

# GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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## General Child Project Information

Child Project Title

Ecosystem Restoration Global Coordination Project

Region	GEF Project ID
Global	11122
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Global	FSP
GEF Agency(ies)	GEF Agency Project ID
CI	
Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
Center for Natural Climate Solutions	Others
World Resources Institute	GEF Agency
FAO	CSO
UNDP	GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	12/17/2023
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	72
GEF Project Grant: (a)	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)
17,810,092.00	1,602,908.00
PPG Amount: (c)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)
300,000.00	27,000.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
19740000	86,415,821.00

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The Global Coordination “Child” Project (GCP) supports the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program’s (IP) need for a globally coordinated approach to ecosystem restoration.

The GCP's objective is to establish a framework that allows for Global Environmental Benefits (GEB) scaling through coordinated and inclusive Integrated Program (IP) governance. It achieves this by providing targeted support to 20 innovative country child projects catalyzing transformational shifts in ecosystem restoration focused on priority ecosystems across Asia, Africa and Latin America. The project establishes a Global Coordination Unit (GCU) that facilitates a multi-level IP governance structure and delivers demand-driven technical support to seven GEF Implementing Agencies and their projects through four components: (i) catalyzing restoration through innovative and informed ecosystem governance, policy, finance and enabling conditions; (ii) enhancing restoration outcomes through knowledge management, exchange, learning and strategic communications; (iii) effective program-level governance, coordination and adaptive management, and (iv) Global Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The GCP introduces value above traditional country-specific and individual focal area project approaches. It improves targeting, linkages, cost-efficiency, and synergies with other GEF and global ecosystem restoration programs and considers transboundary and regional perspectives. Through its governance and support mechanisms, the GCP supports child projects to restore ecosystems, halt further degradation, and generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) in restored ecosystems, improved landscape practices, GHG mitigation, enhanced cooperative management of shared water ecosystems, and an increased number of beneficiaries of GEF finance investments.

## Child Project Description Overview

### Project Objective

To scale Global Environmental Benefits through coordinated governance of the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program and targeted support to 20 innovative country child projects in catalyzing transformational shifts in ecosystem restoration.

### Project Components

**Component 1 Restoration is accelerated through strengthened capacity for innovative and informed ecosystem governance, policy, finance and enabling conditions.**

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
8,856,942.00	41,472,619.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 1.1.:** Cross-sectoral capacity increased to improve coherence across restoration enabling conditions.

**Outcome 1.2:** Increased capacity of country practitioners to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration.

**Outcome 1.3:** Leveraged financing to scale out restoration of targeted ecosystems

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Output:

**Output 1.1.1.** A capacity building program for country child projects and partners on facilitation for establishing and sustaining multistakeholder cross-sectoral processes promoting coherence across restoration enabling conditions.

**Output 1.1.2.:** A Restoration Enabling Conditions Diagnostic tool is deployed to assess barriers and opportunities to ecosystem restoration.

**Output 1.1.3:** Mechanisms established to facilitate dialogue on best practices and coherence across ecosystem restoration enabling conditions among countries and key stakeholders.

**Output 1.1.4:** A capacity building program for country child projects and partners to strengthen restoration action planning in-country.

**Output 1.2.1** A technical training program to increase the capacity of country practitioners to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration.

**Output 1.2.2:** Targeted technical support is provided to country project and partners to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration

**Output 1.3.1.:** A capacity building program on financing plans to scale restoration of targeted geographies, ecosystems, and/or models.

**Output 1.3.2:** Proposals and Partnerships supporting incremental financing approved from national, regional and/or global funding sources, including private sector.

**Output 1.3.3:** Restoration finance knowledge products provided to country projects and partners, restoration practitioners and potential restoration investors to facilitate access to restoration financing flows

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## Component 2. Restoration outcomes are enhanced through knowledge management, exchange, learning and strategic communications

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
6,099,385.00	23,860,046.00

### Outcome:

**Outcome 2.1.:** Effectively engaged and informed stakeholders at national, regional and global levels regarding the Ecosystem Restoration IP and the models of innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration, stimulating active participation, learning and scaling.

**Outcome 2.2:** Enhanced data sharing and reporting on ecosystem restoration targets, Ecosystem Restoration IP core indicators, and best practices to enhance sharing with MEAs, GEF IPs and other restoration platforms.

### Output:

**Output 2.1.1:** A digital Restoration portal facilitates restoration knowledge exchange, multi-stakeholder dialogue, learning and problem solving between country project managers, networks, practitioners, GEF IPs and other experts through curation and organization.

**Output 2.1.2:** Ecosystem Restoration knowledge and capacity building guidance products support the interaction and learning needs of child projects and the restoration community.

**Output 2.1.3:** Program communication strategy established and implemented to promote effective internal and external communication.

**Output 2.1.4:** Program Knowledge Management and Learning strategy established and implemented to promote effective internal and external knowledge management and learning.

**Output 2.1.5:** Technical support to existing or new restoration communities of practice to engage with the GEF8 Ecosystem Restoration IP to generate opportunities for learning for country child projects, better align with objectives of interoperable GEF IPs, elevate practiced knowledge and the voices of IP&LCs, women and youth historically marginalized in the global restoration movement

**Output 2.2.1:** An Ecosystem Restoration Reporting System accurately reports progress toward Ecosystem Restoration IP targets, core indicators and best practices.

**Output 2.2.2:** Linkages established for information connectivity and interoperability between the program and sustainable global reporting systems (MEAs, GEF IPs, other restoration platforms).

## Component 3: Governance Coordination and Adaptive Management of the Ecosystem Restoration IP.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,726,113.00	15,590,000.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 3.1:** Effective governance and adaptive management ensure the delivery of the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program.

**Outcome 3.2:** The program and its child projects adapt to lessons learned, evolving conditions and risks identified by the results of monitoring across the IP.

Output:

**Output 3.1.1:** A Restoration Advisory Council (RAC) provides program exposure to achieve inclusiveness, alignment with MEAs and transformational scaling.

**Output 3.1.2:** A Program Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Projects Task Force (TPTF) provide guidance and adaptive management in response to lessons learned and changing conditions and integration with MEA aspirations and outcomes and related GEF IPs

**Output 3.1.3:** A Global Coordination Unit (GCU) established and operational providing coordination and support services to facilitate achievement of Ecosystem Restoration IP program outcomes.

**Output 3.2.1.** Harmonized methodological guidance and standards for child project to integrate into program-level M&E systems.

**Output 3.2.2:** A Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system (exclusive of ecosystem monitoring) incorporates child project M&E results, program-level indicators and evaluations, informing adaptive program management and reporting program-wide contributions to GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration IP core indicators.

## Component 4: Global Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
287,958.00	1,418,902.00

Outcome:

**Outcome 4.1:** An integrated and gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation framework for the GCP.

Output:

**Output 4.1.1:** Project-level M&E system established and operational.

**Output 4.1.2** Project M&E Plan developed including objective, outcome and output indicators, all safeguard plans indicators, metrics, methodology, baseline, location of data gathering, frequency of data collection and responsible parties.

## M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)

Outcome:

Output:

## Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1 Restoration is accelerated through strengthened capacity for innovative and informed ecosystem governance, policy, finance and enabling conditions.	8,856,942.00	41,472,619.00
Component 2. Restoration outcomes are enhanced through knowledge management, exchange, learning and strategic communications	6,099,385.00	23,860,046.00
Component 3: Governance Coordination and Adaptive Management of the Ecosystem Restoration IP.	1,726,113.00	15,590,000.00
Component 4: Global Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).	287,958.00	1,418,902.00
M&E		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>16,970,398.00</b>	<b>82,341,567.00</b>
Project Management Cost	839,694.00	4,074,254.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>17,810,092.00</b>	<b>86,415,821.00</b>

Please provide Justification

## CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Since this



is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

1. Over 75% of the world's land surface and 66% of marine and coastal areas have been significantly altered by human activities<sup>[1]</sup> and climate change stressors with negative impacts on food systems, ecosystem services, and wildlife habitat. Ecologically diverse habitats support species diversity, sustain ecosystem structure and function, sequester carbon, and reduce natural disaster risk.<sup>[2]</sup> They supply essential ecosystem services for livelihoods and economies, and store globally important genetic resources.

2. The Program Framework Document (PFD) for the Ecosystem Restoration IP details the human activities threatening these global resources including improper and unregulated land use, inappropriate and unsustainable production practices, unregulated extractions, population growth, increasing per capita consumption patterns, limited livelihood options and unplanned settlement expansion. These are often driven by: (i) policy incoherence, (ii) a low capacity for regulation and enforcement; (iii) low or no realization of ecosystem value; (iv) and knowledge, learning and communication gaps.<sup>[3]</sup> These challenges create a negative cycle that is difficult to break.

3. The process of ecosystem degradation contributes to societal and environmental challenges such as:

Deforestation and biodiversity loss: Many countries in the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program (IP), such as Brazil, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Madagascar, and Peru are home to globally prioritized forest ecosystems and species biodiversity. High regional deforestation rates lead to habitat destruction, biodiversity loss, increased carbon emissions and reduced carbon sequestration potential.

Water scarcity and management: Countries such as Angola, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, and South Africa face scarcity of water provisioning and sustaining services and challenges to water management. Water resources often cross-national boundaries, and conflicts may arise over access, usage, and the impact of upstream activities.

- Climate change impacts: Climate change affects all IP countries, but some regions are more vulnerable than others. Increased temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events can lead to food insecurity, displacement, and loss of livelihoods, particularly in countries like Cambodia, Haiti, Madagascar, Nepal, and Rwanda. For example, Cambodia's Tonle Sap region seeks a resilient water supply threatened by rising temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and changes in hydrology. These impacts affect the lake's water levels, flow, ecosystems, and biodiversity, and disrupt the annual flooding cycle, crucial to the lake's natural processes and unique flooded forests, aquatic habitats, critically endangered biodiversity, and lake-dependent communities.

- Migration and displacement: Degradation-related social challenges derived from migration and displacement can arise in countries like Chad, DRC, Mali, and Rwanda due to factors such as conflict and political instability. Unplanned settlements lead to stressed ecosystem services, environmental degradation, landcover change, illegal and unregulated extractions, and unregulated land and water use.

Poverty and inequality: As illustrated in Table 1, half of the IP's participating nations (Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Rwanda, Madagascar, DRC, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Mali, and Chad) are in the lower 20<sup>th</sup> percentile of 191 nations with a Human Development Index (HDI) calculated. All participating nations have poverty issues in their areas targeted for ecosystem restoration.

- Political instability and recovery: Countries including Angola, DRC, Haiti, Mali, and Sierra Leone are recovering from economic, social and/or political instability. These factors can increase pressure on natural resources and slow social progress while trust and institutions are rebuilt.

- Global demand for commodities: Shifts in global demand have effects on land-use change, impacting landscapes and seascapes.

Country	HDI Rank	Country	HDI Rank	Country	HDI Rank
Peru	84	São Tomé and Príncipe	138	Rwanda	165
Mexico	86	Nepal	143	Madagascar	173
Brazil	87	Cambodia	146	DR Congo	179
Uzbekistan	101	Angola	148	Sierra Leone	181
South Africa	109	Mauritania	158	Mozambique	185
Viet Nam	115	Côte d'Ivoire	159	Mali	186
		Haiti	163	Chad	190

**Table 1:** Ranking of IP countries by HDI.

Source: UNDP, 2023<sup>[4]</sup>, HDI Rank 1 (highest position on the list of national scores) to 191 (lowest).

4. The international community has addressed ecosystem degradation through its major environmental conventions. The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) Target 2 aims to "ensure that by 2030 at least 30% of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration...". The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) promotes practices to reduce GHG emissions and enhance carbon sinks in agriculture, forestry, other land use, and oceans. The UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is focused on restoring degraded unproductive lands. The Rio+20 Summit's land degradation neutrality goal and the UN General Assembly's Global Objectives on Forests (2007) call for reversing the loss of forest cover worldwide. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) reflects growing global attention and ambitions for restoration and improved sustainable land management. The compelling benefits of ecosystem restoration have prompted 115 countries to commit to restoring nearly 1 billion hectares of land, aiming to contribute to the objectives of the CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, as well as through voluntary programs such as the Bonn Challenge, Initiative 20x20 and AFR100.<sup>[5]</sup>
5. The baseline national commitments to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are ambitious given that global land use is currently at 4.7 billion ha of crop and grazing lands and expanding. Between 2010 and 2050, an additional 0.5 billion ha of natural ecosystems are expected to be converted into agriculture. Meanwhile, productivity of agricultural lands is declining on 0.9 to 1.1 billion ha, almost 25% of current production. This will exacerbate ecosystem degradation by increasing the expansion of production activities into natural areas. Almost half of the global restoration commitments are found in Sub-Saharan Africa, where many of the program's projects are located, followed by Central and South America, China, and South Asia. These commitments are balanced between restoration measures, protection of natural areas, and rehabilitation of degraded agricultural and forestry areas.
6. Under the Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario, hard-won development gains are being undermined, which threatens the well-being of today's youth and future generations, while making national commitments increasingly more difficult and costly to reach. None of the agreed global goals for the protection of life on Earth and for halting the degradation of land and oceans have been met (UNEP 2021), and only 6 of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets have been partially achieved (CBD 2020a). To meet the globally established targets, *at least 350 million hectares of forests and wetlands must be restored by 2050.*<sup>[6]</sup> To remove and sequester nearly 5 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub> annually by 2050, a new global restoration sector needs to emerge.
7. The transformation from pledges to implementation for ecosystem restoration is inadequate to meet global targets. In many cases, national and subnational plans are not aligned with restoration commitments to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Only 57 million of the 350 million hectares pledged to the Bonn Challenge's global goal were backed by goals within Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), of which 96% were conditioned on support.<sup>[7]</sup> Quantitative commitments for planted forests were double the number for any other restoration strategy and nine times commitments for Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR). Many countries have qualitative commitments for restoration that lack specificity and are difficult to monitor and evaluate. These issues indicate a lack of understanding of the options for ecosystem restoration, an overreliance on conventional and potentially more costly reforestation strategies, and challenges with developing national means of implementation, such as the capacity needed to effectively harmonize commitments. Improving the alignment between different levels of commitments and policies could enhance their

planning, implementation, and achievement. Commitments need to be measurable, geographically specific, and transparent to create realistic targets, monitor progress and provide transparency to land users. Differences in reporting metrics and indicators also pose a challenge for comparing restoration commitments and progress within and between countries and conventions.

8. The PFD illustrates the barriers limiting effective responses to these problems and drivers. Many participating nations face similar and related challenges, such as, interconnected Policy, Finance and Capacity gaps that are both causal agents of ecosystem degradation and barriers to scaled restoration of priority ecosystems.<sup>[8]</sup> These are summarized as follows:

Governance, Policy and Institutional Barriers: Conventional planning for natural resource management is often housed in environment ministries with regulatory processes that often do not have a landscape focus or interact with other ministries influencing the drivers of ecosystem degradation. Line ministries generally have little experience in managing multi-stakeholder processes, systematic planning approaches, or a landscape level focus. Institutional conflicts create a disconnect between environmental and economic development objectives. Ecosystem Restoration is often not well known and has comparatively low demand to other production sectors, so it receives low priority and less budget. Low levels of access and application of planning tools, spatial analysis, and other evidence-based inputs to inform decisions leads to uninformed policy decisions and short-term planning horizons. Limited monitoring and evaluation of real-time ecosystem change limits the enforcement of regulations.

Incoherence between economic, social, and environmental policies leads to perverse incentives reducing or surpassing the net effect of restoration. Unbalanced enforcement of regulations leads to “leakages” as progress on GEBs is offset or surpassed by other negative externalities. Misguided policies result from limited stakeholder participation or deficient evidence-based planning and prioritization processes that risk supporting negative spillovers and decreasing livelihood potential for vulnerable populations leading to more negative externalities catalyzing fewer opportunities, increased poverty, and more degradation. Policy development in “silos” inhibits policy harmonization and may exacerbate conflicting interests. Without meaningful stakeholder support, it is difficult to develop trust and buy-in for ecosystem restoration and inclusive policy. This underscores the need for advocacy and consciousness-raising to support multi-stakeholder dialogue, trust-building, increased political will and leadership. Competing interests and incentives offset responses to the conventions, erase gains in global environmental benefits, and impact vulnerable populations.

Financial Barriers: Natural capital is not measured or valued appropriately. Ecosystems are not valued for their services or positive externalities supporting productive livelihoods. Consequently, ecosystem values are not internalized by public and private sector investments. Similarly, the costs of the status quo remain unassessed, which prevents the proper assessment and valuation of the risks and costs associated with loss of ecosystem services, and thus preventing the private sector from making well-informed investments in activities to protect ecosystem services. Achieving restoration goals demands a fundamental shift in valuation of ecosystems, biodiversity, and the essential services they provide.<sup>[9]</sup> Global consumption patterns and the pursuit of immediate economic gains is often rewarded by economic stimulus programs. Restoring degraded ecosystems requires significant investments of time and resources, which can be difficult to secure in the face of competing priorities and limited resources. Limited familiarity with financial instruments limits investment and opportunities underscoring the need to educate multiple sectors on best environmental financing practices. Efforts to finance production sectors can produce perverse outcomes such as land use conversion, changes in water use patterns, drainages. Exceeding carrying capacities of landscapes can limit productivity and returns on investment. Options for strong financing counterbalance are generally unrecognized or unavailable.

Capacity Barriers: Ecosystem Restoration is a complex multi-dimensional process with different actions needed at different stages of the restoration continuum. Limited capacity for ecosystem assessment and monitoring decreases return on investment, inhibits enabling financing, and increases policy-related leakages. The plethora of tools, reports, and experiences available with little time or capacity to discern and select the most appropriate options is overwhelming. Assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and other natural regeneration-based strategies are underutilized, in part, because of lack of understanding of their utility, benefits, implementation, and monitoring practices. The costs of the technology, training, technical assistance, and infrastructure needed for multi-stakeholder engagement, to inform policies, and monitor GEBs are under-budgeted.

Gender Barriers: Women may have limited access to resources such as land, credit, and technology, which can hinder their participation in restoration initiatives. Women may have limited access to information, training, and decision-making spaces related to ecosystem restoration, which can limit their participation and opportunities for

leadership in restoration processes, and therefore, the effectiveness of these initiatives. Women may face gender-based violence, discrimination, time constraints, late or uninformed consent. Unrecognized gender, wealth, class and cultural norms, roles, and relations influence how both women and men access, use, and benefit from natural resources and ecosystem services and impact distinctively their ability to participate in ecosystem restoration initiatives and outcomes.

Cultural Barriers: Local communities and Indigenous Peoples may have diverse ideas, perspectives, and priorities regarding ecosystem restoration implementation. Conflicting stakeholder interests or tensions can create challenges for effective ecosystem restoration. The critical role Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in ecosystem restoration by drawing on their traditional knowledge and practices is often undervalued or unrecognized. Ecosystem restoration themes, such as practiced knowledge held by IP&LCs, experienced landholders, and those in close contact with landscapes (often women) about restoration feasibility, implementation, sustainability, and success cases are not communicated adequately to local, national and global decision-makers. Authorities and managers have difficulty identifying and implementing cost-effective solutions to ecosystem degradation with competitive returns to vulnerable populations in partnership with these communities.

9. If the BAU scenario continues, it will be impossible to realize the targeted GEBs with linear thinking and a focus on individual projects within singular focal areas and with the present levels of domestic and international financing. The current situation would continue with underfunded restoration commitments and voluntary pledges across countries with differing degrees of effort, political recognition of the need for ecosystem restoration, and reporting on commitments and pledges. An uneven and incomplete understanding of the contribution of ecosystem restoration to meet a diversity of national and sub-national objectives will prevail. Restoration actions needed to meet mitigation, adaptation and other national and sub-national needs (economic, social, climate, biodiversity) will continue to be planned in isolation from each other, both within and across countries, producing inefficiencies in scaling and sharing of best practices, potentially undermining each other and missing the opportunity to leverage benefits of a more coherent and integrated approach. If the *status quo* continues, the barriers will ensure the continued loss and degradation of ecosystems resulting from complex, interconnected drivers. These drivers are deeply ingrained in national social, environmental, economic, and political systems further driven by poverty, inequality, demand for commodities and global climate change which will continue to offset or decrease the gains in GEBs generated by national efforts and the MEAs.

10. The GEF-8 response is vested within Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program's incremental reasoning, which is to *realize opportunities to transform and scale ecosystem restoration to levels expected to meet global commitments and beyond. The baseline scenario of individual, localized investments will not provide the impetus for transformation to occur at the necessary scale. Despite the level of attainment of the MEA targets, opportunity and interest exist at the national level to catalyze the energy needed for a transformative process. Without the Program and its guiding Global Child Coordination Project, ecosystem restoration would occur but at a lower scale that is insufficient to stem the loss of ecosystem services and benefits globally. The Program therefore supports the GEF-8 concept for catalyzing transformational processes that will complement biophysical and technical interventions with instruments focused on national policies, governance, institutional, financial, and local social structures to bring all relevant stakeholders together for transformational impact on reversing environmental degradation globally.*<sup>[10]</sup>

11. To trigger the levers-of-change, the following development assumptions<sup>[11]</sup> must hold true for the Program's objective to be achieved and provide guidance for the development of Child Projects:

- Policy innovation requires (i) awareness, trust and understanding; and (ii) coherent strategy, planning and coordination.
- Financial leverage requires partnerships and collaboration.
- Multi-stakeholder dialogue promotes successful ecosystem restoration based not only on ecological considerations, but also on socio-cultural factors that are important for achieving long-term sustainability.<sup>[12]</sup>
- Innovation and Learning requires (i) implementation and monitoring and (ii) evaluation and structures to facilitate learning.

- Scaling-up and replication is driven by innovation in policy, financial mechanism and catalytic knowledge, leading to successful scaling of ecosystem restoration efforts in degraded landscapes.
- Knowledge generation, exchange and learning are pillars of the transformational process.

12. The GEF experience has evolved indicating the benefits of multi-focal area strategies and integrated programs to facilitate the transformation to systems thinking and scaling of GEBs beyond the capacity of singularly focused projects. The Ecosystem Restoration IP therefore seeks to overcome the challenges to generate multiple durable global environmental and socioeconomic benefits by applying integrated and innovative approaches to restore degraded ecosystems investing in ecosystem restoration projects that will activate transformational effects by enabling innovative approaches to improve coherence across enabling conditions, execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration, leverage national and international financing for scaling restoration, and promote multi-stakeholder engagement and effective capacity development for science-based planning, knowledge exchange and learning. A pertinent example of this integrated approach in action is the *planetGOLD* program, which targets the transformation of practices in small-scale/artisanal gold mining across diverse geographies. The program focuses on four key pathways: awareness-raising, access to finance, formalization, and technical solutions. These pathways aim to change public perceptions of formalized artisanal gold mining, increase private finance for sustainable mining practices, reduce policy barriers to formalization, and enhance awareness of innovative technical options and best practices in both partner and non-partner countries. Such a comprehensive approach exemplifies how coordinated efforts across different focal areas can lead to systemic change, illustrating the kind of multi-dimensional strategy the Ecosystem Restoration IP aims to implement.

The Program builds on previous GEF programs to elevate restoration and supports global commitments made in ways not possible through individual initiatives. Learnings from previous GEF Impact Programs indicate that an integrated programmatic approach requires coherent program coordination and management, strategic internal and external linkages, private sector engagement, inclusive multi-stakeholder participation, and knowledge management and learning to address barriers. The program baseline scenario contains a diversity of participating countries, and the complexities surrounding ecosystem restoration within their socio-economic and cultural contexts influence an effective, integrated, and cohesive programmatic response, such as:

- The 20 national projects contain different baselines, levels of experience, socio-economic conditions, and technical capabilities.
- The understanding of ecosystem restoration definitions, science, processes, options, and vocabularies are inconsistent across the program, without reinforcement that ecosystem restoration is a complex process seeking ecological outcomes and function.
- The 7 GEF IAs have distinct theories, implementation processes, experiences, protocols, reporting styles, and governance systems that inform their projects.
- A complexity of multiple, parallel and competing platforms and services exist supporting ecosystem restoration, each with different linkages, capabilities, data privacy considerations, and levels of automation and sophistication.
- Countries have unequal access to technical information, underutilization of technical, practiced and traditional expertise and collaboration by national practitioners and decision-makers.
- Countries have uneven stakeholder engagement, access and uptake of knowledge, attitudes, successful practices and understanding of capabilities of key Stakeholders, including the private sector, youth, women, and IP&LCs to decision-making and support spaces.
- Without supporting systems in place to harmonize enabling conditions and facilitate scaling, countries pursue linear project-by-project thinking as opposed to systematic scaling of efforts.

13. The GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration IP funds 20 national “child” projects deployed in priority ecosystems across Asia, Africa, and Latin America within an integrated, innovative and transformative process that triggers “levers-of-change” that catalyze the uptake of innovations in governance & policymaking; financial mechanisms; multi-stakeholder



dialogue; and innovation and learning needed to meet the Program Objective of *scaling GEBs through ecosystem restoration to levels expected to meet global commitments and beyond*.

14. To achieve an integrated approach, the IP is made operational through the Global Coordination Child Project (GCP) that provides governance, programmatic coordination and demand-driven support and capacity building complementary to the actions of 20 national Child Projects. The GCP promotes improved ecosystem governance, harmonization of enabling conditions, and multi-stakeholder platforms that engage a broad range of stakeholders; restoration science, monitoring and evaluation; and enabling support to private sector engagement, catalytic finance, and learning. It also makes operational the Program’s interest in ensuring effective and gender-responsive actions and equal access for marginalized groups, youth and Indigenous Peoples, and local communities to participate in and benefit equitably from restoration interventions.

15. To support the Program’s governance and attainment of its objective, Conservation International (CI) was selected through a competitive process as the Lead Agency for the IP. Within its structure, CI has established a Global Coordination Unit (GCU) as executing agency of the GCP. The GCU will benefit from CI’s strengths, and value-added contributions which encompass scientific expertise, financial resources, diverse partnerships, and global advocacy, all of which play a crucial role in supporting the projects in responding to their country-specific barriers. It also works at the global level to address the systemic barriers to scaling ecosystem restoration, thereby increasing the generation of global environmental benefits (GEBs) and social co-benefits. The GCP will support the Child Projects with coordination, guidance, tools, linkages, and knowledge and learning to support their project efforts. It supports the program’s decision-making process through program-wide monitoring and evaluation and the assessment of lessons learned, risks, and opportunities. The GCU creates synergies to promote the program’s transformational impact beyond individual project results.

16. The GCP supports the 20 Child Projects, selected through a competitive pre-qualification process for inclusion in the IP, within which the conformity to the Ecosystem Restoration IP objectives and to national priorities were confirmed. Each project is endorsed by national authorities with STAR allocations committed. The GCP is the global coordination structure with governance mechanisms presented in this document to ensure the continued conformity to national policies and needs. Also discussed below, the IAs have been consulted on the GCP design to gauge the responsiveness of GCP actions to national project needs within the IP. The IP/GCP governance mechanism ensures adaptations.

17. The locations of the selected projects are illustrated in Table 2 per the IA roster.

CI	Brazil, Mexico, Global Coordination Project
FAO	Ivory Coast, Nepal, São Tomé & Príncipe, Viet Nam
IFAD	Democratic Republic of the Congo
IUCN	Chad, Mauritania, Uzbekistan
UNDP	Angola, Cambodia, Mali, Peru, Sierra Leone
UNEP	Haiti, Madagascar, South Africa
WB	Mozambique, Rwanda

**Table 2:** Ecosystem Restoration IA Child Project Roster

18. The range of ecosystems considered within the illustrated roster are the following: Dry, Riverine & Riparian Forests (20%); Wetlands (20%); Savannah and Grassland Ecosystems (14%); Tropical Rainforest Ecosystems (11%); Montane Ecosystems (24%); Dry & Deciduous Forest Ecosystems (5%); Mixed Forest and other Ecosystems (6%).

19. The GCP governance structure will also ensure the IP’s alignment with the MEAs and other global restoration related initiatives. The GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration IP aligns with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and supports global

restoration commitments by promoting coherence in enabling conditions, mobilizing multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral coalitions, catalyzing restoration finance, and fostering global cooperation and learning. It responds to country demand for innovative financial, technical, and policy support and the need to meaningfully involve local stakeholders in scaling restoration solutions to meet national targets while ensuring multiple Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs).

20. The GCP promotes multi-stakeholder processes as a core pathway of the GEF-8 integrated approach. The relevant stakeholder groups contributing to the implementation of the GCP are those that support the operationality of the program and ensure that the GEBs and socio-economic benefits are scalable and durable. As a hub project nested within a multi-project, multi-national system, the GCP leads an implementation process by 7 GEF IAs with direct support and oversight roles with the 20 projects. The GCP has an indirect relationship with most national stakeholders who work directly with their executing agencies through IA structures. The GCP does have a direct line to all stakeholders, national and international, through the knowledge management and learning activities and its associated learning platform. The GCP also has exposure to national decisionmakers through *ad hoc* committees within the GCP governance structure (described below). The following summarizes stakeholder roles and benefits:

21. **GEF Implementing Agencies (IAs):** IAs support the GCP through their role in the Program as GEF IAs for 20 projects and provide direct support to the governance and KML. Table 2 illustrates the IA roster of projects. The IAs have provided information from the nascent Project Preparation Grants (PPG) for the 20 child projects, provided inputs on stakeholders and technical expertise during design workshops and design discussions and in review of the project document. They are important contributors to the KML structure of the GCP and knowledge sharing through their networks. They also have the capability to conduct baseline studies, monitor ecosystem recovery and degradation, seek specialized financing and policy tools, and provide valuable data and insights for adaptive, innovative management of ecosystem restoration using lessons from the child projects. Their connections with MEAs, research institutions, and other KM platforms can expand and disseminate the GCP lessons. This will contribute to global restoration knowledge, inform future restoration initiatives, and ensure science-based action. Some are co-financiers of GCP activities. They provide technical assistance support for capacity-building, and knowledge sharing through their networks. All have managed Portfolio-level projects and inform the GCP through their participation in the Program Steering Committee (PSC).
22. IA participation in the PSC ensures the alignment between the Program, Child Projects, MEAs, and regional and global restoration network ambitions, such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and its mission to prevent, halt, and reverse the loss and degradation of ecosystems worldwide. The Decade is led by UNEP and FAO, with IFAD, UNDP, UNCCD, UNCBD, UNFCCC as collaborating agencies and conventions. CI, GEF, IUCN and World Bank are global partners, and CI is co-lead of the Climate Challenge. Because of this central role of the Decade in promoting information flow, integration with global monitoring frameworks, such as the Decade's Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) platform promote the flow of information on restoration progress between global information hubs, Child Projects, inputs to Sustainable Development Goals and MEAs. The PSC will promote GCP alignment between this IP and relevant UN Decade's **World Restoration Flagships** such as:

Great Green Wall for Restoration and Peace: The African Union's flagship to restore savannas, grasslands and farmlands through 8,000 km belts crossing the African Sahel region is supported by Ecosystem Restoration IP projects in Mali, Mauritania, and Chad. The flagship objective of comprehensive rural development to transform the lives of millions by creating a mosaic of green and productive landscapes across 11 countries helps families and ecosystems confront climate change and contain degradation and desertification in one of the world's poorest regions.

The Trinational Atlantic Forest Pact Flagship recognizes a tri-national push to restore South American Atlantic Forest in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. The IP's Brazil country project contributes to these forest restoration efforts through enabling large-scale restoration supporting an innovative and transformational process across multiple key ministries, with strong civil society buy in, to ensure enforcement, planning, and better techniques to recover degraded land and scale restoration actions. Improving Brazil's policy implementation could place millions of hectares of land under restoration and improved management and halt the country's native vegetation deficit, estimated at 19 million hectares, including in the Atlantic Forest.

Multi-country Mountain Flagship: The Rwanda Child Project joins the DRC, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia, and Uganda in making mountain ecosystems more resilient for people and unique upland wildlife. Through exchanges on human-wildlife conflicts, herder managed grasslands, expanding tree cover, and revitalizing pastures, they are succeeding in reviving their mountain landscapes.

**23. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** International and national NGOs provide technical support, advocacy, tools, data, baseline studies, implementation, and financing mechanisms as members of the GCP governance structure, technical partners and subgrantees. They facilitate linkages for community engagement and capacity-building through local and regional platforms. NGO relationships are coordinated by the GCU through governing committees as discussed below. NGOs fulfil their environmental missions and gain increased visibility. They contribute to global restoration efforts and establish and strengthen partnerships. Examples of NGO initiatives with linkages to the Ecosystem Restoration IP are:

Trends.earth<sup>[13]</sup> is an IP Partner that offers a free open-source tool to monitor and understand land change. They are a resource for child projects in monitoring and reporting on land degradation through user friendly tools on Earth observation. Their tools meet country users' capabilities and have led to a high level of reporting to the UNCCD and through capacity building at the national level.

World Resources Institute (WRI): WRI is an IP partner dedicated to promoting green jobs, income, ecotourism, carbon sequestration, resilience, food security, and nutrition. Their 20x20 initiative<sup>[14]</sup> is working to protect and restore 50 million hectares of land in Latin America & the Caribbean by 2030 with commitments of \$52.6 Million U.S. ha by governments and \$2.5 Billion U.S. of private capital. WRI also supports ecosystem restoration through the ANR Alliance and initiatives like AFR100 through regional capacity building between governments, NGOs and academia. CI and WRI have worked together to promote use of tailored, cost-effective restoration interventions like Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR).

Global Mangrove Alliance<sup>[15]</sup> (GMA): An IP Partner and example of how existing alliances can inform thematic areas related to the IP projects. GMA's forthcoming mangrove restoration guide and "Mangrove Restoration Tracker Tool" supports the GCP in supporting the IP to accelerate a comprehensive, coordinated, scalable approach to mangrove restoration. This alliance unites different stakeholders to develop and disseminate mangrove restoration guidance and prioritization tools that will be useful to the child projects.

**24. Regional Platforms:** Regional Platforms can be a link with country authorities by serving as the regional's technical interface and by driving knowledge-based advisory support. They can also create resourcing synergies for the project. An example of a regional platform is the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100<sup>[16]</sup>): The AFR100 Initiative is an IP partner interested in bringing 100 million hectares of land in Africa under restoration by 2030. AFR100 contributes to the Bonn Challenge and the African Union Agenda 2063, which can accelerate achievement of GCP objectives. The GCP will positively impact AFR100 by exchanging restoration experiences from current member and non-member countries, such as: Ivory Coast, São Tomé and Príncipe, DRC, Chad, Mauritania, Angola, Mali, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, South Africa, Mozambique and Rwanda.

**25. Women, Youth, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs):** Women and youth will actively participate in knowledge sharing and learning at the GCP level and in planning, decision-making, and implementation in country child projects. Women and youth involvement can enhance effectiveness, transformation and scaling. Indigenous and local inputs can provide practiced and traditional knowledge, such as that derived from Sacred Forests in Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, and Nepal, and participate in decision-making and knowledge sharing processes, oversee and participate in restoration efforts in their country child projects. GCP incorporation of their buy-in is essential to a programmatic understanding of how to implement rights-based restoration. Empowering women and youth through project leadership and decision-making can lead to improved gender equity and social inclusion in restoration, address generational challenges, and ensure restoration-related knowledge and skills transfer. Acknowledging and elevating previously unheard voices so that they can share their traditional practices, supports the restoration of cultural and traditional knowledge and enduring heritages. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Mainstreaming Plan, an Accountability and Grievance Mechanism document and an ESMF screening is included in Annex H. Individual child projects are also obligated to include similar documents in their Project Documents, in adherence to GEF fiduciary standards. These elements will be included in the annual PIR for the GCP and for discussion in biannual Program Reports.

**26. Private Sector:** The GCP promotes strong private sector engagement as a core component of the pathway to scale financing sustainably. Through Outcome 1.3, the GCP seeks private sector engagement through three dimensions: 1) Policy and enabling conditions, such as governance, 2) financial mechanisms, and 3) networking. The GCP supports countries to fill the gaps identified to translate restoration targets into implementation and financing plans and action.



The GCP will work with IAs and child projects to catalyze sustainable finance for restoration and enhance return on restoration investment. Blended finance can leverage access to markets and other finance opportunities. Examples of sustainable finance and return on investment activities could include: i) using payment for ecosystem services to compensate landholders to promote restoration; ii) catalyzing carbon markets to scale up climate GEBs resulting from restoration; and iii) enhancing readiness and access to key markets for products connected to improved management and restoration processes; iv) enhancing efficiencies and return on restoration investment to enhance restoration impact on finite budgets, leading to increased investor confidence and attractiveness. These ideas and others can support a restoration project portfolio that links to impact investment funds to generate positive environmental and social benefits that achieve sustainable restoration beyond the period and existing geographies of the IP.

27. The Program will leverage CI's and IAs experience in building private sector coalitions to inform and accelerate tailored partnerships to support key scalable restoration models. While innovative financing requires risk taking to transform the BAU scenario, the GCP will work with Country projects to promote private sector investment readiness, and serve as an aggregator, catalyst, and trusted party to de-risk and, as appropriate, increase return on investments for potential investors, including but not limited to impact or carbon investors and sustainable value chains and markets. The GCP will work to create innovative financing solutions for models scalable beyond any one ecosystem or landscape.

28. CI is bringing to this effort its leadership in coalitions such as the Priceless Planet Coalition that is uniting 100+ corporate restoration funders in partnership with CI, WRI and Mastercard to restore 100 million trees by 2025, the BTG Pactual's Timberland Investment Group's USD 1 billion reforestation fund for Latin America<sup>®</sup> and a USD 202 million CI, Apple, and Goldman Sachs collaboration that aims to remove 1+ million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually from climate smart forestry investments worldwide. Additional coalitions for under-represented scalable models with the potential for transformation beyond any one specific geography will be researched and promoted. A thorough Readiness Assessment and the pursuit of the other goals in this IP like robust spatial analysis, tailoring of restoration interventions (agroforestry, natural regeneration-based strategies like ANR), M&E, inclusiveness and integration into policy and global priorities are vital to cultivating these types of initiatives.

29. Regardless of the nature of financial flows, the Ecosystem Restoration IP provides an opportunity to address the question of how to make each costly restoration hectare achieve amplified and transformational impact through a careful consideration and incorporation of the UN Decade Principles of Ecosystem Restoration and Standards of Best Practice, the Society for Ecological Restoration's (SER) Principles of Ecological Restoration and the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Principles. Through mobilization of innovative local, national and international financial flows from public and private sources, increasing the capacity to connect national efforts and global funds, private sector engagement through coalition building and through direct investment instruments, the Program will contribute to alleviating the financial barriers and promote sustainability and scaling of Global Environmental Benefits contributing to the success of the MEAs.

30. Involving stakeholders in project design, implementation and decision-making and taking their interests into account substantially increases the long-term success of the project. Regular monitoring, evaluation, adaptive and innovative management are essential to track progress and make necessary adjustments. Transparent communication channels and shared learning among stakeholders will enable upscaling of successful approaches and ensure that the GCP delivers environmental and stakeholder benefits.

31. The Theory of Change below offers a blueprint to overcome barriers and challenges in ecosystem restoration. It highlights enabling conditions, targeted areas of action, basic assumptions, and a strategic pathway for real change and long-lasting impact. Recognizing that siloed approaches will not suffice, the GCP is the entity that binds the 20 child projects together and makes their combined impact stronger than their individual efforts. The development assumptions underpinning the GCP theory of change are summarized as follows:

**Assumption 1:** The coordination processes facilitated by the GCP and the results of supra-national ecosystem restoration monitoring and evaluation, awareness raising, advocacy, knowledge and learning lead participating country project stakeholders to be receptive to, own, and commit to ecosystem restoration in workplans, budgets and data provision.

**Assumption 2:** A minimum level of recognition of the critical importance of ecosystem restoration among policymakers, governments, and stakeholders makes them responsive to scientific evidence,

environmental awareness, and a shared understanding of the benefits that healthy ecosystems provide for communities, economies, and the planet.

**Assumption 3:** No catastrophic climatic or economic shocks occur that eliminate resources available for ecosystem restoration.

**Assumption 4:** Stakeholders acknowledge that ecosystems are interdependent and that restoration efforts in one area can have ripple effects on neighbouring ecosystems. They understand that a fragmented or isolated approach to restoration is not as effective as a broader coordinated, integrated ecological approach and value that coordination.

**Assumption 5:** Sharing of information, knowledge, expertise, and best practices will be used and will influence effective decision-making and implementation of restoration strategies.

**Assumption 6:** Country projects have an openness to learning, participation and knowledge exchange. They are willing to participate in GCP promoted capacity building efforts share knowledge and experiences amongst each other, and with the GCP and the larger restoration community. This learning translates into enhanced restoration.

**Assumption 7:** Countries participating in the program will share spatial and non-spatial knowledge and data and recognize the need for consistent and comparable spatial and non-spatial data collection, analysis and reporting across countries. Regime changes at the national and/or sub-national levels during the project will not undermine the outcomes of the child projects and the exchange of information internationally. Harmonized methodological guidance and standards will foment spatial data sharing and this will lead to comparable, consistent and enhanced spatial data for analysis and decision-making.

**Assumption 8:** It is assumed that national and regional restoration actors recognize the importance of acquiring and developing the necessary knowledge, skills, and expertise and that these skills will support actions in ecological processes, restoration techniques, project management, policy frameworks, social and cultural norms, stakeholder engagement, safeguards, and other relevant areas.

**Assumption 9:** Country projects recognize the value of, are actively working towards proactive local involvement and leadership of project activities and providing key community stakeholders access to the country project leadership spaces needed to effectively drive and sustain restoration efforts. Capacity development support can empower these actors (including local communities, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples) sufficiently by enhancing their technical, organizational, and leadership capacities.

**Assumption 10:** National and regional actors are willing to promote sustainability and long-term commitment, in part through engaging in the mid-term through continuous learning and capacity building, adapting to evolving challenges and opportunities in ecosystem restoration. The assumption recognizes that sustained capacity development efforts are necessary to address the complex and dynamic nature of restoration work effectively.

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[1] 2020 State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

[2] Pimentel, D. (2006). Soil Erosion: A food and environmental threat. *Environment, Development and Sustainability* 8: 199-137.

[3] GEF-Conservation International, 2023. GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Program Framework Document. p12. URL: <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11118>

[4] UNDP, 2023, Human Development Index. URL: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/country-insights#/ranks>

[5] Sewell et al. 2020

[6] The Exponential Roadmap For Climate Solutions, 2022. URL: <https://cicloud.s3.amazonaws.com/docs/default-source/s3-library/publication-pdfs/exponential-roadmap-for-natural-climate-solutions.pdf>

[7] Ibid.

[8] GEF-Conservation International, 2023. GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Program Framework Document. pp. 17-21. URL: <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11118>.

[9] Dasgupta, P. (2021), *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review*. Abridged Version. (London: HM Treasury)

<sup>[10]</sup> GEF-Conservation International, 2023. GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Program Framework Document. p. 26. URL: <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11118>

<sup>[11]</sup> Ibid. p. 24.

<sup>[12]</sup> PRINCIPLES FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TO GUIDE THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE 2021–2030, Principle 7, pp.11 URL: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CB6591EN>

<sup>[13]</sup> [trends.earth](https://trends.earth)

<sup>[14]</sup> [initiative20x20.org](https://initiative20x20.org)

<sup>[15]</sup> [mangrovealliance.org](https://mangrovealliance.org)

<sup>[16]</sup> [afr100.org](https://afr100.org)

## B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF’s policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

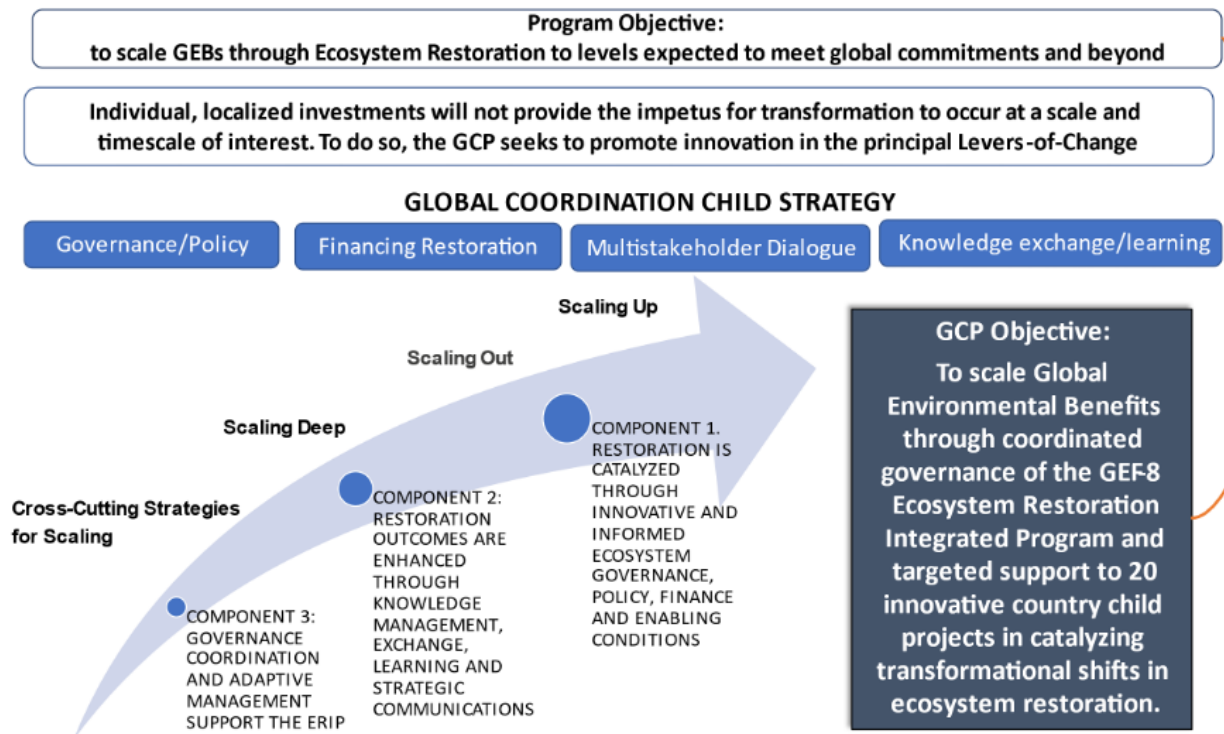
### Theory of Change

**32. To meet the program’s need for an integrated and coordinated approach, the GCP’s objective is to scale Global Environmental Benefits through coordinated governance of the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program and targeted support to 20 innovative country child projects in catalyzing transformational shifts in ecosystem restoration. This objective is supported through a Global Coordination Unit (GCU) that facilitates effective IP governance and demand driven technical support to GEF Implementing Agencies and their executing agencies through **four** components:**

- Restoration is **accelerated** through **strengthened capacity for** innovative and informed ecosystem governance, policy, finance and enabling conditions.
- Restoration outcomes are enhanced through knowledge management, exchange, learning and strategic communications.
- Governance Coordination and Adaptive Management of the Ecosystem Restoration IP.

- **Project Monitoring and Evaluation**

**33. Figure 1 below illustrates the relationship between the contribution of the components to the levels-of-change and scaling through step changes to be promoted by the program through the GCP and the relationship between the IP and GCP objectives.**



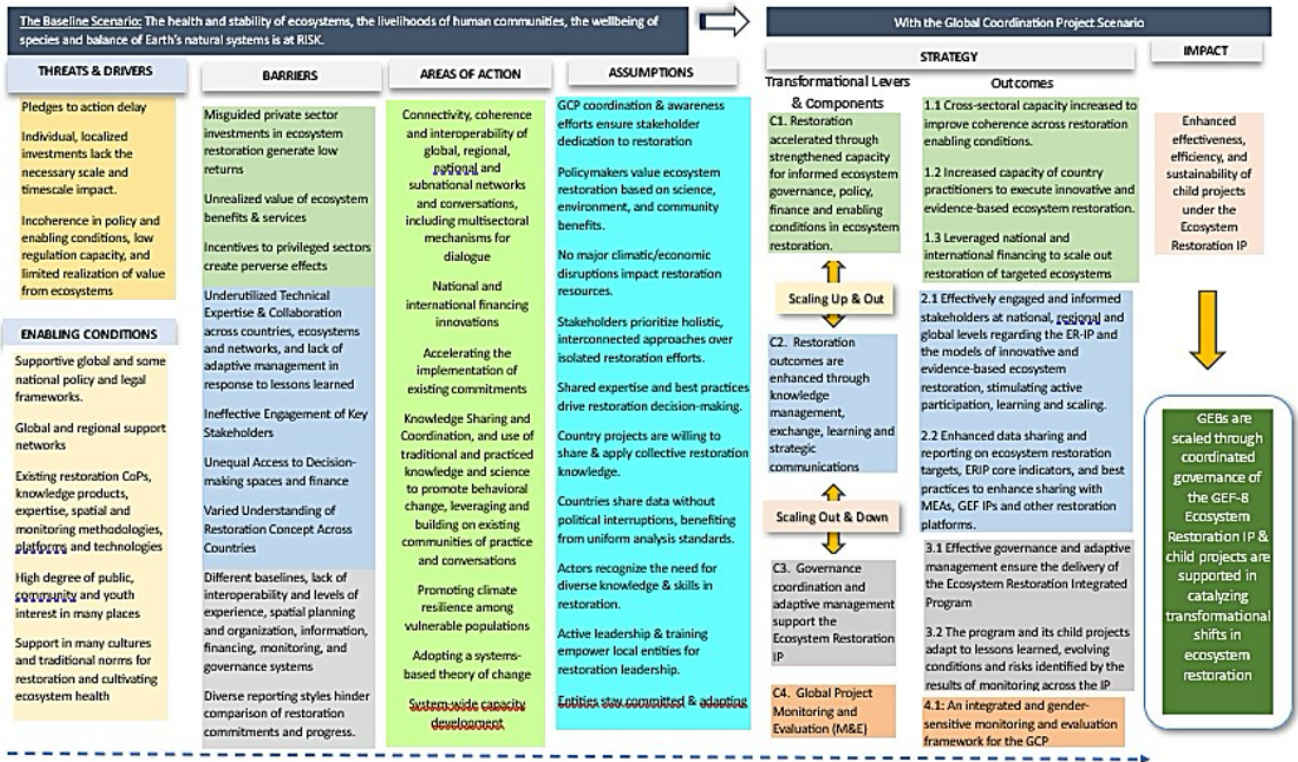
**Figure 1:** Step Changes of Components Towards the GCP and IP Objectives

34. Individual, localized investments will not provide the impetus for transformation to occur at a scale and pace that can solve our planetary crises. Transformation requires multiple interventions addressing different parts of the system simultaneously; a set of well-aligned step changes can make a system more transformable. Achieving change at scale requires alignment between knowledge of potential solutions, financing, institutional arrangements and rules, and societal values.

*IF restoration is **accelerated** through **strengthened capacity for** innovative and informed governance, policy, finance and multistakeholder dialogue to adapt to lessons learned, evolving conditions and risks identified by the results of monitoring across the IP; **THEN** the cumulative impacts of the 20 child projects will catalyze transformational shifts in ecosystem restoration. This will drive the rapid scaling of Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) toward the realization of restoration commitments and enhanced future ambition.*

35. Figure 2 illustrates the GCP Theory of Change (ToC). The ToC diagram illustrates the role of the GCP in the roadmap for transitioning from the BAU and baseline actions and assumptions to a future scenario in which the barriers to health and stability of ecosystems, the livelihoods of human communities, the well-being of species, and the overall balance of the planet's natural systems are reduced to a more resilient desired scenario that halts ecosystem loss and ensures that the world is nature-positive by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050.<sup>[1]</sup>





**Figure 2:** GCP Theory of Change

**Project Components**

36. The full Results Framework is provided in Annex C. The following presentation is focused on the Outcome and Output levels. The Results Framework presents the outputs which will be developed and confirmed through the annual planning process. The indicators and targets are included in the Project Results Monitoring Plan included in Annex J.

**Project Components, Outcomes and Outputs**

Component 1: Restoration is accelerated through strengthened capacity for innovative and informed ecosystem governance, policy, finance and enabling conditions.

37. The GCP supports the Ecosystem Restoration IP to **accelerate** restoration through **strengthened capacity for** innovative and informed ecosystem governance, policy, finance and enabling conditions through achieving three expected outcomes: (1.1.) Cross-sectoral capacity increased to improve coherence across restoration enabling conditions; (1.2.) Increased capacity of country practitioners to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration; and (1.3.) Leveraged national and international financing to scale out restoration of targeted ecosystems. **Overall, these outcomes collectively contribute to the transformational change in ecosystem restoration by enhancing multi-stakeholder collaboration, identifying, and addressing gaps in current strategies, facilitating knowledge exchange, and strengthening strategic planning capabilities.**

38. In Outcome 1.1, the increased capacity to improve coherence across restoration enabling conditions is supported through four outputs: First, in Output 1.1.1., the GCU will work with the World Resources Institute (WRI) to develop a capacity building program supporting child projects and affiliates to facilitate multistakeholder cross-sectoral processes to inform actions promoting coherence across restoration enabling conditions. This includes learning from other existing networks with successful experiences, guidance, and training. **Also, the participation of women, gender experts and those from vulnerable groups, in multistakeholder cross-sectoral processes, will be part of the capacity building program.** Second, in Output 1.1.2., the GCU and WRI will deploy a diagnostic tool to support project teams to assess barriers and opportunities for understanding stakeholder inclusion (including private sector), policy coherence, innovation and good governance in ecosystem restoration. These results will inform the production of guidelines for country projects, ministry counterparts, MEA in-country leads, on creating coherence in restoration enabling conditions and accelerating restoration action. The results could be an opportunity to create publications that communicate out restoration definitions, key challenges, barriers and opportunities and best practices for transformational impact beyond IP countries. These two outputs will take place at the beginning of the country child projects implementation phase to support and inform their activities from the start. Third, in Output 1.1.3., the GCU and WRI will work

with IAs and EAs to connect all child projects and counterparts to relevant mechanisms established to facilitate dialogue on best practices and exchange of examples of coherence across ecosystem restoration actions among countries and key stakeholders. Finally, in Output 1.1.4., the GCU will work with UNDP to develop a capacity building program for child projects and partners to strengthen in-country restoration action planning. This capacity building program will include tailored technical assistance to support countries as applicable to their process. This also includes strengthening the capacity of select GCP stakeholders on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI). See also Section E: Policy Requirements and the Gender Action Plan, presented in Annex H of Ci-GEF Project Document (ProDoc).

39. Outcome 1.2 supports increasing the capacity of child projects to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration. As part of Output 1.2.1, working with UNDP, the GCP will develop a learning package to set up the IP for success, providing training on ecosystem restoration to the 20 country child projects, building on UNDP's Learning for Nature platform. The GCP will also work with the ANR Alliance to create the ANR Practitioner Certificate Program to provide training in the concepts, applications, practices, and monitoring of assisted natural regeneration at different scales. Another training to be offered is "Just Restoration" aimed at decision-makers involved in the design, policy, and funding of ecological restoration initiatives, to stimulate reflection on how restoration outcomes can be improved by strengthening justice and equity principles, using case studies developed by practitioners, Indigenous peoples, and local communities around the world. Other potential GCP training themes to support country child projects include: working with REFACOF to design and deliver training on mainstreaming gender on restoration and trainings with FAO on the use of the EX-ACT tool and the FERM platform. An adaptive technical training plan will synchronize technical support with Child Projects' needs and will include modules on gender-specific evidence protocols and processes. In Output 1.2.2 the GCP will provide technical assistance on ecosystem restoration to country child projects through a pool of restoration experts in a range of ecosystems (mangroves, grasslands, forests, etc) and restoration methodologies to provide on-demand support to country child projects. To measure success in this outcome, the GCP will track number of training participants disaggregated by IP&LCs, women, youth and vulnerable people, as well as aim for 70% of country project staff reporting increased capacity to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration.

40. Outcome 1.3 supports capacity to leverage national and international financing to scale out restoration of targeted ecosystems. In Output 1.3.1, the GCP will work with UNDP to establish a capacity building program on developing financing plans to scale restoration targeted to geographies, ecosystems, and/or relevant models. This will build on UNDP's experience with Biofin and will include mapping and needs assessments of where countries are in their financing plans journey and their need for financial products identifying windows of opportunity and areas for improvement, improving engagement with key stakeholders like the private sector, and cross-pollination of national restoration financing plan experiences. **One of the modules of this capacity building program will be dedicated to mainstreaming gender in financing plans, as established in the GCP Gender Mainstreaming Strategy.** In Output 1.3.2, the GCP will work with CI's corporate team to leverage financing, by collaborating with corporate-linked initiatives (e.g. UNEP-FI, NCS Alliance, etc.) to identify opportunities and engage the private sector in ecosystem restoration. The GCU will create and facilitate an Ecosystem Restoration IP Private Sector Council to advise and collaborate on key partnerships, knowledge products and financing plans to leverage funds for ecosystem restoration and develop business cases and portfolio presentations to promote private sector investment in ecosystem restoration. When business cases are sufficiently developed and conditions are adequate, the GCP will add value to the Child Projects by informing and supporting the development of proposals to enhance incremental financing, in line with IP objectives, from national, regional and/or global funding sources, including private sector. As part of Output 1.3.3, the GCP will curate and disseminate, and when relevant, develop restoration finance knowledge products on return-on-investment and cost by restoration strategy; how to overcome challenges to financing, monetary and non-monetary decision factors in the restoration process; best practices for funding and accessing financing, and tools to model or plan for better project resourcing for country projects, restoration practitioners and potential restoration investors to facilitate access to restoration financing flows. A particular emphasis will be placed on supporting ecosystem restoration led by IP&LCs, women, youth and/or vulnerable people, and on ethical guidelines for financing initiatives led by these groups. **At least one knowledge product on restoration finance and gender and social inclusion will be developed.**

## **Component 2. Restoration outcomes are enhanced through knowledge management, exchange, learning and strategic communications.**

41. Knowledge management, cross-fertilization and learning are the cornerstones of the Ecosystem Restoration IP and the basis for the management of multiple dimensions of innovation and learning<sup>[1]</sup>. The actions implemented under Component 2 contribute to GBF Target 20: Strengthened *Capacity-building and development, technology transfer, and technical and scientific cooperation for implementation.*



## Global Level

- Strengthened existing Communities of Practices and strategically formation of new CoPs where needed
- Strengthened links between key networks, conventions and IPs
- Enhanced leadership and elevated voices of key stakeholders (IP&LCs, youth, women, private sector, etc)
- Global portal for better information sharing
- More accessible and widely used knowledge products (existing and new)
- Communication of Ecosystem Restoration IP results in key spaces to promote transformative impact
- Strategic guidance and positioning



## Multi-Country Level

- Cross-pollination of best practices through TPTF, PSC and other governance structures
- Peer-to-peer exchanges
- Harmonized data flow, monitoring, and reporting
- Capacity development
- Site visits
- Links to key networks, Communities of Practice, conventions, and other



## Project Level

- Knowledge management, harmonized data flow and reporting, and exchange included in budgets
- Capacity assessment and training informed by GCP guidance and Communities of Practice
- Peer-to-peer knowledge exchanges
- Engagement of key stakeholders (IP&LCs, youth, women, private sector)
- Stories documented and communicated

**Figure 3:** Levels of Knowledge Management

42. Under Component 2, the GCP will work towards two specific outcomes.

Outcome 2.1: Effectively engaged and informed stakeholders at national, regional, and global levels regarding the Ecosystem Restoration IP and the models of innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration, stimulating active participation, learning and scaling.

43. Outcome 2.2: Enhanced data sharing and reporting on ecosystem restoration targets, Ecosystem Restoration IP core indicators, and best practices to enhance sharing with MEAs, GEF IPs and other restoration platforms.

44. Under Outcome 2.1, the Project seeks to effectively engage and inform stakeholders at national, regional and global levels regarding the Ecosystem Restoration IP and models of innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration, stimulating active participation, learning and scaling. Figure 3, above, illustrates the global, regional, and project-level benefits of the GCP Knowledge Management and Learning process. In Output 2.1.1 the GCU will oversee the development of a digital Restoration Portal which facilitates restoration knowledge exchange, multi-stakeholder dialogue (including women, gender experts, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable groups), learning and problem solving. The portal will link country project managers, networks, practitioners, GEF IPs and other experts as the IP's main stakeholder engagement mechanism. In Output 2.1.2, the GCU will identify strategic gaps for Knowledge Product development and disseminate information and relevant documents produced by the country child projects. Knowledge products that support the development of the IP on restoration themes, such as innovations in multi-stakeholder dialogue, finance, and cross-cutting themes like Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), will be developed or sourced for dissemination. Additionally, knowledge products, including the creation of a massive online course on ecosystem restoration, will aid in scaling-up efforts. The portal will connect practitioners with Program-level dialogue, training, communications, and tools, and networking events, and enhance the accessibility and usability of the extensive existing digital resources provided by networks like the UN Decade and SER. Figure 4 below illustrates the Global Knowledge Flow that will be created through the portal.

45. In Output 2.1.3, an IP communication strategy will be established and refined annually to enhance both internal and external communication. This includes effective branding, compelling storytelling, and efficient information capture. The strategy will bolster partnerships and financing, deepen understanding of ecosystem restoration dimensions, and tailor communication products to meet the specific needs of child projects.



46. The collection of all products developed by the IP will be catalogued in a consistently updated Program Knowledge Management and Learning strategy **that will be gender responsive**. Output 2.1.4 ensures effective internal and external knowledge management and learning. Finally, in Output 2.1.5, the GCP will work with existing and new Communities of Practice to foster child project innovation, interaction and learning and connect Child Projects to experiences, experts and opportunities across the larger restoration community (see also par. 112). One of these will focus on IP&LCs. **There are officially 5 CoPs identified, the remaining areas are flexible to meet countries' needs. Thematically these will include: Grasslands – led by AFR100; Freshwater Challenge – part of the UN Decade led by a group of partners; Climate Challenge - part of the UN Decade led by a group of partners; Restoration and Gender – REFACOF, a women-led restoration network across Africa; and Mangroves – Global Mangroves Alliance. In addition to these 5, the project has place holders for the following: IP&LCs, youth, restoration innovation and transformational models, monitoring and technology and three others to be defined as needs arise from country child projects. Some of these CoP specifics are intentionally left open to co-creation with these communities, for example in the case of IP&LCs and youth, during stakeholder consultations leaders emphasized the importance of self-determination on the specific use of funds and the need for representation from multiple regions on demographics, rather than one representative speaking for all or the GCP coming with a set framing for use of funds.**

The GCU will work with country child projects to elevate IP&LC traditional knowledge and practice and create space for these communities to share with each other and others. As part of this effort, the GCP will also collaborate with the UN Decade supporting its Climate and Freshwater challenges, encouraging countries and organizations to join and elevate their restoration ambitions. These Communities of Practice will focus on key themes to meet country child project needs and support program innovation. **Communities of Practice are multifaceted tools that can drive transformative change by fostering collaboration, innovation, capacity building, and advocacy, among other roles. Their collective knowledge, skills, and networks are key assets in addressing complex challenges and achieving lasting impact.**

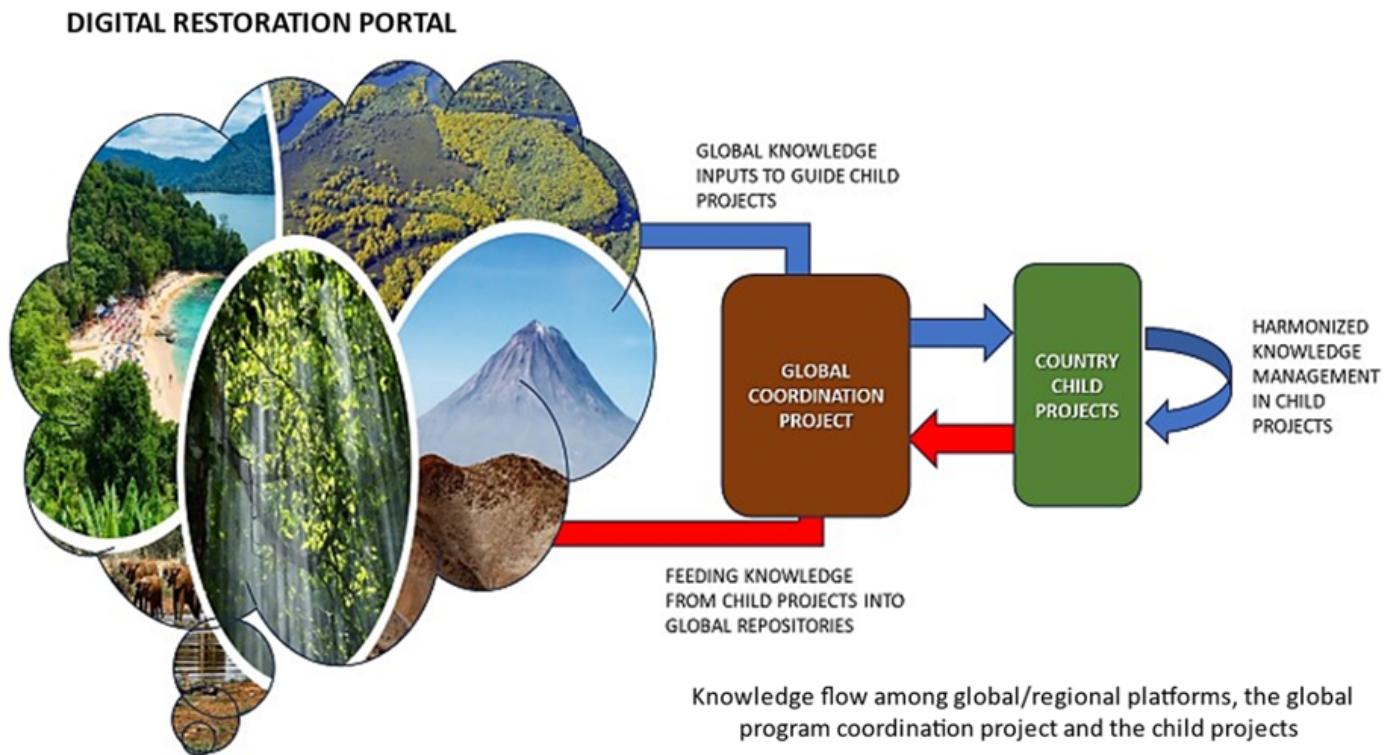


Figure 4: Global Knowledge Flow Diagram



48. Outcome 2.2 Beyond the standard M&E processes outlined in component 3, the project seeks to improve the process of spatial data monitoring and reporting of ecosystem restoration by child projects to support the achievement of global restoration ambitions. To this end in Output 2.2.1, the GCU will develop an Ecosystem Restoration Reporting System to provide methodologies and guidance for monitoring, baseline calculation, gauging vulnerability and changes in resilience, and spatial analysis in planning and executing restoration activities. Encouraging the use and sharing of spatial data & analysis to facilitate harmonization and inform voluntary pledges and convention commitments. As part of Output 2.2.2, in collaboration with FAO, the GCU will create a system to support the exchange of spatial and non-spatial data reporting between Child Projects and the Ecosystem Restoration IP Knowledge and Learning Platform and facilitate the exchange between existing platforms like the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration FERM, and others. This process will enhance data sharing and reporting on ecosystem restoration targets, GEF global core indicators, and best practices with MEAs, GEF Ips and other restoration platforms. The reporting system will use the Trends.Earth tool, leveraging its success in enhancing country reporting to the UNCCD, and enabling it to allow calculation/derivation of indicators needed for the IP, to output data to the FERM and other systems and to enable reporting and cohesion on global data layers and definitions. Requisite training will be provided to Child projects on utilization and reporting into different systems such as FERM, MEAs (UNCCD, UNCBD) and others. The GCP will also provide “Train the Trainer” training for Child Projects to build their technical capacity in their outreach to IP&LCs, women, and youth on how to use Trends.Earth, FERM and other relevant tools/platforms to enhance visibility for their work. The GCP will moderate an internal working group on ecosystem restoration reporting and participate in relevant global monitoring task forces and working groups to support coherence in spatial data reporting. The GCP will create and manage a program spatial database and support the establishment of linkages for information connectivity and interoperability between the program and sustainable global reporting systems of MEAs, GEF Ips, and Ips such as the Critical Forest Biome IP and Net-Zero Nature-Positive focusing on policy options to maximize GEBs.

### Component 3: Governance, Coordination and Adaptive Management of the Ecosystem Restoration IP

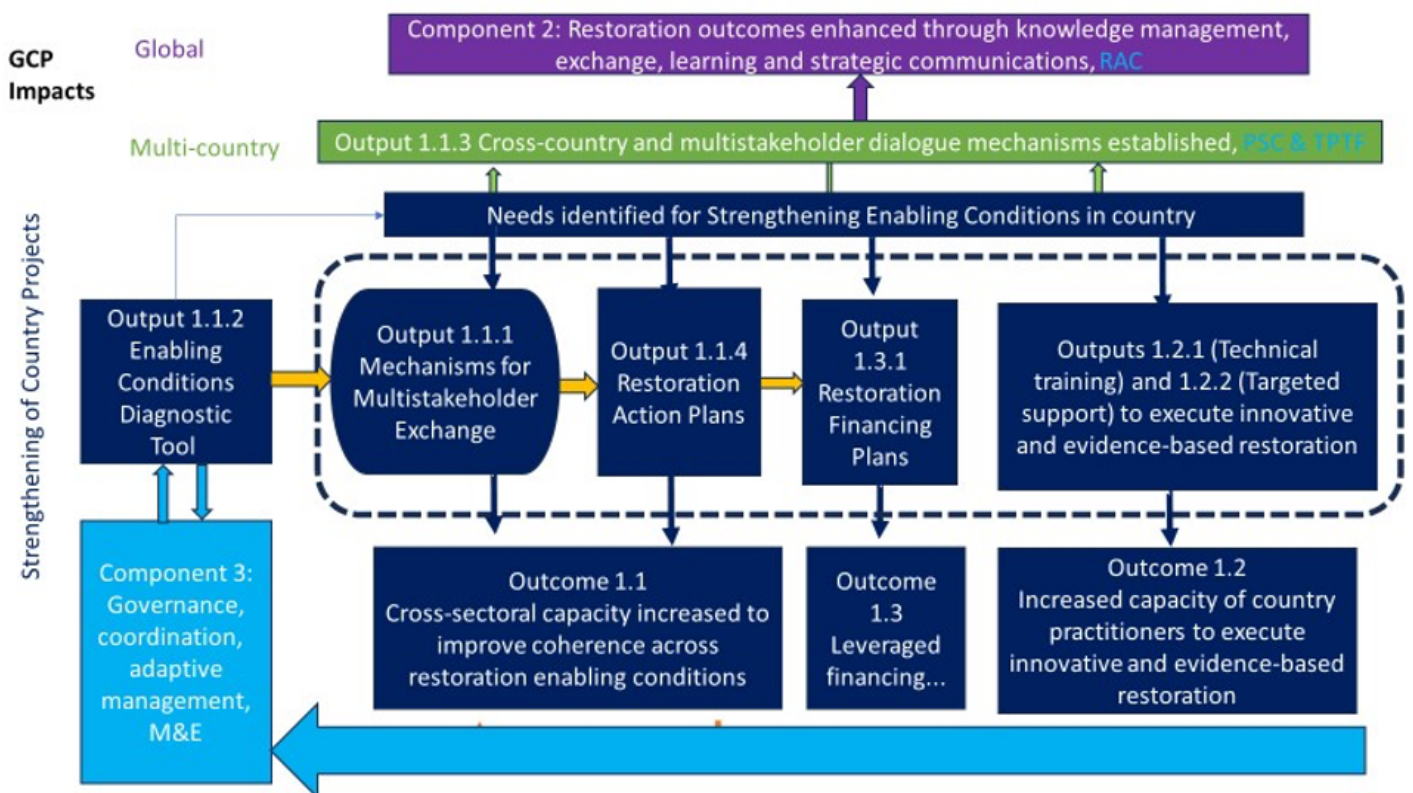
49. Component 3 provides the enabling conditions for the Ecosystem Restoration IP’s success through good governance, effective coordination, and adaptive management. **Efforts will be put in place to promote gender parity and diversity among the members of the different governance bodies, as well as a working group focused on GESI.**

50. Outcome 3.1 The effective governance and adaptive management of the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program will be achieved through a two-tier Program governance structure, detailed in outcome 3.1, that provides innovation, program analysis and adaptive management. In Output 3.1.1, the GCP creates a Restoration Advisory Council (RAC) that provides leadership through an integrated committee of thought leaders in Ecosystem Restoration that provide IP exposure, alignment with MEAs, guide best practices and create linkages and opportunities for scaling out IP GEBs. In Output 3.1.2, the functionality and governance of the Program is made operational through the Program Steering Committee that has a dual role as the steering body for the Program and the GCP steering committee. The PSC is the conduit for coordination between the participating IAs and the GCP partners and is responsible for supporting the Global Coordination Unit in organizing a coordinated approach between all 20 Child Projects, assisted by GCP partners. Output 3.1.3 establishes the Global Coordination Unit of the program. The GCU is the EA of the program responsible for program level support to the Child Projects and in receiving and collating information on the state of the Program for the PSC and ultimately to the RAC. Effective participation from key Ecosystem Restoration IP countries is ensured through the Technical Projects Task Force (TPTF), where country project managers come together through working groups to exchange best practices and learn around themes such as: evidence-based ecosystem restoration, monitoring and evaluation, safeguards, and spatial data analysis and reporting. Lessons learned and best practices about gender inclusion will be part of PSC agendas.

51. Outcome 3.2 In Output 3.2.1, to facilitate adaptive management to lessons learned, evolving conditions and risks, the decision-making and support functions of the PSC and RAC will be supported through a Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System that will provide timely, realistic information on the state of the Program through established indicators, evolving needs, and risks assessment. The GCU will provide harmonized methodological guidance and standards for child projects to facilitate integration into the program-level MEL system (exclusive of ecosystem

monitoring in component 2) that integrates child project M&E results with program-level indicators informing decision-making by the PSC and reporting to GEF on the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration IP core indicators.

52. Finally in Output 3.2.2., to effectively monitor and evaluate the Ecosystem Restoration IP’s program-level progress will require a streamlined, synchronized approach and contributions from all child projects and IAs, with an agreed process and application of uniform tools and methodologies, including provision of spatial data to the GCP. The Program MEL Framework will not replace individual project-level results frameworks, reporting requirements and approaches, which will consider the protocols and requirements of the respective IAs. The MEL system will focus principally on program-level MEL, which requires a common understanding of the Program and harmonized data-gathering approaches from all Ecosystem Restoration IP Child Projects. Each Child Project, including the GCP, will report their individual progress through the standard Project Monitoring Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (PMEAL) system employed by their respective IAs. A comprehensive State-of-the Program report will be compiled on a biennial basis. Each Child project will report their progress through standard annual reporting cycles. The GCU will support a program-level Midterm evaluation for formative/adaptive strategy of IP progress and Terminal evaluation for the summative and sustainability assessment of the program. Figure 5 below provides an illustrated overview of the information pathways.



**Figure 5:** Step-wise integration between monitoring and adaptive management at project and program levels.

53. 1. Through the results and assessment on transformative changes and impacts beyond GEBS of Program-level monitoring and evaluation, the PSC will reflect on successes, weaknesses, and opportunities and propose adaptive measures to maintain and increase Program environmental and social resilience. Because significant transformational change usually takes time, the GCP M&E (See Annex J) will monitor an array of indicators of progress suited to the causal pathways and impacts being pursued on various processes of scaling such as: the extent to which the organizations or other actors that need to make changes have the capacity to think about and deliver them; whether the changes in values and in policy, legal, and institutional arrangements that are needed for scaling are starting to happen, and whether measures reflecting the status quo are decreasing; whether the appropriate form of support by important stakeholders is being maintained or increased, including levels of engagement, influence, and learning, while considering vested interests and power dynamics; whether relevant novel technologies, business models, and processes are emerging, and whether appropriate levels of knowledge exchange and learning are occurring among the

actors who need to deploy them; and whether there is evidence of appropriate financial resources increasingly flowing in the directions needed, particularly from mainstream public and private sources. Additionally, the GCU will assess risks annually from the baseline process, as well as changes in the external/macro environment that could require adaptive action. The GCP will also monitor actions by the Child Projects to promote resilience. See Risk to Project Implementation later in this section. The GCU will provide recommendations on resilience to the Steering Committee in the annual Program Summary.

#### **Component 4: Global Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)**

54. Outcome 4.1 In Outputs 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, the project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Plan supports decision making and guidance for the GCP and its adaptive management. It consists of a dedicated M&E plan, presented in Annex J.

##### Global Environmental Benefits

55. The Global Coordination Project serves as a hub for facilitating results and hence, GEBs through the participating Child Projects. The GCP will also have an impact in amplifying the number of beneficiaries in contact with the experience, information, knowledge and lessons learned as part of the effort to scale GEBs. As illustrated in Table 4, the GCP will increase the reach of the Child Projects by a minimum of 10,000 additional beneficiaries as part of the effort to scale benefits. The project also supports global environmental benefits (GEBs) through several mechanisms that demonstrate additionality:

- **Increased Effectiveness of Child Projects:** The GCP aims to improve the effectiveness of 20 Child Projects in delivering country specific GEBs. By providing access to regional and global knowledge resources and technical assistance, Child Projects can enhance their impact as compared to what they could achieve on their own.
- **Transboundary Cooperation:** The project facilitates transboundary, regional, and global cooperation, potentially leading to greater GEBs of regional significance. This integrated and collaborative approach improves the cost-effectiveness of GEB delivery.
- **Scaling-Out Impacts:** The GCP aims to scale out impacts beyond the specific target areas of Child Projects, extending benefits within participating and neighboring countries. This expansion of impact would likely result in additional GEBs beyond what would have been achieved solely within the Child Projects' original target areas. The GCP seeks to expand the number of beneficiaries, as described, by extending project benefits through the Restoration Portal, knowledge products and capacity building initiatives to global and regional audiences and restoration practitioners. In addition, the GCP's mechanisms to support financing of ecosystem restoration (Outcome 1.3.), especially support to matchmaking and support to locating funding of financing proposals (Outcome 1.3.2.) and establishing productive linkages (Outcomes 1.1 to 1.3 and Outputs 2.1.5. and 2.2.2) and the RACs mission (Outcome 3.1) are all focused on scaling the impact of the IP.

56. The GCU will track and collate periodic information on production of GEBs at the Program level M&E System (Output 3.2.2.) through the actions outlined in the GCPs components, including the GEF Core Indicators Tracking Tool.

##### Stakeholders

57. The successful implementation of the Global Coordination Project (GCP) relies on active engagement with diverse stakeholders, each playing a vital role and receiving specific benefits from the project's objectives.

58. Key stakeholder groups involved in GCP implementation contribute to program operationality and ensure the scalability and durability of Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and socio-economic advantages. As a hub project situated within a complex, multi-project, and multinational landscape, the GCP orchestrates a process carried out by seven GEF Implementing Agencies (IAs), which directly support and oversee the 20 projects within the program. While the GCP maintains an indirect relationship with most national stakeholders who collaborate directly with their respective executing agencies through IA structures, it establishes direct connections with all stakeholders, both national and international, through knowledge management and learning activities and associated platforms like the U.N. Decade. The GCP interacts with national decision-makers through ad hoc committees within its governance structure. The roles and benefits of these stakeholders have been elaborated upon in previous sections (Paragraphs 24 to 30), summarized as follows:

- **Implementing Agencies (IA):** Support child projects in design, implementation, and monitoring. They can offer technical expertise on IP components, opportunities to exchange and share amongst countries, and capacity-building support. In return, they contribute to ecosystem recovery and conservation in 20 countries, aligning with their global environmental missions.
- **United Nations agencies:** These entities conduct baseline studies, monitor forest recovery, and provide valuable data. They expand their knowledge base, contribute to global scientific understanding, and inform future restoration projects, promoting science-based action. UN agencies are important in capacity building in finance, calculation of carbon footprints, and supporting connectivity to the UN Decade, Task Forces like those on Monitoring and Best Practices, Challenges like the Climate and Freshwater challenges, other mechanisms and restoration platforms. UNDP, UNEP and FAO collaborate with the GCP in the ways specified by components above. UN agencies are involved in promoting standards of practice, capacity building on restoration action planning, interoperability with Trends.Earth, implementation of FERM as a tracking system, linking to the Global Biodiversity Framework, promotion of lessons learned, and EX-ACT capacity building. UNDP's alignment with the project is built out of a comprehensive baseline capacity-building initiative focused on restoration action planning and the financing aspects of restoration. They will introduce a training program that encapsulates topics in sync with the GCP, such as the Results Framework, Program Objectives, reporting mechanisms, and techniques to surmount challenges. Engaging with the GCP enriches UNDP's educational content and outreach, increased visibility, and influence as leaders in restoration planning and finance. The GCP will also work with UNEP through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration supporting at least two of the challenges planned by the decade, the Freshwater and the Climate challenges, supporting with the development of specific knowledge products that can assist the country child projects and encouraging their participation in the challenges.
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs):** NGOs provide technical support, advocacy, and tools for project implementation. They engage communities and build capacity while gaining visibility and contributing to global conservation efforts. International NGOs, such as the World Resources Institute (WRI), participate in the GCP by sharing experiences from national restoration networks, curating or spreading existing guides, providing training, translating guidance materials, offering technical assistance, and conceptualizing a diagnostic tool, predominantly under component 1. This partnership leverages WRI's extensive global restoration work, widening their expertise and deepening their impact.
- **Regional Governmental Platforms:** These entities serve as technical interfaces and can allocate resources. Their involvement enhances their reputation as environmental stewards, fosters sustainable



growth, and mitigates climate change effects. Platforms, such as AFR100 and 20x20 are important in amplifying dissemination of IP results and knowledge products and advising on policy coherence.

- **Women and Youth:** Their active participation in knowledge sharing and project activities strengthens community cohesion, promotes sustainable resource management, and addresses gender and generational challenges, ensuring equitable and inclusive restoration efforts. The GCP will work with REFACOF, African Women's Network for Community Forest Management, to support the implementation of the GCP gender plan and provide training to select country child projects on gender in restoration.
- **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LC):** They provide traditional knowledge, participate in decision-making, and oversee restoration efforts. This collaboration preserves cultural heritage, supports knowledge exchange, and identifies best practices. The GCP will work with country child projects to create spaces to allow IP&LCs to share traditional knowledge and practices.
- **Private Sector:** Businesses can invest in restoration and adopt sustainable practices, which may lead to an enhanced reputation. Their involvement ensures long-term access to natural resources.

59. Project Partners play a pivotal role in implementing the project and ensuring its lasting impact. Their contributions help realize project objectives and bring sustain tangible benefits to stakeholders. Partners infuse the project with their expertise and resources and derive significant co-benefits, guaranteeing that the global environmental and/or adaptation advantages realized by the project are enduring. See also Annex H: Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

## Policy Coherence

60. The Project does not directly influence national policies, strategies or their alignment. The Project supports policy coherence in outcome 1.1. through multi-stakeholder dialogue and by supporting Child Projects to promote coherent policies and using diagnostic tools to identify perverse effects of policies. Through Component 1, the project provides spaces and linkages for exchanging experiences and fostering dialogues across ministries, policies, and focal points. Through this support, the Project aims to indirectly align national and subnational policies with international commitments, encouraging the child projects to consider how their actions align with national strategies and global pledges. Through training and capacity building in components 1 and 2, the Project directly enhances human, institutional and technical capacities. The project also seeks direct linkages between Child Projects, MEAs, and communities of practice to build coherence between MEAs and best practices. In addition, the project's success depends on effective stakeholder engagement, knowledge sharing, and capacity building. Capacity-building efforts are addressed through both GEF funding and co-financing arrangements. Capacity building is embedded in the GCP strategy under components 1 and 2, and it will be implemented in collaboration with partners, such as: UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UNDP, WRI, FAO and others.

61. The GEF M&E and PMC costs are illustrated in Annex J.

## Innovation

62. The project introduces an integrated approach, embracing tools for conditions assessment, capacity enhancements, and adaptive management. Its focus extends beyond singular countries, taking a broader, supra-national stance to tackle regional environmental issues. This perspective, combined with effective knowledge sharing and stakeholder involvement, propels transformation in ecosystem restoration.

63. The Theory of Change presented above in this section reflects the GEF-8 Strategic Positioning Framework, which outlines four key levers for achieving significant transformations: Governance and Policies, Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues, Innovation and Learning, and Financial Leverage. These four change drivers are central to the GCP Strategy.

64. To ensure effective monitoring and learning about transformation, specific metrics have been designated for each lever following the STAP suggestion that those designing GEF investments should look for lead indicators that consider at a minimum<sup>[1]</sup> The monitoring plan in Annex J (of the ProDoc) or Annex G (in the portal) for the Ecosystem Restoration IP addresses the transformation levers by: Measuring Usage of Knowledge Tools: Indicators assess how country child projects use Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools, providing a quantitative measure of knowledge integration and application in activities; Scaling Out Impact: Monitoring the number and hectarage of additional restoration projects utilizing the program's knowledge tools, which helps in assessing the scaling impact beyond original program countries; Evaluating Capacity Building: Indicators focus on measuring increased capacity in various stakeholder groups, including cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder coherence, and innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration techniques; Financial Leveraging: Tracking new financing leveraged for restoration projects and the number of countries reporting increased finance due to training and technical support, offering insight into the program's financial impact and sustainability; Governance and Adaptive Management: Monitoring includes assessing governance structures and alignment of child projects with program objectives, ensuring responsive and effective management; Knowledge Management and Exchange: Evaluating the benefits gained by users from knowledge and learning resources, promoting continuous learning and strategic communication. This is illustrated in Table 3 below:

[1] Stafford Smith, M., Ratner, B.D., Metternicht, G., Carr, E.R., Bierbaum, R., and Whaley, C. 2022. Achieving transformation through GEF investments. A STAP Advisory Document. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.

<p><b>Capacity for change:</b> the extent to which the organizations or other actors that need to make changes have the capacity to think about and deliver them.</p>	<p><b>Governance and policies:</b> whether the changes in values and in policy, legal, and institutional arrangements that are needed for scaling are starting to happen, and whether measures reflecting the status quo are decreasing.</p>	<p><b>Multi-stakeholder dialogues:</b> whether the appropriate form of support by important stakeholders is being maintained or increased, including levels of engagement, influence, and learning, while considering vested interests and power dynamics.</p>	<p><b>Innovation and learning:</b> whether relevant novel technologies, business models, and processes are emerging, and whether appropriate levels of knowledge exchange and learning are occurring among the actors who need to deploy them</p>	<p><b>Financial leverage:</b> whether there is evidence of appropriate financial resources increasingly flowing in the directions needed, particularly from mainstream public and private sources</p>
<p>Indicator 1: Percentage of country child projects using Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools and resources in activities. Indicator 1.2.b: % of country project staff and partners surveyed that report increased capacity to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration. Indicator 1.1.1: Number of country child project representatives and</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1.1: Number of RAC events that provide program exposure and alignment with MEAs and GEF-8 IPs and transformational scaling to a broader constituency.</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1a.: % of participants in mechanisms for multistakeholder exchange surveyed that report increased capacity to improve coherence across restoration enabling conditions. Indicator 2.1a: Number and types of portal users surveyed expressing benefits from increased knowledge and learning on the restoration continuum</p>	<p>Indicator 2. Number and hectarage of additional restoration projects applying Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools, resources, platform, and structure, extending beyond the original Ecosystem Restoration IP countries</p>	<p>Indicator 1.3.a.: Amount (\$) of new financing leveraged for scaling restoration of priority ecosystems. Indicator 1.3.1: The number of stakeholders trained on Financing plans in countries.</p>

partners trained on establishing and sustaining cross-sectoral, multistakeholder processes promoting coherence across restoration enabling conditions.

Indicator 1.2.1.: number of country practitioners applying program-provided knowledge products, tools.

Indicator 3.2.1. Number of child projects applying program-level guidance and standards in their M&E systems.

informing restoration activities.

Indicator 2.1.1. The number of users, registered in the portal and receiving communications.

Indicator 2.1.2.: Number of knowledge products and learning available through the digital Restoration portal.

Indicator 2.1.4: Number of knowledge management strategy developed and implemented.

65. The project seeks expansion by intertwining child projects with global private sector entities. This facilitates national participants to spot and form private sector alliances. Additionally, the project champions science-policy dialogues in tandem with academic and research sectors, placing emphasis on nurturing the next generation of researchers. This GCP is geared towards inducing a transformative ripple effect. It accentuates the importance of holistic planning, stakeholder participation, and a futuristic vision. It also elaborates on how child projects can shape broader outcomes on both national and regional scales. These catalysts are essential for achieving the project's transformational objectives. Additionally, the project integrates both lead and lag indicators to track transformative milestones. While lead indicators measure the implementation of change, lag indicators evaluate the fulfilment of intended environmental enhancements. The monitoring framework is designed for sustainability, ensuring continued assessment even post-project completion.

[18] GEF-8 Strategy and Programming Directions: [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/2021\\_04\\_22\\_First\\_Meeting\\_GEF-8\\_PDs\\_Presentation.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/2021_04_22_First_Meeting_GEF-8_PDs_Presentation.pdf)  
[https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/2021\\_04\\_22\\_First\\_Meeting\\_GEF-8\\_PDs\\_Presentation.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/2021_04_22_First_Meeting_GEF-8_PDs_Presentation.pdf)

[19] STAP, 2022

[20] Stafford Smith, M., Ratner, B.D., Metternicht, G., Carr, E.R., Bierbaum, R., and Whaley, C. 2022. Achieving transformation through GEF investments. A STAP Advisory Document. Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.

## Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). If

possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

66. The CI-GEF Project Agency is the Implementing Agency for this project. The Center for Natural Climate Solutions at Conservation International is the Executing Agency, co-executing in collaboration with WRI, FAO and UNDP. Details of each co-executing partner role is provided in the table below.

Co-Executing Agencies	Responsibilities
CI Center for NCS	Overall management of the GCP through the Global Coordination Unit and in coordination with the Program governance structure. Responsible for overall management, partner and country child projects coordination, delivering training, technical assistance to Child Projects, reporting to the GEF and overall project oversight.
WRI	WRI will lead outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 focused on enabling conditions to support ecosystem restoration, building on their experience working with networks for policy coherence and harmonization
UNDP	UNDP will collaborate with GCU on outputs 1.1.4, 1.2.1 and 1.3.1 – these will build on their work with NBSAP and Biofin and will focus on capacity building of the country projects to develop restoration action planning and finance plans. UNDP will also deliver an ecosystem restoration training/MOOC to all the country child projects.
FAO	The GCU will work with FAO on the following activities on trainings to promote adoption and dissemination of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration standards of practice (output 1.2.1), co-develop interoperability and interaction between the FERM platform and Trends.earth to ERIP targets (Output 2.2.2), link ERIP child projects to the reporting mechanism of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and facilitate inclusion of GEF project activities in global reporting (Output 2.2.2) and EX-ACT capacity building and technical backstopping (Output 1.2.1).

68. CI executes the GCP in coordination with the Program governance structure described above and summarized as follows:

- Program Steering Committee (PSC): As described in paragraph 49, the PSC has a dual function as the governing entity for both the Program and the GCP. The PSC unites the Program’s IAs ensuring their alignment and provides the GCU with a consultative governance structure. The PSC is consulted on annual work planning, budgets, targets, and annual results and approving any key project outputs (particularly political ones) and providing efforts to facilitate successful Project and Program execution. CI-GEF is the chair of the PSC. The GCU plays an administrative and secretarial role. It provides guidance and IA coordination for the program's implementation, advises on technical and operational aspects. It promotes the Ecosystem Restoration IP globally. Comprising diverse representatives, the PSC meets regularly, adjusting as required.
- Restoration Advisory Council (RAC): Also defined in paragraph 49, the RAC guides the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration IP, setting strategic directions and providing thought leadership from globally qualified experts. It includes members capable of promoting transformative changes and ensures adaptability. The RAC



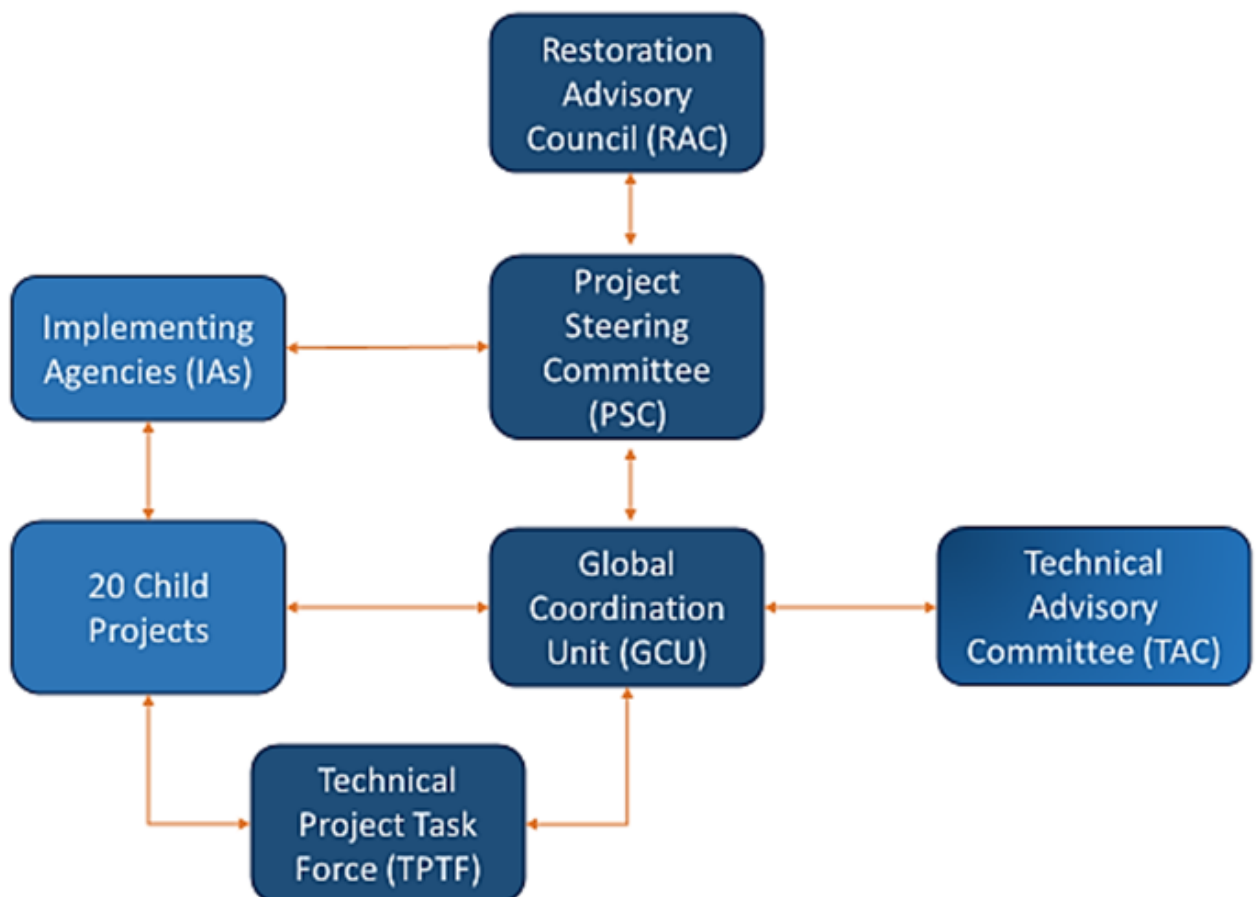
promotes the IP globally, especially to the private sector, creates linkages for the scaling of impacts, and is critical to expanding the influence of the IP. It convenes annually, shaping the program's direction.

GCP Implementing Agencies, CI, IFAD, FAO, IUCN, UNDP, UNEP, and WB are members of the PSC and bring valuable project and program management expertise in support of the GCU. They have been involved and consulted since the project's preliminary phase of Program and Project development. National Governments and executing agencies interact with the GCP through the IAs and directly through Advisory Panels that facilitate information exchange with the GCU, such as, the Technical Projects Task Force (TPTF), composed of Project Managers and IA Regional Managers, serves as a communication mechanism. Figure 8 provides an Organizational Chart of the governance structure and linkages.

The Project also relies on the participation of IAs and other partners to produce the expected results. Partnerships are key to the success of this program. Where partnerships are utilized, the results entrusted to them will be produced in full compliance with GEF and CI requirements, including timely reporting, effective use of GEF resources for intended purposes, and due diligence regarding social and environmental quality standards. CI and partner agencies will coordinate all efforts to implement the project's components, ensuring leveraging and alignment with each other's relevant ongoing initiatives and that all deadlines are achieved in a timely manner. CI and the project partners will collaborate with the implementing agencies of other programs and projects to identify opportunities and facilitate synergies with other relevant GEF projects, as well as projects supported by other donors, and with private sector initiatives. This collaboration will include: (i) informal communications between GEF agencies and other partners in implementing programs and projects; and (ii) exchange of information and outreach materials.

### Project Execution Organizational Chart

71. The GCP provides the governance for the Ecosystem Restoration IP with relevant partners, with the child projects and around the platform through multiple layers of governance and consultation as illustrated in Figure 6. The structure of the GCU is presented in Figure 7



**Figure 6:** GCP Governance and Organizational Structure



**Figure 7:** GCU Composition

72. The TORs for the roles and responsibilities of staff in the organizational chart are presented in Annex I: Terms of Reference for Project Positions.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project? **Yes**

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

CI’s GEF Project Agency (CI-GEF) is the Implementing Agency for the Project, assuming fiduciary responsibility according to GEF Standards. CI-GEF is accountable to the GEF for the project's results, providing oversight and technical support throughout its implementation. The CI-GEF Agency oversees the IP and GCP and maintains the relationship with the GEF Secretariat and STAP. The CI-GEF Project Agency provides Quality Assurance and Oversight to ensure technical and financial aspects are compliant with CI and GEF policies and guidance and, if warranted, resolves any conflicts. The CI-GEF Project Agency provides other assistance upon request of the EA. The CI-GEF Project Agency will also monitor the project’s progress and review and approve any changes in budgets or workplans. The CI-GEF Project Agency will arbitrate and ensure the resolution of any execution conflicts.

CI-GEF is responsible for all reporting to the GEF, effective resource utilization, and meeting environmental and social standards. CI-GEF identifies synergies with other GEF projects and facilitates collaboration with donor-supported projects and private-sector initiatives.

The GCP is managed through institutional arrangements and segregation of duties between CI-GEF and the Center for Natural Climate Solutions. They will manage the GCP through a Global Coordination Unit and in coordination with the Program governance structure.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

There are numerous dedicated baseline networks and investments with linkages to the Ecosystem Restoration IP. The GCU will seek productive linkages between Projects and thematic networks, such as the following:

- UN Decade: The Program is specifically designed to support the objectives of the UN Decade. The GCP design includes connectivity of the KML and Ecosystem Restoration Tracking systems with FERM.

Other linkages to the FAO-led Task Force on Best Practices, Task Force on Monitoring and other challenges and working groups are provided.

- The Restoration Initiative (TRI) is an important baseline. Ecosystem Restoration IP Projects in Chad, Sao Tome & Principe and [add here] are follow-on experiences from the TRI. The TRI information system, managed by FAO is an important point of dissemination for the Ips information, tools, and knowledge products. Lessons learned through TRI will be accessed through the Restoration Portal linked to the FAOs Restoration Community and the Best Practices Task Force.
- Priceless Planet Coalition (PPC): Launched by Mastercard in 2020 is an effort to unite its network – a diverse collective of corporations, banks, merchants, cities, and consumers – to accelerate positive impact on climate change by restoring 100 million trees around the world. Guided by Conservation International and WRI, PPC uses science-based best practices for project selection, implementation, and long-term monitoring of priority restoration areas.
- Herding4Health focuses on rangeland restoration and improved management. It seeks to combat land degradation, bolster water resource recharge, and increase biodiversity via sustainable livestock management.
- Indigenous Knowledge and Experiences in Ecosystem Restoration: The Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) strives to support Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs) in land, water, and natural resource stewardship. ICI's primary objective is to magnify IPs' and LCs' conservation contributions for broader global environmental gains.
- World Resources Institute (WRI) is committed to green initiatives, with its 20x20 endeavor targeting the protection and restoration of 50 million hectares in Latin America & the Caribbean by 2030. WRI also promotes ecosystem restoration via various alliances and regional endeavors. Their Restoration Policy Accelerator aids governments in effectively rolling out restoration measures. The IP will cross-pollinate WRIs national experiences, utilize existing guides, training, capacity building, and knowledge products. WRI will support the development of a diagnostic tool in Outcome 1.1. in addition to financing and communication tools.
- Global Mangrove Alliance: A multi-sector alliance committed to comprehensive mangrove conservation and landscape restoration. It addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity preservation, and the wellbeing of vulnerable coastal communities.
- AFR100: The Program and Project have been promoted within AFR100. As a forum for government officials, AFR100 has experience in working with the line ministries and decision makers relative to the Child Projects and to the IP Components 1 and 3. AFR100 will collaborate in component 2 leading the grasslands Communities of Practice.

These and other baseline projects will inform the rollout of the IP through communication exchanges on best practices, existing communities of practice, and relevant knowledge products to avoid duplication with existing initiatives, enhance collaboration and drive action through some of the key restoration efforts. They are also vehicles for scaling out and scaling up. CI will deepen this engagement with agencies and potential partners by proactively engaging with youth, women and IP&LCs networks and exploring the opportunities for proactive partnership, convene potential partners to joint brainstorming workshops, among others.

In tandem with the GEF-8 integrated programming strategy, the GCP aims to cooperate with the Food Systems IP, linking project data to the UN Decade's FERM, while envisioning further collaboration with the Net-Zero Nature-Positive and the Critical Forest Biomes.

GEF Projects Other Projects/Initiatives	Linkages and Coordination
Early Action Support Project	The GEF Early Action Support project, implemented by UNDP and UNEP, provides support to 138 countries to undertake 4 components, including to a) align national targets; b) assess national monitoring systems to be able to report on progress on the Global

	Biodiversity Framework; c) assess policy alignment; and d) undertake key actions on biodiversity finance. UNDP will be a key partner supporting the capacity building for restoration action plans under component 1 in coordination with these larger efforts.
Support to NBSAPs and 7th National Report	This GEF project, implemented by UNDP and UNEP, provides foundational support to countries to revise and update their NBSAP and undertake their National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, key technical support is provided for issues such as spatial support, policy alignment, gender and other key issues. This project will also link with the Ecosystem Restoration IP efforts on restoration action planning for countries under UNDP coordination.
Biodiversity finance	This GEF project supports 91 countries to undertake key activities related to biodiversity finance, including a policy and institutional review, an expenditure review, a finance gap assessment, and a biodiversity finance plan, building on existing methodologies and approaches. This project will collaborate with, and build upon, existing biodiversity finance initiatives and link, through UNDP coordination, with the Ecosystem Restoration IP efforts to support finance action planning under component 1.
Food Systems	Both Food Systems and this IP are exploring connecting data flows from country projects to the FERM of the UN Decade. Knowledge products from ERIP could thus serve FS IP projects (but also BGI, NZNP, CFB), with an important upscaling potential.

## Table On Core Indicators

### Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SDCF.

#### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>		5,000		
<b>Male</b>		5,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The Global Coordination Project is a hub for the facilitation of results, it does not contribute directly to the GEBs, which are the responsibility of the Child Projects. The table indicates that only indicator 11, number of persons benefitting from GEF financed investments, will receive effort from the GCP. Through the information activities in Component 2 and through dissemination and capacity building activities, the GCP will benefit persons in country child projects, but also globally through its portal and engagement with partners and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. that could benefit from the project will surpass the value estimated from the child projects. These targets will be fine-tuned during the inception Phase of the GCP and progressively on an annual basis.

The project will facilitate the implementation of gender-sensitive approaches across all Child Projects by offering training, resources, and guidelines on gender integration to ensure that all projects consider gender dynamics in their interventions.

Additionally, the monitoring and reporting system will track the GEF Core Indicators and capture gender-disaggregated data from the Child Project reports to ensure that gender outcomes are tracked and reported efficiently.

The hub will act as a repository of best practices, case studies, and successful models that have effectively integrated gender considerations. By sharing this knowledge across Child Projects, it can influence their strategies to be more gender inclusive. Furthermore, the GCP will ensure that both men and women are equally represented in consultations, decision-making processes, and project implementation activities, fostering inclusivity.

By playing these pivotal roles, the Global Coordination Project will influence and directly contribute to the achievement of Indicator 11, ensuring that people benefiting from GEF-financed investments are adequately represented and disaggregated by gender.

### Risks to Project Implementation

Summarize risks that might affect the child project implementation phase and what are the mitigation strategies the project will undertake to address these (e.g. what alternatives may be considered during project implementation-such as in terms of delivery mechanisms, locations in country, flexible design elements, etc.). Identify any of the risks listed below that would call in question the viability of the project during its implementation. Please describe any possible mitigation measures needed. (The risks associated with project design and Theory of Change should be described in the “Project description” section above).

The risk rating should reflect the overall risk to project outcomes considering the country setting and ambition of the child project. The rating scale is: High, Substantial, Moderate, Low.

Risk Categories	Rating	Planned mitigation measures
Climate	Low	The GCU will be based in CI offices around the world and can operate in a digital modality and achieve the project’s objectives. It is unlikely that any phenomenon could side-track the monitoring of risks that could affect the program's goal to restore degraded ecosystems and enhance human welfare. The GCU will collate information on risks and inform the PSC and RAC of developments and support programmatic responses through the IAs. This includes the integration of climate resilience measures across restoration strategies and investments, adopting a comprehensive landscape-based approach to the narratives provided in the safeguards screening form in Annex F. These actions support STAP Guidelines for embedding resilience, adaptation, and

		transformation into sustainable development projects to address climate-related challenges effectively and by the RAPTA Framework.
Environment and Social	Low	The GCP has no on-the-ground operations that could impact or be impacted by environmental factors. The project supports the IAs and their EAs to restore ecosystems and enhance socioeconomic benefits. The relationship between the GCP and the local situation is indirect but supportive. An environmental and social safeguard screening form included in Annex F execution implementation element, environmental and social risks from a safeguard's perspective are considered low. Given the rating, an ESIA is not warranted. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, and Grievance Mechanism have been developed and included in Annex H of the CI-GEF ProDoc
Political and Governance	Low	For the GCP, political and governance considerations will have a low impact. At the Program-level, these considerations are significant to the IAs and EAs operating within changing political landscapes. To promote the ecosystem restoration agenda and GEBs in countries, stakeholder analysis, transparent and inclusive processes to resolve tenure disputes, advocacy campaigns, inclusion of officials in international working groups, promoting VGGT, advocating for legal reforms, capacity-building programs, and promoting policies for equitable access are all key.
Macro-economic	Moderate	Macroeconomics could affect the ability of the GCP to support child projects with links to scale

		restoration activities. To mitigate this risk, alternative financing mechanisms such as public-private partnerships will be explored.
Strategies and Policies	Low	During the implementation of the IP, an adaptive management approach will be adopted. The GCU will monitor shifts in the contextual landscape, fostering consultations with individual child project leaders. Recommendations will be presented to the PSC and RAC.
Technical design of project or program	Moderate	The technical design of the project includes a program monitoring initiative to capture the programmatic indicators (scoping phase will ensure that the platform fills gaps based on user needs. Ongoing feedback mechanisms will adapt the platform as needed.
Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability	Moderate	The Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program recognizes the need for this risk and includes capacity strengthening from respective child projects and from the Global Coordination Project. An entire component of the Global Coordination Project is dedicated to Knowledge Management and Learning, assisting and mentoring national counterparts when necessary.
Fiduciary: Financial Management and Procurement	Moderate	Letters detailing co-financing commitments will be secured. If not, other sources of co-financing may be explored, and the Country Projects would be reorganized.
Stakeholder Engagement	Low	Since the GCP has no on-the-ground implementation element and no field visits will be conducted at this stage, risks in relation to stakeholder engagement are considered low. Nonetheless, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been



		developed and good practice standards of engagement with actors at GCP level are expected to be considered and implemented.
Other		
Financial Risks for NGI projects		
Overall Risk Rating	Low	

### C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

85. The GEF-8 programming directions highlights that GEF investments should produce lasting and transformative impacts through integration across sectors, thematic areas, and drivers, and taking purposeful programmatic risk for transformative investments.

86. The project introduces an integrated approach, embracing tools for conditions assessment, capacity enhancements, and adaptive management. Its focus extends beyond singular countries, taking a broader, supra-national stance to tackle regional environmental issues. This perspective, combined with effective knowledge sharing and stakeholder involvement, propels transformation in ecosystem restoration that are aligned with the principles and objectives of the GEF's programming directions. Specifically:

87. Integrated Approach: The GCP provides an integrated strategy towards ecosystem restoration, rooted in its Theory of Change. By catalyzing ecosystem restoration through informed governance, policies, finance, and multistakeholder dialogues, the GCP aims to drive transformational shifts in how ecosystems are restored. This integrated strategy is framed around well-coordinated efforts aimed at catalyzing system-wide transformative changes to making ecosystems more resilient and scaling global environmental benefits through an institutional mechanism in place to facilitate seamless IP governance, creating favourable conditions that serve as a bedrock for effective ecosystem restoration, and ensures the longevity of restoration projects and maximizes their impact by channelling knowledge management, fostering learning exchanges, and amplifying strategic communications. Additionally:

- The Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program aligns with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's vision, aiming to pool stakeholders, catalyze finance, and reinforce global cooperation.
- The Ecosystem Restoration IP is structured to fulfil various restoration targets from international commitments (UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC).
- The Program aids several targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Emphasizing integrated land use and cross-sectoral harmonization, the Ecosystem Restoration IP learns from a decade of GEF experience, including insights from various programs.
- The Global Coordination Project (GCP) acts as the Ecosystem Restoration IP's central unit, steering a global approach, emphasizing a harmonious human-nature relationship.
- In GEF-8, integrated programming is pivotal in countering global threats.



88. Transformative Elements: Driven by the GEF-8 Strategic Positioning Framework, the GCP incorporates four levers to facilitate significant transformations:

- **Governance and Policies:** The GCP will advance best practice in policy, legal, and institutional structures, ensuring they align with the global imperative for ecosystem restoration. Metrics like the number of country child projects using Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools serve as an indicator of this transformation. Moreover, the project actively surveys the increase in the capacity of country project staff and partners to execute innovative and evidence-based restoration.
- **Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues:** Recognizing that transformation is a collective effort, the GCP places significant emphasis on multi-stakeholder involvement. This ensures engagement across sectors, promoting coherence in restoration activities. For instance, the number of practitioners trained on establishing and sustaining such collaborative processes serves as a gauge of this lever's effectiveness.
- **Innovation and Learning:** The GCP acts as a fertile ground for novel technologies, business models, and processes in ecosystem restoration. Through tools like the digital Restoration portal, stakeholders are equipped with knowledge products, facilitating learning and knowledge exchange across the ecosystem restoration spectrum. The project further quantifies its effectiveness using indicators such as the number of users registered on the portal.
- **Financial Leverage:** Central to its transformative agenda, the GCP underscores the importance of channelling appropriate financial resources, which is critical for mainstreaming ecosystem restoration goals, drawing funds from both public and private spheres. The project tracks metrics such as the amount of new financing leveraged, and the number of stakeholders trained on financial planning.

89. Furthermore, the GCP has recognized the value of integrating child projects with global private sector entities. This seamless integration not only amplifies the scale and reach of the projects but also presents national participants with opportunities to forge alliances with the private sector. Simultaneously, the project amplifies science-policy dialogues, intertwining them with academia and research sectors, ensuring that the future leaders of ecosystem restoration are nurtured and equipped with the best knowledge.

90. Additionally, the Ecosystem Restoration IP champions global restoration commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) while the GCP amplifies MEA goals by supporting 20 innovative projects across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, focusing on scalability to drive Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs).

1. **Innovation and Policy Coherence:** The GCP's approach to innovation and policy coherence is holistic, emphasizing alignment with global commitments, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building. Innovation is associated with Knowledge Management as a Lever-of-Change in the framing of the results framework of the IP titled "Innovations & Knowledge Management". Stimulating innovation is also integrated into all components with the creation of linkages to thematic Communities of Practice and targeted Working Groups. In addition, there are also plans for a Community of Practice with a focus on Innovation and Transformational models and one on Monitoring and Technology looking at innovations to support ecosystem restoration. The position of the GCP is that broad exposure to new ideas, tested experiences, traditional knowledge, can inform national-level ecosystem restoration approaches, cost effectiveness, and compatibility with local conditions, cultures, roles and norms. The linkages will support scaling of innovations in distinct ecosystems supported by the Program, equally important as informing the global audience of innovations resulting from the IP. Tactically, the establishment of linkages supports Component 1 that seeks to improve enabling conditions in policy, restoration science, and financing. As a cross cutting theme, the Program vis-a-vis the GCP seeks innovations in all three spheres. Innovations are considered in 5 aspects: (1). **Technological Innovation:** Innovations in Restoration Methods and science can produce greater GEBs and provide cost efficiencies, such as the case of Assisted Natural Regeneration. These are often unknown and not well understood in comparison to traditional approaches. Outcome 1.2. is focused on innovation in restoration. (2.) **Innovative financing:** Innovations in financing restoration are considered within Outcome 1.3 whose outputs are oriented to different angles of increasing financing through means that are innovative to national practitioners. CI considers the aspects of (a) derisking and making results of restoration bankable; (b) matchmaking with potential financiers and different "blend" combinations; (c) working with child projects to increase local capacity and readiness for financing. (3.) **Business model innovation** - See notes on the Private sector

above. Outcome 1.3 supports Child Projects, the Program, and global restoration needs with strong global Private sector linkages, participation, and vision. This participation is both bilateral and is included in the RAC, the center for discussing innovations in restoration. (4.) **Policy Innovation** Support GEF's innovation and impact in policy areas- Outcome 1.1 is dedicated to innovation in policy. CI has developed partnerships with institutions, such as WRI that brings to the table innovative policy tools. The GCP funds supporting child projects with these tools and in scaling products facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue. The focus is supporting child projects to identify and remove barriers to ecosystem restoration. (5) **Institutional innovation** - Institutional innovation is supported at the global and national levels. At the global level, the RAC is an innovative body for GEF programs. Rather than focus on Program management aspects, the RAC provides a space for thought leaders to interact in themes such as "innovation in restoration policy, financing, science, etc." At the global level, the GCP supports the exchange mentioned above within communities of practice and working groups. Although not novel, the space to discuss policy innovations can be a new concept for national officials. Interacting with peers in this space could create reflection points that support change at the national level. Finally, at the national level, the diagnostic tools mentioned, and the result of linkages will provide support to child projects in raising awareness on needed institutional innovations needed.

92. The Global Coordination Project (GCP) fosters policy coherence, even though it doesn't directly influence national policies. By assisting Child Projects and using diagnostic tools, it promotes policy harmony and helps to mitigate conflicts. Also, by connecting Child Projects with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and best practices, ensures coherence with overarching environmental aims. With platforms for multi-sectoral discussions, it encourages a unified approach to restoration. It also aligns local and international commitments and collaborates with partners like UNDP, WRI, and FAO. A cornerstone of the GCP is its stakeholder engagement and its focus on sharing knowledge and best practices, enhancing the efficacy of restoration projects and promoting innovative solutions.

93. Resilience and Long-term Impact: The GCP's commitment to resilience is evident not just in its strategies but in its risk assessment, proactive approach to challenges, continuous monitoring, and feedback systems. By integrating both the lead and lag indicators and emphasizing holistic stakeholder engagement, the GCP is setting a robust foundation for achieving its transformational objectives while ensuring long-term impact and sustainability.

94. The GCP emphasizes resilience in its governance structures and strategies, ensuring adaptability to evolving challenges. Furthermore, the GCP actively seeks synergies with other GEF and global ecosystem restoration programs, enhancing its alignment with broader GEF objectives.

95. Recognizing that true resilience is achieved through collaboration, the GCP has also developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The project also seeks to intertwine child projects with global private sector entities and emphasizes science-policy dialogues with academic and research sectors. By nurturing next-generation researchers and promoting holistic planning, the GCP not only envisions ecosystem restoration that benefits the present but also lays the groundwork for sustained Global Environmental Benefits for future generations.

96. Additionally, the Ecosystem Restoration IP prioritizes both ecological improvements and socio-economic benefits, marking it essential for achieving the 17 SDGs. Addressing ecosystem degradation comprehensively, the GCP promotes multistakeholder engagement, ensuring alignment with restoration objectives and gender inclusivity. The GEF-8 architecture spotlights the need to address the human development system's breakdowns, like food and energy. Leveraging potential alignments among the following GEF-8 IPs, the GCP offers the prospect of working synergistically to amplify their positive impact.

97. The Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program aligns with the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration's vision. It champions global restoration commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), aiming to pool stakeholders, catalyze finance, and reinforce global cooperation. This

mirrors the GEF-8 mandate that champion global ecosystem restoration, backing national targets for overarching environmental gains. The Ecosystem Restoration IP is structured to fulfil various restoration targets from international commitments:

- UNCCD: Supports 90 countries with targets to restore around 450 million hectares.
- CBD: Aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, ecological integrity and connectivity. UNFCCC: Aims to enhance mitigation efforts for about 250 million hectares under the AFOLU sector, in line with the Paris Agreement.

98. The Program also significantly aids several targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

- Targets 1, 2, & 3: Focuses on restoring degraded agricultural lands, natural grasslands, woodlands, and shared water ecosystems, and enhancing cooperative management.
- Target 8: Minimizes impacts of climate change on biodiversity.
- Targets 10 & 11: Aims for sustainable landscape management and improved practices.
- Targets 22 & 23: Highlights socio-economic benefits, emphasizing gender-inclusive benefits from GEF-financed investments.

99. Emphasizing integrated land use and cross-sectoral harmonization, the Ecosystem Restoration IP learns from a decade of GEF experience, including insights from The Restoration Initiative (TRI), the Sahel and West Africa Program (SAWAP) and Drylands Sustainable Landscape (DSL) programs. Its approach complements other GEF programs and prioritizes both ecological improvements and socio-economic benefits, marking it essential for achieving the 17 SDGs.

100. The Global Coordination Project (GCP) acts as the Ecosystem Restoration IP's central unit, echoing the UN Decade's vision by steering a global approach. It underscores a harmonious human-nature relationship, ensuring robust ecosystems. The GCP amplifies MEA goals by supporting 20 innovative projects across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. With its focus on scalability, the GCP drives Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), adhering to countries' commitments to land restoration. The GCP's emphasis lies in ecosystem restoration through innovative strategies like policy coherence, private sector engagement, and finance. Addressing ecosystem degradation comprehensively, the GCP promotes multistakeholder engagement, ensuring alignment with restoration objectives, with an added focus on gender inclusivity.

101. As a knowledge conduit, the GCP ensures restoration projects borrow best practices from other GEF programs, underlining data sharing and project harmony.

102. In GEF-8, integrated programming is pivotal in countering global threats. Highlighting the urgency for investments in global environmental benefits, this programming pushes for a green recovery post-COVID-19. The 11 integrated programs resonate with global development aspirations: nature-positive, carbon-neutral, and reduced pollution pathways, in sync with MEAs. The GEF-8 architecture spotlights the need to address the human development system's breakdowns, like food and energy. Leveraging potential alignments among the following GEF-8 IPs, the GCP offers the prospect of working synergistically to amplify their positive impact.

<p>GEF Projects Other Projects/Initiatives</p>	<p>Linkages and Coordination</p>

Early Action Support Project	The GEF Early Action Support project, implemented by UNDP and UNEP, provides support to 138 countries to undertake 4 components, including to a) align national targets; b) assess national monitoring systems to be able to report on progress on the Global Biodiversity Framework; c) assess policy alignment; and d) undertake key actions on biodiversity finance. UNDP will be a key partner supporting the capacity building for restoration action plans under component 1 in coordination with these larger efforts.
Support to NBSAPs and 7th National Report	This GEF project, implemented by UNDP and UNEP, provides foundational support to countries to revise and update their NBSAP and undertake their National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In addition, key technical support is provided for issues such as spatial support, policy alignment, gender and other key issues. This project will also link with the Ecosystem Restoration IP efforts on restoration action planning for countries under UNDP coordination.
Biodiversity finance	This GEF project supports 91 countries to undertake key activities related to biodiversity finance, including a policy and institutional review, an expenditure review, a finance gap assessment, and a biodiversity finance plan, building on existing methodologies and approaches. This project will collaborate with, and build upon, existing biodiversity finance initiatives and link, through UNDP coordination, with the Ecosystem Restoration IP efforts to support finance action planning under component 1.
Food Systems	Both Food Systems and this IP are exploring connecting data flows from country projects to the FERM of the UN Decade. Knowledge products from ERIP could thus serve FS IP projects (but also BGI, NZNP, CFB), with an important upscaling potential.

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

**We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the child Project Description (Section B).**

Yes

**1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?**

Yes

If the child project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;**

No

**Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or**

Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.**

No

**2) Does the child project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

### Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Child Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

**Select what role civil society will play in the Project:**

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; **Yes**

Co-financier; **Yes**

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; **Yes**

Executor or co-executor; **Yes**

Other (Please explain)

### Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B "Child project description"?

Yes

### Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Low		
	Low		

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Yes

### Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

117. The human wellbeing benefits are created by program through its child projects operating in direct response to drivers of ecosystem degradation that reduce ecosystem provisioning services and reduce socioeconomic benefits to populations. The GCP does not itself create socioeconomic benefits. However, by engaging and informing stakeholders (Outcome 2.1.) through the portal, capacity building, the Knowledge Products, and the Communities of Practice the project is accelerating the potential of child projects to enhance and expand socioeconomic benefits.

118. Through the program monitoring and evaluation system (Outcome 2.2), the GCP will collate information from child projects and inform the PSC and the RACs understanding the nature and types of benefits generated by the program by tracking the related program indicators: [\[25\]1](#)

- PFD Indicator no. 1.2.1: Number and proportion of men and women in targeted ecosystems in 20 countries participate in participatory decision-making, with access to and share benefits from ecosystem restoration. (Target refined during PPG phase).
- PFD Indicator no. 2.2.3: People benefiting from the program interventions: (a) Number of IP&LCs, (b) number of men and women, (c) number of youths. TBD during PPG
- PFD Indicator no. 2.2.6: The level of satisfaction expressed by indigenous groups, local communities, women and other vulnerable groups with reference to their participation in the planning, FPIC and decision-making processes of targeted restoration projects= S to HS at MTR and TE.
- PFD Indicator no. 4.1.3: Diversity of stakeholders included on child project steering committees and program boards (# of ministries, stakeholder groups involved, % women, youth, IPLCs) T=50% women's involvement, other targets TBD during PPG.
- PFD Indicator no. 4.2.2: Number and types of stakeholders benefiting from program induced investments in the restoration continuum through enhanced efficiency improvements, effectiveness, or financing in restoration activities.



[25] Conservation International, GEF, 2023 Program Framework Document, Indicative Program Overview, p4. URL: <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11118>

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

#### Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
CI	GET	Global	Biodiversity	BD IP Global Platforms	Grant	12,418,265.00	1,117,644.00	13,535,909.00
CI	GET	Global	Climate Change	CC IP Global Platforms	Grant	1,698,398.00	152,856.00	1,851,254.00
CI	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD IP Global Platforms	Grant	3,693,429.00	332,408.00	4,025,837.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>17,810,092.00</b>	<b>1,602,908.00</b>	<b>19,413,000.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$) 300000

PPG Agency Fee (\$) 27000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
CI	GET	Global	Biodiversity	BD IP Global Platforms	209,178.00	18,826.00	228,004.00
CI	GET	Global	Climate Change	CC IP Global Platforms	28,608.00	2,575.00	31,183.00
CI	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD IP Global Platforms	62,214.00	5,599.00	67,813.00

<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>27,000.00</b>	<b>327,000.00</b>
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Please provide Justification

### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>0.00</b>

### Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
Restoration IP	GET	17,810,092.00	86415821
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>17,810,092.00</b>	<b>86,415,821.00</b>

### Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	Conservation International (CI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	59533616
GEF Agency	Conservation International (CI)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2682205
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4200000
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Civil Society Organization	World Resources Institute (WRI)	Grant	Investment mobilized	17000000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>86,415,821.00</b>

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Conservation International is providing investment mobilized support - \$59,533,616 of funding contributing to this project that is time-bound and has a specific scope of work that contributes to the overall goals of the project. Additionally, Conservation International is contributing \$2,682,205 of in-kind support. World Resources Institute is providing investment mobilized support of \$17,000,000 from contributing sources of time-bound and scope specific work that contributes to the overall goals of the project.

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	9/1/2023	Orissa Samaroo		

### Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

## ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

The project results and M&E frameworks can be found in the Project Document on pages 38 to 48.

<b>Objective:</b>	To scale Global Environmental Benefits through coordinated governance of the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program and targeted support to 20 innovative country child projects in catalyzing transformational shifts in ecosystem restoration.
<b>Indicator(s):</b>	Indicator 1. Percentage of country child projects using Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools and resources in activities. Target 1: 100% of country child projects using Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools and resources in activities.  Indicator 2. <i>Number and hectarage of additional restoration projects applying Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools, resources, platform, and structure, extending beyond the original Ecosystem Restoration IP countries</i> Target 2: <i>100 additional restoration projects representing 1 million ha applying Ecosystem Restoration IP knowledge tools, resources, platform, and structure by the end of the program.</i>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline for Outcome indicators	End of Project Target for Outcome indicators	Expected Outputs, with Indicators and targes
<b>Component 1:</b> Restoration is accelerated through strengthened capacity for innovative and informed ecosystem governance, policy, finance and enabling conditions			
<b>Outcome 1.1.:</b> Cross-sectoral capacity increased to improve coherence across restoration enabling conditions.	<b>1.1.a:</b> Baseline survey of cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder	<b>Target 1.1.a:</b> 70% of mechanism participants surveyed that report increased cross-sectoral	<b>Output 1.1.1.</b> A capacity building program for country child projects and partners on facilitation for establishing and sustaining multistakeholder cross-sectoral processes

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline for Outcome indicators	End of Project Target for Outcome indicators	Expected Outputs, with Indicators and targets
<p><b>Indicator 1.1a.:</b> % of participants in mechanisms for multistakeholder exchange surveyed that report increased capacity to improve coherence across restoration enabling conditions.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1b:</b> % of representatives from stakeholder groups participating in mechanisms for multistakeholder exchange, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LCs, youth, vulnerable people.</p>	<p>coherence across restoration enabling conditions.</p>	<p>coherence across restoration enabling conditions.</p> <p><b>Target 1.1.b</b> % of representatives from stakeholder groups participating in mechanisms for multistakeholder exchange identified as IP&amp;LCs (5%), women (50%), youth (5%), vulnerable people (5%).</p>	<p>promoting coherence across restoration enabling conditions.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.1:</b> Number of country child project representatives and partners trained on establishing and sustaining cross-sectoral, multistakeholder processes promoting coherence across restoration enabling conditions, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LCs, youth, vulnerable people.</p> <p><b>Target 1.1.1.</b> 100 country child project representatives and partners trained on establishing and sustaining cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder processes.</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.2.:</b> A Restoration Enabling Conditions Diagnostic tool is deployed to assess barriers and opportunities to ecosystem restoration.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.2:</b> Number of Restoration enabling conditions diagnostics completed including GESI considerations.</p> <p><b>Target 1.1.2.:</b> 20 Restoration enabling conditions diagnostics completed.</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.3:</b> Mechanisms established to facilitate dialogue on best practices and coherence across ecosystem restoration enabling conditions among countries and key stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.3.:</b> # of countries participating in established mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Target 1.1.3.:</b> 20 countries participating in established mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Output 1.1.4:</b> A capacity building program for country child projects and partners to strengthen restoration action planning in country.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.1.4:</b> # of country child project representatives and partners trained on restoration action plan/strategy improvements.</p> <p><b>Target 1.1.4:</b> 20 country child project representatives and partners trained on Action Plan/strategy improvements, over baseline.</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline for Outcome indicators	End of Project Target for Outcome indicators	Expected Outputs, with Indicators and targets
<p><b>Outcome 1.2:</b> Increased capacity of country practitioners to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2a</b> % of stakeholder groups participating in or conducting trainings, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LCs, youth, vulnerable people.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.b:</b> % of country project staff and partners surveyed that report increased capacity to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP, youth, vulnerable people.</p>	<p>Baselines zero at Inception.</p>	<p><b>Target 1.2.a</b> % of training participants and organizers identified as IP&amp;LCs (5%), women (50%), youth (5%), vulnerable people (5%).</p> <p><b>Target 1.2.b:</b> 70% of country project staff surveyed that report increased capacity, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LC, youth, vulnerable people.</p>	<p><b>Output 1.2.1</b> A technical training program to increase capacity of country practitioners to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.1.:</b> # of country practitioners applying program-provided knowledge products, tools program-provided knowledge products, tools, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP, youth, vulnerable people.</p> <p><b>Target 1.2.1:</b> 100 country practitioners applying program-provided knowledge.</p> <p><b>Output 1.2.2:</b> Targeted technical support is provided to country projects and partners to execute innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2.2:</b> Number of countries receiving targeted technical support</p> <p><b>Target 1.2.2:</b> 10 countries receiving technical support.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 1.3:</b> Leveraged financing to scale out restoration of targeted ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.a.:</b> Amount (\$) of new financing leveraged for scaling restoration of priority ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.b.</b> number of countries reporting increased finance as a result of training and technical support.</p>	<p>1.3.a: Baseline (Baseline + GEF increment + initial co-financing) to be determined with Child Projects by inception.</p> <p>1.3.b: Baseline survey of financial benefits from restoration.</p> <p>-</p>	<p><b>Target 1.3.a:</b> \$30 million U.S.D</p> <p><b>Target 1.3.b:</b> 10 countries reporting increased finance.</p>	<p><b>Output 1.3.1.:</b> A capacity building program on financing plans to scale restoration of targeted geographies, ecosystems, and/or models.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.1:</b> The number of stakeholders trained on Financing plans in countries.</p> <p><b>Target 1.3.1.:</b> 200 people (50% women) trained disaggregated by sector, IP&amp;LC, youth, vulnerable people.</p> <p><b>Output 1.3.2:</b> Proposals and Partnerships supporting incremental financing approved from national, regional and/or global funding sources, including private sector.</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.3.2:</b> Number of proposals and partnerships approved, disaggregated by those incorporating GESI considerations/ requirements.</p> <p><b>Target 1.3.2:</b> 10 proposals and partnerships approved.</p> <p><b>Output 1.3.3:</b> Restoration finance knowledge products provided to country projects and partners, restoration practitioners and potential restoration investors to facilitate access to restoration financing flows.</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline for Outcome indicators	End of Project Target for Outcome indicators	Expected Outputs, with Indicators and targes
			<p><b>Indicator 1.3.3.:</b> # of knowledge products provided to countries, restoration practitioners and potential restoration investors to facilitate access to restoration financing flows.</p> <p><b>Target 1.3.3.:</b> 5 knowledge products provided, at least one of them on GESI considerations for restoration finance.</p>
<p><b>Component 2: Restoration outcomes are enhanced through knowledge management, exchange, learning and strategic communications</b></p>			
<p><b>Outcome 2.1.:</b> Effectively engaged and informed stakeholders at national, regional and global levels regarding the Ecosystem Restoration IP and the models of innovative and evidence-based ecosystem restoration, stimulating active participation, learning and scaling.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1a:</b> Number and types of portal users surveyed expressing benefits from increased knowledge and learning on the restoration continuum informing restoration activities, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LCs, youth, vulnerable people.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1b:</b> People benefiting from GEF-financed investments disaggregated by sex</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>200 portal users surveyed expressing benefits from increased knowledge and learning on the restoration continuum informing restoration activities.</p> <p>10,000 (5,000 women and 5,000 men)</p>	<p><b>Output 2.1.1:</b> A digital Restoration portal facilitates restoration knowledge exchange, multi-stakeholder dialogue, learning and problem solving between country project managers, networks, practitioners, GEF IPs and other experts through curation and organization.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.1.</b> The number of users, registered in the portal and receiving communications, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LCs, youth, vulnerable people.</p> <p><b>Target:</b> 2000 users registered in the portal and receiving communications.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.2.:</b> Ecosystem Restoration knowledge and capacity building guidance products support the interaction and learning needs of child projects and the restoration community.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.2.:</b> # of knowledge products and learning available through the digital Restoration portal.</p> <p><b>Target 2.1.2.:</b> 20 knowledge products available on the portal, at least 3 including gender and social inclusion aspects of ecosystem restoration.</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.3.:</b> Program communication strategy established and implemented to promote effective internal and external communication.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.3.</b> # of communication strategies.</p> <p><b>Target 2.1.3.:</b> 1</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.4:</b> Program Knowledge Management and Learning strategy established and implemented to promote effective internal and external knowledge management and learning.</p>



Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline for Outcome indicators	End of Project Target for Outcome indicators	Expected Outputs, with Indicators and targets
			<p><b>Indicator 2.1.4:</b> # of knowledge management strategy developed and implemented <b>Target 2.1.4:</b> 1</p> <p><b>Output 2.1.5:</b> Technical support to existing or new restoration communities of practice to engage with the GEF8 Ecosystem Restoration IP to generate opportunities for learning for country child projects, better align with objectives of interoperable GEF IPs, elevate practiced knowledge and the voices of IP&amp;LCs, women and youth historically marginalized in the global restoration movement.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.1.5:</b> % and diversity of GEF8 Ecosystem Restoration IP portal users engaged in restoration communities of practice, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LCs, youth, vulnerable people.</p> <p><b>Target 2.1.5:</b> 50% of portal users surveyed report engagement in restoration communities of practice.</p>
<p><b>Outcome 2.2:</b> Enhanced data sharing and reporting on ecosystem restoration targets, Ecosystem Restoration IP core indicators, and best practices to enhance sharing with MEAs, GEF IPs and other restoration platforms.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2:</b> The number of restoration projects reporting per guidance to the Program’s Restoration Tracking system and IP indicators.</p>	<p><b>2.2:</b> 20 Projects Reporting per Ecosystem Restoration IP Guidance.</p>	<p><b>Target 2.2:</b> 20 projects reporting per Ecosystem Restoration IP guidance.</p>	<p><b>Output 2.2.1:</b> An Ecosystem Restoration Reporting System accurately reports progress toward Ecosystem Restoration IP targets, core indicators and best practices.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.1:</b> # of program-wide compiled reports generated by the restoration tracking system.</p> <p><b>Target 2.2.1:</b> 1 report annually.</p> <p><b>Output 2.2.2:</b> Linkages established for information connectivity and interoperability between the program and sustainable global reporting systems (MEAs, GEF IPs, other restoration platforms).</p> <p><b>Indicator 2.2.2:</b> Number of live linkages between the Restoration Tracking System and/through the FERM, MEAs, GEF IPs and other restoration platforms.</p> <p><b>Target 2.2.2:</b> 3 linkages</p>
<b>Component 3: Governance, coordination and adaptive management of the Ecosystem Restoration IP</b>			
<p><b>Outcome 3.1:</b> Effective governance and adaptive management ensure the delivery of the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1a</b> Objective level rating for the program at</p>	<p><b>3.1a:</b> NA</p>	<p><b>Target 3.1a:</b> Satisfactory or higher rating at the program MTR and TE.</p> <p><b>Target 3.1.b:</b> X% of representation by IP&amp;LCs (5%), women (50%),</p>	<p><b>Output 3.1.1:</b> A Restoration Advisory Council (RAC) provides program exposure to achieve inclusiveness, alignment with MEAs and transformational scaling.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.1:</b> # of RAC events that provide program exposure and, alignment with</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline for Outcome indicators	End of Project Target for Outcome indicators	Expected Outputs, with Indicators and targets
<p>midterm and terminal evaluation.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1b:</b> % representation of stakeholder groups across Ecosystem Restoration IP Governance structures. RAC, PSC and other GCP structures, disaggregated by gender, sector, IP&amp;LCs and youth.</p>	<p>-0-</p>	<p>youth (5%), across GCP structures.</p>	<p>MEAs and GEF-8 IPs and transformational scaling to a broader constituency.</p> <p><b>Target 3.1.1:</b> 6 events</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.2:</b> A Program Steering Committee (PSC) and Technical Projects Task Force (TPTF) provide guidance and adaptive management in response to lessons learned and changing conditions and integration with MEA aspirations and outcomes (KMGBF) and related GEF IPs (CFB, NZNPA).</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.2:</b> Number of effective responses (uptake) by country child projects (TPTF) to PSC recommendations reported annually.</p> <p><b>Target 3.1.2:</b> 80% response rate.</p> <p><b>Output 3.1.3:</b> A Global Coordination Unit (GCU) established and operational providing coordination and support services to facilitate achievement of Ecosystem Restoration IP program outcomes.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.1.3:</b> Annual rating by Child Project managers of the level of satisfaction of GCU support services.</p> <p><b>Target 3.1.3:</b> Annual ranking of 80% (satisfactory) to 100% (Highly Satisfactory).</p>
<p><b>Outcome 3.2:</b> The program and its child projects adapt to lessons learned, evolving conditions and risks identified by the results of monitoring across the IP.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2:</b> Number of child projects whose strategic directions, annual work plans and budgets align responsively to the results of M&amp;E across the IP.</p>	<p><b>3.2:</b> 0 Projects integrated into M&amp;E System.</p>	<p><b>Target 3.2:</b> 20 Projects with annual workplans and budget aligned with program-level M&amp;E.</p>	<p><b>Output 3.2.1.</b> Harmonized methodological guidance and standards for child project to integrate into program-level M&amp;E systems.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.1.</b> Number of child projects applying program-level guidance and standards in their M&amp;E systems.</p> <p><b>Target 3.2.1.</b> 20 Projects applying program-level guidance and standards in their M&amp;E systems.</p> <p><b>Output 3.2.2:</b> A Program Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting system (exclusive of ecosystem monitoring) incorporates child project M&amp;E results, program-level indicators, informing adaptive program management and reporting program-wide</p>

Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Project Baseline for Outcome indicators	End of Project Target for Outcome indicators	Expected Outputs, with Indicators and targets
			<p>contributions to GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration IP core indicators.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3.2.2:</b> Number of child projects from which the GCP is consistently incorporating M&amp;E results.</p> <p><b>Target 3.2.2:</b> 20 countries providing annual data to the GCU/year per guidance.</p>
<b>Component 4: Global Coordination Project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E)</b>			
<p><b>Outcome 4.1:</b> <i>An integrated and gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation framework for the GCP facilitates adaptive project management.</i></p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1:</b> <i>Annual Work Plans incorporate PSC guidance on execution, gender, safeguards and risks based on monitoring results.</i></p>	<p>Baseline: (0) Annual plans.</p>	<p>Target 4.1. (6) Annual work plans integrating guidance and budget to strategically programmed outputs, safeguards and gender considerations and in risk mitigation.</p>	<p><b>Output 4.1.1:</b> Project-level M&amp;E system established and operational.</p> <p>Indicator 4.1.1: M&amp;E Reports approved by the PSC.</p> <p><b>Target 4.1.1:</b> (6) annual Project Implementation Reports. (1) Mid-term project Review report approved by month (42). One Terminal Evaluation Report approved by month (69).</p> <p><b>Output 4.1.2</b> Project M&amp;E Plan developed including objective, outcome and output indicators, all safeguard plans indicators, metrics, methodology, baseline, location of data gathering, frequency of data collection and responsible parties.</p> <p><b>Indicator 4.1.2:</b> M&amp;E Plan approved by the PSC and updated annually.</p> <p><b>Target 4.1.2:</b> (1) Plan &amp; (4) annual updates</p>

#### ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Personnel-Project design and coordination	178,512.00	142,982.00	35,530.00
International Consultant- ProDoc development	86,500.00	43,300.00	43,200.00
Travel-meetings	34,988.00	10,125.00	24,863.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>300,000.00</b>	<b>196,407.00</b>	<b>103,593.00</b>

## ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.

The Global Coordination Project works across all IP countries on best practices (see paragraph 22 in main text more details).



The location of the supported project activities will be gathered by Global Coordination Project once all child projects are endorsed and under implementation.

## ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

ANNEX F Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Screening Report

### ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

#### Project budget table

	Project budget by component (in USD)					
	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4 (M&E)	PMC	Total budget
Personnel and Professional Services	\$3,901,289	\$1,490,348	\$453,960	\$187,698	\$825,443	\$7,576,643
Travel, meetings, and workshops	\$1,116,774	\$895,536	\$6,500	\$83,581		\$2,549,876
Grants & Agreements	\$3,662,741	\$3,557,139				\$7,219,881
Equipment	\$4,000	\$14,000		\$2,500	\$4,000	\$31,000
Other Operating Costs	\$172,138	\$142,362	\$93,787	\$14,179	\$10,251	\$432,692
<b>TOTAL GEF FUNDED PROJECT</b>	<b>\$8,856,942</b>	<b>\$6,009,385</b>	<b>\$1,726,113</b>	<b>\$287,958</b>	<b>\$839,694</b>	<b>\$17,810,092</b>

A summary of the Project's M&E activities at the Project level is presented in the following table.

Type of M&E	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
<i>a. Inception and Final workshops</i>	Within three months of signing of CI Grant Agreement for GEF Projects Within three months of the CI Grant end date	· Project Team	60,000
		· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>b. Inception workshop Report</i>	Within one month of inception workshop	· Project Team	4,417
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)</i>	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered according to monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix IV)	· Project Team	42,029
		· CI-GEF PA	

d. <i>GEF Indicator Tracker</i>	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	· Project Team	39,774
		· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
e. <i>CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions</i>	Approximately annual visits	· CI-GEF PA	
f. <i>Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)</i>	Annually for year ending June 30	· Project Team	49,633
		· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
g. <i>Project Completion Report</i>	Upon project operational closure	· Project Team	12,105
		· Executing Agency	
h. <i>Independent External Mid-term Review</i>	Approximate mid-point of project implementation period	· CI Evaluation Office	40,000
		· Project Team	
		· CI-GEF PA	
i. <i>Independent Terminal Evaluation</i>	Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.	· CI Evaluation Office	40,000
		· Project Team	
		· CI-GEF PA	
<b>Summary M&amp;E total</b>			<b>287,958</b>

### Project Management Costs (PMC) Summary

Type of PMC	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
a. <i>Project Steering Committee Meetings</i>	Annually	· Project Team	153,529
		· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
b. <i>Quarterly Progress Reporting</i>	Quarterly	· Project Team	668,165
		· Executing Agency	
c. <i>Financial Statements Audit</i>	Annually	· Executing Agency	18,000
		· CI-GEF PA	
<b>Summary PMC total</b>			<b>839,694</b>

### KM & Learning Budget:

<b>Professional Salaries</b>	<b>\$615,564</b>
Adaptation Lead	\$76,669
Grants & Contracts Manager	\$34,543



Restoration Gender & Safeguards Manager	\$50,064
Restoration Partnerships Director/Project Lead	\$203,553
Restoration Senior Engagement Manager	\$130,045
Restoration Spatial Analyst	\$27,508
Restoration Knowledge and Communications Manager	\$93,182
<b>Contracts</b>	<b>\$448,562</b>
Design fees for Platforms	\$200,000
ERIP Branding Design & Comms	\$25,000
Translation	\$22,500
Stipends for IP&LCs attendees	\$9,000
ERIP Platform Hosting Fees	\$30,000
Capacity Building and Innovation Support	\$162,062
<b>External Grants</b>	<b>\$3,157,139</b>
Communities of Practice	\$3,132,139
FAO	\$25,000
<b>International Travel (per diem and transport)</b>	<b>\$468,600</b>
Ecosystem Restoration IP and Knowledge Product Promotion	\$114,000
Field Visits - Learning Visits	\$45,600
Field Visits - Subject Matter Experts	\$228,000
Knowledge Exchange- Staff Travel	\$57,000
Travel to present Knowledge Products and Findings	\$24,000
<b>Training / workshops / meetings</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>
Knowledge & Annual Meeting Exchange	\$375,000
<b>Equipment and Other Direct Costs</b>	<b>\$86,642</b>
Carbon Offset	\$4,781
Computers	\$8,000
Materials and Printing	\$3,000
PASC Allocation	\$33,921
Rent	\$36,940
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$5,151,507</b>

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

	Project budget by component (in USD)					
	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4 (M&E)	PMC	Total budget
Personnel and Professional Services	\$3,901,289	\$1,490,348	\$453,960	\$187,698	\$825,443	\$7,576,643
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Other Operating Costs	\$172,138	\$142,362	\$93,787	\$14,179	\$10,251	\$432,692
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	Within three months of the CI Grant end date	· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>b. Inception workshop Report</i>	Within one month of inception workshop	· Project Team	4,417
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>c. Project Results Monitoring Plan (Objective, Outcomes and Outputs)</i>	Annually (data on indicators will be gathered according to monitoring plan schedule shown on Appendix IV)	· Project Team	42,029
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>d. GEF Indicator Tracker</i>	i) Project development phase; ii) prior to project mid-term evaluation; and iii) project completion	· Project Team	39,774
		· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>e. CI-GEF Project Agency Field Supervision Missions</i>	Approximately annual visits	· CI-GEF PA	
<i>f. Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)</i>	Annually for year ending June 30	· Project Team	49,633
		· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>g. Project Completion Report</i>	Upon project operational closure	· Project Team	12,105
		· Executing Agency	
<i>h. Independent External Mid-term Review</i>	Approximate mid-point of project implementation period	· CI Evaluation Office	40,000
		· Project Team	
		· CI-GEF PA	

<i>i. Independent Terminal Evaluation</i>	Evaluation field mission within three months prior to project completion.	· CI Evaluation Office	40,000
		· Project Team	
		· CI-GEF PA	
<b>Summary M&amp;E total</b>			<b>287,958</b>

### Project Management Costs (PMC) Summary

Type of PMC	Reporting Frequency	Responsible Parties	Indicative Budget from GEF (USD)
<i>a. Project Steering Committee Meetings</i>	Annually	· Project Team	153,529
		· Executing Agency	
		· CI-GEF PA	
<i>b. Quarterly Progress Reporting</i>	Quarterly	· Project Team	668,165
		· Executing Agency	
<i>c. Financial Statements Audit</i>	Annually	· Executing Agency	18,000
		· CI-GEF PA	
<b>Summary PMC total</b>			<b>839,694</b>

## ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

<p>(3) Risks mentioned in the risk section ought to be discussed during the problem framing and reflected in the theory of change. It is necessary to reflect risks related to the durability of project outcomes arising from future changes in the theory of change of the global coordination project, and in each child project, and above all in the project design. These include risks on climate change, environmental and social risks, policies, market instability, and population changes. Refer to the World Bank's methodology on resilience, and to STAP's theory of change primer cited below.: World Bank's resilience methodology: <a href="https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/9920d826-21e5-5def-898d-8ccb1daaf4a0">https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/9920d826-21e5-5def-898d-8ccb1daaf4a0</a> STAP's Theory of Change Primer - <a href="https://stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer">https://stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer</a></p>	<p>Par. 80-84</p>	<p>The resources shared are appreciated and informed the PPG process. Risks were evaluated at several junctures and through different lenses. As in the previous section, these will be promoted and shared through the portal to ensure that the risk assessment concepts across the strata mentioned are discussed.  Based on that process, Section B, 'Risks to Project</p>
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		<p>Implementation’ is presented in paragraphs 80-84 and by the mentioned categories in Table 5. The role of risk assessment as part of a proactive decision-making process is elaborated in paragraph 93.</p> <p>The Global Coordination Project (GCP) recognizes potential risks, might affect the long-term achievements of the program. It also emphasizes the need for a proactive approach to these challenges to fortify the program and its projects against future uncertainties. The GCU will collate risk assessments from the countries will assess resilience through the project and Program M&amp;E systems. It discusses the need for adaptative measures if required and presenting the costs and benefits of these options to the Program Steering Committee to refine Project and Program planning.</p> <p>Through this process, the program is taking into account future changes, including climate change, macroeconomic shocks, etc., and is implementing resilient measures, which also supports Recommendation No. 2.</p>
<p>(4) The transformative premise of the IP is captured in its ambitious goal of “achieving healthy and resilient ecosystems to foster green recovery and secure livelihoods”. As the theory of change in the global coordination project is designed, STAP recommends for CI to revisit the IP’s theory of change to ensure the logic is credible for achieving the proposed transformation pathways, i.e. components on policies/governance, innovation, and sustainable finance.</p> <p>Questions that CI (for the global coordination project) and country teams need to ask to assess the credibility of the theory of change include: are the barriers and enablers identified to achieve each transformation pathway? Are the key assumptions defined along each pathway, including those affiliated with scaling? Are the pathways set up to tackle levers that may be easier to achieve, and which are set up to pull in the right direction? – for example, incentives that might trigger an initial positive response to a change in practice, such as a policy incentive? Systems can be set up to change more easily (that is, be made more ‘transformable’) by pulling a number of</p>	<p>Par. 31-35 Figs. 1,2.</p>	<p>Again, we thank the STAP for the helpful references.</p> <p>Paragraphs 31-35 address the recommendation related to revisiting the theory of change to ensure its credibility in achieving the proposed transformation pathways, components on policies/governance, innovation, and sustainable finance through the GCP.</p>

weaker levers all in the same direction. This is the idea of small wins, which can effectively drive desired systems change. Harder to achieve levers such as changing a social structure (i.e. norms that are keeping a problem in place) will be more difficult, but important to scaling out. Refer to STAP’s guidance on transformation cited below.

The text introduces an integrated approach and embraces tools for conditions assessment, capacity enhancements, and adaptive management. This implies that the project has considered the barriers and enablers needed to achieve transformation pathways. A broader, supra-national stance to tackle regional environmental issues, which aligns with the idea of addressing the pathways at a higher level.

The Theory of Change presented for the GCP makes the TOC for the IP operational. Figure 1 was added to reflect on the key levers for achieving significant transformations, including Governance and Policies, Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues, Innovation and Learning, and Financial Leverage. Figure 2 has been tailored to the mission of the GCP while maintaining the core linkage between the IP and the GCP. Paragraph 31 presents the key assumptions from the nexus between the GCP management and the IP’s critical pathways and the aspects of scaling deep, up and out needed to support transformation.

The text also emphasizes the importance of holistic planning, stakeholder participation, and a futuristic vision, which are essential elements for credible transformation pathways.

5. Consider identifying metrics for each of the transformation levers. In its transformation paper, STAP identified five classes of indicators, three of which are specific to governance/policies, finance, and learning; a fourth on multi-stakeholder dialogue, and a fifth on capacity to change. STAP’s forthcoming paper on policy coherence includes a section on monitoring policy coherence, which the project teams can use. Refer to STAP’s transformation paper for further guidance on metrics to monitor and learn about transformation.

Annex K

Annex K presents indicators for tracking transformative milestones, such as the number and hectareage of additional restoration projects invited to use Ecosystem Restoration IP

<p>STAP's transformation guidance. <a href="https://stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/achieving-transformation-through-gef-investments">https://stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/achieving-transformation-through-gef-investments</a></p>		<p>knowledge tools, resources, platform and structure above and beyond original Ecosystem Restoration IP countries (scaling out) or the <i>amount of new financing leveraged for scaling restoration of priority ecosystems</i> and its commitment to continued assessment even post-project completion demonstrate a thoughtful approach to measuring and ensuring the sustainability of transformations. All indicators presented in Annex K were drafted per STAP recommendations.</p>
<p>(6) STAP is pleased the IP will focus on sustainable finance. CI is highly encouraged to rely on standards, or principles, that ensure positive environmental, social, and economic impact – while addressing knowledge gaps that may exist in management practices of blended finance projects. Refer to the OECD-UNDP Impact Standards for Financing Sustainable Development</p>		<p>CI commits to following standards that ensure positive environmental, social and economic impact. CI's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) outlines these standards, see Para 189-194</p>
<p>(7): The role of the global coordination child program as an agent to catalyze, order and disseminate knowledge for learning, and connect with relevant existing platforms of knowledge and learning is well articulated. STAP notes that attention must be paid to the structure and architecture of the global platform to ensure interoperability, open access and agility and to fulfill the aspirations cited in paragraphs 64 and 67 of the program description.</p>	<p>Par.44-48</p>	<p>Based on STAP guidance, Outcome 2.2, Output 2.2.2: specifically establishes as part of the Portal's structure the linkages for information connectivity and interoperability between the program and sustainable global reporting systems (MEAs, GEF IPs, other restoration platforms) and national platforms. This will lead to greater returns, efficiency, and as little overlap and replication as possible.</p> <p>Paragraph 48 defines Outcome 2.2 that aims to enhance data sharing and reporting on ecosystem restoration targets, IP core indicators, and best practices. This will bolster collaboration with MEAs, GEF IPs, and other restoration platforms,</p>



		<p>addressing the current underutilization of technical expertise. The GCP will improve data sharing, reporting, and interoperability with key restoration networks and MEAs. Furthermore, it will foster partnerships with existing platforms and GEF IPs, supporting core indicator reporting. This includes the use of complementary reporting tools, spatial aggregation platforms, and an intentional effort to establish links with other GEF IPs and restoration platforms.</p>
<p>(8) STAP advises the list of potential partners organizations to include WOCAT ((World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) and the UNCCD Global Mechanism and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. They are resources of best practices and technologies on sustainable land management and restoration.</p>	<p>Par 48, 73.</p>	<p>Paragraph 48 (Output 2.2.2) indicates some of the linkages for information connectivity and interoperability between the program and sustainable global reporting systems of MEAs, GEF IPs, and IPs such as FERM. Organizations such as WOCAT are also linked to the FERM network. Connectivity with GEF-8 Initiatives, such as the Critical Forest Biome IP and Net-Zero Nature-Positive focusing on policy options to maximize GEBs, among other restoration platforms and sustainable global reporting systems. Linkages with conceptually related initiatives (from cooperation agencies, multilateral support, direct foreign investment and nationally generated initiatives) are further described in Paragraph 73, 102 and Table 6.</p>
<p>COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE GEF TRUST FUND JUNE 2023 WORK PROGRAM. P. 13.</p>		
<p>Comment for all UNDP projects</p>	<p>Following previous Council decisions related to UNDP GEF Management, all projects included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP shall be circulated by email for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement/approval. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the external audit and management responses and note them</p>	<p>UNDP is responsive to this issue.</p>

	in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to the Council during the 4-week review period.		
Canada Comments	<p>We have two recommendations for projects to be implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include the aspect of using the endogenous knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples in addition to the benefits derived from genetic manipulation.</li> <li>2. Build capacity and equip stakeholders. To date, the DRC's efforts to achieve the '30x30' objective have reached 15.08% through protected areas, community forestry and APACs.</li> </ol> <p>To this end, we suggest consulting the facts and recommendations raised by participants at the latest 'National Dialogue to capitalize on other effective conservation measures by area and recognize the role of local communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kinshasa, May 09-11, 2023' organized by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, in collaboration with the GIZ Biodiversity and Sustainable Forest Management Program.</p>		<p>No direct response by the CI GCP indicated. However, the concept of using indigenous knowledge and wisdom is incorporated into Component 2.2 and is a core part of the Knowledge Management Strategy. The GCP will encourage all child projects to integrate with the Portal elements supporting indigenous knowledge.</p> <p>Likewise, All child projects will be encouraged to develop capacities especially aligned with existing baselines for efficiency and to reduce duplication.</p> <p>IFAD will respond to Canada's guidance during the Child Project approval process.</p>
Germany Comments	<p>Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:</p> <p>Germany welcomes the proposal for the integrated programme, which will contribute to strengthening global ecosystem restoration efforts. Nevertheless, Germany has the following comments and suggests these be addressed in the next phase of finalizing the programme proposal.</p> <p>Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:</p> <p>The full proposal should include the analysis of and cooperation with relevant ongoing and planned projects at national level by organizations other than participating implementing agencies as a guiding criterion for the conceptualization and implementation of child projects to seek synergies in implementation.</p>		<p>See point 8 of STAP review above. The GCU will encourage child projects to maintain and report on existing and emerging synergies throughout the life of the program.</p>
	Throughout the proposal, innovation features as a prominent element but is not defined. It is understood that the term innovation may refer to the development and application of new methods and approaches, technology, financial instruments, removal of policy barriers, new business models, and institutional reforms. However, it is important to explicitly	Glossary of Terms	In response, the following definition was added to the Glossary of Terms, <i>Innovation, for its part, can refer to a new construct or to a change</i>

	define this concept and Germany suggests including a reference to the fact that innovations are not exclusively constituted by actions that are entirely new or untested.		<i>made to an existing product, idea, or field.</i> The concept will be reinforced also in knowledge products dedicated to the aspects of innovativeness of child projects.
	With respect to the use of “knowledge products” as key component in several indicators, Germany suggests a stronger focus on the actual use of said products to move from output to outcome measurement. This could be realized by focusing on “use of” instead of “benefit of” in indicators 2.1.1 and 4.3.2 or better defining what signifies a tangible “benefit” in this instance. Likewise, for indicators 3.1.3 and 4.3.5 measuring the amount of organizations actually using tools and knowledge products created in the context of the IP would be more meaningful than counting the number of tools and products created.		The point is very well taken. The GCU will consider updating and validating the indicators in PFD Results Framework during the process of developing the Program Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (output 3.2.2.) that will validate the indicators and coordinate data collection from across the child projects.
Japan Comments	On projects related to supply chain of tropical timbers, we hope that the implementing agencies can leverage lessons learnt from comparable projects conducted by the International Tropical Timber Organization, which is a focal agency for supply chain management under Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). Since ITTO is providing relevant data for FAO, utilizing its expertise would be beneficial for the multi-stakeholder dialogue as part of knowledge management and learning, while eliminating duplication of effort		
Switzerland Comments	The IP remains highly relevant. However, the wide geographic spread and diversity of countries involved is likely to require considerable effort and resources for coordination: Thus, we have no question but encourage.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to keep the program management light,</li> <li>• to maintain multi-stakeholder engagement and ensure strong national ownership</li> <li>• to use similar monitoring and reporting approaches in all participating countries in order to keep the collective effort visible and to facilitate the exchange of experience.</li> </ul>		Thank you. The point is well taken. The multi-stakeholder engagement is incorporated into all components and with the governance structure.  Please refer to STAP Point 7 above. The GCU will seek to avoid overlap or duplication of efforts, rather learn from diverse but related projects.  Streamlining and harmonizing the M&E approach is a core objective behind the Program-level M&E plan that will be developed with child project inputs.
United Kingdom Comments	Can it ensure it links in closely to other national platforms/programmes (e.g REDD+, GCF programmes etc)?		Yes. Please refer to STAP Recommendation no. 7
United States Comments	Madagascar: Given the corruption present in the government, funding going to the Madagascar government should be tracked closely, including to ensure that benchmarks are met. Funding for reforestation needs to explicitly state Forest Restoration with Native Trees and the focus need to be on growing forests, not planting trees. If the model is based on funding via carbon credits, this is controlled by the government in Madagascar and due to corruption is of concern to potential investors. Comoros		A response will be the responsibility of UNEP during Child Project approval process.

	government has a very small staff and capacity but are willing partners.		
	Uzbekistan: The Ministry of Natural Resources recently rebranded itself as the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change		A response will be provided by IUCN during the Child Project approval process.