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Washington, DC

Agenda Item 02

**WORK PROGRAM
FOR THE
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK FUND (GBFF)**

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/GBFF.04/02, *Work Program for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising three projects, subject to comments made, prior and during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by June 20, 2025.

Total Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) resources approved in this Work Program amounted to \$25.68 million, including GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the projects listed in Annex A.

With respect to the projects approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these projects (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF or GBFF 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 address comments provided the CBD Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Council Members, and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAP) on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF or GBFF policies and procedures.

All final project documents approved in this Work Program will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This Work Program is the second one to be presented to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) Council and requests \$23.53 million of GEF project financing and \$2.15 million in associated Agency fees for a total Work Program of \$25.68 million.¹ The Work Program leverages an indicative \$42.53 million in co-financing.
2. The proposed Work Program contains three projects at the CEO endorsement stage, consistent with the GBFF Programming Directions framework.² These projects represent the second set of GBFF investments to advance many of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Targets and in particular, targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23.
3. The Work Program consists of three projects, covering five countries that will benefit from support from the GBFF. These countries are Cameroon, Central African Republic, and Congo in a regional project, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Peru, in two national projects. An average of 30 percent of total GEF project financing will be directed to support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), ranging from 15 percent to 62 percent among the three projects.
4. This cover note outlines key aspects of the proposed Work Program, including alignment with the GBFF action areas and KMGBF targets, programming analysis, outcome targets, and IPLC considerations. The Council is requested to review and approve the Work Program for the total resources requested (see Annex A for the financial details of the projects).

WORK PROGRAM PREPARATION AND STREAMLINED PROJECT CYCLE POLICY

5. The GBFF Council decided to allocate resources through discrete programming tranches to improve predictability for recipient countries, while accommodating financial contributions on a rolling basis. The adoption of the GBFF Resource Allocation Policy³ triggered the opening of the first GBFF programming tranche on February 21, 2024, which made available \$211 million for programming.
6. The GBFF Project Cycle Policy⁴ is streamlined from the GEF Project and Program Cycle Policy, applicable to all other GEF family of funds including the GEF Trust Fund.
7. Within programming tranches, all GBFF resources are allocated in a country-driven manner to projects through consecutive selection rounds open to all eligible countries. Eligible countries

¹ Excluding PPG and PPG fees which are not subject to Council approval.

² GEF, 2023, [Programming Directions of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), Council document GEF/C.64/06/Rev.02.

³ GEF, 2024, [Policy on Allocation of Resources for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund \(GBFF\)](#), Council document GEF/GBFF.01/03/Rev.03.

⁴ GEF, 2024, [Global Biodiversity Framework Fund \(GBFF\) Project Cycle Policy](#), Council document GEF/GBFF.01/04/Rev.02.

were therefore invited, through a notification dated February 21, 2024 from the GEF Secretariat to all GEF Operational Focal Points, to participate in the first two selection rounds.

8. The three projects presented to the Council for approval are from the second selection round for PPG requests, which were opened on March 4, 2024 and closed on April 1, 2024.

9. As agreed in the GBFF Programming Directions, submissions were evaluated on the seven selection criteria as follows:

- Potential to generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs);
- Alignment with the GBFF Programming Directions and advancing the KMGBF implementation;
- Alignment with the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Finance Plans or similar instruments to identify national and/or regional priorities;
- Level of policy coherence and coordination across multiple ministries, agencies, the private sector and civil society;
- Balance amongst regions;
- Mobilization of private sector and philanthropies' resources;
- Engagement with and support to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

10. In total, 18 PPG requests from 21 countries, out of 66 PPG requests, were approved for the second selection round on May 9, 2024, including 11 PPG requests from 13 least developed countries (LDCs) and/or small island developing States (SIDS), as summarized in Annex B. These 18 PPG requests approved for the second selection round total \$70.66 million, leveraging \$128.73 million.⁵

11. Among the 18 PPG requests selected for the second selection round, four were above \$5 million, while 14 were below \$5 million. This Work Program includes three of the four projects above \$5 million, in line with the GBFF Project Cycle Policy. Submitted within 9 months of PPG request approval, these three projects are in full compliance with the GBFF Project Cycle Policy.

12. At the time of posting, the fourth project⁶ of the second selection round above \$5 million was still in preparation. An exception to the cancellation provisions along with a 3-month extension were granted for the submission of the CEO Endorsement request, expected by May 8, 2025. This project is expected to be included in the next Work Program.

⁵ This figure indicates co-financing amounts estimated at PPG stage. It is therefore subject to revision.

⁶ Indonesia, *Enhancing co-benefits of conservation/protected area management through an inclusive wildlife-based ecotourism strategy (ECOTOURISM)*, (GEF ID 11628), Agency: UNDP; GBFF project financing \$ 6,192,695.

GBFF RESOURCES REQUESTED FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

13. The total of \$25.68 million of GEF project financing and Agency fees is requested for three projects in the June 2025 GBFF Work Program, as presented in Table 1. These three projects also requested \$0.71 million in PPGs and associated PPG fees.

14. All five countries included in the Work Program, namely Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Peru, and Congo, have requested their respective country maximum dollar value of funding requests for the first programming tranche of the GBFF, which was made available on February 16, 2024.⁷

Table 1. GBFF Resources Requested in June 2025 Work Program⁸

Project Title	Country	Agency	GBFF Project Financing (\$)	Agency Fee (\$)	% IPLC of GBFF Project Financing ⁹
Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC	Congo DR	FAO	5,840,868	554,882	55
Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC)	Peru	WWF-US	11,232,110	1,010,890	20
Strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS)	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Regional	WWF-US	6,460,126	581,411	14
TOTAL			23,533,104	2,147,183	30%

15. Each GBFF project tracks the amount of resource allocated to support actions by IPLCs for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of biodiversity at various stages of the project cycle. The three projects included in this Work Program are allocating significant resources for IPLC action, at \$7.18 million, or 30 percent of the total GEF project financing requested.

⁷ GEF, 2024, [Country Maximum Dollar Value of Funding Request\(s\) for the First Programming Tranche of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), Council document GEF/GBFF.02/Inf.01.

⁸ Excluding PPG and PPG fees as they are not subject to Council approval.

⁹ Expressed as a percentage of the total project cost, including agency fee, PPG and PPG agency fee.

16. For the project in Peru, \$2.55 million of the total \$11.23 million in GEF project financing, or 23 percent, supports IPLC actions. For the project in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Congo, this figure stands at \$1.00 million of the total \$6.46 million GEF project financing, or 15 percent. Finally, \$3.64 million of a total \$5.84 million in GEF project financing, or 62 percent, supports IPLC actions in the project in the DRC.

ALIGNMENT WITH GBFF ACTION AREAS AND KMGBF TARGET

17. The GBFF Programming Directions include seven GBFF Action Areas that are aligned with 23 KMGBF targets, as shown in Table 2. The three projects presented in this Work Program address Action Areas 1, 2, 4, and 5. Together, they support achievements of Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 of KMGBF, which are summarized by the CBD Secretariat as follows:

- [Target 1: Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss;](#)
- [Target 2: Restore 30 percent of all degraded ecosystems;](#)
- [Target 3: Conserve 30 percent of land, waters and seas;](#)
- [Target 4: Halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity, and manage human-wildlife conflicts;](#)
- [Target 8: Minimize the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience;](#)
- [Target 9: Manage wild species sustainably to benefit people;](#)
- [Target 10: Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry;](#)
- [Target 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level;](#)
- [Target 18: Reduce harmful incentives by at least \\$500 billion per year, and scale up positive incentives for biodiversity;](#)
- [Target 19: Mobilize \\$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources, including \\$30 Billion through international finance;](#)
- [Target 20: Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity;](#)
- [Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible To Guide Biodiversity Action;](#)
- [Target 22: Ensure participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity for all;](#)
- [Target 23: Ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach for biodiversity action.](#)

18. For instance, the project on community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC addresses GBFF **Action Area 1** by enhancing conservation in IPLC lands and financing the restoration of part of the forest located on these lands. The project also supports GBFF **Action Area 2** to support IPLC stewardship and governance, notably by empowering IPLCs to secure formal tenure rights over their lands, including through demarcation and registration, and to foster IPLC-led biodiversity-friendly businesses for enhanced livelihoods and sustainable use of biodiversity.

19. The project on Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru will address GBFF **Action Area 1** by supporting the expansion and effective management of globally significant Conserved Areas in the Northern Corridor and ensuring sufficient and predictable financial resources to support their management in the long term. In support of GBFF **Action Area 2**, the project will strengthen IPLC territorial governance mechanisms and improve access to sustainable financing and value chains for bio-businesses. Regarding **Action Area 4**, the project includes a strong emphasis on the implementation of sustainable financing mechanisms that can leverage increased funding for biodiversity conservation in all its components. On **Action Area 5**, the project will support IPLCs sustainable biodiversity-based activities and value chains that enhance biodiversity and generate social, economic, and environmental benefits in the Corridor, while protecting customary use of biodiversity resources by IPLCs.

20. The project on strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Congo will support **Action Area 1** by contributing to the effective management of the TNS landscape, land-use planning and the restoration of degraded areas, including by ensuring sufficient and predictable financial resources. The project will also support **Action Area 2** by establishing the mechanisms required to foster Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' engagement in the TNS governance structures and the integration of their rights and needs into FTNS procedures. On **Action Area 4**, the project will make the area's management more attractive to potential donors, which is key to implementing its resource mobilization strategy.

Table 2. GBFF Action Areas and Alignment with KMGBF Targets

Action Areas	Description	Alignment with KMGBF Targets
1	Biodiversity conservation, restoration, land/sea-use and spatial planning	Targets 1, 2, 3
2	Support to IPLC stewardship and governance of lands, territories, and waters	Targets 1, 2, 3, 22
3	Policy alignment and development	Targets 14, 15, 18
4	Resource mobilization	Targets 18, 19
5	Sustainable use of biodiversity	Targets 5, 9
6	Biodiversity mainstreaming in production sectors	Targets 7, 10
7	Invasive alien species (IAS) management and control	Target 6
8	Capacity building and implementation support for biosafety, handling of biotechnology and access and benefit sharing, including under the Nagoya and Cartagena protocols	Targets 13 and 17

STATUS ON THE USE OF GBFF RESOURCES

21. The Work Program, approved as part of the second selection round, contributes programming of resources relative to GBFF’s first tranche of available funding (Table 3).

Table 3. GBFF Resources for Three Selection Rounds of the First Tranche¹⁰

	First Tranche: \$211 million		
	First selection round (\$ million)	Second selection round (\$ million)	Third selection round (\$ million)
Total approved PPG requests	39.78	70.66	91.17
Total approved by, or presented to, Council (as of April 11, 2025)	37.82	26.39	0

DISTRIBUTION OF GEF PROJECT FINANCING BY REGION

22. Five recipient countries will benefit from this Work Program, namely Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, the DRC, and Peru.

23. In terms of regional distribution, Latin America is receiving \$12.57 million, or 48 percent of the Work Program resources, and Africa is receiving \$13.82 million, or 52 percent.

¹⁰ Inclusive of PPGs and PPG fees.

DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES BY AGENCY

24. Two of the 18 GEF Agencies are represented in the June 2025 Work Program. WWF-US has the higher amount requested with \$19.83 million including agency fee, PPG and associated PPG fee, while FAO requested \$6.56 million including agency fee, PPG and associated PPG fee.

25. The second selection round also approved a PPG request from Indonesia with UNDP as implementing agency which requested a total of \$7.00 million, including agency fee, PPG and associated PPG fee. This project has been delayed and is expected to be presented to Council at a later date.

26. Table 4 summarizes Agency shares of GBFF resources requested in the June 2025 Work Program, as well as resources approved and/or set-aside in the first tranche, and the agency share.

27. As indicated in the Progress Report presented to the third GBFF Council in December 2024, the proportion of the cumulative first tranche resources approved/set-aside for programming by the international financing institutions (IFIs) stands at 20 percent.¹¹

Table 4. Agency Distribution of GBFF Resources in June 2025 Work Program, Approvals and Set-Aside to Date, and Cumulative Resources¹²

Agency	Resources Requested in June 2025 Work Program (\$)	Resources Approved by Council and CEO to date (\$)	Resources Set-Aside for Approved PPG Requests to date (\$)	Cumulative Resources Approved and Set-Aside (\$)	Agency Share of Cumulative Resources (%)
ADB	-	-	3,000,000	3,000,000	1%
CAF	-	-	19,774,139	19,774,139	10%
CI	-	18,500,000	4,876,006	23,376,006	12%
DBSA	-	-	2,209,975	2,209,975	1%
FAO	6,560,000	-	19,277,907	25,837,907	13%
Funbio	-	9,880,000	-	9,880,000	5%
IFAD	-	-	4,527,504	4,527,504	2%
IUCN	-	-	12,832,000	12,832,000	6%
UNDP	-	-	47,208,566	47,208,566	23%
World Bank	-	-	10,806,750	10,806,750	5%
WWF-US	19,829,526	11,398,910	10,934,747	42,163,183	21%
Grand Total	26,389,526	39,778,910	135,447,594	201,616,030	100%

¹¹ GEF, 2024, [Progress on Programming for Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), Council document GEF/GBFF.03/03.

¹² Resources include project grant amount, Agency fee, PPG and PPG fee.

OUTCOME TARGETS FOR THE WORK PROGRAM

28. This proposed Work Program identifies high outcome targets for enhancing biodiversity, aiming to support close to 2 million hectares of terrestrial and marine protected areas. Conservation of the Sangha Trinational will contribute the most to improving management effectiveness of terrestrial protected areas, covering over 1.3 million hectares alone. Meanwhile, the project in Peru expects to support up to 542,741 hectares of terrestrial and 115,675 hectares of marine protected areas. In addition, another 4.29 million hectares of landscapes will be placed under improved management to benefit biodiversity across the three projects, of which 3.94 million hectares in Peru alone. An additional 15,000 hectares of land and ecosystems will be brought under restoration, including 14,000 hectares in the DRC.

29. Support to improving nature also yields climate benefits, with an anticipated 14.56 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions avoided through this Work Program. The contributions to this effort come from conservation in the Sangha Trinational protected areas and the support to IPLC lands in the DRC, with 6.77 million and 1.35 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) avoided, respectively. An additional 347,821 tCO₂e in mitigation efforts is also expected from the project on applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru.

30. All three projects included in this Work Program recognized IPLCs as catalysts to achieving environmental benefits. In total, 68,870 people have been identified as benefiting directly from these investments, including 33,665 women.

31. Table 5 presents the contribution of the three projects in the Work Program to the Core Indicators.

Table 5. Contribution of June 2025 GBFF Work Program to Core Indicators

Core Indicator	Value
1. Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management	1,871,016
2. Marine protected areas created or under improved management	115,675
3. Area of land and ecosystems under restoration	15,000
4. Area of landscapes under improved practices	4,295,914
11. People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)	68,870
- of whom women	33,665
6. Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (metric tons of CO ₂ e)	8,461,413

PORTFOLIO-LEVEL TARGETS

32. The GBFF has three portfolio-level targets, included in the Council-approved GBFF Programming Directions. As this Work Program presents three projects totaling \$26.39 million

out of the 18 concepts totaling \$70.66 million selected for the second selection round of the first tranche (see Annex B), they only represent approximately one-third of the financial volume of the second selection round cohort. Nevertheless, the contributions of the three projects included in this Work Program for the portfolio-level targets are summarized below to provide a snapshot of progress being made towards portfolio-level targets.

- i. **36 percent + 3 percent allocated to small island developing States (SIDS)/least developed countries (LDCs):**¹³ of the five countries benefiting from the three projects, two are LDCs (Central African Republic and the DRC), totaling 29 percent of the GBFF resources requested in the current Work Program.
- ii. **25 percent to be programmed through international financing institutions (IFIs):**¹⁴ The Work Program does not include any submission from IFIs.
- iii. **Aspirational share of 20 percent by 2030 to support actions by IPLCs:** The three projects presented in this Work Program are proposing to allocate \$7.18 million of GEF project financing, or 30 percent of the total GEF project financing requested for the Work Program, to support actions by IPLCs.

33. Across GBFF's entire portfolio to date, including projects both below and above \$5 million, progress towards the portfolio level targets has been made as follows:

- i. 36 percent of GBFF financing has been allocated to SIDS and LDCs.
- ii. 20 percent of funding has been programmed through IFIs.
- iii. 32 percent has been allocated to support actions by IPLCs.

IPLC CONSIDERATIONS

34. Regarding the IPLC support, all three projects emphasize the engagement of IPLCs as decisionmakers, implementers of action, as well as beneficiaries, with a significant share of the GEF project financing allocated to support IPLC action, as described earlier. Notable approaches and engagements with IPLCs in each project are summarized below:

35. ***Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC (GEFID 11590):*** The project's most innovative dimension is the central role played by the Twa indigenous communities. In addition to the restoration, conservation and sustainable

¹³ As stated in the Council-approved Programming Directions, the 3 percent portion to SIDS and LDCs will be reviewed after 3 years of the date of the Fund ratification at the Assembly. If unused, the 3 percent will be reprogrammed to other countries.

¹⁴ As stated in the Council-approved Programming Directions, a report to the GBFF Council will be presented at the GBFF council 2 years after the date of ratification of the GBFF at the GEF Assembly. This report will include the distribution of GBFF resources by agencies. The GBFF Council can, at that time, discuss new measures as needed to ensure that the target for IFIs is achieved.

management of biodiversity under Twa stewardship, the project's financial exit strategy focuses on establishing biodiversity-positive, sustainable and economically viable businesses that are indigenous-led. This places Twa populations at the center of this proposal as agents of biodiversity stewardship, their livelihoods and their own sustainable future. 50,000 Twa people (50% of which women) are expected to benefit from this project.

36. ***Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC) (GEFID 11432)***: This project will support Indigenous Peoples' conservation in several ways. It includes support for the elaboration of community "life plans" and their implementation. Indigenous life plans provide a foundation for additional support rooted in self-determination. The project will also work to create sustainable bio-economy opportunities which provide long term self-sustaining income so that communities do not have to leave their lands to make a living.

37. ***Strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) (GEFID 11609)***: This project targets the Sangha Tri-National Landscape (TNS) which is a globally significant biodiversity hotspot and World Heritage Site that also embodies rich cultural and traditional knowledge systems of IPLCs. It seeks to ensure access to forest resources and equitable benefits for 5,500 individuals from IPLC groups who rely on the forest for their livelihoods and cultural practices. It will also strengthen the participation and representation of IPLCs at different governance levels of the TNS landscape, including the TNS Trust Fund (FTNS) to safeguard their interests. A key innovation of the project is the capitalization of the FTNS endowment with an additional \$5 million from the GBFF, which will ensure sustainable financing to support conservation activities in the TNS. The interest generated from this capital will be used to fund earmarked GBFF-priority activities, including supporting income-generating initiatives for IPLCs, and further strengthening their capacities and engagement in TNS governance.

GENDER CONSIDERATIONS

38. All the three projects in this first GBFF work program incorporated gender equality considerations in a substantial way, complying with GEF requirements and GBFF Programming Directions to ensure gender-responsive implementation of the KMGBF. All the projects contribute to realizing targets 22 and 23 of the KMGBF by, among others, addressing issues of rights and access to land and natural resources, ensuring women's full and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of action. Some highlights of good practice gender-responsive actions of the three projects are presented below:

- i. ***Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC***. This project aims to involve IPLCs in decision-making and as primary beneficiaries. In addition to establishing minimum quotas for women in consultations and setting up a gender-responsive framework, the project also includes gender-sensitive training for both men and women, and will include specific clauses in institutional agreements to secure women's access to land.

- ii. ***Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC).*** Component 3 of this project aims to support local bio-businesses as a means of ensuring sustainable use of biodiversity. This component will ensure that at least 40 percent of individuals receiving capacity-building and/or technical assistance are women. Additional measures include minimum requirements for women’s participation in all relevant activities, including consultations and decision-making.
- iii. ***Strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS).*** In addition to supporting specifically women-led income-generating activities aligned with conservation goals (such as sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and processing non-timber forest products), this project will also strengthen women’s leadership by including capacity-building activities on public speaking and leadership development programs targeted specifically to women in indigenous communities.

RISK PROFILE

39. The risk profile of the GBFF Work Program is presented for the first time since the approval of the GEF Risk Appetite at the 66th GEF Council in February 2024.¹⁵

40. Under the Context risk dimension, the risk is rated Substantial (2.7), while the Innovation and Execution dimensions are rated Moderate (2.0 and 1.7, respectively). These ratings are based on a four-point scale, where 1 = Low, 2 = Moderate, 3 = Substantial, and 4 = High. They are based on Agencies’ assessments of project risks and planned mitigants, with scores reflecting residual risk after mitigation.

41. To align project-level ratings across nine risk categories with GEF’s risk appetite (Substantial for Context, High for Innovation, Moderate for Execution), Table 6 provides an average for each dimension, calculated using the highest category rating per project. This approach produces slightly higher dimension-level ratings than category-level ratings.

¹⁵ GEF, 2024, GEF Risk Appetite, Council document GEF/C.66/13.

Table 6. Risk Profile of the Work Program (ratings: 1 Low – 4 High)

Category	Risk Rating
CONTEXT	2.7
Climate	2.3
Environmental and Social	2.0
Political and Governance	2.3
INNOVATION	2.0
Institutional and Policy	1.7
Technological	1.0
Financial and Business Model	1.7
EXECUTION	1.7
Capacity for Implementation	1.7
Fiduciary	1.7
Stakeholder	1.3

42. Under the Context risk dimension, the average risk rating is 2.7, indicating a substantial risk from the external environment. The Climate, Environmental and Social, and Political and Governance risk dimensions have average ratings of 2.3, 2.0, and 2.3 respectively, indicating moderate risks. The high climate risk in DRC is due to increased droughts, unreliable rainfall, and frequent damaging events causing crop failures and loss of livelihoods. In the Sangha Tri-National area, moderate environmental risk arises from armed groups and volatile security situations potentially leading to internal population displacements.

43. The Innovation risk dimension carries a Moderate rating, averaging 2.0 for the Work Program. Agencies assessed innovation risks across three categories—Institutional and Policy, Technological, and Financial and Business Model—rating them as generally Low to Moderate. For institutional and policy risks, the project in Northern Peru faces a moderate risk as the transition to an integrated landscape approach may encounter resistance from stakeholders with differing or conflicting interests; the project will mitigate this through structured, fact-based dialogue to foster consensus. In technological risks, the Community-based conservation project in DRC faces low risk, as it promotes locally adapted agroecological and restoration methods, ensuring alignment with community needs through free, prior, and informed consent. Regarding financial and business model risks, the Sangha Tri-National project faces a moderate risk linked to the long-term sustainability of its conservation trust fund, which will be addressed by strengthening investment oversight and board capacity to ensure sound financial management.

44. Execution risk for this Work Program is rated close to Moderate, with an average of 1.7. Capacity for Implementation and Fiduciary risks are both rated at 1.7, while Stakeholder risk is

the lowest within this dimension at 1.3. For institutional capacity, the Community-based conservation project in DRC faces moderate risks due to weak administrative capacities and potential resistance from traditional authorities, mitigated through extensive capacity-building efforts. In fiduciary risk, the Sangha Tri-National project presents a moderate risk thanks to comprehensive mitigation measures, including the use of a third-party financial administrator. Prior due diligence highlighted areas for improvement, which will be addressed through strengthened financial oversight and project interventions dedicated to ensuring the targeted Conservation Trust Fund meets international standards and donor requirements before fund transfers. For stakeholder engagement, the project in Northern Peru has low risk but faces logistical and cultural barriers, addressed through a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

WORK PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

45. **Democratic Republic of Congo.** *Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC.* (GEFID 11590) Agency: FAO; GBFF project financing: \$5,840,868; co-financing: \$12,000,000. Indigenous Twa communities make up 15 percent of the population of the DRC's Tanganyika province and 35 percent of Nyunzu territory, one of the two territories where the project is located (the other one being Kabalo). Once nomadic forest dwellers, they have now largely settled near Bantu villages due to deforestation and loss of land. However, they remain impoverished, economically marginalized and continue to rely extensively on forest resources.

46. This project aims to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in Community and Indigenous Land of the DRC, supporting the recovery of degraded ecosystems, carbon sequestration and storage, climate resilience, and people's livelihoods. It will notably identify and set up biodiversity-based indigenous-led businesses, thereby providing Twa communities with sustainable livelihoods and sources of income while empowering them to protect the forests located on their customary lands. As part of the project's exit strategy, Twa representatives will also benefit from training in financial literacy and on access to credit. The proposal was developed and will be implemented in close collaboration and for the benefit of the province's Twa communities.

47. While piloted in the Province of Tanganyika, this project is designed for national scalability and includes national-level interventions as well as interventions larger than biodiversity-based businesses, including on policy framework, land tenure and governance in pilot sites. This win-win proposal for both nature and Indigenous Peoples while also finance the restoration of 14,000 hectares and improve the management of 350,000 hectares of miombo forest endemic to southern Africa. It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 1,348,305 mtCO₂e, with a further 7,268,597 mtCO₂e in indirect mitigation impact, and will benefit an estimated 50,000 individuals, of which 50 percent women. The project will contribute to KMGBF targets 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 22 and 23.

48. **Peru.** *Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC).* (GEFID 11432) Agency: WWF-US; GBFF project financing \$11,232,110; co-financing \$30,069,315. Peru's Northern Transversal Economic Corridor (CETN) crosses a diversity of well preserved and modified ecosystems, situated across the departments of Piura, Lambayeque, Cajamarca, San Martin, Amazonas and Loreto. The Peruvian Government has designated the CETN as one of the country's priority geographic areas for promoting economic development. Agriculture production and the flow of goods and services have already increased in the region, with positive socio-economic benefits. However, unsustainable resource exploitation, land-use change and transport infrastructure development, have also led to habitat fragmentation and degradation of its ecosystem services.

49. To combat these environmental challenges, this project will support the implementation of Peru's environmental policies and the advancement of GBF Target 3 in the CETN, to consolidate an ecological-economic corridor where biodiversity and its ecosystem services are conserved, and local well-being is enhanced. The project will expand and strengthen the management of conservation areas, restore priority landscapes, and promote a local sustainable bioeconomy. Special consideration will be given to IPLCs, that will participate in project activities strengthening their governance and the sustainable management of their territories, developing sustainable bio-business, and improving the management of their conservation areas.

50. The project will enhance management effectiveness of 24 terrestrial protected areas (475,161 ha) and one marine protected area (115,675 ha), establish four terrestrial protected areas (67,580 ha), contribute to restoration initiatives (1,000 ha), support sites under other conservation modalities and recognize Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) (3,827,329 ha). The project will mitigate at least 347,821 tCO₂e and all climate co-benefits will be reported during implementation. It will directly benefit 13,370 people, including 6,465 women.

51. **Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Regional.** *Strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS)* (GEFID 11609) Agency: WWF-US; GBFF project financing \$7,041,537; co-financing \$464,000. The project aims to provide sustainable, long-term investment in the globally significant Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape, contributing to the 30x30 goals of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Congo. Covering 4.4 million hectares, the TNS landscape includes three contiguous protected areas: Lobéké National Park in Cameroon, Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas in the Central African Republic, and Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park in Congo. The project will strengthen the existing TNS Trust Fund (FTNS) by improving its policies, procedures, systems and staff capacity in accordance with international standards for Conservation Trust Funds (CTFs).

52. These measures will include environmental and social safeguards, risk management, and the inclusion of IPLCs and gender considerations. Following the successful implementation of these measures and once matching donor funding is secured (\$6,460,126 additional to the co-financing already reported), the project will capitalize the FTNS endowment to provide predictable, long-term finance for management of the TNS. The contribution to the endowment

will be earmarked for GBFF priority activities, including improving protected area management, fostering transboundary cooperation, enhancing support to IPLC stewardship, including funding to develop IPLCs and women capacities, and improve their livelihoods. Beyond the FTNS, the project will also directly support the ongoing integration of Environmental and Social Safeguards, gender equality, and the inclusion of IPLCs at protected area level.

53. The project will generate the following Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs): 1,328,275 hectares of protected areas under improved management effectiveness; 6,000 hectares under improved management for biodiversity benefits; and 6,765,287 tCO₂e mitigated. The project contributes to the following KMGBF targets: 3, 4, 9, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23.

ANNEX A: PROJECT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR GBFF COUNCIL APPROVAL

June 5, 2025

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fee	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
in US \$											
GBFF Projects											
<i>Biodiversity</i>											
1	11595	Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC)	Biodiversity	Peru	WWF-US	300,000	27,000	11,232,110	1,010,890	30,069,315	42,639,315
2	11590	Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC	Biodiversity	Congo DR	FAO	150,000	14,250	5,840,868	554,882	12,000,000	18,560,000
3	11609	Strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS)	Biodiversity	Regional (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo)	WWF-US	199,991	17,998	6,460,126	581,411	464,000	7,723,526
Sub-Total						649,991	59,248	23,533,104	2,147,183	42,533,315	68,922,841
GRAND TOTAL						649,991	59,248	23,533,104	2,147,183	42,533,315	68,922,841

ANNEX B: APPROVED PPG REQUESTS FROM SECOND SELECTION ROUND OF FIRST TRANCHE

66 PPG requests were submitted from 63 countries for the second selection round of the first tranche, which closed on April 1, 2024. They included 32 submissions from least developed countries (LDCs) and/or small island developing States (SIDS).

In total, 18 PPG requests from 21 countries were approved for the second selection round on May 9, 2024, including 11 PPG requests from 13 LDCs/SIDS. The selected PPG requests are presented in the table below.

These PPG requests approved for the second selection round total \$70.66 million, leveraging \$128.73 million.

Three out of the four projects above \$5 million are included in this Work Program. They are shaded in grey and marked with an asterisk.

GEF ID	Project Title	Agency	Country	Total funding request (incl. PPG and PPG fee)	Co-Financing
11582	Advancing integrated participatory spatial planning to enhance Samoa’s globally significant biodiversity at a national scale	FAO	Samoa	\$1,160,000	\$2,666,667
11583	Scaling up biodiversity-positive and culturally inclusive agrifood and agritourism systems in Palau	FAO	Palau	\$1,160,000	\$2,000,000
11588	Reimagining National Parks for People and Nature – Leveraging Durable Financing Mechanisms for Mega Living Landscapes (MLL) to achieve Target 3 in South Africa	WWF-US	South Africa	\$5,000,000	-
11589	Strengthening Globally Significant Biodiversity Corridors in the Philippines through Local Community Empowerment	ADB	Philippines	\$3,000,000	\$27,000,000
11590*	Community-based conservation for biodiversity and livelihoods in the context of climate change in DRC	FAO	Congo DR	\$6,560,000	\$12,000,000
11595*	Delivering Target 3 at the regional scale in Peru: Applying the ecosystem approach in the Northern Transversal Economic Corridor of Peru (Northern TEC)	WWF-US	Peru	\$12,570,000	\$30,069,315
11598	Support for the development of a national policy, institutional and monitoring framework to effectively implement the Nagoya Protocol in Belize	UNDP	Belize	\$1,160,000	-
11600	Philippines Biodiversity Financing Program	UNDP	Philippines	\$4,000,000	-

GEF ID	Project Title	Agency	Country	Total funding request (incl. PPG and PPG fee)	Co-Financing
11604	Advancing ABS implementation in Cambodia	UNDP	Cambodia	\$1,350,000	-
11606	Responding to Pacific priorities for ecosystem management and NBSAP implementation through strengthening capacities for effective planning and monitoring of ecosystems	UNDP	Fiji, Nauru, Tonga, Regional	\$4,630,000	\$1,000,000
11609*	Strengthening transboundary conserved area management of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS)	WWF-US	Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Regional	\$7,259,526	\$464,000
11612	Empowering Indigenous Peoples for Sustainable Development: Inclusive Biodiversity Management through a Social and Solidarity Economy Approach	UNDP	Suriname	\$1,160,000	-
11616	Restoring Forest Ecosystem Functions Through Community-Based Management in the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan	UNDP	Jordan	\$870,000	-
11626	Effective protection of Mozambique's Miombo woodlands and marine hotspot conservation areas enhancing global coping mechanisms to climate change	CI	Mozambique	\$4,876,006	\$16,971,324
11636	Sustainable Management and Restoration of Threatened Ecological Corridors in Kenya	World Bank	Kenya	\$3,896,750	\$12,500,000
11638	Enhancing co-benefits of conservation/protected area management through an inclusive wildlife-based ecotourism strategy (ECOTOURISM)	UNDP	Indonesia	\$7,000,000	\$21,000,000
11640	Strengthening the protected area system in Angola through innovation and capacity development	UNDP	Angola	\$3,260,000	\$600,000
11642	Support for the development of protected areas for the conservation of biodiversity	UNDP	Senegal	\$1,749,625	\$2,920,000
			TOTAL	\$70,661,907	\$128,727,306