



# Present and Future of GEF Support to UNCCD

*Presentation by the GEF Secretariat*

*UNCCD COP15, Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, May 9 – 20, 2022*



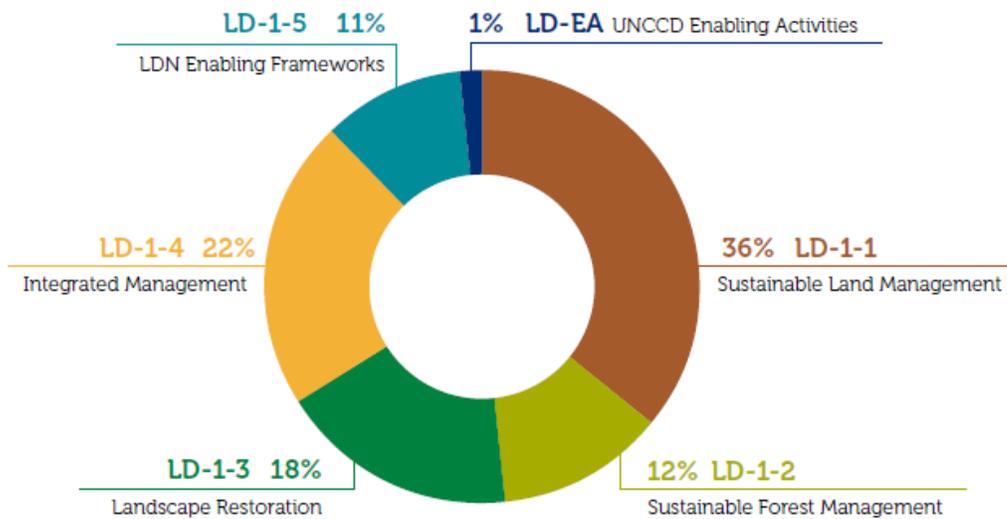
# The GEF – an effective financial mechanism of the UNCCD

## Major achievements in the current GEF-7 cycle

- **\$475 million** allocated to the LDFA: **94%** has been programmed as of December 2021
- A total of **\$1,257 million of GEF resources** was provided to 118 approved projects and programs, mobilizing \$9,239 million in co-financing with a ratio of 1 to 7.
- **124 countries** endorsed a request to support UNCCD Enabling Activities on reporting
- Support of strategic issues through **global programs**, e.g.: IWG on Drought, LDN fund TAF, CSO support, PRAIS IV upgrade, Continued GGWI support, Abidjan Legacy Program, etc.
- **Other funding windows**: 5 projects for \$57 million financed through GEF's Blended Finance and 11 Multi-Trust Fund projects with the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for a total of \$70 million.

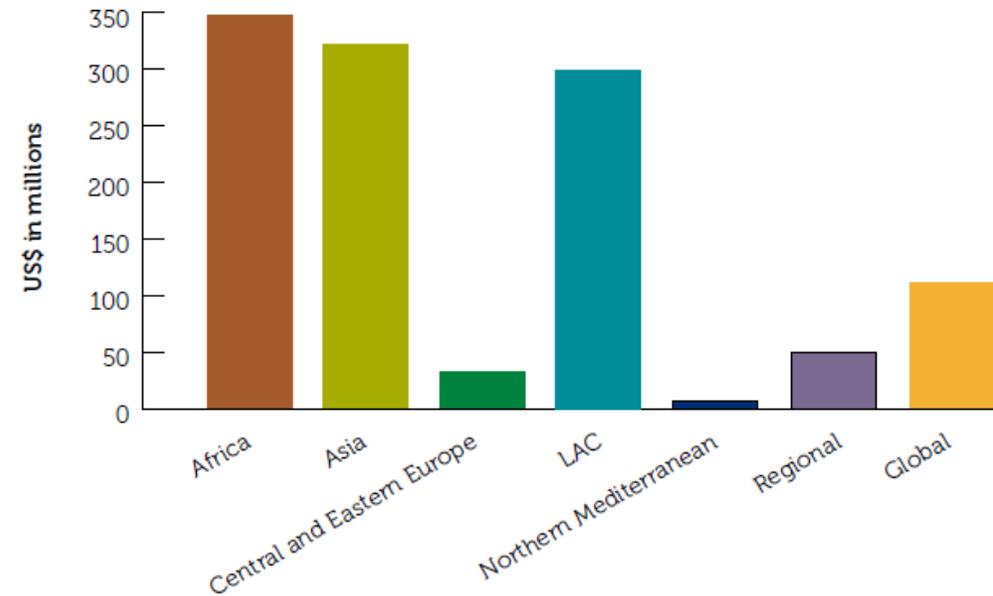
# GEF-7 Funding by Themes and Regions

**Figure 1:** Programming of GEF-7 LDFA Resources by Focal Area Objectives as of December 2021



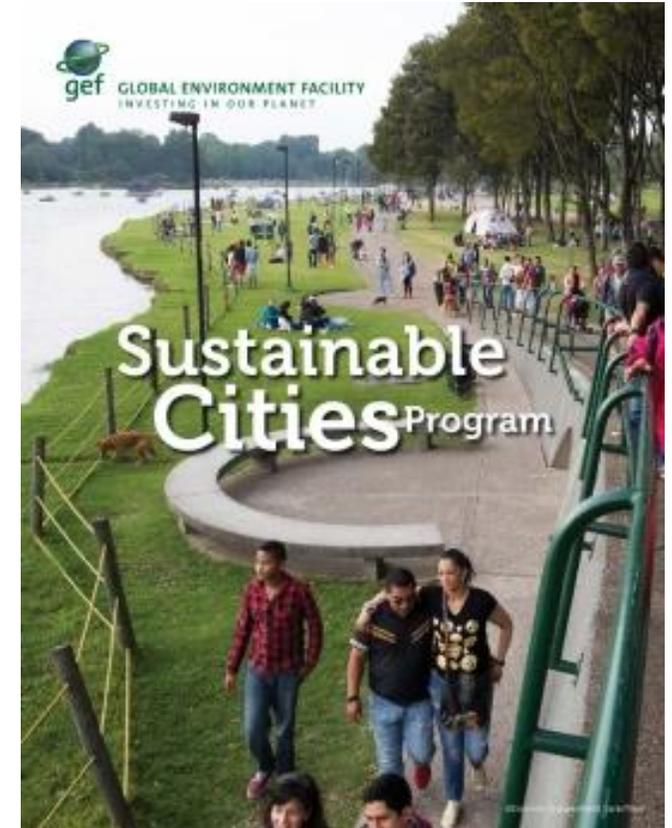
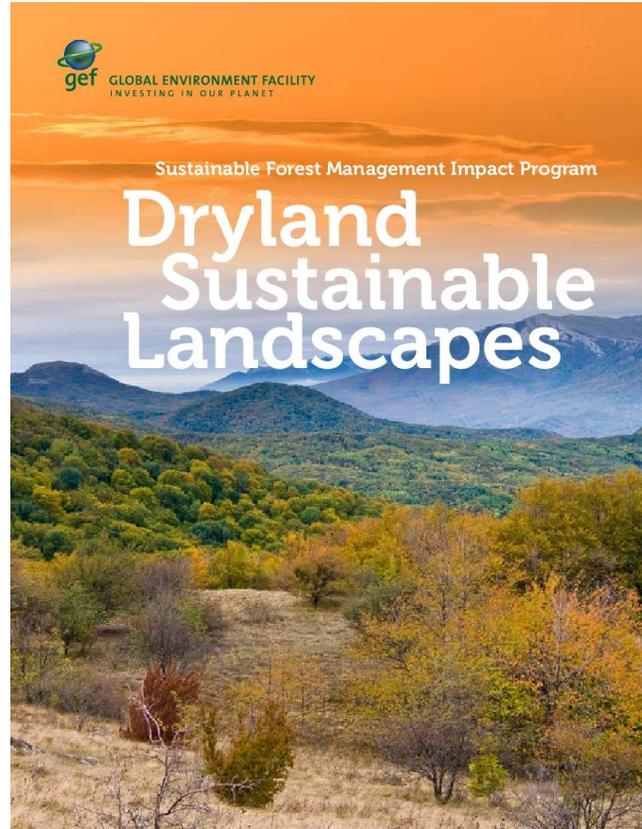
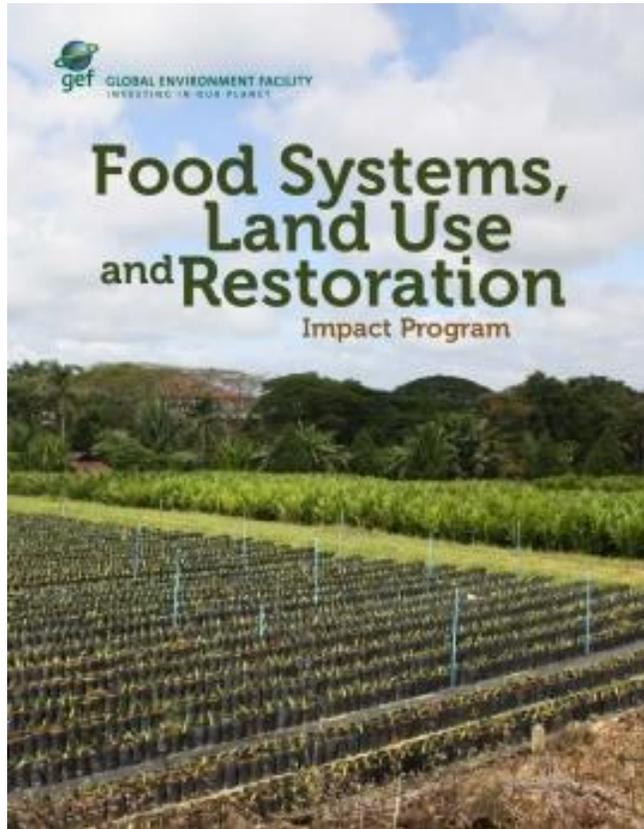
Note: Programming still in progress until June 2022.

**Figure 2:** Amount of GEF-7 financing by UNCCD Annex



\*Financing figures are driven by GEF country allocations and demand. The chart only includes UNCCD countries that are eligible for GEF funding

# GEF-7 Impact Programs – fostering integration



# Results

- **22 national LDFA stand-alone projects** directly support **LDN implementation** in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, China, Ecuador, Gambia, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lesotho, Mauritania, Moldova, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Serbia, Turkey, and Uzbekistan
- **93 multi-focal are projects** align themselves with the LDN concept
- Global environmental benefits targets: (i) **Area of land restored: 8.0 million ha**; (ii) Area of landscapes under improved practices in production systems (**SLM**): **81.6 million ha**; (iii) Carbon: **875 million t of CO2 eq sequestered or emissions avoided** in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use sector; and (iv) **Project beneficiaries: 74.2 million people**, including 36.1 million women and 38.1 million men

# Lessons Learned in GEF-7

- **Drought mitigation:** relevant aspects of national drought plans can be supported through inclusion in land-use planning and drought-smart land management. They should be coordinated with other donor initiatives that support climate change adaptation.
- **Private sector:** private sector engagement leverages funding and expertise to transform key economic systems in food and agriculture, drylands, and cities, through integrated approaches for delivery of multiple benefits.
- **Gender:** improving the conditions of women through access to resources, services, and opportunities, and empowering women to take decisions and be better represented in various decision-making bodies increases the effectiveness and sustainability of LDFA investments.



# GEF-8 Programming Directions 2022 - 2026

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PATHWAYS TO AN EQUITABLE, POLLUTION FREE, NATURE-POSITIVE, AND CARBON NEUTRAL WORLD

# Key MEA Targets and Goals by 2030



Post-2020  
Global  
Biodiversity  
Framework  
(towards  
reaching 2050  
vision)



Paris  
Agreement:  
45% emission  
reduction by  
2030 (net zero  
by 2050) to  
meet 1.5°C  
goal



Achieve land  
degradation  
neutrality by  
2030



Phase out  
PCB use in  
equipment by  
2025,  
elimination by  
2028



Phase out  
mercury-  
added  
products by  
2025 at latest

GEF-8 programming and beyond will make timely contributions

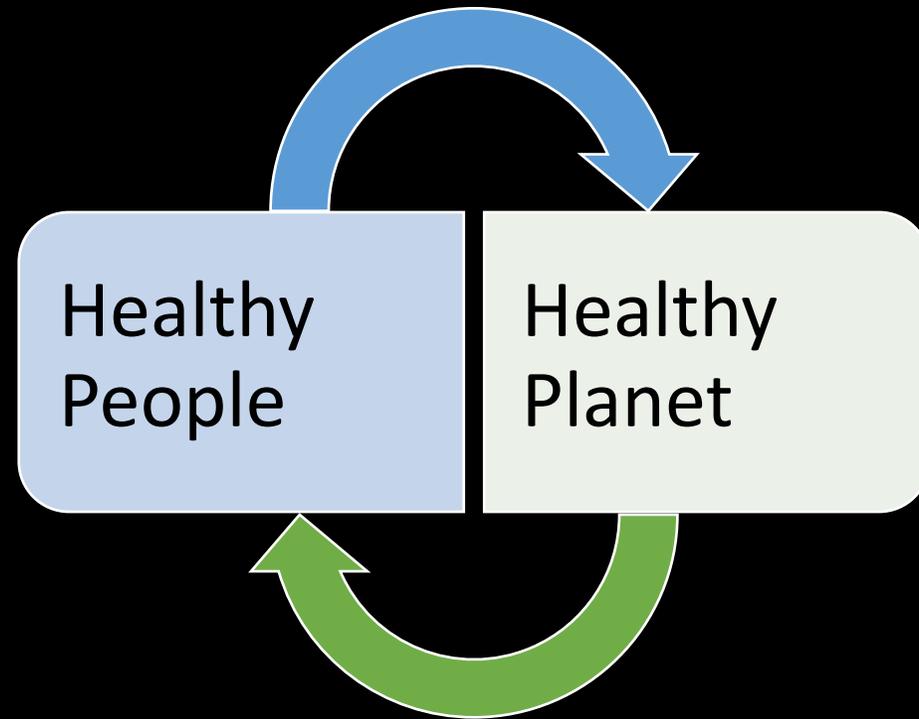
# A Longer-Term Vision for the GEF



To halt nature loss and ensure that  
the world is nature-positive by  
2030 and carbon neutral by 2050



# Embracing a Post-COVID-19 Framework



*.....protecting nature and restoring health of the environment that can and needs to underpin the health and well-being of human societies.*

# GEF-8 Architecture

Biodiversity

Climate Change

Land Degradation

International Waters

Chemicals & Waste

## INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING

- **Food Systems**
- **Ecosystem Restoration**
- **Sustainable Cities**
- **Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes**
- Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution
- **Blue and Green Islands**
- Blue Economies and Healthy Oceans
- Greening Infrastructure Development
- **Net-Zero Accelerator**
- Wildlife Conservation for Development
- Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains

### CROSS-CUTTING:

- Policy Coherence
- Gender Responsiveness
- Private sector Engagement

## GLOBAL PROGRAMS

- Mobilizing the Financial Sector for Environmental Goals through **Blended Finance**
  - Community Action for Global Transformation - **Small Grants Program**

# GEF-8 FOCAL AREAS



# GEF-8 Land Degradation Focal Area

Goal: To avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation, desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

## Objectives:

- I. Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management
- II. Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration
- III. Address Desertification Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD), particularly in drylands
- IV. Improve the enabling policy and institutional framework for LDN

## Major Changes from GEF-7 Strategy:

- i. Increased emphasis on land-based interventions for drought mitigation

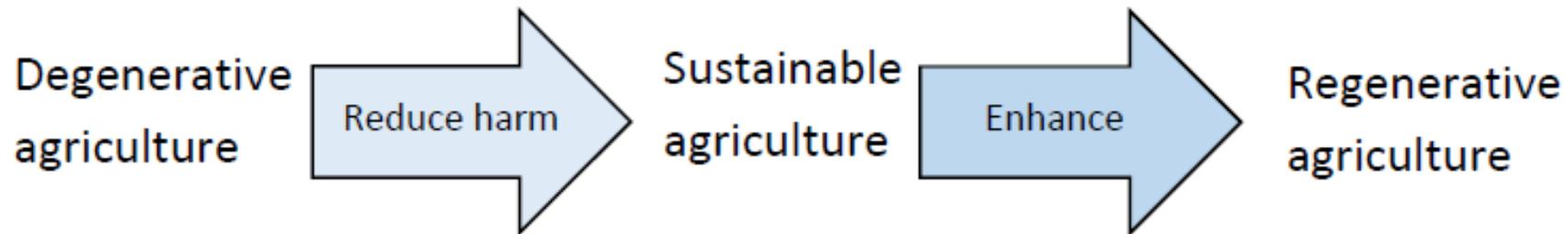
# Food Systems Integrated Program



**Goal:** Catalyze the transformation to **sustainable and regenerative food systems** that are nature positive, climate resilient and nutrient pollution-free

**The major objectives are:**

1. Create enabling environment to shift towards sustainable and regenerative food production
2. Reducing livestock's impact on the environment & contribution to zoonotic spillover, and supporting production of alternative protein sources.
3. Expanding investment in sustainable aquaculture management that is explicitly linked to land-based practices impacting freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems.



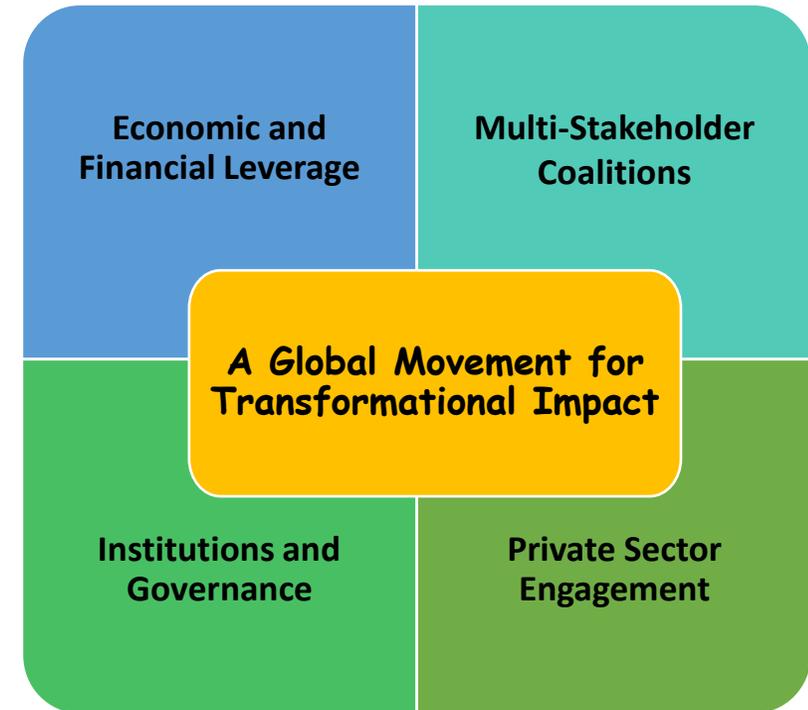
**Contributions to MEAs:** major contributions to all 3 Rio Conventions

# Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program

**Goal: Generate multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits by restoring degraded ecosystems and landscapes**



**Approach: Technical assistance interventions complemented by programmatic support for policy, catalyzing finance, multi-stakeholder platforms, and private sector engagement**



=> Multi-objective and multi-criteria selection of landscapes for major contributions to all 3 Rio Conventions

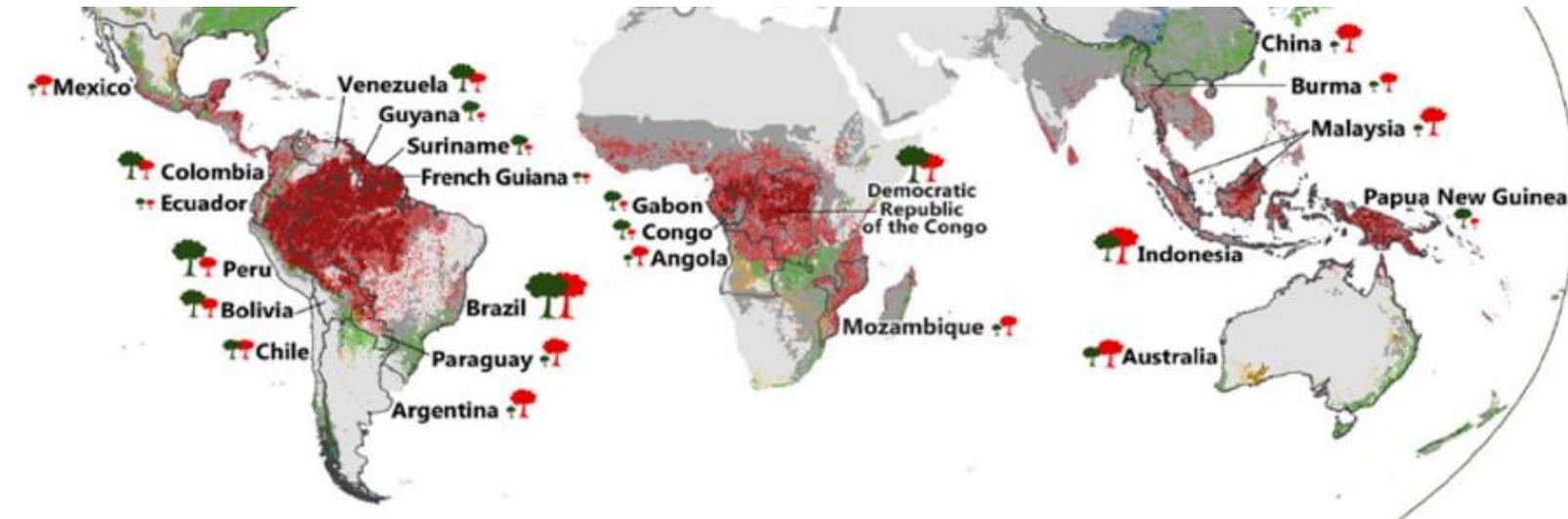
# Integrated Program for the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes

**Goal:** Protection of remaining globally important primary tropical forests

**Priorities** on Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes

**Multiple levels of intervention** with a focus on Jurisdictional / landscape level with a mix of institutional and incentive tools to protect primary forests and reduce the pressures in the landscape:

- 1) Expand, strengthen the management of protected areas
- 2) Other Effective Conservation Measures, out of protected areas
- 3) Develop Integrated Land-Use Planning + Information systems
- 4) Develop financial and other incentives for forest protection while eliminating perverse incentives
- 5) Empowerment of IPLCs

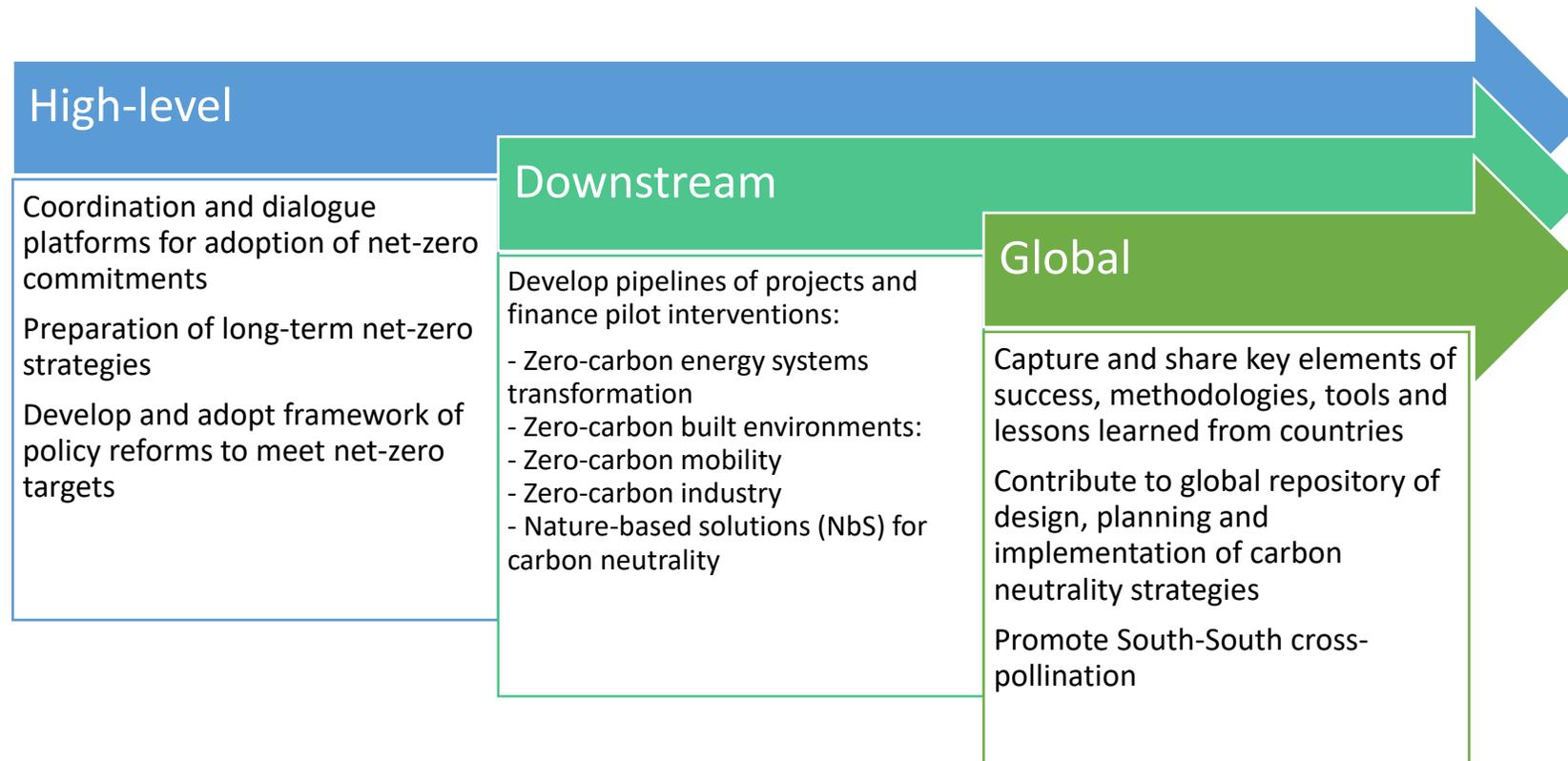


In green, relative proportion of intact forest landscape

In red, relative rate of forest loss

# Net Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator

**Goal: to accelerate implementation of net-zero pathways, pushing the ambition beyond existing NDCs and contributing to closing the emissions gap to meet the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal.**



# Blue and Green Islands



**Goal:** To ensure the maintenance and health of ecosystems at the center of socio-economic development in SIDS countries, by applying a nature-based solutions approach.

## **Major objectives:**

1. To integrate nature in key economic sectors through targeted economic, governance and financial interventions, using valuation and natural capital accounting
2. To implement landscape and seascape level nature-based solutions in key ecosystems in the tourism, food (agriculture and fisheries) and urban sectors.
3. To support collaboration, partnerships and learning that generate scale and impact for GEBs and well-being

## **Major contributions to MEAs:**

1. Mainstreaming biodiversity, improved management of protected areas (UNCBD)
2. Land sustainably managed and restored (UNCCD)
3. Avoided emissions from the AFOLU sectors (UNFCCC); Reduced POPs emissions (Chemicals and Waste); Fisheries, freshwater, and ocean resources sustainably managed (International Waters)

# Sustainable Cities



## **Goal:**

To catalyze action to build net zero carbon, nature positive, resilient and inclusive cities and support a green recovery.

## **The major objectives are:**

1. Design and implement innovative and impactful sustainability solutions through integrated, nature-based and circularity approaches.
2. Support cities to mobilize international, market based and domestic public finance for climate and nature action.
3. Promote collaboration through city-to-city partnerships, multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder coalitions.

## **Major contributions to GEBs and MEAs:**

1. Contribute to climate change mitigation and resilience.
2. Support management of biodiversity and reduce land degradation in cities and surrounding ecosystems.
3. Reduce hazardous chemical waste and plastic pollution

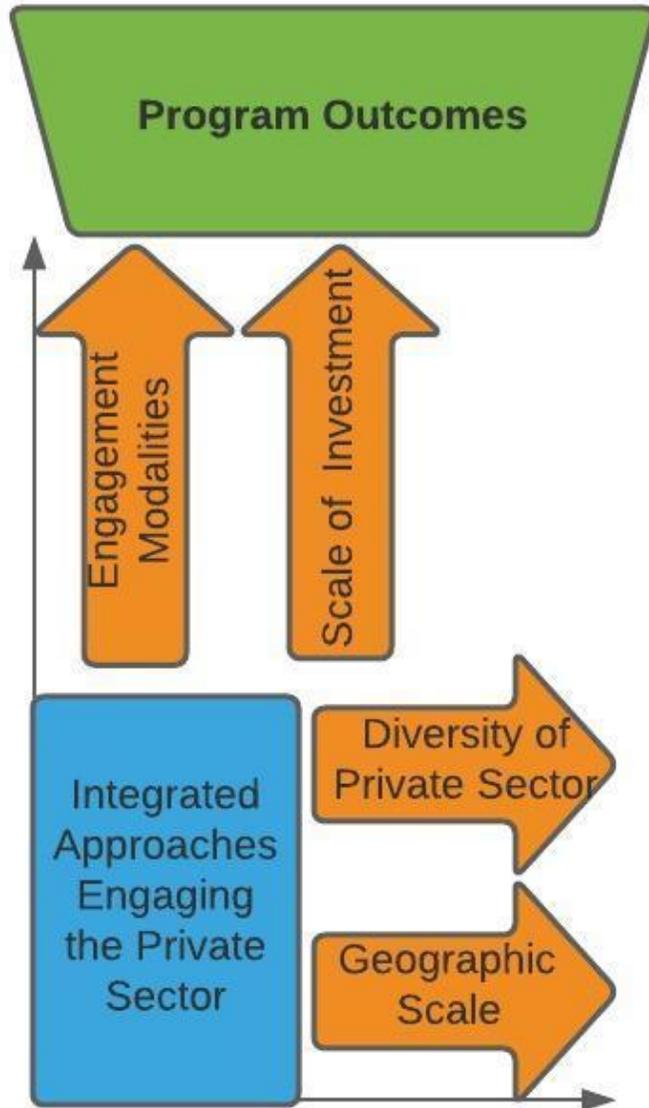


# Blended Finance

**Non-grant funding window for innovative pilots to:**

- **Unlocking private sector investment and resources in-country**
- **Widening entry points for the private sector, bringing a greater diversity of private sector actors**
- **De-risking private sector investments in SLM**
- **Mobilizing high levels of co-financing**

**→ Tool for Resource Mobilization & Private Sector Engagement**



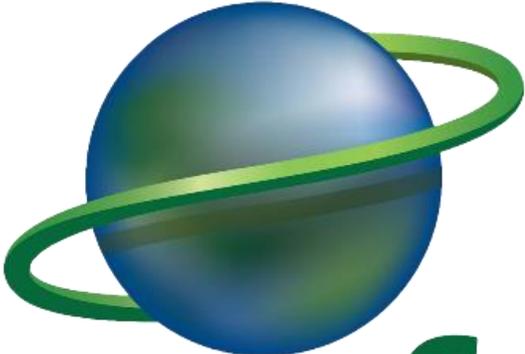
# GEF Small Grants Program 2.0



> \$150 million to support and finance access to small grant resources in all eligible countries

Extend the SGP financing to all GEF Agencies as well as open an avenue for other entities

Develop innovative CSO Initiatives to support GEF-8 strategy implementation



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**Thank you!**

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