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GEF-8 Integrated Programs

Progress Report on Design of Programs approved in June 2023

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I. Introduction

1. The [GEF-8 Programming Directions](#) includes eleven (11) Integrated Programs¹ (IPs) focused on tackling drivers of environmental degradation and advancing systems transformation through the integrated approach. The IPs cover the full spectrum of the GEF mandate as financial mechanism of major multilateral environmental agreements. They are also integral to the GEF-8 Theory of Change for achievement of a healthy, productive, and resilient environment which underpins the well-being of human societies. Furthermore, the scope and breadth of issues covered will specifically address the interest and needs of LDCs and SIDS, and as a result support their post-COVID-19 green and blue recovery effort and strengthen their role in safeguarding the planet.
2. The process for rolling out the IPs started in June 2022 with a *Guidance Note*² for countries and GEF Agencies, which included detailed information on how the IPs will be operationalized to maximize their potential for achieving the outcomes established in the GEF-8 Programming Directions. It described how the focal areas will be programmed for the IPs based on indicative focal area amounts in the GEF-8 financial scenario; outlined the eligibility criteria for country participation based on the Programming Directions document; and described operational aspects related to selection of Lead Agencies and countries, including indicative timeline for roll-out of the programs.
3. Building on this guidance and following Council endorsement of Lead Agencies selected for the IPs³ at its meeting in November 2022, the GEF Secretariat initiated a process for countries to express their interest in participation in the programs. From the initial 210 expression of interests (EOI) submitted by countries, 148 (70.5%) were selected for inclusion in an IP. This resulted in 9 (nine) of the 11 IPs subscribed well enough to be considered for inclusion in the Work Program presented to Council in June 2023. Due to resource limitations in the GEF Trust Fund, Program Framework Documents (PFDs) were only presented for six of those nine IPs (GEF/C.64/Inf.11).⁴
4. This report provides an update on the design and delivery process for the fully developed child projects that will be submitted to GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement. In addition, the report includes highlights of important developments and emerging issues of relevance to

¹ The IPs are: 1) Food Systems, 2) Ecosystem Restoration, 3) Sustainable Cities, 4) Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes, 5) Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution, 6) Blue and Green Islands, 7) Clean and Healthy Ocean, 8) Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development, 9) Net-Zero Nature-positive Accelerator, 10) Wildlife Conservation for Development, and 11) Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains

² GEF/C.62/Inf.13, Guidance Note for Countries and GEF Agencies on participation in the GEF-8 Integrated Programs; <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-62-inf-13>

³ GEF/C.63/07, Report on Lead Agency Selection Process for the Integrated Programs; <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-63-07>. Note: Lead Agency for the Clean and Healthy Ocean IP could not be completed because no proposals were received during the initial call.

⁴ PFDs for four IPs were subsequently included in the December 2023 Work Program: *Clean and Healthy Ocean*, *Food Systems*, *Wildlife Conservation for Development*, and *Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development*. The *Sustainable Cities IP* is being considered for inclusion in June 2024 Work Program.

each of the programs, and how they are being considered for engagement through the coordination platform child projects.

II. Overview of the IPs

5. The six IPs were prioritized based on their coverage of global environmental challenges being addressed, and the potential to achieve balance in representation of recipient countries participating and GEF agencies involved. Collectively, the IPs also represent a timely opportunity to align GEF-8 programming with global aspirations for transformative change in key systems while at the same time responding to demands from the MEAs. Specifically, the IPs include:

- The *Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP*, which addresses the growing urgency to safeguard intact forest landscapes that are irreplaceable in terms of biodiversity, absorb up to a third of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions (84% coming from old and primary forests), and are critical for other ecosystem services (water), and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Five separate PFDs are presented under this IP, covering the global significant biomes identified in the GEF-8 strategic direction: *Amazon (with 7 countries)*⁵, *Congo (with 6 countries)*, *Guinean Forests of West Africa (with 3 countries)*⁶, *Indo-Malaya (with 3 countries)* and *Meso-America (with 6 countries)*.
- The *Ecosystem Restoration IP (with 20 countries)*, which addresses the immense potential to return hundreds of millions of hectares of degraded landscapes to functioning ecosystems, and the opportunity to drive synergistic benefits across multiple environmental dimensions while generating economic, ecological and livelihood benefits for an estimated 3.2 billion people.
- The *Blue and Green Islands IP (with 15 countries)*, which addresses the interdependence of environment and economic systems in SIDS (Small Islands Developing States) and the need to embed nature at the center of development while maintaining the health and integrity of the ecosystems on which they rely. Through the IP, SIDS will have the opportunity to collectively build on existing interventions to demonstrate the transformational potential of incorporating the value of nature into decision-making and using innovative nature-based solutions to achieve environment and development commitments.
- The *Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution IP (with 15 Countries)*, which harnesses the urgent and unprecedented momentum from public and political interest to tackle the root causes of plastic pollution: ever-growing unsustainable consumption and production of single-use and problematic plastic products and packaging with low circularity. The IP will advance both upstream and midstream solutions in the food and beverage sector,

⁵ Guyana was added to the Amazon CFB IP at the 66th GEF Council Meeting in February 2024.

⁶ Guinea-Bissau and Togo were added to the Guinea Forest CFB IP at the 66th GEF Council Meeting in February 2024.

including the elimination of single-use plastic products/packaging and reduction of using crude oil as the primary feedstock; circular design of materials, products, and business models; as well as ensuring materials and products are circulated in practice through reuse and refill systems.

- The *Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator IP (with 12 countries)*, which addresses the significant ambition gap that still exists between the pace of current global efforts to halt and reverse climate change and ecosystem loss, and the level of action and investments required during this decade. The program approach advances a whole-of-government strategy, across all sectors and actors, based on growing evidence that the twin threats of global biodiversity loss and climate change are deeply interconnected.
 - The IP on *Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains (with 8 countries)*, which focuses on two industries with long and complex supply chains, that continue to fuel the triple planetary crisis of climate change, chemical pollution, and biodiversity loss: fashion and construction. With action in both industries typically concentrated on climate change and biodiversity, leaving pollution behind, the IP will advance the integrated approach to re-orient action in each global value chain and maximize potential for transformative change.
6. Collectively, the six IPs included in June 2023 Work Program were represented by 10 separate PFDs, with five for the Critical Forest Biomes and one each for the other IPs. The PFDs included a total of 67 countries from across all GEF regions, with 95 discrete child projects (Table 1). The full list of countries participating in each Integrated Program can be found in Annex 1B.

Table 1 Number of countries by Integrated Program

Integrated Program	Number of country child projects
The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes	25
Amazon	7
Congo	6
Meso-America	6
Guinean Forest	3
Indo-Malaya	3
Ecosystem Restoration	20
Blue and Green Islands	15
Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution	15
Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator	12
Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains	8
Total	95

7. As shown in Figure 1, all GEF recipient country regions are covered by the six programs under design, and with some regions having multiple programs. In addition to creating opportunity for amplifying influence of GEF investments beyond countries with child projects, this reinforces the need for coordination of the program design process across scales. As a result, the design phase of each program follows an iterative process that connects country-level efforts with the coordination platform to ensure adequate consideration of the evolving context. The Lead Agency for each IP plays a key role in coordinating and facilitating the process to ensure coherence and consistency across the portfolio, including alignment of top-down expectations and bottom-up priorities of countries toward advancing transformative change.

Integrated Program ● BGI ● CFB ● CSPP ● EHCSC ● ER ● NZNPA

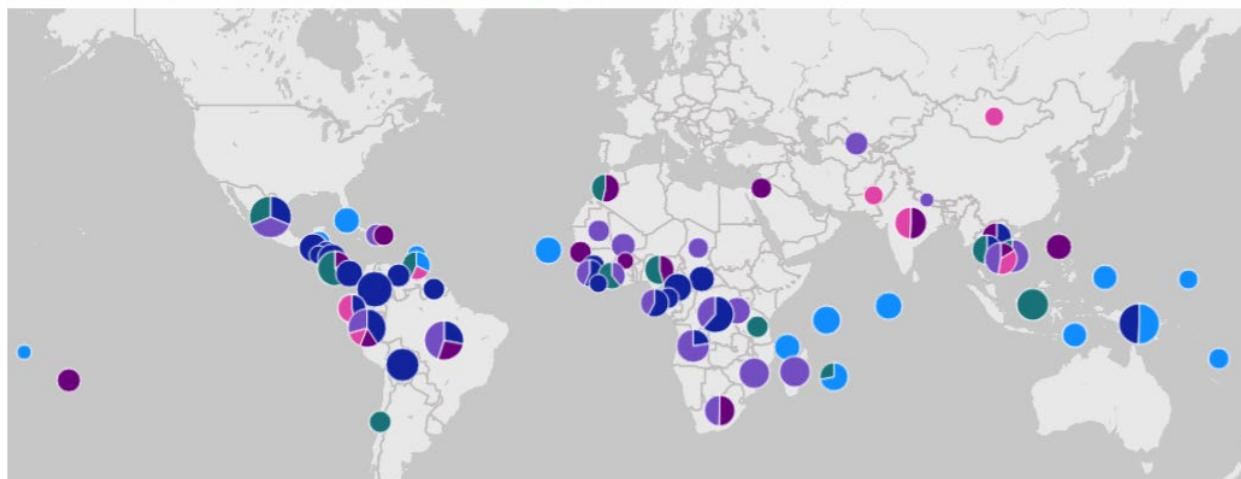


Figure 1 Global Distribution of Countries participating in the six IPs approved in June 2023
BGI: Blue and Green Islands; CFB: Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes; CSPP: Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution; EHCSC: Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains; ER: Ecosystem Restoration; NZNPA: Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator

8. Potential global environmental benefits from the six programs covered all GEF-8 core indicator targets, with significant contributions to protecting and sustainably managing terrestrial protected areas, using improved practices in landscapes for biodiversity benefits, and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions. Overall, the proposed integrated approach to tackling drivers and associated global environmental benefits from IPs address many of the 23 Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).⁷ The IPs contributing to the area-based core indicator targets and alignment of policies supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable use will produce biodiversity outcomes at scale which will all contribute to the achievement of Target 11 (Restore and enhance ecosystem function). The actual extent of contributions to GEF-8 Core Indicator and KMGBF targets will be determined after all the child projects under the IPs are fully developed.

⁷ Detailed summary of IP contributions was presented in the Work Program submitted to Council in June 2023 - <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/gef-c-64-04-rev-01>

9. The total GEF financing approved for the six IPs amount to USD 901.1 million, leveraging an additional USD 5.2 billion in co-financing from diverse sources, including national governments, development partners, and other international financing organizations. The GEF grant amounted to 53.5 percent of the total GEF-8 amount allocated for integrated programs. **Table 2** shows the breakdown of financing amounts by IP.

Table 2 Financing for Integrated Programs approved in June 2023

Integrated Program	Financing Amount
The Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes	291,224,115
Amazon	97,966,652
Congo	62,902,726
Guinean Forest	22,593,323
Indo-Malaya	42,656,660
Meso-America	65,124,754
Ecosystem Restoration	205,039,046
Blue and Green Islands	135,632,986
Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution	107,943,333
Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator	109,966,638
Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains	51,309,996
Total	901,116,114

III. Program Design and Delivery

10. Following approval of the PFDs in June 2023, GEF Agencies have been fully engaged with supporting the design and delivery of child projects. The next section highlights progress made for each program, including the evolving context associated with each of the IP priorities.

A. Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program

Program Summary

11. The *Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes* (CFB) IP focuses on advancing the integrated approach for safeguarding primary forests and Intact Forest Landscapes, or forests with the highest ecological integrity in the world’s most important tropical forest regions. These forests store more carbon than any other forests, and it is estimated that forest ecosystems soak up to a third of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, 84% coming from old and primary forests. These forests are also irreplaceable in terms of biodiversity and are critical for other ecosystem services (water), and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The conservation and sustainable management of these critical forest biomes has become crucial to combat global environmental degradation before it is too late.
12. Tropical forests throughout the world are facing immense pressure from anthropogenic sources, including agriculture and infrastructure development. Since Council approval of the

CFB IP, the Global Forest Watch has reported that the world lost 3.7 million hectares of tropical primary rainforests in 2003. In addition, the continuation of the carbon sink's role of primary forests is not guaranteed due to climate change and deforestation. These critical forest biomes are therefore a focus of the IP because they represent the most affordable solution to the twin crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss.

13. The CFB IP is delivered as five separate programs to accommodate the ecological, economic, social, and cultural realities associated with each of the targeted biomes: *Amazon, Congo, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Indo-Malaya, and Mesoamerica*. Consistent with the overall IP framing, each program aims to improve the conservation and effective governance of the primary forests to sustain flow of vital ecosystem services that underpin lives and livelihoods in the targeted biome, while contributing to multiple global environment and development benefits. All landscapes targeted by the CFB IP include important protected areas and significant areas of tropical forests that are still undisturbed or relatively intact, in addition to other land uses, some of which may threaten forest integrity if not adequately managed or regulated.
14. The CFB IP strategy implies the implementation of concerted and complementary actions by the different child projects at national and landscape level and a coordination project at regional level. On one side, the national projects will contribute to achieve the regional outcomes and on the other side, the regional coordination project will support the concerned forest biome with information, knowledge, and synergy with other initiatives. The design of the CFB IP is also an opportunity to build on lessons from the Amazon Sustainable Landscape since GEF-6 (ASL), the Congo Impact Program launched in GEF-7 (Congo IP), and related Pilot Integrated approaches such as the Resilient Food Security Program and the Good Growth Partnership.
15. For each critical forest biome, the program design is anchored on a Theory of Change to advance the integrated framework for addressing complex interrelated problems and create the conditions for transitions towards lasting transformation, notably related to 1) the expanded protection of primary forests through protected areas and OECMs; 2) increased understanding and valuing of natural capital, 3) expanded forest-friendly production, and 4) improved policy coherence and institutional and legal frameworks.
16. The CFB IP strategy is based on the following four levers for system transformation, adjusted to reflect the regional differences: 1) Governance and policies: CFB IP actions are designed to improve inter-sectoral coordination and dialogue to enhance policy coherence on primary forest conservation in pertinent policies and instruments (at local, subnational, national, and regional levels); 2) Multi-stakeholder dialogues: a multilevel inter-sectoral and constructive dialogue among key stakeholder is promoted by establishing or strengthening pertinent multi-sectoral local, national, and regional platforms; 3) Innovation and learning: in the areas of protected area management, management of OECMs, community-based forest restoration practices, innovative financing models and tools, use of novel incentives and business models to incentive nature-friendly activities, and new coalitions for change; and

4) Financial leverage: CFB IP interventions will support the use of financing tools to mobilize more domestic and international resources to channel long-term funding from the public and private sector to support urgently needed actions, like sustaining protected areas and OECMs, restoration of primary forest cover and the development of forest-friendly endeavors. To ensure that these levers of transformation ultimately advance sustainability and scale, the CFB IP will pursue system-wide, country-driven, and gender-responsive capacity development across people, organizations, institutions, and policies.

17. Twenty-five (25) countries are included in the PFD approved by Council in June 2023, accounting for a total GEF grant of USD291.2 million and an additional to USD 1.7 billion as cofinancing. This information paper provides the status of development of the five regional programs (**Figure 2**).

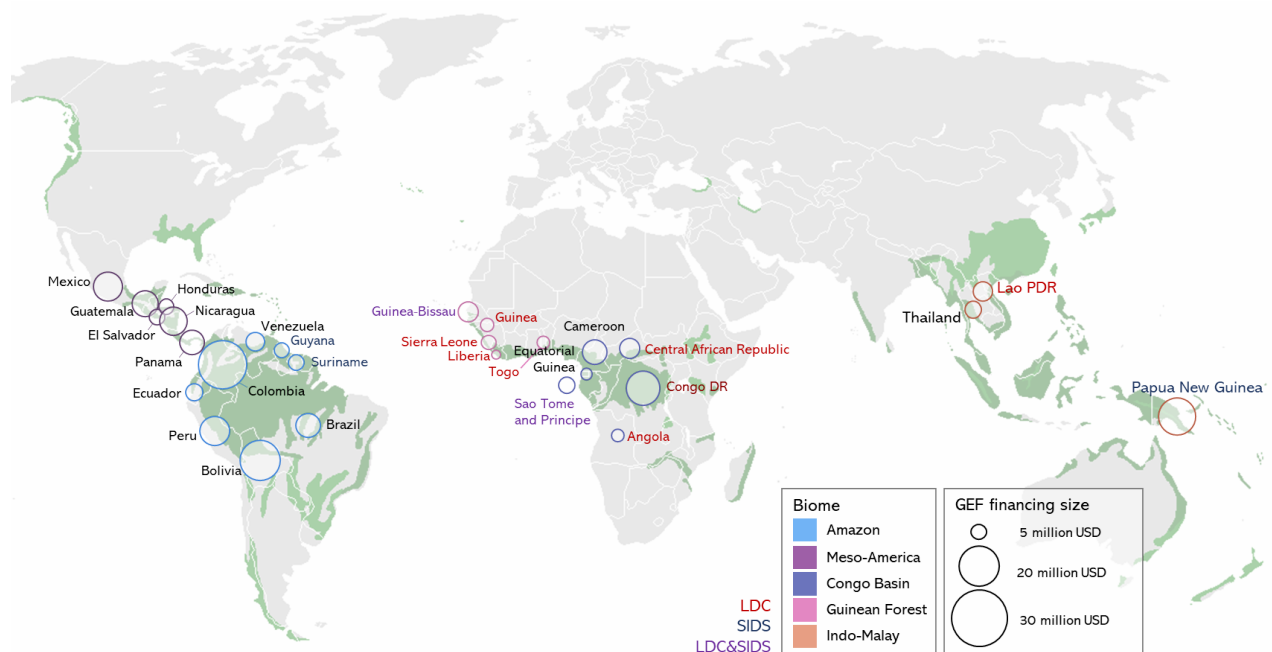


Figure 2 Distribution of countries participating in the Critical Forest Biomes IP
 [Note: Map includes three countries subsequently added in February 2024]

Updates on Biome-specific Contexts

i. Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program

18. Deforestation decreased in 2023 in the Amazon. The main declines of forest loss reported in the region were in Colombia (49%) and Brazil (36%). This however does not reflect a general and sustainable trend for the Amazon, considering for example in Colombia, in the first quarter of 2024, deforestation has increased again; and other countries continued with increased rates of deforestation such as Bolivia with an increase of 27%. In addition, the root causes of deforestation are continuing, including illegal mining and land grabbing, which are affecting the region and increasing the risk of reaching tipping points. Criminal organizations

and armed groups have expanded their presence, increased their political control, and diversified their illegal economic activities causing social, cultural, and environmental harm.

19. To counteract these problems, governmental and non-governmental organizations, donors and other civil society actors, from the Amazon and beyond, are taking measures both with individual projects and programs, but also increase cooperation. During 2023, a renewed interest and political commitment towards regional collaboration and scaling up positive actions towards conservation and sustainable development was evident. A significant milestone of this political commitment was the signature of the Belem Declaration in August of 2023, that aims towards combined government efforts “to advance in a new common agenda in the Amazon, to be implemented under the objective of sustainable development, conservation of forests, sustainable use of biodiversity, forests and water resources, urgent action to avoid the point of no return in the Amazon, the fight against deforestation and illicit activities in the region, economic development with social inclusion and generation of income and employment, based on mechanisms of social participation, particularly of indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities, and the strengthening of Amazon Conservation Treaty Organization.”
20. Another important meeting with the emphasis to promote collaboration to address common challenges, was the Pan-Amazon Bioeconomy Conference in June in Belém, organized by WRI and CI, with support from World Bank via the GEF funded ASL and other institutions. CDB COP16 in Cali, Colombia at the end of 2024 will be a key opportunity to showcase accomplishments to protect the most biodiverse region in the planet, and bring together further collaboration, knowledge, and financing for the Amazon. The UNFCCC COP30, occurring in the Amazon city of Belém, Brazil will continue with such opportunity.

ii. Congo Critical Forest Biome

21. The program was featured at the Three Basins Summit held on October 26-28, 2023 in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, which created opportunity for the agency to establish contacts with the Science Panel for the Congo Basin (SPBC) launched during the Summit. Future collaborations were discussed in view of generating knowledge and information pertinent to the Congo CFB IP to inform decision making.
22. As part of the program design process and in the spirit of fostering south-south exchange, the program Coordinator of the Congo CFB IP attended the Annual Conference of the Amazonia Sustainable Landscapes (ASL) in Tarapoto, Peru. The objective was to learn from the ASL experience in the roll-out of the Congo CFB IP and to potentially identify the best practices and lessons that can inspire processes at least in the two regions and eventually in all regions of the CFB IP.
23. During the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, UNEP co-organized a side-event at the COMIFAC Pavilion on the theme “Balancing climate change mitigation, adaptation, economic growth and conservation in the Congo Basin: How can integrated governance, planning and management enhance nature and people in key landscapes” with key partners (US Forest Service, WCMC,

and COMIFAC). This helped to socialize the overall program approach and create opportunities for alignment with other biome-wide initiatives focusing on protection of forests.

iii. Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome

24. During the Climate week in Panama in October 2023, the Regional Program was presented to the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Central American Commission on Agriculture (CAC). The member countries of these commissions reaffirmed their support to the Program. During this session, articulation with important regional political initiatives were explored such as the AFOLU 2040, and its carbon neutral target in the region and the Regional Environmental Framework Strategy of the CCAD.
25. During the Regional Conservation Forum of IUCN (April 16-19, 2024 in Mexico City, Mexico), a high-level panel was organized with the participation of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, European Union and UNEP in order to identify best practices from other projects, potential synergies and Lesson learned from relevant projects such as the KfW/IUCN Selva Maya II, the EU Great Forests Program and the GCF/UNEP Five Great Forests Initiative.

iv. Guinean Forests of West Africa Critical Forest Biome

26. Several announcements related to nature during the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai included explicit reference to the forest biome, demonstrating the momentum around nature as a critical climate solution. Key highlights include 1) Country packages for forests and climate for West Africa and specifically Ghana; 2) Government of France and Conservation International, with support from The Rob Walton Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, launched a EUR 115 million (equivalent to USD122.2 million) Seed Fund for Forests, Nature and Climate to support Country Packages.
27. Several opportunities have emerged that will help strengthen biome-wide initiatives for safeguarding intact forest landscapes.
 - The EU funded Support Programme for the Preservation of Forest Ecosystems in West Africa (PAPFor) has been very collaborative and influential in shaping the program and its Regional Coordination Platform project. It is followed by NaturAfrica West Africa that seeks to support biodiversity conservation (NAWA, EUR310 million, equivalent to USD329.6 million). The Guinean Forests biome is identified as a priority “mega-landscape”. The GEF program will engage with its regional coordination. In addition, the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), also with EU, has been a long time partner of the Taï National park and is still supporting an initiative to strengthen ecological connectivity in the Taï-Grebo-Krahn-Sapo (TGS) forest complex.
 - The World Bank is supporting several significant investments in the region: 1) In Guinea, on forest governance, natural resource management, mining, and the establishment of a Conservation Trust Fund with private sector support, 2) In Cote d’Ivoire on large scale

reforestation and agroforestry payment for result program, the Tai National Park area emission reductions program, and 3) The Upper Guinean Forest Global Challenge Program (GCP) in view of combining public and private capital and solutions for greater speed and impact.

- Finally, two major USAID funded programs focusing on forests and climate have been engaged as part of the design process: 1) The West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WABiCC) program (USD53.7 million, 2015-2021) to improve conservation and climate-resilient, low-emissions growth across West Africa and 2) Its follow up with the West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development program (WABiLED, USD49 Million, 2021-2025).

v. *Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome*

28. IUCN and FAO, the Indo-Malaya CFB IP's lead agencies organized a joint side-event at the margins of the 13th Session of the Asia Pacific Forestry Commission held in Sydney in October 2023. In its final report, the Commission adopted following recommendation to FAO clearly recognising the importance of the GEF-8 Indo-Malaya CFB IP to primary forest conservation in the Indo-Malaya countries and PNG: *"continue the implementation of the GEF-8 IM CFB IP, including through the promotion of cross-sectoral linkages and policy coherence in support of mainstreaming primary forest considerations into relevant agricultural sector policies and practices, facilitate sharing of experience and lessons learned with other countries with similar conditions and other relevant initiatives, and report on progress made at its next Session."*
29. At the UNFCCC COP28 in December 2023, the Asian Development Bank, together with IUCN, OPEC Fund, French Agency for Development (AFD), Saudi Fund for Development, ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility, Nature Finance, TNC, WWF, Birdlife International, and CI launched the Nature Solutions for Finance Hub for funding nature conservation and nature-based solutions projects across Asia and the Pacific. The hub has the objective of providing integrated activities that support upstream awareness, policy and capacity building for nature-based solutions projects, and downstream innovative finance structuring in projects to directly attract funds via bonds, from banks, and others. The hub will deploy a range of financing measures to reduce risks in nature-based solutions projects such as guarantees, impact-linked payments, and blended finance options. The hub is targeting about USD1 billion in such de-risking funds from global development partners with advanced discussions underway with several entities. Discussions happened between the GEF Secretariat and ADB at the margins of the GEF Council in February 2024 and after the PPG workshop in Bangkok, Thailand
30. Papua New Guinea announced a Country package partnership of USD100 million focusing on the conservation and sustainable use of high carbon and biodiversity areas at UNFCCC COP28. The political declaration was endorsed on December 2, 2023 during a special event. The European Union and France will co-lead this partnership. A Taskforce has been put in place cochaired by AFD and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Government of PNG. IUCN and FAO will take part in this taskforce along with other partners

including the European Union, the Australian Government, GEF, ADB, and WCS. The first meeting was held on 22 March 2024.

Summary and Status of Child Projects

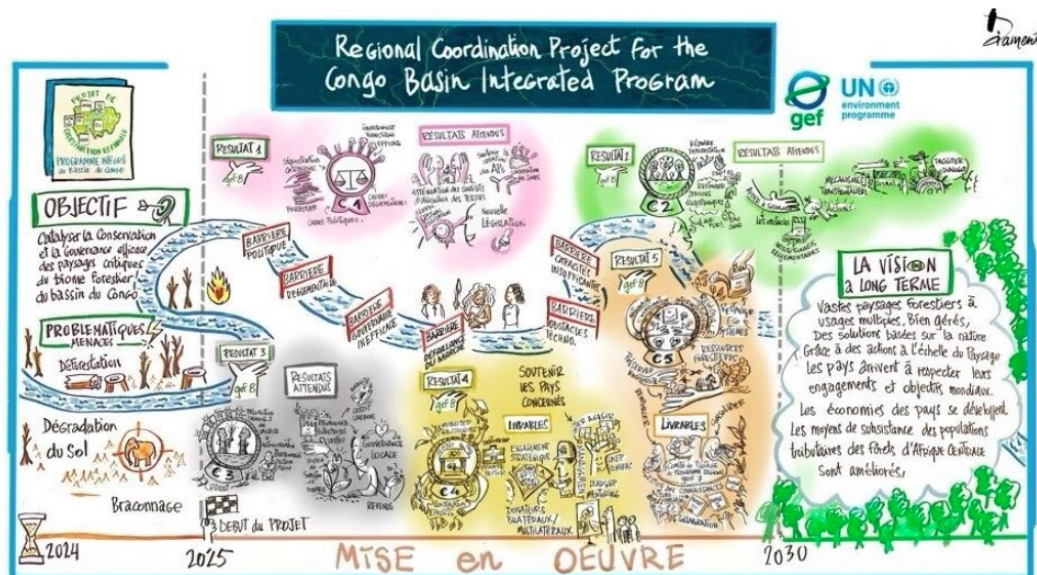
i. Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program

31. Building on the Amazon Landscapes Program from GEF-6 and GEF-7, the regional coordination project will aim to accelerate learning and collaboration, resulting in improved implementation and desired transformational changes. The project will pursue this goal by promoting strategic knowledge exchanges and innovations, fostering multisectoral dialogue, and increasing partnerships with other regional initiatives. Within the ASL, the strong collaborative relationship with national governments, other country beneficiaries, additional key stakeholders and partners, and GEF agencies based on trust and sound technical guidance and long-term commitment, will continue to be strengthened. Beyond the ASL, partnerships with institutions working in the Amazon will be strengthened or forged, and coordination and knowledge exchanges with entities participating in the other geographies of the GEF Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program will be sought. The regional project is organized around three pillars: 1) Coordination (internal and external), 2) Knowledge management and Communications, 3) Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning. All activities of the regional project are designed and implemented in close collaboration with the national ASL projects' teams and the Program Steering Committee.
32. Preparation of the regional coordination platform initiated since the preparation of the ASL program. Meetings, including an in-person workshop and several virtual meetings, took place, initially to prepare the Program Framework Document where countries presented their needs in broadening their scope. Once the PFD was endorsed, meetings helped guide the preparation of the national child projects as well as allowed to discuss and receive feedback about the preparation of the regional project. This involved discussing the scope, objectives, and types of activities that the third phase of the program would focus on, recognizing that each country has specific challenges, processes and interests and identifying common goals and activities.
33. Workshops have enable the Lead Agency and GEF Secretariat to provide guidance to the design teams on alignment with the overall program approach, as well as GEF project requirements. These meetings also helped to clarify role and functioning of the program Steering Committee, which will include all the eight Amazon countries participating in the Program. Preparation of the Regional Coordination project is on track and expected to be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024. Start of implementation activities will depend on the start dates of the ASL national projects, so that activities can benefit at least several of them.
34. All country child projects are on track and most are expected to submit CEO Endorsement requests by June 2024 (See Annex 2). Multiple country workshops such as PPG inception workshop, technical design workshop happened in most countries, since the council

approved the program in June 2023. Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela had stakeholder consultation with various stakeholders from the region.

ii. Congo Critical Forest Biome

35. The Congo CFB IP Lead Agency, UNEP, convened an online discussion on December 13, 2023, to bring together all agencies involved in the GEF-8 Congo CFB IP and the GEF Secretariat with the objective of establishing links and synergies that will foster better coordination between the GEF national and regional projects. UNEP convened a series of subsequent coordination calls with the all the GEF Agencies involved in the development of country-based projects under the GEF-8 Congo CFB IP to ensure synergies and information exchanges across all key actors involved. In particular, the monthly meetings focused on updates on progress on each projects, timelines for submission and key events (such as the validation workshop and stakeholder consultations).
36. UNEP organized an in-person workshop in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, on March 18-19, 2024, serving as a validation of an advanced draft document for the Regional Coordination Project. The workshop convened key stakeholders in the region, including potential partners of the project, as well as the Economic Commission of Central Africa States (ECCAS), the Commission for Central Africa Forests (COMIFAC). It also enabled interactive exchange with country child project teams to ensure co-design and early buy-in of the regional approach. Key outcomes included: 1) Fostered a collaborative environment to bolster partnerships for successful project execution, 2) All participants informed about the project's theory of change and its implementation strategy, 3) Project rationale and design reviewed by component, 4) Roles of various regional entities, national partners, and coordination mechanisms clarified, and 5) Enhancing the integrated operational functionality of the RCP (see figure below).



Conceptualizing the Regional Coordination Platform Project for Congo Basin

37. Child project preparation is on track in most countries (see Annex 2). Sao Tome and Principe completed the national consultation, and PPG validation workshop in Angola is planned for May 2024. Congo DR organized an inception workshop on February 27, 2024 and consultation missions are planned. Most countries will submit the CEO Endorsement requests by June 2024.

iii. Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome

38. At regional level, the Lead Agency IUCN organized two meetings: an inception workshop on November 21-22 , 2023 (in-person) and a virtual validation workshop on April 9, 2024. In addition, the Lead Agency met with different organizations and stakeholders in order to identify potential partners, capacities and ongoing projects and explore potential co-financing. These included: regional organizations such as CCAD and CAC that have specific mandates in environment and agriculture to promote synergies among both agendas; UNEP to promote coordination and complementary approaches and activities between the GCF project on Great Forests (around USD90 million); UE Forest program in the Mesoamerican region (around USD25 million).

39. The Lead Agency worked closely with countries to support the design of the national child projects. In particular in each participating country, it facilitated the organization of and attended a 2-days inception workshop (in-person) and a field visit to identify need and activities on the ground. During all the design process, the Lead Agency has work in coordination with the other Implementing Agency of the Program (FAO) to promote a common approach and ensure links and knowledge exchange between national and regional projects along the designing process. FAO has been participating in the Regional inception and validation workshops developed in November and April respectively. As a result, all the child projects have similar level of advances (both FAO and IUCN implemented).

40. Countries are making progress with child project preparation (see Annex 2). All countries held inception workshops for project design between November-December 2023, and validation workshops were planned for March-June 2024. All are expected to submit CEO Endorsement requests by the deadline of June 2024.

iv. Guinean Forests of West Africa Critical Forest Biome

41. A Regional Design and Validation Workshop for the Regional Coordination and Learning Project (RCP) was held in Freetown, Sierra Leone, October 11-12, 2023. A total of 55 participants (35% women) representing state and non-state actors from countries that are part of the forest biome, as well as actors from regional and global institutions participated in the workshop. The workshop was co-hosted by CI and the Government of Sierra Leone, and officially opened the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Honorable Jiwoh Abdulai (pictured below).



42. The main outcomes of this workshop were the following:

- Priorities for ensuring an important role of the program in improving conservation and forest governance whilst catalyzing and unlocking investments in the region was acknowledged by all the stakeholders.
- Recognition of the critical and complementary role of state and non-state actors operating at National, Regional and Global levels to unlock financing and have a sustainable impact.
- Recommendations for actions under the RCP including 1) Linking with the sub-regional body ECOWAS on regional-level policy coherence needs, 2) Involvement of institutions with regional influence but operating at national level in the upper Guinean Forest biome, 3) Need to leverage existing technical and knowledge-sharing institutional structures and platforms, 4) Need to offer a tailored capacity building that will result in long-term impact including finding ways of institutionalizing the capacity building, and 5) Recognizing the importance to of traditional knowledge in natural resource management and in designing capacity building.

43. Additional upstream discussions took place with the GEF Secretariat in early 2024 on the CEO endorsement package of the regional coordination platform child project. The final package was submitted in the portal in March 2024 and is currently in the review phase.

44. In February 2024, the GEF Council approved the addition of two projects to the Guinean Forests Critical Forest Biome Integrated Program resulting in a total of five Child Projects. The newly added projects are 1) Promoting and strengthening effective conservation of the Cantanhez Primary Forests in Guinea Bissau, USD6.5 million, supported by IUCN and 2) Strengthening the conservation and resilience of forest landscapes in the sub-humid mountainous zone of Togo, USD4.5 million, supported by FAO.

45. CI as a Lead Agency organized a validation workshop for the regional coordination child project in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which brought together representatives from all biome countries as well as technical institutions working in the region. And similar to the Congo and Amazon exchange, the program coordinator from CI participated in the Regional Coordination Project Validation workshop for the Congo Program held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. The engagement helped to establish operational links

between the two program design teams, and framework for how the two regional platforms will engage each other.

46. CI has been supporting the governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone to develop requests under the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) aligned and complementary to the GF CFB IP on transboundary landscapes and thereby supporting the fulfilment of the 30x30 commitment. A number of non-GEF investments have been made in the Guinean Forests Biome that should reinforce conservation of forest ecosystems. Interactions already exist with some of them. When operational, the GF IP Regional team will need to work closer with them.
47. Country child project preparation activities are underway (see Annex 2) and most countries are expected to submit CEO Endorsement requests by June 2024.

v. *Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome*

48. Several rounds of bilateral and multilateral interactions with country project teams on the coordination between the RCP and the country projects have been held: Bilateral meetings took place with the project teams and consultants for Lao, PNG, and Thailand between October 2023 and March 2024; Specific sessions on safeguards were organized for all countries and GEF agencies, as well as on cross-cutting aspects, as knowledge management, indicators, capacity development, and communication.
49. An inception workshop for the program design phase was held on October 10, 2023, including with a dedicated session on coordination and governance of the program. This was followed by a technical design workshop in Bangkok, Thailand on February 15-16, 2024, with representation from the ASEAN Secretariat, child project countries, other inter-governmental organizations and stakeholders. In addition to substantive aspects, the workshop also addressed operational issues including linkages between the RCP and the child projects, program indicators, joint knowledge hub, an annual Indo-Malay convening, as well as overall governance.



Group Picture from the Technical Design Workshop (February 2024)

50. The 66th GEF Council meeting in February 2024 approved two stand-alone projects with linkages to the Biome: 1) *Enhancing biodiversity conservation and reducing climate vulnerability in Central Viet Nam for sustainable development utilising a landscape approach*, WWF-US, USD 9 million: This project is focused on a primary forest landscape in the Central Annamites and has clearly synergies with the Indo Malaya CFB IP and 2) *Enhancing Transboundary Fisheries Management in the Lower Mekong Basin*, IUCN, USD10.71 million (Regional, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Viet Nam).
51. Country child project preparation activities are underway (see Annex 2) and most countries are expected to submit CEO Endorsement requests by June 2024.

B. Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program

Program Summary

52. Over 75% of the world's land surface and 66% of marine and coastal areas have been significantly altered by human activities and climate change stressors with negative impacts on food systems, ecosystem services, habitats for wildlife and affecting the livelihoods of an estimated 3.2 billion people. Halting degradation and restoring these ecosystems offers immense potential to return hundreds of millions of hectares of degraded landscapes to functioning ecosystems. Well-designed restoration can tackle multiple Sustainable Development Goals, driving synergistic benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem services, agricultural and timber production, and local livelihoods at large spatial scales. Halting degradation and restoring these ecosystems and landscapes generates economic, ecological and livelihood benefits, including: 1) Safeguarding ecosystem services e.g., soil protection, pollination, nutrient cycling, and soil water-holding capacity that sustaining productivity, 2) Avoiding species extinctions, and 3) Mitigating the effects of climate change through carbon sequestration, protection against storm surges, and provisioning of food, water, medicines, local building materials and cultural assets. Securing environmental benefits improves livelihoods and is important in avoiding social conflicts and migration that can lead to further degradation.
53. The Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program has the objective to generate multiple durable global environmental and socioeconomic benefits by applying integrated and innovative approaches to restore degraded ecosystems. It aligns with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and supports global restoration commitments by mobilizing a coalition of multi-sectoral stakeholders, policy, finance, fostering capacity building, learning and global cooperation. The UN Decade reflects the growing global attention and ambitions for restoration as reflected in commitments made by countries through voluntary programs such as the Bonn Challenge, Initiative 20x20 and AFR100. The total of all commitments is close to 1 billion hectares.
54. The Program seeks to arrest further degradation and to restore and heal ecosystems and landscapes by removing identified barriers and catalyzing innovative and transformative policy and enabling conditions, financial mobilization, multi-stakeholder dialogue, knowledge

exchange and learning, and capacity-building to support the restoration of natural ecosystems needed to horizontally and vertically scale the realization of Global Environmental Benefits and livelihood outcomes at national and global levels. The Program embraces a transformational approach to promote innovation in policy & governance, financing of natural capital, multistakeholder dialogue, restoration approaches, and knowledge management and learning. The Program promotes an integrated approach that invests in projects that will trigger “levers-of-change” with the potential to catalyze the uptake of innovations in governance and policymaking, financial mechanisms, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and innovation and learning to scale Global Environmental Benefits to a level unattainable by individual isolated projects.

55. The IP will support participating countries to achieve NBSAP goals and mitigation action via NDCs, LDN targets and commitments under the UNCBD, the UNFCCC, and UNCCD. The Program components are mapped to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, and especially Target 2 which aims to “ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological 30 integrity and connectivity.”
56. The IP engages a cohort of 20 countries with national child projects across Asia, Central Asia, Africa, and Latin America, including 13 LDCs and 2 SIDS (see Annex I). These national child projects are implemented by seven GEF agencies: UNDP, World Bank, FAO, IUCN, UNEP, IFAD, and CI. National child projects deliver results in critical landscapes on restoration challenges, and most importantly identifying, testing, and verifying the efficacy of best practices and lessons for wider replication.

Updates on Context for the Integrated Program

57. Ecosystem restoration remains a high priority in the global environmental policy agenda. The [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) continues to support global efforts through naming additional seven initiatives from Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean, and South Asia as UN World Restoration Flagships. These initiatives include ecosystems at the tipping point of outright degradation resulting from wildfires, drought, deforestation, and pollution.
58. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund provides additional boost for global efforts to restore ecosystems. Furthermore, land restoration is at the core of the UNCCD’s mission, as actions that protect and revitalize land resources such as soil, water and biodiversity are critical to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030 and constitute a proactive way to build resilience to drought.

Summary and Status of Child Projects

59. To coordinate the Program, a Global Coordination Child Project (GCP) has been designed as a strategic hub to advance the programmatic objectives and to support a coherent and

innovative process, programmatic coordination, and inclusive governance. A major element of the design process was a three-day participatory workshop organized August 1-3, 2023 by the lead agency, Conservation International, at their headquarters (hybrid). The GCP has been CEO endorsed on March 22, 2024 and is now actively supporting the Child Projects design towards promoting innovation, advocating for innovative policies and enabling conditions, catalyzing private sector engagement, creating financing flows and mechanisms, facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue, and facilitating knowledge exchange and learning.

60. Through the Global Coordination Project, a knowledge platform is being established to integrate the child projects, partners, and policies with advocacy, strategic communication and knowledge management, with emphasis in peer-to-peer catalytic knowledge transfer and collaboration. In this context, the Lead Agency has instituted bi-weekly check-in meetings for regular communication with all partners designing the Country Child Projects. This provides means for optimizing the contributions of each project and associated partners, based on best practices, and experience gained. The platform will also support opportunities to capture and utilize knowledge specific to regeneration techniques methodologies, gender inclusion, local and indigenous perspectives, for learning through the communities of practice and their associated knowledge products. Through the platform, the program will leverage various ongoing initiatives by GEF and partner agencies that address deforestation, biodiversity, and integrated land and water management. The platform will also align with relevant GEF-8 Integrated Programs, such as the Critical Forest Biomes, Food Systems, Blue and Green Islands, and the Net-Zero Nature Positive Accelerator.
61. Country child project preparation activities are on track (see Annex 2) and most countries are expected to submit CEO Endorsement requests by June 2024. Delays are likely for Madagascar, Sao Tome and Principe, and Haiti (submission by August 2024).

C. Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program

Program Summary

62. The interconnection between nature, people's livelihoods and well-being is ever present in a Small Island Developing States (SIDS) context. For SIDS environmental challenges and socio-economic challenges are relatively more intense and rapidly felt, primarily because of their small physical scale, geographic isolation and small economies which rely on a limited resource base. SIDS also represent key areas of biodiversity in the world.
63. Within SIDS, terrestrial, coastal, and marine ecosystems are interdependent and provide a number of ecosystem services and key socio-economic benefits such as food security, water security, and livelihoods, along with having aesthetic and spiritual value. Key economic sectors which rely on these ecosystems and their services are also the main drivers of their degradation. The resulting impacts have included significant biodiversity loss, land degradation, diminished ecosystem services and land-based pollution in freshwater and marine ecosystems, all compounded by the impact of climate change. The impact of these drivers are exacerbated by barriers related to insufficient governance and cross-sectoral;

misaligned domestic financing; lack of data and tools to inform nature positive development decision making; inadequate human and institutional capacities and national knowledge management systems for support of scaling out Nature-based Solutions (NbS) interventions; inadequate cohesive action and multistakeholder dialogue by and including SIDS at the national and international level in order to engage and negotiate for private sector finance to support scaling and replication of nature positive development.

64. With this context of interdependent challenges, an integrated approach that includes embedding nature at the center of development in SIDS, is paramount to sustaining development, while maintaining the health and integrity of the ecosystems on which they rely.
65. The objective of the IP is to facilitate nature-positive development and reduce ecosystem degradation in SIDS by valuing nature and applying NbS with specific application to the food, tourism, and urban sectors. The design aims to promote and facilitate valuation and natural capital accounting of ecosystems and ecosystem services, utilize valuation data to strengthen policy coherence, enhance integrated planning and inform decision making related to domestic public and private sector resource mobilization for nature positive development. Governance mechanisms, cross-sectoral institutional collaboration and capacity building are some of the mechanisms that will be applied and or strengthened to facilitate nature positive development at the landscape and country level. The program will also seek to scale innovative nature-based solutions, to achieve environment and development commitments and address societal challenges, such as food security, water insecurity, climate change adaptation and where possible elimination of hazardous chemical pollution.
66. To effect enduring change, the following transformation levers will be applied throughout the components of the program: Governance and Policies and Multistakeholder Dialogues to enhance enabling environment and policy coherence, promote collective action and upscaling of nature positive development in SIDS; Financial leverage to bring nature-based solutions to scale, including from domestic and international private sector financing; and Innovation and Learning to promote the use of valuation data in decision making processes and mechanisms to scale NbS.

Updates on Context of the Integrated Program

67. The integrated nature of the program and its focus on NbS will provide an avenue to support countries to meet their commitments and targets under all MEAs simultaneously, including carbon sequestration and reduction of emissions; delivering on the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by increasing the area of restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems and habitats, expanding marine and terrestrial protected areas, curbing sources of land-based pollutants, and improving small scale and commercial fisheries management; and ecosystem and land restoration actions in target areas toward achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality goals. The implementation phase of the IP will also be timely, as the global SIDS community in May 2024 will complete negotiations on priorities for SIDS for the next 10 years at the Fourth International Conference on SIDS. With many potential areas of

alignment, the BGI will also support countries in meeting their priorities under the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States (ABAS).

Summary and Status of Child Projects

68. The Global Coordination Project (GCP) is designed to provide strategic coordination of the BGI IP. It will advance the programmatic objectives of the BGI IP and its 15 Country Child Projects through its management of the BGI IP Platform. Since July 2023, the UNDP project preparation design team of the GCP within the BGI IP has led the development of the GCP, working hand in hand with the 15 BGI IP child projects. This collaborative effort has focused on ensuring that the GCP is tailored to meet the specific needs of the 15 child projects while ensuring that CEO Endorsements submitted by the child project design teams align fully with the overarching goals of the BGI IP.



Figure 3 15 Participating countries in the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program

69. To advance the programmatic objectives and to support a coherent and innovative process, programmatic coordination, and inclusive governance, the GCP will establish a platform comprising:

- A Policy and Practice Unit to support the implementation of policy and regulatory reforms based on the application of analytical tools such as Ecosystem Services Valuation (ESV) and Natural Capital Assessment (NCA); to develop new financial instrument and policy mechanisms that support NbS in the food systems, tourism and urban sectors; and to coordinate the scaling up of child project results for action and impact at regional and global levels.

- A Nature Based Solutions Accelerator to provide innovation-driven technical assistance to local project developers (such as MSMEs) to structure bankable NbS projects and businesses across the target sectors of the IP, and to link such initiatives to new sources of domestic and international public and private sector finance.
- Cutting across all BGI IP activities, a Knowledge Management & Learning Unit will integrate the work of the child projects and national partners, as well as partners in other SIDS, through the sharing of results and best practices, peer-to-peer knowledge transfer, and strategic communications and outreach. The BGI IP platform will leverage numerous technical partners and ongoing initiatives to provide technical assistance to the country child projects and to ensure that the BGI-IP is outward-looking, creating impact beyond the countries involved, focusing on engagement with regional governing bodies and development and policy frameworks, and supporting effective collective action and upscaling by SIDS.

70. The design process of the BGI IP included 1) three virtual global technical meetings of the GCP and all Country Child Project teams; 2) Bilateral meetings between the GCP team and all country child project teams; 3) seven technical guidance clinics bringing experts in various technical areas together with the country child project teams to discuss intricate BGI IP topics such as private/public sector engagement and financing for nature-based solutions, NCA and Valuation as well as cross cutting topics such as Gender and Monitoring and Evaluation among others; 4) The provision by the GCP of various technical guidance documents (e.g., on private and public sector finance; budgeting and resource planning to align with the GCP; monitoring and evaluation processes under the BGI IP; etc.); 5) The use of multiple rounds of surveys to gauge priority objectives and needs of the child projects; and 6) Reviews of draft inputs and CEO Endorsement Request proposals shared by the Country Child Projects.

71. Looking forward, UNDP will submit the GCP package to the GEF Secretariat in May-June 2024 and will elevate the BGI IP at important international meetings in 2024, including the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS 4) in late May, 2024 and the three primary international conventions, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which are scheduled to take place in the second half of 2024.

72. Country child projects are on track (see Annex 2) and most of countries are expected to submit CEO Endorsement request by June 2024. Most of participating countries held PPG mission and Inception Workshop between September 2023 to February 2024, followed by validation workshops between February - May 2024.

D. Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution Integrated Program

Program Summary

73. The Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution Integrated Program, aims to address the root causes of plastic pollution: ever-growing unsustainable consumption and production of single-use and problematic plastic products and packaging with low circularity. The Program will demonstrate and scale upstream and midstream solutions in the food and beverage sector, including the elimination of single-use plastic products/packaging and reduction of using crude oil as the primary feedstock; circular design of materials, products and business models; as well as ensuring materials and products are actually circulated in practice through reuse and refill systems. This specific focus on upstream and midstream interventions will be transformative as there is a lack of critical support to address the plastic pollution from source, and it will strategically complement existing funding, projects and actions on plastic pollution which have a dominant emphasis on downstream actions (waste management and clean-ups). This Program will provide an innovative and transformative stimulation to transition towards a circular economy of plastics, to prevent plastic pollution at national, regional and global levels. The Program will be delivered through 15 national child projects and one global project. The Program activities will focus on five interlinked intervention areas throughout the whole Program: 1) Enabling a Regulatory and Policy Environment; 2) Mobilizing Finance; 3) Engaging the Private Sector; 4) Activating Behavior and Social Change to support program strategy; and 5) Knowledge Management, Communication, and Project-level and Program-level Coordination.
74. The Program is designed in a way that child projects contribute to achieving the common goal and visualizing the benefits of the Program through a range of activities under different components. The Program will amplify its results to more than the sum of outcomes from each child project through knowledge sharing, replication, scaling up of successful initiatives, which can potentially leverage additional investments in the future.
75. The Global Coordination Platform intends to optimize the delivery of a cohesive program across 15 countries to reduce plastic pollution in the food and beverage sector by delivering technical assistance to National Projects, addressing global barriers, and promoting knowledge management and program coordination. It aims to ensure the success of the national child projects and create a cohesive whole to achieve an impact. The knowledge and lessons shared by the Global Coordination Platform will facilitate scaling activities among and beyond the countries the Program operates in.
76. The Integrated Program is expected to achieve sizable GEBs in the areas of international waters, chemicals and waste, climate change, and gender, with substantial co-benefits on biodiversity, social and economic values, which are being refined at PPG stage.

Updates on Context of the Integrated Program

77. One key highlight is the global effort on the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) process to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The third session of INC that took place in Nairobi, Kenya (INC-3, November 13-19, 2023), has resulted in the revised zero draft text paving the way for the preparation for a text-based negotiation in Ottawa, Canada (INC-4,

April 23-29, 2024). This marks a crucial step towards a legally binding global agreement on plastic pollution.

78. This global process has triggered an unprecedented attention on the issue of the plastic pollution, and it presents a unique opportunity for the Program to align with and leverage the outcome of the negotiation after the treaty is concluded.

Summary and Status of Child Projects

79. To coordinate the Integrated Program, the Global Coordination Platform has been designed to ensure the success of the Program's 15 country child projects and create a cohesive whole to achieve impact. The Global Coordination Platform provides the key function of cross-cutting technical assistance, coordination, knowledge management, and communications to the Program, across all participating 15 country child projects, creating program coherence and synergies. The GCP will focus on key transformational levers to maximize impact while creating widely applicable or replicable assets to multiply influence beyond direct project work. It will systematically address the plastic pollution problem in the following ways:

- Leverage the Global Coordination Platform to address barriers that cannot be effectively tackled at the national level.
- Deliver technical assistance and knowledge management to scale progress, including increasing exposure and access to tools, guidance, and programs.
- Leverage partnerships and coalitions, including with the private sector, financial institutions, civil society, and global initiatives, to increase ambition and scale impact.

80. The Global Coordination Platform will engage people through communication activities, webinars, conferences, knowledge events, technical assistance, and partnerships to build communities of practice around technical plastic sustainability topics. Through building these networks for knowledge sharing and capacity building, the Global Coordination Platform will support the implementation of activities across national projects to achieve global environmental benefits, including on avoided plastic waste, greenhouse gas emissions, shared water ecosystems, persistent organic pollutants, and direct benefits to people. The GCP is expected to provide direct benefits to 11,960 people (with an equal gender balance), aligned to GEF Core Indicator 11.

81. Since June 2023, the Global Coordination Platform has held 14 stakeholder consultations to enhance coordination of the Program, including the Validation Workshop. Regular monthly meetings with the country child project teams and GEF Implementing Agencies are also ongoing. The consultations ranged from implementing agency working meetings, consultative sessions on technical topics (reuse, policy framework, finance mechanisms, and plastic alternatives), sessions at the GEF Assembly, and targeted stakeholder consultations. Additionally, the Global Coordination Platform has organized 3 topic-specific sessions (plastic alternatives, reuse, and policy) led by executing partners of the Global Coordination Platform to support country child projects with their PPG phase.

82. Surveys were also conducted to assess the interest of National Project teams on specific topics and ways of working, to inform the Global Coordination Platform design, and to assess potential collaborations with other GEF Projects and Programs. Executing partners for the topics of reuse, alternative materials, extended producer responsibility, corporate plastic footprint and disclosure, and policy frameworks have been identified, and the project documents have been drafted and revised based on upstream GEF review. The Global Coordination Platform is expected to be submitted for CEO Endorsement in May 2024.
83. All 15 countries have made progress in preparing CEO Endorsement requests for child projects (see Annex 2), informed by consultations with national stakeholders. All are expected to submit the CEO Endorsement Request by June 2024.

E. Net-zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Program

Program Summary

84. The Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator Integrated Program (NZNPA IP) is designed to address two closely related global issues. The first one relates to the significant ambition gap that still exist between the pace of current global efforts to slow down and reverse climate change and ecosystem loss and the investments in systems transformation that the scientific consensus indicate is needed during this decade to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The second issue relates to the lack of coordination that currently exists between responses to the climate and biodiversity crises, as they are inextricably linked.
85. There is a growing consensus that climate change and the rapid decline of natural ecosystems are intertwined crises that should be tackled together in the context of national long term economic planning, if efforts to address either are to succeed⁸. The net-zero and nature positive agendas are therefore interdependent, meaning that pursuing one without the other could lead to unintended consequences and missed opportunities. Despite some good practices, coordination mechanisms and inclusive governance structures and investment models for integrated net-zero and nature-positive action are not widely in place.
86. The Program supports countries to ensure coordination and coherence between strategies, plans and investments developed for implementing the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), and other relevant national frameworks. Taking a whole of society approach, the Programme promotes effective use of the GEF-8 levers of transformation, including (i) promoting coherent governance and policies for net-zero and nature-positive (NZNP) goals; (ii) facilitating alignment of national budgeting and planning processes, and private capital, with NZNP objectives; (iii) setting up cross-scale

⁸ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)-Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report, 2021.

coalitions, including in finance, and (iv) promoting innovation in technology, business models and institutional arrangements that can deliver the necessary shifts.

87. The Program structure comprises a Global Coordination Platform (GCP) together with 12 Country Child Projects (Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Viet Nam). Each Country Child Project will have an upstream component focusing on the establishment and/or strengthening of cross-ministerial coordination processes for consensus building, policy coherence and development of NZNP long-term strategies, planning and policy making, and a downstream component focused on aligned sectoral planning and investments relevant for nature positive deep decarbonization efforts. The GCP includes a strong knowledge curating and sharing component that consolidates all the proposed interventions at global and country level. As the Program promotes an integrated, whole-of-economy approach, all Country Child Projects will be required to ensure that biodiversity and land degradation neutrality are fully integrated in the net-zero strategies developed and/or implemented through the Program.
88. The Program is expected to generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) towards climate, biodiversity, and land degradation targets by supporting activities aimed at preserving and enhancing resilient carbon sinks in natural ecosystems and promoting Nature-based Solutions (NbS). It will achieve these results by supporting ambitious target setting, enhancing policy coherence, cross-sectoral policy shifts, successful finance mobilization, robust long-term monitoring schemes, promoting and scaling-up innovative solutions and facilitating the dialogue and exchange of experiences in support of a more integrated, coherent, and effective implementation of both the net-zero and nature-positive global agendas. With an overall financing envelope approaching USD100 million and close to USD700 million in co-financing, the Programme is expected to result in approximately 1 million ha of land under restoration or with improved practices and approximately 75 million CO tons of emissions reductions.

Updates on Context of the Integrated Program

89. Since June 2023, the global push towards integrating climate action with nature conservation has gained unprecedented momentum. The UNFCCC COP 28 set a new precedent, advocating for a fossil fuel transition, integrating sustainability in public financing, and launching the Loss and Damage Fund, signaling a unified strategy for climate resilience. Through the first Global Stocktake countries concluded that there is an urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergetic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity in the broader context of achieving the sustainable development goals. It was also highlighted the importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action. Following the strong messaging from COP26 and COP27 on the need to protect nature as a pre-requisite to address the climate crisis, COP28 saw the signing of the [COP 28 Joint Statement for Climate, Nature and People](#), by 18 national governments, including outgoing and incoming COP presidencies under the UNFCCC and the CDB, and 14 national governments as chairs or leads of select partnerships and initiatives. In

addition, more than more than 150 non-governmental stakeholders have now joined the [Nature Positive for Climate Action Call](#).

90. Furthermore, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and its accompanying GEF-managed GBF Fund have further energized efforts to restore ecosystems, underscoring the need to tackle climate change as a driver of biodiversity loss, and to seek implementation co-benefits between the GBF and the Paris Agreement. Concurrently, the integration of nature into national and regional climate taxonomies are redefining environmental finance, aligning National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with global biodiversity and climate goals. This shift towards a more integrated approach in environmental and developmental policies reflects the evolving dynamics of the NZNP agenda, highlighting significant strides in nature-climate integration. These shifts are in large part echoed, as well as driven, by the work by multilateral development banks (MDBs) who, having adopted a common set of principles to screen and track nature-positive finance and determine which operations align with the goals of the Paris Agreement, are proving to be key players in steering global efforts towards a sustainable and resilient future for people and the planet.

Summary and Status of Child Projects

91. The NZNPA IP Global Coordination Platform CEO Endorsement Request document was submitted to the GEF Secretariat for review by UNEP as the lead-agency, together with ADB and CAF as co-lead agencies, in April 2024. The co-financing secured for the global coordination project exceeded that estimated at the time of PFD approval, thanks to two new co-financiers committing to support the project and higher co-financing pledges from UNEP and ADB.

92. In line with GEF policy and guidelines on stakeholder engagement and gender equality, the project was developed in consultation with country child project implementing agencies (UNEP, UNDP, FAO and UNIDO), government entities, co-lead Agencies (CAF and ADB), private sector, academia, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. Several initiatives and partnerships were leveraged to improve alignment and identify synergies with relevant ongoing initiatives, including UN's PAGE (Partnership for Action on Green Economy), UNEP's Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), and the 2050 Pathways Platform. Regular and *ad hoc* exchanges were also held with other key partners and UNEP teams to improve coordination, collect baseline information, seek feedback on the project's design, and gather lessons learnt from implementing other GEF programs.

93. As IP co-leads, ADB and CAF initiated a series of discussions between the MDBs that are GEF Agencies and that have been invited to take part in the Global Platform's MDB Coordination Group. To agree on a way forward for this Group, two in-person meetings took place on the side-lines of the 7th GEF Assembly in Vancouver (August 2023) and the 66th GEF Council meeting in Washington DC (February 2024) involving ADB, CAF, AfDB, BOAD, DBSA, EBRD, IADB, IFAD and WBG, with UNEP and the GEF Secretariat as observers.

94. In response to country demands and feedback, the Global Platform team conducted seven thematic webinars between November 2023 and April 2024, considering different time zones, to provide technical guidance to GEF Agencies and government representatives on designing their Country Child Projects. These webinars involved strategic partners (e.g., UNEP-WCMC, PAGE and 2050 Pathways Platform) and covered topics such as *“Methods and Models for NZNP Strategy Formulation and Assessment”*, *“Leveraging Public Finance Tools for Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive NZNP Transitions”*, *“Building Blocks for an NZNP Measurement Framework”* and *“Good Practices for NZNP Planning and Strategy Development”*. For more in-depth technical discussions, bilateral meetings were also held in the same period with the project development teams for Mauritius, Mexico, Tanzania, Thailand, and Trinidad & Tobago.
95. On February 22, 2024, all executing and implementing agencies convened to discuss and validate various elements of coordination project, including the proposed log-frame, the macro-institutional or governance arrangements, the communication protocol between child projects and the coordination projects, among others. The meeting facilitated an exchange of views among agencies and provided updates on the status of the development of the Country Child Projects. An additional global webinar then took place in March, to present the Global Platform to key external partners and stakeholders.
96. The 12 countries have made progress in preparing their child project proposals for CEO Endorsement, informed by consultations with national stakeholders. Most of the countries are expected to submit the CEO Endorsement Request by June 29. Chile. Child projects from Costa Rica, Mexico, Morocco, and Trinidad and Tobago are pending confirmation of likely delays.

F. Elimination of Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains

Program Summary

97. The construction and fashion sectors both play key roles in driving industrialization, trade, development, and social progress. At all stages in their value chains, raw materials and energy are required and emissions are released into the environment contributing to pollution, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, land degradation, water pollution, and threats to biodiversity. Construction and fashion are among the most chemical-intensive industry sectors. The nine IP child projects (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, and Trinidad in Tobago in LAC, and Cambodia, India, Mongolia and Pakistan in Asia, plus one Global Coordination Platform Project) will stimulate transformation in the two value chains to substitute resource-intensive methods and materials with sustainable approaches and alternatives and establish and reinforce circular and transparent supply chains. This will contribute global environmental benefits to climate, biodiversity, pollution, and socio-economic issues, thus avoiding the business-as-usual scenario of exacerbated environmental degradation, resource depletion, and social inequality.

98. The objective of the IP is to promote transformational change in the fashion and construction sectors by replacing resource-intensive processes and materials with sustainable approaches and alternatives and creating and strengthening circular and transparent supply chains.
99. The IP is structured around five outcomes addressing behaviour shifts across the value chains of the two sectors:
- Designers develop, use and make innovative regenerative products available, using circular business models.
 - Buyers use sustainably sourced, innovative, responsibly managed, recycled and recyclable, regenerative or nature-based materials, in products.
 - Manufacturers apply production and manufacturing processes that require less water, energy and no hazardous chemicals, produce less pollution and waste.
 - Consumers and markets have access to innovative products and shift behavior to favor longevity over unnecessary consumption.
 - Retailers and waste managers implement reverse logistics processes which return products and materials for reuse or recycle.

Updates on Context of the Integrated Program

100. Since the approval of the IP in June 2023, trends and emerging issues in the two sectors have continued to demonstrate the relevance and urgency of the IP. In the chemicals management space, the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals in September 2023 confirmed the importance of the fashion and construction sectors for chemical management. Other global events and initiatives by the private sector show an increasing appetite for cooperation which the IP will aim to harness, such as the ‘Buildings Breakthrough’ and Stella McCartney installations at COP28 in Dubai showcasing innovative materials. Meanwhile the rapid evolution of policy such as eco-design legislation and ‘forever chemicals’ controls in EU and US markets, confirm the relevance of the policy coherence and access to finance levers that are the backbone of the IP.
101. New developments within the GEF family include the development and approval of relevant ‘cousin’ projects which are being actively involved in the PPG and global coordination. These include concepts submitted on building sector in Morocco; Transforming Fashion for nature project by Conservation International/ UNEP; and a non-grant instrument project approved with the International Finance Corporation. Existing relevant regional and country projects on textiles in Asia and Africa, and on green chemistry and construction, are providing useful baseline context and early learnings for the IP.

Summary and Status of Child Projects

102. The Global Coordination Platform project is being executed by UNEP’s Knowledge and Risk Unit. The Project Preparation Grant (PPG) was concluded in Q2 of 2024, with the PPG

validation meeting convened on March 11, 2024 and initial submission of the child project in the GEF Portal on April 4, 2024. During the PPG period a number of coordination meetings with the countries, including GEF Operational Focal Points and their representatives, and the Implementing and Executing Agencies, were convened by the Lead Agency. These included face to face meetings held in Geneva (October 2023, March 2024) and virtual meetings for countries (November 2023, March 2024) to review and provide input into the global coordination platform design. Bi-weekly coordination calls were established with all child projects, and the global coordination project was presented at all national child project PPG Inception and Validation meetings. The first country consultation meeting was held virtually on November 21-22, 2023. The objectives were to share information on the IP with all country representatives, present and discuss the global coordination child project to ensure it meets the needs of the participating countries, present the shared timelines of child project development and obtain support to ensure timely and coordinated completion of PPG.

103. IP Global coordination child project validation meeting was convened on March 11, 2024, to receive inputs comments or objections on the draft CEO Endorsement Request document and its annexes and appendices. The document was approved by all the meeting participants and cleared for submission. The Global Coordination Platform Project is composed of two main components on knowledge generation and on triggering stakeholder action through a comprehensive communications, capacity and coordination strategy. The global platform also includes a reinforced component on monitoring and evaluation to cover both the coordination project and programmatic M&E and learning. The knowledge management strategy outline was developed as part of the submission package, to be further refined and validated during inception of the global coordination project (anticipated in Q2/Q3 of 2024).
104. The Country Child Projects are on track. National PPG inception meetings were held in all countries including presentation of the IP programmatic approach and expectations of country participation in the program. Baseline data collection, stakeholder and cofinancing partner engagement, and project intervention design continued throughout end of 2023 and early 2024. Draft CEO Endorsement request have been prepared and national validation meetings planned in most countries from mid-April through end of May 2024. A coordination meeting of the Implementing and Executing Agencies in March 2024 exchanged information on the evolving child project design, identified common areas between countries, and re-established the need for common knowledge management, communications, gender and stakeholder engagement approaches with the global coordination project. All child projects are on track to be finalized and internally reviewed during May for a timely submission in June 2024.

IV. Next Steps

Second Cohort of IPs

105. As the first cohort of approved programs were being designed, a second cohort of four IPs - Clean and Healthy Ocean, Food Systems, Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development, and Wildlife Conservation for Development – and Addendums for two PFDs

under the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes were included in the Work Program for Council in February (see Annex 1B for the full list of participating countries).⁹ The second cohort cover the following global important challenges through the integrated approach:

- *Clean and Healthy Ocean IP*, which focuses on tackling drivers of excessive nutrient loads (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorous, organic waste) entering coastal marine environments. Agricultural, industrial, and municipal sectors are major sources of this excess nutrient pollution, which creates nutrient over-enrichment that causes eutrophication, triggering harmful algal blooms and low levels of oxygen, or hypoxia, leading to declining coastal water quality and associated health impacts; damage to biodiversity, including seagrasses and coral reefs; fish kills; and loss of ecosystem services.
- *Food Systems IP* focused on transforming global food systems from farm to table, so that they are sustainable, regenerative, nature-positive, resilient, inclusive, and pollution-free. The IP will address the underlying drivers of unsustainability along the whole length of the food system by applying holistic and integrated approach to transform and strengthen value chains, business models, incentive and finance frameworks, and policy and institutional conditions, all of which will support the application of models of integrated and sustainable landscape and farm management on the ground.
- *Greening Transportation Infrastructure Development IP*, which focuses on supporting countries to advance the transition towards sustainable transportation infrastructure that safeguards and enhances key coastal, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems. The IP will enhance biodiversity and mitigate and/or eliminate the potential adverse effects associated with the development of transportation infrastructure by focusing on upstream measures (policies and regulations, planning frameworks, capacity, etc.) that will trigger a system change downstream in how infrastructure is built, and natural infrastructure maintained.
- *Wildlife Conservation for Development IP* is designed to conserve wildlife and landscapes by transforming the drivers of species loss and ensuring that countries and communities are benefiting from these natural assets. Integration of wildlife conservation across landscapes and sectors, between countries and regions, and over supply chains is key to safeguarding healthy, stable or increased populations of threatened wildlife; reducing threat from illegal, unsustainable and high zoonotic risk wildlife use and trade; enhancing community benefits to ensure societal buy-in for wildlife conservation.

106. The two PFD Addenda brought three additional countries to the *Amazon Sustainable Landscape (Guyana)* and *Guinean Forests of West Africa (Guinea Bissau and Togo)* under the *Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes IP*, further strengthening the potential for collective action to safeguard high ecological integrity forest landscapes in these biomes that

⁹ Because of resource limitations, the PFD for Sustainable Cities will be considered in a future Work Program to be presented to Council.

are irreplaceable in terms of biodiversity and carbon stocks and are critical for other ecosystem services, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Collectively, the four PFDs and two Addenda in this Work Program covered all GEF recipient country regions and included a total of 54 countries that will participate with child projects.

Fostering the Interoperability of IP Platforms

107. With the IPs now fully programmed, the GEF Secretariat is working with STAP to foster linkages between the coordination platforms for potentially amplifying influence of GEF investments globally. The global coverage of IPs creates an invaluable opportunity to strengthen the potential for knowledge exchange and learning, a priority to be addressed through the coordination platforms for each IP in line with the new GEF Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning.¹⁰
108. To address this need, the GEF Secretariat and STAP will develop a set of principles to guide the interoperability of IP platforms. A survey of existing platforms is planned to establish a clear understanding of key expectations on functions and practices to enhance learning and knowledge exchange between programs. The survey will gather information on the diverse ways in which the concept "platform" is being used by entities/organizations aiming to drive change in specific environmental and developmental issues or problems. It will also help to understand how knowledge is organized and structured within platforms.
109. As a first step toward fostering interoperability, the GEF Secretariat will convene agencies and partners involved with the Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes, Wildlife Conservation for Development, Ecosystem Restoration, and Food Systems IPs. In addition to aligning priority issues for conservation and management of intact tropical forests globally, the convening will include experts to help identify thematic areas for learning and knowledge sharing to advance integrated solutions.

¹⁰ GEF/C.65/03/Rev.01 [Global Environment Facility Strategy for Knowledge Management and Learning](#). October 10, 2023

Annex 1. Full List of Countries Participating in GEF-8 Integrated Programs

A. Cohort approved in June 2023 (65th Council meeting)

Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes* (25)	Ecosystem Restoration (20)	Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator (12)	Blue and Green Islands (15)	Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution (15)	Eliminating Hazardous Chemicals from Supply Chains (8)	
Amazon (7)	Guinean Forest (3)	Angola	Chile	Belize	Brazil	Cambodia
Bolivia	Guinea	Brazil	Costa Rica	Cabo Verde	Burkina Faso	Costa Rica
Brazil	Liberia	Cambodia	Cote d'Ivoire	Comoros	Cambodia	Ecuador
Colombia	Sierra Leone	Chad	Indonesia	Cuba	Cook Islands	India
Ecuador	-----	Congo DR	Mauritius	Maldives	Costa Rica	Mongolia
Peru	Indo-Malay (3)	Cote d'Ivoire	Mexico	Mauritius	Dominican	Pakistan
Suriname	Lao PDR	Haiti	Morocco	Micronesia	Republic	Peru
Venezuela	PNG	Madagascar	Nigeria	Palau	India	Trinidad and
-----	Thailand	Mali	Tanzania	Papua New	Jordan	Tobago
Congo (6)	-----	Mauritania	Thailand	Guinea	Lao PDR	
Angola	Meso-America (6)	Mexico	Trinidad and	Samoa	Morocco	
Cameroon	El Salvador	Mozambique	Tobago	Seychelles	Nigeria	
Central African	Guatemala	Nepal	Viet Nam	St. Lucia	Peru	
Republic	Honduras	Peru		Timor Leste	Philippines	
Congo DR	Mexico	Rwanda		Trinidad and	Senegal	
Equatorial	Nicaragua	Sao Tome and		Tobago	South Africa	
Guinea	Panama	Principe		Vanuatu		
Sao Tome and		Sierra Leone				
Principe		South Africa				
		Uzbekistan				
		Viet Nam				

* Note: Guyana (Amazon) and Guinea-Bissau & Togo (Guinean Forest) were approved at the 66th GEF Council in February 2024.

B. Cohort approved in February 2024 (66th Council Meeting)

Clean and Healthy Oceans (14)	Food Systems (32)	Green Transportation Infrastructure (5)	Wildlife Conservation for Development (15)	Addendum: Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes (3)
Grenada	Angola	Kazakhstan	Malaysia	Colombia
Jordan	Argentina	Kenya	Nepal	Eswatini
Madagascar	Benin	Malaysia	Philippines	Ethiopia
Maldives	Bhutan	Mexico	Suriname	Guinea
Mexico	Burkina Faso	Namibia	Ukraine	Indonesia
Moldova	Chad	Nauru		Kenya
Panama	Chile	Nigeria		Malawi
Peru	China	Pakistan		Mexico
Sri Lanka	Costa Rica	Peru		Mozambique
St. Kitts and Nevis	Ecuador	Philippines		Nepal
Thailand	Eswatini	Solomon Islands		Paraguay
Trinidad and Tobago	Ethiopia	South Africa		Philippines
Venezuela	Ghana	Sri Lanka		Thailand
Viet Nam	Grenada	Tanzania		Uganda
	India	Türkiye		Zambia
	Indonesia	Uganda		

Annex 2. Detailed Summary and Status of Country Child Projects

1. Amazon, Congo, and Critical Forest Biomes Integrated Program

Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11204	Bolivia	Safeguarding the systems of life of Bolivia’s Amazon Forests	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • PPG Phase Inception Workshop on October 27, 2023 • Project landscape validation: on April 8, 2024 • Stakeholder Consultation/Engagement Process with IPLCs: on April 10, 2024 • To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2024
11200	Brazil	Brazil Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Phase 3 Project (provisory name)	WB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project preparation in progress (no PPG requested) • Stakeholder mapping and engagement with various stakeholders from the State of Pará and at federal level. A 2nd stakeholders’ workshop is planned for May 2024 • Institutional Arrangement has been defined with executing partners • To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 2024
11201	Colombia	Life Amazon: Forest and biodiversity conservation and community-led sustainable management in the Colombian Amazon	WB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project preparation is progressing slowly • Discussions with government for implementation arrangements have taken longer than expected and significantly delayed the project preparation • The submission of package for CEO endorsement is expected to be submitted by August 30, 2024.
11202	Ecuador	Integrated management and ecological connectivity of a priority landscape in the Ecuadorian Amazon headwaters	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress (PPG kickoff meeting: July 11, 2023, PPG inception workshop: December 13-14, 2023) • Key project sections defined in January 2024 workshop and under consultation: the project results framework, intervention strategy and theory of change has been developed and went under stakeholder consultation in two workshops in March 2024 • Selection of targeted landscapes: There has been an adjustment of the intervention areas to focus on the corridor per se and thus, a reduction in some of the core indicators (those working with protected areas) • CEO endorsement package is expected to be submitted by mid-June

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11203	Peru	Promoting Integrated Sustainable Management of the Peruvian Amazonian landscape Madre de Dios	WWF-US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • First round of stakeholder engagement, including bilateral meetings with key national actors and 3 workshops in different locations of the Madre de Dios landscape, with local stakeholders, happened in October and November 2023 • In January 2024, a technical design workshop was organized with the participation of key project stakeholders and the draft TOC was further developed and validated • The validation workshop is expected to happen early June and the CEO Endorsement Request submission before the June 29th deadline
11205	Suriname	Sustainable and Inclusive Development of West Suriname (SID-WS)	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • PPG Phase Inception Workshop on January 16-18, 2024 • Stakeholder Consultation and engagement process with IPLCs have been completed • Project targeted landscape validation: completed on March 28, 2024 • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024
11199	Venezuela	Integrated management of sustainable landscapes for the conservation of the forest biome and the maintenance of functional and ecosystem services in the state of Amazonas, Venezuela	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • On December 17-20, 2023 there were several workshops to present the project with national and regional institutions, NGOs, and indigenous communities • On February 19-28, 2024, there was a several days mission to Atures and Autana Municipalities in the Amazonas State to complete the baseline, consultation with local stakeholders to define and validate the project theory of change and results framework • The team and national counterparts have participated in two meetings organized by the World Bank to ensure alignment of project development with the regional ASL Program • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024

Congo Critical Forest Biome

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11246	Central African Republic	Integrated Community-based Management of High Value Forest Ecosystems in Southwestern Central African Republic, to safeguard globally outstanding biodiversity, carbon stock and ecosystem services from key threats, particularly unsustainable land use practices	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG just started • Delayed submission is expected (September 2024)
11247	Equatorial Guinea	Developing biodiversity and biocarbon finance financing instruments for conserving forests in Equatorial Guinea through improved livelihoods for Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted by June 23 2024
11242	Cameroon	Strengthening governance and ecosystem connectivity for biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods in the Dja landscape	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted by June 23 2024
11243	Sao Tome and Principe	São Tomé e Príncipe's intact forests - the Obô Natural Parks and their buffer zones: a treasure to conserve and restore.	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG started • National consultations completed • The overall project framework and its associated outputs are currently being elaborated
11244	Angola	Integrated conservation of the Maiombe forest ecosystem in Cabinda Province Angola	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG is in progress/on track • PPG Validation Workshop will take place in May 2024 • To be submitted by June 24, 2024
11245	Congo DR	Sustainable Management of the Mayombe, Oubangui and Mai Ndombe tropical forest Landscapes to facilitate conservation of natural resources, local development, food security and climate change mitigation in DRC	IUCN and IFAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG started • Inception Workshop organized on February 27, 2024 • Consultation missions being planned • If needed, IUCN and IFAD will request to delay the submission of the project package

Mesoamerica Critical Forest Biome

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11277	El Salvador	El Salvador Mesoamerican Forest IP Project: Promoting forest conservation and integrated water management in Trifinio	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Inception meeting: November 23-24, 2023 • Validation Workshop: April 26, 2024 • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024
11275	Guatemala	Guatemala Mesoamerican Forest IP Project: Securing benefits for the well-being of local communities and the ecosystems of the Maya Forest	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Inception meeting: December 5-6, 2023 • Validation Workshop: April 23, 2024 • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024
11276	Honduras	Honduras Mesoamerica Forest IP Project: Conserving the Intact Forests of the Honduran Moskitia	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Inception meeting: November 28-29, 2023 • Validation workshop: April 25, 2024 (tentative) • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024
11274	Mexico	Mexico Mesoamerica Forest IP Project: Securing benefits for the well-being of local communities and the ecosystems of the Maya Forest	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Inception meeting: November 15-16, 2023 • Validation workshop: April 22, 2024 • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024
11279	Nicaragua	Nicaragua Mesoamerica Forest IP Project: Protection and conservation of forests of global importance located in the BOSAWAS Biosphere Reserve and the Indio Maiz Biological Reserve	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Inception meeting: November 21-22, 2023. • Two Validation workshops on April 25 and June 2024 (including the results of the FPIC) • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024
11280	Panama	Panama Mesoamerica Forest IP Project: Critical Forests Biome of Panama - Collaborative Conservation of the Darien	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Inception meeting: November 21-22, 2023 • Validation workshop: March 15, 2024 • CEO Endorsement Request is expected to be submitted by June 2024

Guinean Forests Critical Forest Biome

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11146	Guinea	Strengthening restoration and conservation of the ecological corridor of Mount Nimba (Bossou) and Zياما National Park in Guinea	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PPG Validation Workshop is tentatively slotted for May 2024 • Package to be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 29, 2024 • If needed, IUCN will request to delay the submission of the project package
11144	Liberia	Strengthening conservation and effective governance of Liberia’s critical forests in the Northwest Liberia Landscape	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Delays were faced at start • Submission for CEO endorsement planned by June 24 2024
11143	Sierra Leone	Strengthening conservation and effective governance of Sierra Leone’s critical forests in the Gola Forest Landscape	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG is in progress • The PPG Validation Workshop is slotted for May 2024 • Package to be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 24, 2024

Indo-Malaya Critical Forest Biome

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11103	Lao PDR	Generating multiple benefits through strengthened protection of intact forest landscapes in Lao PDR (CFB-Lao)	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Validation workshop being held on May 3, 2024 • To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 23, 2024
11105	PNG	Maintaining the integrity of globally significant tropical forest landscapes in the Gulf Province and Western Province of Papua New Guinea	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 23, 2024
11104	Thailand	Forests for life – Primary Tropical Forest Landscape conservation in Thailand	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement by June 9, 2024

2. Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11119	Cambodia	Restoring ecosystems for sustainable development in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11120	Sao Tome & Principe	Ecosystem restoration for enhanced biodiversity, productive landscapes and sustainable livelihoods in Sao Tome & Principe	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • Delayed submission for CEO endorsement in July 2024
11121	Mexico	ORIGEN: Restoring Watersheds for Ecosystems and Communities	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11123	Angola	Ecosystem Restoration in Angola's Extended Central Plateau	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11124	Brazil	Union for Restoration - Enabling large-scale restoration through national policy in Brazil (GEF-PROVEG)	CI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11125	Peru	High Andean Ecosystem Restoration in Peru	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11126	Nepal	Restoration of Forests and Mountain Ecosystems (ReFaME) in Far-West Nepal	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11127	South Africa	A transdisciplinary approach towards restoring selected South African peatland ecosystems and their catchments	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11128	Mauritania	Integrated Natural Resource Management of three Wetlands landscapes, two of which is located on the route of the Great Green Wall in Mauritania (Male, Djelliwar and Karakoro (PGIRN/3ZH)	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11129	Congo DR	Integrated sustainable and adaptive management of natural resources to support ecosystem restoration and livelihoods in the Miombo landscapes of Southern Kwango	IFAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11130	Haiti	Enabling Large-Scale Ecosystem Restoration in Haiti through the Piloting and Implementation of Payments for Environmental Services Schemes	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG started • Delayed submission likely
11131	Viet Nam	Enhancing water security, biodiversity and resilience of livelihoods through integrated water resources management and ecosystem restoration in Viet Nam's Red River basin	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11132	Cote d'Ivoire	Ecosystem Restoration in Northern & Central Savannas of Côte d'Ivoire	FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11133	Mozambique	Northern Mozambique Rural Resilience Project	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11134	Rwanda	Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango Corridor	World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11135	Sierra Leone	Enhancing Sustainable Land Management and biodiversity conservation through innovative financing for an integrated Climate resilience in Koinadugu District	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11136	Mali	Accelerating ecosystems restoration by mobilizing communities along the Great Green Wall corridor	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11137	Uzbekistan	Integrated Conservation Management and Restoration of High-Value Landscapes in Uzbekistan	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11138	Chad	Restoration of the ecological corridors of Mayo-Kebbi, Tandjilé and Fitri in Chad, in support of multiple land and forest benefits	IUCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • To be submitted for CEO endorsement in June 2024
11139	Madagascar	Strengthening Ecosystem Restoration Investments in Madagascar	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG started • Delayed submission likely in August 2024

3. Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program

GEF ID	Project Title	Agency	Country	Status/Milestones
11251	Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation in Protected Areas in Maldives	World Bank	Maldives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG missions: December 2023 and February 5-12, 2024 • PCN review meeting: March 5, 2024 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11252	GEF 8: Blue Green Islands Integrated Programme for the Seychelles Child Project	UNDP	Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG Inception Workshop: January 2024 • Validation workshop: April 12, 2024 • PPG team mission held in mid-April, 2024 with RTA oversight • Draft CEO ER submission for internal UNDP review: April 30, 2024 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11253	Blue and green development in food and urban sectors of Cuba	FAO	Cuba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG Inception workshop: September 6, 2023 • PPG Mission: October 2-16, 2023 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11254	Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions in land-use systems for productive and resilient ecosystems	FAO	Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception workshop and mission: January 2024 • Bilateral consultations in Mauritius were carried out; a mission to Rodrigues is planned for mid-April 2024 to further discuss project activities and institutional arrangements • Validation workshop to be scheduled • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11255	Accelerating Cabo Verde's Transition to Blue and Green Economy	FAO	Cabo Verde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG inception workshop: January, 2024 • Key stakeholders have validated specific outputs and activities to ensure they are in line with government priorities • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11256	Nature-based Solutions for Intersectoral Nature-Positive Development in Timor-Leste	UNDP	Timor Leste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG inception workshop: November 2023 • Field visits completed and additional field visits for finalization of SESP data collection: February, 2024 • Validation meeting: May 8, 2024 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11257	Resilient, Bold Belize	WWF-US	Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG Mission included 1st round of stakeholder consultations (PPG development mission; meetings with BGI PMs, M&E and GEF Sec PMs (TOC presentation, RF alignment, etc): February 2024 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024

GEF ID	Project Title	Agency	Country	Status/Milestones
11258	Transforming productivity in Palau's food systems through nature positive innovations	IUCN	Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG inception workshop: February 2024 • PPG mission to complete draft Log Frame: February 2024 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: First week of June 2024
11259	Trinidad and Tobago – Nature Based Solutions in Productive Landscapes	FAO	Trinidad and Tobago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG mission: November 6-16, 2023. • PPG Inception workshop: November 24, 2023 • Stakeholder consultations/baseline research (ongoing) • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11260	Micronesia: Tourism Support for Biodiversity Conservation	IUCN	Micronesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG mission and Inception Workshop: January 2024 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: First week of June 2024
11261	Biodiversity Conservation through Nature-based Solutions as Pillars of the Blue & Green Economy in the Union of Comoros.	UNDP	Comoros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG Inception Workshop: January 2024 • Field missions by the PPG team have been completed • Validation workshop is being scheduled • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11262	Accelerating PNG's Sustainable Blue Economy through Strengthened Governance and Investment in Marine Areas.	UNDP	Papua New Guinea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG mission: November 24 - December 11, 2023 • PPG inception workshop: December 8, 2023 • Second PPG mission: February, 12-29, 2024 • Validation workshop currently taking place (April 2024) • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11263	Coastal Resilience Samoa	UNDP	Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception workshop and PPG mission: November 2023 • Validation meeting: March 2024 • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024
11264	Valuing Nature and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Blue and Green Pathways for the Tourism, Food and Urban Sectors in Saint Lucia	UNEP	St. Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception workshop: November 2, 2023 • Validation workshop: February 2, 2024 • Ongoing dialogue with national stakeholders and beneficiaries in fine-tuning proposed intervention logic/theory of change and ensuring buy-in; emphasis placed on the Economic Development / Planning sections of the Min of Finance/Planning, and Tourism Ministry in the GOSL. Gaining partnership commitments toward determining co-financing contributions • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: June 29, 2024

GEF ID	Project Title	Agency	Country	Status/Milestones
11265	Restoring and protecting Biodiversity, Coastal Landscapes, and Climate Change Resilience through Nature Based Solutions, Women and Youth Entrepreneurship in Vanuatu	FAO	Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG Inception workshop: October 23-24, 2023 • PPG mission: Dec 23, 2023; 156 individuals consulted in 4 sites • Projected timeline for Child Project Submission: First week of June

4. Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11197	Global	Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution: Global Project	UNEP WWF-US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO Endorsement to be submitted in April 2024
11192	Morocco	Circular solutions to plastic pollution in Morocco	UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11196	South Africa	Circular solutions to plastic pollution in South Africa	UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11194	The Philippines	Circular solutions to plastic pollution in the Philippines	UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11188	India	Operationalizing and implementing circular economy solutions to minimize plastic waste and reduce plastic pollution from F&B packaging.	UNEP&U NIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11193	Nigeria	Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution in Nigeria	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11191	Peru	Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution in Peru	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11182	Brazil	Innovation ecosystem for the circularity of plastics, reduction of consumption, and disposal of single-use plastic in the HORECA sector	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11185	Cook Islands	Reducing Single-use Plastics on Small-island Economies (RESPONSE)	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11183	Burkina Faso	Reducing Single Use Plastic pollution in the food and beverage sector (SUPiFB) through a circular economy approach in Centre, Centre-Ouest and Hauts basin regions	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11184	Cambodia	Promoting circular solutions for the food & beverage sector to tackle plastic pollution in Cambodia	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11190	Laos	Promoting circular solutions to single-use plastic production and consumption in Lao PDR	WWF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11186	Costa Rica	Circular solutions to plastic pollution in Costa Rica	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11189	Jordan	Jordan Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution IP Child Project	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11195	Senegal	Sustainable solutions to plastic pollution in Senegal	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024
11187	Dominican Republic	Circular Solutions to Plastic Pollution in the Dominican Republic	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG in progress • CEO Endorsement to be submitted by June 2024

5. Net Zero Nature Positive Accelerator Integrated Program

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11088	Chile	Accelerating the transition to a net-zero, nature-positive economy in Chile	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IA is working with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment on upstream component, and Ministry of Energy on downstream component • PPG on track for submission in July or August (a request for extension deadline will be sent to the GEF Secretariat)
11089	Costa Rica	Accelerating the transition to a net-zero, nature-positive economy in Costa Rica	UNEP, FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG on track for timely submission • Validation workshop completed in February 2024, following stakeholder consultations and field trips
11093	Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire Net-Zero Nature-Positive Integrated Program	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG is progressing – no foreseen delay reported

GEF ID	Country	Project Title	Agency	Status
11095	Indonesia	Indonesia's Net Zero Acceleration through Integrated Actions in the Energy and FOLU sectors (INET-ZERO)	UNDP, UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG is progressing – no foreseen delay reported • CPI engaged for modelling experts
11087	Mauritius	Accelerating the transition to a net-zero, nature-positive economy in Mauritius	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG on track for timely submission • Validation workshop completed in February 2024, following stakeholder consultations
11091	Mexico	Accelerating action to achieve a net-zero, nature-positive and climate-just Mexico (Mexico Net-Zero)	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG on track for timely submission • 2050 Pathways engaged to review log frame output on developing NZNP plan
11097	Morocco	Green Journey: Achieving Net Zero through Nature Positive Solutions in Morocco	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG delayed due to September 2023 earthquake. Extension is being requested on the basis of force majeure
11092	Nigeria	Accelerating Nature and Climate Action to Advance Nigeria's Net Zero and '30x30' Targets	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG is progressing – no foreseen delay reported • Full PPG team was hired early (by Nov 2023)
11090	Tanzania	Integrated Net-Zero Nature-Positive Solutions for Climate and Biodiversity Protection	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG on track for timely submission • 2050 Pathways engaged for upstream component of project
11096	Thailand	Deep decarbonization of Thai industries based on the emission trading system and carbon border adjustment mechanism	UNEP, UNIDO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG on track for timely submission • Detailed stakeholder consultations completed
11086	Trinidad & Tobago	Accelerating the transition to a net-zero, nature-positive economy in Trinidad and Tobago (TT Net-zero)	UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG on track for timely submission • Project being led by Ministry of Planning and Development, and UNDP as the designated EA
11094	Viet Nam	Supporting the implementation of net-zero nature-positive (NZNP) solutions in Viet Nam	UNDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG is progressing – no foreseen delay reported • Field mission conducted early (Nov – Dec 2023)