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June 19-20, 2024
Washington D.C., USA

Agenda Item 03

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

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/03, *Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising of 12 projects and two programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by July 18, 2024.

Total resources approved in this Work Program amount to \$203.02 million from the LDCF, inclusive of GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFDs):

[See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (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.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Work Program for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is the fourth Work Program to be considered by the LDCF/SCCF Council in the GEF-8 period, and the largest work program by funding volume for the LDCF since its inception. It requests a total of \$203.02 million for 12 national projects and two multi-country programs to address urgent climate change adaptation priorities in 17 least developed countries (LDCs).¹

2. In the GEF-8 period, each LDC has a per-country resource cap of \$20 million from the LDCF, exclusively for adaptation support. Ten of the 17 LDCs in this Work Program are accessing LDCF resources for the first time in this period, and four LDCs are utilizing the entire \$20 million available to them under the GEF-8 per-country LDCF cap. Fifteen out of the 16 LDCF program and project concepts submitted were technically cleared. Of the technically cleared project concepts, one was deferred due to resource constraints.

3. No concepts were approved for the SCCF since the 35th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting in February 2024. At the 66th GEF Council Meeting, the decision was made to raise the cap for medium-sized projects (MSPs) from \$2 million to \$5 million, which applies also to the LDCF and the SCCF. Thus, national SCCF-A projects, with the initial GEF-8 cap of \$3 million per non-LDC small island developing State (SIDS), will not be presented for Council approval in the form of Work Programs unless they are combined with other GEF resources to be above \$5 million or unless the initial cap per country is raised. Information on SCCF and other MSP approvals will continue be presented in relevant sections of the Work Program cover note.

1. Among the 14 program and project concepts, one is a multi-trust fund (MTF) program requesting support from the LDCF and the GEF Trust Fund, for the Great Green Wall Initiative.

2. The LDCF portfolio of this Work Program continues to have a significant share of projects by multilateral development banks (MDBs) and international financing institutions (IFIs). Five out of the 14 programs/projects have been submitted by an MDB or IFI, namely BOAD, IFAD, and the World Bank. In total, a significant portion of this Work Program at 35.9 percent, or \$74.23 million of GEF grants, is programmed by MDBs and IFIs.

3. The cohort proposed for the Work Program is expected to mobilize \$924.93 million in co-financing for the LDCF project financing amount of \$186.05 million.² Out of total co-financing for the LDCF, \$384.59 million or 41.6 percent is from MDBs and IFIs. Each dollar provided by the LDCF is to be matched by \$4.97 in financing provided by a variety of sources.³

¹ The requested amount is inclusive of GEF project financing for the LDCF (\$186.05 million) and Agency fees (\$16.97 million). It does not include project preparation grants (PPGs, \$3.57 million) and PPG fees (\$0.33 million).

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 Co-financing is not required for LDCF or SCCF projects.

4. The LDCF projects included in the proposed Work Program all contribute to the goals and priority areas of the 2022-2026 GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.⁴ The projects contribute to implementation of climate change adaptation solutions in priority themes and addresses strategic priority area 1 mainly among the three LDCF priority areas set forth in the strategy. The three key priority areas in the strategy are:

- Priority Area 1: Scaling up finance;
- Priority Area 2: Strengthening innovation and private sector engagement; and
- Priority Area 3: Fostering partnership for inclusion and whole-of-society approach.

5. These LDCF projects also have potential to contribute to other priority areas, which will be explored and finalized at the CEO Endorsement stage.

6. 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 and SCCF programming, gender analysis, and project descriptions.

LDCF WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

7. The LDCF Work Program presents 12 Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and two Program Framework Documents (PFDs) with the total LDCF financing request of \$206.92 million, comprising of GEF project financing of \$186.05 million, and Agency fees, PPGs, and PPG fees (\$20.87 million).⁵

8. The Work Program includes 12 national projects from 11 countries, namely Angola, Cambodia, Chad, Comoros, Gambia, Guinea, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Tanzania. Sao Tome and Principe has two national projects included in this Work Program.

9. Of the two programs presented in the LDCF Work Program, one is a global program focused on adaptation innovation, and currently includes Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Somalia. The second, on the Great Green Wall of Africa, is a regional multi trust fund (MTF) program with the GEF Trust Fund, seeking to achieve both adaptation and global environmental benefits in biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and land degradation. This program will deliver LDCF support to Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Mauritania. Chad and Somalia each have a national

⁴ 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/Rev.01.

⁵ The total LDCF amount of \$206.92 million comprises of GEF project financing (\$186.05 million), Agency fees (\$16.97 million), and PPGs (\$3.57 million) and fees (\$0.33 million).

project in the Work Program and are also included in the regional and global programs, respectively.

10. All national projects are aligned with, and contribute to the implementation of, national climate change policies and strategies, including the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs), and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), among other policy documents.

11. Sectors and systems addressed in this Work Program include agriculture, fisheries and food security; nature-based solutions; water resources management; climate information services and early warning systems; disaster risk management; coastal zone management; climate-resilient transport; and urban resilience. Each project aligns with the unique environmental and socio-economic contexts of the countries and/or regions involved.

12. A number of projects contribute to scaling up finance for climate adaptation by leveraging the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, MDBs and IFIs, similar to the February 2024 Work Program. The private sector will be engaged in resilient livelihood activities through support for agribusiness hubs, market linkages, microfinance and green enterprise development, specifically in projects of Chad, Gambia, and Somalia. Project also coordinate where relevant with support being provided by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

13. The whole-of-society approach is inherent in most of the projects for supporting adaptation at multiple levels. The projects in Chad, Lao PDR, and Somalia articulate the approach to engaging stakeholders across governance levels, communities, indigenous peoples and civil society organizations in decision-making. The project in Tanzania will adopt multi-stakeholder platforms involving public and private institutions, communities and indigenous peoples. In Comoros, specific attention will be paid to how women, children and persons with disabilities access water. Projects in Angola, Chad, and Tanzania have placed a special emphasis on engaging youth, among other key stakeholders.

14. Several of the projects may be implemented amid challenging circumstances. For example, the project in Chad is designed to respond to adaptation challenges within a context of extreme poverty, political instability and frequent and severe extreme weather events that have led to mass physical and economic displacements. In Somalia, the project addresses drought and flood risks that induced significant displacement, loss of livelihoods and migration to urban and peri-urban centers.

15. 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.⁶

⁶ 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*](#).

16. The current LDCF Work Program is the largest since the inception of the LDCF. The Work Program follows on the high volume of concepts approved in the LDCF/SCCF Work Program at the 35th LDCF/SCCF Council in February 2024.

17. The increased volume in programming be attributable in part to the extensive outreach, capacity building and visibility efforts made by the GEF for the LDCF in 2023 and 2024. Such efforts included:

- *Outreach and capacity workshops for LDCs on the GEF-8 Adaptation Strategy.* These workshops were held in Maputo (March 2023; Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia), Dakar (April 2023; Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo), Siem Reap (September 2023; Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal), Honiara (September 2023; Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tuvalu) and Addis Ababa (October 2023; Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia). 43 LDCs were represented, with participants including the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP), national United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Focal Points, two national adaptation experts nominated by the OFP, and a representative from a relevant civil society organization (CSO). The workshops included extended project conceptualization sessions.
- *Pledging events which raise the profile and available resources of the LDCF and SCCF.* The GEF Secretariat has organized pledging events for the LDCF and the SCCF at UNFCCC COP26, COP27 and COP28, with the engagement of Ministers and high-level representatives of donor and recipient countries, including the LDC Group and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), to share experiences with, and expectations from, the LDCF/SCCF.

18. The GEF Secretariat conducted adaptation programming outreach and capacity workshops for non-LDC SIDS of the Caribbean, Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans during March and April 2024, and expects to receive additional concepts and proposals for the SCCF-A, for SIDS, in the coming months.

ANALYSIS OF FACTORS CONSIDERED FOR ENHANCED STRATEGIC LDCF PRIORITIZATION

19. In line with the 2022-2026 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. These are similar to the GEF-7 strategic prioritization:

- Alignment with needs and priorities identified in national plans, such as the NAP process, 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 GCF; and
- Level of LDCF resources previously accessed by the country, to help facilitate access by countries underserved by the LDCF to date.

20. 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.

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

22. Alignment with national needs and priorities: All project and program concepts in the LDCF Work Program convey strong alignment with national priorities. For example, the project in Comoros will directly contribute to the objective of universal access to water by 2030 as laid out in the “Plan Comores Émergent (PCE) 2030”. The regional program reflects the priorities of Great Green Wall countries, including strengthening resilience of value chains, building climate resilient infrastructure and advancing sustainable land management and ecosystem based adaptation. In Sierra Leone, the project directly complements the national priority of addressing food security in the country under the Agriculture Transformation Plan, and will contribute to the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which includes resilience of the agriculture sector as a priority. In the World Bank project in Sao Tome and Principe, which focuses on climate-resilient transport and coastal resilience, the project aligns with the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Risk Management (2016); the NDC (2021), which calls for measures to strengthen resilience and adaptation of coastal communities; the NAPA, which calls for the construction and rehabilitation of roads and bridges; and the Country Partnership Framework with the World Bank. The Cambodia project aligns with the adaptation priorities of its updated NDC (2020), including building capacity for climate change innovation in the tourism industry along the Tonle Sap River and establishing a centralized and standardized approach to climate-resilient water management. This project also aligns with the Tourism Development Master Plan for Siem Reap 2021-2035, and contributes to development strategies of the Master Plan for Phnom Kulen National Park.

23. Alignment with Programming Strategy priorities: The concepts in the proposed LDCF Work Program clearly align with the three LDCF strategic priorities articulated in the 2022-2026 Programming Strategy, namely (i) scaling up finance; (ii) strengthening innovation and private sector engagement; and (iii) fostering partnership for inclusion and whole-of-society approach. They also strongly reflect the four priority themes of the GEF-8 Programming Strategy: (a)

Agriculture, Food Security, and Health; (b) Water; (c) Nature-Based Solutions; and (d) Early Warning and Climate Information Systems. In addition, as encouraged by the strategy, countries are seeking LDCF support for themes that are important for their national adaptation priorities, such as climate-resilient transport and sustainable livelihoods.

24. Opportunities to leverage/catalyze support: The projects are catalyzing additional financing from recipient governments, GEF Agencies, donor agencies, and the private sector. In particular, IFIs are leveraging significant resources. For instance, the Guinea project mobilizes \$200 million in co-financing from World Bank with IDA resources, and the Sierra Leone project will mobilize a \$60 million World Bank IDA grant to tackle food security priorities. The project in Chad will mobilize over \$29 million from IFAD investments, and the World Bank Sao Tome and Principe project leverages \$30 million in grant co-financing from the World Bank IDA project on the coastal areas resilience and sustainable tourism. The regional Great Green Wall program is leveraging over \$25 million from BOAD.

25. GEF-GCF coordination: Several of the projects in this Work Program exhibit strong GEF-GCF cooperation. Projects in Comoros, Gambia and Somalia will actively coordinate and synergize with GEF investments in-country. For example, the Comoros project leverages \$61 million GCF grant cofinance from the Resilient Water Supply project, which the LDCF project will coordinate closely with and address gaps in. The Gambia project will leverage market linkages established under a GCF project to support the uptake of sustainable livelihood practices, and in Somalia, the LDCF project will complement and make use of improved climate information services generated from the GCF supported Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) initiative. The LDCF project in Cambodia aligns with a recently approved GCF project titled “Public-Social-Private Partnerships for Ecologically-Sound Agriculture and Resilient Livelihood in Northern Tonle Sap Basin (PEARL)”, which aims to enhance the climate change resilience of smallholder farmers.

26. The UNEP Sao Tome and Principe project will coordinate with the GCF-funded Readiness Activity: “Reducing Sao Tome and Principe’s Vulnerability to Climate Change Impacts by Strengthening the Country’s Capacity to Implement an Integrated Approach to Adaptation Planning”. The final design of the actions to be implemented under the LDCF project will be established in cooperation with the GCF initiative, to ensure alignment in terms of priorities, approaches, and technical solutions being deployed.

27. Level of LDCF resources previously accessed: Ten out of the 17 LDCs with projects or programs included in this Work Program are accessing the LDCF resources for the GEF-8 period for the first time. They are: Angola, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Tanzania.

28. Geographical balance: The LDCF Work Program includes two Asian LDC projects, seven African LDC projects, and three Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS projects. Also, one global program includes Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Somalia and may subsequently be expanded, and one regional multi trust fund program which will provide LDCF support to Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Mauritania. The GEF continues to monitor the geographical balance of the GEF-8 portfolio

as well as of each Work Program. Additional information on the regional distribution of LDCF support is presented in Figure 1 in the next section.

29. Private sector engagement: The LDCF Work Program has several examples of envisioned engagement with the private sector. The Chad project will support integrated agribusiness hubs for climate resilient livelihood and employment opportunities for rural youth. The hubs will combine talent, technology, know-how and capital, and in turn support enterprise development by enhancing skills to unlock green employment opportunities. The Gambia project proposes to leverage private sector partnerships to support commercially viable sustainable livelihood activities. The World Bank climate-resilient transport project in Sao Tome and Principe will support financing of a business plan to explore ways in which the government can include the private sector in climate-resilient road asset management, and select firms based on their technical experience and capacity to implement climate adaptation-sensitive works in project interventions. In Somalia, the project will support collaboration with the private sector to address drivers of degradation and promote sustainable livelihood practices with an emphasis on productive and green enterprise development, including for women-led micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs). The project will also establish innovative finance mechanisms for MSMEs to attract private sector investments towards resilience building in urban areas. The FAO project in Tanzania will establish platforms to link producers with input suppliers, markets, processors, traders, service providers, and private sector actors such as micro-finance institutions and banks, telecom companies, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), input suppliers and service providers. The partnership is expected to facilitate access to loans and credits for small-scale producers and livestock keepers.

30. Extenuating circumstances: Sao Tome and Principe is scheduled to graduate LDC status on December 13, 2024, and is thus prioritized for support with this Work Program. With this Work Program, Sao Tome and Principe will access the full \$20 million amount under the LDCF per-country cap for GEF-8. A number of concepts included descriptions of weather-related extreme events, political instability and food insecurity as factors that highlight the need for the proposed adaptation interventions and their approaches, and have articulated some of these as risks.

31. Timing of technical approval of projects: Twelve out of 13 LDCF concepts that were technically cleared by the deadline were considered and included in the Work Program. One project was deferred to a future Work Program due to resource constraints. One LDCF concept was not deemed technically ready for Work Program inclusion, and will either undergo additional revision or may be reconsidered by the country.

32. For the PIF cohort included in the June 2024 Work Program, the average time from the initial PIF submission to the CEO PIF clearance (May 15, 2024) was 87 days. All projects were submitted on or near the receipt deadline of PIFs to be considered for the June 2024 Work Program, except for two LDCF projects which were submitted in October and December 2023 and one MTF program which was submitted in October 2023. These concepts spent more time in the review process. The technical approval of projects and the Work Program constitution continue to be carried out in a timely manner. For the February 2024 Work Program, the average time from the initial PIF submission to the CEO PIF clearance was 74 days (11 weeks), in part

influenced by the three concepts that were submitted earlier. For the June 2023 Work Program, the average time from the initial PIF submission to the CEO PIF clearance was 50 days (7 weeks).

DISTRIBUTION OF LDCF RESOURCES BY REGION AND AGENCY

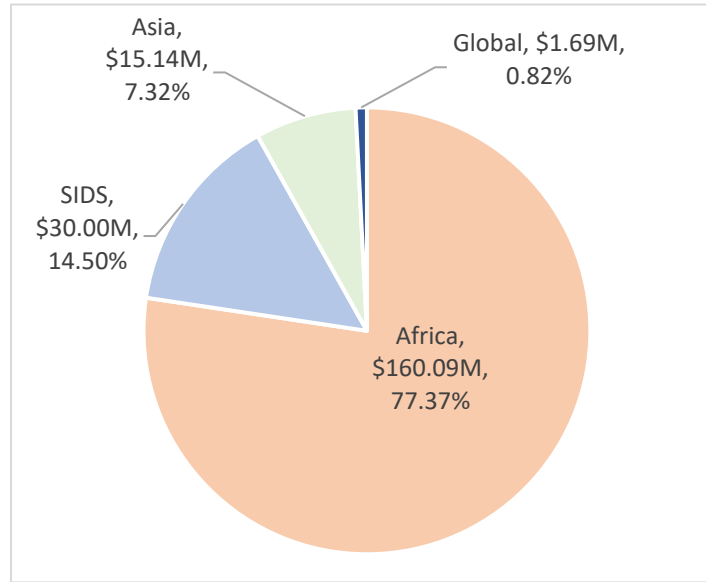
33. The LDCF Work Program comprises 12 national projects, one regional program (focused on Africa) and one global program. Of the 12 national projects, seven are in Africa, two are in Asia, and three are in Atlantic and Indian Ocean SIDS. With this Work Program, ten additional LDCs will have initiated LDCF access under the \$20 million cap to address their adaptation priorities⁷, of which four, namely Mauritania, Sao Tome y Principe, Sierra Leone, and Somalia, are accessing the full amount of \$20 million. The total number of LDCs that have reached the \$20 million cap for GEF-8 is fourteen, namely: Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and South Sudan.

34. Thus, there have been no SCCF-A concept approvals since the 35th LDCF/SCCF in February 2024. While the GEF received one MSP PIF for the SCCF-A window, the country continues to reflect on the resource allocation.

35. Figure 1 presents the distribution of LDCF resources in the June 2024 LDCF Work Program by region. The figures include GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees. For the current Work Program, \$160.09 million, or 77.4 percent of LDCF resources, are programmed in Africa; \$30.00 million, or 14.5 percent, are programmed in SIDS; and \$15.14 million, or 7.3 percent, are programmed in Asia. One global program includes LDCF set-aside resources of \$1.69 million, or 0.8 percent.

⁷ Ten countries that are included in the LDCF Work Program are accessing the LDCF for the first time in GEF-8. One such country, Togo, also accessed the LDCF for the first time in GEF-8 through an MSP PIF (GEF ID 11549), *Towards a climate-resilient family farming model in Togo*, IFAD, which was CEO PIF Approved on April 26, 2024.

Figure 1: Regional Distribution of LDCF in June 2024 Work Program (\$ million)



36. Table 1 presents a summary of country allocation of resources from the LDCF for this Work Program, as well as for the GEF-8 period. The figures are inclusive of PPGs and fees.

Table 1: LDCF Resource Programming by Country in June 2024 Work Program, GEF-8, and Cumulative Programming since Fund Inception

Country	Resources requested in June 2024 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and fees)	GEF-8 cumulative resources including June 2024 Work Program (with PPG and fees)	Cumulative LDCF resources accessed including June 2024 Work Program
	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Afghanistan			26.52
Angola	10.00	10.00	50.63
Bangladesh			38.39
Benin		10.00	50.67
Bhutan		20.00	60.39
Burkina Faso	10.00	20.00	60.14
Burundi		20.00	49.99
Cambodia	7.54	20.00	57.04
Central African Republic		10.00	31.37
Chad	9.86	9.86	49.81
Comoros	10.00	19.99	60.15

Country	Resources requested in June 2024 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and fees)	GEF-8 cumulative resources including June 2024 Work Program (with PPG and fees)	Cumulative LDCF resources accessed including June 2024 Work Program
	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Congo DR			40.11
Djibouti		20.00	52.22
Eritrea			23.98
Ethiopia	10.00	20.00	60.13
Gambia	14.00	14.00	53.64
Guinea	11.00	11.00	46.57
Guinea-Bissau			27.10
Haiti			33.68
Kiribati			32.50
Lao PDR	7.60	13.00	50.87
Lesotho	10.00	20.00	60.85
Liberia		10.00	38.11
Madagascar			29.82
Malawi	5.00	15.00	55.15
Mali	11.23	11.23	50.40
Mauritania	20.00	20.00	55.27
Mozambique		10.00	42.06
Myanmar			22.05
Nepal		10.00	50.88
Niger		10.00	49.91
Rwanda		20.00	61.01
São Tomé and Príncipe	20.00	20.00	56.94
Senegal			40.18
Sierra Leone	20.00	20.00	56.78
Solomon Islands			33.33
Somalia	20.00	20.00	59.87
South Sudan		20.00	39.77
Sudan			42.15
Tanzania	9.00	9.00	35.14
Timor Leste			37.27
Togo		5.00 ⁸	35.20
Tuvalu			22.05
Uganda			40.20
Yemen			26.73

⁸ Togo MSP ID 11549 (IFAD) was CEO PIF Approved on April 29, 2024.

Country	Resources requested in June 2024 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and fees)	GEF-8 cumulative resources including June 2024 Work Program (with PPG and fees)	Cumulative LDCF resources accessed including June 2024 Work Program
	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Zambia		17.24	54.53
Global	1.69	8.67	42.77
Regional			47.08

37. Table 2 presents a summary of country access of resources from SCCF-A for SIDS for the GEF-8 period and since inception. The figures are inclusive of PPGs and fees.

Table 2: SCCF-A Resource Programming by SIDS (non-LDC) in GEF-8 and Cumulative Programming since Fund Inception

Country	GEF-8 cumulative SCCF-A resources (with PPG and fees)	Cumulative SCCF-A resources Accessed including during GEF-8 (with PPG and fees)
	\$ million	\$ million
Antigua and Barbuda		6.51
Barbados	3.00	3.00
Belize		8.76
Cabo Verde	3.00	3.00
Dominica	3.00	3.00
Dominican Republic	3.00	3.00
Grenada	2.00	2.00
Guyana		4.14
Jamaica		2.19
Maldives	3.00	3.00
Regional ⁹		61.69
St. Kitts and Nevis	3.00	3.00
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	3.00	3.00
Tonga		5.01
Trinidad and Tobago	3.00	3.00

38. Table 3 presents the LDCF MSP that has been approved during GEF-8, including project grant amount, agency fee and PPG and PPG fee.

⁹ A large number of non-LDC SIDS have been supported by the SCCF through regional projects in Pacific, Caribbean and African and Indian Ocean regions.

Table 3: MSP programming for the LDCF and SCCF during GEF-8

GEF ID	Country	Title	Agency	Approval date	Funding source	Resources \$ million
11549	Togo	Towards a climate-resilient family farming model in Togo	IFAD	April 29, 2024	LDCF	\$5.00

4. Table 4 presents the total amount of LDCF resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees, for the June 2024 Work Program as well as cumulative GEF-8 programming. Figures 2 and 3 present similar information in graphs, while Figure 4 presents the cumulative programming distribution by Agency. Eight GEF Agencies are represented in the June 2024 Work Program, namely BOAD, FAO, IFAD, UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, World Bank and WWF-US. The Agency distribution in the Work Program is well balanced, with World Bank holding a 21.8 percent share, UNDP a 17.7 percent share, and UNEP a 17.3 percent share, followed by UNIDO (16.3 percent), BOAD (10.3 percent), FAO (9.2 percent), IFAD (3.9 percent) and WWF-US (3.7 percent).

39. In the GEF-8 period, the share of MDBs and IFIs in the LDCF programming has been significant. The share of MDBs and IFIs in the June 2024 Work Program for the LDCF is \$74.23 million, or 35.9 percent, while the share for the GEF-8 period is \$162.69 million, or 35.1 percent.

Table 4: LDCF Resource Programming by Agency in June 2024 Work Program and GEF-8

GEF Agency	Resources requested in June 2024 LDCF Work Program (with PPG and fees)		GEF-8 cumulative LDCF resources requested including June 2024 Work Program and MSPs (with PPG and fees)	
	\$ million	% of resources	\$ million	% of resources
ADB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$0.00	0.0%
AfDB	\$0.00	0.0%	\$10.00	2.2%
BOAD	\$21.23	10.3%	\$21.23	4.6%
CI	\$0.00	0.0%	\$0.00	0.0%
FAO	\$19.00	9.2%	\$70.64	15.2%
IFAD	\$8.00	3.9%	\$58.46	12.6%
IUCN	\$0.00	0.0%	\$10.00	2.2%
UNDP	\$36.54	17.7%	\$116.54	25.1%
UNEP	\$35.86	17.3%	\$55.85	12.0%
UNIDO	\$33.69	16.3%	\$40.67	8.8%
WB	\$45.00	21.8%	\$73.00	15.7%
WWF-US	\$7.60	3.8%	\$7.60	1.6%
Total	\$206.92	100.0%	\$463.99	100.0%

Figure 2: Distribution of LDCF Resources by GEF Agency in June 2024 Work Program (\$ million)

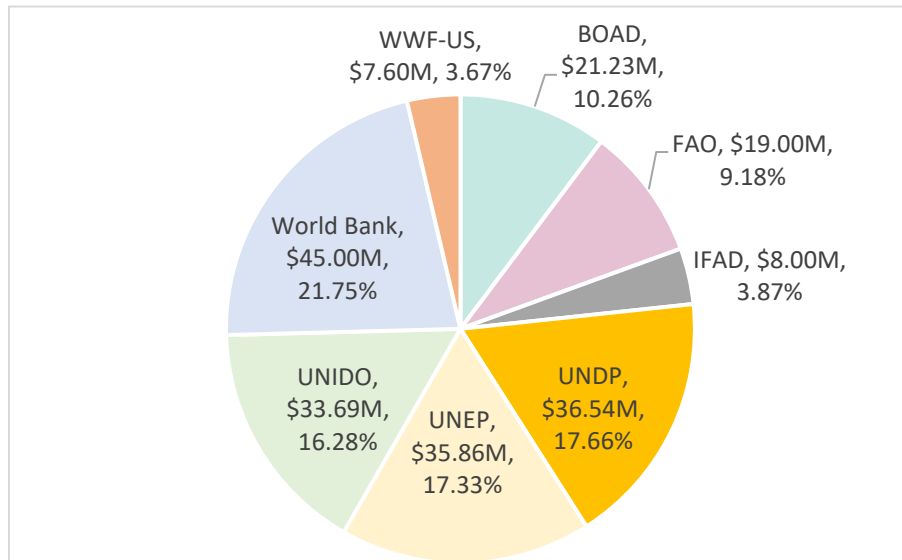
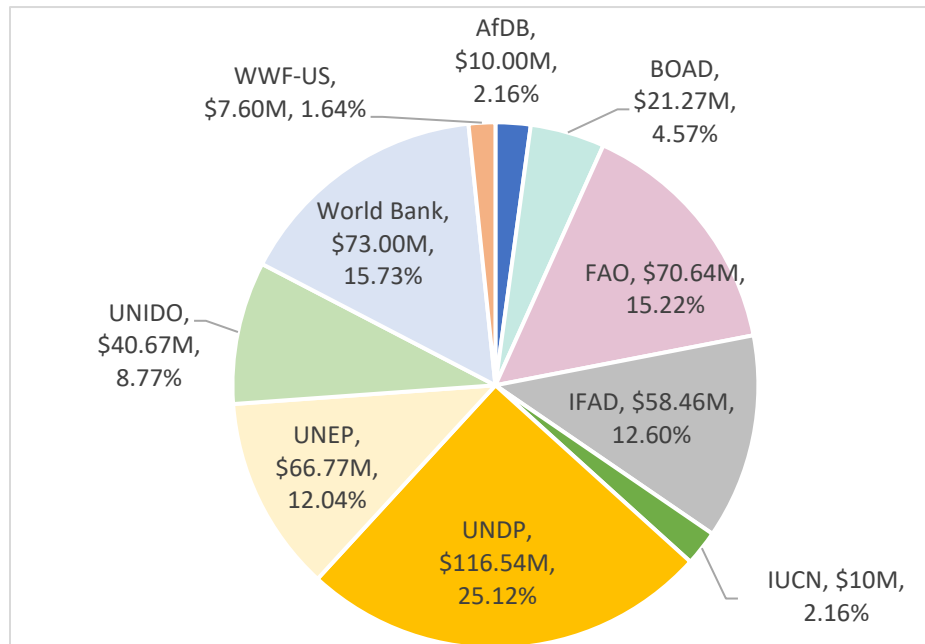


Figure 3: Distribution of LDCF Resources by GEF Agency in GEF-8 Period (\$ million)



40. Table 5 presents the total amount of SCCF resources by Agency, inclusive of GEF project financing, PPGs, and Agency fees, for the cumulative GEF-8 programming. There was no additional SCCF project approval since the February 2024 Work Program.

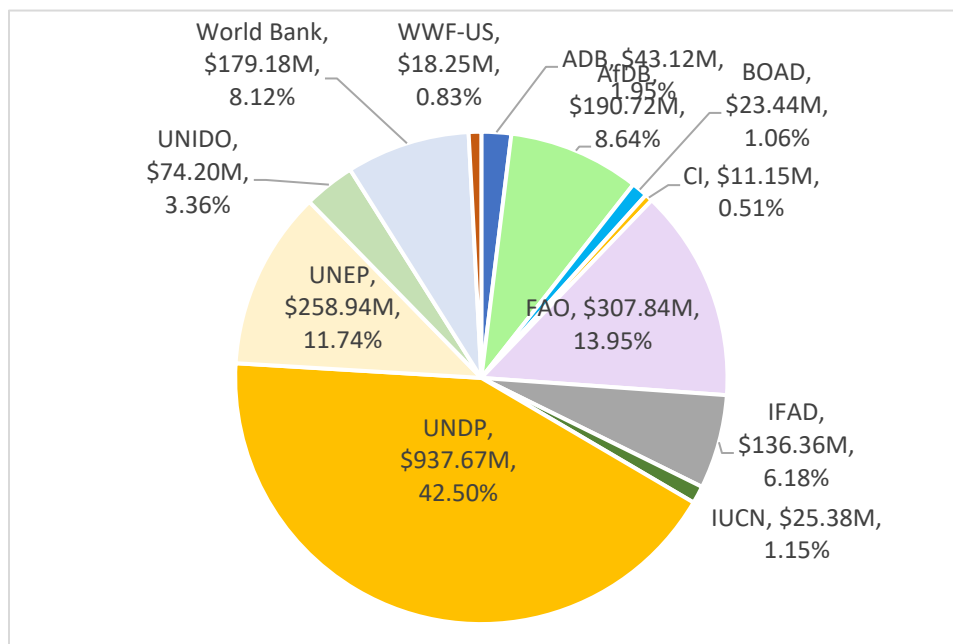
Table 5: SCCF Resource Programming by Agency in GEF-8

GEF Agency	GEF-8 Cumulative SCCF Resources Requested including MSPs (with PPG and Fees)	
	\$ million	% of resources
ADB	\$0.00	0.00%
AfDB	\$0.00	0.00%
BOAD	\$0.00	0.00%
CI	\$0.00	0.00%
FAO	\$26.00	96.3%
IFAD	\$0.00	0.00%
IUCN	\$0.00	0.00%
UNDP	\$0.00	0.00%
UNEP	\$0.00	0.00%
UNIDO	\$1.01	3.7%
WB	\$0.00	0.00%
WWF-US	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$27.01	100%

41. The LDCF Agency programming distributions since fund inception including the June 2024 Work Program, is shown in Figure 5.¹⁰ Various GEF Agencies have been involved in LDCF projects and programs totaling \$2,206.25 million since the fund inception. Of this amount, UNDP holds the largest share of project funding decisions to date, with 42.5 percent; followed by 14.0 percent by FAO and 11.7 percent by UNEP. The share or programming by MDBs and IFIs (ADB, AfDB, BOAD, IFAD and World Bank) is \$572.82 million or 26.0 percent. 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 LDCF programming.

¹⁰ For information on the distribution of SCCF resources by GEF Agency since Fund Inception, please refer to the *Progress Report for the LDCF and the SCCF* submitted for approval at the 36th LDCF/SCCF Council Meeting.

Figure 4: Distribution of LDCF Resources by GEF Agency since Fund Inception to June 2024 Work Program (\$ million)



42. For the SCCF, there is no change in approvals since the February 2024 Work Program. Of the total \$389.33 million of approved projects since inception to date, 24.8 percent has been programmed by the World Bank, 23 percent by UNDP, 11.0 percent by IFAD and 9.1 percent by UNEP. The total share of MDBs and IFIs in cumulative SCCF programming is \$199.2 million or 51.2 percent.

PROGRESS IN RESOURCE PROGRAMMING UNDER GEF-8 FINANCIAL SCENARIOS

43. At the mid-point of the GEF-8 period, a total of \$463.99 million will have been programmed for the LDCF with the approval of this Work Program, including \$455.32 million for national projects/programs and \$8.67 million for global/regional support. Under the \$1.0 billion financial scenario for the LDCF approved as part of the GEF-8 LDCF/SCCF Programming Strategy, the progress for national projects/programs is at approximately 49.5 percent of the expected \$920 million national programming based on \$20 million initial cap per country. The Secretariat has focused on supporting national priorities in the GEF-8 period to date. The progress on regional/global programming is modest at 26.3 percent of the expected \$30 million. The Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation, projected at \$30 million, has not programmed any resources. It had its first call for concepts in May 2024.

44. Table 6 presents the approved LDCF financial scenarios and programming progress under the two scenarios. The LDCF has been benefitting from robust donor support in the GEF-8 period,

with successful pledging sessions at three consecutive COPs. Contributions have been programmed quickly. Significant resources will continue to need to be mobilized for the LDCF to meet its \$1 billion financial scenario for GEF-8 as well as the more ambitious \$1.3 billion financial scenario.

Table 6: LDCF Financial Scenarios for GEF-8 and Programming Progress

Programming and Budget Elements	GEF-8 Financial Scenario	Programming as of May 2024 (including June 2024 Work Program)
<i>LDCF Scenario A: 1 billion</i>		
Initial cap per country (46 LDCs at \$20 million)	\$920 million	\$455.32 million
Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation	\$30 million	\$0.00 million
Regional and global projects and initiatives	\$33 million	\$8.67 million
Dedicated programs	\$8 million	\$7.69 million ¹¹
Administrative expenses	\$9 million	
<i>Scenario A Total</i>	\$1,000 million	\$471.68 million
<i>LDCF Scenario B: 1.3 billion</i>		
Initial cap per country (46 LDCs at \$20 million)	\$920 million	\$455.32 million
Reserve to go beyond initial cap for national projects	\$193 million	\$0.00 million
Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation	\$40 million	\$0.00 million
Regional and global projects and initiatives	\$130 million	\$8.67 million
Dedicated Programs	\$8 million	\$7.69 million
Administrative expenses	\$9 million	
<i>Scenario B Total</i>	\$1,300 million	\$471.68 million

45. Table 7 presents the approved SCCF financial scenarios and programming progress under the two scenarios. Window A to support SIDS Adaptation priorities has been supported by an increasing number of donors in GEF-8, which has enabled some programming. For Window B on innovation and technology transfer, a recent contribution will enable the GEF to support innovative initiatives under the Challenge Program in FY25. Nevertheless, significant resources will need to be mobilized for the SDCF to meet its \$200 million and \$400 million financial scenarios, particularly to ensure all SIDS receive support and to support innovation and private sector engagement for adaptation.

Table 7: SCCF Financial Scenarios for GEF-8 and Programming Progress

<i>SCCF Scenario A: \$200 million</i>	<i>Amount</i>	Programming as of May 2024 (including June 2024 Work Program)
<i>Window A (adaptation support for SIDS)</i>		
Initial cap (30 SIDS ⁸⁶ at \$3 million per SIDS)	\$90 million	\$26 million

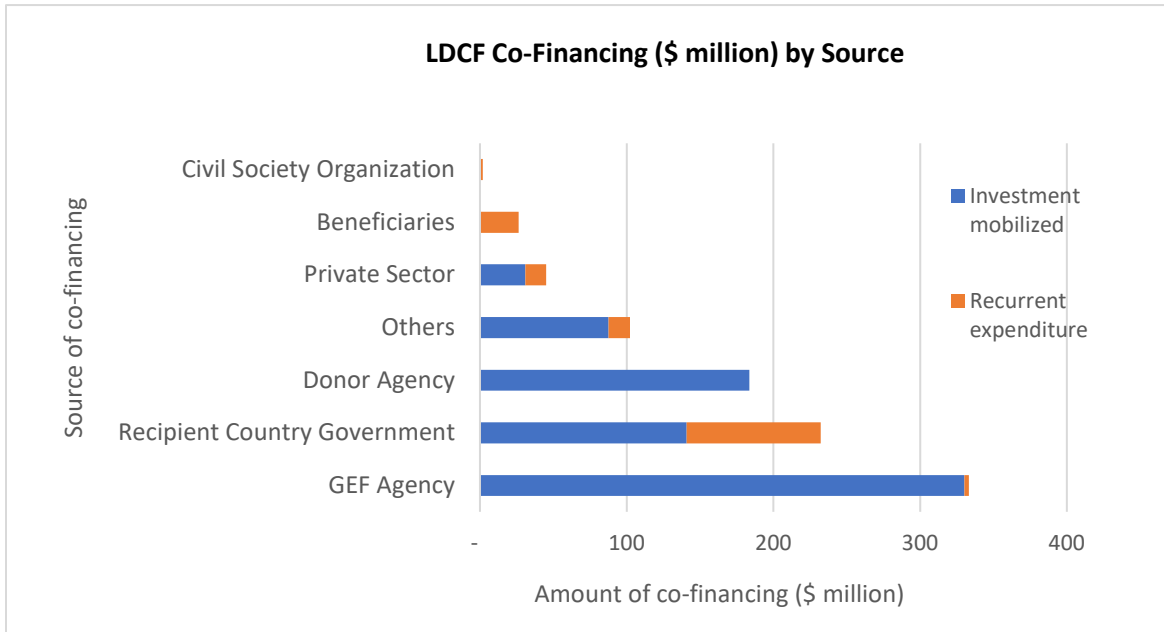
¹¹ These figures are from the Council-approved FY23 and FY24 administrative budget for the LDCF.

<i>Window B (innovation, technology transfer, private sector)</i>		
National projects (all developing countries)	\$53.5 million	\$0.0 million
Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation	\$30 million	\$0.0 million
Regional and global projects and initiatives	\$20 million	\$1,01 million
<i>Windows A and B (shared expenses)</i>		
Dedicated Programs ⁸⁷	\$2 million	\$2.81 million
Administrative budget	\$4.5 million	
Scenario A Total	\$200 million	\$29.32 million
SCCF Scenario B: \$400 million		
<i>Window A (adaptation support for SIDS)</i>		
Initial cap (30 SIDS at \$6.5 million per SIDS)	\$195 million	\$26 million
<i>Window B (innovation, technology transfer, private sector)</i>		
National projects (all developing countries)	\$118.5 million	\$0.0 million
Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation	\$40 million	\$0.0 million
Regional and global projects and initiatives	\$40 million	\$1.01 million
<i>Windows A and B (shared expenses)</i>		
Dedicated Programs	\$2 million	\$2.81 million
Administrative budget	\$4.5 million	
Scenario B Total	\$400 million	\$29.92 million

DISTRIBUTION OF CO-FINANCING

46. Indicative co-financing associated with the June 2024 LDCF Work Program amounts to \$924.93 million, of which \$773.72 million or 83.7 percent is investment mobilized. Distribution of co-financing by co-financier type for the projects in the June 2024 LDCF Work Program is shown in Figure 5. For the LDCF, donor agencies and recipient country governments are the main providers of co-financing.

Figure 5: Co-Financing for February 2024 LDCF Work Program



RESULTS AND IMPACTS

47. The projects presented in the LDCF Work Program cover interventions to deliver adaptation benefits aligned with the Programming Strategy. The results framework for adaptation to climate change for the LDCF and SCCF (2022-2026) comprises of five core indicators. Contributions to the core indicators of the 12 LDCF PIFs and two PFDs, including the LDCF portion¹² of the MTF PFD, are as follows:

- Core indicator 1. Number of direct beneficiaries: 8,941,748 persons, of which 4,585,764 persons or 51.3 percent are female.
- Core indicator 2 (a). Area of land under climate-resilient management: 1,631,400 hectares.
- Core indicator 2 (b). Coastal and marine area under climate-resilient management: 0 hectares.
- Core indicator 3. Total number of policies, plans, and frameworks that will mainstream climate resilience: at least 772 policies and plans.
- Core indicator 4. Number of people trained or with awareness raised: 655,443 persons, of which 323,013 persons or 49.3 percent are female.
- Core indicator 5. Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change

¹² The Core Indicator values presented correspond to the LDCF grant only, in the case of the MTF program.

adaptation and resilience action: 585 enterprises.

48. Core indicator 3 also enables to understand how the LDCF/SCCF can support policy coherence. All of the projects and programs in the Work Program contain activities to facilitate policy coherence. For example, the GGW program by UNEP/BOAD GGW includes enhancement of policy coherence as a key aim of the program, with coordination among ministries in participating countries. The Angola project also includes policy alignment, financing and institutional capacity development/coordination, with specific policy indicators. The project in Lao PDR also seeks to mainstream climate resilience in several policies, plans, and frameworks.

49. through policy alignment, financing, and institutional capacity development

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

51. Age-disaggregated data will be requested as sub-indicators for core indicators 1 and 4, to be used as relevant for each project at the CEO endorsement, mid-term review, and terminal evaluation stages.

GENDER

52. In line with GEF's Policy on Gender Equality, all projects considered in the work program have embedded gender equality considerations at the initial design stage. Projects are moving towards being more gender-responsive by addressing gender inequalities in project outputs and activities and going beyond mere inclusion of women in consultations or awareness-raising and training activities.

53. One example is a project aimed at removing barriers to women farmers' access to and control over productive resources and technologies. The project will ensure that women benefit from capacity-building activities and are meaningfully engaged in decision-making processes. The project will close gender gaps by promoting girls' science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and advocating for the employment of more women in government.

54. Some projects will develop informal sector businesses and alternative livelihood opportunities by making credit available to women, and ensuring local institutions can continue providing credit post-project through training and technical assistance. Projects will also develop innovative financing mechanisms to promote investments in women-led, climate-resilient infrastructure and businesses. They will also conduct financial literacy trainings for women entrepreneurs and those in the informal sector.

55. Such enabling conditions help secure livelihoods income diversification and generation, and educational opportunities, contributing to a more equitable, sustainable and resilient communities.

56. Recognizing that women in LDCs face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, robust and comprehensive gender analysis is key. A transport project facilitating access to

educational facilities considered women's mobility patterns and the challenges and threat of gender-based violence. With this gender analysis, the project will create safer environments and transport facilities for young women and girls feel safe going to school.

57. Understanding the power relations between men and women and their impact on dryland management practices, and further marginalization of women or reinforce traditional roles, a project took an approach of embedding the socio-economic context into the project's activities to genuinely promote gender equality and address gender gaps. The project will promote the full participation of rural women and men in research, planning and decision-making at all levels, especially the most marginalized. As women and men play their respective key roles in preserving their land, the land will be more likely to meet their needs, and the needs of their families and communities, for food security and community resilience.

58. Lack of women's participation in water governance is a critical issue for women's empowerment that is often overlooked. As women and girls are often tasked with fetching water, it can limit their opportunities for education and economic activities. Improving water services can have a transformative impact on communities by reducing the time burden on women and girls, allowing them to more educational, political and economic opportunities.

59. Most projects included actions to ensure that best practices and lessons learned from a gender perspective are captured and disseminated, and that M&E are gender-responsive. As the Gender Action Plans (GAPs) are developed, the GEF Secretariat has conveyed the importance of budgeting activities included in the GAPs and that those are monitored and reported on. During project development stage, agencies confirmed that they will develop gender-responsive results framework, with gender-sensitive indicators.

LDCF PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

6. **Angola:** *Strengthening climate resilience of communities in Angola through community-based adaptation action* (GEF ID 11545); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$41,860,000. Angola is a large, biodiverse country with a fast-growing population and high levels of poverty, that is highly vulnerable to climate change, with recurrent cycles of droughts and floods and serious socio-economic and environmental consequences across the country. The objective of this project is to enhance adaptive capacity and increase resilience of local communities' livelihoods, food security and nutrition to climate change. This will be achieved by improving the adaptive capacity of local communities through policy alignment, financing, and institutional capacity development; implementing a set of climate-resilient and sustainable land and forest management practices; and strengthening climate-resilient, sustainable, and inclusive agri-food value chains. The project will utilize an integrated multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach involving all relevant sectors and stakeholders in the project with communities at the core of decision making and implementation of interventions. An innovative aspect of the project will be increasing land tenure for smallholder farmers, which will enable public and private sector investment in sustainable and climate resilient productive practices. The project is expected to directly benefit 180,000 people (50 percent female), manage 250,000 hectares for climate resilience, produce 4 policies or plans for climate adaptation, train 100,000 people, and engage 10 private sector enterprises in climate change adaptation and resilience.

60. **Cambodia:** *Building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape* (GEF ID 11332); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$6,684,703 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$15,000,000. The objective is to build climate resilience of local communities in the Tonle Sap Basin through an integrated watershed management approach. Tonle Sap Basin (TSB), an expansive area of economic and cultural importance of Cambodia, is experiencing increasing temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns and increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events such as drought and flood. This has severe consequences on water resources and agricultural productivity as well as on the tourism industry, which is a major contributor to the local and national economy. The resultant impacts are driving local communities to adopt maladaptive practices such as agricultural expansion into forest areas, fueling a negative cycle of degradation in the catchments. Against this background, the project will build climate resilience by contributing to national efforts to restore watershed ecosystems and their services in the TSB, with specific focus on Siem Reap province and the Phnom Kulen landscape. The proposed landscape and watershed management solutions will take a systems-based approach, accounting for governance, finance, and people. The project intervention will involve working with local communities. The project is expected to coordinate with ongoing LDCF and GCF investments to avoid duplication. It is expected to benefit 70,400 people (50 percent female), place 80,400 hectares of areas under climate resilient management and train 1,520 people (50 percent female). In addition, 7 policies and plans will be developed to strength climate adaptation.

61. **Chad:** *Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers and ecosystems to the effects of climate change” (STRADAP) Project* (GEF ID 11550); GEF Agency: IFAD; GEF Project financing:

\$7,105,936 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$35,166,600. Chad is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, which manifests in increased rainfall variability and temperature. Persistent drought conditions in northern Chad have accelerated desertification, leading to a reduction in areas suitable for agriculture and livestock farming, and a decline in grazing areas for cattle further south. Rural communities, particularly women, youth and children are particularly hard hit, as 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas and depends on agriculture, livestock farming and fishing for their livelihoods, all of which are important sectors for the country's economy. The project components and activities will be implemented in three provinces—Lac, Hadjer-Lamis and N'Djamena—and contribute to strengthening an enabling environment for building climate resilience with agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains, and support the climate resilient livelihood and employment opportunities for rural youth. Building on the youth agribusiness hubs approach, STRADAP will build on ongoing IFAD initiatives to increase the resilience and capacities of rural women and youth via green and digital skills, viable green business projects, green financing, renewable energy equipment and technologies, and business development of climate resilient agribusiness opportunities. Overall, the project is expected to directly benefit approximately 63,000 people (50 percent female, and 12,000 youth and women-led households), manage 1,500 hectares of land under climate resilience practices, adopt or strengthen at least 6 climate adaptation related policies/plans and frameworks, train or raise the awareness of 18,000 people (50 percent women) on climate change adaptation, and engage at least 3 private enterprises in climate change adaptation and resilience.

62. **Comoros:** *Increased access to water supply for resilience in Comoros (IAWASuR)* (GEF ID 11522); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$8,019,178 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$27,000,000. This LDCF project will build climate resilience of water supply in Comoros, an African LDC SIDS that is exposed to extreme climate hazards and adverse climate change impacts, and has low adaptation capacity. The water supply sector in particular faces numerous challenges. Climate change is resulting in longer dry periods, affecting crops, runoff and recharge; and higher-intensity rainfall events, resulting in greater flooding, infrastructure damage, soil erosion and higher sediment loads in rivers. Saltwater intrusion is reducing the quality of available water. The Government of Comoros, with support from GEF and GCF, has launched on a campaign to upgrade, repair and build improved water infrastructure. Despite much recent effort, large gaps exist, which the current LDCF project seeks to help reduce, in close coordination with the GCF project. Project activities for this LDCF project include: improvements to legal frameworks governing water management and allocation; a climate sensitive water supply data sharing system; sustainable financial mechanisms to ensure stable operation of utilities for water services; installation and management of water supply infrastructure (water pipes, reservoirs); and watershed restoration. Gender considerations will be mainstreamed across the project components. The project will deliver direct climate adaptation benefits to 74,376 people (51 percent women), improve the climate-resilient management of 2,600 hectares of land, mainstream climate resilience in 1 policy, train 415 people (48 percent women) in identifying and addressing climate risks in the context of water supply, and engage ten private sector enterprises in adaptation activities.

63. **Gambia:** *Climate-resilient Banjul: Enhancing urban resilience in the Greater Banjul Area (CLIMB)" Project* (GEF ID 11532); GEF Agency: UNEP; GEF Project financing: \$12,544,037 (LDCF);

Co-financing: \$35,444,194. The Gambia is a small West African country situated predominantly within the low-lying, flood-prone Gambia River basin. This geographical setting, combined with socio-economic challenges in the region, renders the Gambian population particularly susceptible to climate-change-induced impacts such as flooding, rising sea levels, and coastal erosion. Climate data indicate a trend of increasing temperatures and decreasing precipitation across Gambia, with increases in rainfall variability. The primary objective of the proposed project is to enhance the climate resilience of communities in the Greater Banjul Area (GBA) by scaling up investments in urban ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) solutions. The project strategy will address both existing vulnerabilities and those intensified by climate change, thereby enhancing the resilience of communities — particularly emphasizing the roles and needs of women and IPLCs — in the GBA against negative outcomes and fostering sustainable growth. These will be addressed through three components (i) strengthening the enabling environment for climate-resilient urban planning and sustainable development, (ii) increasing resilience through integrated ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), and (iii) improving knowledge management and information dissemination. The LDCF project will enhance the resilience of target communities to climate change within the GBA using an integrated approach that combines: i) gender-responsive capacity-building initiatives; ii) sustainable land-management and natural resource use; iii) the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) technologies and iv) enhanced knowledge management. This integrated approach will ensure that proposed project interventions synergistically address barriers related to limited urban planning, insufficient financial resources for investment in EbA and limited public awareness of climate change adaptation strategies. The project is expected to deliver significant adaptation benefits to 350,000 people (49 percent women) including management of 3,000 hectares of land under climate resilience practices, adoption or strengthening of at least 10 climate adaptation related policies/plans and frameworks, training or raising the awareness of 87,680 people (50 percent women) on climate change adaptation, and engaging at least 10 private enterprises in climate change adaptation and resilience.

64. **Guinea:** *Guinea water and sanitation project* (GEF ID 11575); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$10,092,000 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$200,000,000. The project will increase access to improved water services in Greater Conakry and support the implementation of water and sanitation policy and institutional reforms. This will be achieved by increasing the scale and quality of water services in Greater Conakry; strengthening the securitization of the water resource in the face of increasing climate risks; and advancing institutional and policy reforms for water and sanitation. Although Guinea is endowed with abundant water resources, significant changes in rainfall patterns have been experienced in recent decades and are expected to continue in the future, coinciding with an increase in temperature and rise in sea levels, with the risk of saline intrusion into freshwater supplies placing further stress on water resources. LDCF support will strengthen community engagement in sound water resource management, as well as implement nature-based solutions to current and anticipated climate hazards that will improve soil stabilization and prevent sedimentation. LDCF finance will be combined with and help catalyze \$200 million in co-finance from the World Bank. The project is expected to benefit 45,000 people (66 percent female), place 830,000 hectares of land under climate resilient management, and engage 22 private sector enterprises in climate change adaptation and resilience.

65. **Lao PDR:** Enhancing integrated watershed management and climate resilience for vulnerable communities in the Nam-Poui, Nam-Poun, Nam-Lay and Nam-Houng basins in Lao PDR (GEF ID 11573); GEF Agency: WWF-US; GEF project financing: \$6,772,477 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$1,614,636. The objective of the proposed project is to enhance adaptation capacity of agriculture-dependent communities to floods, droughts, seasonal variations and to address uneven access to freshwater in key river basins in Sayaboury province. The project targets six districts in the Nam-Poui, Nam-Poun, Nam-Lay, and Nam-Houng basins in Lao PDR, which are highly vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change with resulting consequences of reduced crop yields and increased poverty through decreased availability of fresh water. The impacts are expected to be severe on the upland and mid-slope ethnic groups and smallholder farmers, who depend on rural agriculture for their livelihood. The project will build resilience to climate-induced hazards through mainstreaming climate-informed integrated water resource management (IWRM) policy, planning and implementation to reduce crop losses. It will also diversify livelihood options. The project will prioritize women as a vulnerable group considering their high reliance on agriculture as a main source of livelihood. The project is expected to benefit 25,000 direct beneficiaries (50 percent female); improve the climate resilient management of 15,000 ha area of land and 1,000 ha of river basin; and mainstream climate resilience in at least 13 policies, plans, and frameworks.

66. **Sao Tome and Principe:** *Enhance the adaptive capacity to floods and water security in Sao Tome and Principe* (GEF ID 11544); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$5,329,452 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$24,197,990. This LDCF project will enhance resilience to floods and droughts in Sao Tome and Principe, a highly climate-vulnerable African LDC SIDS. Climate change projections for Sao Tome and Principe indicate that seasonal temperatures are likely to increase, precipitation likely to become more intense and variable, extreme events may be more severe and/or frequent, and sea level rise will continue. As a result, the country will likely experience more frequent tropical cyclones, heavy rainfall and storms, and more prolonged periods of drought. These can lead to flash floods, landslides, and extensive damage to infrastructure. Sao Tome already grapples with severe flooding. With half of its water treatment plants using surface water as their source, increased turbidity caused by flooding causes shutdown of their operations, resulting in discontinued water supply for the population. The LDCF project will increase (i) the resilience of urban communities to the impacts of climate-change-exacerbated floods; and (ii) water security, by: (a) improving legal and institutional frameworks for drainage and waste management; coordination systems for data driven planning; trainings for operationalizing and upscaling integrated water resource management and resilient urban planning; improving watershed management for aquifer recharge and to reduce rainwater runoff; installing drainage works to reduce flood risks in the main urban areas; and implementing a sustainable drainage waste management system in the city of Sao Tome . In Principe, the project will also put in place control systems for monitoring water quality in two river basins. The project will deliver direct climate change adaptation benefits to 93,395 people (50 percent women), improve the climate-resilient management of 400 hectares of land, mainstream climate resilience in 3 policies or plans, train 502 people (50 percent women) and engage 28 private sector enterprises in adaptation. The project will mainstream gender considerations across its components, and will coordinate closely with related multilateral initiatives in the country.

67. **Sao Tome and Principe:** *Development of the transport and coastal protection sector* (GEF ID 11552); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: \$12,844,037 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$30,000,000. This LDCF project addresses the highly climate-vulnerable road transport sector in Sao Tome and Principe, an African LDC SIDS. Sao Tome and Principe is vulnerable to hazards such as coastal and riparian flash floods, severe storms, landslides, and droughts, which cause significant damage to homes, infrastructure and livelihood assets. The country is experiencing climate change impacts such as sea level rise and changes in wave action; and changed river flood patterns are exacerbating an already eroding shoreline. The country's transport infrastructure, on which it depends for key socio-economic activity including tourism, is under significant risk from climate change; national infrastructure, including the port, airport, oil reservoirs and hotels, are located along the shoreline and directly exposed to sea level rise and flooding. Resilient roads can therefore play an essential role in reducing vulnerability while building the country's climate resilience more broadly. The LDCF project will support the integration of additional adaptation considerations in the context of the World Bank's road development project in Sao Tome and Principe, through a mix of green (nature-based) and grey (infrastructure) solutions. These include stabilization of slopes to limit storm surge impact; planting climate-resilient species; and improving drainage to cope with greater surface flows (this will also allow for the continuous use of public roads used to access schools). Studies analyzing gaps in community (including women's) engagement in climate-resilient road asset management will be undertaken, and training protocols developed on implementing nature-based approaches in the protection of climate vulnerable areas. The project will prioritize roads that are particularly degraded that provide access to schools, and will incorporate measures to increase the safety of women and girls, to ensure sustainable and inclusive resilient development. The project will deliver adaptation benefits to 15,140 people (50 percent women), integrate climate resilience considerations in two policies or plans, and train 1,640 people (50 percent women) to identify and manage climate risks.

68. **Sierra Leone:** *Third additional financing to the food systems resilience program (FSRP)* (GEF ID 11576); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Program Financing: \$18,348,624; Co-financing: \$60,000,000. The objective of the project is to scale up application of NbS in agricultural and landscape management practices to improve food security, enable sustainable livelihoods, and promote climate resilience in Sierra Leone. By investing in NbS, which capitalize on natural processes and system functions to manage agriculture landscapes, the project will help to reverse the negative trends in productivity growth and enhance its resilience to climate change. It aims to increase the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices, enhance uptake of integrated landscape management practices, improve incomes of farmers, with a focus on women and youth, and increase technical capacity among advisory service providers in Sierra Leone. Furthermore, by targeting key policy and institutional barriers and enhancing the knowledge base and financing options, the project aims to stimulate increased private sector investment in agriculture. A payment for ecosystem services mechanism will be piloted as a proof of concept to provide evidence for scale-up through government programs. The project will establish sustainable watershed management coordination capacity and enable climate resilient communities, ecosystems, and value-chains, and increase the area under inclusive and sustainable adaptation management practices. The project will receive co-financing from the World Bank's West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), funded through IDA, which

includes a \$60 million grant for Sierra Leone in its second phase of financing. The LDCF funding will serve as third additional finance to this IDA investment and will add strategic value in terms of integrating climate change adaptation and advancing NbS. The project will directly contribute to Sierra Leone's Agricultural Transformation Plan (2023), NDC, and the World Bank Country Partnership Framework (FY21-FY26). It is expected to enhance resilience of 329,200 people and strengthen capacity of 36,000 people, primarily agriculture extension workers, and bring nearly 3,000 hectares of land under improved climate resilient management.

69. **Somalia:** *Building urban resilience to climate change and transitioning to green economy in Somalia* (GEF ID 11564); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$11,606,626 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$37,300,000. Climate crises in Somalia have been shown to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities and social marginalization of vulnerable groups (women and children), causing massive population displacement and migration to urban areas. To address climate change impacts on vulnerable urban communities and ecosystems in Somalia, the project aims to enhance the resilience of urban systems and improve adaptive capacity through an integrated adaptation approach which considers NbS. This will be implemented through three main components including: 1) strengthening government and institutional capacities in climate change adaptation planning and programming; 2) enhancing urban climate resilience to floods through improved NbS adoption and management; and 3) leveraging sustainable finance through private sector investments. The project will also collaborate with GCF's Early Warning for All initiative and mainstream NbS in productive and inclusive green enterprise development for job creation. The project will deliver multiple adaptation benefits to 852,877 people (50 percent female), manage 5,000 hectares of land under climate resilience practices, adopt or strengthen 10 climate adaptation related policies and frameworks, train or raise the awareness of 1,260 people (40 percent women) on climate change adaptation, and engage five private sector enterprises in climate change adaptation and resilience actions.

70. **Tanzania:** *Sustainable land management and improved community resilience in dryland areas and livestock migratory hotspots of Tanzania* (GEF ID 11489); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF Project financing: \$8,019,178 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$27,000,000. Tanzania's rapidly expanding livestock sector is degrading land in the country's dryland areas, which are experiencing severe water scarcity. The project aims to improve land management and strengthen climate data systems to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods for over 1.5 million vulnerable individuals in climate-impacted dryland areas. The project will enhance legal and regulatory frameworks, specifically through the review of the Environment Management Act and the Guidelines for Sustainable Management and Utilization of Rangelands in Tanzania. The project will address these challenges by (i) strengthening sustainable land management (SLM) capacity, (ii) implementing SLM practices, and (iii) enhancing knowledge and participatory monitoring. Through these actions, the project is expected to directly benefit approximately 1.5 million people (50 percent female), manage 20,000 hectares of land under climate resilience practices, adopt or strengthen at least 2 climate adaptation related policies and frameworks, train or raise the awareness of 175,000 people (50 percent women) on climate change adaptation, and engage 10 private enterprises in climate change adaptation and resilience.

LDCF PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

71. **Global: Lesotho, Malawi, Ethiopia, Somalia:** *Programme for innovation in climate adaptation and resilience building solutions* (PARS) (GEF ID 11566); GEF Agency: UNIDO; GEF Program Financing: \$30,107,798 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$138,029,840. The private sector, predominantly composed of micro, small, and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) in the LDCs, holds great potential to drive the development and deployment of innovative climate adaptation and resilience-building solutions. However, these enterprises face numerous challenges, including the lack of policy and regulatory support frameworks, limited access to financing and financial services, and insufficient market opportunities and technical assistance. Aligned with GEF-8 LDCF Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which prioritizes strengthening innovation and private sector engagement for adaptation, this program seeks to unlock the ingenuity and creativity of MSMEs to drive innovative climate adaptation and resilience building solutions. It focuses on four pillars that aims to transform and connect the markets for climate adaptation and resilience building solutions within and across participating countries in this program.

72. Pillar 1 aims to create a conducive policy and regulatory environment for MSMEs to stimulate innovative and effective solutions. Pillar 2 will provide technical assistance, training and coaching for MSMEs to accelerate the development and deployment of impactful adaptation solutions. Pillar 3 aims to increase access to financing for MSMEs and end-users, by developing innovative financing instruments and providing financial services. Pillar 4 will promote program coordination, knowledge sharing and management, optimizing resources and connecting global adaptation markets through a global platform. This program, through the global platform and four strategic child projects in Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi and Somalia, will catalyze local and global private sector investment in the development and deployment of climate adaptation and resilience-building solutions in LDCs across a range of sectors such as agriculture, water, and energy, where innovation and private sector engagement potential is very high. Example solutions encompass agro-climate services, water-saving technologies to tackle droughts and floods, and technologies addressing energy supply shortages and disruptions. The program is aligned with national priorities outlined in National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and others. Through this program, it is estimated that over 491,100 direct beneficiaries would have access to local adaptation and resilience building solutions. The program builds on the previous LDCF funded projects on private sector and adaptation and is expected to add more countries going forward. The programmatic approach would have a demonstrable impact in unlocking the potential of private sector in adaptation and creating valuable knowledge and lessons to inform future programming.

73. **Regional: Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal:** Transformation approach to large-scale investment in support of the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative (TALSISI-GGW) (GEF ID 11455); GEF Agency: UNEP, BOAD; GEF Program Financing: \$77,888,167 (LDCF: \$38,707,662; GEF TF: \$39,180,505); Co-financing: \$2,998,018,615. The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) is a pan-African initiative that has evolved over the last decade into an integrated ecosystem management approach addressing the root causes of environmental degradation and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change. A renewed GGWI vision and ambitious objectives that emerged from recent discussions between donors and GGW countries, under the leadership of the Africa Union, has set the goals to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land, sequester

250 million tons of carbon and create 10 million green jobs in rural areas by 2030. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was the pioneering funding institution that catalyzed international efforts in the GGW Sahel region to strengthen political leadership, strategically positioned the region in meeting global goals on land restoration, climate, and sustainability under global Conventions, and catalyzed the flow of international and domestic financing for GGW countries. To date, the GEF through its LDCF and GEF Trust fund has provided nearly \$1.2 billion, restoring, and rehabilitating degraded production landscapes, supporting biodiversity conservation, and building resilience of vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change. These funds have not only established an important baseline but also fostered partnerships and unlocked large-scale investments from MDBs, bilateral, and other financing institutions to support transformative efforts in the region.

74. Despite this foundation, countries continue to be highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with desertification, land degradation, and drought still prevalent in the region. Climate change has resulted in increased mean temperatures and intensified climate extremes with notable increase in the intensity of droughts in the region causing food insecurity, water scarcity, loss of livelihoods, vulnerable infrastructure, and reduced productivity. The potential for transformation in the GGW region remains hampered by political instability, conflict situations, fragmented efforts, limited coordination among countries and stakeholders and low capacity at multiple levels to tackle the interlinked environmental, economic, and social issues. The proposed Great Green Wall program by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the West African Development Bank (BOAD) aims to overcome these barriers through a multi-trust fund program using resources from the GEF Trust Fund and the Least Developed Countries Fund. The program's objective is to restore landscapes and ecosystem services for resilient communities living in arid and semi-arid environments across the GGW region of the Sahel using a transnational and coordinated approach, supported by adaptation activities and strengthened local and regional capacity for SLM, natural resource management (NRM), and knowledge-sharing.

75. Building on the existing baseline in the GGW Sahel countries, the program aims to achieve its objective through four interrelated components: 1) Strengthening the enabling environment for gender-responsive, climate-resilient restoration of landscapes across the Sahel; 2) Leveraging sustainable finance for scaling up investment in Climate Change Adaptation (CCA); 3) Increasing the resilience of ecosystems and communities through SLM practices, NRM, and EbA; and 4) Enhancing knowledge management and information dissemination across the GGW countries. Through these components, the program will adopt a comprehensive approach to address the multifaceted challenges of environmental degradation, climate change, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. It will enhance institutional capacity to support gender-responsive climate change adaptation and sustainable land management, scale up investment in adaptation, SLM, and NRM using innovative financing mechanisms, improve biodiversity and ecosystem health through conservation and restoration efforts, increase agricultural and pastoral productivity and ensure food security through the implementation of climate-smart techniques and resilient crop and livestock varieties, enhance water availability and quality through integrated water resource management strategies, and strengthen community resilience through diversified livelihood options. Given the rich knowledge existing in the region from past and ongoing efforts, the

program will establish integrated knowledge management systems and facilitate learning, communication, and coordination by leveraging existing platforms.

76. The Program will use LDCF resources in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Mauritania, and GEF Trust Fund resources in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and The Gambia to address institutional, socioeconomic, and environmental challenges—to generate large scale adaptation and Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). The program will directly improve climate change adaptation of 4,850,250 beneficiaries (52 percent women) and bring 394,000 hectares of land under climate resilient management. It will bring 2,621,000 hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management; restore 264,800 hectares of land and ecosystems; implement improved practices across 6,938,600 hectares of landscapes; and mitigate 550,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. The program is expected to contribute to the creation of green jobs and promote local enterprises and value chains by engaging with several private sector enterprises. Furthermore, the program is expected to leverage a co-financing of nearly \$3 billion USD from various international and domestic sources, including MDBs, national governments, and the private sector. The program will emphasize on private sector engagement in strengthening the resilience of value chains, promoting small enterprises, and leveraging private sector investments for adaptation solutions.

77. The program will be implemented in close collaboration with the dedicated adaptation project funded by the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)—the Great Green Wall Climate Adaptation Regional Support Program, which is co-financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The program has been designed following a series of consultations with governments, strategic stakeholders, and GEF Agencies active in the region. A recent consultation held during the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) in Nairobi led to a commitment from various partners, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), IFAD, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and others, to collaborate in a meaningful way to leverage their investments and efforts in the region. Such collaboration could be transformative for the region and create opportunities in identifying strategic entry points for future climate and nature investments in the region and ensuring coherence between efforts and with national policies.

78. The program is fully aligned with the GEF-8 LDCF/SCCF thematic areas of agriculture and nature-based solutions and strategic priority areas such as scaling up adaptation finance, strengthening private sector engagement and technology transfer, and advancing whole of society approach for climate change adaptation. It will also directly contribute to GEF's strategy to support the implementation of voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and national drought plans of the participating countries. The program approach is also aligned with the vision and key elements of the proposed GGW Accelerator Strategy under the leadership of UNCCD. Both approaches seek to enable Sahelian countries to harness the GGWI as a platform for addressing environmental and development challenges by transforming key economic systems in the region and play a supportive role in advancing the transformation within the framework of implementing the conventions. The platform will be invaluable for mobilizing and engaging diverse stakeholders, including the private sector, youth, and women organizations, in

catalyzing resources and technological innovations. Overall, the program offers an opportunity to build on the momentum in the GGW region and catalyze a holistic transformation through an integrated approach to enhance adaptation and sustainable land management in the GGW region by leveraging the strong baseline and growing political leadership, influencing policy coherence, and fostering partnerships among different actors and stakeholders at regional, national, and local levels.

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

June 19-20, 2024

No.	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Other Programs										
1	Programme for innovation in climate adaptation and resilience building solutions (PARS)	Climate Change	Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Somalia, Global	UNIDO	800,000	72,000	30,107,798	2,709,702	138,029,840	205,408,840
2	Transformation Approach to Large Scale Investment in Support of the Implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative- TALSISI-GGWI	Multi Focal Area	Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Regional	UNEP BOAD	825,000	73,500	38,707,662	3,483,689	216,216,289	259,306,140
OP - Sub-Total					1,625,000	145,500	68,815,460	6,193,391	354,246,129	464,714,980

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

3	Third Additional Financing to the Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP)	Climate Change	Sierra Leone	World Bank	-	-	18,348,624	1,651,376	60,000,000	100,000,000
4	Guinea Water and Sanitation Project	Climate Change	Guinea	World Bank	-	-	10,092,000	908,000	200,000,000	222,000,000
5	Enhancing Integrated Watershed Management and Climate Resilience for Vulnerable Communities in the Nam-Poui, Nam-Poun, Nam-Lay and Nam-Houng Basins in Lao PDR	Climate Change	Lao PDR	WWF-US	200,000	18,000	6,772,477	609,523	1,614,636	16,814,636
6	Building Urban Resilience to Climate Change and Transitioning to Green Economy in Somalia	Climate Change	Somalia	UNDP	300,000	27,000	11,626,606	1,046,394	37,300,000	63,300,000
7	Sao Tome e Principe – Development of the Transport and Coastal Protection Sector	Climate Change	Sao Tome and Principe	World Bank	-	-	12,844,037	1,155,963	30,000,000	58,000,000

8	Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers and ecosystems to the effects of climate change (STRADAP)	Climate Change	Chad	IFAD	200,000	19,000	7,105,936	675,064	35,263,305	51,263,305
9	Strengthening climate resilience of communities in Angola through community-based adaptation action	Climate Change	Angola	FAO	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	41,860,000	61,860,000
10	Enhance the adaptative capacity to floods and water security in São Tomé and Príncipe	Climate Change	Sao Tome and Principe	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,329,452	506,298	24,197,990	36,197,990
11	Climate-resilient Banjul: Enhancing Urban Resilience in the Greater Banjul Area (CLIMB)	Climate Change	Gambia	UNEP	300,000	27,000	12,544,037	1,128,963	35,444,194	63,444,194
12	Increased Access to Water Supply for Resilience in Comoros (IAWASuR)	Climate Change	Comoros	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,932,420	848,580	63,000,000	83,000,000
13	Sustainable Land Management and improved Community Resilience in Dryland areas and livestock migratory hotspots of Tanzania	Climate Change	Tanzania	FAO	200,000	19,000	8,019,178	761,822	27,000,000	45,000,000
14	Building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape	Climate Change	Cambodia	UNDP	200,000	19,000	6,684,703	635,047	15,000,000	30,077,500
MFA - Sub-Total					1,950,000	181,250	117,231,890	10,775,610	570,680,125	700,818,875
MTF - Sub-Total					-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAND TOTAL					3,575,000	326,750	186,047,350	16,969,001	924,926,254	1,131,844,355