**Expression of Interest (EOI) Template for**
**GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Integrated Program**

*Second call for EOIs*

The objective of the Integrated Programme (IP) is to advance integrated urban and territorial planning and implementation with a focus on developing innovative sustainability solutions and creating an enabling environment to deliver large-scale climate, biodiversity, resilience, and inclusion benefits. The IP is open to all Global Environment Facility (GEF) recipient countries and focuses on cities in highly urbanized or rapidly urbanizing regions. The first call for EOIs attracted 15 countries, of which 13 were selected as a cohort from across Africa, Asia, ECA, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In this second call, EOIs are particularly encouraged from least developed countries (LDCs) and emerging economies, where integrated approaches to urban sustainability can deliver transformative change for global environmental, resilience, and inclusion benefits. There will also be enhanced focus on mobilization of significant co-finance and investment to address the sustainability financing gap in cities.

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| **Name of country:** | **Date of EOI submission:** |

***Part 1: Country context and rationale***

Overall rationale and justification for the EOI, based on the country’s strategic positioning relative to the transformation of the system proposed. Demonstrate how the national level framework (policy, institutional, etc.) and enabling environment will help advance the integrated urban planning and implementation approach and ensure that the country will move relatively quickly with designing and delivering a project under the program.

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| **Question** | **Response (max 500 words total)** |
| 1. Describe the country’s national policy or vision for sustainable urban development and its alignment with the objectives of the Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) supported by the GEF.
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| 1. Briefly explain how the governance framework in the country facilitates multi-level government cooperation (national-state-city levels) and cross-sectoral collaboration in the context of urban development.
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| 1. Describe the national government’s commitment and/or strategy towards strengthening the capacities of cities/municipalities and how this would ensure replication within the country.
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| 1. Describe the strategic importance of the selected city(ies) within the country to promote sustainable urbanization.
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***Part 2 – Criteria for Child Project***

This part should summarize how the country is a strategic fit for the program and meets all the required criteria for GEF financing under the IP. Specific criteria for eligibility are detailed in the document [GEF/C.62/Inf.13](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) and summarized as follows:

* Demonstrated political leadership, cross-sectoral collaboration and whole of government approach by countries and cities towards tackling environmental degradation.
* National and/or local level policies and governance models that create an enabling environment for achieving global environmental benefits targets in relation to MEAs and avoid harmful subsidies which contribute to environmental degradation in cities.
* Ability of cities and partners to leverage financing from both domestic resources and private capital to achieve large-scale impact.
* Integrated, systems-based and innovative project approaches with explicit and clear entry points for delivering multiple global environmental benefits through the program.
* Potential to deliver key socio-economic and environmental co-benefits such as increasing resilience and inclusion and reducing air pollution.
* Strategic engagement with multiple stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to leverage their expertise and resources for innovation and scalability of sustainability solutions

**Max 500 words**

***Part 3: City context and rationale***

Justification of the selection of specific cities targeted for the IP, including details of the systemic drivers of environmental degradation relative to the IP agenda. If the country is expressing interest in participating in the IP through multiple cities, please use separate tables for each city as needed. This may include both large and secondary cities, based on the country’s context.

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| **Question** | **Response (Max 300 words total)** |
| 1. Name of the target city:
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| 1. What is the size and population of the target city?
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| 1. What are the target city's systemic sustainability challenges and drivers of environmental degradation?
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| 1. Describe the target city's political leadership, vision, and plans for sustainable urban development and to tackle environmental degradation,[[1]](#footnote-2) including engagements in any global or regional network or platform on urban sustainability.
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*Note: Please duplicate this table for additional cities as needed.*

***Part 4: Child Project description and suitability for the integrated approach***

Based on the country and city context, describe the proposed child project and its alignment with GEF-8 Programming Directions. Justify how the integrated approach proposed for the IP is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the identified systemic challenges and achieving the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits. Include existing or planned baseline investments and the incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the IP.

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| **Question** | **Response (max 750 words total)** |
| 1. Briefly describe the project’s key interventions, and how these will help tackling the systemic challenges (described under question 7) in an integrated way.
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| 1. Briefly explain the project’s alignment with the GEF-8 Programming Directions’ strategic entry points/priorities for the IP, as well as gender equality and inclusion.[[2]](#footnote-3)
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| 1. Briefly describe how the project will engage with multiple stakeholders and who these actors will be, including the private sector, CSOs, academic/research institutions and development partners. Please be specific.
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| 1. Briefly describe the city’s commitment to invest in sustainability solutions, and how the project can leverage their investments and other funding from private and international sources.
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| 1. What is the baseline in the absence of the project? Which existing baseline programs/ projects will the project build on?
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| 1. Briefly describe the expected impact and outcomes of the project, including how it will contribute to net-zero, nature-positive, inclusive, and climate-resilient cities.
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| 1. Briefly describe how the project will catalyze innovation in technology, business models, and governance for urban sustainability.
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| 1. To which GEF-8 core indicator targets will the project contribute?[[3]](#footnote-4) If possible, please provide an estimate and describe how this is significant in the context of the country and proposed city(ies).
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| 1. Describe the project’s potential to contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
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| 1. Describe the project’s potential to deliver co-benefits, such as climate resilience, reduced air and water pollution, improved health, better livelihoods, improved economic outcomes, etc.
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| 1. How will the project engage with the Global Platform of the IP for knowledge exchange and learning?
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***Part 5: Implementation Arrangements and Financing***

Summary of the proposed GEF financing and co-financing (including sources), as well as the GEF agency(ies) and other entities to be engaged.

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| Proposed GEF Agency(ies)[[4]](#footnote-5) |   |
| Proposed executing entity(ies)[[5]](#footnote-6) |   |
| Please provide a rationale for the selected GEF Implementing Agency relative to other GEF Agencies operating in the country  |  |
| Proposed executing agency(s) and relevant experiences/roles  |  |
| Indicative amount of GEF STAR resources to be requested.[[6]](#footnote-7) | CC: LD:BD: |
| Indicate the potential sources, types and amounts of co-financing and investment mobilized,[[7]](#footnote-8) including how the financing can add value and scale up impact of the project.  |  |
| GEF Operational Focal Point or Designated Official (Name, contact details) |  |
| Signature of OFP or Designated Official and date |  |

1. Including climate change, biodiversity loss and threats to protected areas, land degradation, hazardous chemicals and waste. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See [GEF-8 Programming Directions](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/GEF-8_Programming_Directions.pdf) p. 30. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. See [GEF-8 Global Environmental Benefits Targets](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/GEF-8_PD_Annex3_GEBs.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The choice of GEF Agency(ies) should be informed by a thorough consideration of which Agency(ies) is/are best equipped to support the implementation of the priorities identified for GEF financing. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. This refers to the institution(s) that would be directly responsible for implementing the priorities identified for GEF support, e.g. national government agency(ies). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. A minimum of $2 million from the country’s STAR allocation is required to trigger the IP incentive; the STAR amounts will be matched at ratio of 3:1. STAR resources can be drawn from any of three focal areas, or proportionally across all three in accordance with the overall focus of the proposed project. All STAR resources programmed under the IP will be combined with the matching incentive as single GEF grant per country and should include amounts for Project Preparation Grant (PPG) and GEF Agency Fee. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Provide indicative amount, source, and nature, including contribution from the Agency(ies). Please refer to [FI/GN/01 Guidelines on Co-Financing](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_GN_01_Cofinancing_Guidelines_2018.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)