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Washington, D.C

Agenda Item 05

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/03, *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising of eight projects, 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 amount to \$72.44 million from the LDCF, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs):

[See Annex A]

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

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is the eighth and final Work Program for LDCF projects to be considered by the LDCF/SCCF Council in the GEF-7 cycle. It requests a total of \$72.44 million for eight projects, to address urgent and immediate climate change adaptation priorities in four least developed countries (LDCs), and to support innovative global and regional initiatives.¹
2. With these four national LDCF projects, every eligible LDC has accessed LDCF resources under the \$10 million per-country cap for adaptation investment projects in the GEF-7 period. These concepts have been developed and finalized amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. This work program, along with a suite of medium-sized projects and two major amendments of approved projects, demonstrates the collective efforts made by the GEF Secretariat, countries, and Agencies to enable the highest level of LDCF programming feasible within the GEF-7 period. All concepts submitted and technically cleared have been included in the Work Program.
4. Medium-sized projects that have been received and approved with SCCF support, as well as those with LDCF support, are listed in this document. The Secretariat did not receive any concepts for support by the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) for the Work Program inclusion.
5. A number of donors announced voluntary pledges to the LDCF, appreciation for which has been shared by the GEF CEO as well as recipient countries. Notably, twelve donors committed \$413 million for the LDCF at a pledging event held at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on November 9, 2021. Of this pledged amount, \$178 million will be paid in the GEF-8 period. The majority of the \$235 million already paid, or to be paid, in the GEF-7 period has been programmed. Some amount will be carried over to support early GEF-8 programming and operational expenses.
6. The four national projects included in this Work Program are from Comoros, Madagascar, Niger and Tuvalu, two of which, Comoros and Tuvalu, are small island developing States (SIDS). Comoros and Niger are accessing the LDCF resources in GEF-7 for the first time with this Work Program. Madagascar has its first LDCF full-sized project in GEF-7, in addition to a medium-sized project that was approved in March 2022. Comoros, Niger, and Tuvalu will reach the full \$10 million cap, while Madagascar will have accessed \$9.97 million.
7. One regional project targets Pacific LDC SIDS and two regional projects are in Africa. One global project is for all LDCs. The regional and global projects presented in this Work Program

¹ The requested amounts are inclusive of GEF project financing (\$66.25 million) and Agency fees (\$6.19 million). It does not include project preparation grants (PPGs, \$1.43 million) and PPG fees (\$0.13 million).

are funded by LDCF resources for regional and global initiatives.

8. These LDCF projects are expected to mobilize \$228.5 million in co-financing for the total LDCF project financing amount of \$66.25 million.² Each dollar provided by the LDCF is to be matched by \$3.45 in financing provided by a variety of sources.³

9. The projects included in the proposed Work Program all contribute to the goals and objectives of the 2018-2022 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.⁴ The Work Program addresses Objective 1 and Objective 2 of the strategic objectives set forth in the strategy. The three objectives are:

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

10. Reflecting the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the projects presented in this Work Program address the needs to support people, communities, and ecosystems and their vulnerabilities. The projects also seek to enhance livelihoods through direct investments as supportive policy and capacity needs. Examples include strengthening the resilience of climate-smart agricultural systems, value chains, and small farmers; ecosystem-based adaptation measures and policies in coastal zones; and nature-based solutions (NBS) to help protect a traditional crop with subsistence and cultural significance from salt-water intrusion and to diversify crops with climate-resilient species and livelihoods.

11. Furthermore, the Work Program presents four global and regional projects with multilateral development banks that are strategic and innovative to leverage large-scale support from partners, with potential for significant adaptation benefits. Examples include accelerating NBS investments in LDCs by leveraging the LDCF with International Development Association (IDA) resources along with capacity and knowledge support, support to the Great Green Wall initiative as part of the Long-Term Vision of Complementarity, Coherence, and Coordination with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), establishing a regional climate risk insurance facility with a risk guarantee facility in Africa, coupled with efforts to strengthen the expertise

² The co-financing figure is calculated based on the 2018 Co-Financing Policy (GEF, 2018, Policy: FI/PL/01). The co-financing is applied to GEF project financing, which means a grant or concessional financing provided from any GEF-managed trust fund to support the implementation of any Full-Sized Project, Medium-Sized Project, Enabling Activity or Program, excluding Co-Financing, Agency Fees and PPGs.

³ The co-financing ratio is calculated based on the amount of co-financing (\$228.50 million) mobilized for the eight LDCF projects. Co-financing is not required for LDCF projects.

⁴ GEF, 2018, [*GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and Operational Improvements July 2018 to June 2022*](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF24/03.

on climate risks among public institutions and local insurance providers, and to contribute to the creation of a finance hub that supports climate-resilient and sustainable coastal and marine development in the Pacific LDC SIDS.

12. This cover note presents key aspects of the proposed Work Program, such as an analysis of factors for strategic prioritization, results and impacts through contributions to core indicators, status of LDCF resource use, gender analysis, and project descriptions. As this is the final Work Program for the GEF-7 period, a summary of the GEF-7 programming of the LDCF and SCCF is also presented.

THE PANDEMIC AND THE LDCF WORK PROGRAM

13. The cohort of projects presented in this Work Program was developed as the pandemic continued to persist in many parts of the world, while some semblance of the “new normal” began to emerge in others. Despite the ongoing situation, the GEF has maintained business continuity throughout the pandemic period to work with the Agencies and countries. The GEF’s efforts to helping countries to support blue, green, and resilient recovery continued.

14. The projects presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council target various adaptation and socio-economic priorities, such as seeking to protect and diversify livelihoods, increase sustainable job opportunities, support climate smart agriculture that target both subsistence and value chains, sustain rural economy and services to ensure resilient recovery, and enhance nature-based solutions.

15. Program Managers at the GEF Secretariat who are entrusted with the review and technical recommendation of projects for council consideration, reviewed projects applying additional guidance on COVID-19, ensuring that projects and programs for consideration by the Council have identified key COVID-19 impacts, and taken into account the risks and opportunities of the pandemic on the outcomes. The results of the detailed COVID-19 review of the eight projects included in the LDCF Work Program are presented in Annex B of this document.

16. The projects presented in this Work Program have been designed to contribute towards various aspects of blue, green, and resilient recovery. For example, in Tuvalu, the impacts of COVID-19 including restrictions on movement and trade highlighted the vulnerability to external health and economic shocks of the country that is highly dependent on food importation to ensure food security. The project proposed by UNEP for ecosystem-based adaptation for improved livelihood in Tuvalu addresses the urgent need to support and promote climate-resilient food production to enable food self-sufficiency. In Comoros, the project proposed by UNDP to strengthen the resilience of climate-smart agricultural systems and value chains is closely aligned with the country’s flagship strategic framework for recovery and development called the Emerging Comoros Plan.

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

- (a) Virtual or small working group meetings as appropriate, working through existing Agency teams in-country with established connections with governments, and through partners with strong in-country presence to reduce travel needs;
- (b) Adaptive project management measures put in place for the GEF portfolio, along with provisions for remote working arrangements, reduction in in-person consultations with stakeholders;
- (c) Meetings and workshops organized outdoors with appropriate social distancing, in smaller groups, physical meetings replaced or complemented by virtual meetings and consultations;
- (d) Strengthening of national consultant teams and remote provision of guidance by international consultants;
- (e) Placing the project team at the project site to reduce the impacts linked with travel restrictions, and conducting most of the work by the local workforce;
- (f) Recruitment of a national lead consultant to coordinate consultations and the team of national experts, under the supervision of and through regular engagement with the internationally-based team leader; and
- (g) Inclusion of COVID-19 preventive measures in contingency planning as well as implementation plans.

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

- (a) Strengthening livelihoods of smallholder farmers, creating new jobs and strengthening local economies, along with supporting acceleration of digital technology applications across different adaptation solutions and strengthening a digital marketplace for private sector engagement;
- (b) Facilitating LDCs to capitalize on the synergistic alignment of climate, nature, and development funding streams, by helping LDCs to prioritize and develop NBS pipeline projects including IDA 20 projects, with increased evidence on the cost-benefit effectiveness of NBS for climate adaptation, to help rebuild economies and create jobs, while also accelerating the transition to climate resilient, nature-smart, and low-carbon societies;
- (c) Embracing a shared determination to “build back better” and recognizing a unique opportunity for shifting the Pacific marine and coastal communities and economies onto a resilient, sustainable pathway, through: incorporating sustainable blue economies (SBE) and climate change at the heart of all post-covid economy recovery plans and programs; assessing all funds towards post-COVID

economic recovery and ensuring SBE and climate change are integrated; and identifying and generating investments which contribute to SBE, climate, and pandemic resilience;

- (d) Sharing of climate risks through the sovereign risk pool to facilitate the roll-out of market-based instruments for managing climate crises, which could help LDCs to own their climate risk management in the long run, and presenting evidence of return on investments through payouts to reduce the budgetary pressure for recovery and potential pressure from COVID-19; and
- (e) Contributing to green recovery by supporting climate-resilient cooperative enterprises which diversify livelihoods and increase household income, while providing adaptation benefits, and by reducing the vulnerability of women in the coastal zones to the adverse impacts of climate change by improving governance, leadership, and economic capacity, which can in turn increase resilience of women to unexpected shocks, including the pandemic.

LDCF WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

19. The LDCF Work Program presents eight projects with the total financing of \$74.00 million, comprising of GEF project financing of \$66.25 million, and Agency fees and PPGs (\$7.75 million).⁵ The four national projects included in this Work Program for Comoros, Madagascar, Niger and Tuvalu are addressing urgent adaptation needs of these countries. These projects are based on current national priorities for climate change adaptation and aligned with the LDCF programming strategy objectives, as confirmed by the Operational Focal Points (OFPs) of respective countries. The Work Program also includes three regional projects, one focused on Pacific SIDS LDCs, and two on African LDCs; and one global project for all LDCs.

20. The national projects support interventions in priority sectors and systems to enhance climate resilience and economic development. As also seen in recent national projects, they continue to support people-focused initiatives to address needs for income and livelihood diversification and community level interventions that are aligned with blue, green, and resilient economic recovery.

21. Sectors and systems addressed include climate smart agriculture, coastal zone management, ecosystem restoration, building climate resilience in value chains of key crops, and contributions to food security through crop diversification and protection. Interventions are proposed at the farm, community, regional, and national levels, integrated with policy measures, targeted capacity building, and engagement with local micro- and small-enterprises led by women and youth and microfinance institutions.

22. The Work Program also presents four strategic global and regional projects that aim to catalyze large-scale support with international financing institutions including three multilateral

⁵ The total amount comprises of GEF project financing (\$66.25 million), Agency fees (\$6.19 million), and PPGs (\$1.43 million) and fees (\$0.13 million).

development banks (MDBs), and forward-looking adaptation interventions that go beyond the scope of national projects, with potential to benefit the target regions and all LDCs. In addition to addressing major priority sectors for adaptation action, these projects facilitate innovative mechanisms and platforms for scaling up adaptation action in a systematic and equitable manner to the LDCs. Examples include the following:

- (a) Supporting a climate risk financing guarantee facility targeting African LDCs to enable their participation in sovereign regional risk pool of the African Risk Capacity Program and to advance market-based instruments to provide climate disaster risk finance and insurance solutions with the African Development Bank;
- (b) Co-investing in the Blue Pacific Finance Hub established by the Asian Development Bank to catalyze public and private support for climate-resilient and sustainability-oriented investment by channeling a significant volume of suitable investments at the country level, including supporting access to other ocean-climate adaptation financing mechanisms;
- (c) Increasing the uptake of NBS for addressing climate resilience and adaptation challenges across the World Bank portfolio, by leveraging LDCF with IDA 20 resources by shifting at least twenty IDA lending projects towards NBS elements; and
- (d) Improving access to best practices, fostering innovation, and digital transformation and facilitating cross-learning across Great Green Wall countries for enhanced resilience to climate change with IFAD, as a major initiative of the Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the GEF.⁶

23. The priority themes, intervention scales, and programming focus of these projects are well-aligned with those presented in the LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy for the GEF-8 period,⁷ by design. As such, they are also expected to pave the way for, and help inform the design of, LDCF and SCCF investments in the GEF-8 period and beyond.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC LDCF PRIORITIZATION

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

⁶ GEF, 2021, [Long-Term Vision on Complementarity, Coherence, and Collaboration between the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility](#), Council Document GEF/C.60/08.

⁷ GEF, 2022, [GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF-8 Period of July 2022 to June 2026 and Operational Improvements](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/04.

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

25. Additional factors were further considered:

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

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

27. Alignment with national needs and priorities: All the national projects included in the Work Program articulated their alignments with current national climate adaptation priorities, and contribute towards national climate adaptation strategies and policy approaches. Some projects also articulated their alignment with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

28. For instance, the proposal from Madagascar by UNEP is fully aligned with the country's 2019 National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as well as its NDC adaptation priorities including nature-based solutions, strengthening natural protections and reducing the vulnerability of coastal and marine areas affected by coastal erosion, and restoration of natural habitats.

29. The proposal from Niger by UNDP is consistent with the country's NDC, particularly on promoting climate-smart agriculture while strengthening development at the grass roots level. It meets the objective for climate-smart agriculture by building resilience of the agriculture sector while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving agricultural productivity and incomes.

30. The project from Tuvalu by UNEP has been developed to complement the country's National Strategy for Sustainable Development (Te Kete, 2021-2030), National Climate Change Policy (Te Vaka, 2021-2030), Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, and the 2007 National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA).

31. The project in the Comoros by UNDP will contribute to addressing two of the six priority sectors identified in the NAPA, i.e., food security and terrestrial ecosystems, through (i) enhancing the adaptive capacities of the institutions and individuals involved in the development of the agricultural sector including the farming communities and supporting the development, demonstration and transfer to communities of climate resilient agriculture strategies including the use of agro-meteorological tools, climate resilient inputs and climate resilient agriculture technologies, and (ii) enhancing the climate resilience of agroecosystems to climate change and variability by restoring the productive capacity of agroecosystems through approaches and practices that protect agrobiodiversity, improve soil fertility, reduce vulnerability to erosion, and promote the diversification of crops and integrated approaches whose environmental and socioeconomic benefits are multiple and sustainable.

32. As part of the participatory review of the NDC (2021-2030), the adaptation objectives to strengthen the country's resilience have been updated and the targets adjusted to 2030 for the sectors most vulnerable to climate change in the Comoros, starting with agriculture. The project will contribute to two of the three priority actions identified for the Agriculture and Livestock sector: Development of a resilient and climate-smart agricultural policy and, to a lesser extent, the development of agro-pastoral irrigation.

33. Alignment with Programming Strategy priorities: The cohort of projects addresses two out of the three strategic objectives and entry points as articulated in the 2018-2022 Programming Strategy, namely to (i) reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for adaptation, and (ii) mainstream adaptation and resilience for systemic impacts. All eight projects aim to address Objective 1, while five projects are also addressing Objective 2.

34. Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support: All projects are catalyzing additional financing from the GEF Agencies, recipient governments, donor agencies, and the private sector, as shown in Figure 4. Leveraging opportunities are described in each concept. It is important to note that the global and regional projects are expected to leverage significantly more resources during project implementation. For example, the World Bank global project provides opportunities to leverage and catalyze support that will improve funding efficiency through increased blending of ODA, vertical and private finance in NBS investments. The project is expected to leverage the LDCF with IDA 20 resources to uptake NBS for addressing climate resilience in at least 20 IDA lending projects, leveraging \$200 million as a target, to be confirmed as individual projects are approved.

35. As another example, the Blue Pacific Finance Hub project by ADB has a key project function to catalyze public and private support for climate-resilient and sustainability-oriented investments in the Pacific. It will create an enabling context in each country for the Hub to channel a large volume of suitable investments at the country level, including supporting access to other ocean-climate adaptation financing mechanisms. It will also develop and design investments, ensure a streamlined structure to ensure that projects meet the criteria for resilient and sustainable blue economy, match requested investments with donors, provide grant finance to appropriate investments and provide a platform for donor coordination.

36. GEF-GCF coordination: The IFAD project in this Work Program has been developed as a major initiative between the GEF and GCF under the LTV, in close consultations with the GCF Secretariat. The LDCF project is directly complementing the IGREENFIN project by IFAD that the GCF board has recently approved. The GCF is co-financing this project. The GEF-GCF engagement is at both the strategic joint planning level to support climate adaptation in GGW countries, and also at the operational level through project coordination committees, knowledge platforms and joint funding of the proposed adaptation innovation grant to be created under the project.

37. In addition, the project in Tuvalu by UNEP will coordinate with the GCF-supported program (2021-26) on ‘Enhancing climate information and knowledge services for resilience in 5 island countries of the Pacific Ocean’, which will ensure that integrated climate information and early warning systems are in place in Tuvalu. This can offer valuable informational support to stakeholders of the LDCF project. The World Bank global project on NBS recognizes the extensive experience of GCF in providing finance for nature-based solutions, including investment of \$700 million for supporting and restoring ecosystems and ecosystem services. Therefore, the project recognizes GCF as a key potential funder of NBS projects in LDCs.

38. The project in Comoros by UNDP will coordinate with a GCF/UNDP project (“GCF-Water”; 2019-2027) which aims at strengthening climate-resilient water supply and irrigation in 15 vulnerable areas in Comoros through integrating climate monitoring and forecasting in water resource management and implementing climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies for a reliable water supply. The GCF-Water project provides for the construction of new structures, some of which are planned in the LDCF project intervention areas, however without reaching farmers’ plots. During PPG for the LDCF project, the need to invest in infrastructure to channel water from structures set up by GCF-Water to the plots of farmers will be assessed.

39. Level of LDCF resources previously accessed: Among the four LDCs (Comoros, Madagascar, Niger, and Tuvalu) included in this Work Program, Comoros and Niger are accessing the LDCF for the first time in the GEF-7 period. Comoros, Niger, and Tuvalu are reaching the \$10 million initial cap for GEF-7 with these proposals included in the Work Program. Madagascar is at \$9.97 million. Among them, Tuvalu has had the lowest cumulative LDCF resource access rate, of \$11.99 million prior to the Work Program. Tuvalu continues to be in the lowest tenth percentile among the LDCs in terms of cumulative access, along with South Sudan, Eritrea, and the Central African Republic.

40. Geographical balance: The Work Program includes national projects from two African LDCs (Madagascar and Niger) and two SIDS (Comoros and Tuvalu). Given that every eligible LDC has accessed resources in the GEF-7 period, the geographical balance of the total GEF-7 support is at the maximum level that can be achieved. The Work Program cohort also includes three regional projects, of which two focus on African LDCs and one on Pacific SIDS, and one global project.

41. Private sector engagement: Private sector engagement is envisaged as stakeholders, beneficiaries, and implementation partners in the projects. For example, the UNEP project in Madagascar will explore opportunities for the commercialization of products from the targeted value chains, and conduct rapid value chain appraisals to identify the key private sectors actors to be engaged. The first phase of another LDCF project identified the “Rambo” value chain as particularly promising, and opportunities for partnerships and market development are already being explored. Moreover, the honey value chain will be further supported, with demand currently significantly outpacing supply.

42. The Comoros project by UNDP has strong and diverse elements of private sector engagement embedded within it. It aims to deliver direct adaptation benefits to the private sector by strengthening technical capacities (especially in relation to cash crops including collectors, preparers, and exporters of vanilla) to identify vulnerabilities to climate change in agricultural and pastoral activities, and develop and implement long-term adaptation strategies, through training, dissemination of knowledge through various media, and the development of action research involving these actors. The private sector will also be engaged in mobilization of investment for the exploration and development of new climate-resilient value chains. The project will also support mobile and web platforms aimed at improving the business climate by providing stakeholders with access to timely market information and by connecting producers with buyers. Dialogue will be facilitated between the private sector and representatives of local farmers to strengthen and formalize the links between these parties for the development of products that are integrated into value chains. The project will directly contribute to climate resilience for 88 small business owners.

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

44. Timing of technical approval of projects: All proposals that were technically cleared by the deadline were considered and included in the Work Program. As a cohort, the time from the initial PIF submission to the CEO PIF clearance is 51 days (7 weeks), ranging from 40 days (6 weeks) to 91 days (13 weeks). For the December 2021 Work Program, the average time was 119 days (17 weeks). The GEF-7 operational improvements continue to support more timely and efficient programming.

45. Resource availability and predictability: This Work Program is supporting all technically cleared projects. Throughout the GEF-7 process, the Secretariat has prioritized support for national projects to ensure all LDCs can address their urgent and immediate adaptation priorities without delay. The successful pledging session at the Glasgow climate COP in November 2021 helped to alleviate uncertainties in resource availability. This has enabled the development and inclusion of four global and regional projects in this final Work Program for the GEF-7 period.

DISTRIBUTION OF LDCF RESOURCES BY REGION AND AGENCY

46. Among the eight projects for this Work Program, four are national projects, three are regional in nature, and one is global. For the national projects, three countries (Comoros, Madagascar, Niger) are in the Africa region, of which Comoros is an Indian Ocean SIDS, and one is a Pacific SIDS (Tuvalu). One regional project is focused on Pacific LDC SIDS (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste and Tuvalu), another on selected African LDCs (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sudan) and the third on all African LDCs. The global project spans all LDCs worldwide. Including this Work Program, all 47 LDCs, or 100 percent of LDCs, will have accessed the LDCF resources to address their urgent and immediate adaptation priorities.⁸

47. Figure 1 presents distributions of LDCF resources in the June 2022 LDCF Work Program by region, and cumulative GEF-7 LDCF resources programmed by region. The figures include GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees. For this Work Program, \$25.00 million, or 33.8 percent of resources, are programmed in SIDS, followed by \$38.00 million or 51.4 percent in Africa. \$11.01 million, or 14.8 percent, are supporting global programming. Cumulatively for the GEF-7 period,⁹ \$326.46 million, or 62.4 percent, of the LDCF resources have been programmed in Africa, followed by \$90.00 million, or 17.2 percent, in SIDS and 15.3 percent, or \$80.00 million, in Asia. The GEF-7 regional distribution is balanced, reflecting that 30 of 47 LDCs, or 64 percent, are in Africa, nine LDCs, or 19 percent, are SIDS, and eight LDCs, or 17 percent, are in Asia.

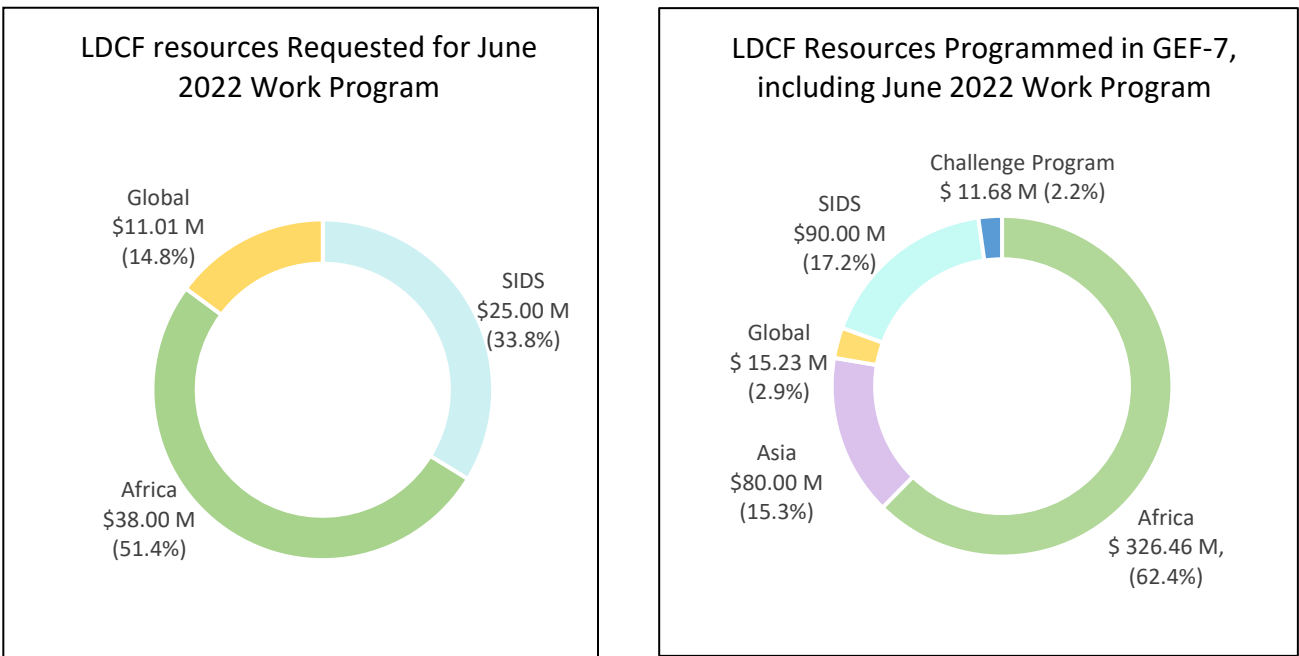
48. Global projects account for \$15.23 million, or 2.9 percent, of total programming in GEF-7, including the global project presented for approval in the current Work Program.¹⁰ Also, regional projects account for \$30.00 million, or 5.7 percent, of the total GEF-7 programming. The total share of global and regional projects in GEF-7 amounted to 8.7 percent, under the 10 percent ceiling set for the GEF-7 period.

⁸ The total figure of 47 LDCs includes Vanuatu, as the country had accessed the LDCF during GEF-7 prior to its graduation in December 2020.

⁹ In order to provide the cumulative GEF-7 programming figure as accurately as feasible, the Secretariat took into consideration the MSPs that are expected to be approved by June 2022. The figure for cumulative programming of LDCF resources includes the following medium-sized projects, including Challenge Program PIFs, that are expected to be cleared by June 2022: ID 10927, ID 10934, ID 10935, ID 10954, ID 10965, ID 10974, ID 10994, ID 11001 and ID 11010. These are listed in Annex C.

¹⁰ The global project figure includes one MSP that is expected to be CEO approved by June 2022, for \$2.00 million.

Figure 1: Comparison of Regional Distribution of LDCF Resources (\$ million and share)¹¹



49. In addition, three MSPs have been approved since the posting of the December 2021 Work Program cover note. Ten MSPs currently under review are expected to be CEO approved by the end of the GEF-7 period, prior to the June 2022 Council meeting. Annex C presents a list of these 13 MSPs, including ten from the Challenge Program on Adaptation Innovation.

50. Furthermore, two major amendments have been circulated for Council review in May 2022 to expand on the scope of LDCF projects that were approved by Council earlier in the GEF-7 period. The GEF Secretariat and the Agencies collaborated to facilitate the two LDCs to maximize the impact of the LDCF investments in these two projects by allocating remaining balance under the \$10 million cap. These projects are listed in Annex D.

51. Table 1 presents a summary of country allocation of resources from the LDCF for this Work Program, as well as for the entire GEF-7 period. The figures are inclusive of PPGs and fees. With this Work Program, project amendments, and the various MSPs being approved before the end of the GEF-7 period (listed in Annex C), 38 LDCs have accessed the full \$10 million initial cap for the GEF-7 period. Eight LDCs have accessed over \$9 million, while one LDC accessed \$8.73 million. Altogether, approximately \$523.37 million of LDCF resources will be programmed by the end of the GEF-7 period, inclusive of this Work Program, major amendments, and the pending CEO approvals of MSPs.

¹¹ In this figure, the regions shown include projects that are regional in nature as well as country projects in those regions. To account for the portfolio share of initiatives that are global and regional in nature, this data has been included in Table 1.

52. In total, the 47 LDCs eligible for LDCF support in the GEF-7 period programmed \$466.46 million out of the \$470 million available under the initial \$10 million cap per country. The utilization rate for LDCF resources for national projects in the GEF-7 period is 99.2 percent. There is now not a single LDC remaining that has not received LDCF resources in GEF-7.

53. The LDCF portion of resources allocated to the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation totals \$11.68 million for the GEF-7 period.

Table 1: LDCF Resource Programming by Country in June 2022 Work Program, GEF-7, and Cumulative Programming since Fund Inception

	Resources Requested in June 2022 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)	GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including June 2022 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including June 2022 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)
Country	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Afghanistan	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.02
Angola	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.43
Bangladesh	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.92
Benin	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.47
Bhutan	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.19
Burkina Faso	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.94
Burundi	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$29.79
Cambodia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$35.26
Central African Republic	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$21.17
Chad	\$0.00	\$9.75	\$39.75
Comoros	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$39.96
Djibouti	\$0.00	\$9.99	\$32.24
DR Congo	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.91
Eritrea	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$20.01
Ethiopia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$41.02
Gambia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.54
Guinea	\$0.00	\$9.91	\$25.49
Guinea-Bissau	\$0.00	\$8.73 ¹²	\$26.68
Haiti	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$33.48
Kiribati	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$33.24
Lao PDR	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.90
Lesotho	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.66
Liberia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$25.71

¹² Upon CEO approval of MSP ID 11010.

	Resources Requested in June 2022 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)	GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources including June 2022 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	Cumulative LDCF Resources Accessed including June 2022 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)
Madagascar	\$8.00	\$9.97 ¹³	\$29.62
Malawi	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$43.35
Mali	\$0.00	\$10.06	\$39.03
Mauritania	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$35.16
Mozambique	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$31.73
Myanmar	\$0.00	\$10.00 ¹⁴	\$30.17
Nepal	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$42.41
Niger	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$39.81
Rwanda	\$0.00	\$9.37	\$40.62
São Tomé and Príncipe	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$36.74
Senegal	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$40.01
Sierra Leone	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$36.58
Solomon Islands	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$25.69
Somalia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$39.65
South Sudan	\$0.00	\$9.50	\$19.77
Sudan	\$0.00	\$9.96	\$41.95
Tanzania	\$0.00	\$9.23	\$27.03
Timor-Leste	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$38.80
Togo	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$30.00
Tuvalu	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$21.99
Uganda	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$29.80
Vanuatu	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$36.57
Yemen	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$26.53
Zambia	\$0.00	\$10.00	\$37.09
Global	\$11.01	\$15.23 ¹⁵	\$28.70
Regional	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$155.79
GEF-7 Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation	\$0.00	\$11.68	\$11.68

54. Table 2 presents the total amount of LDCF resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees, for the June 2022 Work Program as well as cumulative, GEF-7

¹³ With CEO approval of MSP ID 10908 on March 29, 2022.

¹⁴ FSP 10395 was cancelled on December 21, 2021 as it was not CEO endorsed by December 20, 2021.

¹⁵ With LDCF/SCCF Council approval of ID 10961 and CEO approval of MSP ID 10994.

programming by Agency. Six GEF Agencies are represented in the June 2022 Work Program, namely ADB, AfDB, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP and World Bank. UNDP has a 27.0 percent share of the June 2022 Work Program, or \$20.00 million, followed by UNEP and World Bank with 17.6 percent and 14.9 percent of the share, respectively.

55. With eight Work Programs in the GEF-7 period, twelve GEF Agencies have been engaged in LDCF programming. This includes the West African Development Bank (BOAD) for the first time since inception of the LDCF, as the Agency has recently submitted an MSP for a national project. The Agency concentration is well-balanced in the GEF-7 period, with no Agency with more than one-third of the GEF-7 portfolio. UNDP has \$154.89 million, or 29.6 percent of the GEF-7 cumulative programming amount, followed by FAO at \$130.33 million or 24.9 percent. AfDB has the third-highest share of 11.3 percent at \$58.97 million, followed by UNEP at \$42.12 million, or 8.0 percent. Among the agencies active in the LDCF portfolio, the share of GEF-7 LDCF programming by the MDBs (ADB, AfDB, and World Bank) and IFAD was 27.5 percent.

Table 2: LDCF Resource Programming by Agency in June 2022 Work Program and for GEF-7¹⁶

Agency	Resources Requested in June 2022 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and Fees)		GEF-7 Cumulative LDCF Resources Requested including June 2022 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	
	\$ million	% of resources	\$ million	% of resources
ADB	\$10.00	13.5%	\$27.98	5.3%
AfDB	\$10.00	13.5%	\$58.97	11.3%
BOAD	\$0.00	0.0%	\$2.00	0.4%
CI	\$0.00	0.0%	\$1.15	0.2%
FAO	\$0.00	0.0%	\$130.33	24.9%
IFAD	\$10.00	13.5%	\$26.04	5.0%
IUCN	\$0.00	0.0%	\$10.38	2.0%
UNDP	\$20.00	27.0%	\$154.89	29.6%
UNEP	\$13.00	17.6%	\$42.12	8.0%
UNIDO	\$0.00	0.0%	\$27.85	5.3%
WB	\$11.01	14.9%	\$31.01	5.9%
WWF-US	\$0.00	0.0%	\$10.65	2.0%
Total	\$74.01	100.0%	\$523.37	100.0%

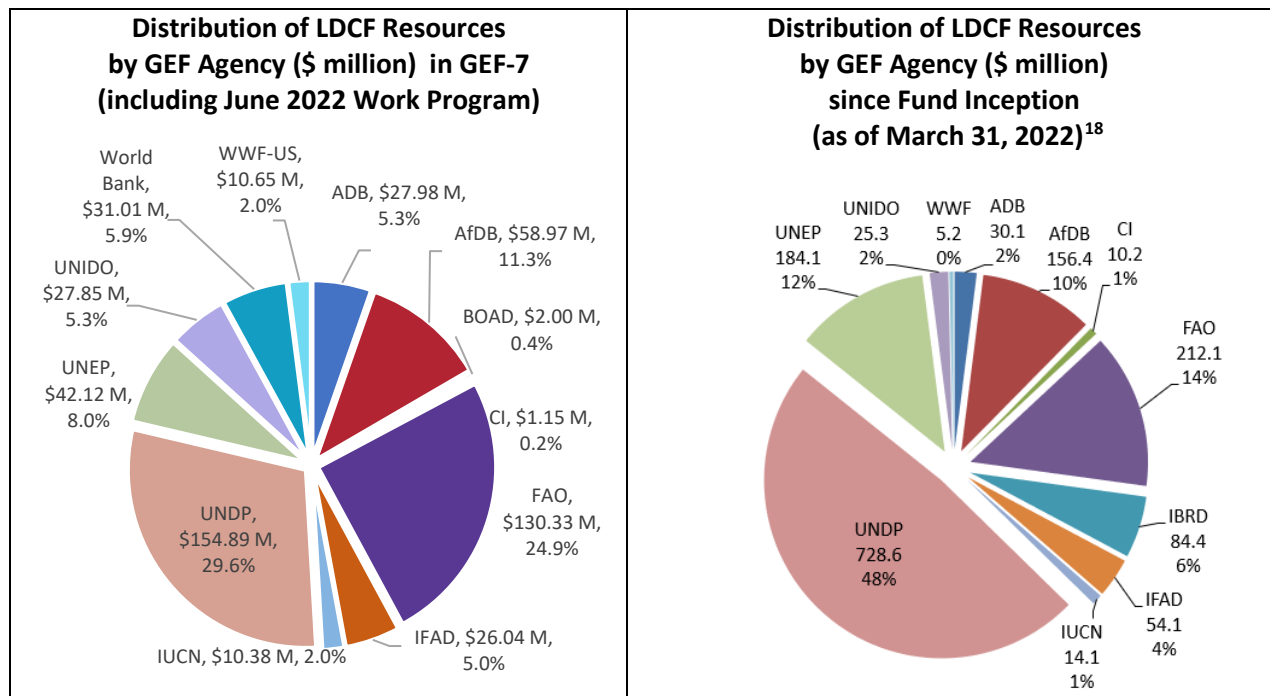
56. The Agency involvement in the GEF-7 period summarized above shows a well-balanced trend compared to the Agency programming distribution since the LDCF inception, as shown in Figure 2. Eleven GEF Agencies have been involved in LDCF projects and programs totaling \$1,668.41 million since the fund inception to March 31, 2022.¹⁷ Of this amount, UNDP holds the

¹⁶ Cumulative figures include amounts corresponding to MSPs that will be CEP Approved by June 30, 2022, listed in Table 2.

¹⁷ These figures are based on the Trustee [Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#), Council Document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/Inf.02. As the BOAD submitted its first proposal after this report was issued, the number of Agencies referenced in this paragraph is 11 Agencies. Figure 2 of distribution of resources by agencies since fund inception also shows 11 Agencies.

largest share of project funding decisions to date, with 48 percent; followed by 14 percent by FAO and 12 percent by UNEP. The large historical UNDP share is in part due to the limited number of Agencies that were engaged in climate adaptation in the early period of LDCF operations. Over time, the number of GEF Agencies active in climate adaptation has increased, contributing to a more balanced GEF-7 programming.

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



DISTRIBUTION OF CO-FINANCING

57. Distribution of co-financing by co-financier types for the projects in the June 2022 Work Program is shown in Figure 3. GEF Agencies and recipient country governments are the main providers of co-financing, of which \$218.22 million or 95.5 percent is investment mobilized. The breakdown by type of co-financing is shown in Figure 4.

¹⁸ This chart has been updated on June 14, 2022 to reflect information provided in the LDCF Trustee Report: GEF (2022), [Status Report for the Least Developed Countries Fund](#), GEF/LDCF.SCCF.32/Inf.02.

Figure 3: Distribution of Co-Financing for June 2022 LDCF Work Program (\$ million)

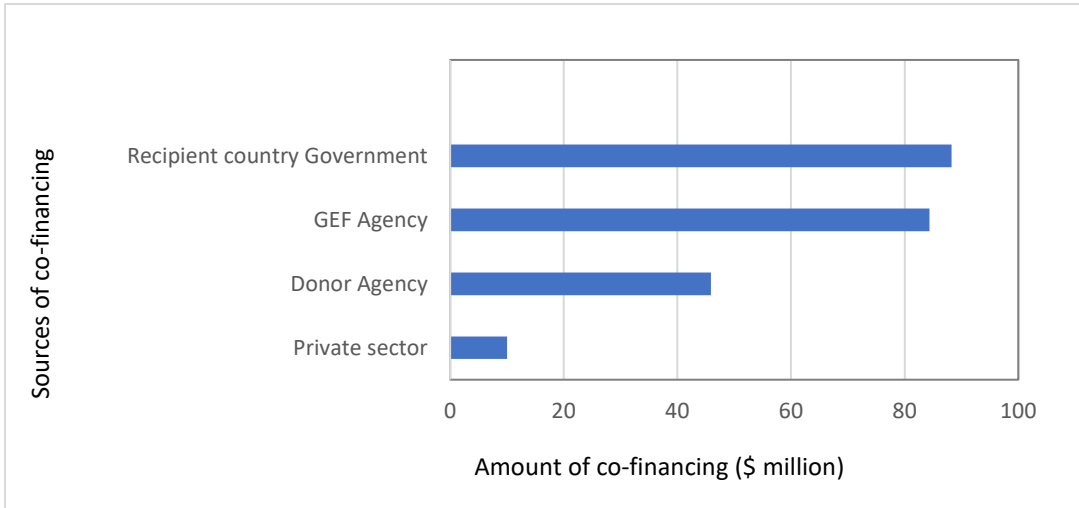
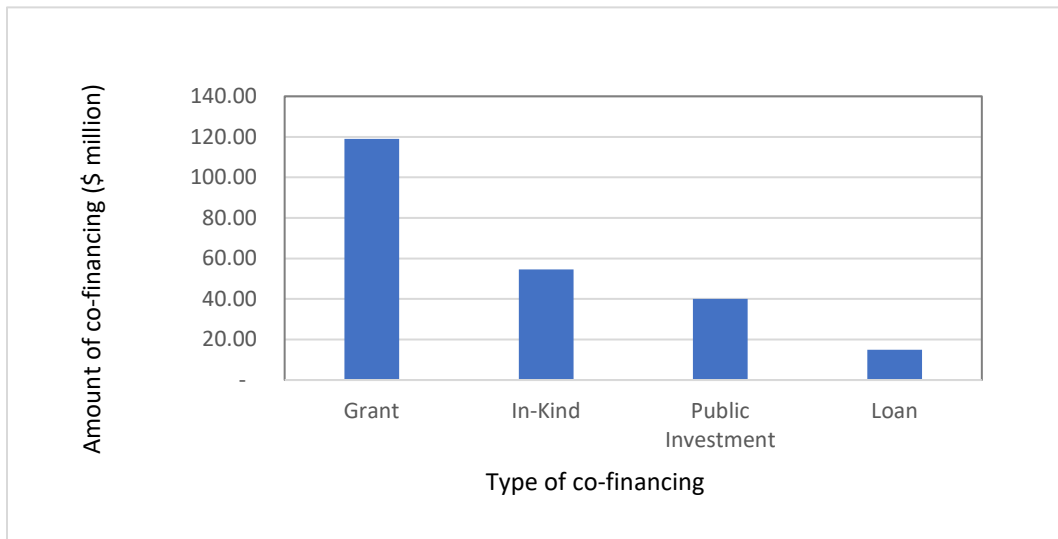


Figure 4: Type of Co-Financing for June 2022 LDCF Work Program (\$ million)



RESULTS AND IMPACTS

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

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 1,308,995 persons, of which 669,594 persons or 51.1 percent are female;

- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 233,498 hectares;
- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: at least 101 policies and plans; and
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 41,043 persons, of which 21,331 persons or 51.9 percent are female.

59. The cumulative contributions on the core indicators of all LDCF projects approved in the GEF-7 period are as follows¹⁹:

- (a) Number of direct beneficiaries: 21,036,008 persons, of which 10,618,292 persons or 50.5 percent are female;
- (b) Area of land under climate-resilient management: 3,225,226 hectares;
- (c) Number of policies, plans, or development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience: 869 policies and plans;
- (d) Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures: 687,623 persons, of which 327,521 or 47.6 percent are female.

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

GENDER

61. In LDCs, women and girls are disproportionately affected by the negative impacts of climate change owing to systemic inequalities that hinder women and girls from actively engaging in climate change actions. Climate change can also deepen existing gender inequalities, especially for those that depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. While women play important roles in sectors affected by climate change such as agriculture and fisheries, they are often marginalized in planning and decision-making processes, impeding their effective engagements in climate action and sustainability. In line with the ambition and requirements set out in the GEF Policy on Gender Equality, the LDCF Fund is making specific efforts to ensure that projects identify possible gender gaps and incorporate gender-responsive approaches early in project design for women and girls to be included in and benefit from LDCF-funded projects.

¹⁹ This and other cumulative figures provided are based on (i) Core Indicator values provided at time of Council or CEO approval of FSP or MSP PIF approvals, respectively, (ii) values provided in PIFs submitted for the June 2022 Work Program; (iii) MSPs that will have been CEO approved between November 19, 2021 and June 30, 2022, for which Core Indicator values may change during the review process; and incremental change in Core Indicator values corresponding to the major amendment of ID 10186 (Zambia) and ID 10727 (Nepal). For projects that have already been CEO endorsed, the updated (endorsement stage) Core Indicator values are used to provide more accurate cumulative figures.

62. All eight projects in this Work Program considered gender issues in their initial project design. All included plans to address gender gaps through promoting women's participation in decision-making and focusing on actions that will bring socio-economic benefits and services for women. Three of the projects specified that they would contribute to addressing gaps in access to and control over natural resources. The eight projects all expect to include sex-disaggregated and gender-sensitive indicators in their results framework. In line with GEF Policy on Gender Equality, the eight projects will need to carry out a gender analysis during project preparation, develop gender action plans and provide additional details on proposed sex-disaggregated indicators prior to CEO Endorsement.

GEF-7 SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS

63. This section presents a summary of LDCF programming in the GEF-7 period and observations based on available data at the time of the document posting.

64. GEF-7 LDCF programming: By the end of the GEF-7 period, the LDCF is expected to program \$523.37 million for a total of 87 projects. This cohort includes 23 multi-trust fund projects of which 16 are across the LDCF and the GEF Trust Fund, and seven are LDCF-SCCF. In line with the major operational improvement introduced in GEF-8, all projects besides the MSPs have been presented to the LDCF/SCCF Council as part of the eight LDCF/SCCF Work Programs approved during the GEF-7 period. The LDCF portfolio addressed urgent immediate adaptation priorities in LDCs, ranging from agriculture, nature-based solutions, early warning and climate information services, sustainable alternative livelihoods, infrastructure and coastal management, among others.

65. GEF-7 SCCF programming: By the end of the GEF-7 period, the SCCF is expected to program \$13.91 million. The portfolio comprises of 14 projects, of which eight are multi-trust fund projects. Three projects address innovative adaptation initiatives, including the Nature-Based infrastructure valuation project, the Adaptation SME Accelerator Project (ASAP), and a regional incentive for the Caribbean SIDS multi-country soil management initiative for integrated landscape restoration and climate-resilient food systems. Eleven projects in total were Challenge Program MSPs, among which seven were multi-trust fund.

66. Multi-trust fund opportunities: In GEF-7, efforts were made to facilitate multi-trust fund programming, recognizing the potential to address systemic challenges that countries face. Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support, including multi-trust fund programming, were recognized as one of the factors to be considered for strategic prioritization of projects by the Council in the current Programming Strategy. The programming status show that the multi-trust fund modality was used by a large number of projects. Twenty-five out of 94 projects supported by the LDCF/SCCF, or 26 percent of the portfolio, in GEF-7 were multi-trust fund projects. Of these, 18 were multi-trust fund projects with the GEF Trust Fund, and seven were LDCF-SCCF multi-trust fund projects for the Challenge Program.

67. Leaving no LDCs behind: The LDCF successfully served all 47 eligible LDCs in the GEF-7 period to address their urgent and immediate climate adaptation needs, making true on the

goal of leaving no LDCs behind. With the approval of this Work Program, MSPs, and major amendments, the 47 LDCs received \$466.46 million out of the \$470 million available under the \$10 million initial cap per LDC. The utilization rate for LDCF resources for national projects in the GEF-7 period reached 99.2 percent. Concerted efforts were made earlier in the GEF-7 period to discuss with 17 countries that had projects that did not get supported in the GEF-6 pipeline, and to support their efforts in accessing LDCF resources in the GEF-7 period with updated proposals or proposals to address different priorities.

68. Resource mobilization: The illustrative financial scenarios for GEF-7 presented in the Programming Strategy document were as follows:

- Scenario A: \$750 million total, with \$500 million for LDCF and \$250 million for SCCF
- Scenario B: \$1 billion total, with \$650 million for LDCF and \$350 million for SCCF

69. While the complete resource mobilization data for GEF-7 will not be available until the fiscal year has closed, the expected total LDCF programming of \$523.37 million has exceeded the Scenario A figure of \$500 million. The GEF Secretariat would like to convey appreciation to donors that have made voluntary contributions to the LDCF. As for the SCCF, the resource constraint continued to persist with one committed donor, and neither scenario was met. This issue has been raised during the negotiation process for the new LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy, and a decision was made to optimize the SCCF with targeted programming opportunities in GEF-8 with multiple donors.

70. Expected results and impacts: The GEF-7 LDCF projects are expected to directly benefit over 21 million persons of which 50.5 percent are female, put 3.23 million hectares of land under climate-resilient management, introduce 865 policies, plans, and development framework that mainstream climate resilience, and enhance capacity of approximately 688,000 persons, 47.6 percent female, to identify climate risks and/or engage in adaptation measures.

71. Efficiency gains from operational improvements: At the end of the GEF-6 period, pipelined projects took two years or more after technical clearance to be considered for financial support. With the introduction of the Work Program modality and decision not to maintain a pipeline in GEF-7, the LDCF significantly reduced the time from the project submission to clearance. For this final LDCF Work Program, the time from the initial PIF submission to the CEO PIF clearance took 52 days (7 weeks) on average. The Progress Report and the Annual Monitoring Report provide additional information on the portfolio performance.

72. Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation: Launched as a new initiative in GEF-7, the Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation supports scalable, bankable solutions that can help industries and communities cope with the adverse impacts of climate change, and builds resilient economies. Based on two open calls for proposals held in the summer of 2019 and summer of 2021, a total of 19 concepts were selected as finalists for \$20.0 million from the LDCF and SCCF. Initial progress suggests it has strong potential to effectively address unmet needs for climate change adaptation innovation. Through the call for proposals modality that

was open to any proponent regardless of whether they are a GEF Agency, the LDCF and SCCF have been successful in building new partnerships, unearthing innovative ideas, and catalyzing private sector investment in adaptation that would otherwise not have been possible through the traditional GEF programming model. Based on its success and potential, the Challenge Program is poised to be enhanced in its scope in GEF-8. It will also be replicated in the Small Grants Program of the GEF.

73. Agency engagement: The number of Agencies engaged in LDCF programming since the fund inception increased from nine Agencies to 12 in the GEF-7 period, with BOAD, CI, and WWF becoming active for the first time in the LDCF. All 12 Agencies were active with at least one project in the GEF-7 period, as shown in Table 2. For the SDCF, the number of Agencies engaged in programming since the fund inception increased from 12 to 13 in the GEF-7 period, with the addition of WWF. In part due to the limited resource availability in the SCCF, eight Agencies were active in GEF-7 programming primarily with MSPs. These Agencies include: ADB, CAF, CI, FAO, IFAD, UNEP, UNIDO, and WWF. The agency distribution in the GEF-7 period showed a well-balanced trend. The GEF Secretariat will continue to strive for a balanced portfolio of the LDCF/SCCF in the GEF-8 period, and monitor and report on Agency shares of the LDCF/SCCF portfolio that consider the aspirational targets for MDBs and ceiling for the GEF Trust Fund portfolio.

74. GEF-GCF coordination: The GEF-GCF coordination and cooperation developed significantly during the GEF-7 period. Work Programs included a number of projects that listed existing GCF projects as co-financing. One LDCF project was submitted for Council approval in June 2019 as a result of a joint GCF-GEF national workshop and consultations, informed by the GCF readiness support and contributing to the requested GCC investments. With the adoption of the LTV between the GEF and GCF at the June 2021 GEF Council, collaboration intensified with targeted discussions on the development of major initiatives and alignments on investments. In this final Work Program for the GEF-7 period, the GGW project by IFAD has been developed as a major initiative under the LTV, in close consultations with the GCF Secretariat and the Agency. This project may generate lessons learned on how the two institutions can collaborate to jointly support a large-scale program, with engagement at the strategic joint planning level and also at the operational level.

LDCF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

75. **Comoros**: *Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains* (GEF ID 10997); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$8,932,420; Co-financing: \$46,214,494. This LDCF project will enhance the climate resilience of key subsistence- and export-oriented agricultural and livestock value chains for Comoros, an LDC SIDS in the Indian Ocean. With its population almost entirely dependent on rainwater harvesting to secure freshwater, changes in climate have drastic impact on agriculture; seasonal climate change projections indicate a future decrease in dry-season rainfall, with decline already observed in recent years. Other aspects of climate change include changes in the temperature profile, crop sowing/growing seasons, pest and disease incidence among crops and livestock, humidity, and additional factors (e.g., extreme climate events) that may exert impact on agriculture and

livestock. The project will support a range of adaptation interventions and policy measures across value chains for vanilla, ylang-ylang, cloves, banana, cassava, sweet potato and other crops, as well as livestock; potential development of new climate-resilient value chains will also be explored. Institutional capacity will be built to integrate climate resilience across the value chains; agronomic approaches to enhance resilience will be applied at farm level; local supply of agricultural inputs and climate-resilient varieties will be made available; and financial products and other incentives will be developed and made available to smallholder farmers to apply climate-resilient practices. The project will also support development of trading platforms to connect traders with buyers in national and international markets, and the drawing up of agreements to ensure fair benefit-sharing among actors in climate-resilient value chains. It will deliver direct adaptation benefits to 91,188 people, enhance the climate resilient management of 7,568 hectares of land, mainstream climate resilience in eight policies or plans, and train 24,433 people about climate risk management. It will coordinate with a GCF project in Comoros that is focused on water supply and irrigation. COVID-19 risks and their mitigation have been discussed. The project contributes directly to green and resilient recovery.

76. **Global:** *Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)* (GEFID: 10961); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Project financing: \$10,000,000 LDCF; Co-financing: \$6,280,000. The project recognizes the growing opportunity for LDCs to catalyze the increasing recognition of nature-based solutions (NBS) within the International Development Association (IDA) process for climate change adaptation. Recently, a few LDCF projects have sought to leverage IDA resources as co-financing, highlighting the mutual relevance of, and potential for, the IDA and LDCF support to address the climate priorities of LDCs. For the first time for the LDCF, this project will consider the LDCF-IDA alignment at more strategic portfolio level for LDCs to better address climate, environment, and development aspirations. The project seeks to increase the efficiency of funding support through increased blending of official development assistance (ODA), vertical and private finance in NBS investments, and capacitate LDCs to consider opportunities to leverage the LDCF with IDA resources. It is directly targeting to shift at least 20 IDA 20 lending projects with an NBS element, leveraging at least \$200 million in resources. The project will aim to increase uptake of NBS for addressing climate resilience and adaptation challenges across the World Bank portfolio in the LDCs. It will support development of targeted knowledge, tools and operational support at national and city level to identify, prepare, implement, finance and monitor NBS for climate resilience purposes as stand-alone interventions or as part of wider investment, policy and analytical engagements. It will leverage World Bank's cross-sectoral Global Program on NBS for Climate Resilience (GPNBS). The project expects to benefit 4,500 persons (50 percent women) while training 400 people (50 percent women) on accessing and designing investments that incorporate NBS for climate adaptation. The project's focus on NBS will help LDCs realize multiple benefits from adaptation projects and enhance the synergistic opportunities that NBS offers to climate adaptation, mitigation, biodiversity, sustainable land management benefits, resulting in mainstreaming NBS in 20 national policy and regulatory frameworks, long-term planning processes and development pathways. The project aligns with green recovery agenda, as well as the IDA 20 target of the World Bank.

77. **Madagascar:** *Upscaling Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Madagascar's Coastal Zones* (GEF ID: 10939); GEF Agency: UNEP; GEF project financing: \$7,105,936 LDCF; Co-financing: \$21,142,450. This project will enhance the resilience of local communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems in four coastal regions of Madagascar to the adverse impacts of climate change. This will be achieved by strengthening institutional capacity, policy and legislative framework for ecosystem based adaptation in coastal zones of the target regions; enhancing ecosystem protection and rehabilitation by local authorities through improved community capacity and planning frameworks to plan and implement climate adaptation; diversifying income-generation and businesses to enhance communities' climate resilience; and strengthening awareness and knowledge of climate adaptation solutions to increase climate resilience across all of Madagascar's coastal zones. Innovation through this project will involve transferring the management natural resources to local coastal communities, partnerships with the private sector in the sustainable management of coastal ecosystems, and integration of customary rules with laws governing the use of natural resources. This project is expected to benefit 91,000 people (50 percent female), manage 5,000 hectares of land for climate resilience, mainstream 490 plans/policies for climate resilience, and train 1,060 people (50 percent female), as well as catalyze \$20.9 million in co-finance from five different sources.

78. **Niger:** *Strengthening the Resilience of Small Farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture Techniques in Tahoua Region* (GEF ID: 11004); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$8,932,420 LDCF; Co-financing: \$40,800,000. This project will reduce food insecurity for small farmers in the Tahoua region of Niger by strengthening their resilience to climate change using ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture and supporting the development of the private sector. This will be achieved by restoring degraded land to protect agricultural production systems against the adverse impacts of climate change; promoting climate-smart agriculture techniques to reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate; provide women- and youth-led local micro and small enterprises adaptive solutions to climate change with local banks and microfinance institutions sustainable facilities; as well as distil and share lessons learned on climate resilient agriculture and land restoration practices to inform projects in Niger and the African region. An innovative aspect of the project is how it will support small holder farmers in gaining access to inclusive micro-finance to enable them to transition to climate resilient practices. This project is complementary with the Great Green Wall Initiative in that it advances achievement of the three strategy axis of the Great Green Wall in Niger: (i) promoting the good governance of natural resources and local development with the involvement of local populations for their benefit; (ii) food security through valuation and sustainable management of agrosylvopastoral production systems, and (iii) knowledge management. The project is expected to benefit 49,000 people (60 percent female), manage 3,000 hectares of land for climate resilience, and (iii) train 7,000 people (60 percent female, as well as catalyze \$40.8 million in co-financing.

79. **Regional (Africa - Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sudan):** *Great Green Wall Climate Change Adaptation Regional Support Project* (GEF ID 11000); GEF Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: \$ 8,932,420; Co-financing: \$29,878,600. This regional project in Africa aims to catalyze transformational adaptation in Great Green Wall LDCs by creating an enabling environment for knowledge sharing,

institutional collaboration and scaling up innovative adaptation solutions. The project will be implemented in close collaboration with the GCF and will directly contribute to the operationalization of the Long-Term Vision of Complementarity of GEF and GCF as a major initiative. The project will be first of its kind regional adaptation focused project covering the Great Green Wall countries which will strengthen climate resilience, reduce land degradation, and support sustainable socio-economic growth aligned with the goals of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI). The LDCF funding will leverage co-financing from GCF and IFAD and will build on the past and future LDCF, GEF and GCF investments in the region to generate knowledge, draw lessons and mainstream climate change adaptation in development policies. It will support adaptation of 100,000 people, bring 17000 hectares of land under climate resilient management, and build capacity of 3,000 people in government, community and private sector organizations. The project will support creation of a knowledge platform which will foster collaboration and exchange of best practices between countries and agencies for scaling up adaptation action. To spur adaptation innovation, the project will focus on digital technology application across a range of adaptation interventions such as remote sensing for planning, access to finance and adaptation technology solutions. The project will also create an adaptation innovation fund to provide catalytic grants to projects by private sector, CSOs, government agencies and other actors. It will establish a mechanism to liaise with the existing regional collaboration mechanisms created by GEF, UNCCD and by countries. It will strengthen the GGW institutional ecosystem by specifically working with GEF Operational Focal Points, GCF National Designated Authorities, GGW National Focal Points and regional entities, GEF and GCF Agencies and other key country stakeholders. The emphasis on resilient agriculture and land management will also contribute to strengthening livelihoods and creating new green jobs thereby directly contributing to green recovery and building back better.

80. **Regional:** *Africa African Climate Risk Insurance Facility-Derisking Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa* (GEF ID 11008); GEF Agency: AfDB; GEF Project Financing: \$8,940,768; Co-financing: \$25,000,000. This project will establish the African Climate Risk Insurance Facility (ACRIF) to promote climate risk insurance as a viable instrument of improving climate risk management, strengthening climate adaptation, and addressing fragility on the African continent. This will be achieved by establishing a climate risk financing guarantee facility to enable participation of African LDCs in sovereign regional risk pool of the African Risk Capacity (ARC) program created by the African Union, combined with strengthening the expertise and understanding of public institutions and local insurance providers on climate risks, use of climate data, and design of climate related insurance products. This project will build on the Africa Disaster Risk Financing (ADRFi) Program. Innovative aspects of the project include advancing market-based instruments to provide climate disaster risk finance and insurance solutions, and building on successful experiences in Latin America to pool risks regionally. The project is expected to benefit 5,800,000 people (52 percent female), place 150,000 hectares under climate resilience, produce 15 policies/plans to mainstream climate resilience, and train 700 people (50 percent female), as well as catalyze \$25 million in co-financing.

81. **Regional (Pacific - Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu):** *Blue Pacific Finance Hub: Investing in Resilient Pacific SIDS Ecosystems and Economies* (GEF ID 10986); GEF Agency: ADB; GEF project financing: \$8,990,830; Co-financing: \$53,700,000. This project seeks to

contribute to creation of an impactful and innovative 'Blue Pacific Finance Hub' that will support climate-resilient and sustainable coastal and marine development in the Pacific SIDS. The Hub is envisioned to be a lever that can attract increases in public and private sector investments towards sustainable, resilient investments across the region, with a special focus on climate change adaptation in the LDCs, i.e., Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and Timor Leste. The project will also develop the enabling context in each country for the Hub to channel a large volume of suitable investments at the country level, including supporting access to other ocean-climate adaptation financing mechanisms. It will also develop and design investments, ensure a streamlined structure to ensure that projects meet the criteria for resilient and sustainable blue economy, match requested investments with donors, provide grant finance to appropriate investments and provide a platform for donor coordination. Among the four Pacific LDC SIDS, the Hub aims to deliver direct adaptation benefits to 382,107 people, improve the climate-resilient management of 50,700 ha of land, mainstream climate resilience in three policies, and train 150 people on climate risks and adaptation. Lessons and experiences will be shared with other LDC SIDS globally.

82. **Tuvalu:** *Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Improved Livelihood in Tuvalu* (GEF ID: 10926); GEF Agency: UNEP; GEF project financing: \$4,416,210; Co-financing: \$5,485,645. This LDCF project targets *pulaka*, a key staple crop and livelihood for communities of Tuvalu's remote atoll islands of Nanumea, Nanumaga, Niutao, Nui, Vaitupu, Nukufetau, Funafuti and Nukulaelae. Pulaka is a traditional crop that has immense subsistence and cultural significance for the communities, but is under threat from salt-water intrusion in the soil, which continued climate change and sea level rise are expected to exacerbate. The project will deliver a host of nature-based solutions to protect the shoreline, offer defense against flooding, and thwart saltwater incursion, as well as physically protect pulaka pits from saline soils through raised concrete beds and impermeable linings. It will also diversify crops with climate-resilient species, install drip irrigation, create groundwater recharge zones, and diversify livelihoods. The project will also support related policy measures, including promoting greater alignment of policies relating to nature-based solutions for adaptation, agriculture, and water with sustainability indicators. The project will deliver direct adaptation benefits to 4,200 people on these sparsely populated remote atoll islands, improve the climate resilient management of 230 hectares of land, mainstream climate resilience in four policies, and train 4,300 people. It will coordinate with a GCF project in Tuvalu focused on climate information.

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

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects										
in US \$										
<i>Climate Change</i>										
1	11008	African Climate Risk Insurance Facility-Derisking Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa	Regional (Africa)	AfDB	200,000	18,800	8,940,768	840,432	25,000,000	35,000,000
2	11004	Strengthening the resilience of small farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture (PRP-AIC) techniques in Tahoua Region	Niger	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	40,800,000	50,800,000
3	11000	Great Green Wall Climate Change Adaptation Regional Support Project	Regional (Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sudan)	IFAD	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	29,878,600	39,878,600
4	10997	Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of Comoros	Comoros	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	46,214,494	56,214,494
5	10986	Blue Pacific Finance Hub: Investing in Resilient Pacific SIDS Ecosystems and Economies	Regional (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu)	ADB	183,500	16,500	8,990,830	809,170	53,700,000	63,700,000
6	10961	Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	Global	World Bank	100,000	9,000	10,000,000	900,000	6,280,000	17,289,000

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects										
in US \$										
7	10939	Upscaling Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Madagascar's Coastal Zones	Madagascar	UNEP	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	21,142,450	29,142,450
8	10926	Ecosystem based adaptation for improved livelihood in Tuvalu	Tuvalu	UNEP	150,000	14,250	4,416,210	419,540	5,485,645	10,485,645
CCA-Sub-Total					1,433,500	134,550	66,251,004	6,189,946	228,501,189	302,510,189
GRAND TOTAL					1,433,500	134,550	66,251,004	6,189,946	228,501,189	302,510,189

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

TEMPLATE

Project ID:

Project Title:

Agency:

Country:

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

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

GEBs and/or climate adaptation and resilience benefits.

2. **Risk analysis:** Describe further how risks from COVID-19 have been analyzed and mitigation strategies incorporated into the design. Project documents are expected to include

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

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

Country: Comoros

Project ID: 10997

Project Title: Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of Comoros

Agency: UNDP

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

The PIF provides an overview of the current COVID-19 situation in Comoros, a summary of the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, and implications for the Comoros' agricultural sector and export commodities targeted by the project. In 2022, the Comoros conducted a study on the impact of COVID-19 on the socio-economic development of the Comoros; this work is used to inform the recovery and development of the country, in particular through the Emerging Comoros Plan (PCE), the flagship strategic framework for the country's development that the proposed LDCF intervention is closely aligned with. The project's baseline and adaptation benefits presented in the project are therefore based on information and data that consider the current COVID-19 situation.

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

The Agency will assess and update identified risks during the PPG, including those related to COVID-19 and new ones that could emerge as the pandemic evolves. At present, the adaptation solutions proposed by the project contribute directly to the country's economic recovery of communities affected by COVID-19, which constitute an effective mitigation measure for this risk. In addition, and based on adaptive project management measures put in place in the rest of the GEF portfolio during the pandemic, the project will make provisions for remote working arrangement, reduce in-person meeting and apply the necessary sanitary measures for in-person consultation with project stakeholders.

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

The increase in sustainable jobs, the improvement and diversification of local food focusing on quality and affordability (accessibility) of products for Comorian households, and diversifying and improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in the face of international supply while reducing its environmental footprint, will mitigate several of the COVID-19 impacts and will support the transition to a green economy and a green recovery. The post-pandemic analysis of the Emerging Comoros Plan (PCE) also identifies agriculture as one of the priority growth sectors in the post-pandemic context and the design of the GEF project will contribute to achieving most of the priority investment recommendations for the agricultural sector, namely: 1) creation of a company for the production and importation of agricultural seeds; 2) creation of model farms; 3) development of agro-pastoral irrigation infrastructure; 4) creation of enterprises for the processing and marketing of agro-food products; 5) establishment of agro-food certification processes.

Country: Global

Project ID: 10961

Project Title: Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Agency: World Bank

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

The agency has identified potential risks posed by COVID-19 to project preparation, implementation and the post COVID emergency situation, and has identified risk mitigation measures. Further, as the project aims to develop a strong pipeline of NBS- integrated investment supported by concessional and grant funding, a focus on blue and green recovery is integrated within it.

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

COVID-19 has affected all LDCs at both the national and the project level. At a national level, the social isolation measures and travel bans have heavily impacted economic activities and wellbeing of its citizens. The pandemic has exacerbated the sovereign debt burdens and pushed large section of the population back into poverty in LDCs.

At the project level, COVID-19 protocol measures and restrictions may reduce communication and impeded necessary mission and face to-face consultations. However, by the time that project becomes effective, it is hoped that vaccination campaigns would have reached beneficiaries. Where appropriate, including during the PPG phase, virtual or small working group meetings will be employed. The project is expected to work through existing WB teams working in-country with established connections with LDC governments, and through other partners with strong in-country presence, reducing the need for international travels.

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

It is evident that addressing societal challenges in a post-COVID-19 context will have to include a focus on multifaceted solutions. Therefore, this project will allow for LDCs to capitalize on the synergistic alignment of climate, nature and development funding streams. Through increased evidence on the cost-benefit effectiveness of NBS for addressing climate adaptation challenges, and increased understanding and support for nature-based approaches, the project will not only help rebuilding economies and create jobs, but also accelerate the transition to climate resilient, nature-smart and low-carbon societies. The project will seek to:

- A. Facilitate LDC governments to prioritize and develop a greater number of NBS pipeline projects, including IDA 20 lending projects that encompass NBS actions
- B. Provide a supportive enabling environment that further facilitates the uptake of NBS and supports improved implementation of NBS interventions through strengthened institutional governance and policy coherence across sectors
- C. Explore new financing for NBS that reflect LDC contexts and provide an increased diversity of feasible funding options including financing for longer-term sustainability after initial project investment.

Country: Madagascar

Project ID: GEF ID 10939

Project Title: Upscaling Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Madagascar's Coastal Zones

Agency: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

In Madagascar, from 3 January 2020 to 1 April 2022, there had been 64,009 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 1,384 deaths, reported to WHO. According to the World Bank, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in: a) a recession in 2020 comparable to that of the 2009 political crisis and the reversal of close to a decade of progress in poverty reduction; and b) 1.38 million people being pushed into extreme poverty due to job losses in key manufacturing and service sectors, as well as the sudden loss of income for informal workers affected by lockdowns in major cities. In addition, climate change caused in 2020-2021 the worst droughts the country has experienced in four decades, according to the World Food Programme, and compounded by the COVID-19 crisis pushed 1.14 million people to the edge of starvation. The year 2020 has seen even higher rates of migration, linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a problem for the proposed project intervention areas, as some populations migrate to other areas (including Menabe and Boeny), where they practice slash-and-burn agriculture that is fueling deforestation, triggering user conflicts, and further endangering endemic wildlife. Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing has also spiked with the onset of the COVID-19 crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic has put disproportionate pressure on women and girls who are often the main actors in the informal sector, and work in small production units (e.g., transformation of fish) that barely cover basic family needs with few or no social safety nets.

The project will support economic resilience, health, and recovery efforts in Madagascar, while simultaneously addressing climate change adaptation priorities.

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

Restrictions related to the COVID-19 may limit access to project sites, reduce economic opportunities and limit market access, and exacerbate social inequalities, leading to delays in implementation and failure of new businesses.

Contingency plans will be put in place as and when necessary, and the project will plan and budget for mitigation measures, such as social distancing and support for IT solutions and remote access/communication. In the PPG phase, the COVID-related risks to the project will be analysed in more detail, and specific mitigation measures will be identified.

To minimize impacts of possible COVID-19 surges during the PPG phase, and specifically to mitigate the impact of restrictions on congregation of people affecting the organization of consultations, UNEP will draw on its previous experiences from PPG phases conducted during the pandemic. Planned arrangements include (i) meetings and workshops organized outdoors, with appropriate social distancing and hygiene measures; (ii) meetings and workshops organized in smaller groups (with fewer participants); and (iii) physical meetings replaced or complemented (as necessary) by virtual meetings and consultations, organized through a variety of user-friendly platforms (with provision of equipment, internet access and training, as needed). To mitigate the impact of national and/or international travel restrictions, virtual consultations can be organized. In case of international travel restrictions, national consultant teams will be strengthened and their work guided remotely by international consultants.

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

The project will contribute to green recovery and building back better by supporting climate-resilient cooperative enterprises which diversify livelihoods and increase household income, while simultaneously providing environmental and adaptation benefits. In particular, the project will work towards improving the financial inclusion of those smaller businesses, in line with the country's priorities as outlined in the Madagascar's latest country development vision, the *Plan Emergence Madagascar*, which features a strong focus on private sector development, entrepreneurship, and improving competitiveness in global value chains, and aligned with the recommendations of the IFC 2022 Madagascar Country Private Sector Diagnostic (CPSD) report.

The project proposes to reduce the vulnerability of women in the coastal zone of Madagascar to the adverse impacts of climate change by improving governance and leadership, and increasing economic capacity. Through its interventions, it is also expected that the project will bring co-benefits for the increased resilience of women to unexpected shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Country: Niger

Project ID: 11004

Project Title: Strengthening the resilience of small farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture (PRP-AIC) techniques in Tahoua Region

Agency: UNDP

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

The impacts of COVID-19 for project implementation have been mainly related to travel restrictions, gathering restrictions and the import of equipment due to disruptions in supply chains. The engagement of local partners, the introduction on cash-for-work activities using local workforce and the recruitment of local expert, supported remotely by more experienced international consultants are some of the strategies implemented to address the risks linked with the pandemic. In Niger, because of the security context in multiple regions, UNDP and partners already had experience in facing travel restrictions and limited access to project areas, and these practices were implemented before the pandemic, providing important lessons learned.

More details on the pandemic and the risk of future pandemic are addressed in the risk section of the project. The background on the impacts of COVID-19 in Niger and the participation to the barriers to adaptation is also provided in the background section. Annex G also provides specific data on COVID-19 impacts.

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

In case COVID-19 poses new restrictions and impacts the project development process, the Agency will work with partners in the field to collect data and conduct consultations in Tahoua. The Agency and Executing Partner have a wide network of partners in the different regions of Niger, including Tahoua and can rely on the presence of their agents and the deconcentrated state services to support in the design of the project in case travel restrictions are in place. Safety measures will also be implemented in the case of in-person consultations. With regards to potential restrictions for international travels from the PPG team leader (international consultant), a national lead consultant will be recruited to coordinate consultations and the team of national experts, under the supervision of and through regular engagement with the team leader.

During the implementation, as described in the risk table, mitigation measures are planned as follows: “The project team will be based in Tahoua to reduce the impacts linked with travel restrictions and most of the works will be conducted by local workforce. In case a pandemic impacts Tahoua and the remote targeted areas, protective equipment will be distributed and used.”

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

During COVID-19, UNDP and other partners could explore new M&E strategies, relying on national partners and/or digital technologies. The use of digital tools can also give the opportunity for a larger range of stakeholders to remain informed about the progress. For example, the adoption of beneficiary-informed M&E tools, with the distribution of smartphones to local focal points, and the sharing on a digital platform, which is accessible to the project team, UNDP, local and national partners, could increase the transparency of the project. Options for different M&E measures will be explored during the PPG phase.

UNDP has also been increasingly conducting online meetings, consultations, etc., reducing the carbon footprint of missions and the costs of these activities. The effectiveness of online meetings and consultations were however limited in Africa, due to internet connectivity issues and resistance from some partners to hold meetings online. In-person interactions are recognized to significantly improve cooperation and collaboration, and enable more thorough discussions, thereby leading to the earlier identification of challenges and innovative ideas. Nevertheless, the different stakeholders are now more inclined to be engaged online (including project teams and government officials) and more regular consultations are now facilitated.

Furthermore, the introduction of remote participation in most of the meetings and workshops during the pandemic has enabled the involvement of a larger range of stakeholders than in the past. Participants can now be engaged online when they are not able to travel, but whose participation is critical for the event.

Country: Regional (Africa)

Project ID: 11008

Project Title: African Climate Risk Insurance Facility-De-risking Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa

Agency: African Development Bank Group

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

The project recognizes the impact of covid-19 to the economies of regional member states, and how the pandemic has put pressure on all sectors of the economy as well as social sectors. Given the growing climate-related disasters while covid-19 still not fully contained, governments in the region are faced with significant pressure to prioritize ex-ante climate risk management measures. The project is filling this gap but supporting premium payment to the regional risk pool and the guarantee facility which will support African countries that have pressing needs to meet deadlines. Populations that are at the risk of exposure from climate risk will be covered with insurance, and governments' pressure on supporting affected populations will be lessened. Livelihoods will be safeguarded, and timely liquidity will secure populations affected by rapid onset crises like tropical cyclones and floods. Through implementation of adaptation measures in output 3, populations will become more resilient, and covid-19 preventive measures and awareness campaigns will be embedded in implementation of all actions that involve in person meetings and areas with potential for transmission. Where appropriate, virtual meeting modalities will be utilized.

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

The project has identified covid-19 as one of the potential risks for the project and has further recognized the need to mainstream preventive measures during implementation. The project recognizes that outcomes that require meetings and missions, will utilize virtual options where practicable and appropriate. The project will further influence covid-19 preventive measures in contingency planning as well as implementation plans of recovery following payouts. Implementation of adaptation interventions will prepare all partners on the ground to follow minimum covid-19 preventive measures, including mandatory use of face masks where people are meeting, use of hand sanitizers, and social distancing. The project will pay attention to additional preventive measures and will keep adapting as appropriate.

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

This project will help African LDCs, who have pressure to prioritize prevention of climate related impacts together with other pressing needs for managing their economies. The project will enhance implementation of ex-ante risk management measures, where populations at risk of exposure to climate related impacts will be supported with insurance coverage from both rapid onset and slow onset risks, including related to drought. Vulnerable populations will be empowered through this project to remain food secure, to have shelter and dignity in cases of extreme weather events. Enabling investment in adaptation measures that reinvest back in the biophysical environment will facilitate enhancement of global environmental benefits. For populations that experience displacement, the project will support structural mitigation measures with nature-based solutions, which will in the long run enhance carbon sinks, and recovery from crises will invest in green recovery and resilient reconstruction. Sharing of climate risks through the sovereign risk pool will further facilitate a culture of facilitating roll-out of market-based instruments for managing climate crises, and this will in the long run help such vulnerable countries to own their climate risk management, and evidence of return on investment through payouts will reduce the pressure on budgets for recovery and potential pressure from covid-19 will be reduced.

Country: Regional (Africa: Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sudan)

Project ID: 11000

Project Title: Great Green Wall Climate Change Adaptation Regional Support Project

Agency: IFAD

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

All countries are affected by COVID-19 in the GGW region and have put into place some specific measures to address the impacts of the pandemic. The project will comply with the measures in general operation. More specifically, capacity development and production of knowledge management materials will be conducted in small groups or through virtually connected teams to reduce COVID-19 infection risks. Digital knowledge platforms will facilitate interactions among project partners.

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

The project has factored in COVID-19 across the project design including in the project context where it highlights the impact of COVID-19 across key sectors such as agriculture and food security and broader impact on the regional economy. It has also identified operational risks in the project delivery and opportunities to support green and resilient economic growth in the region with a focus on innovative adaptation solutions and acceleration of digital technology application in the region.

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

With a focus on strengthening agriculture and land productivity and supporting innovative adaptation solutions of small and medium size enterprises, the project will strengthen livelihoods of smallholder farmers, create new jobs and strengthen local economies in the countries of the GGW region. The project will also support acceleration of digital technology application across different adaptation solutions and strengthening a digital marketplace for private sector engagement. This will not only enhance the effectiveness of the project but also reduce travel and thereby spread if potential infection. The regional knowledge platform to be created under the program will also provide an opportunity to spread awareness about the risks related to the pandemic and improve knowledge on best practices of green recovery. Finally, through the dedicated adaptation grants, the project will have the opportunity to support innovative adaptation projects which also contribute to green and resilient recovery at the local level.

Country: Regional (Pacific: Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu)
Project ID: 10986
Project Title: Blue Pacific Finance Hub: Investing in Resilient Pacific SIDS Ecosystems and Economies
Agency: Asian Development Bank

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

The agency has identified potential risks posed by COVID-19 to project preparation and implementation, and has identified risk mitigation measures as discussed in the next section. Further, as the project aims to create a financing hub for projects focused on sustainability and resilience, a focus on blue and green recovery is integrated within it.

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

COVID-19 has affected Pacific SIDS at both the national and the project level. At a national level, the complete drop in exchange and contact with other countries meant nations could not stave off many of the pandemic's economic impacts, and many countries have had to, at least temporarily, restructure their economies. Government revenue has temporarily decreased significantly, and the need for increased economic security (including food and water security) has been demonstrated. Many islands now experiencing their first COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic has exacerbated the sovereign debt burdens of Pacific countries, meaning many are not willing to take on new debts at this time, while urgent ocean-climate projects remain unfunded. Increased investments are required from both the public and private sectors, but barriers remain.

At the project level, COVID-19 protocol measures and restrictions may limit travel and meeting opportunities. However, this effect is starting to slowly diminish and is expected to continue falling reduced over time, as most countries continue the roll-out of vaccinations. Where appropriate, including during the PPG phase, online and Zoom interactions will be employed. Project preparation efforts can be a mix of virtual meetings, emails and calls. ADB sub-regional office, resident missions and country offices and ongoing projects can support activities. There is also a risk that COVID-19-related delays may result in changes to baseline and reduce co-finance; the agency will monitor this situation.

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

As the region pulls out of the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, there is shared determination to 'build back better' and to ensure any economic restructuring integrates sustainability, ocean protection, climate resilience and economic security. This is seen by many as a unique opportunity for shifting the Pacific marine and coastal communities and economies onto a resilient, sustainable pathway. Mechanisms the project will seek to achieve this include:

- Incorporating sustainable blue economies (SBE) and climate change at the heart of all post-covid economic recovery plans and programs;
- Accessing all funds available towards post-Covid economic and ensuring SBE and climate change are integrated;
- Putting additional emphasis on the local economy, on the circular economy, on regenerative economic activities, on food security – all of which ensure a greater resilience to future pandemics and which contribute to climate resilience and SBE;
- Specifically, the hub will identify and generate investments which contribute to SBE, and to climate and pandemic resilience; and
- It is anticipated that the hub will have an investment line on SBE and post-covid economic recovery – to ensure that optimal support is given to participating countries.

Country: Tuvalu

Project ID: 10926

Project Title: Ecosystem based adaptation for improved livelihood in Tuvalu

Agency: UNEP

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

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

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

In Tuvalu, from 3 January 2020 to 6:00pm CEST, 12 May 2022, there have been 0 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 0 deaths, reported to WHO. As of 4 April 2022, a total of 12,528 vaccine doses have been administered in a population of est. 11,700. With Tuvalu being highly-dependent on food importation to ensure food security, the global impacts of Covid-19 — such as the restrictions on movement and trade — highlighted the country’s vulnerability to external health and economic shocks. Therefore, there is an urgent need to support and promote climate-resilient food production and enable food self-sufficiency in the country, which this project does.

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

National or regional restrictions to entry to consultants and equipment and materials resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic may result in project delays. To mitigate this risk, a Covid-19 Strategy will be developed during the PPG stage that outlines contingencies and safety protocols to mitigate against Covid-19 during project implementation. The Agency will make provisions in the project workplan to do its best so the project remains on schedule.

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

The project focuses on increasing the climate-resilience of a staple food crop in the country. Most of the population are subsistence farmers that participate in livestock production, including pigs, free-range chickens and ducks at the household level. One of the most predominant forms of subsistence crop agriculture in the country involves the traditional practice of growing pulaka. As one of the main impacts on Tuvalu has been on food imports, this project will strengthen food security as well as climate resilience.

Tuvaluan women are traditionally responsible for the family's food security and production, often growing crops in homestead gardens, rearing small livestock, producing handicrafts. Key interventions that simultaneously address gender equality and Covid-19 include: i) the development of gender mainstreaming guidelines to address the intersection between gender, environmental management and the effects of Covid-19 during project implementation; ii) addressing increasing inequalities and protecting environmental conservation during and after the crisis; iii) the collection of sex-disaggregated data and inclusion of gender analytical data to support the delivery of policy responses; and iv) the development of integrated gender responsive environment and health methodologies, tools and policies aimed at enhancing sound conservation practices and ecosystem management and restoration.

Annex C: List of LDCF/SCCF MSPs Approved and Under Review (November 2021 to June 2022)

No.	ID	Country, Title, and Agency	LDCF Grant Including Fees and PPG	SCCF Grant Including Fees and PPG	Total co-financing	Status
<i>MSP PIFs under review or CEO approved since November 2021, excluding the Challenge Program PIFs</i>						
1	10908	Madagascar: Building adaptation and resilience to climate change in the essential oil sector (UNIDO)	\$2,000,000	--	\$4,837,750	CEO Approved on March 29, 2022
2	10994	Global: Strengthening engagement and action by the Least Developed Countries Group on climate change (UNIDO)	\$2,000,000	--	\$1,440,540	Under review
3	11010	Guinea-Bissau: Building smallholder farmers resilience through climate smart agriculture techniques in Oio and Cacheu north regions (BOAD)	\$2,000,000	--	\$9,000,000	Under review
<i>Challenge Program PIFs under review or CEO approved since November 2021</i>						
1	10927	Regional (Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda): Acceleration of financial technology-enabled climate resilience solutions (UNIDO)	\$416,401	\$556,598	\$8,800,000	Under review
2	10929	Regional (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam): Public-Private Blended Finance Facility for Climate-Resilient Rice Landscapes (FAO)	\$850,000	\$300,000	\$3,500,000	CEO Approved on April 27, 2022
3	10933	Global: Net-Zero Adaptation Finance (FAO)	\$950,000	--	\$4,935,000	CEO Approved on April 29, 2022
4	10934	Regional (Guatemala, Honduras): Building climate resilience in supply chains for the mobilization of adaptation funding (CI)	--	\$1,000,000	\$8,831,011	Under review

No.	ID	Country, Title, and Agency	LDCF Grant Including Fees and PPG	SCCF Grant Including Fees and PPG	Total co-financing	Status
5	10935	Global (Antigua and Barbuda, Egypt, Uganda): Introducing systemic climate resilience methodologies in infrastructure investment planning (UNIDO)	\$338,000	\$961,999	\$8,333,375	Under review
6	10954	Regional (Uganda, Zambia): Scaling Financial and Information Services for Smallholder Adaptation (FAO)	\$1,200,000	--	\$9,393,823	Under review
7	10965	Regional (Ethiopia, Rwanda): SMARTFARM - A data and digital technology driven and farm management solution for climate resilience (IFAD)	\$1,046,000	--	\$3,650,000	Under review
8	10974	Global: A private investment facility for nature-based coastal climate resilience (UNIDO)	\$1,044,593	--	\$31,703,000	Under review
9	11001	Regional (Benin, Senegal, Zambia): Investment Framework for Increasing Climate Change Adaptation Finance for Smallholders and Rural Communities (IFAD)	\$440,000	--	\$4,454,800	Under review
10	11002	Global (Colombia, Morocco, Senegal): Certification of Climate Change Adaptation Portfolios of Inclusive Financial Service Providers for Scaling up Adaptation Finance for Smallholder Farmers (IFAD)	\$360,000	\$540,000	\$4,730,000	Under review

Annex D: List of LDCF Projects with Major Amendment Submitted to Council Approval by Mail (November 2021 to June 2022)

No.	ID	Country, Title, and Agency	Original LDCF Grant Including Fees and PPG	Amended LDCF Grant Including Fees and PPG	Total co-financing	Status
1	10186	Zambia: Climate Change Adaptation in Forest and Agricultural Mosaic Landscapes (FAO)	\$7,905,572	\$10,000,000	\$33,021,000	Circulated to Council on May 4, 2022
2	10727	Nepal: Managing Watersheds for Enhanced Resilience of Communities to Climate Change in Nepal (WWF)	\$4,999,013	\$10,000,000	\$25,852,350	Circulated to Council on May 18, 2022