



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.62/07
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Washington D.C

Agenda Item 07

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR GEF TRUST FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document *GEF/C.62/07, Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 18 projects and 1 program, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 21, 2022.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$165.8 million which include GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs), Program Framework Documents (PFDs), and Non-expedited Enabling Activity: [See Annex I]

With respect to the PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and Non-expedited Enabling Activity (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

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

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

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

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JUNE 2022 WORK PROGRAM OF THE GEF TRUST FUND IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

1. The June Work Program 2022 marks the last Work Program for GEF-7 and the fifth that has been developed and submitted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The GEF Partnership has continued to work without interruption since the start of the pandemic, as evidenced by this Work Program and the cumulative programming statistics for GEF-7 presented herein.
2. The Secretariat has continued to be in close contact with agencies and respond to demands for some flexibility in the workflow as needed. Hence, the Secretariat was able to present a quality June 2022 Work Program, the last for the GEF-7 cycle, for consideration by the GEF council.
3. While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to require new business practices and adapt to more virtual interactions, some sense of normalcy has slowly returned to the work of the GEF partnership. This has led to the continued design of high-quality projects for council approval and CEO endorsement.
4. As has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic, all project reviews include a COVID-19 screen that assesses the risks and opportunities associated with each project being submitted for consideration by the GEF. Special attention is given to projects that can contribute to a resilient blue and green recovery. These screens are included in the cover note as Annex II.
5. Many adaptive practices are now mainstreamed in project preparation. These include: some form of virtual engagement for the stakeholder engagement processes and other critical meetings needed for the design and preparation of projects for CEO endorsement; the use of local technical expertise has become more prevalent due to the difficulty of travel of consultants; and project execution has been reliant on local government entities in some cases that are closer to the project areas
5. There is a high degree of confidence that the projects and programs submitted to this Work Program have conducted proper due diligence. In many cases, it is possible to identify innovative thinking incorporated in the proposals that will hopefully ensure that projects are not only managing the new risks created by the pandemic but also contributing to the prevention of future pandemics. Please see the complete list of COVID-19 project design considerations in Annex B.

WORK PROGRAM PREPARATION AND THE PIPELINE OF PROJECTS

6. At the deadline for project submission for the June 2022 Work Program, the last in the GEF-7 cycle, 18 projects and 1 program were considered eligible¹ for review and consideration. Additionally, 2 NGI project concepts were assessed as part of the 6th Call for Proposals.

Table 1. Pipeline of Projects and Programs Considered for the June 2022 Work Program

Project Type	PIFs and PFDs in the Portal by review deadline ²	Technically cleared and included in the WP # (%)	Technically cleared and not included in the WP # (%)	Rejected # (%)	Not ready for technical clearance # (%)
PIF	18	17 (94%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (6%)
PFD	1	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NGI	2	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%) ³	0 (0%)

7. More than 94% (17 PIFs) of the 18 eligible projects were technically cleared by the review deadline and were included in the Work Program. Only one project (4%) could not be cleared and was not ready for inclusion at the time of Work Program composition due to incomplete documentation.

8. The single program addendum that was submitted was cleared and is included in the Work Program. The program addendum increases the number of countries and the overall resources in the African Mini-Grids program.

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

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

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

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

Table 2. Distribution of Projects Not Cleared for the June 2022 Work Program

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

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAM

10. The June 2022 Work Program presented here contains 19 programs and projects and is requesting a total of \$165.8 million from all five focal area envelopes (Table 3) and from the NGI funding window. This total only includes the resources from the GEF Trust Fund and does not include any resources from the LDCF Trust Fund as there we no Multi-Trust Fund Projects included in both Work Programs.

11. The June 2022 Work Program is the eighth and last in the GEF-7 replenishment cycle. Overall, at the end of the cycle, there has been excellent progress on all programming fronts, with 93% of total resources being programed in GEF-7 if the Work Program is approved as presented. This Work Program includes various strategic projects addressing important priorities of the GEF-7 Programming Directions document.

12. The Work Program also includes one project from the Sixth Call for Proposals of the Non-Grant Instrument (NGI) window for blended finance, seeking funding of \$10.9 million.

13. Many projects in this Work Program will contribute directly to a blue and green recovery. Examples of such investments include the support to work in Nigeria to transition towards a greener post-COVID-19 economic recovery by enabling smallholders, government institutions and private sector entities to adopt sustainable and biodiversity-compatible practices along biodiversity-positive value chains related to agroforestry, non-timber forest products, nature-based tourism, and the wildlife economy.

14. If approved, a total of \$110.8 million from the Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change (CC), and Land Degradation (LD) focal areas will be programmed in this Work Program. The Work Program includes a request of \$25.0 million from the International Waters (IW) and \$19.1 million from the Chemicals and Waste focal areas. Finally, the Work Program also contains \$10.9 million from the NGI allocation in GEF-7.

15. If approved, 48 recipient countries will benefit from GEF support, including 20 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 6 Small Island Developing states (SIDS).

16. The proposed Work Program is estimated to deliver results on 9 of the 10 core indicators and benefit more than 25 million local people in project areas.

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

KEY FEATURES OF THE GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

18. The Work Program presented here is requesting a total of \$165.8 million from all five focal area envelopes (Table 3) and from the NGI funding window. This total only includes the resources from the GEF Trust Fund and does not include any resources from the LDCF Trust Fund.

Table 3. GEF Resources Requested in the June 2022 Work Program

Focal Area	Resources Requested (\$ millions)			Percentage of Total GEF Resources Requested in this Work Program
	GEF Project Financing ⁴	Agency Fees ⁵	Total GEF Resources Requested in this Work Program	
Biodiversity	41.5	3.8	45.3	27.3%
Climate Change	48.2	4.4	52.5	31.7%
Land Degradation	11.9	1.1	13.0	7.8%
International Waters	22.9	2.1	25.0	15.1%
Chemicals and Waste	17.5	1.6	19.1	11.5%
NGI	10.0	0.9	10.9	6.6%
Small Grants Program	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Total	151.9	13.9	165.8	100.0%

19. Climate Change and Biodiversity are the focal areas with the highest proportion of resources being programmed in this Work Program (31 % and 27% respectively). This is followed by International Waters and Chemicals and Waste with over 15% and close to 12% respectively. Finally, resources programmed for Land Degradation are slightly less than 8% and for NGI less than 7% of this Work Program.

⁴ Project financing excludes PPG funding and PPG Agency fee.

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

20. The 19 programs and projects in the Work Program encompass the full scope of the GEF-7 Programming Directions approved in June of 2018, contributing to the delivery of Global Environmental Benefits through a wide range of themes.

21. The five focal areas are represented by 18 programs and projects (excluding NGI) as described here:

- The Biodiversity focal area resources amount to \$45.3 million. These are programmed in three single focal area projects, and two multi-focal area projects. Examples of BD focal area projects include the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Bolivia, and the restoration of lowland forests in Nigeria to protect globally significant biodiversity.
- Climate Change Mitigation is represented by three single focal area projects, one non-expedited enabling activity, one addendum to program, and one multi-focal area project for a total of \$52.5 million of the focal area resources. One such investment will support Turkmenistan's low carbon development pathway by reducing GHG emissions from the sector of multi-family residential buildings and by improving energy use monitoring in public buildings.
- The Land Degradation focal area is represented by two single focal area projects and three multi-focal area projects for a total of \$13.0 million. One example of these projects will develop a comprehensive land management plan in three water basins in Argentina to advance the country's LDN targets.
- A total of \$19.1 million has been allocated from the Chemicals and Waste focal area to two single focal area projects. Investments in this focal area will include improving the management of Obsolete Pesticides, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Iraq through policy, regulatory and institutional actions and safe disposal of targeted stockpiles of pesticides, POPs and PCBs.
- The International Waters focal area utilizes \$25.0 million and is represented by three single focal area projects. The Work Program includes one investment, for example, that will reverse land and water degradation trends in the binational Bermejo River Basin, which includes an important tributary to the Paraná-La Plata River, by introducing integrated water resources management approaches, strengthening basin institutional mechanisms, and determining and accelerating priority reforms and investments.

22. The NGI Program is submitting one NGI project to the Council as part of this Work Program. The project was selected during the Sixth Competitive Call for Proposals in which the GEF Secretariat evaluated two new proposals requesting total financing of US\$ 26.1 million; one proposal was screened positively for future call for proposals and one project proposal is presented under this Work Program. The proposed NGI project will finance bio-economy activities, forest-based products and commodities value-chains of SMEs in the Amazon region, leveraging on the deliverables of Partnerships for Forest (P4F). The Fund is being designed to be

part of a highly innovative SDG Bond Program that will mobilize additional private finance through capital markets for six blended finance funds, including the Selva Fund.

23. During the GEF-7 cycle, the NGI Program has brought for Council approval 12 projects out of 43 project proposals submitted in 6 rounds of Call for Proposals, of which 2 Council approved projects (for a total amount of US\$ 19.5 million) were dropped by their respective agencies before the end of the cycle resulting in a total financing of the NGI envelope of US\$ 122.4 million.

STATUS ON THE USE OF GEF-7 RESOURCES

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

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

GEF-7 Focal Area/Theme	Target Allocations in GEF-7 Amount (\$ million)	Resources Requested for June 2022 Work Program (\$ million)	Total GEF-7 Resources Programmed (including this Work Program) (\$ million)	Percent of Original Focal Area Target Allocation in GEF-7
Biodiversity	1,292	45.3	1,188.0	92.0%
Climate Change	802	52.5	687.4	85.7%
Land Degradation	475	13.0	477.0	100.0%
Chemicals and Waste	599	19.1	563.8	94.1%
International Waters	463	25.0	450.7	97.3%
Non-Grant Instruments	136	10.9	122.4	90.0%
Small Grants Program	128	0.0	128.0	100.0%
Total Resources Programmed⁶	3,895	165.8	3,617.3	92.8%

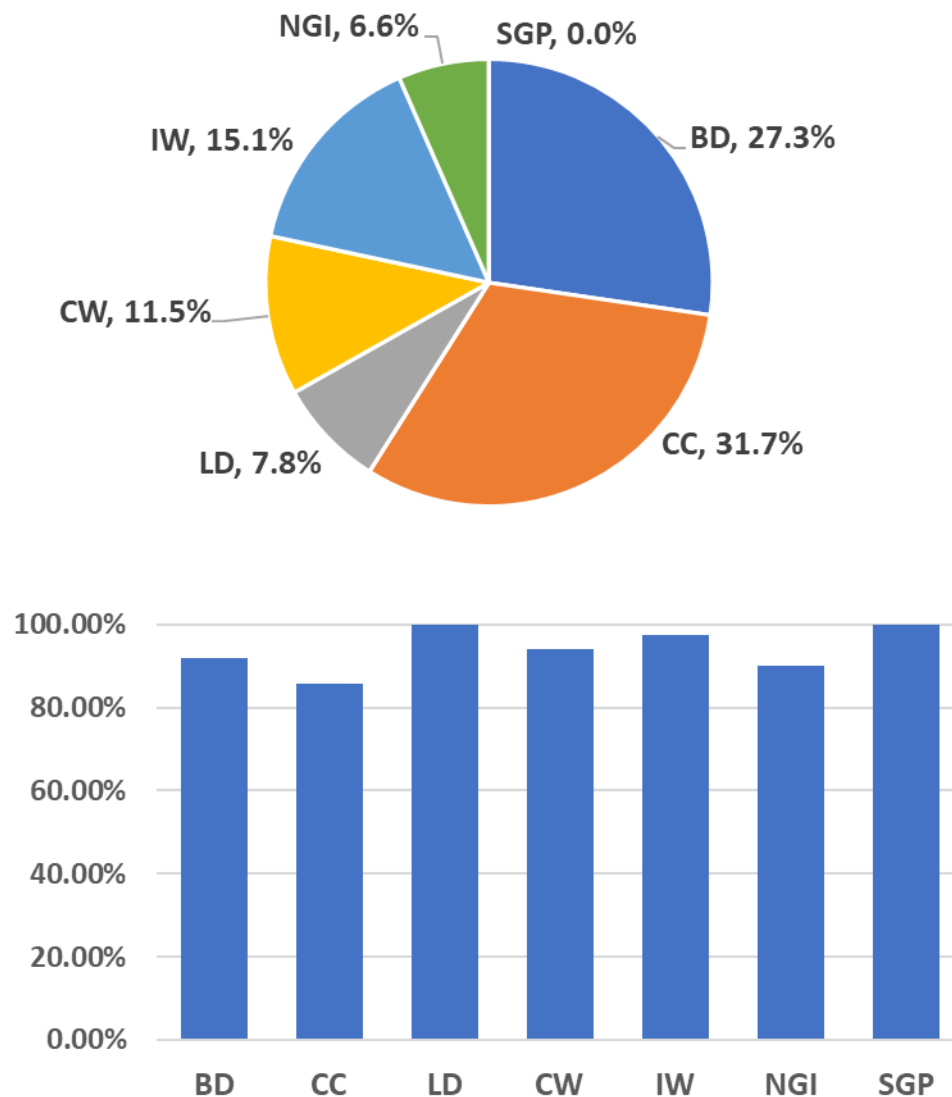
25. Overall, 93% of GEF-7 resources have been programmed at the end of the GEF-7 cycle (Table 4, Figure 1). If this Work Program is approved as presented, all focal areas, except Climate Change, will be over 90% programmed with Land Degradation having been fully programmed (100%), International Waters at 97%, Chemicals and Waste at 94%, Biodiversity at 92%. Finally, NGI has programmed 90% of its GEF-7 allocation while SGP has been fully programmed. The reason for not having 100% of the NGI resources utilized was the cancellation

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

by agencies of two projects after they were approved by council. Finally, all remaining resources will be carried over to the GEF-8 cycle to be used in country programming.

26. Thirteen recipient countries requested a total of \$46.98 million (inclusive of fees) from their respective country STAR allocations for projects and programs addressing objectives of the Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Land Degradation focal areas.

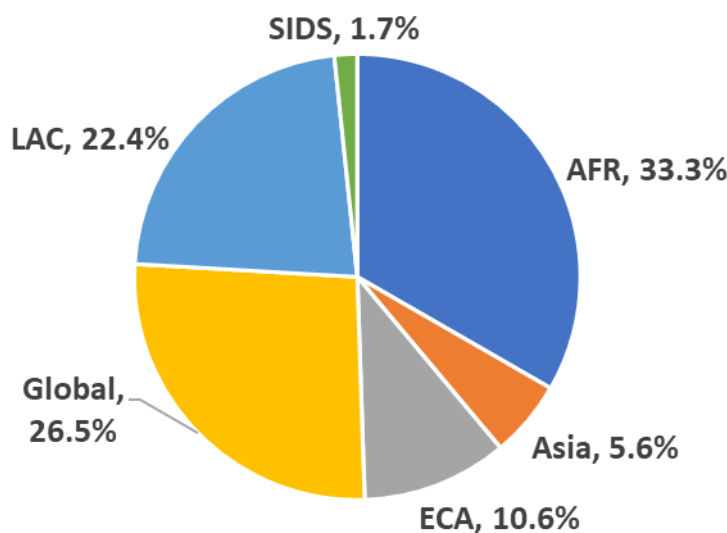
Figure 1. Top: % of Total Resources Programmed under GEF-7 by Focal Area in the June 2022 Work Program
Bottom: % of Focal Area Resources Programmed to Date Against GEF-7 Allocations including June 2022 Work Program



DISTRIBUTION OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION

27. The regional distribution of GEF financing in this proposed Work Program is shown in Figure 2. In all, 48 recipient countries will benefit from this Work Program, including 20 LDCs and 6 SIDS. Africa leads programming in this Work Program with \$55.2 million programmed. This is followed by LAC and ECA with \$37.2 million and \$17.5 million, respectively. Finally, Asia and SIDS follow with smaller amounts programmed (\$9.3 million and \$2.8 million). The remaining resources programmed are for global projects (\$43.8) and for NGI (\$10.9).

Figure 2. Distribution of GEF Project Financing in the June 2022 Work Program by Region



DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY AGENCY

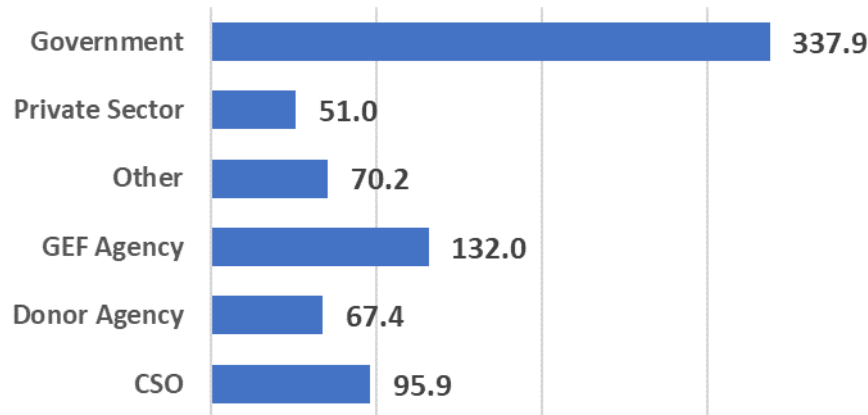
28. Eight of the 18 GEF Agencies are represented in the June 2022 Work Program (Table 5). UNEP has the highest proportion of resources programmed (30.5%), followed by UNDP, WWF, and the FAO with 16.1%, 14.9% and 11.9% respectively. The remaining 41.5% was split among the remaining five agencies with projects in this Work Program. Overall, in GEF-7, 17 of the 18 agencies have received resources. UNDP, UNEP, FAO, and the World Bank have received the highest proportion of GEF-7 resources, varying from 15% to slightly over 30%.

Table 5. Amount of GEF Resources by Agency in the June 2022 Work Program and in GEF-7 to Date (including June 2022 Work Program)

Agency	Resources Requested in June 2022 Work Program Including Fees		Total GEF-7 Resources Inclusive of June 2022 Including Fees	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	0.0	0.0%	51.0	1.4%
AfDB	0.0	0.0%	45.9	1.3%
BOAD	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
CAF	16.5	9.9%	48.1	1.3%
CI	10.9	6.6%	163.3	4.5%
DBSA	0.0	0.0%	5.1	0.1%
EBRD	0.0	0.0%	21.6	0.6%
FAO	19.8	11.9%	552.6	15.3%
FECO	0.0	0.0%	1.9	0.1%
Funbio	0.0	0.0%	2.1	0.1%
IADB	2.0	1.2%	32.4	0.9%
IFAD	0.0	0.0%	52.0	1.4%
IUCN	0.0	0.0%	98.5	2.7%
UNDP	26.7	16.1%	1,105.4	30.6%
UNEP	50.6	30.5%	647.1	17.9%
UNIDO	0.0	0.0%	161.2	4.5%
World Bank	14.7	8.9%	536.5	14.8%
WWF-US	24.7	14.9%	92.5	2.6%
Totals	165.8	100.0%	3,617.3	100.0%

29. The Work Program totals \$754 million of expected co-financing, or a ratio of 1:5.0. In terms of the type of co-financing, the “investment mobilized” co-financing category represents \$578 million (77%) of the total co-financing, or an overall co-financing ratio of “investment mobilized” of 1:3.8 for the Work Program. The distribution by co-financier shows most co-financing coming from governments, and GEF agencies, followed by CSO, Donor Agencies, and the private sector (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Distribution of Co-financing in the June 2022 Work Program by Co-financiers (\$ millions)



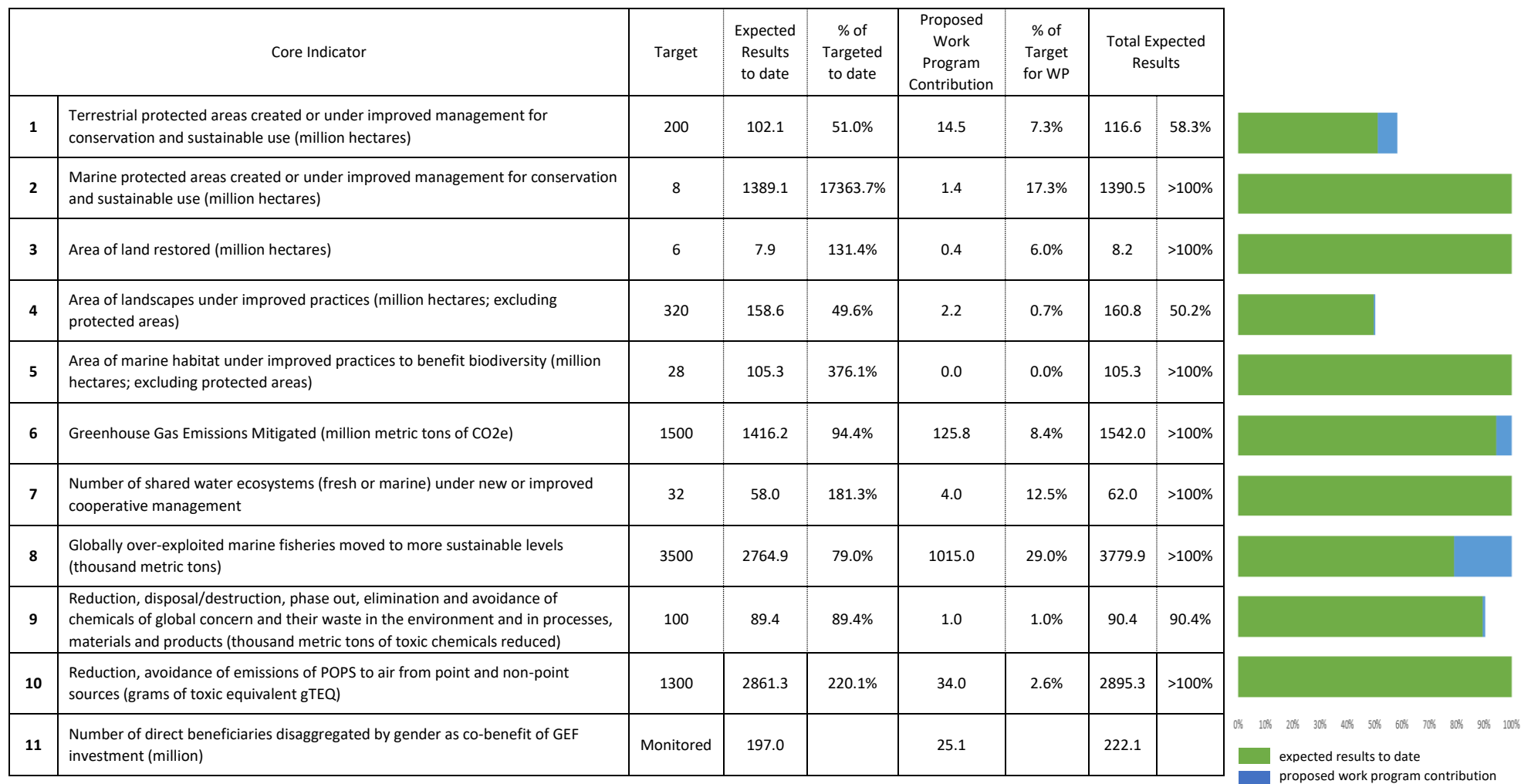
RESULTS AND IMPACT FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

30. The proposed Work Program will deliver an impactful set of results across 9 of the 10 core indicators and is projected to benefit a significant number of people in the countries where the GEF resources will be invested (Figure 4). Overall, the Work Program will deliver significant results on indicators linked to terrestrial and marine protected areas, GHG emissions mitigated, and sustainable fisheries.

31. Overall, 8 out of the 10 indicators have now reached 90-100% or more of their GEF-7 targets at the end of the GEF-7 cycle. The two other indicators, terrestrial protected areas and areas under improved landscape management are above 50% but have not achieved their full GEF-7 targets. The reasons for this are multiple, most importantly among them is the setting of slightly ambitious targets for the GEF-7 cycle, and the fact that countries did not spend their STAR resources on these priorities. We have learned from this and have factored this into the target setting of the GEF-8 cycle.

All full-sized projects elaborated on key gender dimensions to be considered in the initial project design and indicated plans for developing gender action plans in project development stage. Gender mainstreaming was apparent with most projects incorporating gender equality consideration in the project component's outcomes and outputs, global environmental benefits, stakeholder consultations, risk analysis, among others. All projects have already identified entry points to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, in particular, 17 out of 18 projects indicating that their projects seek to improve the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance and target socio-economic benefits and services for women. In addition, all projects provided an estimated number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender with the majority of projects (59%) with equal ratio of women-men beneficiaries or more women beneficiaries. Finally, all but one project plan to develop sex disaggregated and/or gender-sensitive indicators.

Figure 4. Delivery of Global Environmental Benefits against GEF-7 targets for Core Indicators in June 2022 Work Program



WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Programs

32. **Regional.** *GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program Addendum* (GEF ID #11009) Agency: UNDP; GEF Program Financing: \$945,079; Co-financing: \$45,400,000. This addendum updates the information provided in the Africa Minigrids Program Framework Document (PFD) which was originally approved by the GEF Council in December 2019 (Original PFD) and first amended in June 2021 (First PFD Addendum). The Original PFD comprised the first round of the Africa Minigrids Program (AMP) including the submission of 11 national child projects and a regional child project. The First Addendum included a second round of 7 National Child Projects that came forward and expressed their interest to join the Program after it was first approved in December 2019, either with their available CCM STAR resources or with available UNDP funding.

33. This is the Second PFD Addendum and is requesting approval of the additional third round of three National Child Projects (Burundi, Congo DR and Liberia) that have come forward and expressed their interest to join the Africa Minigrids Program. Of these third-round countries, one country (DRC) will be joining the program with their available CCM STAR resources and two will be 'third-party funded' projects joining the program with available UNDP funding. In addition, this PFD Addendum includes a major change to the earlier approved Mali national child project concept, now with additional CCM STAR. The Mali national child project was originally included in the second round of national child projects.

34. With its approval, this Addendum would bring the total number of countries to 20 and cumulative total GEF financing for the GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program to \$36,202,518 and projected co-financing to \$532,672,000.

35. The design of national child projects' basic component structure and the objectives of this Addendum remain the same as that of the approved Africa Minigrids Program PFD. The Program objective is to "support African countries to increase energy access by reducing the cost and increasing commercial viability of renewable energy minigrids."

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

Revised Program Targets

- Indicator 6, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated: Increase by approximately 3,4 million tCO₂e, to a total of 31,8 million tCO₂e.
- Indicator 11, Direct Beneficiaries: Increase by 40,003 people to a total of 855,482 people.

Revised GEF-7 financing

- This supplemental PFD is requesting additional and incremental GEF-7 resources estimated at \$945,079 (GEF grant amount: \$867,045 and Agency fee: \$78,034).

Revised Co-financing

- Additional co-financing resources in support of the Program objectives proposed to be mobilized are estimated at \$45,400,000.

Non-Grant Instruments Projects

36. **NGI- Global.** *The Selva Fund* (GEF ID 10937). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: \$11,118,000; Co-financing: \$77,000,000. This project will provide finance and technical assistance through the Selva fund for small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) to invest in bioeconomy activities, forest-based products and commodities value-chains. The bioeconomy activities are expected to contribute to the protection and restoration of the Amazon Forest whilst supporting sustainable livelihoods for local communities in the Amazon regions of Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. The fund structure has been designed to be part of a broader Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Bond Program, that will seek to mobilize additional private finance through capital markets for this Fund and other 5 blended finance impact funds. The project builds on previous work of Partnerships for Forest (P4F) that supported regenerative business models across the tropical forest belt globally. The project is expected to generate 805,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices of which over 577,000 ha are to benefit biodiversity; the project is also expected to generate more than 280,000 ha of area of forest and forest land restored and over 50 million tCO₂e avoided. The project is expected to benefit close to 325,000 smallholder farmers in Brazil, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador.

Stand-alone Projects

Biodiversity

37. **Venezuela.** *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Caroni River Basin of Bolivar State* (GEF ID 10971). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,765,418; Co-financing: \$52,592,400. The Guiana Massif is one of the most pristine and biodiverse areas in the planet and in Venezuela circa of 80% of its forests are almost intact. Addressing key barriers such limited institutional capacity, low coordination between national, regional and local institutional actors, scarce biodiversity-friendly economic alternatives to improve the quality of livelihoods of IPLCs, and outdated or non-existent regulatory frameworks to guide the sustainable management of the basin and its protected and forest areas, the project seeks to strengthen the institutional, legal and policy framework, build capacity to support the effective management of five existing Protected Areas (Canaima National Park, Cadena de Tepuis National Monuments, La Paragua Forest Reserve, Ikabarú Hydraulic Reserve, and the southern Bolivar State Protected Zone) within the Caroni River Basin to achieve improved coverage of key conservation targets. The project will improve management for conservation and

sustainable use of over 7.7 million ha of protected areas and restoration of over 14,000 ha of forest and natural grasslands, potentially benefiting directly more than 62,000 IPLCs in the region.

38. **Nigeria.** *Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of a Lowland Forest Mosaic Landscape in Ogun, Edo, Delta and Ondo States* (GEF ID 10990). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$3,502,968; Co-financing: \$25,859,000. The project will improve the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of a lowland forest landscape in order to protect globally significant biodiversity and strengthen sustainable livelihoods of local communities. Ultimately aiming for replication at the scale of the full Nigerian lowland forests eco-region, it will operationalize an integrated landscape management system over a heavily threatened, 1-million-hectare landscape encompassing 12 forest reserves and the Okomu national park. It will implement priority conservation and restoration actions in and around core biodiversity areas, while promoting sustainable production practices and livelihoods in connecting, productive lands to reduce pressure on natural ecosystems. Interventions span from capacity building, to spatial and strategic planning, to policy and institutional coordination work, and finally to on-the-ground activities and financial resource mobilization for conservation and sustainable use. They were designed to be complementary, both geographically and thematically, and to build synergies with the FOLUR child project implemented in one of the four Nigerian states targeted by this project. Global Environmental Benefits include improved management effectiveness over close to 600,000 ha of protected areas, 10,000 ha of land under improved management for biodiversity and restoration of 10,000 ha of forest lands to improve connectivity. The project will mitigate 4.3 million tCO₂e of GHG emissions and benefit directly 20,000 people, including 10,000 women.

39. **Regional.** *Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation* (GEF ID 11014). Agency: WWF; GEF Project Financing: \$ 25,000,000; Co-financing: \$96,393,542. The Enduring Earth Partnership (EE) is an ambitious collaboration to support governments and communities to conserve the resources that sustain life by accelerating inclusive area-based conservation measures in furtherance of 30x30 and other development goals through the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach. Under a PFP approach, target countries define a unique set of commitments from multiple stakeholders in a single closing to ensure that, over the long term, largescale systems of conservation areas are well-managed, sustainably financed, and benefit the communities who depend on them. This project will catalyze PFP initiatives in Gabon and Namibia, as well as initiate a PFP design in one additional geography yet to be determined and undertake global work to promote enabling conditions for sustainable financing for protected and conserved areas. The proposed project will scale out the PFP approach, learning from PFPs underway in Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Peru, to accelerate PFP development in the additional countries. The expected GEBs are close to 6 million ha of terrestrial Protected Areas created and/or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; over 1.3 ha of marine Protected Areas created and/or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; and 516,000 ha of landscapes under improves practices.

Climate Change

40. **Colombia.** *Energy Efficiency for the Transition to Carbon Neutral Cities in Colombia* (GEFID 10917). Agency: CAF; GEF Project Financing: \$7,935,135; Co-financing: \$100,905,560. The project's objective is to contribute to a reduction of CO₂ emissions by increasing energy efficiency in the construction sector in three Colombian cities through the development of actions that involve the different stages of the life cycle of buildings and interventions in public space. The residential, public, and commercial sectors can be considered as the sectors with the highest impact and relevance in terms of energy efficiency in Colombia. According to the Colombian Energy Balance, these sectors have a final energy consumption that represents approximately 25 percent of final energy consumption nationwide. Although Colombia has made progress on the issue of energy efficiency in the construction of buildings and public spaces, there are still barriers that must be overcome. The main innovative features of the project are: (i) the development of a guide with sustainability criteria for construction, which includes the entire life cycle from a regional approach and considers the climatic zones and ecosystems present in area; and (ii) the operation of a virtual platform for the evaluation of projects, works or activities of energy efficient construction in public spaces or buildings, which allows obtaining variation data in terms of emission reduction in accordance with the applied sustainability criteria. This platform would help in the decision-making for both local authorities and the construction industry. The project is expected to mitigate more than 1.2 million tCO₂e over the lifetime of the project.

41. **Brazil.** *Strengthening the National Transparency System in Brazil Under the Paris Agreement (DataClima+)* (GEF ID 10932). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,835,616; Co-financing: \$500,000. The objective of this project is to strengthen the national transparency system in Brazil (DataClima+) for informing national policymaking and meeting the requirements of the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under the Paris Agreement. The project comprises three main components: designing and building an integrated climate data system for Brazil, DataClima+, and connecting existing databases with new ones; enhancing the modules of the integrated climate data platform for complying with the ETF and its MPGs; and supporting national policy- and decision-makers to more effectively incorporate climate data and projections into their regulatory and planning processes. Through this CBIT project, the country will improve and streamline its climate data management cycle, including as related to planning, data collection, data processing and analysis, information publishing and sharing, data preservation and data reuse. Such climate information will be used for international reporting and serve as an essential input for national decision-making. The project is innovative as it will develop a one stop shop for climate transparency data; will develop modules for tracking progress in NDC implementation and support; and enable the integration of the different databases and systems that will require ambitious cooperation efforts and innovative institutional arrangements and mechanisms among various stakeholders. A national capacity building program will be designed and implemented in partnership with a Brazilian academic institution, and a gender-responsive approach towards the DataClima+ system design will be undertaken.

42. **Turkmenistan.** Developing National Capacity of Turkmenistan through Improving Regulatory Environment towards Energy Efficient and Sustainable Building Sector (GEFID 10996). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,068,004; Co-financing \$28,446,643. The objective of the project is to support Turkmenistan's low carbon development in achievement of climate mitigation goals by reducing GHG emissions from the sector of multi-family residential buildings and by improving energy use monitoring in public buildings. The project consists of three components: piloting energy efficient technologies and energy management information systems in residential and public buildings; developing innovative policy, regulations, and institutional mechanisms for energy efficient buildings; and sharing knowledge, building capacity, and monitoring & evaluating for the project. The project is innovative because it facilitates the national government to develop new policy and new regulations for energy efficient buildings and demonstrate the best available energy efficient envelope design and technologies in two public multi-family residential buildings. This project will mitigate 865,000 tCO₂e in its lifetime operation.

Land Degradation

43. **Argentina.** Comprehensive Land Management in Forestry and Agri-food Systems of Three Water Basins in Argentina to Contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (GEF ID 10866). Agency: CAF; GEF Project Financing: \$2,959,481; Co-financing: \$24,971,732. Argentina relies on a wide variety of natural resources for its domestic and export needs, in particular agricultural products. But the availability of these resources is undermined by increasing land degradation processes over 40% of the country's territory. Addressing key barriers such as inter-institutional governance and planning, lack of capacity to implement sustainable practices on the ground and inappropriate financial incentives, the project seeks to strengthen the territorial implementation of actions that simultaneously promote sustainable practices, land restoration, and increase climate resilience while guaranteeing social equity. It will help the country implement its strategy against land degradation in 3 targeted provinces, while also providing climate and biodiversity benefits: it is expected to restore around 37,000 ha of agricultural and forest lands, improve the management of more than 78,000 ha in production systems; mitigate of the emission of 7.2 million tCO₂e; and improve of the management effectiveness of terrestrial Protected Areas in close to 250,000 ha. In addition, the project will benefit to more than 12,000 stakeholders.

44. **Burkina Faso.** *Sustainable Land Management to Strengthen Social Cohesion in the Drylands of Burkina Faso* (GEFID 11003); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,502,968; Co-financing: \$12,300,000. Land Degradation (LD) is a serious and recurrent problem in Burkina Faso documented by recent strategic assessments. Approximately 31% of Burkina Faso's territory is either affected by degradation, or in the process of being degraded. The costs of degraded lands are estimated at \$1.8 billion per year, equivalent to 26% of the country's GDP. Half of those costs are directly linked to the decline in provisioning ecosystem services,

including food availability, wood production, carbon fluxes and water circulation, and habitat safeguarding. The proposed project will build on lessons and best practices of series of SLM projects and programs developed in Burkina Faso since the mid-2000' and on the recently approved Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets to generate multiple environmental and socioeconomic benefits. The project aims to enhance the national framework for the achievement of the national LDN targets, while promoting social cohesion in selected landscapes in the Centre-Nord Region through the practical application of the LDN concept. The project is designed through the following components: national level frameworks, practices and capacities for the effective application of LDN at the Landscape-level enhanced; gender-sensitive and locally adapted solutions and practices that contribute to LDN targets are supported on the ground in selected landscapes; legal, policy, institutional and financial barriers for the continued application of gender sensitive LDN at the landscape level are addressed; and project impacts and LDN indicators are monitored, and learning is shared for scale-up of results across the country. The project is expected to generate 10,000 ha of land restored, 250,000 of lands under improved practices, and benefit more than 19 million local men and women.

Chemicals and Waste

45. **Iraq.** *Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project* (GEF ID 10972). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$13,487,495; Co-financing: \$89,000,000. This project will improve the management of Obsolete Pesticides, Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Iraq through policy, regulatory and institutional actions and safe disposal of targeted stockpiles of pesticides, POPs and PCBs. The project will also update the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for POPs and complete a system for tracking and management of pesticides. A national inventory of transformers will be completed and system for tracking and management of PCBs will be set up. POPs and POPs waste will be destroyed, disposed, or contained in an environmentally sound manner. The project will result in 1,000 tons of PCBs and lindane disposed and 3,000 tons of POPs containing materials avoided.

46. **Costa Rica.** *Strengthening the National Capacity for the Management of POPs in Costa Rica* (GEF ID 11015). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,000,000; Co-financing: \$16,550,000. This project aims to reduce emissions and releases of toxic chemicals, minimize exposure of humans to unintentionally produced POPs (UPOPs) in strategic sectors including plastics, and will advance the Stockholm Convention in Costa Rica. The project will strengthen institutional capacities, and the policy and regulatory framework to address POPs-containing chemicals, products and waste, including plastics. It will demonstrate through 3 pilot projects for the reduction of UPOP emissions from uncontrolled and/or open burning of biomass (sugarcane, pineapple, and rice), agrochemicals, and other waste. The project will also improve plastics management in POPs generating sectors such as agriculture and end of life vehicles. This project will result in several GEBs, including addressing 30 tons of POPs containing materials, 1 ton of PCBs, and 34 gTEQ UPOPs.

International Waters

47. **Regional, Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda.** *Groundwater for Deep Resilience (G4DR) in Africa* (GEF ID 10970). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,786,073; Co-financing: \$33,210,000. This project aims to bring groundwater and its sustainable development and protection to the forefront of water security and enhancing resiliency of livelihoods, ecosystems and investments in Africa. It will do so through: supporting the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), through their Pan-African Groundwater Program (APAGroP); identifying aquifers that present risk and opportunity to enhance resilience, as well as populations/socio-economic contexts in Africa informing investments; realizing on-the-ground impacts through innovative pilots; supporting a pan-African Youth Forum on G4DR realizing the intergenerational impacts of groundwater depletion and pollution; and supporting capture, exchange and dissemination of key project advancements, as well as evaluation of project progress relative to targets. The project's expected outcomes include the support to AMCOW, Regional Economic Commissions and River Basin Organizations and Member States to achieve water security and resilience with improved groundwater planning and management. Outcomes will support an improved policy context for introducing innovative groundwater solutions in Africa and foster the cross-scale and cross-sector linkages necessary.

48. **Regional, Argentina, Bolivia.** *Integrated Water Resources Management in the Transboundary Bermejo River Basin* (GEF ID 10995). Agency: CAF; GEF Project Financing: \$6,350,000; Co-Financing: \$45,700,000. This project aims to reverse land and water degradation trends in the binational Bermejo River Basin, which includes an important tributary to the Paraná-La Plata River, by introducing integrated water resources management approaches; strengthening basin institutional mechanisms; and determining and accelerating priority reforms and investments. The project will implement the TDA-SAP consensus-building participatory approach, which will lead to a ministerial-endorsed SAP that identifies a strategic set of targeted policy, legal and institutional changes to address the transboundary concerns and a defined set of bankable projects for each SAP priority investment. The project will build the capacity of the existing binational basin institutional mechanism, COBINABE, and national basin management entities and facilitate the adoption of modern basin governance tools. It will also promote the recharge, retention and reuse of groundwater resources in sustainable water and soil management practices in the basin through rigorous resource assessments and by pilot field-testing modern multipurpose groundwater and erosion monitoring networks. The project will result in one shared water ecosystem under improved cooperative management and enhance water security for the 1.3 million people living in the basin.

49. **Global, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Senegal.** *Mainstreaming Sustainable Marine Fisheries Value Chains Into the Blue Economy of the Canary Current and the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems* (GEF ID 11011). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$10,733,945; Co-Financing: \$36,255,000. This project is designed to expedite seafood market transformation and improve the condition of globally important fishery resources through activities in two LMEs: Canary Current and Pacific Central American Coastal. The project will increase market demand for sustainable marine commodities, socially

responsible seafood commodities, and seafood commodities from fisheries with reduced bycatch and environmental impact and increase supply of seafood products that demonstrate improved fisheries governance and stock health, improved social responsibility, and reduced bycatch and environmental impact. To these ends, the project will develop novel market transformation tools and methods (with immediate worldwide application); engage major international players in responsible seafood sourcing; connect local fishers and processors to sustainable seafood demand; and facilitate constructive dialogue and practical collaboration among value chain members through governance platforms and Fishery Improvement Projects. The project will result in over 1 million tons of globally overexploited marine fisheries to more sustainable levels and directly benefit 500,000 people (200,000 women) employed in capture and post-harvest.

Multi-focal Area Projects

50. **Djibouti.** *Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in the Day and Mabla Mountains* (GEFID 10874). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,269,028; Co-financing: \$9,000,000. The project aims to protect and restore biodiversity, forests and ecosystem functions and enhance the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in degraded mountain landscapes in Djibouti with hopes to break the vicious cycle of the poverty/land degradation nexus. The project will take place in the Day and Mabla Protected Areas, Djibouti's last vestiges of dense forests, harbouring most of the country's terrestrial biodiversity. The project is designed on three components: enhance Protected Area system policy and financing framework and emplace management in Day and Mabla Protected Areas; safeguard and restore rangeland and forest ecosystem functions through forest restoration and sustainable land management in and around the Day and Mabla Protected Areas; and develop safeguards, gender & knowledge management. The main expected GEBs include 10,000 ha of terrestrial protected areas under better management, 200 ha of forest lands restored, 14,000 ha of productive landscapes under SLM, and will benefit 4,000 beneficiaries.

51. **Indonesia.** *Protection of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-use in Conservation Landscapes in South Sulawesi, Gorontalo and East Nusa Tenggara* (GEFID 10913). GEF Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$8,400,000; Cofinance: \$38,900,000. The project will protect biodiversity and reduce land degradation in the Wallacea Hotspot through landscape-based conservation action, sustainable land management, and livelihood benefits linked to conservation outcomes. The project focuses on five key high-biodiversity landscapes located in the Indonesian range of the Wallacea Hotspot, this area includes Sulawesi and related islands and the Lower Sunda islands from Lombok to Timor. The islands support highly diverse biological communities with many unique fauna and flora species - with more than half of the mammals, 40% of the birds and 65% of the amphibians found in Wallacea not occurring outside the Hotspot and are highly vulnerable to habitat loss, hunting, collection, and other pressures. The project will implement integrated conservation landscape plans based on ecological and spatial criteria to strengthen biodiversity mainstreaming and area-based

biodiversity protection in target landscapes. Working with local communities the project will support biodiversity stewardship and other area-based conservation measures (OECMs) at landscape scales, through People, Public, Private Partnerships (PPPP), connecting commitments to address drivers of biodiversity loss to tangible investments in livelihood improvements through biodiversity-friendly business ventures such as bamboo and other NTFP agroforestry. The GEBs will be achieved through the protection of biodiversity and sustainable land-use in five high-biodiversity landscapes over an area of more than 500,000 ha including 20,000 ha of conservation forest, more than 200,000 ha of protected forest, and 62,000 a of production forest, as well as 230,000 areas for other land uses. The project will mitigate close to 10 million tCO₂e and directly benefit over 50,000 people.

52. **Chad.** Innovative Approach to Protect Ouadis Through the Promotion of Non-connected Mini-grid Solar Energy in Three Municipalities (Mao, Kekedena and Nokou) of Kanem Region, Chad (GEFID 10998). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$2,954,534; Cofinancing: \$21,500,000. Chad ranked 187 out of 189 countries in the 2020 human development index. It also ranks 140 out of 144 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index. Food insecurity is a serious concern, likely being exacerbated by climate change. It is estimated that 1.4 million Chadians are chronically food-insecure (1 out of 10). The project aims to protect the integrity and productivity of Ouadi ecosystems and ameliorate access to renewable energy through the use of solar pumping systems in three Municipalities of the Kanem region of Chad. The project will promote gender sensitive best Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices to protect Ouadi ecosystems, invest in support of local communities to access solar energy for irrigation and economic benefits, and establish long-term gender sensitive knowledge management and monitoring systems of Ouadi ecosystems. The project will generate GEBs that include 1,500 ha of natural grass and shrublands restored, 1,200 ha under SLM in production systems, and mitigate over 1.2 million tons of CO₂e. Finally, the project will also benefit 3,000 men and women in the project area.

Non-Expedited Enabling Activity

53. **Global.** Umbrella Programme for the Preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (GEFID 10973). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$32,131,880; Co-financing: \$0. The objective of the program is to support 62 developing countries to prepare and submit BTRs and NCs that comply with the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement (PA) reporting requirements and respond to their national development goals. The program will provide support for the development of 26 BTRs and 36 combined BTRs/NC. The umbrella program approach will streamline project approval and funds disbursement. It will also create awareness on climate reporting among the relevant stakeholders, including the private sector. At PIF stage a total of 25 countries have been confirmed; Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo DR, Gabon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, St.

Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone. The remaining countries will be confirmed at CEO Endorsement. Many of these countries have been supported by the CBIT. The program will ensure proper coordination between the CBIT projects and this umbrella program.

MSPs APPROVED SINCE THE 60TH COUNCIL MEETING

54. Forty-five MSPs were approved during the November 2021 to June 2022 time (Table 6). Total GEF financing for these projects equals \$69,515,423 (excluding fees) with over \$792 million in co-financing for a ratio of \$1 GEF dollar being matched by \$11.4 dollars in co-financing. Thirty-three countries are benefiting from these MSPs, while there are an additional seven projects that are global in nature.

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

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency Name	Country Name List	Focal Area Name	GEF Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing
Child MSPs approved							
10826	Programme for cleantech innovation and green jobs - Phase 2	UNIDO	Morocco	CC	913,242	82,192	3,078,000
10825	Promoting clean energy technologies for sustainable start-ups and small medium enterprises development in Nigeria	UNIDO	Nigeria	CC	1,826,484	164,384	12,145,400
10629	Accelerating the introduction of low-emission and climate-resilient electric mobility in Grenada	UNEP	Grenada	CC	1,050,917	94,583	6,138,793
10605	Integrated adoption of electric mobility in Jordan	UNIDO	Jordan	CC	1,137,215	102,349	7,100,000
10476	National child project under the GEF Africa Mini-grids Program Eswatini	UNDP	Eswatini	CC	863,242	77,692	19,424,228
10475	National child project under the GEF Africa Mini-grids Program Malawi	UNDP	Malawi	CC	396,125	35,651	3,344,395
10474	National child project under the GEF Africa Mini-grids Program Burkina Faso	UNDP	Burkina Faso	CC	924,566	83,211	104,493,243
10473	National child project under the GEF Africa Mini-grids Program Comoros	UNDP	Comoros	CC	1,269,863	114,288	42,159,603
10460	Global Cleantech Innovation Programme: Accelerating cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in start-ups and SMEs in Cambodia	UNIDO	Cambodia	CC	1,417,890	127,610	7,113,800
10458	Global Cleantech Innovation Programme in Kazakhstan - Promoting cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship in SMEs for green jobs in Kazakhstan	UNIDO	Kazakhstan	CC	1,775,000	159,750	25,850,000

10455	Innovative clean technology enterprise development – Institutionalisation and expansion of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme for SMEs in Turkey	UNIDO	Turkey	CC	1,776,484	159,884	17,050,000
10454	Low-carbon economy of Ukraine for climate change prevention: Facilitating investment to scale-up innovative cleantech solutions for low-carbon economy and climate action	UNIDO	Ukraine	CC	1,307,500	117,675	10,515,400
10453	Promoting the transition to a circular economy in Uruguay through cleantech innovations	UNIDO	Uruguay	CC	1,303,162	117,284	9,827,100
Stand-alone one step MSPs approved							
10918	Green Hydrogen Support in Developing Countries	World Bank	Global (Chile, Morocco, Tunisia, Ukraine)	CC	1,700,303	161,529	13,940,000
10916	National Planning for an Inclusive and Effective Conservation Approach to Reaching Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3	WWF-US	Global	BD	2,000,000	180,000	343,247
10895	Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan	UNDP	Kazakhstan	MFA	1,826,484	173,516	2,000,000
10808	Improving the management and protection of marine biodiversity in the Gulf of Guacanayabo, Cuba	FAO	Cuba	BD	1,319,863	125,387	6,983,715
10119	Global best practices on emerging chemical policy issues of concern under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) (EDCs, EPPPs)	UNEP	Global	CW	999,050	94,910	3,414,683
10810	Eliminating mercury skin lightening products	UNEP	Global (Gabon, Jamaica, Sri Lanka)	CW	2,000,000	190,000	14,953,401
Stand-alone two-step MSPs PIFs approved							
11017	Supporting the Implementation of the National Action Plan on Marine Plastic Litter in the context of Green Recovery post-COVID 19 in Viet Nam	UNDP	Viet Nam	IW	2,000,000	190,000	11,000,000

11006	Building the next generation LDN investment pipeline through national Technical Assistance Hubs	WWF-US	Global	LD	2,000,000	180,000	485,000
10928	Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Coastal Development and Planning for Sustainable Tourism Development	UNDP	Albania	BD	986,900	93,756	9,300,000
10921	Enhancing Political Will for Sustainable Protected Areas Financing	UNEP	Global (Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico)	BD	2,000,000	190,000	2,000,000
10919	Enhancing capacity for the adoption and implementation of EAF in the shrimp and groundfish fisheries of the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (Eaf4SG)	FAO	Regional (Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)	IW	1,776,484	168,766	7,813,521
10911	Cerrado standing with income generation: the baru production chain as an ally of biodiversity and traditional peoples	Funbio	Brazil	BD	1,833,065	164,975	4,418,314
10907	Facilitating biodiversity conservation by enhancing aquaculture policy, planning, management, and production	UNEP	Palau	BD	1,470,021	139,652	8,400,000
10906	Mainstreaming Marine and Coastal Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting into Viet Nam's Development Planning for Blue Economic Growth of Key Sectors	UNEP	Viet Nam	BD	1,363,929	129,573	13,690,000
10897	Knowledge-4-Nature: Provisioning the biodiversity data behind global goals for nature	IUCN	Global	BD	1,834,862	165,138	9,380,000
10896	Sustainable Energy Efficiency in Municipal Services (SEEMS)	World Bank	Ukraine	CC	1,642,441	156,032	300,000,000
10892	Towards Sustainable Phosphorus Cycles in Lake Catchments (uP-Cycle)	UNEP	Chile, Global	IW	2,000,000	190,000	15,413,844

10885	Accelerating low-carbon circular economy through cleantech innovation towards sustainable development in Pakistan	UNIDO	Pakistan	CC	1,776,484	168,766	10,012,960
10849	Sustainable Management and Resilient Thinking for our Energy Revolution (SMARTER)	UNDP	Barbados	CC	1,593,836	151,414	11,160,000
10840	Strengthening access and benefit-sharing (ABS) policies and institutional frameworks through demonstrable models in Saint Lucia	UNEP	St. Lucia	BD	1,593,836	151,414	7,150,000
10815	Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Belize's Maya Golden Landscape	FAO	Belize	BD	1,449,708	137,722	5,660,000
10649	Living in harmony with nature: Connecting biodiversity with production systems in the Gualaca Altitudinal Corridor Landscape	CAF	Panama	BD	1,784,862	160,638	12,500,000
10644	Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions in Chad to comply with the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement	UNEP	Chad	CC	1,045,000	99,275	200,000
10595	Strengthening Tunisia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Transparency Framework	UNDP	Tunisia	CC	1,485,000	141,075	200,000
10589	Lake Naivasha Basin Ecosystem Based Management	WWF-US	Kenya	MFA	1,785,422	160,688	10,020,000
10889	Promoting cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship for green jobs in Mongolia	UNIDO	Mongolia	CC	1,776,484	168,766	6,010,000
10886	Accelerating low-carbon circular economy through cleantech innovation towards sustainable development in Viet Nam	UNIDO	Viet Nam	CC	1,739,954	165,296	9,350,000
10850	Support to Nagoya protocol implementation, research and development, on Biodiversity value chain for small holders in the South West and Far North Regions of Cameroon	UNEP	Cameroon	BD	2,000,000	190,000	12,000,000
10842	Operationalising the national ABS framework and piloting innovative genetic resource products and value chains to enhance benefit-sharing for sustainable rural development and biodiversity conservation	UNDP	Morocco	BD	1,776,620	168,779	2,050,000

10816	Sustainable investments for large-scale rangeland restoration (STELARR)	IUCN	Global	LD	2,000,000	180,000	3,853,068
10809	Strengthening the capacity of institutions in Nigeria to implement the transparency requirements of the Paris Agreement	CI	Nigeria	CC	1,344,495	121,005	80,000
10653	Jamaica Mangroves Plus: Protection and Sustainable Management of Jamaica's Mangrove Ecosystems and Biodiversity	FAO	Jamaica	BD	1,648,630	156,620	10,047,500
Grand total					69,515,423	6,451,245	792,069,215

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS IN THE JUNE 2022 WORK PROGRAM

Other Programs

1. **Regional (Burundi, Congo DR, Liberia, Mali):** GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$867,045] [GEF ID 11009]

Non-Grant Instrument

2. **Regional:** The Selva Fund, CI, [GEF Program Financing: \$10,000,000] [GEF ID 10937]

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

3. **Nigeria:** Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of a Lowland Forest Mosaic Landscape in Ogun, Edo, Delta and Ondo States, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,502,968] [GEF ID 10990]
4. **Venezuela:** Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Caroni river Basin of Bolivar State, FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$8,765,418] [GEF ID 10971]
5. **Regional (Gabon, Namibia):** Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation, WWF-US, [GEF Program Financing: \$22,635,780] [GEF ID 11014]

Climate Change Mitigation

6. **Turkmenistan:** Developing National Capacity of Turkmenistan through Improving Regulatory Environment towards Energy Efficient and Sustainable Building Sector, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,066,333] [GEF ID 10996]
7. **Brazil:** Strengthening the National Transparency System in Brazil Under the Paris Agreement (DataClima+), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,835,616] [GEF ID 10932]
8. **Colombia:** Energy Efficiency for the Transition to Carbon Neutral Cities in Colombia, CAF/IADB, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,935,135] [GEF ID 10917]

Land Degradation

9. **Burkina Faso:** Sustainable Land Management to Strengthen Social Cohesion in the Drylands of Burkina Faso, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,502,968] [GEF ID 11003]
10. **Argentina:** Comprehensive Land Management in Forestry and Agri-food Systems of Three Water Basins in Argentina to Contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, CAF, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,623,377] [GEF ID 10866]

Chemicals and Waste

11. **Costa Rica:** Strengthening the National Capacity for the Management of POPs in Costa Rica, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$4,000,000] [GEF ID 11015]
12. **Iraq:** Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project, World Bank, [GEF Program Financing: \$13,487,495] [GEF ID 10972]

International Waters

13. **Global (Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Senegal):** Mainstreaming Sustainable Marine Fisheries Value Chains into the Blue Economy of the Canary Current and the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$10,733,945] [GEF ID 11011]
14. **Regional (Argentina, Bolivia):** Integrated Water Resources Management in the Transboundary Bermejo River Basin, CAF, [GEF Program Financing: \$6,350,000] [GEF ID 10995]
15. **Regional (Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda):** Groundwater for Deep Resilience in Africa (G4DR in Africa), FAO, [GEF Program Financing: \$5,786,073] [GEF ID 10970]

Multi-focal Area

16. **Chad:** Innovative Approach to Protect Ouadis through the Promotion of Non-connected Mini-grid Solar Energy in 3 Municipalities (Mao, Kekedena and Nokou) of Kanem region-Chad, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$2,954,534] [GEF ID 10998]
17. **Indonesia:** Protection of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-use in Conservation Landscapes in South Sulawesi, Gorontalo and East Nusa Tenggara, UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$7,471,233] [GEF ID 10913]
18. **Djibouti:** Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in the Day and Mabla Mountains, UNDP, [GEF Program Financing: \$3,269,028] [GEF ID 10874]

Non-Expedited Enabling Activity

19. **Global (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo DR, Gabon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone):** Umbrella Programme for Preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNEP, [GEF Program Financing: \$32,131,880] [GEF ID 10973]

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

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 \$											
Impact Programs											
IP -Sub-Total						-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Programs											
1	11009	GEF-7 Africa Minigrids Program	Climate Change	Regional (Burundi, Congo DR, Liberia, Mali)	UNDP	-	-	867,045	78,035	45,400,000	46,345,080
OP - Sub-Total						-	-	867,045	78,035	45,400,000	46,345,080
Non-Grant Instrument											
2	10937	The Selva Fund	Multi Focal Area	Regional	CI	200,000	18,000	10,000,000	900,000	77,000,000	88,118,000
NGI-Sub-total						200,000	18,000	10,000,000	900,000	77,000,000	88,118,000
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects											
Biodiversity											
3	10990	Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of a lowland forest mosaic landscape in Ogun, Edo, Delta and Ondo States	Biodiversity	Nigeria	FAO	150,000	14,250	3,502,968	332,782	25,859,000	29,859,000
4	10971	Conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the Caroni river basin of Bolivar state	Biodiversity	Venezuela	FAO	200,000	19,000	8,765,418	832,715	52,592,400	62,409,533
5	11014	Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation	Biodiversity	Regional (Gabon, Namibia)	WWF-US	300,000	27,000	22,635,780	2,037,220	96,393,542	121,393,542
BD-Sub-Total						650,000	60,250	34,904,166	3,202,717	174,844,942	213,662,075

Climate Change Mitigation

6	10996	Developing National Capacity of Turkmenistan through Improving Regulatory Environment towards Energy Efficient and Sustainable Building Sector	Climate Change	Turkmenistan	UNDP	100,000	9,500	2,066,333	196,302	28,446,643	30,818,778
7	10932	Strengthening the national transparency system in Brazil under the Paris Agreement (DataClima+)	Climate Change	Brazil	UNEP	50,000	4,750	3,835,616	364,384	500,000	4,754,750
8	10917	Energy Efficiency for the Transition to Carbon Neutral Cities in Colombia	Climate Change	Colombia	CAF,IADB	137,614	12,386	7,935,135	714,162	100,905,560	109,704,857
CCM-Sub-Total						287,614	26,636	13,837,084	1,274,848	129,852,203	145,278,385

Land Degradation

9	11003	Sustainable Land Management to Strengthen Social Cohesion in the Drylands of Burkina Faso	Land Degradation	Burkina Faso	UNDP	150,000	14,250	3,502,968	332,782	12,300,000	16,300,000
10	10866	Comprehensive land management in forestry and agri-food systems of three water basins in Argentina to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to mitigation and adaptation to climate change	Land Degradation	Argentina	CAF	91,743	8,257	2,623,377	236,104	24,971,732	27,931,213
LD - Sub-Total						241,743	22,507	6,126,345	568,886	37,271,732	44,231,213

Chemicals and Waste

11	11015	Strengthening the national capacity for the management of POPs in Costa Rica	Chemicals and Waste	Costa Rica	UNDP	150,000	14,250	4,000,000	380,000	16,550,000	21,094,250
12	10972	Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project	Chemicals and Waste	Iraq	World Bank	273,973	24,657	13,487,495	1,213,875	89,000,000	104,000,000
CW - Sub-Total						423,973	38,907	17,487,495	1,593,875	105,550,000	125,094,250

International Waters

13	11011	Mainstreaming Sustainable Marine Fisheries Value Chains into the Blue Economy of the Canary Current and the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems	International Waters	Global (Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Senegal)	UNDP	275,229	24,771	10,733,945	966,055	36,255,000	48,255,000
14	10995	Integrated water resources management in the transboundary Bermejo River Basin	International Waters	Regional (Argentina, Bolivia)	CAF	200,000	-	6,350,000	571,500	45,700,000	52,821,500
15	10970	Groundwater for Deep Resilience in Africa (G4DR in Africa)	International Waters	Regional (Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda)	FAO	150,000	14,250	5,786,073	549,677	33,210,000	39,710,000
IW - Sub-Total						625,229	39,021	22,870,018	2,087,232	115,165,000	140,786,500

Multi-focal Area

16	10998	Innovative approach to protect ouadis through the promotion of non connected mini-grid solar energy in 3 municipalities (Mao, Kekedena and Nokou) of Kanem region-Chad	Multi Focal Area	Chad	UNEP	100,000	9,500	2,954,534	280,681	21,500,000	24,844,715
17	10913	Protection of biodiversity and sustainable land-use in conservation landscapes in South Sulawesi, Gorontalo and East Nusa Tenggara	Multi Focal Area	Indonesia	UNEP	200,000	19,000	7,471,233	709,767	38,928,943	47,328,943
18	10874	Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in the Day and Mabla Mountains	Multi Focal Area	Djibouti	UNDP	125,000	11,875	3,269,028	310,558	9,000,000	12,716,461
MFA - Sub-Total						425,000	40,375	13,694,795	1,301,006	69,428,943	84,890,119

Multi-Trust Fund

						-					
MTF - Sub-Total											

Small Grants Programme

						-	-	-	-	-	-
						SGP - Sub-Total					
Non-expedited Enabling Activity											
19	10973	Umbrella Programme for Preparation of National Communications (NCs) and Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Climate Change	Global (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo DR, Gabon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Mongolia, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Eswatini, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritius, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sierra Leone)	UNEP	-	-	32,131,880	2,891,869	-	35,023,749
						EA - Sub-Total					
						-	-	32,131,880	2,891,869	-	35,023,749
GRAND TOTAL						2,853,559	245,696	151,918,828	13,898,468	754,512,820	923,429,371

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

GEF ID 10866

Project Title: Comprehensive Land Management in Forestry and Agri-food Systems of Three Water Basins in Argentina to Contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and to Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.

Agency: CAF

Country: Argentina

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: In Argentina, the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic deepened the situation of social vulnerability that the country's disadvantaged population was already experiencing such as the project beneficiaries. In this context, risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have been analyzed to ascertain how they can affect important elements of the project. The potential re-instatement of COVID-19 containment measures has been considered, and in the case of such occurrence, there exists capacity for the PPG works to be carried out remotely, this being enacted by the re-direction of travel budget lines to supporting the remote participation of vulnerable stakeholders. The role of local partners will be fundamental in such contingency, as they remain closer to the beneficiaries to provide support for their participation in case face-to-face meetings are not possible. With respect to co-financing availability and price increases, the inflation rate has worsened since the COVID-19 pandemic came out to light and may negatively affect the public investment capacity in general. Nevertheless, this situation has been assessed for this project and it was considered that it should not imply a specific risk for the availability of co-financing, as it is denominated in dollars and governmental budgets are similarly adjusted following the inflation trend.

Opportunity analysis: Although economic growth is a necessary condition to overcome this crisis, it is necessary to underpin growth with specific policies and measures that address the various dimensions of the social situation including deficits in access to education, a quality habitat and jobs with good conditions. In this context, the project will provide opportunities for the adoption of sustainable practices with special focus on marginal and underprivileged communities, giving a central role to good quality employment that will be created for vulnerable groups, enhancing the impact of employment policies, and contributing to recover social and popular economy. In addition, the project will contribute to women empowerment, improving the balance between woman-man tension and therefore decreasing the tension women face between labor market participation and unpaid care within households. The project will also enhance structural support to these opportunities through supporting institutional coordination and stakeholder engagement, fostering early warning mechanisms, and promoting local and circular value chains.

Project ID: 10874

Project Title: Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in the Day and Mbla Mountains

Agency: UNDP

Country: Djibouti

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk Analysis: Djibouti is facing an unprecedented economic crisis due to COVID-19, threatening hard-won development gains of 20 years. Djibouti has for long struggled to grow its economy due to a largely unskilled labor force, limited resources and harsh climate conditions. The pandemic and lockdown have had a significant impact. The socio-economic impacts assessments and preliminary analyses show that it abruptly reduced public income and increased public expenses to provide care to the population. The pandemic highlighted the high degree to which Djibouti is food-insecure and vulnerable to external shocks. Djibouti imports 90% of its food and is one of the most food-insecure countries in the region. Agricultural production is almost non-existent, partly because of drought and climate risks. Djibouti's rural populations including agropastoralists were already a very vulnerable population prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, exposed to extreme poverty, hunger, land degradation and climate change. COVID-19 and especially the pandemic containment measures have added an additional obstacle to economic development. Lockdowns curtailed road transports between cities and rural communities, reducing business opportunities and market access. These risks will be assessed during PPG and mitigation measures will be included in the project design.

Opportunity Analysis: The entire project can be seen as contributing to a post-COVID Green Recovery, by advancing sustainable rangeland management, restoring (open) forestland and ground vegetation, generating global environmental benefits in the form of biodiversity and ecosystem services, generating alternative or additional sustainable livelihoods, and enhancing local food security. The project will also offer economic and employment opportunities for rural populations that, even if temporary, can alleviate any economic hardship induced by the COVID containment measures. It will also further grow the capacity of national, regional, and local stakeholders in the use of communication technologies allowing for remote consultations and planning as well as remote working. The project will moreover contribute to the long-term COVID response by protecting and restoring natural capital and increasing natural and economic resilience and adaptive capacity.

Project ID: 10913

Project Title: Protection of Biodiversity and Sustainable Land-use in Conservation Landscapes in South Sulawesi, Gorontalo and East Nusa Tenggara

Agency: UNEP

Country: Indonesia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: Until there is a higher level of vaccination or protection from previous infection in Indonesia, a periodic reinstatement of containment measures must be expected. Therefore, the project will require adaptive management and will adhere closely to local, national, UNEP and GEF policies and procedures concerning COVID-19 to ensure the safety of all beneficiaries and project personnel and consultants. Given this, delays and logistical challenges are expected during the PPG impacting field missions and potentially site situation analysis, stakeholder/gender analysis, and design consultations with local government. As a key mitigating measure, the PPG team will include a full-time domestic consultant which should ease travel and ensure a reasonable level of continuity, local engagement, and data compilation/analysis. There is little to no negative impact expected on the ongoing and listed project co-financing sources and program, and in fact COVID-19 relief resources could benefit the project objectives (see below). Finally, impacts on the ability and willingness of stakeholders and others to participate in project activities due to perceived infection risks is estimated to be low.

Opportunity analysis: Notwithstanding the likely ongoing impact of COVID on Government programming and funding, it is not expected that this will affect the listed baseline and co-financing projects; and in fact, the COVID recovery fund targeted by the project for alignment will help in mitigating local economic impacts by COVID with target communities. For example, the Indonesia Ministry of Environment and Forestry has released a USD \$69.5 million Social Assistance Program to assist communities in and around forest areas, (i.e., forest farmer groups and social forestry groups, as well as officers who serve in the environmental and forestry sector), who are affected by COVID-19.

Project ID: 10917

Project Title: Energy Efficiency for the Transition to Carbon Neutral Cities in Colombia

Agency: CAF

Country: Colombia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk Analysis. Project documents are expected to include consideration of the risks that COVID-19 poses for all aspects of project design and eventual implementation. Projects are required to identify and establish likely impacts and risks from COVID-19, and how they will be dealt with in the context of delivering GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits. Prolonged social distancing measures, recurring national quarantine measures and physical availability of technical expertise to provide in-situ support due to travel restrictions has been identified as potential risks for the implementation of the project. To guarantee its continuation, remote technological infrastructure would be used to facilitate this type of engagement, including easily accessible videoconferencing services. In addition, required adjustments to the timeline to accommodate the effects of the pandemic will be given due consideration during the project's planning processes. The project will also develop a COVID-19 Prevention and Risk Mitigation Plan.

Opportunity Analysis. The project provides an opportunity for green recovery and building back better through the development of sustainable construction in three cities of Colombia, with business models that are climate-smart and take into consideration lessons learned in COVID-19 response strategies developed by the government and globally, thus contributing to levels of preparedness, reduction of risks, and increased resilience for future pandemics if they should arise and to the effects of climate change.

Project ID: 10932

Project Title: Strengthening the National Transparency System in Brazil under the Paris Agreement (DataClima+)

Agency: UNEP

Country: Brazil

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The main risks identified for this project include the potential for reduced prioritization by stakeholders due to immediate pressures from the pandemic, resulting in decreased engagement by key actor, and staff turnover due to illnesses. Since the project requires strong dialogue and engagement with stakeholders, lockdown and social distancing measures can be restrictive. The pandemic can affect the procurement processes as well. The project has robust mitigation measures in place to address these. To address mobility and lockdown restrictions, the project will consider alternative forms of meeting organization and communication (i.e. using online platforms); and additional staff will be trained in the relevant Ministry (executing agency) to accommodate for those that are on leave. Procurement risk will be addressed through contracting additional local support for data collection and appropriate project planning. It is expected that public sector priorities related to climate change will remain in the medium to long-term, as consequences of climate change become more evident. The project includes specific elements to help mitigate this risk such as a stakeholder communication and engagement strategy; a national capacity-building program; and training on how to integrate climate data and projections into policy-and decision-making processes.

Opportunity analysis: An improved climate transparency system which can better track the progress of implementation, and thus evaluate the effectiveness of different measures, can be a potentially powerful tool to "build back better". The project also presents the opportunity to introduce e-governance (online public service provision and delivery without physical interactions) modalities over time. Specifically, this project will lead to effective adoption of digital modules and the DataClima+, an integrated climate data system, by key stakeholders in Brazil.

Project ID: 10937

Project Title: The Selva Fund

Agency: CI

Country: Regional

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk Analysis: In Peru, an impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the relevant areas for this project (Law Enforcement of Forest Protection) is that police and military personnel who previously helped enforce laws relating to forest protection in the Amazon were moved to other operations relating to mitigating the impacts of COVID-19. The result has been an increase in deforestation within the Peruvian Amazon, with over 200,000 ha lost in 2020, representing a 37% increase from 2019. The project discusses delays COVID-19 may cause in project implementation due to restrictions in travel, stakeholder consultation, and recruiting of project staff. Forest-based product businesses may be impacted by the economic consequences of the pandemic restriction. While most restrictions have been already lifted due to increase in the vaccination rates, the project will closely monitor any changes that can further restrict movement etc.

Opportunity Analysis: The project aims to mainstream bio-economy in the Latin America region, particularly by supporting the SMEs struggling to access the capital both by investment and technical assistance. A detailed assessment of the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable populations will be undertaken during PPG so that corresponding project activities benefit the most affected. In fact, COVID-19 accelerated virtual communication between stakeholders that would have eventually occurred in the long run, as the high costs of technical assistance provision on site are a known issue for numerous value chains' stakeholders in the region. The pandemic demanded resilience and flexibility from all stakeholders, and replanning involved revisiting the scope of projects, adjusting schedules, renegotiating payments, and finally, revisiting expectations regarding end results.

Project ID: 10970

Project Title: Groundwater for Deep Resilience in Africa (G4DR in Africa)

Agency: FAO

Country: Malawi, Mozambique and Uganda

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: Delays due to COVID-19 may lead to slowing or stalling of the local activities including stakeholder engagement processes and capacity development activities that involve local and international stakeholder. To mitigate for this, the project will assess and strengthen tools for remotely engaging actors and support remote project co-design tools for national and local stakeholders. Expert consultants experienced in virtual stakeholder engagement can be hired to facilitate the stakeholder engagement process. The risks on cofinancing appears relatively low for this project, as it mainly builds on national investments for the management and allocation of the groundwater resources and regional projects supported by global and bilateral donors. At this stage, none of these investments and projects can be considered under risk due to COVID-19 pandemic. Consultations during PPG will adapt to the sanitary situation, with continued attention to engaging Indigenous peoples, women, youth, and other underrepresented community members. The preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan prepared during the PIF stage, takes into consideration already COVID-related restrictions, and mitigates their impact on project implementation. This will be further developed during PPG stage. Potential impacts of COVID-19 will be closely and regularly monitored throughout the project lifetime. COVID-19 mitigation strategies and measures will be in line with policies, procedures and guidelines of the partner agencies, relevant countries and lessons learnt through execution of other projects in Africa since early 2020.

Opportunity analysis: The project will take advantage of opportunities to contribute to the rebuilding of more resilient, sustainable and equitable post-COVID use of natural resources specifically by bringing groundwater and its sustainable development and protection to the forefront of water security and resilience planning and investment in Africa. The project will support a better planning and allocation of public and private funding to promote sustainable groundwater management in the entire African continent. G4DR will support the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the apex body for water management at the African level, in addressing groundwater as a viable and critical resource to enhance resilience and a socioeconomic transformation in Africa (AMCOW, 2021), and through the nascent Pan-African Groundwater Program (AIP; AMCOW, 2012), has laid the foundation for a concerted effort on groundwater for resilience in Africa. The G4DR project provides a key opportunity to utilize this platform in the post-COVID-19 period, to elevate groundwater generally, and support greater inclusion of groundwater in regional, basin and country planning and investment. Finally, the project is also creating the opportunity to develop an assessment of the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on vulnerable natural resources such as aquifers and the impacts on the populations relying on this source of water.

Project ID: 10971

Project Title: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Caroni River Basin of Bolivar State

Agency: FAO

Country: Venezuela

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk Analysis: The project discusses delays COVID-19 may cause in project implementation due to restrictions in travel, stakeholder consultation, and recruiting of project staff. While most restrictions have been already lifted due to increase in the vaccination rates, the project will closely monitor and changes that can further restrict movement and impact activities. All necessary sanitary and biosecurity measures will be taken to avoid contagion among project personnel and indigenous and local communities.

Opportunity Analysis: In order to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 and future pandemics, the proposed project will support green recovery and resilience, through the strengthening of institutional capacities for sustainable landscape management, through integral landscape management that involves the elaboration of management plans and regulations for the use of protected areas, including the restoration of degraded areas with the use of best practices and methods of ecosystem restoration such as: the use of multiple native species, natural regeneration, analog forestry, among others, and through the support to local communities with sustainable economic activities that improve livelihoods, with the provision of alternatives in ecotourism, value added of wood and non-wood forest products, ethnobotany and family farming.

Project ID: 10972

Project Title: Integrated Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Management Project

Agency: World Bank

Country: Iraq

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: There are risks related to pandemic restrictions on travel and meetings and this may affect stakeholder engagement. To mitigate these risks the project will develop innovative virtual and remote methods for working and implementation. The country economic situation could affect co-financing both government in-kind support and other external sources. To ensure this, the team will collaborate with ongoing World Bank's projects in preparation in the sector of agriculture, energy and urban and incorporate related investment components. In addition, opportunities to mobilize private sector investments will also be explored.

Opportunity analysis: The proposed Integrated POPs management project for Iraq is expected to provide environmental and health benefits to more than 19 million people by treating, disposing or containing POPs and PCBs located at various sites in the country. While POPs disposal and their improved management will help improve agriculture productivity, decontamination of PCB oils will improve the efficiency of transformers and overall electrical distribution. Both these indirect benefits will contribute to the crisis recovery efforts of Iraq. In addition, some of the storage sites could also provide opportunities for the beneficial use (including industrial re-development) after remediation. It is also important to note that, the project enables reduction of health risks to communities from exposure to POPs, which together with COVID-19 otherwise would have caused greater risk.

Project ID: 10990

Project Title: Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of a Lowland Forest Mosaic Landscape in Ogun, Edo, Delta and Ondo States

Agency: FAO

Country: Nigeria

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The overall COVID-related risks were assessed of high impact and medium likelihood of occurrence. Risks were identified on co-financing, availability of technical staff, increased pressure to convert forest to cropland, and ability to interact with local communities and implement project activities. Project precautionary measures set forth by the Federal Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, as well as any additional measures at the state or local government area levels will be strictly observed during implementation. Additional co-financing sources, including private financing, will be explored during the PPG phase to ensure a minimum level of viable co-financing is guaranteed.

Opportunity analysis: The project is designed to protect and restore natural systems in a highly biodiverse area experiencing severe deforestation and poaching rates. Through policy making, planning, and financing of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of forest resources across mosaics of natural and productive landscapes, it ultimately aims at improving connectivity and ecosystem integrity over the whole Nigerian lowland rainforest eco-region. As such, it will contribute to reducing the risk of emerging infectious diseases in the future. The project will further support national and sub-national efforts for a transition towards a greener post-COVID-19 economic recovery by enabling smallholders, government institutions and private sector entities to adopt sustainable and biodiversity-compatible practices along biodiversity-positive value chains related to agroforestry, non-timber forest products, nature-based tourism and the wildlife economy.

Project ID: 10995

Project Title: Integrated Water Resources Management in the Transboundary Bermejo River Basin

Agency: CAF

Countries: Regional, Argentina, Bolivia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The main identified pandemic risk to the project is persisting containment measures, which could affect the implementation timeframe, could lead to delays in government engagement, and could cause difficulty in engaging stakeholders, acquiring data and information sets for key assessments, and launching the pilot activities. The executing partners will use the operational “know-how” they have acquired through delivering similar pandemic projects in 2020 and 2021 in the region, including for health and safety measures and virtual meetings and outreach. Project implementation arrangements will include one project officer/national coordinator based in each of the project countries, allowing in situ interaction with country counterparts and stakeholders for the implementation of all activities. This will enable close coordination with public health and local authorities to safely steer the project through future pandemic waves and variants. The design team will conduct a second COVID-19 risk and opportunity analysis during the PPG phase.

Opportunity analysis: The normalization of virtual conferencing and communication platforms means that online interaction, capacity building, meetings and conferences have become much more commonplace and accepted by a broad range of stakeholders. This paves the way for the project to reach a wider range and larger number of participants in the pilot field testing, the TDA-SAP process, the citizen participation and environmental education program, the productive sector roundtable and the CSO participation mechanism activities than would have been possible a few years ago. Should the pandemic persist, the endorsed SAP under the project will likely have the *build back better* green recovery agenda at its foundation. The project can also play an important role in strengthening the river basin organization’s (COBINABE) capacity to support the riparian countries and coordinate joint transboundary water actions for the COVID-19 recovery and prevention of future crises.

Project ID: 10996

Project Title: Developing National Capacity of Turkmenistan through Improving Regulatory Environment towards Energy Efficient and Sustainable Building Sector

Agency: UNDP

Country: Turkmenistan

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: As of January 2022, Turkmenistan has remained one of the very few countries in the world that lacks reports about emerging cases of the novel coronavirus. Turkmen authorities claim that they have adopted all attainable measures required in order to combat the virus, asserting that COVID-19 has yet to reach their country.⁷ The full risk assessment of COVID on this project will take place during PPG and appropriate mitigation measures will be developed.

Opportunity analysis: The Project will take advantage of COVID-19 to address the need for resilience building strategies that will meet people's needs to work more from home. It provides an opportunity to showcase initiatives with significant potential to save energy from home and transport between homes and offices. Aspects of energy efficiency in buildings such as thermal insulation provide several advantages including a better indoor climate and reduced electricity consumption. These advantages have become more impactful during and post the COVID-19 pandemic, since people intend to work more from home than before. The project will ensure that the adoption of updated building codes is adequate to the continuity of post COVID-19 risks and the eruption of similar risks in the future.

⁷ <https://archpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13690-021-00779-x#:~:text=pollution%20%5B2%5D,-,Turkmenistan%20remains%20one%20of%20the%20very%20few%20countries%20in%20the,country%20%5B2%2C%203%5D>

Project ID: 10988

Project Title: Innovative Approach to Protect Ouadis through the Promotion of Non-connected Mini-grid⁸ Solar Energy in 3 Municipalities (Mao, Kekedena and Nokou) of Kanem Region-Chad

Agency: UNEP

Country: Chad

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk Analysis: In Chad, from 3 January 2020 to 6 September 2021, there have been 4,997 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 174 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 2 September 2021, a total of 68,267 vaccine doses have been administered (WHO, 2021). The Government of Chad conducted a study on the impact of COVID-19. According to the results of this study, the pandemic has greatly affected these two aspects of life. These impacts could be explained by the prevention and response measures that the Government took to control the pandemic, as other countries did around the world. These measures -closure of land and air borders, limited inter-city movements, closure of businesses and schools, curfew, ban on gatherings, to name a few - have severely impacted several sectors including basic social services such as health, food, education, WASH, and the economy. Measures will be taken during PPG to mitigate these impacts and ensure the project can be implemented successfully.

Opportunity Analysis: The project will contribute to the “build back greener and better” mantra by promoting sustainable, clean, and accessible renewable energy to communities in the areas of interest. This will also ensure that the outcomes of this project are more durable.

⁸ Essentially mini-grids are independent, decentralised electricity networks that can function separately from a national grid

Project ID: 11011

Project Title: Mainstreaming Sustainable Marine Fisheries Value Chains into the Blue Economy of the Canary Current and the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystems

Agency: UNDP

Countries: Global, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Senegal

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The pandemic has substantially affected the fisheries sector in all six participating countries. The project has duly factored in pandemic-related risks and risk mitigation in its design. Identified risks include project implementation delays, difficulties in co-financing materializing, and limited stakeholder involvement. To mitigate these risks, the project will prepare and implement health and safety measures for in-person interactions; employ various IT solutions in activity design and utilize virtual means of delivery when necessary; carry out regular budget reviews and cost projections and adapt to increases in costs of goods and services; maintain close consultations with key project partners and co-financiers; and encourage local project stakeholders to actively participate due to the environmental and social benefits derived from the project to *build back better*. As an initial risk mitigation strategy, the proponents will carry out a rigorous COVID-19 risk analysis during the PPG phase.

Opportunity analysis: The project's goal to expedite a seafood market transformation that will increase the demand and supply of sustainable marine commodities presents an opportunity to mitigate COVID-19 impacts and support a green economic recovery. Without an intervention, seafood demand will continue to contribute to exert pressure along the value chains, increasing fishing pressure and undesirable practices that will eventually aggravate the condition of fishery stocks and the loss of marine biodiversity and ecological services, which will, in turn, frustrate *build back better* recovery measures. Through supply chain roundtables, government-led marine commodities platforms and industry-led Fisheries Improvement Projects, the project provides an opportunity for public and private stakeholders to engage one another to overcome COVID-19 governance challenges in the fisheries sector and make value chains more resilient to withstand future shocks.

Project ID: 11003

Project Title: Sustainable Land Management to Strengthen Social Cohesion in the Drylands of Burkina Faso

Agency: UNDP

Country: Burkina Faso

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk Analysis: The World Food Program (WFP) estimates that by August 2022, more than 3 million people will be facing acute food insecurity as Burkina Faso grapples with COVID-19 and conflict.⁹ Although many Internally Displaced People have returned home, the complex crisis persists. Analysts indicate that this conflict is deeply rooted in the high levels of demographic growth and inequality, coupled with widespread poverty and the degraded state of the country's arable land. Land degradation is, to a great extent, due to the absence of spatial planning compounded with maladaptive land management techniques. The current multi-faceted crisis has been aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which by 2022 is not yet over in Burkina Faso, due to low vaccination rates. During the PPG, the UNDP Burkina Faso Country Office will support the PPG consultant team to conduct regular assessments of both the security situation and COVID-19 pandemic impacts in the country, and specifically in the Centre-Nord Region. The project will put in place appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all stakeholders involved in project design and implementation.

Opportunity Analysis: The proposed project strategy will assist the Government of Burkina Faso with a "green recovery" from the pandemic. This strategy responds to the guidance document "GEF's Response to COVID-19",¹⁰ and has a dual action framework including for alignment of the project goals with the response and recovery strategies.

⁹ Source: <https://www.wfp.org/news/more-3-million-people-facing-acute-food-insecurity-burkina-faso-grapples-covid-19-and-conflict>, accessed on 01/03/2022.

¹⁰ Global Environment Facility, GEF's Response to COVID-19 (May 2020)

Project ID: 11014

Project Title: Enduring Earth: Accelerating Sustainable Finance Solutions to Achieve Durable Conservation.

Agency: WWF

Country: Global

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk Analysis: The risk of COVID 19 to project implementation is identified and plans for mitigating that risk are adequate and will be further developed during the design phase. The project at inception will integrate COVID-19 considerations within the implementation strategy and action framework. This will include prioritizing implementation activities and adjusting the timing of these activities to address existing and potential COVID-19 considerations and concerns. The project will also consider and integrate methodologies to monitor and evaluate COVID-19 related impacts to project design and implementation.

Opportunity Analysis: The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the economic struggles, particularly in countries with considerable share of nature-based economies. Gabon and Namibia aim to transition its economic growth model to build durability based on natural capital. The Enduring Earth partnership will use Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) as a vehicle to help drive this transition to support an economic growth model to build durability based on natural capital and to generate new sustainable funding sources to secure durability of conservation interventions in support of green recovery and resilience in both countries.

Project ID: 11015

Project Title: Strengthening the National Capacity for the Management of POPs in Costa Rica

Agency: UNDP

Country: Costa Rica

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: Risks were identified for timely design and implementation of the project in light of the pandemic. There are risks related to pandemic restrictions on travel and meetings. To mitigate these risks the project will develop innovative virtual and remote methods for working and implementation. Since the World has not yet recovered from the global pandemic, for the implementation of those activities that require social gathering, the Project will assume COVID-19 as a public health crisis, implementing the solutions for which are social distancing, careful sanitization, widespread testing, access to safety equipment, and immediate competent medical care, if needed

Opportunity analysis: This project will support the GEF's COVID-19 response and mitigation of Future Pandemics through the promotion of activities that minimize human health risks while reducing pollution. Specifically, through the improvement of plastic waste management, the project will have a positive impact on the avoidance of generation of plastic waste. Furthermore, the project will also benefit from UNDP's extensive experience with pandemic responses. In the past, UNDP has been key in the management of the Ebola pandemic, helping countries to promote and adopt actions that assure sustainable mechanisms to avoid future outbreaks.