GEF/C.71/03
May 4, 2026

71st GEF Council Meeting
May 31- June 3, 2026
Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Agenda Item 03

WORK PROGRAM
FOR THE GEF TRUST FUND

Recommended Council Decision

The Council, having considered document GEF/C.71/03, *Work Program for the GEF Trust Fund*, approves the Work Program comprising 16 projects and programs, subject to comments made during the Council meeting and additional comments that may be submitted in writing to the Secretariat by June 30, 2026.

Total GEF resources approved in this Work Program amounted to $141.4 million, including GEF project financing and Agency fees. The Work Program is comprised of the following Project Identification Forms (PIFs) and Program Framework Documents (PFDs): [See Annex A]

With respect to the PIFs and PFDs approved as part of the Work Program, the Council finds that each of these PIFs and PFDs (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) may be endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project documents fully incorporate and address the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the Work Program, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures.

With respect to any PIF approved in this Work Program, the final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If there are major changes to the project objectives or scope since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the GEF website for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

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Introduction

1. The Work Program requests $129.5 million for project financing and $11.9 million in Agency fees for a total request of $141.4 million from the GEF Trust Fund. The GEF CEO has delegated authority to approve PPG funding and fees of $2.9 million, for a Work Program total of $144.3 million. An expected $828.1 million will match each GEF dollar with $6.4 in co-financing.

2. The Work Program includes 16 projects submitted to the GEF Secretariat that were technically cleared by work program deadlines. The Work Program is fully consistent with GEF-8 Programming Directions and with Operational and Policy requirements.

3. The Work Program brings the cumulative total of GEF programming to $4.61 billion. This is 90.2% of the GEF-8 target allocation.[1] Planned funding of MSPs, Enabling Activity, and CBIT projects anticipated by the end of GEF-8 will bring total GEF Trust Fund programming to 97%.

4. Programming will include $60.3 million for Biodiversity, $29.3 million for Land Degradation, $26.5 million for International Waters, and $14.3 million for Climate Change. Additionally, a $13.9 million allocation for the Non-Grant Instrument is proposed.

5. The Work Program will provide GEF Trust Fund support for work in more than 19 GEF recipient countries, including 4 of the 38 Small Island Developing States (11% of SIDS) and 7 of the 46 Least Developed Countries (16% of LDCs). Two global projects will serve numerous GEF recipient countries.

6. The Work Program spans four Focal Areas, strategically advances use of the non-grant instrument, and continues to advance GEF integration aims with Multi-Focal Area and Multi-Trust Fund projects.

7. The Work Program contributes to important cumulative achievements relative to GEF-8 goals. Most core indictor targets have been exceeded, notably in marine protected area creation, where cumulative progress stands at 1,926 million hectares against a target of 100 million hectares, GHG emissions mitigation, where 2,279 million tCO_2e have been recorded against a target of 1,850 million tCO_2e; 59 shared water ecosystems with improved cooperative management against a target of 40; and restoration of 10.1 million hectares of land and terrestrial ecosystems, just surpassing the ten million hectare GEF-8 target.

8. The Council is respectfully invited to review and approve this Work Program for the total GEF Trust Fund resources requested (please see Annex A for financial details).

[1] Excluding the Country Engagement Strategy ($28 million) and the Corporate Budget ($187 million) from the total GEF-8 replenishment of $5.33 billion.

Work Program Preparation and Pipeline of Projects

9. At the deadline for project submission, 21 projects (PIF) were deemed eligible[2] for review and consideration for the June 2026 Work Program (Tables 1 & 2). One project was rejected and four projects did not meet GEF clearance requirements at the programming deadline.

Table 1. Pipeline of Projects and Programs Considered for the June 2026 Work Program

Project Type	PIFs and PFDs in the Portal by review deadline[3]	Technically cleared and included in the WP # (%)	Technically cleared and not included in the WP # (%)	Rejected # (%)	Not ready for technical clearance # (%)
PIF	19	15 (79%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (21%)
PFD	0	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
NGI	2	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)

10. Sixteen of 21 eligible projects (PIF) met GEF technical, operational and policy clearance requirements and are included in the Work Program.

11. Two project concepts were reviewed for the Blended Finance (NGI) Program, following the GEF review process for blended finance eligibility, and one NGI project was cleared. Consistent with GEF policy, expert advice from the Advisory Group of Financial Experts informed the NGI project reviews.

Table 2. Projects Not Cleared for the June 2026 Work Program

	Focal Area					
Number of Projects not Ready for Clearance	BD	LD	CC	IW	CW	MFA
4	0	0	1	1	0	2

[2] Eligible in this case indicates projects and programs that were submitted by the deadline, and projects retained in the portal from previous Work Program submissions that were not ready for clearance earlier. Projects and programs that were rejected during previous review cycles are excluded.

[3] Including new submissions and submissions from previous review cycles, as above.

Trends in GEF Resources Requested for the Work Program

12. GEF resources requested sum of $141.4 million from focal area and global program allocations.

13. Focal Area investments include the following:

(a) Biodiversity (BD): $60.3 million in 4 single focal area projects and 5 multi focal area projects.

(b) Climate Change (CC): $14.3 million in 4 multi-focal area projects and 2 multi-trust fund projects.

(c) International Waters (IW): $26.5 million to 2 single focal area projects.

(d) Land Degradation (LD): $29.3 million in 1 single focal area project and 6 multi-focal area projects.

14. Global Program investments include one Non-Grant Instrument (NGI) project of $13.9 million.

Table 3. GEF Resources Requested in the June 2026 Work Program

	Work Program Resources Requested ($ millions)				
	GEF Project Financing	**Agency Fees[4]**	**Total GEF Resources Requested[5]**	**PPG Funding and Fees[6]**	**Total GEF Resources Programmed**
BD	54.0	0.5	**59.0**	1.4	**60.3**
CW	-	-	-	-	-
CC	12.7	1.2	**13.9**	0.4	**14.3**
IW	23.9	2.2	**26.1**	0.4	**26.5**
LD	26.1	2.5	**28.5**	0.8	**29.3**
NGI	12.8	1.1	**13.9**	-	**13.9**
Totals	**129.5**	**11.9**	**141.4**	**2.9**	**144.3**

[4] Agency fees are calculated at 9.5% or 9% of GEF Project Financing for projects requesting up to $10 million or above $10 million, respectively.

[5] GEF Council is requested to approve GEF Project Financing and related Agency fees for the Work Program.

[6] GEF CEO has delegated authority to approve PPG funding and PPG fees.

15. The Work Program contributes to important cumulative Progress towards the Achievement of GEF-8 Goals, the majority of which are surpassed at the conclusion of the GEF-8 cycle. Most core indictor targets have been exceeded, notably in marine protected area creation, where cumulative progress stands at 1,926 million hectares relative to a target of 100 million hectares, GHG emissions mitigation, where 2,279 million tCO_2e have been recorded against a target of 1,850 million tCO_2e; 59 shared water ecosystems with improved cooperative management achieved against a target of 40; and restoration of 10.1 million hectares of land and terrestrial ecosystems, just above the ten million hectare GEF-8 target.

16. Projects in the Work Program address several focal area objectives and are pursued in an integrated manner capturing efficiencies in implementation and enhancing GEB generation. Six Multi-focal area (MFA) and two Multi-Trust Fund (MTF) projects feature in the Work Program, representative of the GEF's Integration approach. Select projects of the Work Program are profiled below.

17. A Biodiversity focal area global project will provide support to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to support the active leadership of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) conservation efforts in four biodiversity hotspots. The project will enable CEPF to support over 100 CSOs to improve the management of 389,000 ha of terrestrial and 11,000 ha of marine protected areas, to restore some 67,930 ha of land and ecosystems, and to bring over 1 million ha of terrestrial landscapes and 35,000 ha of marine habitats under improved practices.

18. An International Waters focal area global project builds on a successful initial phase of the GEF's partnership with philanthropies under the Blue Nature Alliance (BNA) - a global initiative designed to accelerate the pace, scale, and effectiveness of ocean conservation. The project will support BNA's second phase, which will leverage over $187 million in cofinancing to advance the protection of 1.8 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems, of which 500 million hectares will be newly created MPAs and 1.3 billion hectares of MPAs under improved management effectiveness.

19. A regional Biodiversity project will provide support to CSO's conservation efforts in key wetlands of the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF), targeting high-priority ecological sites for migratory birds and biodiversity. The project will contribute to the conservation and/or restoration of 9 million hectares of wetlands in six countries along the EAAF and will directly benefit some 330,000 people (60% women).

20. The Work Program includes an innovative blended finance project that bridges the gap between public ambition and private capital. By mobilizing large private investment for solar and wind energy and for battery storage, the Uzbekistan Risk Mitigation Facility aims to achieve 37 million tCO_2e of GHG emission reductions and 500 MW of new clean energy capacity for the country.

21. A Biodiversity focal area project In the Solomons Islands (an LDC), will support the restoration of degraded forests, freshwater and coastal ecosystems improve the conservation of biodiversity and key ecosystem functions and services, supporting local livelihoods and resilience through an integrated community-driven Ridge-to-Reef approach. The project will enhance the protection of globally threatened and endemic species, including plants, birds, bats, skinks, corals, cetaceans, dugongs, turtles, fish and sharks. Global environmental benefits include 45,000 hectares of land and ecosystems restored, and 35,000 hectares of landscapes and 120,000 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices.

22. A Multi-Focal Area project in Zimbabwe seeks to support a sustainable, biodiversity-based economy that enhances conservation of resources, improves livelihoods, and contributes to national economic growth. The Sebungwe Region contains a mosaic of land uses across 15,600km2, including national parks, forest areas and communal areas. Sebungwe forms an important component of the Kavango-Zambezi (KAZA) Transfrontier Conservation Area. The project will support the development and implementation of a Natural Capital Accounting framework to support the development of community-based enterprises and conservation efforts. The project will strengthen the management of protected areas (493,800 ha) and community conservancies (100,000 ha), reduce ecosystem degradation through improving the management of 380,000 ha of communal lands, and enhance sustainable livelihoods.

23. A Multi-Trust Fund project in Niue (a SIDS) aims to reduce GHG emissions and strengthen Niue's climate resilience by reducing vulnerability to climate impacts through an innovative and integrated approach that will be implemented nationwide, with a particular focus on vulnerable coastal communities, public infrastructure, tourism-related facilities, and priority coastal ecosystems. The project is transformative in that it shifts Niue from fragmented, reactive responses to a systems-based resilience model that integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation ambitions for infrastructure, ecosystems, governance, and communities. An estimated 1,142 people, representing 70% of Niue's population will directly benefit from the project. The project will lead to 6,364 tCO2e direct lifetime emission reductions and 60 hectares of coastal ecosystems will be restored and under improved management.

Status of GEF-8 Resource Use

24. The Work Program proposes to program a total of $144.3 million in GEF resources, inclusive of PPG funding and fees. This represents 2.8% of the GEF-8 resource allocation.

25. The Work Program brings the cumulative total of GEF programming to $4.61 billion or 90.2% of the GEF-8 target allocation.[7] Planned funding of remaining MSPs, Enabling Activity, and CBIT projects by the end of June 2026 will yield total GEF Trust Fund programming of 97% for GEF-8 (Table 4).

26. Four focal areas contribute to the Work Program. This brings all focal areas above 85% programming for GEF-8 (Table 4, Figures 1 & 2). MSPs, Enabling Activity and CBIT projects anticipated by the end of GEF-8 will bring all programming for focal areas and global programs to 94% or above (Table 4).

27. The Non-Grant Instrument and Small Grants Programme will achieve full programming in GEF-8 (Table 4). Remaining funds allocated to the Innovation Window will be fully programmed prior to the conclusion of the GEF-8 cycle, upon the approval of two submitted MSPs.

[7] Excluding the Country Engagement Strategy ($28 million), and the Corporate Budget ($187.0 million) which were all part of the total GEF-8 replenishment of $5.33 billion.

Table 4. GEF-8 Resources Programmed by Focal Area and Global Program[8]

	GEF-8 Target Allocation	June 2026 Work Program[9]	Cumulative Total GEF-8 Resources Programmed[10]	Programmed Share of GEF-8 Target Allocation[11]	Projected Share of GEF-8 Target Allocation[12]
	($ millions)			(%)	
Biodiversity (BD)	1,919	60.3	1,653.1	86%	94%
Climate Change (CC)	852	14.3	791.3	93%	100%
Chemicals and Waste (CW)	800	-	693.8	87%	95%
International Waters (IW)	565	26.5	514.2	91%	99%
Land Degradation (LD)	618	29.3	600.4	97%	100%
Total Focal Areas	**4,754**	**130.4**	**4,252.7**	**90%**	**97%**
Non-Grant Instrument	195	13.9	195	100%	100%
Small Grants Programme	155	-	155	100%	100%
Innovation Window	12	-	9.4	77%	100%
Total Global Programs	**362**	**13.9**	**359.3**	**99%**	**100%**

[8] Funds for MFA projects/programs in this table were charged to the different focal areas based on their respective allocations in the project/program documents. Hence, there is no line item for MFAs in this table.
[9] Inclusive of PPG funding and PPG fees.
[10] Cumulative approved total of GEF-8 resources as of April 15, 2026.
[11] Cumulative approved total of GEF-8 resources as percentage share of the total GEF-8 target allocation.
[12] Cumulative approved total of GEF-8 resources plus anticipated pipeline by June 30, 2026, as percentage share of the total GEF-8 target allocation.

Figure 1. GEF-8 Resources by Focal Area in the Work Program ($ million)

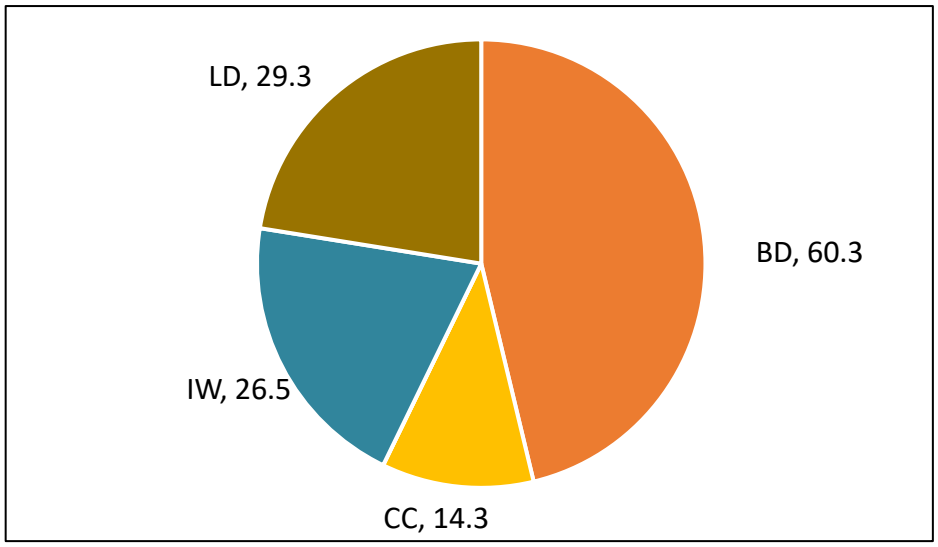
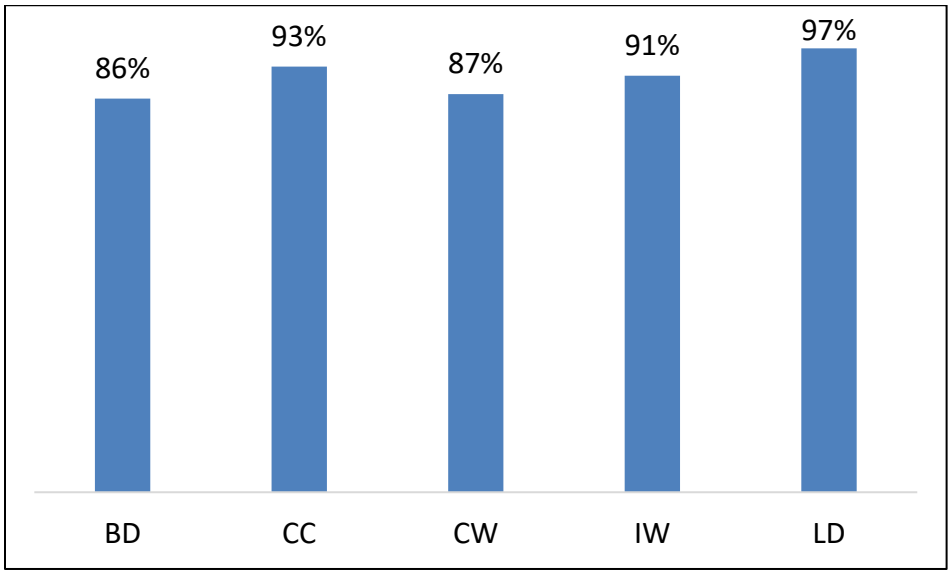


Figure 2. Cumulative Total % of GEF-8 Resources Programmed by Focal Area



Distribution of GEF Project Financing by Region

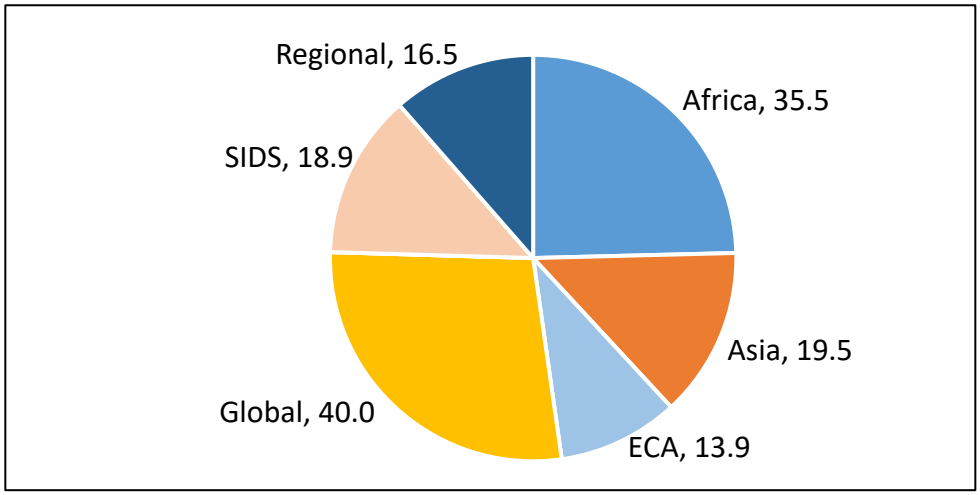
28. In all, over 19 (12%) of GEF recipient countries will benefit from this Work Program, including 4 Small Island Developing States (11% of all SIDS) and 7 Least Developed Countries (16% of all LDCs).

29. Global projects receive the highest level of programming, followed by robust programming for Africa, Asia, and SIDS (Figure 3). These global projects, which advance the GEF's fruitful engagement in public-philanthropic partnerships for conservation of terrestrial biodiversity hotspots (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) and of large marine ecosystems (Blue Nature Alliance), will benefit numerous GEF recipient countries.

30. The GEF is a founding member of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) which since its creation in 2000, has enabled the protection of 1,300 threatened species and strengthened management of 55.8 million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas. CEPF grantees have also contributed to the establishment of 17.1 million hectares of new protected areas, and the improved management of 12.2 million hectares of production landscapes.

31. The GEF is also a founding member of the Blue Nature Alliance (BNA), the only dedicated public-philanthropic collaboration focused exclusively on accelerating global ocean protection. The Alliance has served as a highly effective impact multiplier, leveraging philanthropic resources to secure over $115 million in co-financing and nearly $600 million in additional leveraged funding since 2020. BNA supports marine conservation across 53 countries and the high seas, collectively covering almost 3 billion hectares - approximately 8% of the global ocean. BNA has supported the creation of 370 million ha of new marine protected areas (MPAs), upgraded the protection of 430 million ha of existing MPAs, and improved management of 130 million ha of existing MPAs.

Figure 3. Distribution of GEF Project Financing by Region ($ millions)



Distribution of Resources by Agency

32. Eight of the 18 GEF Agencies (44%) will implement the Work Program. UNDP and Conservation International are responsible for overseeing the highest programming. Three multilateral development banks will serve to implement projects: the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the West African Development Bank (BOAD) (Table 5).

33. The Work Program will leverage $828 million in co-financing, attaining a ratio of 1 to 6.4. "Investment mobilized" co-financing is $643 million (78%) of total co-financing, a ratio of 1:5 for the Work Program, which exceeds the GEF policy target.[13]

34. Distribution by co-financier shows that the highest share of co-financing is expected from GEF Implementation Agencies (33.6%), followed by the Private Sector (29.7%) and Recipient Country Governments (27.8%) (Figure 4).

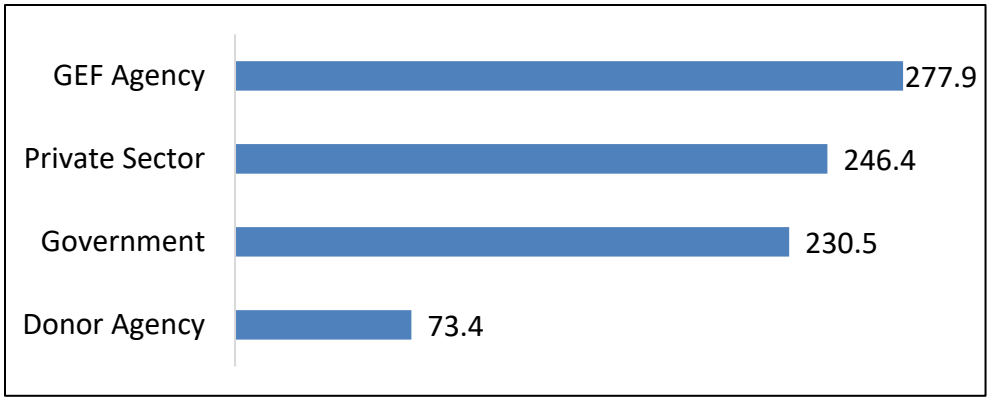
Table 5. Amount of GEF Resources by Agency[14]

	Resources in June 2026 Work Program		Total GEF-8 Resources Programmed Inclusive of June 2026 Work Program	
Agency	$ millions	% of resources	$ millions	% of resources
ADB	10.0	6.9%	68.2	1.5%
AfDB	-	-	80.7	1.8%
BOAD	4.3	3.0%	12.3	0.3%
CAF	-	-	57.8	1.3%
CI	43.0	29.8%	220.7	4.8%
DBSA	-	-	24.0	0.5%
EBRD	-	-	35.8	0.8%
FAO	-	-	676.7	14.7%
FECO	-	-	9.8	0.2%
Funbio	-	-	33.5	0.7%
IADB	-	-	74.9	1.6%
IFAD	8.3	5.7%	126.5	2.7%
IUCN	10.4	7.2%	188.2	4.1%
UNDP	47.6	33.0%	1,393.7	30.2%
UNEP	6.9	4.8%	812.8	17.6%
UNIDO	-	-	320.1	6.9%
World Bank	13.9	9.6%	342.2	7.4%
WWF-US	-	-	134.1	2.9%
Totals	**144.3**	**100.0%**	**4,612.0**	**100.0%**

[13] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF_FI_PL_01_Co-financing_Policy_2018.pdf

[14] Inclusive of Agency Fees, PPG funding, and PPG fees

Figure 4. Co-financing in the December 2025 Work Program ($ million)[15]



Outcome Targets

35. Projects in this final GEF-8 Work Program contribute importantly, and in an integrated manner, to GEF-8 results across climate, biodiversity, land degradation, international waters, and chemicals and waste focal areas. The Work Program contributes to a GEF-8 portfolio that has, in aggregate, exceeded most of its replenishment targets (Table 6).

36. As the GEF committed to ambitious or "stretch" targets for GEF-8 core indicators, achieving or surpassing 6 of 10 targets is a notable success, while falling short on 4 does not diminish the significance of the outcomes achieved in these areas, particularly as some targets were significantly increased relative to GEF-7 levels. For instance, targets for core indicators 9 and 10 (chemicals of global concern and POPs) were tripled and quadrupled, respectively, from GEF-7 to GEF-8. Similarly, outcomes in several core indicators increased in GEF-8 relative to GEF-7. For instance, the extent of terrestrial and marine Conservation Areas (PAs + OECMs) supported increased by 36%, reaching 2,050 million hectares, up from 1,500 million hectares. This is captured under KMGBF Target 3.

37. The seeming underperformance relative to outcome targets in terrestrial protected area creation may be explained, in part, by the fact that results estimated at PIF/PFD stage tend to be lower than those projected at CEO Endorsement (CEO ER). To date in GEF-8, results for terrestrial PAs have increased from 100 million hectares at PIF stage to 130 million hectares at CEO ER, equivalent to 87% of the GEF-8 target. This suggests that further increases are likely as the remaining pipeline matures. While achievements in areas of landscapes under improved practices fell short of initial ambitions, GEF-8 performance is proportionally higher relative to GEF-7 (73.6% vs 52%).

38. This final Work Program of the GEF-8 cycle amplifies the important achievements of GEF-8 across the majority of core indicators. Several targets have been surpassed, most notably in marine protected area creation, where cumulative progress stands at 1,926 million hectares against a target of 100 million hectares. Impacts expected from the second phase of the Blue Nature Alliance are truly extraordinary, with aims to improve the conservation of 1.8 billion hectares of the global oceans and achieve major

[15] Private sector co-financing includes co-financing sourced from Beneficiaries, Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector, and Others.

contributions to the KMGBF 30x30 targets.

39. Additional areas of overperformance relative to GEF-8 targets include GHG emissions mitigation, where 2,279 million tCO_2e have been recorded relative to a target of 1,850 million tCO_2e; shared water ecosystems with improved cooperative management stands at 59 against a target of 40; and terrestrial restoration outcomes surpass the GEF-8 ten million hectares target, with 10.1 million hectares of land and ecosystems restored through GEF-8 programming.

Table 6. Contribution of the Proposed June 2026 Work Program to GEF-8 Outcome Targets

CORE INDICATOR	GEF-8 Targets	Work Program Contribution		Cumulative Progress	
		Number	Share	Number	Share
CONSERVING & SUSTAINABLY USING BIODIVERSITY					
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	150	4.8	3.2%	101.4	67.6%
Marine protected areas created or under improved management (million ha)	100	1,802.3	100%	1,926.3	>100.0%
Area of landscapes under improved practices (million ha)*	195	2.9	1.5%	143.5	73.6%
Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (million ha)	70	2.5	3.6%	909.4	>100.0%
People benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity (million)	Monitored	0.8	..	32.3	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.4	..	16.6	..
SUSTAINABLY MANAGING AND RESTORING LAND					
Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (million ha)	10	0.26	2.6%	10.1	>100.0%
People benefiting from sustainable land management and restoration investments (million)	Monitored	0.1	..	12.8	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.1	..	6.8	..
REDUCING GHG EMISSIONS					
Greenhouse Gas emissions mitigated (million metric tons of CO_2e)	1,850	55.7	3.0%	2,279.1	>100.0%
People benefiting from climate change mitigation support (million)	Monitored	3.0	..	34.6	..
- of whom women	Monitored	1.5	..	17.6	..
STRENGHTHENING TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT					
Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management	40	3.0	7.5%	59.0	>100.0%
Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (million metric tons)	2.1	0.0	0.0%	4.4	>100.0%
People benefiting from transboundary water management (million)	Monitored	0.1	..	11.8	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.03	..	6.2	..
REDUCING CHEMICALS AND WASTE					
Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (thousand metric tons)	300	0.0	0.0%	261.9	87.3%
Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (grams of toxic equivalent)	5,900	0.0	0.0%	4,487.5	76.1%
People benefiting from reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals (million)	Monitored	0.0	..	66.2	..
- of whom women	Monitored	0.0	..	35.8	..

* This Core Indicator also includes a target of 85 million ha for its sub-indicator 'Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems' shared with the grouping of indicators 'Sustainably Managing and Restoring Land' under the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework. To date, 43.2 million ha of this sub-indicator are achieved, within which 0.5 million ha are achieved from the proposed work program contribution.

Gender Considerations

40. All projects included in the current Work Program align with the GEF's Policy on Gender Equality and requirements. At the PIF stage, gender equality considerations were reflected in project rationales, theories of change, and component design, with indicative actions to promote women's leadership and participation in governance and decision-making processes, improve women's access to resources, and ensure equitable social and economic benefits. In all projects, detailed gender analyses and Gender Action Plans will be developed during the preparation (PPG) phase.

41. Findings from initial gender analysis informed projects' integration of gender perspectives project activities and approaches to strengthen inclusion and equity. Most projects recognized the need to contextualize the design of the project and account for cultural norms and traditional practices shaping gender inequalities and how to address them.

42. Many projects have moved beyond policy compliance to introduce more ambitious and innovative interventions to enhance women's access to financial mechanisms or ensure women's meaningful engagement in governance structures, decision-making, and planning processes. Examples include measures supporting women-led initiatives through grants and small-scale financing windows; loan or grant mechanisms that lower entry barriers for women's participation in value chains, technology adoption, and locally-led conservation; and capacity-building for bank staff on increasing women's access to financing.

43. All projects with capacity-building components set explicit targets for women's participation and acknowledge the importance of creating enabling environments to promote women's leadership and influence. Trainings on gender mainstreaming and efforts to build understanding of gender inequalities specific to the project and the communities target broader constituencies including policymakers, local authorities, and technical partners, with the aim of strengthening institutional capacity for inclusive and gender-responsive project execution.

44. Knowledge platforms and learning systems continue to capture gender equality results more systematically across the portfolio. All projects have sex-disaggregated indicators and gender-responsive monitoring frameworks and include commitments to track and regularly report gender equality results.

45. Most projects explicitly mention that a gender expert will form part of the project team and will be leading the preparation of the projects' gender analyses and Gender Action Plans during PPG phase.

Policy Coherence

46. As one of the cross-cutting principles of GEF-8 programming[16], the GEF Secretariat continues to explicitly assess the proposed policy coherence impacts of GEF-8 projects and programs at the design stage. Considerations include if projects and programs will foster policy impacts and policy alignment, undertake cross-sectoral reviews of relevant international, national, or regional policies, undertake integrated and comprehensive planning and knowledge exchange across relevant Ministries, or

[16] GEF/C.62/03, *Summary of the Negotiations of the Eighth Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund*, June 15, 2022

strengthen multi-scale and multi-stakeholder governance at national and/or sub-national levels. Several projects in this Work Program address elements of policy coherence along these dimensions.

47. In the Biodiversity focal area, *Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands* will take an integrated landscape and seascape approach, with a strong emphasis on strengthening institutions and governance and engaging stakeholders at the national, provincial and site levels. Similarly, the *Integrated Management of Small Island Landscapes and Seascapes for Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, and Climate Resilience in the Philippines*, will establish financing pathways through biodiversity-linked local government budgeting, eco-tourism reinvestment and pilots for payments for ecosystems services and reef insurance. Establishment of joint management bodies and capacity building of multi-stakeholder platforms are key outcomes of this project.

48. In the Land Degradation focal area, *Watershed Action for Restoring Ecosystems in the South Corridor of St. Vincent* supports policy and regulatory reforms to foster an integrated landscape management approach through institutional alignment and collaborative inter-agency mechanisms for improved coordination for sustainable land management. In the International Waters focal area, weak transboundary institutional mandates, coordination, monitoring and operational capacity for basin-wide management will be addressed through the regional *Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation* project.

49. Several multi-focal area projects also demonstrate integrated, cross-sectoral policy approaches. In Sudan, *Sustainable Natural Resource and Livelihood Project – North* will strengthen technical, institutional, and policy conditions for drought management and sustainable nature resource management, through inter-ministerial coordination and policy harmonization. In India, *Accelerating Community-Driven Actions for Fire-Smart Ecosystem and Biodiversity Restoration and Conservation* will strengthen local co-governance and capacity for forest restoration and biodiversity conservation by mainstreaming cross-sectoral integrated land management strategies into state instruments along with budget tagging. In Zimbabwe, *Harnessing Natural Capital - Unlocking Zimbabwe's Biodiversity Potential in the Sebungwe Landscape* advances policy coherence through the development and operationalization of a national framework for natural capital accounting, supporting a sustainable biodiversity economy.

50. The Multi-Trust Fund project*, Niue Infrastructure, Ecosystems and Communities Integrated Project (Niue IECI),* will strengthen institutional systems, policies and governance mechanisms to systematically apply climate-risk information in investment planning and resource mobilization. Similarly, *Implementation of Sustainable Transport Solutions* in Togo will strengthen policy and institutional frameworks by establishing an inter-ministerial committee to guide climate-smart urban development.

51. In accordance with the action elements outlined at the 65th Council[17], the GEF Secretariat will continue to monitor policy coherence objectives and subsequent achievements through the next steps of design and implementation of all relevant GEF-8 projects and programs.

[17] GEF/C.65/04, *Enhancing Policy Coherence through GEF Operations*, September 10, 2023

Key Risks

52. The risk profile of this fifth Work Program under the GEF Risk Appetite (GEF/C.66/13) is rated as Moderate for Innovation and Execution, and Substantial for Context. The Context dimension has an average rating of 2.3, above the rating for both Innovation and Execution and Execution, on a four-point scale (1=low, 2=moderate, 3=substantial, 4=high). These ratings are based on Agencies' assessments of project risks and planned mitigants, with scores reflecting residual risk after mitigation measures.

53. To align project-level ratings across nine risk categories with GEF's risk appetite (Substantial for Context, High for Innovation, Moderate for Execution), Table 7 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. The average ratings across the five Work Programs since adopting the GEF Risk Appetite are presented from a comparative perspective.

Table 7. Risk Profile of the Work Program (ratings: 1 Low – 4 High)

	Risk Rating	WPs from June 2024 to date
CONTEXT	**2.3**	**2.6**
Climate	2.1	2.1
Environmental and Social	2.3	2.2
Political and Governance	1.8	1.9
INNOVATION	**2.0**	**1.8**
Institutional and Policy	1.8	1.8
Technological	1.6	1.6
Financial and Business Model	1.7	1.8
EXECUTION	**2.1**	**2.0**
Capacity for Implementation	1.9	1.8
Fiduciary	1.8	1.6
Stakeholder	1.6	1.6

54. Under the Context risk dimension, the average risk rating is 2.3, indicating that projects and programs generally face Substantial risk from the external environment. Environmental and Social risks are rated highest (2.3), followed by Climate risk (2.1), and Political and Governance risk (1.8).

55. Innovation risk is Moderate (2.0). Agencies assessed innovation risks across Institutional and Policy, Technological, and Financial and Business Model dimensions, rating them as generally Moderate.

56. Execution risk for this Work Program is rated Moderate, with an average of 2.1. Capacity risk is the highest within this dimension (1.9), followed by Fiduciary risk (1.8) and Stakeholder risk (1.6).

Contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

57. GEF-8 Programming Directions were developed to support implementation of the KMGBF. This section provides a summary of the cumulative contributions of GEF-8 programming to KMGBF targets to date, inclusive of this Work Program. Outcome indicators may change once the projects are presented for CEO endorsement. Table 8 presents GEF-8 IP contributions to KMGBF Targets.

58. GEF-8 projects will make the following cumulative contributions to the KMGBF targets:

- Target 1: A total of 3,081 million ha of land and seas directly impacted to benefit biodiversity; 59 shared water ecosystems under improved management
- Target 2: 10.1 million ha of land and ecosystems under restoration
- Target 3: 2,054 million ha of protected areas, including 26.1 million ha of other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) created or under improved management
- Target 7: 261,903 metric tons of chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced and 4.7 million metric tons of residual plastic waste avoided
- Target 8 and Target 11: 2,279 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated (CO2e)
- Target 10: 143.5 million ha of landscapes under improved practices, 59 shared water freshwater ecosystems under improved management, and 4.4 million metric tons of over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels
- Target 19: $24.06 billion of co-financing, including $1.8 billion from the private sector, for a total investment of $27.56 billion in biodiversity-relevant projects following the Rio marker methodology
- Target 22 and Target 23: 32.3 million people benefitting from the conservation, sustainable use or restoration of biodiversity, including 16.6 million women

59. Target 6 advances are supported in eight countries (Argentina, Cook Islands, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga, Tuvalu, Venezuela) through four approved standalone projects funded by the GEF TF aiming at the prevention, control and management of Invasive Alien Species with a total GEF project financing of $22.8 million and $139.2 million in co-finance. In addition, the project GEF ID 12290 - *Empowering conservation action on the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) through Establishment of a Global Flyways Grant Mechanism (GFGM) for Civil Society Organizations (*GEF project financing: $8,974,312) included in this Work Program anticipates that interventions to remove, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species is likely to be a priority for its grant making given the threat invasive species represent on the EEAF.

60. Four submissions related to Target 17 (Biosafety) and eight submissions related to Target 13 (Access and Benefit Sharing) have been requested of the GEF Trust Fund to date. Out of these twelve projects, nine have been approved for a total GEF Trust Fund programming of $28,515,684 (inclusive of PPG and fees). The three other projects (MSPs) are under review. Seven countries (Brazil, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Malaysia, Micronesia, Thailand, Yemen) are supported through seven approved standalone projects in implementing access and benefit sharing in line with Target 13 with a total GEF

project financing of $21.9 million leveraging $15.8 million in co-finance. In addition, two countries (Jamaica, Uzbekistan) are supported through approved standalone projects in implementing biosafety measures in line with Target 17. GEF financing of $3.3 million leverages $10.7 million in co-finance.

61. GEF-8 projects make important contributions to the achievement of Targets 20 (capacity building) and 21 (data/information/knowledge management). While not specifically measured by the GEF TF core indicators, most GEF-8 projects actively support the achievement of these Targets.

62. Targets 22 and 23 refer to the way the KMGBF is implemented at the national level. Target 22 focuses on equitable, inclusive, and gender-responsive participation. Target 23 focuses on gender equality. Implementing Agencies' compliance throughout GEF-8 with GEF's policy frameworks on IPLCs and Gender ensures that all GEF Trust Fund investments contribute to these Targets.

Table 8. Mapping of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Action Targets to the Integrated Programs

	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets[18]																						
GEF Integrated Programs	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**
Ecosystem Restoration	X	X						X		X	X			X	X					X	X	X	X
Blue and Green Islands		X	X				X	X		X	X			X					X	X	X	X	X
Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator		X	X					X		X	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution							X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains							X	X		X	X			X	X				X	X	X	X	X
Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X			X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Wildlife Conservation for Development		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X									X	X	X	X
Food Systems	X	X					X	X	X	X	X				X			X	X	X	X	X	X
Clean and Healthy Oceans		X	X				X	X		X	X	X								X	X	X	X
Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X			X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Sustainable Cities	X	X	X				X				X	X		X						X	X	X	X

[18] This table depicts the direct contributions of these IPs to the achievement of the 23 Targets of KMGBF. The IPs cover almost all the 23 targets of the GBF apart from Targets 6 (Invasive Alien Species), 13 (Access and Benefit Sharing) and 17 (Biosafety).

Work Program Description

Non-Grant Instrument

63. **Uzbekistan.** *Uzbekistan Risk Mitigation Facility - (GEFID 11994).* Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: $12,752,907; Co-financing: $152,000,000. Under its Green Economy Strategy (2019–2030) and updated Nationally Determined Contribution, Uzbekistan aims to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 35% by 2030. Despite rapid expansion of the power sector—reaching 29 GW of installed capacity by end 2025—the country remains heavily dependent on natural gas and faces rising electricity demand. Private investment has been central to Uzbekistan's power-sector expansion, but concerns around payment reliability and fiscal exposure persist. Through PPP and IPP frameworks, and with World Bank Group support, Uzbekistan mobilized approximately US$2 billion for around 2.5 GW of installed capacity across solar PV, a CCGT IPP, and battery energy storage systems (BESS), underpinned by IBRD payment guarantees. However, as tariffs transition toward cost recovery and the number of Power Purchase Agreements ("PPAs") increases, investor risk perceptions remain elevated due to short-term payment delays and liquidity pressures at the single buyer (UES), as well as the fiscal implications of ad-hoc sovereign support and termination-related contingent liabilities. The proposed GEF project addresses these constraints by establishing the Uzbekistan Risk Mitigation Facility (URMF) as a centralized platform for managing payment and liquidity risks. The URMF is conceived as a centralized PPP support platform housed within the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and not as a World Bank-managed trust fund. Its purpose is to strengthen oversight of direct and contingent liabilities, reinforce financial discipline in UES, standardize access to credit-enhancement instruments, and enable systematic project prioritization and risk management, initially in the energy sector with potential expansion to other sectors over time. Within the URMF, the project combines liquidity support with a dedicated payment-backstopping mechanism for renewable energy projects. Specifically, the project will support (i) liquidity support arrangements to address temporary cash-flow mismatches at UES, and (ii) the establishment and capitalization of a Renewable Energy Credit Enhancement Fund (RECEF) to backstop PPA payment obligations for eligible renewable energy projects. Supported by US$150 million in World Bank financing and approximately US$12.7 million in GEF NGI resources, the URMF is expected to mobilize at least US$1 billion in private investment in renewable energy and BESS projects. Indicative Global Environmental Benefits include substantial lifetime GHG emission reductions (estimated at 37 million CO2e) associated with the enabled clean-energy portfolio, which will be conservatively quantified during preparation based on final eligible pipeline and dispatch assumptions.

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects

Biodiversity

64. **Global.** *Consolidating the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)'s achievements in fostering CSO leadership in biodiversity conservation in global biodiversity hotspots - (GEFID 12293).* Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: $18,048,625; Co-financing: $24,100,000. The project will promote active leadership of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), including those led by women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), to address critical threats to biodiversity and ecosystems and

improve human wellbeing in innovative and practical ways through a nature-based and socially inclusive grantmaking approach, implemented in four biodiversity hotspots through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a public-philanthropic partnership that the GEF has supported since its founding in 2000. The project will support CSO projects that focus on community-based management of threatened ecosystems and species and on sustainable natural resource management. It will provide tailored capacity building of CSOs in terms of M&E, safeguards, social inclusion, gender, communication and financial management, as well as organizational development, thereby contributing to strengthening civil society globally. It will deliver Global Environmental Benefits through improved management of 389,000 ha of terrestrial and 11,000 ha of marine protected areas, restoring 67,930 ha of land and ecosystems, and bringing 1,080,000 ha of terrestrial landscapes and 35,000 ha of marine habitats under improved practices.

65. **Regional.** *Empowering conservation action on the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) through Establishment of a Global Flyways Grant Mechanism (GFGM) for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) - (GEFID 12290).* Agency: ADB; GEF Project Financing: $8,974,312; Co-financing: $107,000,000. The project will contribute to the establishment of the Global Flyways Grant Mechanism (GFGM) for CSOs to support flyway conservation across the EAAF. GFGM will support and empower CSOs to participate in flyway wetland conservation targeting ecologically connected sites already identified as high priority for migratory birds and biodiversity by the EAAF Regional Flyway Initiative (RFI). The GFGM will build on existing national and regional partnerships and align with complimentary multilateral development bank financing. Starting with six countries along the EAAF, the GFGM may upscale to include additional countries in the region and has ambition to include other flyways beyond the lifetime of the GEF project. The project, via the GFGM, will contribute to the conservation and/or restoration of nine million hectares of critical wetlands in six countries along the EAAF. GHG emissions mitigated will be tracked and reported during project implementation. Socioeconomic co-benefits will be equitably shared among stakeholders, directly benefitting 330,000 people (60% women).

66. **Solomon Islands.** *Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI) - (GEFID 12289).* Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: $5,380,174; Co-financing: $4,750,000. In the Solomons, degradation of forested watersheds through logging, mining, and unsustainable agricultural practices causes loss of globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services. Increased erosion of steep slopes and loss of riparian vegetation creates increased sediment load in rivers which are transported to the sea where it also damages coastal ecosystems. The project will support the restoration of degraded forests, freshwater and coastal ecosystems improve the conservation of biodiversity and key ecosystem functions and services, supporting local livelihoods and community resilience through an integrated community-driven R2R approach. The project will take an integrated R2R landscape and seascape approach in three key sites, focusing on strengthening institutions and governance; building capacity for biodiversity management and ecosystem restoration; implementing restoration activities and alternative livelihood development; together with processes of knowledge management and communications. The project will engage stakeholders at national, provincial and site levels, necessary for successful implementation of activities and delivery of outputs. Project sites have been clearly

targeted so that biodiversity management and restoration of ecosystems will deliver clear global biodiversity benefits in terms of status of populations of globally threatened and endemic species, including plants, birds, bats, skinks, corals, cetaceans, dugongs, turtles, fish and sharks. Global environmental benefits include 45,000 hectares of land and ecosystems under restoration; 35,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices; and 120,000 hectares of marine habitat under improved practices.

67. **Philippines**. *Integrated Management of Small Island Landscapes and Seascapes in the Philippines (ISLAS)- (GEFID 12004).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,329,452; Co-financing: $42,000,000. The project aims to expand the biodiversity conservation estate and deliver scalable island ridge-to-reef management models in three priority Philippine islands. The Philippines is a mega-diverse archipelago of more than 7,600 islands, hosting significant terrestrial and marine biodiversity. Yet many small islands remain underrepresented in the national protected area system, leaving ecosystems vulnerable to climate change, habitat degradation, and unsustainable resource use. The project objective is to expand the biodiversity conservation estate and deliver scalable ridge-to-reef management models in small islands to secure biodiversity, climate resilience, and ecosystem services. The project operationalizes national frameworks for Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), Integrated Ecosystem Management, Natural Capital Accounting, and Nature-based Solutions in Camiguin, Marinduque, and Panaon. Global environmental benefits include improved management of 62,478 hectares in the Panaon Island Protected Seascape, 11,963 hectares of terrestrial protected areas, about 4,000 hectares of production landscapes adopting biodiversity-compatible practices, 1,500 hectares of ecosystem restoration, and 399 hectares of marine habitats under improved management. The project is expected to reduce or avoid approximately 125,520 tons of CO2-equivalent emissions and benefit 3,000 people, half of whom are women.

Land Degradation

68. **St Vincent and Grenadines.** *Watershed Action for Restoring Ecosystems in the South Corridor of St. Vincent (SVG-WARE) - (GEFID 11541).* Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: $6,142,237; Co-financing: $14,540,000. The manifestation of land degradation is particularly severe in the southwest region of mainland St. Vincent, primarily due to expansion and intense pressures on the land resources in that area from agricultural, urban and commercial development. Maintaining healthy and productive ecosystems is crucial to sustaining social and economic development, yet there has been limited success in motivating stakeholders to adopt more sustainable land management practices. The project seeks advance sustainable land management across St Vincent's southwest corridor watersheds. This will be realized through enhanced policy, legal and institutional framework to foster integrated landscape management; a viable sustainable financing mechanism demonstrated to support accelerated uptake of nature-based solutions (NbS) in addressing land degradation; strengthened national capacity to assess ecosystem impacts that better guide targeted actions in mitigating land degradation; expanded uptake of effective NbS that mitigate land degradation and restore ecosystems; and a coherent awareness raising and knowledge management programme on land degradation. The global environment benefits (GEBs) the project will contribute to include: i) restoration of at least 200 hectares of productive

landscapes, resulting in reduced vulnerability to land degradation; ii) improved sustainable land management on 3,300 ha (including a with the co-benefit of land-based pollution mitigation); (3) mitigation of 114,564 tonnes CO_2e greenhouse gas emissions; and (4) 1000 beneficiaries.

International Waters

69. **Global.** *Blue Nature Alliance to advance the high-quality protection of 1.8 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems (GEFID 12294).* Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: $18,148,625; Co-financing: $187,424,934. This global project builds on a first GEF investment establishing the Blue Nature Alliance - a global initiative designed to accelerate the pace, scale, and effectiveness of ocean conservation through partnership. The Alliance was established in 2020 with equal financial contributions from GEF, Conservation International, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Minderoo Foundation, and the Rob Walton Foundation. The Alliance directly supports 30x30 and the premise that ocean conservation areas, inclusive of MPAs and OECMs, enhance climate resilience, support ecosystem connectivity and function, protect biodiversity, improve fisheries productivity, and strengthen human well-being. This second phase will advance high-quality protection in 5% of the Ocean (1.8 billion hectares) by improving the effectiveness and durability of existing ocean conservation areas, catalyzing the designation of new large-scale ocean conservation areas, and increasing ocean protection in underinvested regions. In addition to support for Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 3, expected project results include 500 million hectares of marine protected areas (MPAs) newly created, 1.3 billion hectares of MPAs under improved management effectiveness, at least one shared water ecosystem under new or improved cooperative management, engagement with IW:LEARN, and delivery of direct benefits to at least 15,000 people (50% women).

70. **Regional.** *Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation - (GEFID 12280)*. Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,785,500; Co-financing: $41,400,000. The Chu and Talas river basins sustain irrigated agriculture, rural livelihoods and water security for three million people across Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. Under earlier GEF support, a country-led Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis identified major basin threats, including chronic water scarcity driven by very high irrigation demand and high conveyance losses; deterioration of water quality from untreated or poorly treated municipal, industrial, and drainage discharges; degradation of floodplain, wetland, and upper-catchment ecosystems due to over-abstraction and poor land and water management; and increasing runoff variability, droughts, floods, and glacier decline. To help address these environmental problems, the project will support the countries to implement their joint Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme (endorsed in 2023) and corresponding national action plans. The project will (1) put in place the core governance, analytical, technical and procedural elements needed for effective SAP implementation, including operationalizing a Chu-Talas Water Commission-led SAP coordination mechanism; harmonizing monitoring and joint basin reporting arrangements; and updating bilateral instruments and procedures to strengthen the Commission and to align cooperation with the new Water Codes in each country; (2) implement practical hotspot demonstrations to reduce irrigation losses, improve water efficiency, promote women empowerment, and restore and protect riparian ecosystems (for scaling across the basins); and (3) prepare and mobilize bankable follow-on investment packages for

irrigation modernization, canal efficiency, wastewater treatment and pollution reduction beyond the GEF grant. Expected results include: two shared water ecosystems under improved cooperative management; 2,500 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration; 80,000 ha of landscapes under improved practices; an estimated 200,000 tCO2e in GHG mitigated; and direct benefits for 50,000 people.

Multi-Focal Area

71. **Sudan.** *Sustainable Natural Resource and Livelihood Project – North (SNRLP-North) - (GEFID 12295)*. Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: $7,341,339; Co-financing: $30,000,000. The arid and semi-arid regions of northern Sudan, particularly River Nile and Northern States, face severe and accelerating land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss, and climate variability, driven by recurrent droughts and floods, weak environmental governance, insecure land and resource tenure, and widespread poverty. Agro pastoral livelihoods on which most of rural populations depend are increasingly unsustainable, contributing to declining productivity, food insecurity, ecosystem degradation, and heightened risks of conflict and displacement, with women and youth disproportionately affected. The objective of the project is to improve the sustainable management of agropastoral landscapes while promoting climate resilient livelihoods and biodiversity conservation in targeted localities of River Nile and Northern States. The project adopts an integrated, landscape based and systems approach that shifts Sudan from reactive, crisis driven responses toward anticipatory drought management, strengthened natural resource governance, and regenerative land use systems. This will be achieved through strengthened institutional and policy frameworks for drought and natural resource management; rehabilitation of degraded production landscapes using nature based and drought resilient solutions; promotion of climate smart, gender responsive agropastoral systems; improvement of water management through climate smart and solar powered technologies; and establishment of robust, participatory monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems supported by GIS based tools. The project will deliver global environmental benefits through restoration of 20,000 ha of degraded dryland ecosystems, improved management of 8,000 ha of production landscapes, enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services, and mitigation of approximately 3,063,142 tCO_2e over a 30-year period. Adaptation co benefits include increased resilience of ecosystems and communities to droughts and floods, improved water security, diversified and climate resilient livelihoods, and strengthened institutional capacity for anticipatory drought governance. The six-year project will directly benefit approximately 8,000 households (3,200 women and 4,800 men), contributing to long term resilience, reduced pressure on natural resources, and alignment with Sudan's commitments under the UNCCD (LDN), UNFCCC (NDCs), and CBD (NBSAP), while supporting progress toward SDGs 1, 2, 13, and 15.

72. **Botswana.** *Restoring the ecosystem integrity of the degraded Bobirwa-Tswapong ecosystem to sustain livelihoods and effectively respond to climate change, human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity management requirements - (GEFID 12291).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $6,282,877; Co-financing: $31,167,890. The Bobirwa–Tswapong landscape hosts iconic wildlife species and the Tswapong Hills, a World Heritage and IBA site supporting endangered species and critical ecosystem services. Unsustainable land use, overharvesting of woodlands, and climate change have reduced

ecological integrity, increased biodiversity loss, weakened livelihood resilience, and intensified human–wildlife conflicts. Government programs aim to reverse degradation by facilitating sustainable use of natural resources to increase economic benefits, diversify livelihoods and reduce pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity. The effectiveness of these programmes is constrained by limited technical capacity, weak natural resource governance, low uptake of restoration measures, and inadequate investment in nature-based enterprises, partly due to insufficient access to knowledge and proven solutions. The objective of the proposed project is to restore the Bobirwa-Tswapong landscapes to sustain livelihoods, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, and strengthen biodiversity conservation. The project proposes an ILM approach, underpinned by SLM, to restore degraded ecosystems, strengthen natural resource governance, and promote climate-resilient livelihoods. ILM will provide a participatory framework to balance competing land uses, reduce land-use conflicts, and sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project will place 410,000 ha under restoration (CI 3) and catalyze nature-based enterprises and value chains (CI 4.3). It will benefit 180,000 people (50% women), mitigate 7,926,073 tCO2e and advance KMGBF targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 22 and 23, as well as the goal of reaching Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030.

73. **Malaysia.** *Conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the Ulu Jelai - Fraser's Hill Watershed, Malaysia, through an Integrated Landscape Management approach - (GEFID 12277).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,558,238; Co-financing: $42,220,000. The Ulu Jelai–Fraser's Hill watershed in Pahang, Malaysia, is part of the Central Forest Spine, a globally significant montane ecosystem providing critical habitat for endangered species such as the Malayan tiger, Asian elephant, and hornbills. This landscape faces growing threats from forest fragmentation, poorly planned infrastructure, encroachment, and poaching, which undermine biodiversity, water security, and local livelihoods. Human–wildlife conflict, especially crop raiding and damage by elephants, has escalated as habitat corridors narrow. At the same time, Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) living in the watershed experience limited livelihood options and insufficient recognition of their stewardship roles. The project objective is to secure globally significant biodiversity and ensure sustainable development of the Ulu Jelai–Fraser's Hill watershed through Integrated Landscape Management (ILM). To achieve this, the project applies an ILM strategy that knits conservation with development: (i)adopt a government-backed spatial plan that hardwires ecological corridors into state/district planning, supports Fraser's Hill State Park gazettement, and recognizes IPLC-governed conservation areas, including its operationalization through a co-management scheme and revenue flows from conservation certificates ; (iii) restore forests and riparian buffers in wildlife corridors using assisted natural regeneration with targeted enrichment; (iv) prevent human-wildlife conflict via elephant-proof fencing, telemetry-based early warning, community response teams, and joint SMART patrols to suppress snaring/encroachment; (v) support IPLCs through green enterprises; and (vi) drive best practice uptake through a targeted outreach campaign, a national knowledge hub, and robust FPIC, gender, GRM, and M&E systems. By project completion, the Ulu Jelai–Fraser's Hill watershed will have a legally adopted ILM Spatial Plan covering 250,000 ha, with at least 70,000 ha secured as Fraser's Hill State Park and 25,000 ha under IPLC-governed OECMs. More than 7,500 ha of degraded forests and riparian corridors will be restored, wildlife movement safeguarded, and human-wildlife conflict incidents reduced by half

through fencing, early warning, and community patrols. At least 20 community-led green enterprises will be operational, raising IPLC incomes by 25%. Overall, the project is expected to directly benefit to at least 3,500 people (50% women). In addition, the project is expected to contribute to reducing/removing ≥2,133,993 tCO_2e in greenhouse gas emissions over a 20-year period through forest conservation and habitat restoration.

74. **Eritrea.** *Promoting Sustainable Land Management to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Enhance Livelihoods, and Strengthen the Farming Communities in the Aylagundet Watershed, Debub Region, Eritrea - (GEFID 12080).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $8,401,400; Co-financing: $30,600,000. The Aylagundet Watershed in Eritrea's Debub Region holds important conservation value but faces severe land degradation, declining soil fertility, and water scarcity due to unsustainable practices and climate change impacts. With over 60% of the population dependent on smallholder farming, these challenges threaten national food security and livelihoods. To address these challenges, the objective of the project is to promote integrated sustainable land management (SLM) practices that achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN), enhance ecosystem services, improve sustainable livelihoods, and strengthen the resilience of farming communities to environmental, climatic and economic challenges. The objective will be achieved through strengthened institutional and community based natural resource governance including watershed management plans, regulatory mechanisms; enhanced capacity for the implementation of SLM, drought-resilient agriculture and sustainable livelihoods through land restoration and improved management practices such as agroforestry, soil and water conservation, with evidence-based knowledge management informing adaptive management and scaling up. These interventions will result in increased carbon sequestration, gender inclusive community improved livelihoods and resilience with diversified income sources. These investments will benefit 25,830 (12,660 women, 13,170 men) community members and provide global environmental benefits through improved and sustainable management of 11,851 ha of agricultural land, grazing land and forested woodland; restoration of 6294 ha of degraded grazing land while sequestering 1,655,379 mtCO2-e of carbon emissions. The project aligns with Eritrea's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) commitments under UNCCD, NDCs, and NBSAP, contributing to SDGs 2, 13, and 15, while delivering global environmental benefits in biodiversity, climate change mitigation and land degradation neutrality.

75. **India.** *Accelerating Community-Led Actions for Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation Through Integrated Landscape Management (ACT)- (GEFID 12066).* Agency: IUCN, UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $6,478,899; Co-financing: $50,960,000. The project aims to strengthen local co-governance and capacities to integrate ILM (integrated landscape management) solutions into forest restoration and biodiversity conservation in India, mainstreaming forest-fire mitigation alongside actions on other key drivers of degradation. Focusing on Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, it responds to compounding pressures - human-ignited fires, invasive alien species (e.g., lantana/snakeroot), encroachment and unsustainable extraction, and mining/linear infrastructure - now intensified by climate change. These threats have led to biodiversity loss and degradation, as well as depletion of carbon stocks, watershed services, and the livelihoods of over 275 million forest-dependent people in India. The project will address these challenges by embedding ILM solutions into forest and biodiversity

governance. First, it will institutionalize cross-sectoral ILM architecture in each state. Participatory assessments and mapping will produce state ILM strategies that are mainstreamed into state instruments with budget tagging to drive a ≥25% increase (from PPG baselines) in ILM-aligned public spending. Second, the project will enable locally-driven ILM implementation: (i) at least 167,899 ha of critical PA landscapes adopt ILM strategies; (ii) at least 300,000 ha of priority forests and production landscapes outside PAs are brought under improved management; and (iii) 2,500 households (~10,000 people; ≥50% women) become more resilient and gain nature-positive incomes. It will also deliver carbon benefits of ~2.9 TCO_2e over 20 years (the target will be re-assessed and validated at PPG). Third, the project will facilitate systemic learning and adaptive management through knowledge documentation, multi-stakeholder workshops, and the development of five knowledge products.

76. **Zimbabwe.** *Harnessing Natural Capital - Unlocking Zimbabwe's Biodiversity Potential in the Sebungwe Landscape - (GEFID 11987).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,681,588; Co-financing: $25,580,000. The Sebungwe Region comprises land use types including national parks (PAs, 37%), forest areas (2%) and communal areas (61%) and covers 15,600km2. The region forms an important component of the Kavango-Zambezi TFCA (KAZA) and has witnessed significant biodiversity loss. Declines in wildlife have mainly been due to poaching and a loss of habitats as a result of increasing human pressures and pastoral activities. This has led to large migrations of wildlife from the region. This coupled with the effects of climate change and economic pressures has led to an overreliance on natural resources, leading to their degradation. The project seeks to unlock the biodiversity potential of Zimbabwe's Sebungwe region by developing a sustainable biodiversity economy that enhances conservation of resources, improves livelihoods, and contributes to national economic growth. Relevant government organizations, financial institutions and Civil Society Organizations will develop a Natural Capital Accounting framework that will be piloted in Sebungwe, where community-based enterprises will be established. The GEBs to be achieved in the project include the conservation of globally significant biodiversity through strengthening the management of 493,800 ha of protected area (GEF Core Indicator 1.2); sustainable use of biodiversity through the development of a sustainable tamarind value chain, community conservancies (100,000 ha), reduction in forest loss and forest degradation through improving land management practices in 380,000 ha of communal land, the development and initial implementation of 10 management plans for community forests (8,109ha) including harvest quotas and their implementation (GEF Core Indicators 4.1) and ensuring sustainable land management in production systems (100ha, GEF Core Indicator 4.3) and enhanced sustainable livelihoods for local communities and forest-dependent peoples.

Multi-Trust Fund

77. **Niue.** *Niue Infrastructure, Ecosystems and Communities Integrated Project (Niue IECI) - (GEFID 12283).* Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $8,031,759 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 5,350,364; SCCF: $2,681,395); Co-financing: $27,188,000 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 17,344,000; SCCF: $9,844,000). Niue is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including intensified cyclones, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and disruptions to critical water and energy services. These risks are compounded by Niue's geographic isolation, dependence on imported fossil fuels, climate-sensitive key economic sectors (e.g. tourism),

and limited institutional and technical capacity to plan, deliver, and sustain climate-resilient investments. Degraded coastal ecosystems further weaken natural protection, increasing exposure of communities, infrastructure, and livelihoods to climate shocks. The NIUE IRMP - Integrated Resilience and Mitigation Project for Infrastructure, Ecosystems and Communities aim to reduce GHG emissions and strengthen Niue's climate resilience by reducing vulnerability to climate impacts through an innovative and integrated approach that links risk-informed governance, low-carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure and services, ecosystem-based adaptation, and sustained learning and institutional capacity. The project will be implemented nationwide, with a particular focus on vulnerable coastal communities, public infrastructure, tourism-related facilities, and priority coastal ecosystems. The project is transformative in that it shifts Niue from fragmented, reactive responses to a systems-based resilience model that integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation ambitions for infrastructure, ecosystems, governance, and communities. An estimated 1,142 people (560 men / 582 women) which is 70% of Niue's population will directly benefit from the project. The project will lead to 6,364 tCO2e direct lifetime emission reductions. 60 hectares of coastal ecosystems will be restored and under improved practice as a result of the project.

78. **Togo.** *Implementation of Sustainable Transport Solutions - (GEFID 11577).* Agency: BOAD; GEF Project Financing $9,321,280 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 3,866,904; LDCF: $5,454,376); Co-financing: $56,000,000 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 27,030,000; LDCF: $28,970,000). Lomé, Togo's fast-growing coastal capital, is caught in a self-reinforcing "flood-and-carbon trap": impermeable sprawl and sea-level rise drive frequent inundation, while car-centric travel and energy-wasting buildings push up greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions. To break this cycle, the project unites policy reform, physical pilots, catalytic finance and nationwide knowledge exchange. The project embeds city-wide climate-smart codes and finances nature-based drainage and zero-emission transport investments, leveraging a partial-credit guarantee to mobilize private capital. First, city-wide ordinances—delivered through a digital e-permitting platform—will hard-wire 0.8 m flood-freeboard, ≥ 30 % permeable surface, cool roofs and PV-ready wiring into every new plan or retrofit. Building on this regulatory bedrock, Component 2 converts policy into action: ≈ 10-15 km of roads are retrofitted with bioswale drainage, ≈ 100 low-income homes are elevated and insulated, and five BRT/e-bus corridors plus safe cycle lanes shift commuters away from diesel minibuses. A Partial-Credit-Guarantee Facility then multiplies impact, using a US $ 2.5 million first-loss cushion to unlock ≈ US $ 37 million in commercial loans for drainage works, bus fleets and green construction SMEs—at least 30 % of them women-led. Knowledge gained on the ground will be captured and shared through a bilingual Urban Climate Hub and an annual forum that twins Lomé with five secondary cities, each receiving mini-grants and open-license designs to launch its own pilot. By 2031 the package will cut annual flood losses by ≥ 40 % for roughly 45 000 residents, restore 30 ha of lagoon wetland, plant 2 200 native trees and avoid ≈ 560 000 t CO_2e over twenty years. Lomé thus becomes a living laboratory whose lessons—and finance templates—can be replicated across West Africa's vulnerable coastal cities.

Summary of Programs (PFDs) and Stand-Alone Projects (PIFs) in the Work Program

Non-Grant Instrument

79. **Uzbekistan.** Uzbekistan Risk Mitigation Facility (GEF ID 11994). Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: $12,752,907; Co-financing: $152,000,000

Stand-Alone Full-sized Projects (PIFs)

Biodiversity

80. **Global:** Consolidating the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)'s achievements in fostering CSO leadership in biodiversity conservation in global biodiversity hotspots (GEFID 12293). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: $18,048,625; Co-financing: $24,100,000

81. **Regional:** Empowering conservation action on the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) through Establishment of a Global Flyways Grant Mechanism (GFGM) for Civil Society Organizations (GEFID 12290). Agency: ADB; GEF Project Financing: $8,974,312; Co-financing: $107,000,000

82. **Solomon Islands:** Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI) (GEFID 12289). Agency: IUCN; GEF Project Financing: $5,380,174; Co-financing: $4,750,000

83. **Philippines**: Integrated Management of Small Island Landscapes and Seascapes for Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, and Climate Resilience in the Philippines (ISLAS) (GEFID 12004). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,329,452; Co-financing: $42,000,000

Land Degradation

84. **St Vincent and Grenadines**: Watershed Action for Restoring Ecosystems in the South Corridor of St. Vincent (SVG-WARE) (GEFID 11541). Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: $6,142,237; Co-financing: $14,540,000

International Waters

85. **Global**: Blue Nature Alliance to advance the high-quality protection of 1.8 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems (GEFID 12294). Agency: CI; GEF Project Financing: $18,148,625; Co-financing: $187,424,934

86. **Regional**: Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation (GEFID 12280). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,785,500; Co-financing: $41,400,000

Multi-Focal Area

87. **Sudan:** Sustainable Natural Resource and Livelihood Project - North (SNRLP-North) (GEFID 12295). Agency: IFAD; GEF Project Financing: $7,341,339; Co-financing: $30,000,000

88. **Botswana:** Restoring the ecosystem integrity of the degraded Bobirwa-Tswapong ecosystem to sustain livelihoods and effectively respond to climate change, human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity management requirements (GEFID 12291). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $6,282,877; Co-

financing: $31,167,890

89. **Malaysia**: Conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the Ulu Jelai - Fraser's Hill Watershed, Malaysia, through an Integrated Landscape Management approach (GEFID 12277). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,558,238; Co-financing: $42,220,000

90. **Eritrea**: Promoting Sustainable Land Management to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Enhance Livelihoods, and Strengthen the Farming Communities in the Aylagundet Watershed, Debub Region, Eritrea (GEFID 12080). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $8,401,400; Co-financing: $30,600,000

91. **India**: Accelerating Community-Led Actions for Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation Through Integrated Landscape Management (ACT) (GEFID 12066). Agency: IUCN, UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $6,478,899; Co-financing: $50,960,000

92. **Zimbabwe**: Harnessing Natural Capital - Unlocking Zimbabwe's Biodiversity Potential in the Sebungwe Landscape (GEFID 11987). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $5,681,588; Co-financing: $25,580,000

Multi-Trust Fund

93. **Niue:** Niue Infrastructure, Ecosystems and Communities Integrated Project (Niue IECI) (GEFID 12283). Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: $8,031,759 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 5,350,364; SCCF: $2,681,395); Co-financing: $27,188,000 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 17,344,000; SCCF: $9,844,000)

94. **Togo**: Implementation of Sustainable Transport Solutions (GEFID 11577). Agency: BOAD; GEF Project Financing $9,321,280 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 3,866,904; LDCF: $5,454,376); Co-financing: $56,000,000 (GEF Trust Fund: $ 27,030,000; LDCF: $28,970,000)

ANNEX A: Project and Program Proposals Submitted for 71st GEF Council Approval under the GEF Trust Fund

May 31 – June 3, 2026

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Non-Grant Instrument											
1	11994	Uzbekistan Risk Mitigation Facility	Climate Change	Uzbekistan	World Bank	-	-	12,752,907	1,147,762	152,000,000	165,900,669
				NGI Sub-total		**-**	**-**	**12,752,907**	**1,147,762**	**152,000,000**	**165,900,669**
Stand-Alone Full-Sized Projects											
Biodiversity											
2	12293	Consolidating the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)'s achievements in fostering CSO leadership in biodiversity conservation in global biodiversity hotspots	Biodiversity	Global	CI	300,000	27,000	18,048,625	1,624,375	24,100,000	44,100,000
3	12290	Empowering conservation action on the East Asian Australasian Flyway (EAAF) through Establishment of a Global Flyways Grant Mechanism (GFGM) for Civil Society Organizations	Biodiversity	Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Regional	ADB	200,000	18,000	8,974,312	807,688	107,000,000	117,000,000

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
4	12289	Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Restoration in Solomon Islands (R2R-ERSI)	Biodiversity	Solomon Islands	IUCN	150,000	13,500	5,380,174	484,216	4,750,000	10,777,890
5	12004	Integrated Management of Small Island Landscapes and Seascapes in the Philippines (ISLAS)	Biodiversity	Philippines	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,329,452	506,298	42,000,000	48,000,000
				BD Sub-Total		**800,000**	**72,750**	**37,732,563**	**3,422,577**	**177,850,000**	**219,877,890**
Land Degradation											
6	11541	Watershed Action for Restoring Ecosystems in the South Corridor of St. Vincent	Land Degradation	St. Vincent and Grenadines	UNEP	150,000	14,250	6,142,237	583,513	14,540,000	21,430,000
				LD Sub-Total		**150,000**	**14,250**	**6,142,237**	**583,513**	**14,540,000**	**21,430,000**
International Waters											
7	12294	Blue Nature Alliance to advance the high-quality protection of 1.8 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems	International Waters	Global	CI	200,000	18,000	18,148,625	1,633,375	187,424,934	207,424,934
8	12280	Support to Chu-Talas Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation	International Waters	Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Regional	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,785,500	549,622	41,400,000	47,899,372
				IW Sub-Total		**350,000**	**32,250**	**23,934,125**	**2,182,997**	**228,824,934**	**255,324,306**

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
Multi-focal Area											
9	12295	Sustainable Natural Resource and Livelihood Project – North (SNRLP-North)	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Sudan	IFAD	200,000	19,000	7,341,339	697,427	30,000,000	38,257,766
10	12291	Restoring the ecosystem integrity of the degraded Bobirwa-Tswapong ecosystem to sustain livelihoods and effectively respond to climate change, human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity management requirements	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Botswana	UNDP	200,000	19,000	6,282,877	596,873	31,167,890	38,266,640
11	12277	Conservation of globally significant biodiversity of the Ulu Jelai – Fraser's Hill Watershed, Malaysia, through an Integrated Landscape Management approach	Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Malaysia	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,558,238	528,033	42,220,000	48,470,521
12	12080	Promoting Sustainable Land Management to Achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), Enhance Livelihoods, and Strengthen the Farming Communities in the Aylagundet	Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Eritrea	UNDP	200,000	19,000	8,401,400	798,133	30,600,000	40,018,533

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
		Watershed, Debub Region, Eritrea									
13	12066	Accelerating Community-Led Actions for Ecosystem Resilience and Biodiversity Conservation Through Integrated Landscape Management (ACT)	Biodiversity, Climate Change, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	India	UNDP, IUCN	200,000	18,000	6,478,899	583,101	50,960,000	58,240,000
14	11987	Harnessing Natural Capital - Unlocking Zimbabwe's Biodiversity Potential in the Sebungwe Landscape	Biodiversity, Land Degradation, Multi Focal Area	Zimbabwe	UNDP	150,000	14,250	5,681,588	539,751	25,580,000	31,965,589
				MFA Sub-Total		**1,100,000**	**103,500**	**39,744,341**	**3,743,318**	**210,527,890**	**255,219,049**
Multi-Trust Fund (and Non-Grant Instrument)[19]											
15	12283	Niue Infrastructure, Ecosystems and Communities Integrated Project (Niue IECI)	Climate Change	Niue	UNDP	141,666	13,120	5,350,364	494,850	17,344,000	23,344,000

[19] For MTF projects and programs, only GEFTF funding and related co-financing are included in this Annex. The LDCF and SCCF allocations, if any, are included in the LDCF and SCCF Annex accordingly.

No.	GEF ID	Project Title	Focal Area	Country	Agency	PPG Amount	PPG Fee	GEF Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing	Total Project Cost
16	11577	Implementation of Sustainable Transport Solutions	Climate Change	Togo	BOAD	84,350	7,592	3,866,904	346,035	27,030,000	31,334,881
				MFT Sub-Total		**226,016**	**20,712**	**9,217,268**	**840,885**	**44,374,000**	**54,678,881**
				GRAND TOTAL		**2,626,016**	**243,462**	**129,523,441**	**11,921,052**	**828,116,824**	**972,430,795**

ANNEX B: Enabling Activities (EAs) and Medium-sized Projects (MSPs) Approved Since the 70th Council Meeting

Seventeen Enabling Activities and Forty-nine Medium-Sized Projects (MSPs) were approved since the 70th GEF Council, or between 1 16 November 2025 and 15 April 2026. Total GEF financing for these projects equals $196.5 million[20] with $899.2 million in co-financing for a ratio of $1 GEF dollar being matched by $6.3 dollars in co-financing. Thirty-seven countries have distinct EAs and MSPs and an additional 22 EAs/MSPs are global or regional projects.

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
Enabling Activities									
12286	Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined BTR/National Communications (BTR/NCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	UNEP	Global	Climate Change	-	-	4,932,000	468,540	-
12272	Review of the implementation of Minamata Convention Article 7 (RIA) obligations on mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Francophone and Spanish-speaking countries.	UNEP	Global	Chemicals and Waste	-	-	2,500,000	237,500	-
12266	Strengthening Indonesia's Preparation on Second and Third Biennial Transparency Reports to the UNFCCC (BTR 2 and BTR3 Indonesia)	UNDP	Indonesia	Climate Change	-	-	1,200,000	114,000	-
12202	Review of the implementation of Article 7 (RIA) obligations on mercury in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) in Anglophone countries	UNEP	Global	Chemicals and Waste	-	-	2,500,000	237,500	-
12180	Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined BTR/National Communications (BTR/NCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	UNEP	Global	Climate Change	-	-	4,932,000	468,540	-
12166	Enabling Pakistan to prepare its second Biennial Transparency Report (BTR2) and third BTR with a combined fourth National Communication (BTR3/NC4)	FAO	Pakistan	Climate Change	-	-	1,233,000	117,135	-
12130	Mexico's Second Biennial Transparency Report (BTR2) and the combined Eight National Communication and the Third Biennial Transparency Report (NC8/BTR3) to the UNFCCC	UNDP	Mexico	Climate Change	-	-	1,233,000	117,135	-
12129	Peru's Second Biennial Transparency Report (2BTR) and the combined Fifth National Communication and the Third Biennial Transparency Report (5NC/3BTR) to the UNFCCC	UNDP	Peru	Climate Change	-	-	1,233,000	117,135	-
12128	Preparation of Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and Combined BTR/National Communications (BTR/NCs) to the	UNEP	Global	Climate Change	-	-	4,932,000	468,540	-

[20] Inclusive of PPG funding and PPG fees.

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).								
12123	Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe	UNEP	Global	Chemicals and Waste	-	-	4,894,500	464,978	-
12120	Enabling China to Prepare Its Fifth National Communication, Second and Third Biennial Transparency Reports on Climate Change	UNDP	China	Climate Change	-	-	4,566,210	433,790	-
12097	Enabling Activities to Support the ratification and early implementation of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (EA-BBNJ) Phase 2	UNDP	Global	International Waters	-	-	1,575,000	149,625	-
11991	Preparation of the Second Biennial Transparency Report (BTR2) and the combined Third Biennial Transparency Report and Fifth National Communication (BTR3/NC5) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	UNEP	Global	Climate Change	-	-	4,932,000	468,540	-
11958	National Implementation Plan Update for Costa Rica	UNDP	Costa Rica	Chemicals and Waste	-	-	400,000	38,000	-
11945	Global Development, Review and Update of National Implementation Plans (NIPs) under the Stockholm Convention (SC) on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	UNEP	Global	Chemicals and Waste	-	-	3,341,200	317,414	-
11920	National Action Plan for the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) Sector in Mauritania	UNEP	Mauritania	Chemicals and Waste	-	-	1,000,000	95,000	-
11836	Global Support Programme (GSP) IV - Strengthening capacities of country Parties for the 2026 reporting process in the context of the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework and SDG target 15.3	UNEP	Global	Land Degradation	-	-	3,196,348	303,652	-
One-step MSPs									
12112	Advancing global maritime decarbonization through financing sustainable maritime transport	World Bank	Global	Multi Focal Area	-	-	5,000,000	475,000	326,393,750
12101	Strengthening Costa Rica's National Climate Change Metrics System (SINAMECC) - CBIT II	UNEP	Costa Rica	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,500,000	142,500	300,000
12091	Strengthening the National Framework for Climate Transparency in Armenia – CBIT 2	UNDP	Armenia	Climate Change	-	-	1,400,000	133,000	540,000
11988	Implementation of the National Biosafety Framework in Uzbekistan in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	IUCN	Uzbekistan	Biodiversity	50,000	4,500	1,784,863	160,637	7,000,000

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
11984	Enhancing institutional and technical capacities for an effective implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework in São Tomé and Príncipe.	UNDP	Sao Tome and Principe	Climate Change	-	-	1,413,060	134,240	448,504
11983	Strengthening Enhanced Transparency Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina – CBIT 2	UNDP	Bosnia-Herzegovina	Climate Change	-	-	912,640	86,701	200,000
11981	Restoration through Science-based Execution and Established Biodiverse Registry for Degraded Ecosystems in Protected Areas and Broader Landscapes in the Philippines (RESEEDPh)	CI	Philippines	Multi Focal Area	100,000	9,000	2,909,174	261,826	8,604,189
11968	Transboundary Water Support through the Global Facility for Transboundary Water Cooperation	World Bank	Global	International Waters	-	-	4,566,210	433,790	21,200,000
11960	Nature for Cooling Challenge (NCC)	UNEP	Global	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	3,000,000	285,000	30,670,000
11950	Strengthening the Capacity of Institutions in Philippines to Comply with the Transparency Requirements of the Paris Agreement	CI	Philippines	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	1,784,862	160,638	2,152,860
11843	Accelerating Integration, Policy Coherence, and Food Systems Investment with the TCC – Learning from Africa's Food Systems Vanguard Countries	World Bank	Regional	Multi Focal Area	-	-	1,735,160	164,840	900,000
11840	Collaboration for Complex Challenges: addressing the food-biodiversity-climate nexus	UNDP	Global	Multi Focal Area	-	-	1,735,160	164,840	7,210,000
11835	AgroWeb3: Market Access Window Project	IFAD	Global	Land Degradation	-	-	1,660,311	157,730	817,670
Two-step MSPs									
12287	GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) Global Knowledge and Learning Platform	UNDP	Global	Multi Focal Area	150,000	13,500	4,308,153	387,733	4,308,153
12275	Integrated Management For Ecosystem Services Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Land, Water Management in Syria	UNDP	Syria	Land Degradation	150,000	14,250	4,990,000	474,050	12,965,572
12263	Power System Modernization for Clean Energy Integration in Nauru	UNDP	Nauru	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,776,485	168,765	7,105,940
12260	Strengthening Yemen's National Biosafety Framework for Safe Management of Biotechnology	UNDP	Yemen	Biodiversity	50,000	4,750	1,007,867	95,747	3,850,000
12231	Global program on climate-resilient renewable energy systems in SIDS – national project in Saint Kitts and Nevis	UNIDO	St. Kitts and Nevis	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	954,566	90,684	5,553,900
12227	Accelerating Cuban low-carbon and circular solutions for micro- , small and medium-sized enterprises	UNIDO	Cuba	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,858,676	176,574	8,875,372
12225	Bolivia–Chile TDA/SAP for Integrated Management of Shared High-Andean Basins	UNDP	Regional	International Waters	150,000	14,250	4,835,750	459,396	39,131,079
12160	Tuvalu Rural Electrification Fund (TREF)	UNDP	Tuvalu	Climate Change	150,000	14,248	3,502,974	332,778	20,500,000

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
12154	Strengthening Malaysia's ABS Framework, Digital Compliance, and Private Sector - Community Partnerships	UNDP	Malaysia	Biodiversity	150,000	14,250	4,651,950	441,935	33,637,000
12151	Catalyzing Land Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation through Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Landscape Governance in the Mbaéré–Oubangui Landscape, Central African Republic.	UNEP	Central African Republic	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,750	1,774,406	168,568	4,950,000
12147	FSM Access and Benefit Sharing Project	FAO	Micronesia	Biodiversity	150,000	14,250	4,415,485	419,450	8,832,420
12146	Strengthening Jamaica's capacity to Implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	UNEP	Jamaica	Biodiversity	50,000	4,750	1,502,511	142,739	3,750,000
12144	Enhancing Biodiversity Conservation in Ancestral Domains Management in the Philippines	UNDP	Philippines	Biodiversity	50,000	4,750	876,251	83,244	4,300,000
12140	Securing Forest Landscapes in the Dominican Republic through Integrated Governance and Climate Finance	FAO	Dominican Republic	Multi Focal Area	150,000	14,248	4,830,079	458,856	23,006,250
12132	Global decarbonization investment accelerator for the hard to abate sectors	UNIDO	Global	Climate Change	150,000	14,250	3,000,000	285,000	12,050,000
12122	Pathways to Low-Emission Livestock Development: Advancing Sustainable Practices in Georgia's Agriculture Sector	FAO	Georgia	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	863,243	82,007	6,000,000
12121	Promoting Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy Transformation in Africa	UNDP	Regional	International Waters	150,000	14,250	4,999,998	475,000	35,000,000
12108	Integrated management of land and water resources for strengthening climate resilience in flood affected areas of Balochistan, Pakistan	UNDP	Pakistan	Land Degradation	50,000	4,750	1,995,662	189,588	9,795,600
12107	Catalyzing Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOPs) for Transboundary Marine Ecosystem Management	CAF	Global	International Waters	150,000	13,500	4,000,000	360,000	32,000,000
12100	Demand-driven digital smart grids	UNDP	Kazakhstan	Climate Change	100,000	9,500	2,185,100	207,584	18,020,000
12096	Integrated landscape management, sustainable use of biodiversity, and drought resilience in the North and Far North regions of Cameroon	FAO	Cameroon	Land Degradation	100,000	9,500	3,041,274	288,921	13,500,000
12093	Just Energy Transition in Hard-to-Abate Sectors: Cement, Residential LPG Cooking, and Thermal Energy Uses	UNDP	Uruguay	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	863,243	82,007	12,258,212
12090	Building Mozambique's National Capacity to Implement the Enhanced Transparency Framework of the Paris Agreement	UNEP	Mozambique	Climate Change	45,000	4,275	1,150,000	109,250	75,000
12089	Transparency in Action: Enhancing Ghana's National Transparency Framework (CBIT Ghana 2)	UNEP	Ghana	Climate Change	45,000	4,275	1,250,000	118,750	330,000
12084	Introduction of climate smart agricultural (CSA) technologies in the District of Coronie to increase climate resilience	UNDP	Suriname	Multi Focal Area	100,000	9,500	2,822,374	268,126	500,000
12081	Enhancing Transboundary Water Resources Management through sustainable financing and integrated management approaches in the Cubango-Okavango River Basin.	UNDP	Regional	International Waters	150,000	14,250	4,999,998	475,000	16,250,000

GEF ID	Project Title	Lead Agency	Country	Focal Area	PPG	PPG Fee	Project Financing	Agency Fees	Co-financing
12003	Biodiversity and Inclusive Governance for Resilience Karst Ecosystem and Community Livelihood (BIO-KARST)	UNDP	Indonesia	Biodiversity	150,000	14,250	4,416,210	419,540	15,000,000
12002	Enhancing the Conservation of Cetaceans in Türkiye	UNDP	Türkiye	Biodiversity	100,000	9,500	2,740,183	260,317	12,400,000
11986	Enabling Pathways for Long-term Low Emission Development Strategies for the Built Environment in India	UNDP	India	Climate Change	150,000	14,250	4,982,110	473,300	25,050,000
11985	Promoting productive use of renewable energy for MSME and local development in Obock Region	UNDP	Djibouti	Multi Focal Area	50,000	4,750	2,116,237	201,042	11,100,000
11980	Building a Sustainable EPC Management Cell for Super ESCO	UNDP	Jordan	Climate Change	50,000	4,750	1,319,863	125,387	15,000,000
11976	Promotion of sustainable rangeland management and restoration strategies and practices in the northwest coastal region of Egypt	UNEP	Egypt	Land Degradation	50,000	4,750	1,777,132	168,828	12,286,750
11949	Advancing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Investments for Low-Emission Buildings in Egypt	UNDP	Egypt	Multi Focal Area	100,000	9,500	3,777,626	358,874	34,900,000
11944	Inclusive management of the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka for conservation of globally significant biodiversity and ecological integrity	IUCN	Sri Lanka	Biodiversity	150,000	13,500	3,519,725	316,775	16,000,000
11929	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by enhancing efficiency and transparency in Pakistan's leather industry	UNIDO	Pakistan	Climate Change	100,000	9,500	2,639,726	250,774	10,000,000
Child MSPs									
12007	Electric buses and transit-oriented corridors for innovative urban mobility in Antananarivo	UNEP	Madagascar	Climate Change	50,000	4,500	1,784,862	160,638	4,450,000
Total					**3,790,000**	**356,546**	**179,531,417**	**16,954,993**	**899,168,221**