PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (PIR)

for the project:

Staying within Sustainable Limits: Advancing leadership of the private sector and cities

End of project PIR

Executing Partners

Project Information			
Project Title:	Staying within Sustainable Limits: Advancing leadership of the private sector and cities		
Country(*ies*)**:**	Global	**GEF ID**:	10309
GEF Agency(*ies*)**:**	Conservation International	**Duration In Months**:	46 months
Executing Agency*(ies):*	RPA IUCN	**Actual Implementation Start Date**:	10/01/2019
GEF Focal Area(*s*)**:**	Multi	**Expected Project Completion Date:**	7/31/2023
GEF Grant Amount:	$2,000,000	**Expected Financial Closure Date:**	01/31/2024
Expected Co-financing:	$4,213,517	**Date of Last Steering Committee Meeting**:	06/9/2021
Co-financing Realized as of March 31, 2023:	$16,356,088	**Mid-Term Review-Planned Date**:	N/A
Date of First Disbursement:	10/01/2019	**Mid-Term Review-Actual Date**:	N/A
Cumulative disbursement as of March 31, 2023:	$1,985,524	**Terminal Evaluation-Planned Date**:	10/01/2022
PIR Prepared by:	Heather Grady, Elizabeth Droggitis, Nicholas Macfarlane, Randall Jimenez	**Terminal Evaluation-Actual Date**:	10/31/2022
CI-GEF Project Manager:	Free de Koning	**CI-GEF Finance Lead:**	Susana Escudero

Minor Amendment Categories	Minor Amendment Justification **Minor amendments are changes to the project design or implementation that do not have significant impact on the project objectives or scope, or an increase of the GEF project financing up to 5%. Please select the box that is most applicable for FY22 and include an explanation for the minor amendment request.**
Results framework ☐	
Components and cost ☐	
Institutional and implementation arrangements ☐	
Financial management ☐	
Implementation schedule ☒	During the previous fiscal year, a no-cost extension of the period of performance through Sept 30, 2022 (a 13-month extension) was approved due to the impacts of COVID-19.
Executing Entity ☐	
Executing Entity Category ☐	
Minor project objective change ☐	
Safeguards ☐	
Risk analysis ☐	

Increase of GEF project financing up to 5% ☐	
Co-financing ☐	
Location of project activity ☐	
Other ☐	

MINOR AMENDMENT RESPONSE FROM CI-GEF
A no-cost extension was approved during the previous fiscal year

The CI-GEF Project Agency Project Implementation Report (PIR) is composed of six sections:

Section I: **Project Implementation Progress Status Summary**: provides a brief summary of the project as well as the implementation status and rating of the previous and current fiscal years;

Section II: **Project Results Implementation Progress Status and Rating**: describes the progress made towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance, when needed;

Section III: **Project Risks Status and Rating**: describes the progress made towards managing and mitigating project risks, the project risks mitigation rating reassessment as needed, as well as recommendations to improve the management of project risks;

Section IV: **Project Environmental and Social Safeguards Implementation Status and Rating:** describes the progress made towards complying with the Environmental & Social Safeguards and the Plans prepared during the PPG phase, the safeguard plans implementation rating, as well as recommendations to improve the project safeguards;

Section V: **Project Implementation Experiences and Lessons Learned**: describes the experiences learned by the project managers and the lessons learned through the process of implementing the project; and

Section VI: **Project Geocoding:** documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information available in project documentation

SECTION I: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS SUMMARY

PROJECT SUMMARY

Objective: To demonstrate a path for companies and cities to adopt robust science-based targets to sustain Earth's biodiversity, land systems, and influence all of society to safeguard our global commons.

The project consists of three key and overlapping elements.

- An Earth Commission, consisting of world-leading scientists, will synthesize current science to define boundary conditions for a stable and resilient Earth system to support and guide the establishment of science-based targets. Many important global assessments have been performed, e.g. on climate and biodiversity, but this is the first major attempt to take a full Earth systems approach, taking into account the interlinkages between different subsystems. The core objective of the Earth Commission is to provide a state-of-the-art synthesis of the quantitative boundary conditions for the processes and systems that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system, securing continued functioning life support systems (e.g., for water, land, oceans, and biodiversity). Importantly, the Earth Commission also integrates social sciences to integrate socio-economic aspects, to define just targets, and identify levers for transformation.

- A Science-Based Targets Network will coordinate the translation of global science into entity-specific targets for uptake by specific companies and cities. The development of these entity-specific targets will be undertaken by issue hubs that focus on target development for climate, biodiversity, land, oceans, freshwater, and cities. This project will focus on the development and early identification of these targets.

- A Global Commons Alliance (GCA) mobilization effort led primarily by Earth HQ will promote the further adoption of these targets by other sectors and cities, such that a critical mass of effort becomes focused on actions that will ensure the sustainability of Earth systems.

PRIOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Component 1 (Earth Commission – EC):

The focus of project implementation for the last two years in Component 1 was to advance the synthesis of current science to underpin target setting cities, companies, and other actors, which would be carried out through the Science-Based Targets Network and complemented by work of other parts of the GCA. Five working groups continue (WG1: modeling; WG2: biosphere interactions; WG3: nutrients and pollution; WG4: transformations; WG5: translation and methods), in which Earth Commissioners and invited scientists and other knowledge partners were synthesizing the current science to define and identify a safe and just corridor for people and the planet to underpin the setting of science-based targets. The Commission's conceptual framework was published in a peer-reviewed journal (*Earth's Future*). The first outputs of the Biosphere WG, published in *Science*, were reported to and had a substantial impact on the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD). The Commission has strengthened its focus on justice and socio-economic dimensions and is now not only defining targets that are "safe" for the planet but also "just" for people.

Component 2 (Science Based Targets Network – SBTN):

The focus of project implementation for the last two years has been on providing initial corporate guidance on science-based targets for nature, and corresponding corporate engagement to ready companies for SBT setting and for participatory input into the design process. SBTN continues as a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors with an engaged Advisory Council and a strong network of over 45 partners. Work is underway on translating global science into entity-specific targets for uptake by specific companies and cities. Issue hubs are working on methods, cross-cutting work is proceeding, outreach to early adopter end-users (companies and to a lesser extent cities) is underway, and initial corporate guidance for science-based targets for nature has been issued. Awareness and demand for SBTN products are growing, and stakeholders are referring to SBTN as the authoritative source for corporate SBTs (e.g., references in TNFD technical scope.)

Component 3 (IUCN):

The effort of the project implementation for FY22 has been launching the science-based targets for biodiversity methods in IBAT at the World Conservation Congress(WCC) and starting pilot testing from companies and organizations. Despite the significant COVID impacts delaying WCC and CBD COP15, the demand from companies and cities is high, and there is great excitement for the continuous development of the STAR methodology. Since WCC on September 2021 STAR reports on IBAT have been generated for more than 1500 sites around the world by 374 companies and organizations. As part of the pilot testing, these companies and organizations have also provided feedback. This continued implementation has led to several publications both peer reviewed and more general. The proposed work will be complete by September 30th, 2022.

Component 4 (Earth HQ):

The focus of this component is communicating to create understanding and support of the concept of global commons, with a particular focus on media. Earth HQ was established as a sponsored project of RPA, an Advisory Council is actively engaged, a website is established and evolving, communications products are in use, an Earth Dashboard is in development, and partnerships have been established with key partners to help reach crucial audiences from policymakers to the millennial (24-35 years) population. The idea of multi-NGO Nature Pavilions at COP27, COP28 and CBD COP15 have been a particularly important contribution, supported by a variety of philanthropic actors and other NGOs.

END OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Component 1 (Earth Commission)

The mission for the last two years has been to finalize and disseminate the main reports (see knowledge products list) to underpin SBTs for the Global Commons. Despite COVID, the work has been successful and two main publications were submitted for peer-review in high impact journals in June 2022, one synthesis paper, and one more comprehensive report. Safe and just Earth System Boundaries (ESBs) have been defined for climate, biosphere (area of intact natural ecosystems and functional integrity), nutrients, freshwater, and air pollution, that create the ceiling of the safe and just corridor. In addition, minimum access levels for all people have been defined as the foundation of the corridor. Furthermore, methods to translate the ESBs to local actors have been reviewed, and the levers for transformations have been assessed. The two main publications are supported by at least five additional papers, led by the different working groups, already under review or soon to be submitted. EC and staff contributed to the Nature Newsroom at COP27 and engaged actively with policymakers to raise the ambition at the UN event Stockholm+50. The launch of the EC assessment is now being prepared, in collaboration with SBTN and other GCA components. After two years of online collaboration, the Earth Commission and staff met in the Netherlands in April 2022, an important step towards finalizing the reports.

Component 2 (Science Based Targets Network – SBTN)

The focus of project implementation for the last two years has been on continuing to provide initial corporate guidance on science-based targets for nature, and corresponding corporate engagement to ready companies for SBT setting and for participatory input into the design process. Work continues on translating global science into entity-specific targets for uptake by specific companies and cities. Issue hubs are working on methods, cross-cutting work is proceeding, outreach to early adopter end-users (companies and to a lesser extent cities) is underway. Awareness and demand for SBTN products continues to grow, and stakeholders are referring to SBTN as the authoritative source for corporate SBTs (e.g., references in TNFD technical scope.) After years of collaborating virtually due to COVID-19, the SBTN Network Hub was able to meet in April 2022 for a multi-day team workshop in Washington DC to devise a Minimum Viable Product roadmap on SBTs for nature. This MVP will be inclusive of the water hub's first methods + the land hub's MVP with biodiversity integrated therein. SBTN is aiming to deliver this by Q1 2023.

Component 3 (IUCN):

The purpose of the project implementation for FY23 has been to bring the project to a close, capitalizing on the launch of the science-based targets for biodiversity methods in IBAT at the World Conservation Congress(WCC) and continuing pilot testing from companies and organizations as the momentum builds towards COP15, and the work establishes itself to continue and extend after the project period of performance finishes. Despite the significant COVID impacts delaying WCC and CBD COP15, the

demand has been high, and there is a vibrant community continuing development and implementation of the STAR methodology, including through the coming GEF MSP on Knowledge for Nature. Alongside the publication of multiple peer-reviewed and more general publications, since the WCC in September 2021, STAR reports on IBAT have been generated for more than 2081 sites around the world by 540 companies and organizations. As part of the pilot testing, these companies and organizations have also provided feedback, which has been synthesized and will be used for further developments and improvements to provide better biodiversity data provisioning.

Component 4 (Earth HQ):

The focus of the implementation effort over the last two years has been to create public engagement and support for the global commons, with a particular focus on media partnerships:

1. NowThis Earth: Since launching September 28, 2020, NowThis Earth has reached over 550 million people (millennials and Gen XYZ) and produced over 700 original stories, with over 50% of stories featuring diverse voices, Global South perspectives, indigenous voices and disadvantaged groups.

2. Partnership with Climate Champions, Eurovision News and N4C to Launch the Nature Zone & Nature's Newsroom at COP26 and COP27: Earth HQ is implementing the GCA/N4C Nature Zone partnership with leading nature-based science orgs like TNC, CI, WWF, EDF, IUCN, GEF to drive Nature Positive solutions at COP27, COP15, COP27.

3. Virtual Earth Dashboard, Situation Room For The Planet: Earth HQ's new 'virtual Earth' version of the Earth Dashboard in partnership with WRI and Null School Earth has dozens of near-real time data visualizations and daily reporting on extreme events.

4. Mongabay 'Planetary Boundaries' Special Reporting Project: Mongabay's network of over 800 reporters in 80 countries are a core GCA media partner helping to implement GCA's 'mindset shift'. Through a series of 'Special Reporting Projects' with Earth HQ, Mongabay's superb in depth and investigative reporting includes:

-conveyed the latest GCA science in their **'Planetary Boundaries' series.**

-featured in-depth interviews with GCA leaders in the series**: 'Finding Common Ground'**

-provides daily **extreme event coverage for the Earth Dashboard**

-features frequent, in-depth voices and solutions from experts and activists from the Global South, indigenous leaders and disadvantaged groups who are often most impacted by the climate/nature crisis.

SUMMARY: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS

PROJECT PART	PRIOR FY22 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	END OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING[1]	RATING TREND[2]
OBJECTIVE	S	HS	Increased
COMPONENTS AND OUTCOMES	S	HS	Increased
ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS	S	S	Unchanged

PROJECT RISK RATING[3]

RISKS	M	L	Decreasing

[1] ***Implementation Progress (IP) Rating***: Highly Satisfactory (**HS**), Satisfactory (**S**), Moderately Satisfactory (**MS**), Moderately Unsatisfactory (**MU**), Unsatisfactory (**U**), and Highly Unsatisfactory (**HU**). For more details about IP rating, please see the Appendix I of this report

[2] ***Rating trend***: Improving, Unchanged, or Decreasing

[3] ***Risk Rating:*** Low (L), Moderate (M), Substantial (S), High (H)

SECTION II: PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS STATUS AND RATING

This section describes the progress made since the start of the project towards achieving the project objective and outcomes, the implementation progress rating of the project, as well as recommendations to improve the project performance. This section is composed four parts:

a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective: this section measures the likelihood of achieving the objective of the project

b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component)

c. Overall Project Results Progress Rating, and

d. Recommendations for improvement

a. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Objective:

This section of the report assesses the progress in achieving the objective of the project.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:	To demonstrate a path for companies and cities to adopt robust science-based targets to sustain Earth's biodiversity and land systems, and influence all of society to safeguard our global commons.

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[4]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator a: A credible, widely respected, and diverse Global Commons Alliance consisting of an Earth Commission, a Science-Based Targets Network, Issue Hubs, and communications outreach recognized by the planetary science community are funded and functioning.	The Global Commons Alliance and its constituents are funded and functioning.	**CA**	Each component with funding from GEF and other matching funders has continued to thrive and deepen the work, representing an Alliance that has growing credibility and respect from a wide range of partners, and will persist and thrive beyond this project.
Indicator b: # of Earth Commission manuscripts to underpin the development of science-based targets submitted for peer-review.	Please see full list under knowledge products below	**CA**	Extensive additional materials produced and disseminated with funding from other sources
Indicator c: # of peer-reviewed science-based target methodologies for corporate and government adoption developed and published.	3 manuscripts published, one under review in a peer-reviewed journal	**CA**	The Earth Commission continued to reach wider audiences through high-impact journals, in which the outcomes from the first assessment are presented. These include 1) the identification of priority Earth system domains and quantification 'safe' and 'no significant harm' of Earth system boundaries, 2)

[4] **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

OBJECTIVE INDICATORS	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[4]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
			estimations of minimum levels of 'access' to resources for a dignified life for all, to define a 'safe and just corridor' for people and planet, 3) an overview of transformations needed to bring societies into this safe and just corridor, and 4) an overview of approaches for cross-scale translation of Earth system boundaries to guide action by cities, corporations and other key actors. Additional manuscripts supporting the two main syntheses and providing more detailed analyses into specific aspects of the five working groups have also been submitted for peer review, many of them as part of a planned portfolio with the journal Nature. Please see full list under knowledge products below
Indicator d: # of globally recognized companies and/or cities of greater than 500K inhabitants that have adopted science-based targets for land and/or biodiversity.	To date over 130 companies, consultancies and industry coalitions have joined the SBTN Corporate Engagement Program. All are engaging on land, i.e., for all these companies land is a material resource.	**CA**	There has been a strong interest from the private sector in applying the methods developed after the launch of the methodology in IBAT at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Since September 2021 science-based targets for species biodiversity reports have been generated for a total of 2081 sites around the world by 540 companies and organizations. As part of the pilot testing, these companies and organizations have also completed a feedback survey, which has continued development. Methods developed under Output 3.1.1 have been incorporated into the new Contributions for Nature platform serving IUCN's membership (including the new Membership category of cities and subnational governments) To date over 130 companies, consultancies and industry coalitions have joined the SBTN Corporate Engagement Program. All are engaging on land, i.e., for all these companies land is a material resource.

OBJECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION
HS	The Global Commons Alliance is now funded and functioning. A large number of Earth Commission scientific articles have been submitted, several of which are already published. This includes articles in high impact journals. Furthermore, papers on science-based target methodologies for corporate and government adoption were developed and submitted, several of which have already been published. A full list of publications is included under knowledge products below. Significant engagement with the private sector took place. To date, over 130 companies, consultancies, and industry coalitions have joined the SBTN Corporate Engagement Program. They are all engaging on a SBT for land.

b. Progress towards Achieving Project Expected Outcomes (by project component).

This part of the report assesses the progress towards achieving the outcomes of the project.

COMPONENT 1	Earth Commission

Outcome 1.1:	The Earth Commission has synthesized current science to underpin target setting for intergovernmental fora, cities, companies, and other actors through the Science-Based Targets Network.
Outcome 1.2:	Scientific and non-scientific female and male audiences are informed of the initial findings of the first synthesis report.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[5]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 1.1.1: Manuscript of synthesis reports to underpin the development of science-based targets submitted for peer review.	1 synthesis report submitted for peer review.	Synthesis paper and report submitted for peer review by Nature and Lancet Planetary Health. Five supporting papers have been submitted for peer-review, see above.	**CA**	A synthesis paper and a comprehensive report have been submitted, outlining safe and just Earth system boundaries, transformations and methods for translation to companies and cities (see above). In addition, more than 10 supporting papers led by the different working groups are planned. Five of those have already been submitted for peer-review, see above.
Outcome indicator 1.2.1: Number of communications materials produced.	At least 5 different communications materials produced, tailored for both female and male audiences.	Communications materials have been produced that include amplification of the published papers, the website earthcommission.org has been regularly	**CA**	The ongoing Earth Commission work has been communicated to scientific and other audiences to prepare for impact and uptake when the main reports/papers are published. 7 publications have been submitted. Over a dozen articles and short videos have been published on the web (see earthcommission.org) and promoted on social media. Presentations at international venues include the UN event Stockholm +50, the SRI2022 conference and GCA partner meetings ("situation room"). A successful discussion series on tipping points, led by the ECs modelling working group,

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OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[5]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
		updated, and several presentations have been held to partner organizations, scientific audiences and to policymakers.		with 9 webinars reaching hundreds of scientists each. In addition, regular online and in person meetings have been held with SBTN representatives, and EC comms professionals have contributed to GCA wide communications efforts.

COMPONENT 1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	Good progress was made with publications, overachieving the target for outcome 1.1. Extensive communication activities have taken place.	Unchanged

COMPONENT 2	Science-Based Targets Network and Science-Based Targets for Land

Outcome 2.1:	A Science-Based Targets Network balanced by expertise, gender, and geography is established and funded.
Outcome 2.2:	First of three targets for science-based targets or land developed and adopted via a "Land Hub."
Outcome 2.3:	Globally recognized companies pledge to adopt science-based targets for land.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator 2.1.1: Number of science-based targets networks created.	1 Science-Based Targets Network	1 Science-Based Targets Network Established.	**CA**	SBTN up and running.
Indicator 2.2.1: Number of Land SBT.	1 land-based science-based target focused on zero-conversion natural habitat.	Completed	**CA**	Staff engaged in the drafting process and reviewing the Interim Guidance for SBTN including aligning with the Deforestation agenda, submissions to the transform and restore section leads.

Indicator 2.3.1: Number of companies (on land and more broadly) [that pledge to adopt specific science-based targets for land]	At least 5 globally recognized companies.	131	**CA**	To date over 130 companies, consultancies and industry coalitions have joined the SBTN Corporate Engagement Program. All are engaging on land (material for all).

COMPONENT 2 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	The Science-Based Targets Network has been established. The project overachieved outcome 2.3, as to date over 130 companies, consultancies and industry coalitions have joined the SBTN Corporate Engagement Program	Unchanged

This part of the report assesses the progress towards achieving the outcomes of the project.

COMPONENT 3	Science-Based Targets for Biodiversity

Outcome 1:	A legitimate and credible methodology for the assessment of specific science-based targets for biodiversity is established.
Outcome 2:	Globally recognized companies and/or cities pledge to adopt specific science-based targets for biodiversity

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[6]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome indicator 3.1.1.: Number of science-based target methodology peer-reviewed and published.	1 methodology	1 methods paper published in Nature Ecology and Evolution on April 8 2021. In addition, two papers were published extending the method and applying it in different pilot testing contexts.	**CA**	Mair et al., methods paper published, methodology established and available as a resource. https://rdcu.be/cikbh In addition, two papers were just published and one is in press extending the method and applying it in different pilot testing contexts: Irwin, A., Geschke, A., Brooks, T.M. *et al.* Quantifying and categorising national extinction-risk footprints. *Sci Rep* **12,** 5861 (2022). https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-09827-0 Chaudhary, W., Mair, L., Strassburgh, B.B.N. *et al*. Sub-national assessment of threats to Indian biodiversity and habitat restoration opportunities. *Env. Res. Let.* **17** (2022).

[6] [6] **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[6]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
		Published guidance documents and other explanatory material available through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT). https://www.ibat-alliance.org/star		https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac5d99 Mair et al. (2022). Quantifying and mapping species threat abatement opportunities to support national target setting. Conservation Biology, 00, e14046. https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14046 Published guidance documents and other explanatory material through the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT). https://www.ibat-alliance.org/star
Outcome indicator 3.2.1: Number of globally recognized companies a/o cities of more than 500K inhabitants adopting science-based targets for biodiversity.	At least five globally recognized companies and/or cities of greater than 500K inhabitants.	STAR reports generated through IBAT for 2081 sites by 540 companies and organizations, including 1496 by IBAT companies.	**CA**	There has been a strong interest from the private sector in applying the methods developed after the launch of the methodology in IBAT at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Since September 2021 science-based targets for species biodiversity reports have been generated for a total of 2081 sites around the world by 540 companies and organizations. As part of the pilot testing, these companies and organizations have also completed a feedback survey, which has continued development. Methods developed under Output 3.1.1 have been incorporated into the new Contributions for Nature platform serving IUCN's membership (including the new Membership category of cities and subnational governments). In addition, the methods developed in the project have been deployed in a number of complementary workstreams, such as the biodev2030 project (biodev2030.org), which ran STAR analyses for 16 different countries in order to mainstream biodiversity into development through sectoral commitments resulting from a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and the CI-led GEF project – Transforming the Fashion Sector to Drive Positive Outcomes for Biodiversity, Climate, and Oceans, which applied the methodology in deep dives with 3 major fashion companies.

COMPONENT 3 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
HS	Under outcome 1, additional to the methods paper in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, two papers were published extending the method and applying it in different pilot testing contexts, this way overachieving the target. STAR reports were generated through IBAT for 2081 sites by 540 companies and organizations, including 1496 by IBAT companies. All information is available on the IBAT site.	Increasing

COMPONENT 4	Global Commons Alliance Mobilization - Earth HQ

Outcome 4.1:	Understanding and support of Global Commons concept and related Global Commons Alliance is substantially increased across numerous audiences worldwide.
Outcome 4.2:	Demand from key influencers, companies, cities, and government to join the Global Commons Alliance as a global solution to sustaining Earth's biodiversity and life support systems substantially increased.

OUTCOMES TARGETS/INDICATORS	END OF PROJECT INDICATOR TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[7]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Indicator 4.1.1: Number of alliances established for the development and promotion of science-based targets.	1 Earth HQ	Earth HQ established and operating.	CA	Executive Director, Advisory Council, legal status, consultants and contractors in place.
Indicator 4.2.1: Number of globally recognized champions (companies/cities) promoting GCA targets.	At least 100 organizations	Target exceeded.	CA	SBTN Corporate Engagement Platform includes more than 100 companies. 12 cities deeply engaged in the SBTs for cities workshopping. These are in addition to the 50+ partner organizations which champion SBTN's work.
Indicator 4.2.2: Number of media partners supporting the Earth HQ network.	At least 10 media partners	11	CA	Now This, Vox, Mongabay, TED Countdown, Earth X, Discovery, Oprah Winfrey, Science Channel, Netflix, Eurovision, and We Don't Have Time are important media partners on board.

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COMPONENT 4 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND
S	Earth HQ is established and operating. Targets for outcome 4.2 have been exceeded,	Unchanged

c. Overall Project Results Rating

OVERALL PROJECT RESULTS IMPLEMENTATION RATING

OVERALL RATING	JUSTIFICATION	RATING TREND[8]
HS	The project has delivered all its outcomes and outputs, and in several instances overachieved targets, for example related to publications and engagement with companies for adoption of biodiversity targets. The project produced many knowledge products.	Increasing

d. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE
N/A	N/A	N/A

[8] **Rating trend**: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

SECTION III: PROJECT RISKS STATUS AND RATING

a. Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation Plan

This section describes the activities implemented to manage and reduce high, substantial, modest, and low risks of the project. This section has three parts:

a. Ratings for the progress towards implementing measures to mitigate project risks and a project risks annual reassessment
b. Recommendations for improving project risks management

Progress towards Implementing the Project Risk Mitigation and Plan Project Risks Annual Reassessment

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING[9]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND[10]
Risk 1: Academia	Academia buy-in and understanding of the target-setting process and the resulting targets will be essential for the uptake of targets. In addition to being part of the Earth Commission and the Network, academia will play a key role in the peer-review process of both entities. Academia is included as a part of the Earth Commission and the working groups, and playing a key role in the peer-review process. Ongoing engagement with academics in development and revision of the biodiversity methods paper. There will be ongoing engagement with these	EC members are academic scientists; as well as working group members and staff; several academic institutions are involved in this work. Academia is being updated by IUCN, and input into work is being sought at all levels. Ongoing engagement continues on schedule.	**CA**	EC: The work of the EC has been presented at several scientific conferences and in papers published ahead of the launch of the main reports. The large number of scientists directly involved in this work, as well as the scientific peer review process decreases this risk. IUCN: Uptake and engagement from academia have been positive for both development and implementation. Academics were extensively involved in presentations at the World Conservation Congress and follow up publications. Uptake and engagement from academia have been positive throughout the project,	Medium	Low	Decreasing

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[10] **Rating trend**: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING[9]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND[10]
	groups, as they will very likely serve on advisory panels or as members of the Earth Commission and the Science-Based Targets Network. They will be engaged in the peer-review process. Engage with academia from the onset of the project to orient them to the project and seek their guidance for the peer review process.			leading us to keep the risk rating low SBTN Issue Hubs continue to have academic input, through participation in Hubs' work and presentations to academia.			
Risk 2: Media	The GCA will engage the media as a part of its branding and outreach efforts. Once key targets are developed, media will be engaged to help disseminate and promote targets and the GCA.	Media has been engaged when the EC has published papers and in several other GCA activities.	CA	Media is increasingly important in the work of the GCA, and we are trying to garner more resources for earlier and fuller outreach, including to millennials.	Medium	Low	Decreasing
Risk 3: Local governments and cities	Early engagement with key actors in companies and cities for assessing the demand, raising awareness on the applicability and benefits of targets, and building support and commitment towards applying them.	Early engagement ongoing through a variety of different outreach mechanisms across the GCA.	CA	Early engagement ongoing through a variety of different outreach mechanisms across the GCA. EC has been interacting with the Swedish government as hosts of the Stockholm+50 UN Summit to raise the awareness of the need for safe and just boundaries/targets for the global commons.	Low/ Modest	Low/ Modest	Unchanged
Risk 4: Private sector – conflict of interest	IUCN follows its Operational Guidelines on Business Engagement, including a rigorous risk and opportunities assessment	Implementation is ongoing for all private sector entities involved in component 3 during	CA	The IUCN operational guidelines on business engagement were applied throughout the project	Low	Low	Unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING[9]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND[10]
	with mitigating actions. Conflicts of interest would be assessed in this process.	the development of science-based targets for species biodiversity		SBTN has terms of reference as guidelines for corporate sector participation in the SBTN Corporate Engagement Program.			
Risk 5: Engaging with youth, indigenous groups and faith-based communities is challenging for different, mostly practical, reasons given the relatively short timeframe of project implementatio n	IUCN's has in house experts on indigenous issues as well as opportunities to engage expert IUCN Commission members, including indigenous peoples. The project team, IUCN Commissions, and IUCN Members will be important in facilitating interactions around this work for various stakeholders, including youth, indigenous peoples, and faith-based communities at events such as the World Conservation Congress.	Continue to draw on IUCN's in-house experts as necessary.	CA	IUCN's in-house experts continued to be resources, particularly during the planning of the World Conservation Congress which was held in September 2021. At the Stockholm +50 event, co-chairs Johan Rockström and Joyeeta Gupta took part in a broadcast by "We Don't Have Time" together with a youth activist.	Low	Low	Unchanged
Risk 6: Social and traditional media outreach efforts may be drowned out by other events or fail to garner enough attention.	IUCN will consult with its Global Communications Unit in strategic timing and presenting of the outcomes (publications) for component 3.	Conversations undertaken after the publication of papers Guidance Documents prepared and consultations are undertaken to publish and communicate these. Media outreach around methods publication accompanied with effective	CA	Mitigation measures for this risk undertaken following publications.	modest	modest	unchanged

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING[9]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND[10]
		communications campaign. EC has hired a Communications Director and a Communications officer (funded by another grant) to ensure efficient media outreach. We are also collaborating closely with Earth HQ and the GCA communications team.					
Risk 7: Engagement and ownership of the initiative remaining mainly in the "global North" and risk of drawing criticism from "global South" countries.	Strive to capture diverse perspectives in the review of publications, including through engagement with IUCN Commission members from the "global South".	EC and WG members and staff are from all over the world. This issue is also addressed in the work on setting just boundaries – ensuring harm is avoided and access to resources are distributed to all. Authors of methods paper and drivers of pilot testing in Component 3 are from all over the world.	CA	Authors of methods paper and drivers of pilot testing in component 3 are from all over the world.	Low	low	unchanged
Risk 8: COVID 19 pandemic	N/A	Increased virtual meetings.	CA	Despite a slight slowing in the response rate of	N/A	high	

PROJECT RISKS	PRODOC RISK MITIGATION MEASURE	MITIGATION MEASURES IMPLEMENTATION	PROGRESS RATING[9]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION	PRODOC RISK RATING	CURRENT FY23 RISK RATING	RISK RATING TREND[10]
		Discussion with all funders and partners about the threats and opportunities posed by the COVID-19 crisis No-cost extension of project period of performance planned through 09/30/2022 with CI-GEF		external partners and collaborators as the world copes with the pandemic, the work around methods development progressed well. However, the impact of the postponement of CBD COP15 has been profound and pushed it beyond the period of performance of the project. Adaptive management implementation of a no-cost extension of the period of performance through Sept 30, 2022 was essential, and has permitted the project to launch its methods and build appropriate momentum towards uptake looking to COP15 and beyond.			

OVERALL RATING OF PROJECT RISKS	JUSTIFICATION	RISK RATING TREND[11]
L	Through adaptive management, the project has adjusted to the impacts and risks of COVID-19. A no-cost extension was used, and the project achieved all its objectives.	Decreasing

Recommendations

MITIGATION AND CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DEADLINE

[11] **Rating trend**: Increasing, Unchanged or Decreasing

N/A	N/A	N/A

SECTION IV: PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND RATING

This section of the PIR describes the progress made towards complying with the approved ESMF plans, as well as recommendations to improve the implementation of the ESMF plans, when needed. This section is divided into six parts:

a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's ESMF

b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement

c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets

d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products developed and disseminated

e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating

f. Recommendations

a. Progress towards complying with the CI-GEF Project Agency's ESMF

MINIMUM ESMF INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR STATUS	CUMULATIVE STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[12]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
ACCOUNTABILITY AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM					
1. Number of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism.	0	0	0	**CA**	No grievances submitted. Component 1,2, and 4 leads were provided with the information about RPAs grievance mechanism in 2019 and again in 2021 but not during the 12 months covered by this PIR. IUCN grievance mechanism was publically posted and shared throughout the project and communicated to its projects (https://www.iucn.org/resources/project-management-tools/environmental-and-social-management-system). Relevant consultants working on Component 3 were told about it at the beginning of their work and reminded in FY23.

[12] **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

2. Percentage of conflict and complaint cases reported to the project's Accountability and Grievance Mechanism that have been resolved.	N/A				
GENDER MAINSTREAMING					
1. Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, consultations)	100 (50% men, 50% women)	EC: 97 (48 women and 49 men) (including EC, WG and staff members and experts invited to workshops) IUCN: 850 (500 women, 450 men)	1,536 (771 women, 765 men)	CA	The project strove for gender balance at every opportunity. Earth Commissioners are well gender balanced: 6 are women, 13 are men. SBTN Core team is all women; issue hubs are 90 women and 81 men. The SBTN Advisory Council is 7 women and 1 man.
2. Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. employment, income generating activities, training, access to natural resources, land tenure or resource rights, equipment, leadership roles) from the project		NA	NA	NA	
3. Number of strategies, plans (e.g. management plans and land use plans) and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations (this indicator applies to relevant projects)	1	2	2	NA	The Global Commons Alliance has one integrated strategy that has been deemed inclusive from a gender point of view, though should be more inclusive from a diversity point of view. A detailed JEDI (justice, equity, diversity and inclusion) plan is underway funded by the Oak Foundation.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT					
1. Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis	75	677	1162	CA	IUCN, EC, and SBTN have extensive engagement with stakeholders during the development of methods for science-based targets for species biodiversity and the broader work. Earth HQ has extensive engagement more recently. 30 additional organizations have been added.

2. Number persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	100	969 (508 women, 461 men)	1655 (829 women, 826 men)	CA	
3. Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis)	20	50	175	CA	

b. Information on Progress, challenges and outcomes on stakeholder engagement

Component 1 (EC): Stakeholder engagement went well. The Earth Commissioners, WG members and supporting research staff are all academics that committed a lot of time to the project. Academics were engaged in the peer-review of the submitted papers and took part of the published papers. A number of presentations have been held in various fora to engages academics and other stakeholders. An online discussion series has been launched to engage with a broader group of scientists with an interest in tipping points in the Earth system. The Earth Commission has been actively involved in the CBD process and contributed to the Nature Newsroom at UNFCCC COP 27. Earth Commissioners and staff were particularly active to bring science into the UN Meeting Stockholm+50 in June 2022. For example several EC members contributed to the Leadership Dialogues preceding Stockholm+50 and to a "Letter to fellow citizens of Earth" also featured in Nature. Co-chairs Johan Rockström and Joyeeta Gupta participated with other Global Commons Alliance representatives in a broadcast by We Don't Have Time, as well as in a roundtable discussion on "Our Common Agenda".

Component 2 (SBTN): Stakeholder engagement went well. The project focused on working with the approximately 50+ direct partners, mostly environmental NGOs around issue-hub specific, cross-cutting, and work. Additionally, SBTN has focused on corporate engagement to ready companies for SBT setting and for participatory input into the design process. Awareness and demand for SBTN products grew, and stakeholders are referring to SBTN as the authoritative source for corporate SBTs (e.g., references in TNFD technical scope.) As others were brought in, there is great interest from organizations working in the same area, from end-user companies, and funders.

Component 3 (**IUCN**): IUCN has engaged with stakeholders extensively during the publications of the different method papers on SBT. As well as, during the progress of the guidance documents and pilot testing. The IUCN World Conservation Congress allowed the project to better engage and strengthen the opportunities with stakeholders. The use of feedback surveys during methods and guidance document development proved very useful. Engagement is expected to continue beyond the duration of the project. Virtual stakeholder engagement seemed as though it might be an issue at the beginning of the pandemic; however, the fact that the world became accustomed to meeting virtually mitigated this challenge.

Component 4 (Earth HQ): Stakeholder engagement in the last years intensified, particularly through Earth HQ's and GCA's stronger collaboration in a few spaces. One is the Nature's Newsroom work at the UNFCCC COP 26, COP27, and CDP COP15. Another is working more with partners like *We Don't Have Time* who, in turn, interact with a whole range of movement leadership. There is continued engagement with stakeholders from and through Earth Dashboard, NowThis Earth (whose parent NowThis has merged with Vox), and Mongabay. Mongabay has expanded to 800 reporters, many of whom represent historically marginalized groups. There were not sufficient resources to monitor specific readership, however.

c. Information on the progress towards achieving gender sensitive measures/targets

Component 1 (EC): Women make up a third of the Commission, including one female co-chair, and the 5 Working Groups of the EC have active engagement of female scientists. Especially three distinguished female scientists lead the Transformations Working Group (Prof. Joyeeta Gupta and Prof. Diana Liverman) and the Translation Working Group (Prof. Xuemei Bai). These three are also lead authors of the comprehensive report submitted to Lancet Planetary Health – where 29 out of 66 co-authors are women. Additionally, the content of this report brings up the importance of increased gender equality to achieve the necessary transformations to stay within safe and just Earth system boundaries, especially in terms of women's roles in safeguarding natural resources. Women have a strong position in the Earth Commission secretariat, for example, the executive director and the communications director are female. Gender balance among reviewers have been suggested. A) all activities were implemented B) no particular challenges C) no particular adaptive management was needed to promote participation of women D) no particular unintended outcomes were observed C) for coming projects of the EC we will continue to strive for gender balance, both within the Earth Commission, its working groups, and secretariat.

Component 2 (SBTN): SBTN's core team, the Issue Hub teams, and the Advisory Council are all well-balanced by gender or have a predominance of women. Looking forward, SBTN will continue to strive for gender balance at every opportunity, both within its core team, the issue hubs and among other collaborators within partner organizations.

Component 3 (IUCN): The primary relevant piece of work to report on has been the development and publication of the methods manuscript for setting science-based targets for species biodiversity, and the follow up papers. The intellectual leadership was led by Louise Mair. The other published papers extending the method and applying it in different pilot testing contexts also showed a participation of women, with one of them led by Amanda Irwin, and a second one led by Louise Mair. The virtual session on science-based target setting for species in the post-2020 biodiversity framework organized and held at the WCC had a participation of 5 women and 4 men. This group was selected based on their excellent expertise and extensive knowledge in the field. Gender balance has been highlighted to journal publications and activities related to SBT. a) All activities anticipated were implemented b)no significant challenges encountered. C) the indirect adaptive management was through the no-cost extension, which allowed increased time for improved engagement. D) no particular unintended outcomes observed. E) implementation continued as planned in FY23

d. Lessons learned and Knowledge Management products[13] developed and disseminated

The most salient lesson around stakeholder engagement during the implementation of this project has been about the absolute importance of early and continuous engagement to help respond and adapt to situations that were constantly evolving. In particular, the significant global changes resulting from the global pandemic and its cascading consequences (such as the rescheduling of CBD COP15 and its associated meetings) led to large changes in stakeholder expectations and operations in general that were only able to be navigated through continuous communication and engagement.

The following knowledge-based products have been produced from this project:

[13] Knowledge Products are those that are both intended to transmit knowledge but at the same time enable action by their audiences. For example, a lessons learned report, compilation of good practices and recommendations, etc.

Public Reports and Products Produced – including through consultancies - and Outreach Material

- Mair et al., 2021. A metric for spatially explicit contributions to science-based species targets. *Nature Ecology and Evolutio*n. https://rdcu.be/cikbh
- Irwin, A., Geschke, A., Brooks, T.M. *et al.* Quantifying and categorizing national extinction-risk footprints. *Sci Rep* **12,** 5861 (2022). https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-09827-0
- Chaudhary, W., Mair, L., Strassburgh, B.B.N. *et al*. Sub-national assessment of threats to Indian biodiversity and habitat restoration opportunities. *Env. Res. Let.* **17** (2022). https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac5d99
- IUCN guidance documents of STAR methodology:
    - Business User Guidance
    - Industry Briefing Note
    - Youtube video
- Website Explainers, repositories and infographics:
    - https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tool/species-threat-abatement-and-recovery-star-metric
    - https://www.iucnredlist.org/assessment/star
    - https://www.ibat-alliance.org/star?locale=en
- Mair et al. Quantifying and mapping species threat abatement opportunities to support national target-setting. *Conservation Biology* (in press)
- GCA Funder Brief (Here)
- GCA pitch deck (HERE)
- GCA website (www.globalcommons.org)
- Global Commons Situation Room 3rd gathering w. recording (Description HERE, the recording)
- Global Commons Situation Room 2nd gathering (Description HERE, the recording of the meeting, the slide deck, and the Miro board)
- Global Commons Situation Room 1st gathering (Session de-brief HERE)
- Policy brief for Stockholm +50
- Key messaging and calls to action co-developed by Communications Coordinator used by all Nature Zone partners for COP27 and COP15

SBTN

- The information generated through SBTN is made widely available via 1) a newsletter to all SBTN partner organizations, 2) SBTN's website www.sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org, 3) Its partner portal here, and 4) a newsletter to all those who subscribe to learn more via SBTN's website, 5) Our LinkedIn and Twitter pages
- The initial corporate guidance on SBTs for nature (with executive summaries translated into 5 other languages available for download)
- September 2022 Public Consultation materials on Steps 1 & 2 of the 5-step process for setting SBTs, and the methods to set science-based targets for freshwater (Step 3).
- A perspective on nature positive by key members of the technical team
- Other Supporting Content: Teaser video, Interactive Executive Summary, FAQs, SBTN glossary, Walkaround deck
- Cities: Climate guide for cities, Cities prototyping workshop report

Earth Commission (A comprehensive list can be found here)

- Scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals:

- Díaz et al., 2020. Set ambitious goals for biodiversity and sustainability. Science
  (Scientific paper summarising a report to CBD, both led by the Earth Commission Biosphere Working Group experts. See also press release distributed via EurekAlert.)
- Rockström et al., 2021. Identifying a Safe and Just Corridor for People and the Planet. Earth's Future
- Rockström et al., 2021. Stockholm to Stockholm: Achieving a safe Earth requires goals that incorporate a just approach. One Earth (Commentary by the Co-Chairs)
- Gupta et al. 2021. Reconciling safe planetary targets and planetary justice: Why should social scientists engage with planetary targets? Earth System Governance Journal
- Armstrong McKay et al., 2022. Exceeding 1.5°C global warming could trigger multiple climate tipping points. Science
- Rammelt et al., 2022. Impacts of Meeting Minimum Access on Critical Earth Systems amidst the Great Inequality Nature Sustainability
- Bai et al., 2022. How to stop cities and companies causing planetary harm. Nature

- The scientific articles, knowledge products and communications materials are made widely available via the Earth Commission's website (developed during the project), Future Earth's and other partners websites. Articles and events have also been advertised on Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.
- Examples of news items, press releases and opinion articles:
  - "Earth System Alert": opinion article by the Co-Chairs, published by Project Syndicate in seven languages and in many media (online and print)
  - Press release announcing the launch of the Earth Commission
  - Blog about the Commissions' First Historic Meeting
  - "Biodiversity Goals - Seeking Science's advice" (article about biodiversity workshop organised by the Commission).
  - "Earth Commission strengthened to identify governance solutions for a safe and just planet"
  - "New Earth Commission Working Group to Focus on the Challenges of Cross-Scale Translation"
  - "What are the safe and just boundaries for pollution, people and planet?"
  - "A "Safe and Just corridor" for planet and people"
  - "Join the novel tipping element model intercomparison project (TipMip)"
  - "Earth Commission milestone reached - first assessment submitted"
  - "Researchers identify how science can help cities and companies to operate within Earth system limits"
  - "Risk of passing multiple tipping points escalates above 1.5°C global warming"
  - "Global distributive justice and systemic transformations key to planetary stability study finds"
- Videos and visuals include:
  - Explainer short film about the Earth Commission
  - Explainer about biodiversity targets. Interviews with Earth Commission members.
  - Tipping Points Map by Earth Commission/Globaïa (In press release about paper by Armstrong McKay et al.)
  - Mass communications short film explaining the latest Earth Commission science on tipping points (Launched at COP27)
  - Short explainer videos on scientific articles have been shared across Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram
- The Commissions work has been presented at several conferences and intergovernmental events, for example:
  - Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021 and 2022
  - At COP27 (for example in the panel discussion "Climate Repair" with Co-chair Johan Rockström and Earth Commissioner David Obura and COP15 (Biodiversity)
  - Stockholm +50: Earth Commission members participated in Leadership Dialogues and An event for the global commons and contributed to "Letter from science – 50 years later".
- Scientists from the Earth Commission contributed to the report "The Global Commons Survey"
- The Earth Commission convened (together with AIMES, Future Earth, and WCRP) an online discussion series on climate tipping points attracting hundreds of participants to each webinar.

Earth HQ **Stockholm+50 | Planetary Stewardship: An Event for the Global Commons:** GCA partner program with the latest integrated, scientific research on the connections and tipping points built into the Earth system, what safe and just boundaries can look like, and why we must redefine the global commons for the Anthropocene. Stockholm+50

- **Reporting on Planetary Boundaries**: Latest GCA science, over 100 stories with global distribution in 6 languages in their Mongabay 'Planetary Boundaries'. Series
- **Reporting on GCA Leaders:** In-depth interviews with GCA leaders with global distribution in 6 languages in the series: 'Finding Common Ground'.
- **Earth Dashboard:** Real Time Data/Stories Coverage of extreme event data and stories via the EarthHQ/WRI partnership: Earth Dashboard
- **COP26 Nature Zone/Nature's Newsroom:** GCA partners driving Nature Positive narrative and stories reaching 13M +audience: Nature Zone Public Communications Tool
- **COP27 Nature Zone/Nature's Newsroom**: GCA partners supporting Nature Positive narrative and stories reaching 37M + audience: Nature Zone Public Communications Tool
- **NowThis Earth:** targets a global youth audience (millennials and Gen X,Y, Z) who are critically important for building public demand for action, this partnership with Vox media has reached over 500 million people with 750 stories over the last 24 months across all major social media platforms: NowThis Earth facebook, NowThis Earth YouTube, NowThis Earth TikTok
- **Tipping Point Video:** latest Earth Commission science illustrated on youtube/facebook/twitter: Earth Commission: New Science On Dangerous Tipping Points.

e. Overall Project ESMF Implementation Rating

SUMMARY: PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING BY TYPE OF PLAN

ESMF PLAN REQUIRED BY THE PROJECT (delete those not applicable)	**CURRENT END OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION RATING**	**RATING TREND**
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	**S**	Unchanged
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	**HS**	Unchanged
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	**HS**	Unchanged

OVERALL PROJECT ESMF IMPLEMENTATION RATING

RATING	**JUSTIFICATION**	**RATING TREND**
S	The project overall performed well in its ESMF indicators. Targets were surpassed for the GMP and the SEP. The AGM could have been more actively socialized by the project, although no grievances were received during project implementation.	Unchanged

f. Recommendations

CORRECTIVE ACTION(S)	**RESPONSIBLE PARTY**	**DEADLINE**
N/A	N/A	N/A

SECTION V: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION EXPERIENCES, KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LESSONS LEARNED

Required topics

1. Knowledge activities/products (when applicable), as outlined in the knowledge management plan approved at CEO endorsement/approval.

Component 1 (EC): The Earth Commission is hosted by Future Earth, the world's largest network of sustainability scientists. It is the science component of the Global Commons Alliance and includes more than 60 scientists at various career stages, with different expertise and from countries all over the globe. The Earth Commission is synthesizing scientific knowledge required to define safe and just Earth system boundaries (at global and/or regional scales) that will underpin science-based targets for companies and cities. When published in peer-reviewed journals, this scientific basis will be crucial for the credibility and legitimacy of the science-based targets. The EC is also assessing methods for translating global boundaries to local scale actors such as business and cities. Furthermore, the EC assesses the safe and just transformations needed to stay within the boundaries and at the same time providing access to a dignified life for all. The EC is anchoring the work in academia by the peer-review process and by participating in and presenting the EC and GCA in international scientific conferences. The new knowledge will also be widely communicated via websites, social media, and international media.

Component 2 (SBTN): Knowledge building and sharing between the Alliance components and beyond has been a core focus for SBTN. The information generated through SBTN is made widely available via 1) a newsletter to all SBTN partner organizations, 2) SBTN partner updates, 3) Updates at various working comms, technical development, corporate engagement, financial sector engagement working group sessions, 4) Corporate Engagement Program update sessions, 5) Empowering SBTN partner network to build awareness in private sector and help get companies ready to set SBTs for nature according to company interest and maturity level, 6) SBTN's website www.sciencebasedtargetsnetwork.org, and 3) a newsletter to a newsletter to all those who subscribe to learn more via SBTN's website.

Component 3 (IUCN): In general, knowledge-related activities continued to be the main theme of component three's project implementation during FY23. Despite COVID-19 pandemic, there has continued to be development to apply the methods for developing science-based targets for species biodiversity and pilot testing. The pilot testing with companies has supported uptake of the developed methods as a means for companies to understand their biodiversity-related risks and opportunities (e.g., case studies and deep-dive analyses). Working with a broad range of different users has been helpful for understanding requirements for communications and interpreting the targets.

Component 4 (Earth HQ): Earth HQ has created significant knowledge activities and products. As mentioned above, NowThis Earth has produced over 700 original stories, with over 50% of stories featuring diverse voices, Global South perspectives, indigenous voices and disadvantaged groups. The p**artnership with Climate Champions, Eurovision News and N4C launched the Nature Zone and Nature's Newsroom at COP26 and COP27 and promoted perspectives and information created by le**ading organizations like TNC, CI, WWF, EDF, IUCN, and GEF itself. The **Virtual Earth Dashboard includes** dozens of near-real time data visualizations and daily reporting on extreme events. With GCA support, Mongabay conveyed the latest GCA science in their **'Planetary Boundaries' series,** featured in-depth interviews with GCA leaders in the series **'Finding Common Ground',** provides daily **extreme event coverage for the Earth Dashboard , and** features frequent, in-depth voices and solutions from experts and activists from the Global South, indigenous leaders and disadvantaged groups who are often most impacted by the climate/nature crisis.

Additional topics (please choose two)

2. Engagement of the private sector

Component 3: There has been a strong interest from private sector applying the methods developed after the launch of the methodology in IBAT at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Since September 2021, STAR reports have been generated for a total of 2081 sites around the world by 540 companies and organizations. As part of the pilot testing, these companies and organizations have also completed a feedback survey, which has continued development. Methods developed under Output 3.1.1 have been incorporated into the new Contributions for Nature platform serving IUCN's membership (including the new category of cities and subnational governments) Continuous and early engagement with the private sector, has enabled more comprehensive pilot testing over the course of the project. Since participation in setting science-based targets is voluntary, extensive and early discussions with the private sector have been essential. Moreover, extremely clear illustrations and methods descriptions have been paramount, particularly for companies with less technical expertise.

3. Scientific and technological issues

Component 1. Developing new scientific concepts and transdisciplinary science with such a large and distributed group of scientists has been challenging, especially during COVID-19. However, we have managed with a unique integration of natural and social sciences, addressing both safety (planetary stability) and justice in the assessment. During FY22 we continued to develop the online collaboration skills and we were also able to carry out one hybrid meeting with 12 participants in Potsdam, and one in-person meeting for the full commission and staff with 27 people in Amsterdam, which was important for advancing the work.

Component 3: The publication of the manuscript, Mair et al., 2021 - Developing the methods for setting science-based targets for species biodiversity - was only the beginning, and a variety of scientific and technical issues needed to be resolved in order to take those methods and extend them to sub-national boundaries, or link them to economic data in global trade models or increase the taxonomic scope beyond terrestrial birds, mammals, and amphibians. Each new advance has required significant discussion with academics both at the scientific theoretical level, and also in the applications of the technical implementation and improved computations simplicity. The technical work has extended beyond this project and has launched academic collaborations for complementary work extending the science-based targets for species methods to marine and freshwater environments and connecting it to global economic trade data.

SECTION VI: PROJECT GEOCODING

This section of the PIR documents the precise and specific geographic location(s) of activities supported by GEF investments based on information provided in the Project Document. The following information should be contained in this section:

a. Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year
b. Project Map and Coordinates from Project Document

Geo Location Information of Project Location(s) for the current fiscal year (add additional columns as needed)

Geo Location Information	Location No. 1	Location No. 2	Location No. 3
CLASSIFICATION *Indicate whether the site is **NEW** (for new sites this FY23), **EXISTING** (already existing in the previous PIR) or **CEO Endorsed/Approved** (indicate whether the site is included at CEO Endorsement/Approval). Please add more columns for projects with more than 3 locations.* *Note: if the site is NEW, provide a justification in the box after this table*			
Note: Provide justification if the location is a new site in this line			
GEO NAME ID *Provide the location's Geo Name ID in a numerical format. IDs are available in the GeoNames' geographical database covering all countries and containing millions of placenames with free access at: http://www.geonames.org.*			
LOCATION NAME *Name of the geographic locations in which the activity is taking place. In instance when a GeoNames ID is provided above, the name of the said ID should be reflected. Otherwise, the location name provided will be considered as an exact location.*			
LATITUDE *Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.*			
LONGITUDE *Provide locations in Decimal Degrees WGS84 format, a notation expressing geographic coordinates as decimal fractions of a degree. Include at least four decimal points.*			
LOCATION DESCRIPTION *(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the location in which an activity is taking place, such as for example "mini-grid energy system" or "park ranger site".*			
ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION *(Optional field) Text description that qualifies in a sentence or so the activity taking place at the location, for example, "Installing a mini-grid energy system".*			

Please provide a justification regarding changes in location during implementation. Justifications should also be provided in the event the geographic location of key project activities cannot be provided at CEO Endorsement/Approval stage.

(Geo Name ID: Location Name)

Justification:

Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and image map where the project interventions took place. If available, please provide attachments as appropriate such as in the case of locations presented along geometric shapes in popular formats like shapefiles, KML and GeoJSON.

(Geo Name ID: Location Name)

Map:

APPENDIX I: PROJECT ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS RATING

Rating		Overdue (O)	Delayed (D)	Not started on schedule (NS)	Under implementation on schedule (IS)	Completed/Achieved (CA)
Highly Satisfactory (HS)	HS	0%		100%		
Satisfactory (S)	S	20%		80%		
Moderately Satisfactory (MS)	MS	40%		60%		
Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU)	MU	60%		40%		
Unsatisfactory (U)	U	80%		20%		
Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)	HU	100%		0%		

- **Highly Satisfactory**: 100% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project. The project can be presented as an example of "good practice" project,
- **Satisfactory**: 80% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; except for only 20% that are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Satisfactory**: 60% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 40% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Moderately Unsatisfactory**: 40% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 60% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action,
- **Unsatisfactory**: only 20% of the indicators: a) have been completed/achieved, b) are under implementation on schedule, and/or c) have not started but are on schedule, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project; while 80% are delayed and/or overdue and need remedial action, and
- **Highly Unsatisfactory**: 100% of the indicators: a) are overdue, and/or b) delayed in their implementation, according to the original/formally revised Project Annual Workplan for the project.

APPENDIX II: RISK RATINGS

Rating	
Low (L)	L
Moderate (M)	M
Substantial (S)	S
High (H)	H

- **Low Risk (L):** There is a probability of up to 25% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
- **Moderate Risk (M):** There is a probability of between 26% and 50% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face only modest risks.
- **Substantial Risk (S):** There is a probability of between 51% and 75% that assumptions may fail to hold and/or the project may face substantial risks.
- **High Risk:** There is a probability of greater than 75% that assumptions may fail to hold or materialize, and/or the project may face high risks.

APPENDIX III: PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHIEVING PROJECT EXPECTED OUTPUTS

INDICATORS	PROJECT TARGET	END OF YEAR INDICATOR STATUS	PROGRESS RATING[14]	COMMENTS/JUSTIFICATION
Outcome 1.1: The EC has synthesized current science to underpin target setting for intergovernmental for a, cities, companies, and other actors through the SBTN.				
Output Indicator 1.1.1.1: Call for nominations of EC members with an eye on balance of gender, geography, and expertise has been successfully launched.	Target: Call for nominations launched within 2 months of start of project.	Successfully completed.	CA	The process required coordination and planning amongst different parties but went smoothly.
Output Indicator 1.1.1 2: EC balanced by expertise, gender, and geography is appointed and publicly announced.	At least 10 commissioners with balance are publicly announced, up to 20 Commissioners announced over time.	Balanced EC comprised of 19 members appointed and announced. At the end of 2020, 2 commissioners resigned.	CA	19 Commissioners were appointed in 2019. The Earth Commission includes both female and male Commissioners, from the Global North and Global South, with a broad range of expertise. The Commission was publicly announced with a press release that was quoted in over 70 media outlets in 31 countries.
Output Indicator 1.1.1.3: Number of EC in person and online meetings.	First in-person meeting in 6 months; at least 1 additional in 24 months. At least 4 online meetings.	During FY22 we held several EC meetings online (one workshop over several days and several shorter calls), one hybrid meeting and one in-person meeting.	CA	Apart from the online meetings, one hybrid meeting was held in February with a smaller group in-person in Potsdam and most Earth Commission members online. In April 27 EC members and staff met in Amsterdam, and many additional participated via Zoom.
Output indicator 1.1.2.1: Number of chapters for synthesis report that have been finalized, agreed upon by the Commissioners and under peer review.	At least 4 chapters.	A comprehensive report with 7 chapter has been submitted for peer-review, as well as a shorter synthesis paper.	CA	In addition to the primary outputs of the EC, submitted in June 2022, 4 papers have been published and 5 WG led papers have been submitted for peer review.
Output 1.1.2 2: A manuscript for the first synthesis report is submitted for peer review to a journal.	1 manuscript submitted.	See above.	CA	See above.

Outcome 1.2: Scientific and non-scientific female and male audiences are informed of the initial findings of the first synthesis report.				
Output Indicator 1.2.1 1: # of presentations carried out.	At least 3 presentations per project year.	In FY22, the Earth Commission work was presented more than 3 times.	CA	The work of the EC was presented to partners and funders at a Global Commons Alliance "Situation room"- a well-attended online meeting. Several presentations have been given to update the SBTN. The modelling working group launched a successful discussion series on tipping elements with 9 webinars in Q3, attracting hundreds of participants. Preliminary results were also presented at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress in June 2022, at Stockholm Resilience Centre and at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. The co-chairs of the Earth Commission participated in presentations at Stockholm+50.
Output Indicator 1.2.2 1: # communications materials produced.	At least 5.	This was fulfilled in FY21, but the communications work is ongoing.	CA	While the main EC reports/papers are not yet published, the EC is communicating its work widely. A website was developed early on, presenting the Earth Commission in texts, visuals and short videos. Blogs and articles have been published continuously. During FY22 a Communications Director and a Communications officer were hired (paid by another co-funders) to develop and implement the communications strategy for the upcoming launch of the main reports.

Outcome 2.2: First of three targets for SBTs for land developed and adopted via a Land Hub.				
Output Indicator 2.2.1: A formally established land hub representing diversity across geography and gender is formally established with regular meetings.	A viable land hub.	Process launched.	CA	Work on the Land Hub envisaged to be completed in the last year with GEF funding was concluded.
Output Indicator 2.2.2: A peer reviewed corporate guidance document is published for companies to set targets within their supply chains, including definitions, methods for establishing a baseline or	1 guidance document.	Expected progress during FY22 achieved.	CA	Completed

[14] **O**= Overdue; **D**= Delayed; **NS**= Not started on schedule; **IS**= Under implementation on schedule; and **CA**= Completed/Achieved

reference for their supply chain state, and guidance on interventions or actions to deliver on this target. Given alignment on combined terrestrial ecosystem-level biodiversity and land degradation target, this will now be part of the Interim Guidance on SBTs for Nature (Part 1 and Part 2), including at least one specific case study from agriculture/forestry exploring land degradation and terrestrial ecosystem-level biodiversity, rather than a standalone document on zero conversion.				
Output Indicator 2.2.3: # of corporate zero-conversion MRV documents published.	1 guidance document.	Expected progress during FY22 achieved.	CA	Completed
Outcome 2.3: Globally recognized companies pledge to adopt SBTs for land.				
Output Indicator 2.3.1: # of globally recognized companies approached for adopting land-based targets.	5 globally recognized companies.	Expected progress during FY22 achieved.	CA	Several companies with relevant supply chains are actively engaging with SBTN.

Outcome 3.1: **A legitimate and credible methodology for the assessment of specific science-based targets for biodiversity is established.**				
Output Indicator 3.1.1: Number of structures established, and number of draft papers developed.	1 organizational hub structure 1 draft methods paper	Organizational hub structure in place. Methods paper published.	CA	Hub organizational structure has been developed with ToRs and defined roles. Biodiversity hub lead orgs: IUCN, UNEP WCMC, The Biodiversity Consultancy (TBC) Methods paper published.
Output Indicator 3.1.2: Number of manuscripts submitted for peer review.	1 manuscript	1 paper published	CA	Published April 8, 2021, in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*.
Output Indicator 3.1.3: Number of guidance documents developed.	1 guidance document	2 Guidance documents completed	CA	IUCN guidance documents of STAR methodology (Business User Guidance and Industry Briefing Note) were completed and disseminated. The guidance documents were uploaded in the IBAT repository.
Outcome 3.2: **Globally recognized companies and/or cities pledge to adopt specific science-based targets for biodiversity.**				

Output Indicator 3.2.1: Number of companies and cities engaged	5 globally recognized companies and cities of 500K+ inhabitants.	STAR reports generated through IBAT for 2081 sites by 540 companies and organizations, including 1496 by IBAT companies.	CA	There has been a strong interest from the private sector in applying the methods developed after the launch of the methodology in IBAT at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. Since September 2021 science-based targets for species biodiversity reports have been generated for a total of 2081 sites around the world by 540 companies and organizations. At least 1496 STAR reports have been downloaded by corporate IBAT subscribers. 18 Companies have generated more than 10 STAR reports (Max 141, Average 40.5). As part of the pilot testing, these companies and organizations have also completed a feedback survey, which has continued development. Methods developed under Output 3.1.1 have been incorporated into the new Contributions for Nature platform serving IUCN's membership (including the new Membership category of cities and subnational governments) In addition, the methods developed in the project have been deployed in a number of complementary workstreams, such as the biodev2030 project (biodev2030.org), which ran STAR analyses for 16 different countries in order to mainstream biodiversity into development through sectoral commitments resulting from a multi-stakeholder dialogue, and the CI-led GEF project – Transforming the Fashion Sector to Drive Positive Outcomes for Biodiversity, Climate, and Oceans, which applied the methodology in deep dives with 3 major fashion companies. There has been a continuous connection with PANORAMA, IUCN Urban Nature Index, ICLEI Cities with Nature and Regions with Nature platforms, and TNC urbanization data

Output Indicator 3.2.2: Number of publications.	1 publication on pilot testing	Three papers published extending the method and applying it in different pilot testing contexts	CA	Manuscripts published: Irwin, A., Geschke, A., Brooks, T.M. *et al.* Quantifying and categorizing national extinction-risk footprints. *Sci Rep* **12,** 5861 (2022). https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-09827-0 Chaudhary, W., Mair, L., Strassburgh, B.B.N. *et al*. Sub-national assessment of threats to Indian biodiversity and habitat restoration opportunities. *Env. Res. Let.* (in press). https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ac5d99 Mair et al. (2022). Quantifying and mapping species threat abatement opportunities to support national target setting. Conservation Biology, 00, e14046. https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.14046
Outcome 4.2: Demand from key influencers, companies, cities, and government to join the GCA as a global solution to sustaining Earth's biodiversity and life support systems substantially increased.				
Output Indicator 4.2.1: Number of media materials delivered.	At least 5 GCA media materials.	Expected FY22 progress completed.	CA	More than 100 media materials created in the last year.
Output Indicator 4.2.2: # of events held in conjunction with other major meetings.	2 events.	Substantial events completed with partners at major meetings.	CA	Earth HQ and partners delivered a number of virtual meetings and live events, most important Nature's Newsroom over the course of several days during COP26.