**Call for Expression of Interests in the GEF-8 Integrated Programs**

24 July 2023

FROM: GEF Secretariat

TO: GEF Operational Focal Points and Agencies

The GEF Secretariat is pleased to announce a **Second Call for Expression of Interest (EOIs)** from countries for joining the GEF-8 **Integrated Programs (IPs)**. The EOI process is intended to serve two major purposes: *first* is to enable countries to provide adequate information on the suitability of their proposed child projects within the IP(s); and *second* is to enable the GEF to assess eligibility and strategic positioning of the country to contribute toward systems transformation through the IP as described in the GEF-8 Programming Directions document. Countries are therefore expected to carefully evaluate the prioritization of the STAR allocations to the IPs, in line with their national priorities. Submission of an EOI is not a guarantee that the country will be selected to participate in the IP.

Please note that this call for EOIs will prioritize the following two IPs that were not considered in the first round: ***Clean and Healthy Ocean***, and ***Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development***. In addition, and depending on IP resources available for programming, consideration will be given to additional countries interested in the following IPs: ***Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes***, specifically the Indo-Malay and Guinean Forests Biomes; ***Food Systems***; and ***Sustainable Cities****.* **EOIs submitted for any IP other than those listed here will no longer be considered.**

*Preparation of EOIs*

Countries interested in participating in each of the indicated IPs are invited to complete the respective template provided here: [*https://www.thegef.org/documents/expression-interest-templates-gef-8-integrated-programs*](https://www.thegef.org/documents/expression-interest-templates-gef-8-integrated-programs) and taking notice of the [*Guidance Note for Countries and GEF Agencies on participation in the GEF-8 Integrated Programs*](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05/EN_GEF.C.62.Inf_.13_Guidance%20Note%20for%20Countries%20and%20GEF%20Agencies%20on%20Participation%20in%20the%20GEF-8%20Integrated%20Programs_02.pdf).

For the preparation of the EOIs, countries are encouraged to work closely with the GEF Agency(ies) of their choice and note the following provisions:

* Only one (1) EOI will be considered from a country for each of the IPs, but countries are welcome to submit EOIs for more than one IP if they choose to do so. The appropriate EOI template must be used for each IP, and due diligence must be exercised on word limits imposed when responding to questions in each section.
* Countries already selected to participate in an IP that is included in this second call do not need to resubmit an EOI.
* For an EOI to be considered under an IP, countries must commit the minimum threshold of US$2 million from the country’s STAR allocation to trigger the matching incentive based on the 3:1 ratio.

There is no fixed maximum limit for STAR funds that can be allocated by a country for a proposed child project under an IP. Because of the limited amount of incentive funds available under each IP, however, the GEF Secretariat will evaluate and consult on a case-by-case basis for what would be the most suitable grant envelope for an EOI that is selected.

* The amount of STAR funds allocated for the proposed child project can be drawn from any or, more likely, from a combination of resources from the STAR focal areas (Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Land Degradation). While these funds are flexible when allocated to the child project, the usage of focal area resources must be justified through the lenses of expected global environmental benefits, in accordance with GEF-8 targeted core indicators.
* For the ***Clean and Healthy Ocean IP*** where request for non-STAR resources is possible, this information is included in the EOI template. However, the amount requested will be adjusted if total demand for all recommended EOIs exceeds the notional GEF-8 resources allocated for the IP.

*Submission of EOIs*

* The EOI should be submitted by a GEF agency selected by the country for developing and implementing the proposed child project under the IP.
* The completed EOI must be signed by the GEF Operational Focal Point or Designated Official in the country and submitted as an email attachment with the following file name format: ***CountryName\_IPName\_CompletedEOIDate***
* Supporting documents are allowed if appropriately referenced in the EOI and sent as separate attachments in the same email. EOIs and accompanying information should be sent to the following address: *integratedprogramseoi@thegef.org* with Cc to:*mbakarr@thegef.org**,* *mcallenberg@thegef.org**;* *tkim5@thegef.org*
* The deadline for submission is **September 8, 2023**.

*Review of EOIs*

The GEF Secretariat and the Lead Agency for each IP will be responsible for reviewing the EOIs, in close consultation with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP). During the review, agencies and countries may be consulted for additional information if needed. In cases where the Lead Agency is also serving as the agency for a country’s child project, the GEF Secretariat will address potential conflicts of interest.

Countries selected will be notified by latest **September 22** and requested to complete and submit Concept Note templates for their child projects by latest **October 7, 2023**. Depending on availability of funds, Concept Notes of selected countries will be included in the respective PFD that will be prepared by the Lead Agency for each IP.

For questions and any additional information on the EOI templates, please contact the respective GEF Secretariat lead as indicated below:

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| GEF-8 IP | GEF Secretariat Lead |
| Clean and Healthy Ocean | Andrew Hume, ahume@thegef.org  |
| Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development | Mark Zimsky, mzimsky@thegef.org  |
| Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes | Jean-Marc Sinnassamy, jsinnassamy@thegef.org Pascal Martinez, pmartinez2@thegef.org  |
| Food Systems | Peter Mbanda Umunay, pumunay@thegef.org  |
| Sustainable Cities | Aloke Barnwal, abarnwal@thegef.org  |