



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

GEF/C.63/04
October 31, 2022

63rd GEF Council Meeting
November 28 - December 2, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Agenda Item 04

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR GEF TRUST FUND**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having reviewed document GEF/C63/04, *Work Program for GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 8 projects, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by January 6, 2023.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$64.7 million which include 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 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 4-week review period.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Work Program Preparation and the Pipeline of Projects	1
Trends in GEF Resources Requested for the Work Program	2
Status on the Use of GEF-8 Resources.....	4
Distribution of GEF Project Financing by Region	6
Distribution of Resources by Agency	6
Outcome Targets for the Work Program	8
Work Program Description	10
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects	10
Biodiversity	10
Chemicals and Waste.....	10
International Waters.....	12
Multi-focal Area Project.....	12
Non-Expedited Enabling Activities.....	13
Summary of Stand-Alone PIFs in the December 2022 Work Program	15
Annex A: Project and Program Proposals Submitted for GEF Council Approval Under the GEF Trust Fund	16
Annex B. COVID-19 Screens for Projects Included in the Work Program.....	18

INTRODUCTION

1. The recommended Work Program requests a total of \$59.2 million from the GEF trust fund and \$5.5 million in associated Agency fees for a total Work Program of \$64.7 million. It contains an indicative \$284.8 million in co-financing, meaning that each dollar provided by the GEF is matched by \$4.8 in co-financing provided by other sources
2. The first Work Program in GEF-8 includes all projects submitted to the GEF Secretariat and that were technically cleared by work program deadlines.
3. If approved, a total of \$35.8 million from the Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change (CC), and Land Degradation (LD) Focal Areas will be programmed in this Work Program. In addition, the Work Program includes a request of \$8.0 million from the International Waters (IW) and \$20.8 million from the Chemicals and Waste focal areas. If the Work Program is approved as submitted, 37 recipient countries will benefit from GEF support across the globe, including 9 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 12 SIDS.
4. The proposed Work Program contains 8 projects consistent with the GEF-8 Programming Directions framework. The Work Program although modest in size spans all five focal areas and the projects covers a diverse set of themes ranging from promoting good agroforestry practices in Brazil, to improving the understanding of the mercury trade in Latin America, to improving the international governance of the shared marine ecosystem in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Eden. The Work Program also contains an Enabling Activity aimed at supporting countries in developing biodiversity finance plans to be ready to implement the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
5. This cover note outlines important aspects of the proposed Work Program, including initial programming trends in the GEF resources relative to focal area strategies and objectives, distribution by regions and GEF Agencies, and highlights of innovative elements inherent in the projects. The Council is requested to review and approve the Work Program for the total resources requested (see Annex A for the financial details of the PIFs).

WORK PROGRAM PREPARATION AND THE PIPELINE OF PROJECTS

6. At the deadline for project submission for the December 2022 Work Program, the first in the GEF-8 cycle, 9 projects were considered eligible¹ for review and consideration.

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

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

Project Type	PIFs and PFDs in the Portal by review deadline ²	Technically cleared and included in the WP # (%)	Technically cleared and not included in the WP # (%)	Rejected # (%)	Not ready for technical clearance # (%)
PIF	9	8 (89%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (11%)
PFD	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NGI	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

7. Close to 90% (8 PIFs) of the 9 eligible projects were technically cleared by the review deadline and were included in the Work Program. Only one project could not be cleared and was not ready for inclusion at the time of Work Program composition due to incomplete documentation.

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

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

TRENDS IN GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

8. The total \$64.7 million of GEF resources requested is drawn from all five focal area envelopes (Table3).

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

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

Focal Area	Resources Requested (\$ millions)		
	GEF Project Financing ³	Agency Fees ⁴	Total GEF Resources Requested in this Work Program
Biodiversity	27.5	2.5	30.0
Climate Change	1.1	0.1	1.1
International Waters	7.3	0.7	8.0
Land Degradation	4.3	0.4	4.7
Chemicals and Waste	19.0	1.8	20.8
Small Grants Program	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	59.2	5.5	64.7

9. The programs and projects in this Work Program cover a wide range of innovations to deliver global environmental benefits through the GEF-8 strategies.

- (a) The Biodiversity focal area resources amount to \$30.0 million, programmed in one single focal area projects, two multi-focal area projects, and in one Enabling Activity. The single focal area project will support the Government of Yemen to integrate biodiversity conservation concerns in the UN-brokered salvage plan for the oil tanker FSO Safer, so that globally significant marine and coastal biodiversity, as well as fisheries-dependent livelihoods of potentially affected communities, are protected.
- (b) Climate Change Mitigation is represented by one multi-focal area project and uses \$1.1 million of the focal area resources. The project has the objective to strengthen community engagement and improve the management of forests, pastures, wetlands and protected areas in selected locations in Armenia.
- (c) The Land Degradation focal area is represented by two multi-focal area projects for a total of \$4.7 million. Of note, the project in Brazil will stimulate Cocoa producers through a targeted set of policies and incentives to improve their *cabruca* management systems that are recognized as contributing to the integrity of Atlantic Forest fragments and playing an essential role in conserving the biome.
- (d) The International Waters focal area utilizes \$8.0 million and is represented by one single focal area project. This project will support the improvement of the international governance of the shared marine ecosystem in the Red Sea and the Guld of Aden.

³ Project financing excludes PPG funding.

⁴ Agency fees are calculated at 9.5% or 9% of the GEF Project Financing for projects requesting up to \$10 million or above \$10 million, respectively. Agency Fees also includes fees associated with PPG.

- (e) The Chemicals and Waste focal area is programming \$20.8 million of the focal area resources into 3 single focal area projects. Of note, one project will reduce the use of POPs in plastics-containing products and uPOPs generation by applying circular economy approaches through the development of strategies targeting plastics containing POPs in Africa.

STATUS ON THE USE OF GEF-8 RESOURCES

10. The Work Program provides for an initial programming of resources relative to GEF-8 allocations (Table 4 and Figure 1).

Table 4. Resources⁵ Programmed under GEF-8 by Focal Area

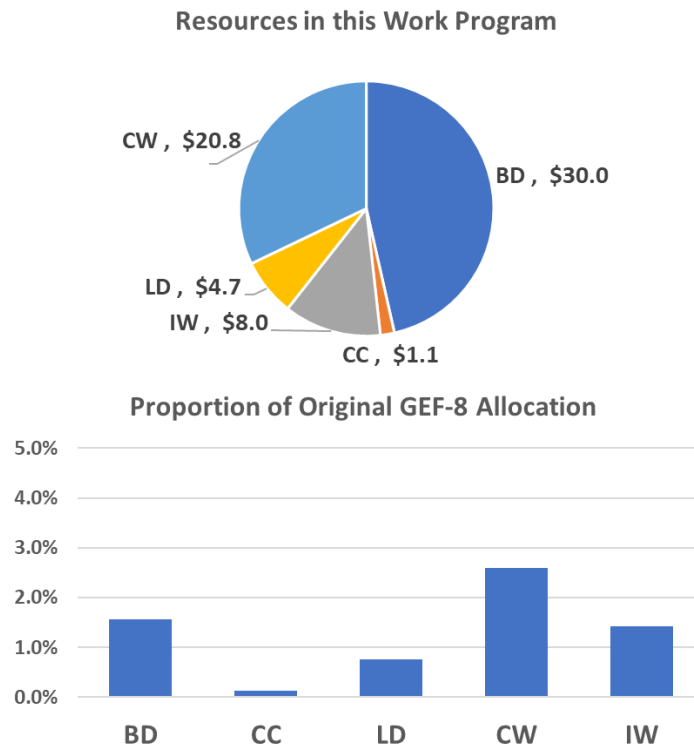
GEF-8 Focal Area/ Theme	Target Allocations in GEF-8 Amount (\$ million)	Resources Requested for December 2022 Work Program Including Fees (\$ million)	Total GEF-8 Resources Programmed (including December 2022 Work Program) Including Fees (\$ million)	Percent of Original Focal Area Target Allocation in GEF-8
Biodiversity	1,919	30.1	30.1	1.6%
Climate Change	852	1.1	1.1	0.1%
Land Degradation	618	4.7	4.7	0.8%
Chemicals and Waste	800	20.8	20.8	2.6%
International Waters	565	8.0	8.0	1.4%
Non-Grant Instrument Program	195	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Small Grant Program	155	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Innovations Window	12	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Total Resources Programmed⁶	5,116	64.7	64.7	1.3%

⁵ Funds for MFA projects/programs in this table were charged to the different focal areas based on their respective allocations in the project/program documents. Hence, there is no line item for MFAs in this table.

⁶ The targeted allocations in GEF-8 in this table exclude the Country Engagement Strategy (\$28 million), and the Corporate Budget (\$187.0 million) which were all part of the total GEF-8 replenishment of \$5.330 billion.

11. While this Work Program is modest in the total use of GEF-8 resources (1.3% of total GEF-8 funding), this is not unexpected. The first work program of a new cycle has historically been modest in size. Several factors contribute to this. The availability of funding in a cycle usually starts slow and grows over time. Countries are also initiating their internal planning process to prioritize GEF investments, and this takes time. We have also initiated a comprehensive roll-out of GEF-8 that focuses on the Integrated Programs, and countries are considering whether to participate in IPs or not. All this points to the fact that we expect the next work programs to be very significant and contain many IPs as well as large numbers of stand-alone project.

Figure 1. Resources Programmed under GEF-8 by Focal Area in the December 2022 Work Program (top, in million \$) and % of Focal Area Resources Programmed to Date Against GEF-8 Allocations

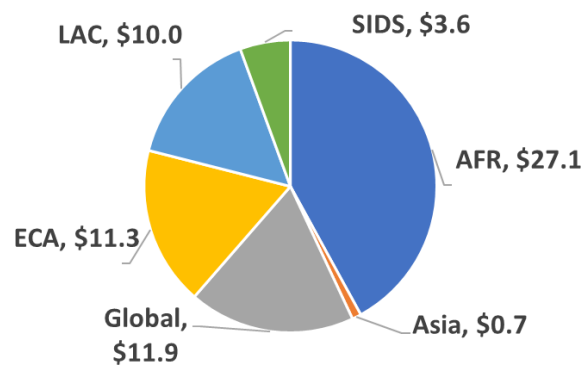


12. Three recipient countries requested a total amount of \$15.5 million from their respective country STAR allocations for projects and programs addressing objectives of the Biodiversity, Climate Change Mitigation and Land Degradation focal areas.

DISTRIBUTION OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION

13. The regional distribution of GEF financing in this proposed Work Program is shown in Figure 2. In all, 37 recipient countries will benefit from this Work Program, including 9 LDCs and 12 SIDS. Africa is the region that has programmed the highest level of resources, followed by Eastern and Central Asia and Latin America. Finally, the SIDS region has programmed \$3.6 million from this Work Program. Of note, very little resources have been programmed in Asia and as many National Dialogues are being planned in 2023 in Asia countries, we anticipate many projects will be submitted in the coming months and can be considered in the next Work Programs.

Figure 2. Distribution of GEF Project Financing in the December 2022 Work Program by Region (\$ millions)



DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY AGENCY

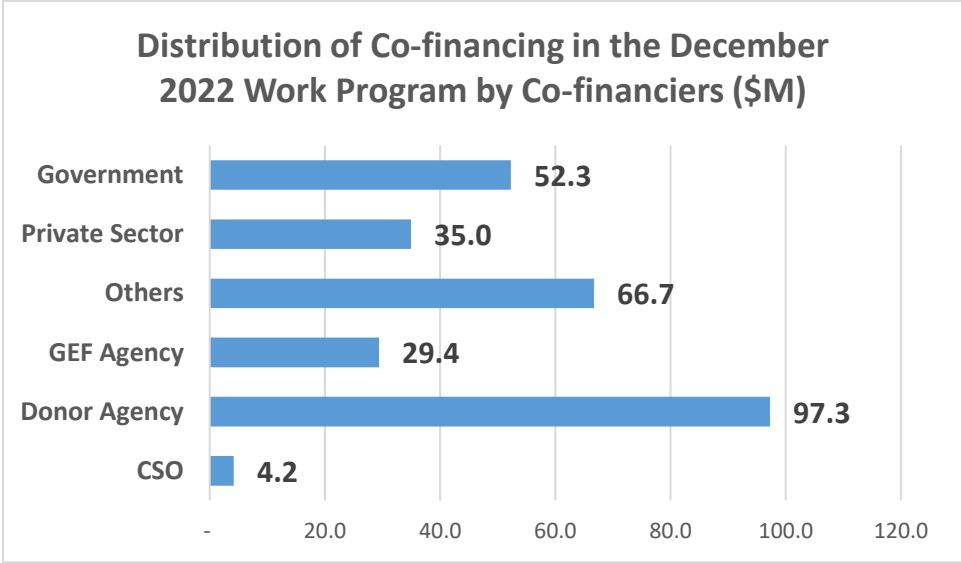
14. Four of the 18 GEF Agencies are represented in the December 2022 Work Program (table 5). UNEP has the highest amount with close to \$29 million of the Work Program resources (44.5% of total Work Program resources) while UNDP has a slightly smaller amount \$24.8 million or slightly over 38% of the total resources. Finally, the World Bank and FAO have moderate shares of the Work Program resources with \$6.0 and \$5.2 million respectively.

Table 5. Amount of GEF Resources by Agency in the December 2022 Work Program and in GEF-8 to Date (including December 2022 Work Program)

Agency	Resources Requested in December 2022 Work Program Including Fees		Total GEF-8 Resources Inclusive of December 2022 Including Fees	
	\$ millions	% of resources	\$ millions	% of resources
ADB	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
AfDB	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
BOAD	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
CAF	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
CI	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
DBSA	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
EBRD	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
FAO	5.2	8.0%	5.2	8.0%
FECO	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Funbio	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
IADB	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
IFAD	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
IUCN	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
UNDP	24.8	38.2%	24.8	38.3%
UNEP	28.8	44.5%	28.8	44.5%
UNIDO	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
World Bank	6.0	9.2%	6.0	9.2%
WWF-US	-	0.0%	-	0.0%
Totals	64.7	100.0%	64.7	100.0%

15. The Work Program totals \$285 million of expected co-financing, or a ratio of 1:4.8. If we look at the type of co-financing, the “investment mobilized” co-financing category represents \$193 million (68%) of the total co-financing. Overall co-financing ratio of “investment mobilized” is 1:3.0 calculated for all 8 projects in Work Program. The Enabling Activity project has different co-financing expectations and since it represents over 31% of this Work Program, we can expect the co-financing ratio to increase in future Work Programs. The distribution by co-financier shows most co-financing coming from GEF agencies, governments, and the private sector (Figure 3).

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



OUTCOME TARGETS FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

16. The GEF-8 Results associated with this Work Program are commensurate with the level of resources being programmed (Table 6). Nonetheless, 9 of the 10 core indicators are benefitted from this Work Program with modest delivery on the GEF-8 targets as well as assist a large number of beneficiaries. Excluding the Enabling Activity project, six (86%) of the seven projects that were included in this work program confirmed that they have addressed gender equality as per GEF Gender Equality Policy and clearly articulated gender perspectives in the project description. The project that did not address gender equality as per GEF Policy explained that the gender aspects cannot be determined during the project design stage. A detailed analysis and action plan on gender mainstreaming will be carried out during the project preparation phase. Of the six projects that confirmed compliance with GEF Policy, three projects reflected gender perspectives extensively in the project description and included gender equality and women’s empowerment in most of the project components, while the other three projects will include a comprehensive gender analysis during the project preparation phase. One project included gender perspective in its theory of change and one underlined that lessons learned from closed project will inform the project’s gender mainstreaming approach.

Table 6. Contribution of the Proposed November 2022 Work Program to GEF-8 Core Indicator targets

CORE INDICATOR (CI)	GEF-8 TARGETS	WORK PROG. CONTRIBUTION	SHARE OF TARGETS
CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY			
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	150	0.1	0.1%
Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	100	4.5	4.5%
Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha)*	195	0.1	0.1%
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million ha)	70	10.6	15.1%
People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)	Monitored	2.2	..
- of whom women	Monitored	1.1	..
SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND			
Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)	10	0.02	0.2%
People benefitting from sustainable land management and restoration investments (thousand)	Monitored	44.0	..
- of whom women	Monitored	22.2	..
REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS			
Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO2e)	1,850	5.3	0.3%
People benefitting from climate change mitigation support (thousand)	Monitored	42.5	..
- of whom women	Monitored	21.4	..
STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT			
Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	40	1	2.5%
Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)	2.1	0	0.0%
People benefitting from transboundary water management (thousand)	Monitored	11.0	..
- of whom women	Monitored	5.0	..
REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE			
Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)	300	0.2	0.1%
Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)	5,900	29.5	0.5%
People benefitting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals (thousand)	Monitored	15.0	..
- of whom women	Monitored	5.2	..

* This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million hectares for its sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' shared with the grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' under the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework. To date, 0.06 million hectares of this sub-indicator is from the proposed work program contribution.

WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

17. **Yemen. *Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safer Salvage Operation in the Red Sea* (GEF ID: 11056). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$4,016,210; Co-financing: \$77,000,000.** The Floating Storage and Offloading (FSO) vessel "Safer" containing an estimated 1.148 million barrels of light crude oil is moored approximately 8 km off the coast of Yemen and 50 km northeast off the port of Hodeida. Safer's age and lack of maintenance have deteriorated its structural integrity putting it at risk of spilling oil due to leakages, an explosion from the accumulation of volatile explosion gases, or a strike from a floating sea mine, which would unleash a humanitarian and ecological catastrophe along Yemen's Red Sea coastline and towards its neighboring countries. Recovery from a potential oil spill could take up to 3 years and potentially cost USD 20 billion and life below water could require 25 years to recover. The Government of Yemen aims to prevent a catastrophic oil spill occurring in the Red Sea and its potentially disastrous impacts. This will be achieved by mobilizing salvage assets including a Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) and installation of a Catenary Anchor Leg Mooring (CALM) Buoy, offloading the oil from FSO Safer to the VLCC, placing an oil-spill contingency response on standby. In this project, with the support of GEF and UNDP, the Government aims to strengthen risk management and build in additional measures that integrate biodiversity conservation concerns in the UN-brokered salvage plan for the FSO Safer, so that globally significant marine and coastal biodiversity, as well as fisheries-dependent livelihoods of potentially affected communities, are protected. In this way, the project will help to avoid negative environmental impacts on more than 9 million ha of marine habitat and 773,480 ha of marine protected areas and negative impacts on livelihoods of approximately 2.2 million people. Given that the project is being prepared under major time constraints due to urgent action required, and noting serious concerns related to the condition of the FSO Safer and high risks associated with the UN-led salvage operation, additional PPG resources will be used to complete the safeguards related risk analysis and planning for the project including the oil transfer operation as a whole, during project development. These resources will permit the recruitment of a specialist Safeguards team, including international and national consultants, to assess risks and identify mitigation measures based on a two field missions and detailed consultations with national and local stakeholders.

Chemicals and Waste

18. **Regional, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru. *Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America* (GEF ID 11047). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$3,000,000; Co-financing: \$7,093,273.** This regional project focuses on accelerating Minamata Convention compliance through better understanding of mercury trends and improved control of mercury flows in Latin America (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Peru). Despite efforts implemented

by project countries, mercury trading is still widespread and poorly reported. The recent global decreased level of mercury trade suggests there are significant informal trade activities not recorded in the mercury supply chain and implies end users are increasingly focused on specific sectors such as ASGM (main usage of mercury in the Latin America) which should be controlled and regulated. In addition, the lack of effective national and regional control mechanisms to reduce illicit financial flows and illegal mercury trade and the lack of sufficient regional coordination, data sharing and cooperation on mercury supply trade and trade in the region are barriers and will be addressed through the project. Target countries will build institutional and legal capacities to track and control mercury trade. The project will specifically support drafting or adapting legal instruments (provisions to control import/export and internal-distribution patterns), in line with obligations under Article 3 of the Convention, to build national consensus for their endorsement. In parallel, strategies to address illegal trade will be developed within and in between the countries. Cross country trainings will be provided to trade, custom and border control officials in all target countries to ensure coherence of procedures and measures to be taken to allow effective national and regional enforcement. The interventions will be fully implemented with participation of all national stakeholders that are key in the mercury supply chain including users. Finally, the engagement of the Andean Observatory as a regional network will ensure sustainability of project interventions and continue to monitor and track mercury flow after project ends. Using data from the UNEP Global Mercury Assessment, UNEP report on illegal trade of chemicals, and published MIA and NAP reports from target countries, the proposed project expects to prevent/avoid approximately 176 tons of mercury from entering the international market through improved trade control in the LAC region.

19. **Zimbabwe. *Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Zimbabwe- GEF planetGOLD Zimbabwe (GEFID 11048).*** **Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 5,000,000; Co-financing: \$10,000,000.** The project will accelerate the phase out of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining sector. This GEF 8 project is designed to be consistent with the GEF 6 and GEF 7 planetGOLD program projects and will seek to facilitate the access to finance by miners for undertaking responsible mining. The project will also support access to technology and will support formalization of the sector. The project will be linked to the planetGOLD program via the knowledge and communications component so that it can benefit from the global best practices, knowledge and community of practice established by the planetGOLD Program. The project will target a reduction of a 20% volume of emissions by the end of the project's life, in line with the expected targets from the national mercury reduction policies stated in the NAP document. However, these targets will need further confirmation based on the update of mercury emission in targeted locations during the PPG phase and the application of the replicability factor from the planetGOLD programme. The targeted reduction at the end of the project's 5-year implementation phase is 4.85 tons. In line with the planetGOLD's approach, a replication factor of 3 is considered due to the coordinated efforts made with the planetGOLD programme, adding 14.55 tons of mercury reduction during the next 10 years after the implementation phase. Therefore, the total mercury reduction is expected at 19.4 tons within the next 15 years.

20. **Regional: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe: *Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa* (GEF ID: 11049). Agency: UNEP; GEF project financing: \$11,000,000; Co-financing: 39,000,000.** The project aims to reduce the use of POPs in plastics-containing products and uPOPs generation by applying circular economy approaches through the development of strategies targeting plastics containing POPs, circular economy practices to reduce pollution from plastics containing POPs, environmental sound management of plastics containing waste and Knowledge management, capacity building, and communication. This is the first plastics sector project to directly target POPs in plastics. By taking a circular/upstream approach (controlling imports of plastics that cannot be safely managed. It intends to prevent 56.9 tons of PBDEs, 49.1 gTEQ of uPOPs emissions, and 62,687 tCO₂eq from entering the environment. 9,000 people (50% female) will be direct beneficiaries of the investment.

International Waters

21. **Regional, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen. *An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)* (GEF ID 11050). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$7,350,000; Co-financing \$55,000,000.** This project represents an opportunity for the region to establish a new vision in designing a sustainable socio-economic growth model that is linked to the building and conservation of blue natural capital. The main goal is to strengthen management of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden ecosystems and support governance reforms to improve delivery of marine and coastal ecosystem services through transformation to Sustainable Blue Economies (SBEs), which ensure long-term ecological and socioeconomic benefits. The project will build on past investments to incorporate critical, emerging concepts, such as building circularity in blue economy sectors, implementing governance reforms, enhancing visibility, engaging regional partners, building capacity and developing models adapted to the regional needs. As a result the management of over 1.5 million hectares of marine habitat will be improved, including marine protected areas.

Multi-focal Area Project

22. **Armenia. *Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP)* (GEF ID: 11046). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$5,450,000; Co-financing: \$43,900,830.** The project has the objective to strengthen community engagement and improve the management of forests, pastures, wetlands and protected areas in selected locations in Armenia. Landscape restoration in the context of Armenia is a sustainable way to improve biodiversity and increase resilience of ecosystems to external stresses, including climate change. The project follows an integrated landscapes approach to restore forests, pastures and wetlands and will create a formal legal basis for community engagement in the management of these landscapes. It focuses on three key issues: (i) reduction of forest fragmentation and increase in density of tree cover by managing pastures and grazing, restoring land in protected areas degraded due to mining and forest enrichment planting; (ii) improving management of neglected wetlands – mainly bogs and marshes of Ararat Plains which are important for biodiversity and, (iii) improving biodiversity management through establishment of a model

Emerald Network site (Araks Wetland) to demonstrate community management. To enhance community engagement, the project will enhance capacity of state forest agency officials on joint management efforts, and piloting eco-tourism and other livelihoods opportunities for communities. The project will bring 6,995 ha of protected areas under improved management; restore 18,000 hectares of forests, woodlands, and wetlands; bring over 17,000 hectares of land under improved practices, and generate carbon benefits of over 1.5 million tCO₂eq. The project will directly benefit 127,400 women and men.

23. **Brazil. *Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes* (GEF ID 11052). Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$ 4,700,000; Co-financing: \$ 52,809,278.** The proposed project seeks to reduce and reverse the trends of ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss in the Atlantic Forest, an important biodiversity hotspot. Targeting its interventions in Bahia State, where degradation has been significant in recent years, it will stimulate cocoa producers through a targeted set of policies and incentives to improve their *cabruca* management systems that are recognized as contributing to the integrity of Atlantic Forest fragments and playing an essential role in conserving the biome. The project activities include the improvement of the governance system, improved land management practices and cocoa value chain enhancement, and will contribute to the socio-ecological development of the territory that is more resilient to climate change and that makes biodiversity restoration and conservation of the Atlantic Forest more effective. The project will help conserve and restore environmental services in rainforest formations in Southern Bahia through the improved management of at least 50,000 hectares of forest in the Pratigi protected area, and the improved management of 67,000 hectares of productive landscapes. The project will also avoid the emissions of 3,7 million tCO₂eq and directly benefit to 3,000 cocoa producers including 50% female.

Non-Expedited Enabling Activities

24. **Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Morocco, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Suriname, Timor Leste, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe. *Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans* (GEF ID 11054). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$ 18,690,000.** The Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans is a non-expedited enabling activity project that aims to enable countries to mobilize resources at scale to implement the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework by supporting the development of national biodiversity financing plans, including baseline diagnostics, capacity, and institutional arrangements. The activity responds to Objective Three of the GEF biodiversity strategy to support domestic resource mobilization. The global programme will ultimately support all countries that have not yet benefited from the UNDP Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN). The main output of the project will be a national biodiversity finance plan produced by each participating country. A global knowledge sharing, and technical support platform will also be established under the program to share knowledge and experiences across participating

countries and with the participation of partner organizations. The platform will offer dedicated expert technical advice to support national processes and address technical financial issues.

SUMMARY OF STAND-ALONE PIFs IN THE DECEMBER 2022 WORK PROGRAM

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

1. **Yemen:** Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safer Salvage Operation in the Red Sea, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,016,210] [GEF ID: 11056]

Chemicals and Waste

2. **Regional (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru):** Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$3,000,000] [GEF ID 11047]
3. **Zimbabwe.** Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Zimbabwe- GEF planetGOLD Zimbabwe, UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000] [GEFID 11048]
4. **Regional (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe):** Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa, UNEP, [GEF project financing: \$11,000,000] [GEF ID: 11049]

International Waters

5. **Regional (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen):** An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA), UNEP, [GEF Project Financing: \$7,350,000] [GEF ID 11050]

Multi-focal Area Project

6. **Armenia:** Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP), World Bank, [GEF Project Financing: \$5,450,000] [GEF ID: 11046]
7. **Brazil:** Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes, FAO, [GEF Project Financing: \$4,700,000] [GEF ID 11052]

Non-Expedited Enabling Activities

8. **Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Morocco, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Suriname, Timor Leste, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe:** Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans, UNDP, [GEF Project Financing: \$ 18,690,000] [GEF ID 11054]

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

November 28 to December 2, 2022

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects											
<i>Biodiversity</i>											
1	11056	Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safer Salvage Operation in the Red Sea	Biodiversity	Yemen	UNDP	550,000	52,250	4,016,210	381,540	77,000,000	82,000,000
				BD-Sub-Total		550,000	52,250	4,016,210	381,540	77,000,000	82,000,000
<i>Chemicals and Waste</i>											
2	11049	Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa	Chemicals and Waste	Regional (Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe)	UNEP	300,000	27,000	11,000,000	990,000	39,000,000	51,317,000
3	11048	Global Opportunities for Long-Term Development of the Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining Sector in Zimbabwe- GEF planetGOLD Zimbabwe	Chemicals and Waste	Zimbabwe	UNEP	150,000	14,250	5,000,000	475,000	10,000,000	15,639,250
4	11047	Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America	Chemicals and Waste	Regional (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru)	UNEP	150,000	14,250	3,000,000	285,000	7,093,273	10,542,523
				CW - Sub-Total		600,000	55,500	19,000,000	1,750,000	56,093,273	77,498,773
<i>International Waters</i>											
5	11050	An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea	International Waters	Regional (Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen)	UNEP	200,000	19,000	7,350,000	698,250	55,000,000	63,267,250

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
		and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)									
				IW - Sub-Total		200,000	19,000	7,350,000	698,250	55,000,000	63,267,250
Multi-focal Area											
6	11052	Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes	Multi Focal Area	Brazil	FAO	150,000	14,250	4,700,000	446,500	52,809,278	58,120,028
7	11046	Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP)	Multi Focal Area	Armenia	World Bank	55,000	5,225	5,450,000	517,750	43,900,830	49,928,805
				MFA - Sub-Total		205,000	19,475	10,150,000	964,250	96,710,108	108,048,833
Non-expedited Enabling Activity											
8	11054	Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans	Biodiversity	Global (Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Lao PDR, Maldives, Morocco, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Suriname, Timor Leste, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zimbabwe)	UNDP	-	-	18,690,000	1,682,100	-	20,372,100
				EA - Sub-Total		-	-	18,690,000	1,682,100	-	20,372,100
				GRAND TOTAL		1,555,000	146,225	59,206,210	5,476,140	284,803,381	351,186,956

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

Project ID: 11046

Project Title: Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape Improvement Project (AIR LIP)

Agency: World Bank

Country: Armenia

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The project has addressed the risks and opportunities throughout the PIF. Risks are identified in the risk section and mitigation measures are considered adequate. During the PPG Phase, the project proponents will agree on the measures to mitigate any implementation issues that may result due to COVID-19 related restrictions. These agreed measures will be used during PPG and further included in the Project COVID-19 Response Strategy during the project Inception Stage. Adequate safeguards measures will be implemented during the project formulation and implementation to protect people and environment and to prevent virus spread (i.e. use of masks, social distancing, remote meetings whenever possible; remote field data collection as much as possible).

Opportunity analysis: The project will support the business associations and small-scale tourism businesses to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and adapt to the new reality in the pandemic while minimizing the potential negative side-effects on vulnerable ecosystems and biodiversity. The project will explore possibilities to develop and boost small-scale tourism products, e.g. through piloting community-based eco-tourism schemes. A further analysis of the potential for livelihood diversification including assessment of COVID-19 impact on small-scale tourism in targeted municipalities will be done at PPG stage.

Project ID: 11047

Project Title: Accelerate Minamata Convention compliance through improved understanding and control of mercury trade in Latin America

Agency: UNEP

Country: Regional, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Peru

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: Risks were identified for timely design and implementation of the project in light of the pandemic. In line with the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 (April 2020), UNEP approved the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) for UNEP's proper response during the COVID-19 and COVID-19 recovery phases. This document contains a checklist for identifying and managing environmental and social risks in projects in context of covid-19 pandemic. This new ESSS checklist includes a complete risk assessment including risks associated with, Human Rights, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Stakeholder Engagement and Accountability/Operational and Procedural challenges, Risks and impacts related to environment, biodiversity, climate change and disasters, Labor and Working Conditions/Community Health, Safety and Security.

Opportunity analysis: The project provides an opportunity for green recovery and building back better through supporting trade and improving regional capacity and coordination on international issues which could expand to regional pandemic coordination.

Project ID: 10606

Project Title: planetGOLD Zimbabwe

Agency: UNEP

Country: Zimbabwe

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The direct risk from the COVID-19 pandemic to the project preparation is travel restrictions. Many countries may close their borders or continue to impose lockdowns. Restrictions on traveling to and within the country may impact project preparation activities (meetings and data collection), so considerations will be made for hosting meetings, workshops and consultations on virtual platforms as much as possible. The indirect risk from the COVID-19 pandemic includes decreased resilience of Zimbabwe economy. This may result in a decreased support for project preparation and compliance with the legal requirements from the Minamata Convention on the reduction of mercury use from the ASGM sector in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe may potentially shift its political priorities to recovery from the pandemic. In order to ensure continued support, activities will be validated with the national stakeholders and the project will focus on communication that underlines the long-term benefits and business opportunities resulting from of its proposed activities. Discussions will be held with all relevant stakeholders to ensure COVID-19 impacts are not exacerbated by the project preparation and new economic opportunities are supported.

Opportunity analysis: There is an opportunity to hold trainings and workshops to a larger audience given the benefits of virtual platforms and the easier access from different geographic locations. Also, there are lower costs associated to travel, as most meetings will be held virtually. Further discussions will be held with all relevant stakeholders during project preparation to ensure COVID-19 opportunities are supported.

Project ID: 11049

Project Title: Circular and POPs-free Plastics in Africa Agency

Agency: UNEP

Country: Regional: Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zimbabwe

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: During the development of the PIF, all meetings were performed through online platforms. The design of the project will take COVID-19 into consideration and adequate measures will be taken during the design and implementation phase to deliver all trainings, meetings, workshops, and consultations through online venues if needed to address the risk of travel restrictions. In addition, the Executing Agency will use their network to facilitate and ease online interaction. Policies that promote the use of reusables and the ESM of SUPs will be promoted during the project execution if they align with the latest recommendations to halt the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Awareness raising of the public will encourage the use of reusables where proven to be effective against the spread of the virus and proper disposal where applicable. The project will address the risk of decreased support for compliance with regulations, standards, reporting requirements and the other necessary actions to reduce the use of POPs in plastics. The project will focus on communication that underlines the long-term benefits and business opportunities resulting from of its proposed activities.

Opportunity analysis: There is an opportunity to hold trainings and workshops to a larger audience given the benefits of virtual platforms and the easier access from different geographic locations. Also, there are lower costs associated to travel, as most meetings will be held virtually. Further discussions will be held with all relevant stakeholders during project preparation to ensure COVID-19 opportunities are supported. To ensure continued support, activities will be validated with the national stakeholders and the project will focus on communication that underlines the long-term benefits and business opportunities resulting from of its proposed activities. Discussions will be held with all relevant stakeholders to ensure COVID-19 impacts are not exacerbated by the project preparation and new economic opportunities are supported.

GEF ID 11050

Project Title: An Inclusive Approach for Harnessing Marine Ecosystem Services and Transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (HESBERSGA)

Agency: UNEP

Countries: Regional, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The pandemic has significantly affected blue economy sectors in all of the six countries, participating in the projects, especially for the coastal tourism, maritime transport as most important blue economy sectors prioritized by the project. Therefore, the project is properly considering pandemic-related risks and risk mitigation in its design and implementation. Identified risks may include posing risks to community health through the project activities (COVID-19 risks); implementation delays; shortcoming in proposed and potential co-financing envisaged; and limitations to stakeholder involvement. Furthermore, the unforeseen impacts posed by COVID-19 pandemic will imply additional concerns to marine ecosystem health and its contingent blue economy sectors. Although, some temporary positive effect due to reduced disturbance to marine biodiversity with decrease in activities of blue economy sectors, e.g. shipping, coastal tourism and fishing, real concerns upturn from several encountered and predicted impacts. To mitigate these risks, the project, as part of its Operation/ Implementation Manual will implement procedures to observe and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, COVID-19 risks during training events and include mitigation measures. In addition, the Manual will also consider International Standards, e.g. World Bank interim note regarding COVID-19; including guidelines of Bank's ESS 2 and ESS 4 and the World Bank's interim note on "COVID-19 Considerations in Construction/Civil Works Projects" and the Technical Note on "Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations.

Opportunity analysis: The project's goal focusing on transforming to Sustainable Blue Economy in the region presents an opportunity to mitigate COVID-19 impacts and support a green economic recovery. Without the project interventions, impacts of COVID-19 and future pandemics will continue to contribute to exert pressure on the extremely vulnerable sectors, such as tourism and maritime sectors, and possible increase on natural resources through shifting to fishery, increasing fishing pressure, as well as by other extractive uses, which will eventually aggravate the condition of the of marine ecosystems and their services in the region; In addition to other impacts such as increasing marine litter by PPE plastic waste (gloves and face masks), which will be addressed as part of integrated management, improved policies, action planning and capacities for waste management, adopting circularity, etc.

GEF ID 11052

Project Title: Conservation of the Atlantic Forest through the sustainable management of cocoa agroforestry landscapes

Agency: FAO

Countries: Brazil

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risks analysis: the pandemic will very likely impact the project in the short-term with longer-term impacts diminishing over time. FAO at both the national and international levels has designed and adopted a number of Covid-19 coping strategies to make certain projects are able to move forward. Likewise, the impacts will be most prevalent in the short-term and will diminish over-time. During the project design phase, the project will explore remote working conditions and whether they are adequate to provide technical support activities. For field-based activities, the project will be designed to rely primarily upon Brazilian national staff and government staff. This will limit requirements and constraints associated with international travel. If the project works directly with indigenous communities, the challenges will increase due to heightened Covid-restrictions.

Opportunity analysis: The project also represents an opportunity to mitigate risk related to future pandemics as it is expected to avoid and reverse forest and biodiversity degradation. In turn this will help to prevent the possible origin of other zoonotic diseases. The Capacity building aspects of the project will also help local farmers to recover sustainably from the adverse impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic. A specific section on Covid-19 will be developed in the PRODOC during project preparation.

Project ID: 11056

Project Title: Managing Biodiversity and Environmental Risks Associated with the Safer Salvage Operation in the Red Sea

Agency: UNDP

Country: Yemen

COVID-19 Considerations for GEF Projects and Programs

Risk analysis: The project has addressed the risks and opportunities in the PIF. The mitigation measures are included in the overall UN-led salvage operation plan. During project preparation and implementation adaptive management measures will be on place as part of the contingency plan for the entire operation.

Opportunity analysis: The project will explore any opportunities within the given context of the UN-led salvage operation.