also aims

to create a fund at national level to support investment in adaptation solutions which will directly contribute to mobilizing national funds for green recovery. Such opportunities will be elaborated at detailed design stage and the project will be strengthened to support broader resilience building while also responding to the root causes of vulnerability that are being exacerbated by the pandemic.

Country: Sao Tome and Principe

Project Title: Co-management of climate extremes for agriculture resilience via innovative technologies for irrigation in Sao Tome and Principe Securing Kiribati's Natural Heritage: Protected areas for community, atoll, and island climate resilience

Project ID: 10883

Agency: AfDB

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.*

Overall, the project addresses COVID-19 related risks adequately. It has identified potential risks to project development and implementation, and proposed mitigation options. Further, the project offers solid opportunities for green recovery in the wake of COVID-19, as it is focused on enhancing rural livelihoods and subsistence, focuses on long-term resilience, and will build in mechanisms for sustainability.

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 will reduce COVID-19 associated risks by following international and WHO standards for the prevention of infection. Should the size of public gatherings be limited, then suitable alternatives will be sought that follow best practices in reducing the risk of infection. The project will also identify alternate technical expertise in case it is required. Planning will be flexible enough to reschedule activities onsite that require specific expertise. Further, the project will be ready to strengthen the capacity of the stakeholders via available online conferencing systems. In the case of strict restrictions against in-person meetings, meetings will be conducted remotely with stakeholders that have internet access.

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. The project interventions will build resilience in the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and ecosystems via (1) promotion of ecosystem approach to water and soil resource management, thus increasing the productivity of farmlands and thus avoiding farmland expansions in areas of high natural and biodiversity value, and (2) improving the quality and productivity of agricultural systems, thus creating surplus of agricultural production which can be sold in markets and generate additional income to vulnerable farmers which can be used for long-term planning and anticipatory action. These results will also enhance the resilience of farmers to face future socio-economic, climatic and health-related shocks.

Country: Solomon Islands
Project title: Integrated Economic Development and Community Resilience (IEDCR)
Project ID: 10861
Agency: World Bank

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.

The project takes into account potential COVID-19 related risks to project implementation, such as transmission or delays in implementation. Appropriate risk mitigation measures will be applied for the former. The project also offers very high opportunity for green and resilient economic and social recovery from COVID-19. The pandemic has spurred reverse migration from cities, which is placing pressure on service delivery in rural communities, with many agricultural activities temporarily suspended. The project will promote investment in strategic economic infrastructure (including agricultural) to support growth and development. It will build capacities at the national, subnational and community level to prepare and respond to various hazards, including health emergencies such as COVID-19.

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 has identified and will address health and safety risks relating to COVID 19 transmission, for stakeholders engaging in the project. Appropriate Bank risk mitigation strategies pertaining to potential transmission will be applied, or alternatives sought, especially for consultations and aspects requiring congregation. It has also noted that ongoing travel restrictions associated with COVID-19 may lead to delays in the preparation process.

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 supports IDA's COVID-19 strategy for 'Saving Lives and Livelihoods while Supporting Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development.' The Project supports at least two pillars (protecting the poor by improving economic opportunities for the rural poor and securing foundations of the economy through infrastructure and social services development) utilizing a well-functioning system to provide timely COVID-19 response to rural areas. The Project will focus on: (i) Strengthening Solomon Islands' COVID-19 response and mitigation strategy by improving the delivery of essential services and cushioning the effects of the pandemic on the local economy and vulnerable populations; and (ii) Promoting investment in strategic economic infrastructure to

support growth and development. The Plan focuses on building capacities at the national, subnational and community level to prepare and respond to natural disasters, including health emergencies such as COVID-19.