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**GEF-9 PROGRAMMING SCENARIOS AND
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TARGETS
(PREPARED BY THE GEF SECRETARIAT)**

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INTRODUCTION

1. This paper describes the GEF-9 programming scenarios and results targets. The first section explains how GEF-9 programming scenarios will help the GEF support countries in achieving Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). The second section articulates how Integrated Programs will be financed under the programming scenarios. The third section provides targets and estimates of the scale of lasting Global Environmental Benefits to be delivered in ten targeted results areas based on the programming scenarios. The fourth section indicates expected target levels for Rio Markers.

2. The importance of "grant-based (among other financial support) support for developing countries"¹, as well as the call to "explore increasing the share of grants in official development assistance"² were highlighted in the Sevilla Commitment – the outcome paper of the recently concluded 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4). These priorities were also underscored at the UNCCD COP16 as essential to closing the significant financing gap for climate and nature, reflecting a strong commitment to supporting developing countries with non-debt creating instruments to enable sustainable investment and deliver Global Environmental Benefits³.

3. The GEF is explicitly recognized within the Sevilla Commitment as a key means of implementation for environmental actions⁴. This places the GEF family of funds as a critical financial tool within the international financial architecture to address biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change. As recognized by the IEO's OPS-8, The GEF "...stands out as a uniquely relevant financing mechanism for global environmental action."⁵

4. The recent calls at COPs indicate a need to "pursue efforts to triple annual outflows from those Funds (climate and environmental funds including the GEF) from 2022 levels by 2030 at the latest with a view to significantly scaling up the share of finance delivered through them in delivering" the USD 300 billion New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG).

5. The GEF has been active in approaching new potential donors to expand the financial support for the work of the GEF. Many countries have been contacted and discussions are underway to entice these countries to become members of the GEF Partnership and eventually participate in the negotiations as donors. We have sent out over 10 such invitations and discussions are ongoing.

¹ *Sevilla Commitment* (<https://docs.un.org/en/A/CONF.227/2025/L.1>)

² Ibid

³ <https://www.unccd.int/resources/publications/investing-lands-future-financial-needs-assessment-unccd>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), *Integration for Greater Impact: Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF*, Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2025.

6. The GEF-8 period also has coincided with major developments in the multilateral environmental landscape. The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) was adopted by consensus in June 2023.⁶ The agreement identifies the GEF as part of its Financial Mechanism, which also includes a special fund and a voluntary trust fund. The process to develop an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, has been ongoing and is expected to continue. The GEF will continue to support work on plastics pollution, without prejudging the outcomes of the negotiations. The GEF-9 funding cycle will therefore feature an expanded scope of themes and priorities to be supported.

7. The multilateral financial landscape has also evolved significantly in the GEF-8 period across the MEAs served by the GEF. For instance, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP) at its 15th meeting in December 2022 requested the GEF to establish the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), to be financed by all sources. The CBD COP at its 16th meeting in November 2024 reached an agreement on digital sequencing information (DSI), including the establishment of the global fund for DSI for benefit sharing, to be hosted by the Multi-Partnership Trust Fund of the United Nations (UN). In the climate change arena, the UNFCCC COP at its 27th meeting in December 2022 decided to establish a new Fund for responding to Loss and Damage. Based on subsequent COP decisions, the fund is hosted by the World Bank for an initial four-year period, also designating the fund as another operating entity of the financial mechanism, along with the GEF and the Green Climate Fund. In the UNCCD, drought has become a major priority, and this was evident in COP16 in December 2024. The Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership has just been launched with seed capital from Saudi Arabia. This evolution in funding opportunities, mainly focused on development and infrastructure, can represent a complementary source of support (some of which may be beyond official development assistance (ODA), and associated governance changes signal major developments in the financing landscape that are important factors in the GEF-9 replenishment.

8. It is within this context that we present 3 different programming scenarios for GEF-9 that build on the guiding principles that were discussed in the 2nd negotiation meeting in Botswana. The scenarios include a status quo scenario of \$5.33B, a slightly lower scenario of \$4.5B, and a more ambitious scenario of \$6.0B.

9. These 3 programming scenarios were selected based on discussions with donors and the Trustee over the past months. Information gathered during that time, indicate that the GEF-9 financial envelope will most probably land in the range provided by these scenarios. Factors that

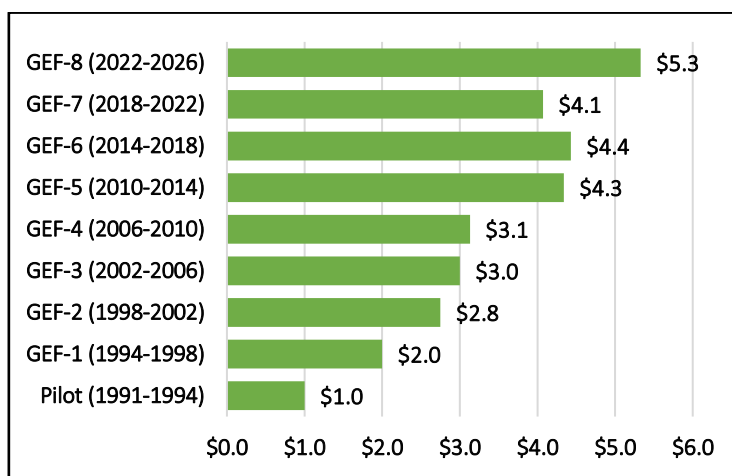
⁶ A/CONF.232/2023/4, [*Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction*](#)

will influence that final financial envelope of GEF-9 will include donor pledges compared to GEF-8, the exchange rate, and potential carry-over amounts from a variety of sources⁷.

GEF-9 PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS

10. The proposed GEF-9 programming scenarios respond to the expectations of the global community and to the ambitions for increased funding for the global environment that have been made public in the past year by countries and multi-lateral bodies. Given the scale relative to the estimates of the Nature Financing Gap,⁸ and within the context of the international commitments being made to the environment, a much more robust GEF-9 replenishment relative to GEF-8 would match the high ambition and expanded mandate of the GEF. Figure 1 reflects the GEF’s previous replenishment levels which has seen a 30% increase in the GEF-8 funding cycle compared to GEF-7 (\$5.3 billion compared to \$4.1 billion) (Figure 1).

Figure 1: GEF Replenishment Envelopes throughout the Phases (in US\$ billion)



11. In line with previous replenishments,⁹ final programming resources are divided across the GEF’s focal areas supported by the GEF Trust Fund and other activities. The GEF-9 replenishment

⁷ GEF/R.9/19, Financial Considerations for the GEF-9 Replenishment.

⁸ As of 2019, the biodiversity financing gap alone is estimated to be between US\$ 598 billion and US\$ 824 billion per year. *Financing Nature: Closing the global biodiversity financing gap*, Deutz, A., Heal, G. M., Niu, R., Swanson, E., Townshend, T., Zhu, L., Delmar, A., Meghji, A., Sethi, S. A., and Tobin-de la Puente, J. 2020. The Paulson Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability, <https://www.paulsoninstitute.org/key-initiatives/financing-nature-report/>

⁹ GEF/C.62/03, *Summary of Negotiations of the Eight Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund*, https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06/EN_GEF_C.62_03_Summary%20of%20Negotiations%20of%20the%208th%20Replenishment%20of%20the%20GEF%20Trust%20Fund_.pdf

amount, once agreed on, will be allocated across the GEF's five focal areas¹⁰ (Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Chemicals & Waste, International Waters, including indicative funding for the 8 Integrated Programs), Strategic Initiatives (Non-Grant Instrument, Small Grants Program, and the Country Engagement Strategy) and the Corporate Budgets (GEFSEC, IEO, Trustee, and STAP). The GEF Trust Fund supports six Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, BBNJ, Minamata, and Stockholm.

12. Historically, close to 90% of a GEF cycle's resource allocation have been associated with focal areas directly. This ensured that most of the replenishment cycle's resources go to countries, either directly through STAR allocations or to countries through International Waters and Chemicals and Waste projects and programs. The priority to maintain and increase the "Integration" agenda for the GEF assumes that sufficient resources will continue to be channelled through focal areas to provide countries with STAR allocations and also set aside sufficient incentives resources for Enabling Activities and participation in Integrated Program through country incentives.

13. The request to prioritize blended finance investments in GEF-9 is best achieved by increasing the resources to the NGI window together with a planned mainstreaming¹¹ of blended finance across all focal areas and Integrated Programs. In order to secure resources for the NGI window, it is important to note that both the biodiversity and climate change focal areas have a decrease in allocation share (in % compared to GEF-8). As the remaining 3 focal areas (Land Degradation, International Waters, and Chemicals and Waste) were also identified as priorities by Participants, they have received increased allocations in the GEF-9 scenarios.

14. Fortunately, through its strategic focal area investments, its integrated programming, and its engagements with key stakeholders and policies at the country level, the GEF is able to systematically multiply ODA funds into broader impact. It is expected that this catalytic logic will be further intensified by the integrated programming, the growing policy focus of GEF-9, and the increased focus and mainstreaming of blended finance to promote private sector engagement as well as unlock more private capital to increase the impact of GEF investments. Similarly to previous replenishments, we present results frameworks associated with each financial scenario later in this paper. Also as demonstrated from the past cycles, the larger and more integrated the financial scenario is, the more impact and global environmental benefits the GEF can deliver.

15. The allocation for the three Rio Conventions (Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Land Degradation) is further distributed across country allocations and set asides. Country allocations are predetermined levels of funding to each eligible GEF recipient country to fund projects and

¹⁰ Biodiversity action will also be supported by the GBFF and Climate Adaption will be supported by the LDCF and SCCF funds.

¹¹ GEF/R.9/12, GEF-9 Programming Directions

programs according to their national priorities; they are determined by the GEF's System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR).¹² Set-aside allocations under the Focal Areas fund the core enabling activities, global and regional projects and programs, and Integrated Program Incentives.

16. The next section provides the rationale for resource allocations among the GEF-9 elements and indicative amounts for the three scenarios of *US\$4.5 Billion*, *US\$5.33 Billion*, and *US\$6 Billion*.

Rationale for the GEF-9 Resource Allocation

Focal Areas

17. The GEF-9 scenarios are built around the following main resource allocation rationale:

- The Biodiversity Focal Area is proposed to have a 35.0%, 33.0%, or 31.5% allocation of resources depending on the scenario. This means that the BD Focal Area continues to be the most significant focal area and it maintains GEF's ability to help combat the precipitous decline in global biodiversity by funding priority objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15, and to be complementary to the work being undertaken by the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund. The GEF is the only standing multilateral fund with a dedicated window to support biodiversity as part of its main GEF Trust Fund, as well as an additional dedicated fund the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) established in response to the COP15 decisions. A strong allocation for this focal area is needed to meet the ambition and urgency for action required for the GEF to play a lead role that is consistent with this mandate.
- The Climate Change Focal Area allocation is proposed at 10.0% in all scenarios. While this represents a decrease in comparison to previous replenishments, it still allows for maintaining this focal area as a strategic area of investment for the GEF and ensures that all countries receive the minimum in STAR allocation for CCM.
- The decrease in overall allocation shares for both Biodiversity and Climate Change are needed to provide resources for priorities identified by Participants, that is, for blended finance through the NGI window, as well as the other focal areas.
- An increase in the Land Degradation of 11.5%, 12.0%, and 12.0% is proposed to allow increased focus on supporting Land Degradation Neutrality as well as a renewed focus on drought, in line with the proactive approach to drought management that has been adopted by the UNCCD. Many of the LD objectives are

¹² GEF/R.9/13, Policy Directions for GEF-9

mainly realized through integrated investments with BD and CC in either Integrated Programs or multi-focal area projects and programs.

- An increase in the allocation for the Chemicals & Waste Focal Area is proposed of 16.0%, 16.0%, and 16.4% depending on the scenario, reflecting growing demand for GEF support for implementation of the Minamata Convention, including for enabling activities, but also reflecting the growing scope and higher demand of work being conducted under the Stockholm Convention and allowing for any role for the GEF in an eventual Plastics Treaty.
- An increased allocation for the International Waters Focal Area of 12.0, 12.5%, and 12.5% is proposed with a particular focus on helping countries' harness their blue economy potential and on supporting the new Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) which will enter into force 120 days after the date of deposit of the 60th instrument of ratification, approval, acceptance or accession.
- It is important to note that while the Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Land Degradation focal area resources go directly to countries through their STAR allocations, the International Waters and Chemicals and Waste focal area resources also fund national or regional projects and programs directly to GEF recipient countries and add to the overall resources that countries can program above their STAR allocations.
- Additionally, most focal areas contain set asides for Enabling Activities as dictated by COP guidance which are fully accounted for in these scenarios, as well as incentives for countries to participate in the Integrated Programs and for the Global Platforms.
- In GEF-8, the total focal area proportion of the cycle amounted to 89.2% of the total funding envelope¹³. Of that total, the incentive proportion for IPs was 12.6%. This total incentive resulted in a total IP investment across all 11 Integrated Programs of \$1.7 billion or 32% of the total GEF-8 resources. As the mandate for integration continues to be promoted across several international discussions, convention negotiations, and by the IEO, STAP, COPs and GEF donors, we are proposing to set the incentive match at 4:1 (STAR to incentive) while maintaining the IP incentive proportion stable at (12.6%). We estimate that this would result in close to 45-50% of the GEF-9 funding to be through Integrated Programs. This would allow many more countries to receive incentive funds and participate in IPs

¹³ Please see Annex 1 for the GEF-8 Allocation distribution and programming to date against the notional allocations.

in GEF-9. Maintaining the incentive resources at the same level as GEF-8 is important to maintain maximum resources in Country STAR Allocations. Keeping the ratio at 1:3 while proposing a 45% integration target would result in the need for a larger incentive window and thus decrease the total amount of STAR allocations for countries. Countries can of course decide to participate or not in the Integrated Programs. The decision remains entirely in the hands of countries.

Strategic Initiatives

18. Strategic Initiatives in GEF-9 will play a vital role in advancing GEF's whole of government and whole of society approach by scaling the impact of focal area and IP investments, increasing recipient country's ownership and policy coherence, unlocking additional financing, strengthening civil society.. The Country Engagement Strategy enhances country ownership by fostering whole of government coordination through national steering committees and country platforms, aligning GEF investments with national priorities, and enabling more strategic, cross-sectoral programming. Blended finance continues to be a cornerstone of GEF's strategy, leveraging non-grant instruments to attract private sector investment in high-impact, high-risk areas. The GEF-9 blended finance program builds on a strong track record of co-financing and expands collaboration with multilateral development banks to catalyze larger-scale investment flows. We also propose to mainstream the use of blended finance through a combination of financial incentives to countries and specific policy changes to better align access to resources by MDBs. The Small Grants Program remains a critical channel for key environmental action, providing direct access to funding and capacity building for civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as creating mechanisms to strengthen the engagement of women and youth.

19. As highlighted by the IEO's OPS-8 Report, inclusion of marginalized groups such as women, youth and Indigenous Peoples has been a core feature of the SGP, and further enhanced by GEF-8's SGP 2.0.¹⁴ The GEF SGP in GEF-9 will therefore serve as one dedicated pillar of the whole of society approach to enhance direct access to resources for civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women empowerment, and youth. SGP will continue to build on the GEF SGP 30 years' strong foundation and successes, as well as early achievements and lessons learned implementing SGP 2.0 in GEF-8. The proposed strategic directions include renewed principles to further diversify and expand the scale and scope of SGP to provide increased financing and meaningful support to civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and youth and women groups. To achieve this, we are proposing an increased allocation for SGP of 3.3% in the lowest scenario and 3.5% for the 2 larger scenarios compared to 2.9% in GEF-8.

¹⁴ Please see Annex 1 for the GEF-8 Allocation distribution and programming to date against the notional allocations.

20. The GEF has proven to be a leading innovator in Blended Finance structures, which the GEF Partnership has effectively used to accelerate private sector investment in areas that deliver GEBs under the GEF Trust Fund.¹⁵ As discussed in the IEO's OPS-8 Report and reflected in one of its recommendations, both NGI and the GEF's private sector engagement have demonstrated strong results, and have yet to reach their full potential.¹⁶ The GEF-8 Blended Finance Global Program received a \$196 million allocation and was established to create replicable business models and financial structures to demonstrate financial viability and to mobilize private sector investment in the environment. In order to meet the expectations of increased private sector participation and mobilize more private financing in GEF programs and projects, we are proposing an increase in the NGI window of 7.0%, 8.0%, and 10.0% depending on the scenario compared to 3.7% in GEF-8. This allocation would include the competitive NGI resources and an incentive for countries that submit blended finance projects using STAR resources. This proposal is being coupled with a policy package¹⁷ that will facilitate mainstreaming of private sector engagement in blended finance projects and programs and also stimulate MDB participation in GEF resource use.

21. The Country Engagement Strategy will build upon past investments to empower countries for maximum impact in the use of GEF resources, to advance GEF's policy coherence and whole of government integration, to build capacity and strategic opportunity for key GEF liaisons (Operational Focal Points, Political Focal Points, Convention Focal Points, Ministries) to lead impactful country portfolios, to mobilize critical stakeholders for nature-positive governance, and increase communications, knowledge, and learning. The CES brings together the entire GEF family of funds for efficient, effective, and responsive support to GEF recipient countries. As highlighted by the IEO's OPS-8, the CES improves alignment between GEF programming and national priorities, and one of the recommendations of the Report is to further deepen country engagement along a number of dimensions.¹⁸ We are proposing an allocation of 0.6%, 0.7%, and 0.7% for each of the 3 scenarios, which continues to be a small but highly impactful set of resources that allow for the consistent and proactive roll-out and implementation of all aspects of the GEF-9 strategy.

Administrative Budgets

22. We are proposing flat allocations for the administrative budgets of the GEFSEC, IEO, STAP, and Trustee compared to GEF-8, that only include additional resources to cover the costs of annual adjustments to salaries approved by the WB Board (not within control of the GEF) and

¹⁵ In the context of the GEF, non-grant instruments are instruments that provide financing in a form that has the potential to generate financial returns or the potential to repay principal to the original investment. These include debt, risk mitigation instruments, equity and performance-based financing, amongst others. [GEF Blended Finance Global Program and NGI Policy Update](#) GEF/C. 63/12

¹⁶ Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), [Integration for Greater Impact: Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF](#), Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2025.

¹⁷ GEF/R.9/13 Policy Directions for GEF-9

¹⁸ Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), [Integration for Greater Impact: Eighth Comprehensive Evaluation of the GEF](#), Washington, DC: GEF IEO, 2025.

the WB cost recovery rate per decisions of GEF Council¹⁹. Many costs of the different administrative functions of the Secretariat, IEO, STAP and the Trustee are fixed and are not dependent on replenishment size. These include support for the Conventions; presenting work programs; ongoing work on policies, operations, monitoring, and results; partnerships, country engagement, and the small grants program; knowledge and learning; communications, data gathering; IT systems; staging sessions of GEF Council and Assembly; and the costs of office space (already at highly efficient levels with significant saving)²⁰.

23. In addition, the administrative work needs for the four offices are cumulative from past replenishments, as projects and programs approved under past replenishments continue to work through to CEO endorsement and implementation. This generates significant ongoing work demands for GEF-9, especially to deliver the record replenishment of GEF-8, including final project/program review and approval; portfolio-level monitoring during implementation; bilateral coordination with agencies and the Trustee to address issues and ensure unused funds are returned to GEF²¹; evaluations (IEO), science and technical advice (STAP), and fiduciary and fund management (Trustee).

24. In all scenarios presented in the Table, the administrative costs continue to be an extremely low overhead for any organization, and a very strong competitive advantage of the GEF as indicated by the MOPAN assessment²². The IEO's OPS-8 also identifies the GEF as the most efficient of the vertical climate funds in terms of administrative costs relative to expenditure ratios by a significant margin. The proposed corporate budget for GEF-9 continues this high efficiency, highest among all similar organizations, and is kept at a minimum, below-inflation level to continue at very high cost effectiveness, efficiency, and savings while achieving quality delivery and strong results and value for money going forward.

¹⁹ This additional cost arose after the GEF-8 budget was decided, and was not factored into the GEF-8 amount.

²⁰ As explained in budget documents presented annually to GEF Council.

²¹ In GEF-8 these bilateral consultations led to major return of funds and savings

²² MOPAN (2025), MOPAN Assessment Report: Global Environment Facility (GEF), MOPAN, Paris.

Table 1 - Programming Scenarios for GEF-9

FOCAL AREA	GEF-8		GEF-9 \$4.5 Billion		GEF-9 \$5.33 Billion		GEF-9 \$6.0 Billion	
	\$	% of total	\$	% of total	\$	% of total	\$	% of total
Total BD	1919	36.0%	1575	35.0%	1765	33.0%	1890	31.5%
BD STAR Country Allocations	1453	27.3%	1095	24.3%	1232	23.1%	1303	21.7%
Integrated Landscape/Seascape Management	564	10.6%	305	6.8%	329	6.2%	348	5.8%
Biosafety & Access and Benefit Sharing	82	1.5%	13	0.3%	14	0.3%	12	0.2%
Realign Financial Flows & Mobilize Domestic Resource	165	3.1%	75	1.7%	100	1.9%	100	1.7%
Integrated Programs	641	12.0%	702	15.6%	787	14.8%	843	14.0%
BD STAR Set Aside	466	8.7%	480	10.7%	533	10.0%	587	9.8%
EAs	60	1.1%	145	3.2%	145	2.7%	145	2.4%
Global and Regional Programs*	123	2.3%	103	2.3%	128	2.4%	163	2.7%
IP Global Platforms	69	1.3%	57	1.3%	63	1.2%	68	1.1%
IP Country Project Incentive	214	4.0%	176	3.9%	197	3.7%	211	3.5%
Total CCM	852	16.0%	450	10.0%	533	10.0%	600	10.0%
CCM STAR Country Allocations	524	9.8%	229	5.1%	252	4.7%	280	4.7%
Integrated long-term net-zero planning and just transition			10	0.2%	10	0.2%	11	0.2%
Resource efficiency and circular economy	103	1.9%	16	0.4%	17	0.3%	18	0.3%
Power systems and energy access	94	1.8%	16	0.4%	17	0.3%	18	0.3%
Integrated and zero-emission mobility	94	1.8%	16	0.4%	17	0.3%	18	0.3%

Nature-based solutions	68	1.3%	11	0.2%	11	0.2%	14	0.2%
Integrated Programs	164	3.1%	160	3.6%	180	3.4%	200	3.3%
CCM STAR Set Aside	328	6.2%	221	4.9%	281	5.3%	320	5.3%
CBIT	75	1.4%	50	1.1%	65	1.2%	75	1.3%
EAs	145	2.7%	101	2.2%	130	2.4%	145	2.4%
Global and Regional Programs	22	0.4%	10	0.2%	15	0.3%	20	0.3%
IP Global Platforms	33	0.6%	20	0.4%	30	0.6%	30	0.5%
IP Country Project Incentive	53	1.0%	40	0.9%	45	0.8%	50	0.8%
Total LD	618	11.6%	518	11.5%	640	12.0%	720	12.0%
LD STAR Country Allocations	458	8.6%	368	8.2%	479	9.0%	540	9.0%
Sustainable Land Management & Livelihoods	76	1.4%	61	1.4%	105	2.0%	115	1.9%
Restoration of Production Landscapes	44	0.8%						
Support Implementation of National Drought Plans	76	1.4%	38	0.8%	64	1.2%	75	1.3%
Inclusive Governance & Enabling frameworks	62	1.2%	29	0.6%	42	0.8%	50	0.8%
Integrated Programs	200	3.8%	240	5.3%	268	5.0%	300	5.0%
LD STAR Set Aside	161	3.0%	150	3.3%	161	3.0%	180	3.0%
LD-EA / set-aside	23	0.4%	30	0.7%	30	0.6%	30	0.5%
Global/Regional Programs	27	0.5%	20		20		25	
IP Global Platforms	44	0.8%	40	0.9%	44	0.9%	50	0.9%
IP Country Project Incentive	67	1.3%	60	1.4%	67	1.4%	75	1.4%
Total CW	800	15.0%	720	16.0%	853	16.0%	984	16.4%
Stockholm Convention	413	7.7%	332	7.4%	375	7.0%	438	7.3%
EAs	28	0.5%	25	0.6%	25	0.5%	25	0.4%
Other Programming	385	7.2%	307	6.8%	350	6.6%	413	6.9%
Minamata Convention	269	5.0%	221	4.9%	251	4.7%	293	4.9%
EAs	20	0.4%	20	0.4%	20	0.4%	20	0.3%
Other Programming	249	4.7%	201	4.5%	231	4.3%	273	4.6%

<i>Montreal</i>	13	0.2%	12	0.3%	14	0.3%	16	0.3%
<i>SAICM</i>	65	1.2%	32	0.7%	69	1.3%	80	1.3%
<i>IP Global Platforms</i>	14	0.3%	32	0.7%	37	0.7%	42	0.7%
<i>IP Country Project Incentive</i>	26	0.5%	90	2.0%	107	2.0%	120	2.0%
Total IW	565	10.6%	540	12.0%	666	12.5%	750	12.5%
<i>Marine</i>	186	3.5%	201	4.5%	241	4.5%	265	4.4%
<i>BBNJ</i>	34	0.6%	50	1.1%	75	1.4%	100	1.7%
<i>Freshwater</i>	186	3.5%	201	4.5%	241	4.5%	265	4.4%
<i>IP Global Platforms</i>	34	0.6%	14	0.3%	18	0.3%	19	0.3%
<i>IP Country Project Incentive</i>	124	2.3%	50	1.1%	67	1.3%	77	1.3%
<i>BBNJ EA support</i>			25	0.6%	25	0.5%	25	0.4%
TOTAL FOCAL AREA RESOURCES	4754	89.2%	3803	84.5%	4457	83.5%	4944	82.4%
<i>Non-Grant Instruments Window</i>	195	3.7%	313	7.0%	430	8.0%	600	10.0%
<i>Innovations Window</i>	12	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
<i>Small Grants Program</i>	155	2.9%	150	3.3%	189	3.5%	206	3.5%
<i>Country Engagement Strategy</i>	28	0.5%	25	0.6%	38	0.7%	39	0.7%
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	5144	96.5%	4291	95.4%	5114	95.8%	5789	96.6%
<i>Corporate Budgets</i>	187	3.5%	212	4.7%	212	4.0%	212	3.5%
<i>GEFSEC</i>	127	2.4%	146	3.2%	146	2.7%	146	2.4%
<i>IEO</i>	30	0.6%	36	0.8%	36	0.7%	36	0.6%
<i>Trustee</i>	15	0.3%	16	0.4%	16	0.3%	16	0.3%
<i>STAP</i>	14	0.3%	14	0.3%	14	0.3%	14	0.2%
GRAND TOTAL	5330	100.0%	4500	100.0%	5330	100.0%	6000	100.0%

FINANCING THE IPS

Note: The financing envelopes presented here are notional/indicative only. They are not reflective of a separate envelope but rather embedded within focal area resources proposed in the GEF-9 Programming Scenarios (Table 1). The actual amounts that will eventually be directed to the IPs as GEF-9 progresses can vary depending on country choice of IPs. The progress will be reported when technically cleared Program Framework Documents for IPs are presented as part of Work Programs for Council approval.

It is also important to note that participation in Integrated Programs is entirely voluntary and is decided by each country. Countries have entire discretion on the use of their STAR allocations, and can participate in IPs or use their STAR allocations to develop other projects and programs that are eligible in the GEF-9 Programming Directions.

25. Financing for the IPs is drawn from all five focal areas in four categories: STAR, country incentives, non-STAR contributions, and global platforms.

- “STAR” represents the total amounts within each focal area that will be allocated to countries through the STAR allocation systems.
- “Country incentives” refers to the incentive windows that are a part of the focal area set asides, which will be matched to the STAR resources put towards IPs at a ratio of 1:4 as approved by the replenishment Participants.
- “non-STAR contributions” refers to amounts from CW and IW focal areas that will be allocated for programming by countries.
- “Global platforms” refer to the knowledge platforms that support each IP and are not country specific.

26. The indicative amounts under STAR focal areas (BD, CCM, and LD) include three of these categories: STAR, Country incentives, and Global Platforms. Amounts under the two non-STAR focal areas (IW and CW) include only Non-STAR Contributions and Global Platforms.

27. The total indicative amounts for IPs under each of the proposed programming scenarios is presented in *Table 2*. For each scenario, the total includes the amount for Country Programming (comprised of STAR, Matching Incentive, and Non-STAR Focal Area contribution, and the amount for Global Platforms.

28. For all scenarios, the total Indicative IP amount for countries in STAR focal areas is based on the 4:1 ratio of STAR to matching incentive, which was approved by replenishment Participants at the second meeting, and that is used in Table 1. With the ratio remaining the same, the total indicative amount for IPs increases from US\$4.5 Billion to US\$ 6 Billion of the GEF-8 Programming Scenarios. The amount for non-STAR focal area contributions also increases modestly from the lower to higher scenario.

29. The amount for Global Platforms increases only modestly from lower to higher scenarios.

Table 2. Total Indicative Amounts (US\$ Millions) for IPs under the Proposed Programming Scenarios

GEF-9 Programming Scenario	Amount for Country Programming			(d) Amount for Global Platforms	TOTAL for Scenario (c) + (d)	
	(a) STAR Focal Areas (4:1 ratio)		(b) Non-STAR Focal Area Contributions			(c) TOTAL (a) + (b)
	STAR	Incentive				
4.5 Billion	1102	276	140	163	1681	
5.33 Billion	1232	308	174	192	1907	
6 Billion	1343	336	197	209	2085	

Notional IP Envelopes for Countries

30. The notional breakdown of resources for Country Programming under the three Programming Scenarios is presented in *Table 3*. Building on programming experience over the last three replenishment phases, the projected total envelope for IPs that is realized through actual GEF-9 programming will be ultimately based on their relative global coverage, relative importance for the focal areas as determined by amounts contributed, and potential for contributing multiple GEBs relative to GEF-9 ambitions.

31. Across all scenarios and similar to GEF-8, three IPs account for the highest proportion of total IP resources to be programmed by countries: *Critical Forest Biomes*; *Food Systems*; and *Sustainable Cities*. This is largely due to the opportunity for maximizing multiple GEBs from nature-positive pathways that underpin the programming priorities for these IPs. The notional amounts for all other IPs are sufficiently large to allow for robust programming.

32. The notional IP envelope for countries draw on multiple focal areas under each of the proposed Programming Scenarios. *Table 4* shows for the US\$5.33 billion scenario, how the IP amounts are distributed across the focal areas, based on explicit linkages as outlined in the GEF-8 Programming Directions document. For the three STAR focal areas, the highest contribution is from BD, followed by LD and CCM.

Table 3. Notional IP Envelopes for Country Programming under the Proposed Programming Scenarios

		4.5 Billion Scenario	5.33 Billion Scenario	6 Billion Scenario
GEF-9 Integrated Programs	% of total IP country funding	Notional amount for countries	Notional amount for countries	Notional amount for countries
<i>Food Systems</i>	17%	258	291	319
<i>Drylands and Drought Management</i>	10%	152	172	188
<i>Sustainable Cities</i>	16%	243	275	300
<i>Critical Forest Biomes</i>	25%	380	429	469
<i>Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution</i>	6%	91	102	112
<i>Blue and Green Islands</i>	10%	151	172	188
<i>Global Wildlife for Development</i>	11%	167	189	206
<i>Pollution-free Supply Chains</i>	5%	76	85	94
Indicative Totals	100%	1518	1715	1876

Table 4. Indicative breakdown of IP resources for countries by focal area under US\$5.33 billion scenario

GEF-9 Integrated Programs	BD	CCM	LD	IW	CW	TOTALS
<i>Food Systems</i>	182	18	91	-	-	291
<i>Drylands and Drought Management</i>	50	14	108	-	-	172
<i>Sustainable Cities</i>	148	96	31	-	-	275
<i>Critical Forest Biomes</i>	316	53	32	6	22	429
<i>Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution</i>	31	9	-	24	38	102
<i>Blue and Green Islands</i>	88	24	23	37	-	172
<i>Global Wildlife for Development</i>	150	-	39	-	-	189
<i>Pollution Free Supply Chains</i>	16	11	11	-	47	85
Focal Area Totals to Countries	981	225	335	67	107	1,715

33. The indicative breakdown takes into consideration IPs with greatest potential to address each focal area priority, with the following considerations:

- STAR focal area resources are directed toward IPs that will maximize potential GEBs for BD, CCM, and LD. Similarly, non-STAR contributions will be directed to IPs that will maximize GEBs for CW and IW focal areas.

- BD focal area resources are proportionally greater for IPs linked to natural resources management where contributions to the Rio markers can also be amplified.
- LD focal area resources are prioritized for IPs targeting production landscapes and social-ecological systems to address vulnerability and build resilience for people.
- CCM focal area resources are prioritized for IPs that will maximize potential for CCM benefits while enhancing contributions to the Rio markers

34. In the US\$ 5.33 Billion scenario for example (*Table 4*), notional focal area resources to IPs shows the following trends:

- for BD, the Critical Forest Biomes IP accounts for the largest share, followed by Food Systems, Global Wildlife for Development, and Sustainable Cities;
- for CCM, Sustainable Cities accounts for the largest share, followed by the Critical Forest Biomes;
- for LD, the new Drylands and Drought Management IP and Food Systems account for the largest shares;
- for IW, Blue and Green Islands IP and Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution; and
- for CW, the largest shares are allocated to the Pollution-Free Supply Chains and Circular Solutions to Plastics Pollution.

35. Contributions from the non-STAR focal areas are targeted towards IPs that will specifically address IW and CW focal area priorities as part of the overall programming approach to achieve transformational change. For IW this includes focus on transboundary systems such as coastal large marine ecosystems linked to the Blue and Green Islands, and Circular Solutions to Plastics Pollution. For CW, the focus is on reducing mercury and POPs.

36. The projected trends for use of focal area resources in the US\$5.33 Billion scenario are maintained for the lower US\$4.5 and higher US\$6 Billion scenarios, with slightly higher amounts for each IP.

Minimum STAR Threshold

37. To expand opportunities for countries to participate in more than one IP, while keeping a volume of resources compatible with the achievement of impacts on the ground, the proposal is to maintain the minimum threshold for STAR at the same level as in GEF-8, meaning US\$2 Million. With the STAR to Matching Incentive ratio of 4:1, a country selected to participate in an IP that uses only this minimum threshold will have US\$2.5 Million for its project under the program.

Ceilings to the Matching Incentive

38. A final aspect for increasing efficiency and fairness in programming is the imposition of a ceiling on incentive amounts that can be captured by any one country under the IPs. The ceiling is intended to ensure equal access to matching incentives by all countries selected for an IP, so that eligible LDCs and SIDS or countries with smaller STAR allocations are not overwhelmed by those with higher allocations.

39. The actual amount for a ceiling will be determined at the time when countries have been selected and the IP portfolio is being decided. For each IP, LDCs and SIDS that meet the minimum threshold requirement will be prioritized first for the incentive amounts. All countries affected by imposition of a ceiling will be notified and consulted by the GEF Secretariat, so they can decide on amount of STAR resources they choose to allocate.

Notional Amounts for IP Global Platforms

40. The indicative amount for IP Global Platforms is drawn from all five focal areas as presented in *Table 5*. The amounts increase modestly for each focal area from the lower US\$4.5 Billion Scenario to the higher US\$6 Billion scenario, except for CCM, which is kept same for the middle and highest scenarios.

Table 5. Indicative Focal Amounts allocated for IP Global Platforms in the Proposed Programming Scenarios

GEF-9 Programming Scenario	BD	CCM	LD	IW	CW	Totals
US\$4.5 Billion	57	20	40	14	32	163
US\$5.33 Billion	63	30	44	18	37	192
US\$6 Billion	68	30	50	19	42	209

41. The notional breakdown of this total envelope for Global Platforms across the IPs is shown in *Table 6* for the proposed replenishment scenarios. Building on the GEF-8 programming, the proposed breakdown assumes projected size of the IP portfolio, including likely number of countries, geographical scale of operation (global, regional, or sub-regional), and potential for leveraging diverse initiatives and stakeholders. Based on this, the three IPs with the largest notional amounts for country programming are allocated higher amounts for the platforms: Critical Forest Biomes; Food Systems; and Sustainable Cities. All other IPs are allocated proportionally similar amounts.

Table 6. Notional IP Envelopes for Global Platforms under the Proposed Programming Scenarios

GEF-9 Integrated Programs	4.5B	5.33B	6B
<i>Food Systems</i>	26	30	32
<i>Drylands and Drought Management</i>	14	16	16
<i>Sustainable Cities</i>	22	24	28
<i>Critical Forest Biomes</i>	42	52	56
<i>Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution</i>	15	17	20
<i>Blue and Green Islands</i>	14	16	18
<i>Global Wildlife for Development</i>	15	17	19
<i>Pollution Free Supply Chains</i>	15	20	20
Totals Amounts to Platforms	163	192	209

42. The higher amount for Critical Forest Biomes IP is necessary because the IP covers multiple “distinct” geographies that warrant separate platforms to ensure coherence and alignment of actions by countries. Blue and Green Islands, Drylands and Drought Management, and Circular Solutions to Plastics Pollution have smaller amounts because these IPs only require platforms that will focus primarily on coordination and leveraging existing systems for south-south exchange.

43. The IW amount for platforms is allocated to IPs that are likely to target conjunctive or transboundary water resources. In the lower scenarios, two IPs—Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution, and Critical Forest Biomes—were prioritized. The Food Systems IP was prioritized in the middle and higher scenarios to accommodate the focus on aquaculture.

44. Similarly, the CW amount for global platforms is allocated mostly to the IP on Pollution Free Supply Chains in the lower US\$4.5 Billion scenario. Smaller amounts are allocated to multiple IPs to leverage the platform for opportunities to tackle chemical pollution, such as mercury in artisanal gold mining and POPs in cities. This trend is maintained in the middle and higher scenarios.

UPDATED RESULTS TARGETS

45. This chapter presents Core Indicator (CI) targets for three GEF-9 replenishment scenarios—US\$4.5 billion, US\$5.3 billion, and US\$6.0 billion—designed to deliver speed, action, and impact. The Secretariat proposes ambitious yet credible targets for each scenario, informed by evidence from GEF-6, GEF-7, and GEF-8, complemented by statistical analysis, expert judgment, and country engagement. Targets are summarized in Table 7. All three scenarios are expected to generate significant environmental outcomes. Targets balance ambition and realism. The US\$6.0 billion scenario, in particular, aligns resourcing with rising country needs and the urgency to scale environmental benefits under the Healthy Planet, Healthy People framework. The GEF-9 Corporate Scorecard will report twice a year on progress against results targets.

Approach to setting targets

46. The design of GEF-9 targets is grounded in the solid methodological foundation and demonstrated results achieved in recent replenishment cycles, while being informed by country engagement and global environmental priorities. Estimated outcomes and co-financing levels from projects and programs provide the baseline for modeling expected results. Inputs from upstream consultations with countries and Agencies also shape these estimates, including assessments of co-financing potential. This ambition is reinforced by the continued implementation of agreed policies. In alignment with commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other global fora, the Secretariat has aimed to set targets that are both ambitious and credible, reflecting the GEF's contribution to global goals.

47. This target-setting exercise reflects the evolution introduced under the GEF-9 Results Measurement Framework outlined in the Policy Directions document. It strengthens measurement of GEF's contribution to the global goal of protecting 30 percent of the planet by 2030, by covering conservation areas encompassing both protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The sub-indicator on sustainable land management has been elevated to a standalone Core Indicator with its own target, while the Core Indicator on landscapes no longer includes this contribution. Similarly, the sub-indicator on materials treated to extract chemicals of global concern and related waste has become a standalone Core Indicator with its own target, replacing the previous indicator that focused solely on the volume of chemicals reduced.

48. The environmental impact projected for GEF-9 draws on insights from previous Replenishments, coupled with the strategic intent articulated in programming directions. As of mid-2025, and with two Work Programs remaining in GEF-8, seven out of ten portfolio-level targets have already been achieved or have surpassed 85 percent achievement at PIF/PFD approval stage. For GEF-9, complementary approaches underpin the estimation of environmental results:

- For standalone projects, targets for Core Indicators are informed by multiple lines of evidence, with a statistical method providing an important input. Specifically, a

stratified bootstrapping technique simulates GEF-8 portfolios under different financing scenarios, drawing on historical project targets and funding levels. The simulation yields a distribution of expected outcomes across many portfolio realizations, from which we derive the mean and confidence intervals for each Core Indicator. Expert judgment then weighs these statistical insights alongside key qualitative considerations, such as anticipated country demand, lessons on Core Indicator application, gains in effectiveness from implementation experience, and new programming directions. The overall approach also limits the influence of outlier projects in skewing target setting.

- In integrated programming, cross focal co benefits amplify outcomes across multiple Core Indicators. For example, the GEF-8 Critical Forest Biomes Program contributes to greenhouse gas mitigation, landscape restoration, and sustainable management. With similar approaches expected in GEF-9, program targets draw on expert judgment and historical trends. The methodology integrates lessons from GEF-8 Integrated Programs and, where relevant, GEF-7 Impact Programs and GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilots. Target setting also reflects shifts in scope for several GEF-9 programs and the consolidation of prior programs within the GEF-9 architecture. Finally, as with Focal Area investments, a bootstrapping method triangulates and validates results using complementary evidence.
- With a larger NGI window in GEF-9, substantial results are anticipated across all areas. Estimates rest on demonstrated performance in GEF-7 and GEF-8 NGIs, updated pipeline and market analyses, and ongoing engagement with countries and Agencies regarding investment plans. While greater scale introduces some uncertainty, the targets are grounded in robust analytics and clear demand trends, making the projected outcomes credible and achievable.

Table 7. The Expected Global Environment Benefits of GEF-9 along Core Indicators

CORE INDICATOR (CI)	GEF-8		GEF-9 TARGETS BY SCENARIO		
	Target	Approved	US\$4.5b	US\$5.3b	US\$6.0b
CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY					
Conservation areas created or under improved management					
CI1 & 4.5 Terrestrial conservation areas created or enhanced (Mha)*	150	109	160	175	200
CI2 & 5.3 Marine conservation areas created or enhanced (Mha)	100	134	110	125	135
Strengthened management of areas beyond conservation areas					
CI 4. Area of landscapes under improved practices (Mha)*	95	79	71	73	80
CI 5. Area of marine habitat under improved practices (Mha)**	60	55	89	100	115
SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND					
CI 3. Area of land under restoration (Mha)	10	8.6	8	10	14
CI 4.3 Production landscapes under sustainable management (Mha)	85	40	45	55	65
REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS					
CI 6. Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated (Mt CO ₂ e)	1,850	1,900	1,200	1,500	1,750
- of which directly	..	1,350	1,000	1,200	1,400
- of which indirectly	..	550	200	300	300
STRENGTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT					
CI 7. Shared water ecosystems under cooperative management (nb)	40	40	45	50	60
CI 8. Over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (Mt)	2.1	3.7	2.2	2.8	3.4
REDUCING POLLUTION FROM CHEMICALS AND WASTE					
CI 9.6 Chemical-containing materials and products directly avoided (Tt)	..	2,100	3,500	4,000	5,000
CI 9.2 Mercury reduced (Tt)	..	1.0	1.3	1.6	2
CI 10. Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (g TEQ)	5,900	4,447	3,100	3,800	6,900

* Target and actual values exclude results for sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' reported under the RMF grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land', as well as the contribution from Terrestrial OECMs supported captured under Conservation areas.

** The target excludes the contribution from Marine OECMs supported, captured under Conservation areas.

Updated targets for GEF-9

49. The GEF is setting more ambitious yet achievable targets for GEF-9, exceeding many of those established under GEF-8. Table 7 compiles the full suite of GEF-8 targets for ten Core Indicators of global environmental benefits, shown alongside GEF-8 targets and Council approvals from the June 2025 GEF Corporate Scorecard (the December 2025 edition will follow this paper’s public release). Target setting and performance tracking reflect a pragmatic balance of ambition and realism, consistent with higher global environmental and climate aspirations. Under the US\$6.0 billion scenario, key targets include:

- **Conserving and sustainably using biodiversity.** Leveraging lessons from GEF-8 and new opportunities, GEF-9 expects to protect or sustainably manage about 335 million hectares of conservation areas (protected areas and OECMs), representing a 34 percent increase compared to the GEF-8 target and supporting the goal to protect 30 percent of the planet by 2030. Terrestrial conservation targets climb to 174 million hectares, up from 150 million in GEF-8. Given the rising costs of designating protected areas as agricultural land expands, GEF-9 also targets to place 195 million hectares of landscapes and marine habitat under improved practices. Target levels for marine conservation areas are set higher than in GEF-8, but lower than the approved GEF-8 results (except under the US\$6.0 b scenario), to avoid relying on atypical outlier values observed in the previous cycle.
- **Sustainably managing and restoring land.** Restoration outcomes include reserves, corridors, regenerated forests, well-managed plantations, agroforestry systems, and riparian plantings. GEF-9 aims to restore 14 million hectares across land and marine areas, above the GEF-8 targets and approvals to date, as this upcoming cycle aims to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality under the UNCCD and the Bonn Challenge goal of 350 million hectares by 2030. Additionally, 64 million hectares of production landscapes will be brought under sustainable practices.
- **Reducing GHG emissions.** Even with a reduced allocation to the Climate Change focal area relative to GEF-8, GEF-9 sets a CO₂e mitigation target close to the GEF-8 benchmark under the US\$6b scenario. This reflects expected co-benefits from biodiversity and land restoration, supported by integrated programming aligned with Paris Agreement objectives, and increasingly robust methodologies for estimating GHG emission reductions. Above 75 percent of reductions are anticipated directly from GEF interventions, with the remaining 25 percent leveraged through broader adoption.
- **Strengthening transboundary water management.** The target for transitioning globally overexploited marine fisheries to more sustainable levels reaches 3.4 million metric tons—higher than GEF 8—driven by greater country demand and an expanded indicator scope covering a broader set of unsustainable fisheries. An estimated 60 shared water ecosystems will be supported through greater transboundary cooperation. Increased ambition for

marine protected areas will offer refuge for species and reinforce the Agreement on Port State Measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

- **Reducing pollution from chemicals & waste.** GEF-9 will further reduce pollution by directly cutting or avoiding 6,900 grams toxic equivalent of unintentionally produced POPs emitted to air from point and non-point sources. This aligns with obligations under the Stockholm Convention on POPs, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, and the Montreal Protocol. The total volume of materials treated to reduce harmful chemicals is expected to reach 5 million tonnes, including 2,000 tonnes of mercury—a reduction twice the volume achieved under GEF-8. Consistent with changes through the GEF-9 Results Management Framework, target is set on pollution from hazardous chemical-containing materials and products directly avoided. The lower target on POPs compared with GEF-8 reflects a shift toward focusing on a broader set of chemicals, in addition to POPs, under the Stockholm Convention.

50. The proposed Integrated Programs and Non-Grant Instruments (NGIs) are poised to deliver a large share of GEF-9’s global environmental benefits, well above their funding share in key environmental areas. Table 8 outlines targets by program, for NGIs and SGP, and shows:

- For the US\$6.0 billion scenario, Integrated Programs are anticipated to deliver more than half of the results across eight indicators covering biodiversity, land degradation, and climate change, surpassing their financing share in all scenarios. As an illustration, Integrated Programs target 1,220 million tonnes of CO₂e mitigation, representing 67 percent of the overall GEF-9 target. This reflects increasing alignment across focal areas, with many activities delivering multiple benefits—such as area protection coupled with climate gains. Nearly all Integrated Programs incorporate CO₂e mitigation, and six of eight seek to elevate landscape practices and sustainable land management.
- On average, Integrated Programs contribute to seven indicators, spanning multiple focal areas and confirming the integrated nature of their design and outcomes. Building on GEF 8, where programs supported all five focal areas, both coverage and depth will expand to sustain strong results across the board. Cumulative learning from the last three GEF phases has deepened understanding of system transformation, tackling drivers of degradation across focal areas. For example, the Food Systems program aims to restore land, reduce emissions, as well as to move over-exploited fisheries to sustainable levels.
- The strength of expected results varies by indicator and program, reflecting strategic choices to concentrate impact. Targets in Table 8 indicate the relative contribution of each program. Critical Forest Biomes and Global Wildlife for Development are projected to be major contributors to creating and enhancing the management of conservation areas, while their effect on improved practices on land restoration will be modest. Such results are

enabled in part by the contributions of IPLCs and national entities acting as stewards of the environment.

- With a larger NGI window in GEF 9, substantial results are anticipated across all areas. This is because the NGI operates through flexible financial instruments that can be applied across environmental areas, using minimum concessionality. Estimates draw on demonstrated performance in GEF 7 and GEF 8 NGIs, updated pipeline and market analyses, and ongoing engagement with countries and Agencies regarding investment plans. The breadth of instruments—such as guarantees, equity, and outcomes-based bonds—and focal area coverage ensures NGIs can support opportunities as they arise, enabling impact across biodiversity, climate, land, chemicals, and international waters.
- The Small Grants Programme’s targets are consistent with GEF-8 expectations, notably in restoring degraded land where communities and civil society groups lead hands-on management, enhancing biodiversity and supporting local livelihoods. Contributions to protected areas and improved landscape practices are more modest but remain important for strengthening ecosystem management and sustaining community-led stewardship.

Table 8. Expected results from Integrated Programs and NGI in GEF-9

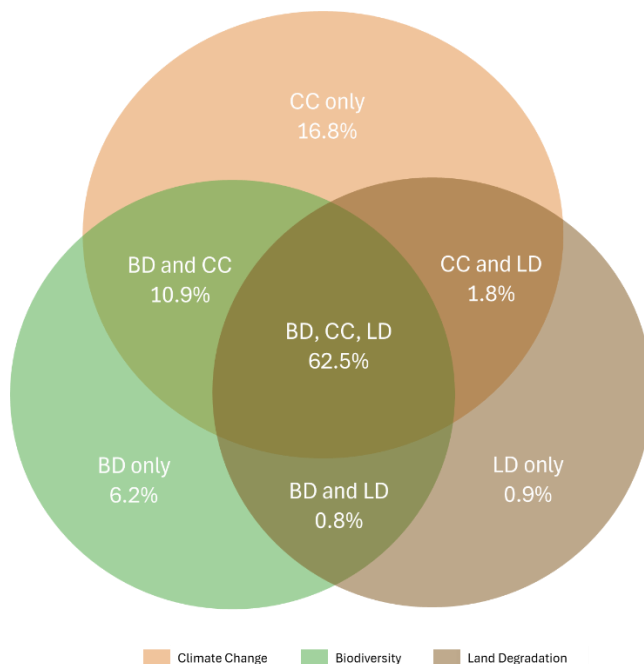
Scenarios	Core Indicator 1	Core Indicator 2	Core Indicator 3	Core Indicator 4	Core Indicator 4.3	Core Indicator 4.5	Core Indicator 5	Core Indicator 5.3	Core Indicator 6	- of which Direct	- of which Indirect	Core Indicator 7	Core Indicator 8	Core Indicator 9.2	Core Indicator 9.6	Core Indicator 10	
TARGETS ACROSS INTEGRATED PROGRAMS																	
Cumulative targets across IPs	US\$4.5b	93	9	2	34	26	8.5	18	0.2	893	756	137	9	0.24	0.5	42.9	604
	US\$5.3b	106	9	2	38	30	9.6	18	0.2	1045	874	170	10	0.34	0.7	64.3	817
	US\$6.0b	116	9	4	42	33	11	18	0.3	1223	1005	216	11	0.34	0.9	85.7	930
TARGETS BY INTEGRATED PROGRAMS																	
Food Systems	US\$4.5b			0.9	5.0	4.5				134	121	13		0.1			
	US\$5.3b			1.0	5.3	5.2				150	134	14		0.1			
	US\$6.0b			1.1	6.1	5.8				163	149	14		0.1			
Drylands and Drought Management	US\$4.5b	2.1		0.5	3.4	10				38	38						
	US\$5.3b	2.3		0.6	3.8	11				45	45						
	US\$6.0b	2.5		0.7	4.2	13				53	53						
Sustainable Cities	US\$4.5b	0.0		0.1	0.3	0.1	0.03	0.2		150	60	90					
	US\$5.3b	0.0		0.1	0.4	0.1	0.03	0.3		185	74	111					
	US\$6.0b	0.0		0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3		230	92	138					
Critical Forest Biomes	US\$4.5b	57.8		0.3	15	12	8.1			358	358		3				
	US\$5.3b	65.8		0.4	18	13	9.2			405	405		3				
	US\$6.0b	72.4		0.4	20	14	10			447	447		4				
Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution	US\$4.5b									3.1	3.1		3				104
	US\$5.3b									3.5	3.5		4				117
	US\$6.0b									3.9	3.9		4				130
Blue and Green Islands	US\$4.5b	0.4	8.5	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.02	18.0	0.2	56	56		2	0.1			
	US\$5.3b	0.4	8.6	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.0	18.0	0.2	63	64		2	0.2			
	US\$6.0b	0.4	8.8	1.4	0.4	0.3	0.03	18.2	0.3	70	70		2	0.2			
Global Wildlife for Development	US\$4.5b	33.1	0.1	0.2	9.5	0.1	0.4			43	43						
	US\$5.3b	37.1	0.2	0.2	11	0.1	0.4			48	48						
	US\$6.0b	40.9	0.2	0.2	12	0.1	0.4			53	53						
Pollution-free Supply Chains	US\$4.5b									5.8	5.8					40	500
	US\$5.3b									6.3	6.3					60	700
	US\$6.0b									6.9	6.9					80	800
TARGETS FOR THE NGI WINDOW																	
Non-Grant Instruments	US\$4.5b	10.1	8.8	2.2	13	6.0	4.5	1.2	1.2	86	52	34	1	0.04	0.5	2.9	
	US\$5.3b	13.6	12	3.0	18	8.2	6.1	1.9	1.9	115	70	45	1	0.04	0.7	4.3	
	US\$6.0b	19.1	17	4.2	25	11	8.5	2.5	2.5	162	98	64	1	0.04	0.9	5.7	
TARGETS FOR THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM																	
Small Grants Program	US\$4.5b			0.4	0.4				0.4	19	19						
	US\$5.3b	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.6				0.6	24	24						
	US\$6.0b	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.7				0.7	32	32						

RIO MARKERS TRACKING INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE

51. The Rio Marker methodology, established by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), provides a robust and internationally recognized framework for monitoring finance flows aligned with the objectives of the three Rio Conventions—climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (CBD), and desertification (UNCCD). For the GEF-9 replenishment, the continued application of Rio Markers represents both a commitment to transparency and a practical tool for demonstrating the integrated nature of GEF investments across environmental domains. The methodology’s strength lies in its objective-based assessment approach, where projects are evaluated according to whether environmental objectives constitute a “principal” (score of 2) or “significant” (score of 1) component of their design. This classification system enables the GEF to systematically track how its portfolio contributes to multiple environmental outcomes simultaneously, reflecting the interconnected nature of global environmental challenges.

52. The GEF’s successful experience in GEF-8—a cycle during which the tracking of Rio Markers expanded from a focus on Climate Change to also cover Biodiversity and Diversification—where all Rio Marker targets were not only met but exceeded demonstrates that the methodology is both ambitious and achievable, with 85% of financing programmed for climate objectives (surpassing the 80% target), 81% for biodiversity (exceeding 60%), and 66% for land restoration (above the 50% target) as of June 2025. Indeed, Progress to date shows that over 60 percent of financing addresses biodiversity, climate changerelated, and land restoration objectives, considering projects and programs marked as either principal or significant for at least one Rio Marker.

Figure 2. GEF-8 financing targets multiple Rio Markers



53. The Rio Marker approach is particularly well-suited to capture the synergies inherent in GEF programming, as environmental interventions frequently generate co-benefits across multiple focal areas. A critical insight for GEF-9 financing scenarios is that even as direct allocations to the Climate Change Focal Area decrease, an only modest corresponding decline in Climate Change Rio Marker performance is anticipated. This apparent paradox is explained by the methodology's focus on the intensity and integration of objectives rather than simple budget allocation. For instance, a biodiversity conservation project that protects and restores forest ecosystems will inherently contribute to climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration and to adaptation by enhancing ecosystem resilience—thereby earning significant or principal climate change markers even when funded primarily through the Biodiversity Focal Area. Similarly, land degradation initiatives that promote sustainable land management practices reduce emissions from land use change while conserving biodiversity and building climate resilience. This integrated effect helps offset reduced funding in the Climate Change Focal Area while maintaining strong climate tagging across the portfolio.

54. Building on the GEF-7 and GEF-8 experiences, GEF-9 will continue to track and report the share of investments contributing to climate change (adaptation, mitigation, and climate-related), biodiversity and desertification using Rio Markers. This integrated programming approach maximizes environmental returns and demonstrates the catalytic multiplier effect of GEF investments. Consistent with GEF8 experience and crosscycle continuity in broad Programming Directions, Rio Marker targets will be maintained at GEF-8 level during GEF-9, with 80% for climate change-related markers, 65% for mitigation, 45% for adaptation, 60% for biodiversity, and 50% for desertification. This high level of ambition reflects strategic integration while providing sufficient flexibility across different allocation scenarios.

55. Reporting on Rio Marker progress will take place twice a year in editions of the Corporate Scorecard. Systematic guidance and training for GEF Secretariat and Agency teams will underpin consistent application of the markers. This approach aligns broadly with established OECD-DAC guidance on marker definitions and scoring and complements evolving practices in environmental finance tracking used by other institutions. By continuing to strengthen the consistent application of Rio Markers, as well as exploring methodological refinements in light of evolving practices such as the activity-based approaches adopted by MDBs and other climate and environmental funds, the GEF ensures that its replenishment commitments translate into measurable, transparent, and integrated environmental outcomes that serve the interconnected objectives of the Rio Conventions.

ANNEX 1. GEF-8 NOTIONAL ALLOCATIONS AND GEF-8 PROGRAMMING TO DATE

FOCAL AREA	GEF-8		
	Notional Allocation in (\$)	Programmed to date in GEF-8 (\$)	Programmed to date in GEF-8 (% of notional allocation)
Total BD	1919	1,572	81.9%
BD STAR Country Allocations	1453	1136	78.2%
BD-1: Integrated Landscape/Seascape Management	564	467	82.9%
BD-2: Cartagena Protocol/Nagoya Protocol	82	12	14.5%
BD-3: Domestic Resource Mobilization	165	20	11.9%
Integrated Programs	641	637	99.4%
BD STAR Set Aside	466	436	93.6%
EAs	60	129	214.4%
Global and Regional Programs*	123	26	20.9%
IP Global Platforms	69	69	100.6%
IP Country Project Incentive	214	212	99.2%
Total CCM	852	703	82.5%
CCM STAR Country Allocations	524	434	82.8%
Efficient use of energy and materials	103	69	67.0%
Decarbonized power systems	94	60	63.4%
Zero-emission mobility	94	49	52.6%
Nature-based solutions	68	75	111.0%
Integrated Programs	164	180	109.9%
CCM STAR Set Aside	328	269	82.1%
CBIT	75	67	89.4%
EAs	145	99	68.0%
Global and Regional Programs	22	11	48.8%
IP Global Platforms	33	33	99.2%
IP Country Project Incentive	53	60	113.4%
Total LD	618	551	89.2%
LD STAR Country Allocations	458	410	89.6%
LD-1: Sustainable land management	76	151	198.1%
LD-2: Restoration of production landscapes	44	58	132.1%
LD-3: Address land degradation, desertification and	76	33	42.9%
LD-4: Improve enabling framework for LDN	62	6	10.4%
Integrated Programs	200	163	81.4%
LD STAR Set Aside	161	141	87.5%
LD-EA / set-aside	23	23	97.9%
Global/Regional Programs	27	20	73.1%
IP Global Platforms	44	44	100.9%
IP Country Project Incentive	67	54	81.0%
Total CW	800	689	86.1%
Stockholm Convention	413	415	100.5%
EAs	28	2	7.8%
Other Programming	385	413	107.3%
Minimata Convention	269	207	77.0%
EAs	20	3	15.9%
Other Programming	249	204	81.9%
Montreal	13	13	99.9%
SAICM	65	14	20.8%
IP Global Platforms	14	14	99.1%
IP Country Project Incentive	26	26	101.1%
Total IW	565	456	80.8%
Blue Economy	186	159	85.3%
ABNJ	34	7	21.0%
Enhancing Freshwater Security	186	126	67.8%
IP Global Platforms	34	34	99.3%
IP Country Project Incentive	124	121	97.8%
BBNJ EA support		10	-
TOTAL FOCAL AREA RESOURCES²⁵	4754	3972	83.5%
Non-Grant Instruments Window	195	181	92.9%
Innovations Window	12	12	100.0%
Small Grants Program	155	148	95.2%
Country Engagement Strategy	28	21	75.0%
TOTAL PROGRAMMING	5144	4333	84.2%
Corporate Budgets	187	187	100.0%
GEFSEC	127	127	100.0%
IEO	30	30	100.0%
Trustee	15	15	100.0%
STAP	14	14	100.0%
GRAND TOTAL	5330	4519	84.8%