

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR MSP (1-STEP) APPROVAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	3
Project Information	3
Project Summary	5
Project Description Overview	9
PROJECT COMPONENTS	9
PROJECT OUTLINE	11
A. PROJECT RATIONALE	11
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION	24
Project description	24
Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.	44
Core Indicators	49
Key Risks	53
C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES	56
D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS	57
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:	57
Stakeholder Engagement	58
Private Sector	58
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks	58
E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS	58
Knowledge management	58
Benefits	59
ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES	61
GEF Financing Table	61
Project Preparation Grant (PPG)	61
Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation	61
Focal Area Elements	62
Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type	62
ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS	63
GEF Agency(ies) Certification	63
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):	63
ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK	64
ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)	72
ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES	72
ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING	75
ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE	75

General Project Information

Project Information

Project Title:

Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Region:

Global

GEF Project ID:

11498

Country(ies):

Global

Haiti

Sierra Leone

Madagascar

South Sudan

Tanzania

Kenya

Somalia

South Africa

Cameroon

Congo DR

Type of Project:

MSP

GEF Agency(ies):

UNIDO

GEF Agency Project ID:

230260

Project Executing Entity(s):

Village Capital

Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine

Environmental Foundation for Africa

Jeunes Actifs pour le Développement Durable or Actives

Young for Sustainable Development Madagascar

Base Net

Kesho Trust

Project Executing Type:

Private Sector

CSO

CSO

CSO

CSO

CSO

GEF Focal Area (s):

Climate Change

Submission Date:

2/12/2024

Type of Trust Fund:

LDCF

Project Duration (Months):

36

GEF Project Grant: (a)

1,585,727.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 150,644.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 1,736,371.00	Total Co-financing 1,163,587.35
PPG Amount: (e) 50,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 4,750.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 54,750.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 1,791,121.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Sector (CCM Only):

Climate Change Adaptation Sector

Taxonomy:

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Drought Mitigation, Sustainable Livelihoods, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Forest, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Pasture Management, Food Security, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Small Island Developing States, Disaster risk management, Mainstreaming adaptation, Climate information, Innovation, Least Developed Countries, Private sector, Livelihoods, Adaptation Tech Transfer, Community-based adaptation, Climate finance, Climate resilience, Climate Change Mitigation, Renewable Energy, Technology Transfer, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, International Waters, Marine Protected Area, Coastal, Large Marine Ecosystems, Freshwater, Biomes, Mangrove, Fisheries, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Mangroves, Coral Reefs, Sea Grasses, Rivers, Wetlands, Tropical Rain Forests, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Sustainable Development Goals, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Amazon, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approach, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Communications, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Education, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Integrated Programs, Food Security in Sub-Sahara Africa, Resilience to climate and shocks, Sustainable Production Systems, Gender Dimensions, Agroecosystems, Smallholder Farming, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Sustainable Food Systems, Sustainable Commodity Production, Commodity Supply Chains, High Conservation Value Forests, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Smallholder Farmers, Sustainable Commodities Production, Adaptive Management, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Training, Targeted Research, Knowledge Exchange, Peer-to-Peer, South-South, Conference

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B “project description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The Project Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), along with its twin project, the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries, stands as a beacon for change. Its core mission revolves around empowering 21 selected non-state actors – composed by civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) – globally, aiming to catalyse innovative impactful initiatives that deliver climate change adaptation and environmental benefits in an inclusive manner. These initiatives were selected as winners through a global challenge organised as a special initiative under the Seventh GEF Assembly. The two projects will be submitted as separate 1-step Medium Size Projects, one to be funded by the LDCF and the on the other to be funded by the SCCF. While they will follow individual approval processes and reporting requirements, they will be implemented as a one *de facto* program – the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme. – the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme (see following Figure).

INCLUSIVE GEF ASSEMBLY CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in LDCs

Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries

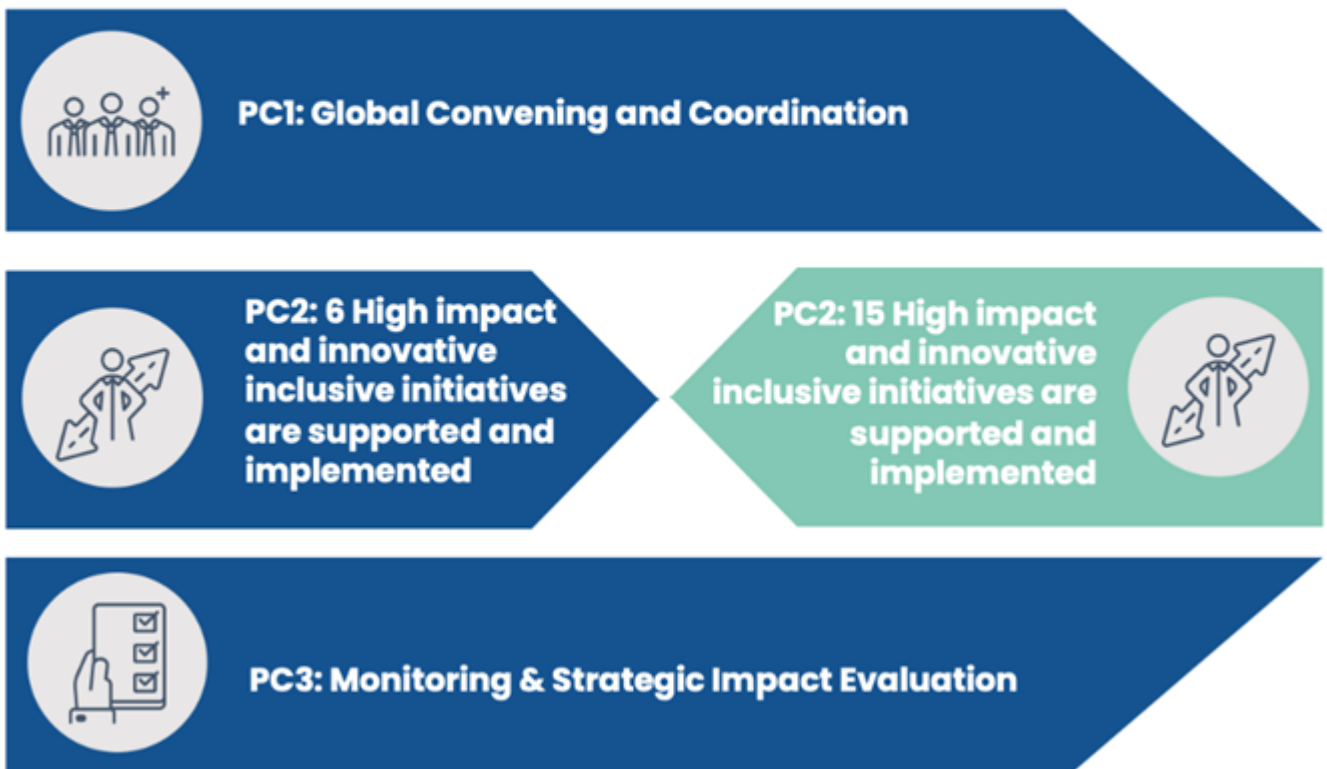


FIGURE 1: PROPOSED PROJECTS

The two Projects are a testament to collaboration. By providing grants of up to US\$100,000, it serves as a vital catalyst for these 21 non-state actors, amplifying their efforts to create tangible and lasting change. The Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in LDCs (GEF ID: 11498) will support the implementation of 6 high impact and innovative inclusive initiatives and the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries (GEF ID: 11499) will support the implementation of 15 high impact and innovative inclusive initiatives. These initiatives notably prioritize the inclusion of marginalized groups, ensuring the engagement of women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, LGBTQ2S+ community, and people living with disabilities.

In addition, they are set out to achieve multiple objectives. Firstly, they seek to recognize and elevate the crucial role played by non-state actors in driving real inclusive change, through the implementation of 21 high-impact innovative inclusive initiatives spread through 27 countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, and Uganda). By fostering knowledge sharing, networking, and global coordination, it aims to magnify the impact of these initiatives. Additionally, it aims to fortify partnerships and position the GEF as a leading force in championing locally driven, inclusive projects.

The following table identifies the 21 initiatives that are to be implemented by the two GEF projects, clearly highlighting the project titles, the project proponents/winners of the GEF Assembly Challenge Programme and the countries where the initiatives will be implemented.

TABLE 1: INITIATIVES INCLUDED IN THE INCLUSIVE GEF ASSEMBLY CHALLENGE PROGRAMME IN LDCS AND IN THE INCLUSIVE GEF ASSEMBLY CHALLENGE PROGRAMME IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

GEF Project	Name of the project	Project Proponent / Winner	Countries	GEF Grant Amount (USD)
Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in LDCs	Implementation of nature-based solutions for the rehabilitation, improved management, and protection of Marine Protected Areas	Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)	Haiti	94,450
	Youth-led Mangroves and Inland Wetlands Restoration for Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience	The Kenyan Youth Biodiversity Network (KYBN)	Africa	100,000
	Western Area Peninsula Tree Planting Project	The Environmental Foundation for Africa (EFA)	Sierra Leone	100,000
	Promoting Inclusive led Approaches to Nature-based Solutions Initiatives within the Territories and Areas Managed by Local Communities in Madagascar	Jeunes Actifs pour le Développement Durable Madagascar (JADD Madagascar)	Madagascar	80,000
	Promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Energy (Pro-CCASE) in Juba and Magwi Counties	Base Net	South Sudan	100,000
	Strengthening Commitment to Maasai’s Indigenous Knowledge and Culture for Enhanced Climate Resilience in Tanzania (SCMIKC)	Kesho Trust (KT)	Tanzania	98,000

Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries	Women and Girls Coastal Stewardship and Wellness Initiative	Adoptacoastline	Antigua and Barbuda	72,000
	Belize Wildlife Ambassador Programme – One Health Awareness, Wildlife Conflict and Crime Prevention and Mitigation with Wildlife Emergency Response	Belize Wildlife & Referral Clinic (BWRC)	Belize	100,000
	Upscaling Vetiver Systems Technology for Sustainable Farmland Recovery, Resilience and Agri-Heritage Protection in St. Vincent’s North Leeward Volcanic Hazard Zones	Hand2Earth	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	98,000
	The PlasticWize Fellowship (PLASTICWIZE 2.0)	U-Recycle Initiative Africa	Nigeria	100,000
	Restoring Rangelands in Kenya’s Southern Rift Valley	Stichting Justdiggitt Foundation (Justdiggitt)	Kenya	100,000
	Pass it on! The Indigenous-Led Education Global Network as Catalyst of Community Resilience and Youth Empowerment Towards Climate Adaptive Natural Resources Management	Rutu Foundation for Intercultural Multilingual Education	Global	92,000
	C+216 “Upscaling the C6 Initiative”	Les Amis de CAPTE Tunisie (LACT)	Tunisia	98,500
	Adaptive management to climate and beekeeping in agroforestry coffee production systems to provide additional income to peasant communities led by women in the Municipality of Caranavi	Local Central of Agricultural Cooperatives Caranavi RL (CELCCAR)	Bolivia	100,000
	Community-based reforestation in the Andes Mountains of Colombia with the Pasto indigenous communities, through an innovative and replicable model	HUMY	Colombia	100,000
	Rural youth, entrepreneurship, and empowerment through climate-smart conservation in La Cruz	Asociación Costa Rica por Siempre (Forever Costa Rica, FCR)	Costa Rica	100,000
	Alliance for indigenous forests in the Peruvian Amazon	Asociación para la Investigación y Desarrollo Integral (AIDER)	Peru	80,000
	Socioeconomic and organizational strengthening of Tagua-collecting communities in Ecuador for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity associated with this species, with actions sensitive to gender and ancestral knowledge	FOREVER LUNG	Ecuador	75,000
	Querétaro Low Emissions Seal, a strategy for landscape regeneration	Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda IAP (GESG)	Mexico	100,000
	Citizen science for community empowerment, climate adaptation and locally led environmental monitoring in coastal zones	Songkhla Community Foundation	Thailand	98,790
Promoting Local Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) Practices in China	Beijing Haidian Shan Shui Conservation Center	China	100,000	

Its strategic approach involves three fundamental components. Firstly, it establishes a dedicated platform for global leadership and coordination, facilitating knowledge exchange and thematic events. Secondly, it supports these 21 high-impact initiatives (six (6) through the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in LDCs and 15 through the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries) through grants and virtual workshops, nurturing their capacity to effect change. Lastly, it focuses on monitoring and evaluating inclusivity benefits, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the outcomes achieved.

This project aims to break down barriers. By addressing issues like insufficient support, lack of recognition, coordination gaps, and the absence of inclusive measurement, it charts a course toward meaningful change. It stands to benefit over 500,000 individuals, strengthen climate adaptation strategies, train thousands, and improve the management of several hectares of land. With this, the project contributes to reduce the vulnerability of these groups to climate change impacts through leveraging locally led adaptation.

This project is aligned with the 3 LDCF GEF 8 priorities as it will contribute to scaling up finance for adaptation; strengthening innovation and private sector engagement and fostering partnership or inclusion and whole-of-society approach, and in particular with Priority 3 “fostering partnership or inclusion and whole-of-society approach”. The project will contribute to the implementation of the LDCF priorities through the implementation of: locally-led high-impact inclusive initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and community resilience; learning and knowledge; and collaboration and partnership establishment.

Importantly, this project is not just about immediate outcomes. It aligns with the GEF's vision for the establishment of a specialized funding window dedicated to inclusivity action by non-state actors to be created by 2030. It also ensures gender equality and substantial youth participation, championing a diverse and impactful engagement strategy that is crucial for a sustainable future.

This GEF-CEO Endorsement Request respects the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in LDCs project.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To empower and support civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) in Least Developed Countries to implement high-impact and innovative initiatives that deliver climate change adaptation and environmental benefits in an inclusive manner.

Project Components

PC1: Global convening and coordination

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
632,120.00	100,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1.

Enabling environment created for global dialogue, cross learning, knowledge sharing and enhancing inclusive resilience and environmental benefits

Output:

Output 1.1.1. Strengthened inclusivity of the selected initiatives through organization of at least three (3) thematic events and six (6) virtual meetings to allow for knowledge sharing, showcasing and learning

Output 1.1.2. A Webpage created and operationalized to coordinate work under the two proposed Projects: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries and Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries

Output 1.1.3. Project Communication Strategy & Plan developed and implemented

Output 1.1.4. Creation and delivery of a webinar series on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects

Output 1.1.5. Development and adoption of a framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported initiatives adherent to the GEF methodologies

PC2: High impact and innovative inclusive initiatives are supported and implemented

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
629,450.00	907,806.68

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1.

6 of the 21 high impact and innovative inclusive initiatives are implemented and documented

Output:

Output 2.1.1. Implementation of 6 high impact and innovative inclusive initiatives

Output 2.1.2: Compilation of 6 case studies on the implemented initiatives

Output 2.1.3. Strengthened capacity of the 6 Project Executing Partners on development of business proposals through a virtual training workshop with 50% women participation and 40% youth participation

M&E

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

180,000.00

50,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1.

Progress on project implementation and impact of the project tracked and reported

Output:

Output 3.1.1. Continuous project monitoring and reporting as per UNIDO and GEF guidelines

Output 3.1.2. Mid-Term Review conducted

Output 3.1.2. Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation conducted

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
PC1: Global convening and coordination	632,120.00	100,000.00
PC2: High impact and innovative inclusive initiatives are supported and implemented	629,450.00	907,806.68
M&E	180,000.00	50,000.00
Subtotal	1,441,570.00	1,057,806.68
Project Management Cost	144,157.00	105,780.67
Total Project Cost (\$)	1,585,727.00	1,163,587.35

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly 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. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Climate change is not a distant threat but a crisis that is already affecting people and ecosystems across the globe. Human-induced climate change, with its more frequent and intense extreme events, has led to widespread adverse impacts and losses. While some adaptation efforts have reduced vulnerability, the most vulnerable people and systems continue to bear a disproportionate burden. The rise in extreme weather has caused irreversible effects, pushing both natural and human systems beyond their adaptive limits.^[1] Between 1990 to 2022 the world has witnessed more than 10,700 disasters, impacting a staggering 6 billion individuals. Among these occurrences, floods and storms constituted 42% of the total incidents and affected half of the global population (as shown in Figure 1). The year 2002 marked the most devastating period, with a severe drought in India and a series of droughts, storms, and floods in China collectively impacting 658 million people.

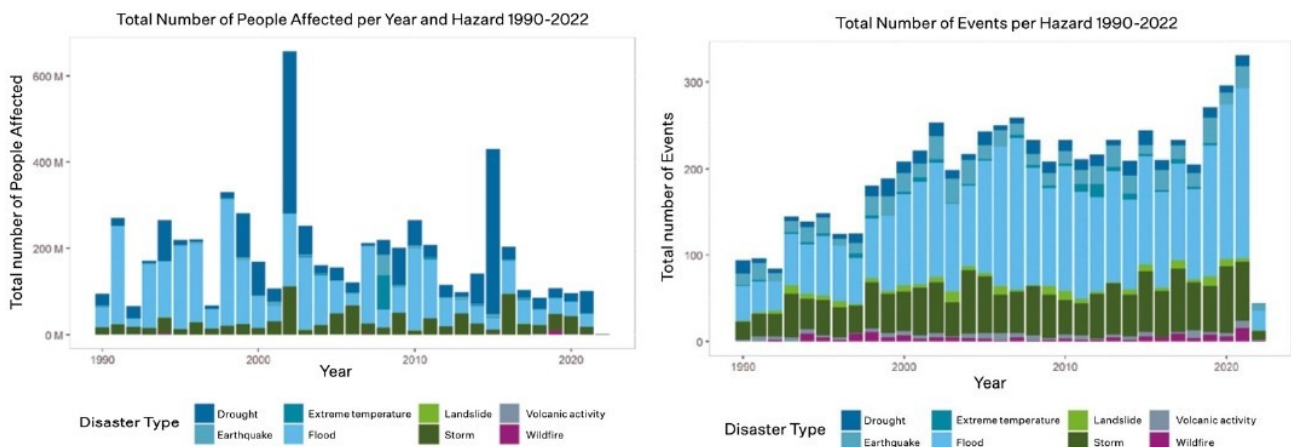


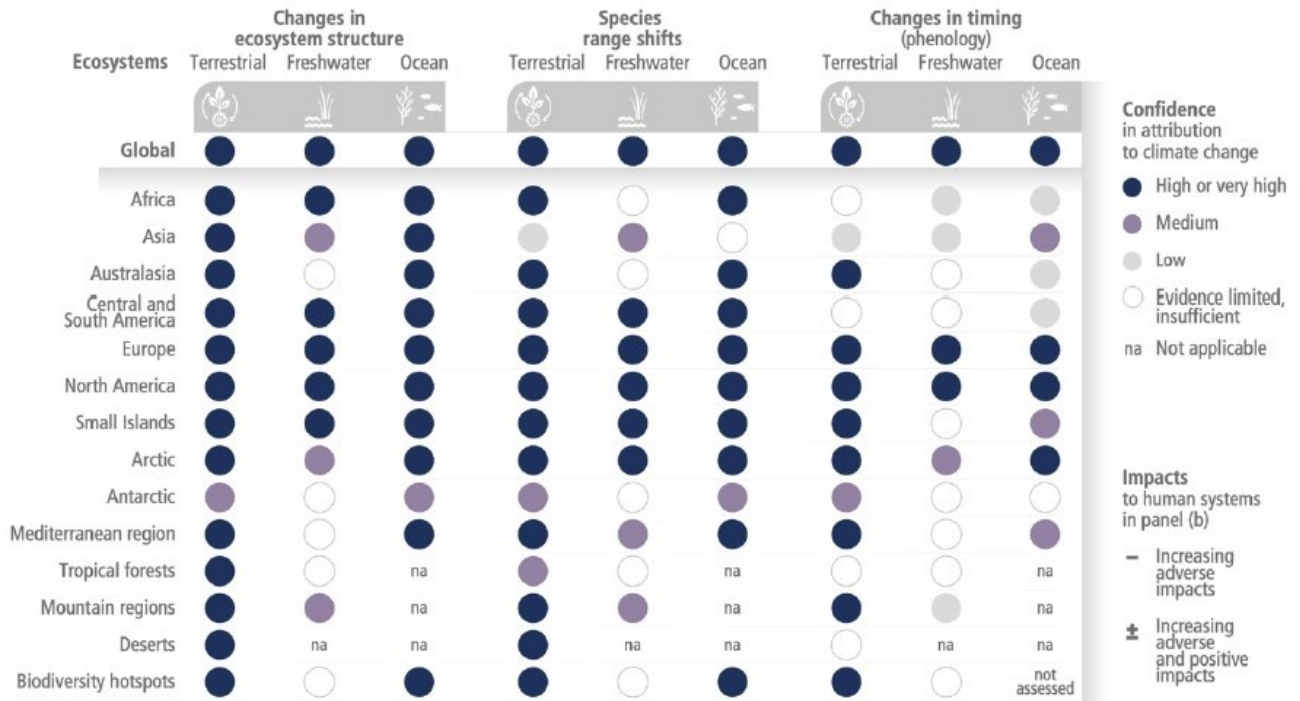
FIGURE 2: TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED PER YEAR AND HAZARD (LEFT) & TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS PER HAZARD (RIGHT) BETWEEN 1990 - 2020^[2]

The period from 2018 to 2022 ranked as the fourth warmest five-year span on record. In 2021, Cyclones Ana and Bina forced over 14,000 people to evacuate in Fiji, while Typhoon Rai led to 3.9 million displacements in the Philippines, Palau, and Vietnam, marking the highest number of disaster-induced displacements worldwide for 2021^[3]. It is important to note that the brunt of these impacts is disproportionately borne by women, indigenous communities, young people, and future generations.

While climate change effects are global (see Figure 3), and they are expected to impact everyone in the world, a wide body of scientific literature suggests that climate risks disproportionately affect the poorest countries and people, who are more exposed and more vulnerable to their impacts^[4]. These groups, that range from 3.3 to 3.6 billion in number^[5], face a higher level of exposure and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. **Notable global hotspots with elevated human vulnerability are concentrated in West, Central, and East Africa,**

South Asia, Central and South America, Small Island Developing States, and the Arctic^[6]. Vulnerability is more pronounced in areas characterized by poverty, governance issues, restricted access to essential services and resources, violent conflicts, and a prevalence of climate-sensitive livelihoods such as smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and fishing communities. Particularly, climate change is having unprecedented effects, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and developing nations characterized by low climate resilience, elevated vulnerability, and heightened exposure to extreme events like floods, droughts, storms, and cyclones. These regions often contend with unstable political and socio-economic conditions and have a heavy reliance on climate-sensitive sectors. Particularly vulnerable are LDCs and SIDS, that in 2016 filled out 13 out of the 15 countries positions with the highest vulnerability to natural hazards^[7]. Consequently, LDCs, SIDS and developing countries are disproportionately affected by climate change, significantly affecting both the well-being of their populations and the environment. According to the 2023 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report^[8], between 2010 and 2020, the human mortality rate due to floods, droughts, and storms was 15 times higher in highly vulnerable regions, including LDCs, SIDS, and developing countries, compared to regions with very low vulnerability.

(a) Observed impacts of climate change on ecosystems



(b) Observed impacts of climate change on human systems

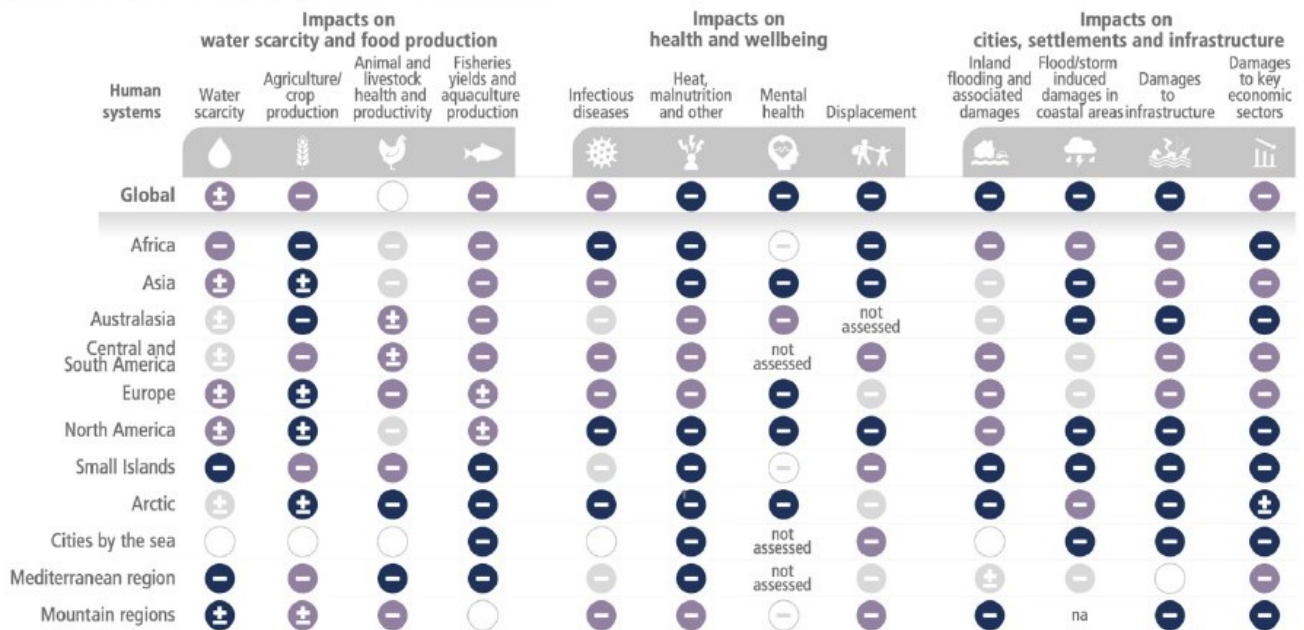


FIGURE 3: OBSERVED GLOBAL AND REGIONAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ECOSYSTEMS AND HUMAN SYSTEMS^[9]

Climate change exerts additional pressure on the environment and the economic, social, and political systems that communities rely on for sustenance, security, and livelihoods. Whether manifested as unrelenting

heatwaves, severe winters, or catastrophic weather phenomena such as hurricanes, climate change endangers lives by disrupting development and causing scarcities in fundamental essentials, including food and water. In 2022, Tropical Storms Ana and Batsirai triggered extensive flooding in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe, resulting in the displacement of tens of thousands of people^{[10]¹⁰}. In 2023, 29 million people faced unrelenting drought conditions in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti, Mauritania and Niger; more than 3,000 million were killed in flash floods in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda in May 2023 and at least 860 people were killed in floods and mudslides in February 2023 during the Tropical Cyclone Freddy that was the longest cyclone on record affecting Madagascar, Mozambique, Mauritius, Malawi, Réunion and Zimbabwe^{[11]¹¹}. In the summer of 2023, for the first time, Morocco surpassed 50.4°C of temperature^{[12]¹²}. Climate change also threatens air quality, depletes vital water resources, and constrains food availability. It disrupts livelihoods, displaces families from their residences, and drives individuals into poverty.

According to the 2023 IPCC Report, global warming is expected to continue increasing from 2021 to 2040 primarily due to cumulative CO₂ emissions, with a likelihood of exceeding 1.5°C even in low greenhouse gas emission scenarios. Some models project that global warming may decline back to below 1.5°C by the end of the 21st century, but for the 2081-2100 period, estimates range from 1.4°C in a low emission scenario to 2.7°C in an intermediate scenario and 4.4°C in a high emission scenario.^{[13]¹³}

With further warming, all regions will likely experience more frequent and simultaneous occurrences of climate-related impacts. This includes an increased frequency of compound heatwaves and droughts across various locations. Additionally, due to rising sea levels, extreme sea level events that used to occur once in 100 years are expected to happen annually in over half of tide gauge locations by 2100 in all considered scenarios. There are also projections of more intense tropical cyclones and extratropical storms (these with medium confidence) and heightened aridity and fire-prone weather conditions (with medium to high confidence) in various regions.^{[14]¹⁴}

“Future climate change is projected to increase the severity of impacts across natural and human systems and will increase regional differences”. Risks and adverse impacts of climate change will intensify with higher levels of global warming, becoming more severe with every 0.1 degree increase after 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Also, as global warming continues, climate change risks will become more intricate and challenging to manage: climate-induced food insecurity and supply instability will grow, intertwined with non-climate-related drivers like urban expansion, competition for land, pandemics, and conflicts. The level of risk at any given warming level depends on trends in human and ecosystem vulnerability and exposure. Global socio-economic development, including migration, inequality, and urbanization, is driving increased exposure to climatic hazards. Vulnerability is concentrated in informal settlements and rapidly growing smaller settlements, while in rural areas, it is amplified by heavy reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods. Ecosystem vulnerability is influenced by unsustainable consumption and production, demographic pressures, and poor land, ocean, and

water management. The loss of ecosystems and their services has far-reaching and enduring consequences, particularly for indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities reliant on these ecosystems for basic needs.^{[15]¹⁵}

Vulnerable populations such as IPs, women, youth, the LGBTQ2S+ community, and people living with disabilities, particularly those living in the poorest countries, face disproportionately severe consequences of climate change and these will be exacerbated with the expected climate future.

- IPs often live in harmony with their natural surroundings, but climate change disrupts this balance. They are amongst the poorest of the poor, and thus the most threatened segment of the world's population in terms of social, economic and environmental vulnerability^{[16]¹⁶}. IPs, who make up around 5% of the global population, bear a disproportionate burden of climate change impacts: (i) they account for approximately 15% of the world's poor, and over 80% of the 370 million IPs are located in the vulnerable Asia-Pacific region; and (ii) World Bank's estimates suggest that, of the 100 million people at risk of falling into poverty due to climate change, around 13 million could be from East Asia and the Pacific, signifying that indigenous communities might face the most significant repercussions^{[17]¹⁷}. Rising temperatures, altered weather patterns, and sea-level rise jeopardize their traditional practices, food security, and cultural heritage.
 - Loss of traditional lands / food security: Indigenous communities often inhabit regions with fragile ecosystems and are dependent on these lands for their subsistence. Climate change leads to more frequent and severe environmental disruptions, such as extreme weather events and alterations in precipitation patterns. These changes can result in the degradation of ecosystems, making it increasingly difficult for IPs to access essential resources like clean water, food, and traditional medicines. In some cases, entire communities are forced to relocate due to rising sea levels, erosion, or the loss of their agricultural lands. This displacement can disrupt their cultural practices and social structures, leading to a loss of traditional knowledge and identity.
 - Loss of cultural heritage: Indigenous cultures are deeply intertwined with their natural surroundings. Climate change-induced disruptions in ecosystems and habitats put their cultural heritage at risk. Traditional practices, knowledge, and belief systems often revolve around the seasonal patterns and behaviours of local flora and fauna. As these patterns shift due to climate change, indigenous communities face challenges in maintaining their cultural identity and practices. Furthermore, the loss of cultural heritage is compounded by the physical and emotional stress of coping with climate-related disasters and environmental changes, further impacting the mental and emotional well-being of indigenous individuals.
- Due to gender roles, responsibilities and cultural norms, women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate change, which exacerbates existing gender disparities and presents unique threats to their well-being, health, and safety^{[18]¹⁸}.
 - Globally, women both rely more on and have limited access to natural resources. In many regions, women carry a greater burden in ensuring the availability of food, water, and fuel. Agriculture represents a crucial sector of employment for women in low- and lower-middle-income

countries. Climate change heightens the burdens they already face. Water scarcity, extreme weather events, and increased workload contribute to their vulnerability. During periods of drought and unpredictable rainfall, women, as agricultural workers and primary providers, face increased challenges in securing income and resources for their families. This places additional stress on girls, who often must leave school to assist their mothers in managing the growing responsibilities.

- In addition to this, Climate change acts as a 'threat multiplier', exacerbating social, political, and economic tensions in fragile and conflict-prone areas. This heightened conflict driven by climate change makes women and girls more vulnerable to various forms of gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, human trafficking, child marriage, and other violence.
 - In the event of disasters, women face higher mortality and injury risks due to longstanding gender disparities in information, mobility, decision-making, and resource access. After disasters, they encounter difficulties in accessing relief and assistance, further imperilling their livelihoods, well-being, and recovery, creating a cycle of vulnerability to future disasters.
 - Climate change and disasters jeopardize women's and girls' health by limiting their access to services and healthcare, leading to increased maternal and child health risks. Extreme heat, for example, heightens stillbirth rates, and climate change expands the prevalence of vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue fever, and Zika virus, which have adverse maternal and neonatal outcomes.
- Young people will inherit the consequences of today's climate decisions. Nowadays, 1.21 billion young people aged 15-24 live the world today and this is projected to increase to 1.29 billion by 2030 and 1.34 billion by 2050^[19]. Of the 1.21 billion, 87% live in developing countries, which are the most vulnerable to climate change^[20]. They are more vulnerable to disrupted education, health issues, and uncertain employment prospects due to extreme weather events and resource scarcity.
 - LGBT2+ community, particularly in conservative societies, may face discrimination and exclusion. Climate-related displacement or disasters can magnify these challenges. Providing safe spaces, inclusive policies, and disaster preparedness for the LGBT2+ community is essential to mitigate their vulnerability.
 - People living with disabilities have the same fundamental right to the highest attainable standard of health as any other individual. However, they often encounter physical, communication, and access barriers in their daily lives. When faced with natural hazards, climate-induced disasters emergencies and global health emergencies (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), people living with disabilities are frequently the most affected^[21]. Inadequate preparedness, warning systems, and response mechanisms further exacerbate their vulnerability. As of 2021, approximately 1.3 billion individuals, equivalent to 16% of the global population live with disabilities and 80% of them live in the Global South^[22]. The Sendai Framework acknowledges the importance of including people with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, but progress has been limited. Despite the Sustainable Development Goals' commitment to leaving no one behind, disability inclusion in DRR remains

inadequately funded and deprioritized, as revealed by the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework.^{[23][23] [24][24]}

While there have been improvements in supportive policies and legislation for disability inclusive DRR, their implementation progresses slowly and unevenly, primarily driven by non-state actors with short-term funding. The engagement of organizations of people living with disabilities remains a significant challenge and is hindered by limited resources and support from stakeholders. ^{[25][25]}

Figure 4 maps shows how observed human vulnerability to climate change is a risk factor and differs from country to country.

FIGURE 4 cannot be attached here due to technical glitch. It is uploaded to the document section. Please kindly refer that section.

FIGURE 4: OBSERVED HUMAN VULNERABILITIES BETWEEN AND WITHIN COUNTRIES^{[26][26]}

The inclusion, support, and empowerment of women, civil society, youth, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and the most vulnerable and marginalized communities are fundamental aspects of a just and effective global strategy to tackle the climate crisis and other interconnected challenges^{[27][27]}. This encompasses poverty eradication, food security, social and racial justice, and gender equality. It is important that the most vulnerable are heard and become part of the solution, with the vision to mitigate climate change and its impacts as well as to adapt to those, as climate change hazards are happening and are expected to become more frequent and severe with increase in temperature. It is important that the most vulnerable are heard, are considered, and lead and engage in action. For example:

- Indigenous communities must be seen and powerful agents of change in climate action. While comprising only 5% of the global population, they safeguard 22% of the Earth's land and a remarkable 80% of the world's biodiversity. As a result, their role is crucial in both the sustainable stewardship of resources and the preservation of our environment and biodiversity, all of which are integral to the fight against climate change.
 - IPs rely on natural resources for their economy and have a unique relationship with these resources. Their economic model, based on sustainable practices, ensures that their income remains connected to the value derived from nature, without destroying it. This is vital for climate change mitigation, particularly in reducing deforestation-related emissions. For example, the Brazilian forests managed by IPs have shown significantly lower emissions of 27:1 than those forests outside their protected areas, due to their near-zero deforestation.
 - Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices hold substantial value for climate change adaptation. Climate-smart agriculture, which combines traditional and modern methods, is widely recognized as a prominent approach for climate mitigation and adaptation. Genetic repositories, established by both public and private initiatives, often draw on indigenous wisdom. Research has identified various traditional and innovative adaptive practices that enhance community

resilience, spanning improved construction technologies, rainwater harvesting, and community-driven disaster risk reduction.

- Women and girls play pivotal roles in addressing climate change, often leading efforts to protect their communities and environment. They are integral in managing daily resource consumption, agriculture, land conservation, water procurement, and more. Additionally, they make up most climate migrants. As such, they are well-suited to find solutions and have a vested interest in doing so. Firstly, education and awareness programs should be prioritized, educating women and girls about climate change, its consequences, and potential solutions. This awareness can be integrated into school curricula and community outreach efforts, ensuring that women are well-informed and actively engaged in climate action. Additionally, promoting women's leadership and participation in climate-related decision-making processes is vital. From local community initiatives to international negotiations, women should have a significant role in shaping climate policies and strategies. Recognizing and respecting their voices is not only a matter of equality but also key to achieving comprehensive and effective climate solutions. By implementing these measures and addressing economic empowerment, climate-resilient agriculture, access to clean energy, research and innovation, healthcare and family planning, resilience building, advocacy and networks, and gender-disaggregated data collection, women can be empowered to make substantial contributions to the fight against climate change while benefiting from the resulting improvements in their own quality of life.
- Young people must be actively engaged in climate action to ensure their voices are heard and they play a significant role in crafting and implementing solutions. Prioritizing youth concerns in policy decision-making and climate policies is crucial, acknowledging their past efforts and impacts. Encouraging and facilitating their participation and leadership in climate politics, policy-making, and action is essential^{[28]²⁸}.
- It is important to consider and put into practice measures that allow people living with disabilities to carry out their day-to-day life as well as adopt planning, warning system and emergency responses with their unique needs in mind. Mitigation and adaptation efforts must consider their unique needs. People living with disabilities and their organizations are critical to be considered in the assessment of disaster risk and in the design and implementation of plans tailored to their specific requirements and needs. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) calls all the states on Article 11 to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of people living with disabilities.

Addressing climate change is not solely an environmental issue; it is a matter of social justice and equity. Vulnerable populations, including IPs, women, youth, LGBT2+ community, and people living with disabilities, bear the greatest burdens of climate change, particularly in LDCs, SIDS, and developing countries. It is imperative that international efforts focus on building resilience, ensuring inclusivity, and empowering these communities. This is also corroborated by the 2023 IPCC Report^{[29]²⁹} that refers that prioritizing equity, climate justice, social justice, inclusion and just transition processes can facilitate effective climate adaptation, ambitious mitigation efforts, and the development of climate-resilient societies. Boosting assistance to regions and communities that are most susceptible to climate-related risks enhances the effectiveness of adaptation strategies and the integration of climate adaptation measures into social safety nets strengthens resilience. Numerous opportunities exist to lower emission-heavy consumption, encompassing changes in behaviour and

lifestyle that also bring about additional benefits for overall societal welfare.^{[30]³⁰} The fight against climate change must be a fight for a fair and just world for all, and one that is done through local inclusive action.

Sustainable land management, biodiversity management, and conservation are pivotal elements in the global response to climate change. These practices are essential for preserving Earth's natural resources and play a vital role in both mitigating and adapting to climate-related challenges. By safeguarding ecosystems and promoting biodiversity, we not only maintain the delicate balance of nature but also bolster the resilience of communities and ecosystems in the face of climate variability and extreme weather events. Projects explicitly focusing on biodiversity and land management interventions recognise the interconnectedness of these efforts with climate adaptation. Through conserving natural habitats, restoring degraded landscapes, and promoting sustainable land use practices, we not only protect valuable biodiversity but also sequester carbon, regulate local climates, and enhance ecosystem services crucial for human well-being. Thus, investing in sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation is not only about safeguarding our planet's natural heritage but also constitutes a vital strategy in addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly is a pivotal event held once every four years, serving as the highest governing body of the GEF. The GEF Assembly brings together representatives from 184 member countries, 18 implementing agencies, various conventions, civil society organizations (CSOs), IPs, academia, media, and business leaders, to celebrate environmental achievements and exchange knowledge, ideas, and solutions for some of the world's most urgent environmental challenges^{[31]³¹}.

In preparation for the Seventh GEF Assembly, hosted in Vancouver in August 2023, with the vision of emphasizing inclusive engagement, with a strong commitment to ensuring the meaningful participation of youth, women and girls, CSOs, and communities actively involved in promoting global environmental benefits and enhancing resilience to climate change through innovative and inclusive approaches, the GEF launched the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in April 2023, in order to select initiatives that align with the vision.

The Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme reflects the commitments of the GEF to ensure that it is an inclusive space for ideas and action including a clear approach to engage with non-state actors – CSOs and CBOs – for transformative impact at local level. It draws inspiration from the successful Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation with the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) through which 19 private sector projects from CSOs, philanthropic organizations, start-ups, private sector partnerships, micro finance providers among others, that catalyse innovation on adaptation to climate change were selected to receive implementation support by the GEF. The Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme was designed to acknowledge and support the significant role played by various CSOs and CBOs in delivering inclusive benefits for both people and ecosystems, by showcasing how the GEF is transforming ideas into actions and supporting solutions from the ground-up, advancing in this way a whole-of-society approach by providing resources and knowledge to scale up their initiatives.

From the almost 600 applications received, a selection panel made up of GEF's CSO Network, Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), Indigenous Peoples' Advisory Group, and Gender Partnership, as well as youth representatives linked to international environmental conventions selected 21 high-impact and innovative inclusive initiatives (herein referred to as "21 inclusive initiatives") from CSOs and CBOs as the winners of the

Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge programme^[32]³². The selected projects span over 27 countries, including developing countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Development States (SIDS): Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Haiti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, and Uganda. The projects cover various GEF focal areas, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation of biodiversity and wellbeing.

FIGURE 5 cannot be attached here due to technical glitch. Please kindly refer to FIGURE 1 under the Project Summary section, as FIGURE 1 and 5 are the same.

FIGURE 5: PROPOSED PROJECTS

In response to the GEF's new vision, 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People,' which was introduced and emphasized during the Seventh GEF Assembly, this project seeks to operationalize an inclusive, integrated approach. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives selected through the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme. To achieve this, the implementation of two synergistic Medium Size Projects is proposed: (i) Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries (GEF ID: 11498) and (ii) Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries (GEF ID: 11499). These Projects are designed to empower and provide support to CSOs and CBOs across the globe. **The core objective is to enable the execution of high-impact, innovative inclusive initiatives that deliver climate change adaptation and environmental benefits in an inclusive manner.** Through a concerted and collaborative approach, these projects aim to drive positive change, creating a more sustainable and inclusive world for both our planet and its people. This is to be achieved through:

- the provision of up to US\$100,000 in grant resources, empowering 21 non-state actors winners of the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme (herein after referred to as the “21 non-state actors”) – 6 through the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries (GEF ID: 11498) and 15 through the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries (GEF ID: 11499) – to implement their truly inclusive projects with demonstrated climate equity benefits on the various environmental areas supported by the GEF; and
- the creation and operationalization of a global coordination and knowledge platform for peer learning, partnership development and capacity building.

The proposed Projects will foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, LGBTQ2S+ community, and people living with disabilities, to create positive, lasting impacts on both the environment and the well-being of marginalized and vulnerable populations, and aims at amplifying the impacts of the selected projects through coordination and knowledge sharing activities.

Thus, the proposed Projects will address the following four (4) main barriers:

- Barrier 1: Insufficient support to initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and social inclusion. The proposed Projects will address this barrier through the provision of grants of up to US\$100,000 to support the implementation of 21 inclusive initiatives implemented by CSOs and CBOs and offer virtual training workshops to enhance the capacity of the selected 21 non-state actors.

These initiatives are very inclusive in nature as they directly engage and benefit the most vulnerable – IPs, women, youth, people living with disabilities – through the implementation of its activities.

- Barrier 2: Lack of recognition of the vital role played by non-state actors, such as CBO and CSO, in adaptation to climate change. This project recognizes the importance of the role of these actors, by: recognizing the importance of engaging them in the implementation of GEF projects at the Seventh GEF Assembly; by selecting and financially supporting the implementation of 21 inclusive initiatives over 27 countries; and by sharing the knowledge and learnings generated by the 21 non-state actors through global convening and coordination activities with other GEF Agencies, the private sector and with state and non-state actors. With the implementation of these initiatives, the project contributes to reduce the vulnerability of these groups to climate change impacts through leveraging locally led adaptation.
- Barrier 3: Lack of global coordination and knowledge sharing amongst local stakeholders in environmental and social projects. The projects will address this barrier through the establishment of dedicated project coordination webpage, organization of thematic events, and delivery of webinars to foster collaboration and share knowledge globally.
- Barrier 4: Lack of measurement and assessment of inclusivity benefits. The proposed Projects will address this barrier by developing a framework to assess the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of their outcomes and impacts.

The proposed Projects also envisage to strengthen GEF's partnership and community of practice with actors promoting inclusive approaches and reinforce GEF's position as a pivotal actor in driving locally-led, inclusive initiatives and as thought leader on equity in climate, environment, and wellbeing spaces, thus with active contribution to global sustainability and inclusivity goals. This project is aligned with the 3 LDCF GEF 8 priorities as it will contribute to scaling up finance for adaptation; strengthening innovation and private sector engagement and fostering partnership or inclusion and whole-of -society approach, and in particular with Priority 3 “fostering partnership or inclusion and whole-of -society approach”. The project will contribute to the implementation of the LDCF priorities through the implementation of: locally-led high-impact inclusive initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and community resilience; learning and knowledge; and collaboration and partnership establishment. Furthermore, this project is also expected to support the establishment of a specialized inclusivity GEF funding window by 2030, with at least 10% of GEF funding dedicated to inclusivity projects implemented by non-state actors, through demonstration of the inclusive benefits of such initiatives.

[1] IPCC, 2022: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Lösschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844. Extracted at: https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf

[2] Extracted from the International Science Council. 2023. *Report for the Mid- Term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*. Paris, France. International Science Council. DOI: 10.24948/2023.01. <https://council.science/publications/mtr-sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction/>

[3] Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Global Report on Internal Displacement, 2022

- [4] <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2021/09/climate-change-and-inequality-guivarch-mejean-taconet#:~:text=While%20the%20effects%20of%20climate,more%20vulnerable%20to%20their%20impacts.>
- [5] 2023 IPCC Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
- [6] IPCC, 2022: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844. Extracted at: https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf
- [7] <https://publications.iom.int/es/books/climate-change-and-migration-vulnerable-countries>
- [8] IPCC, 2023: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)], IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 1-34, doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647.001, extracted at https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
- [9] IPCC, 2022: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844. Extracted at: https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf
- [10] UNICEF, Madagascar Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2 (Cyclones Ana, Batsirai, Dumako, Emnati), February 2022.
- [11] Carbon Brief, Analysis: Africa's extreme weather has killed at least 15,000 people in 2023, October 2023, consulted at: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-africas-extreme-weather-have-killed-at-least-15000-people-in-2023/>
- [12] The Hill, Unprecedented summer heat breaks records around the globe, <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/4189155-summer-heat-breaks-records/>
- [13] 2023 IPCC Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
- [14] 2023 IPCC Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
- [15] 2023 IPCC Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
- [16] International Labour Office, Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch, *Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change : From Victims to Change Agents through Decent Work*. Geneva: ILO, 2017. Extracted at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms_551189.pdf
- [17] International Labour Office, Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch, *Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change : From Victims to Change Agents through Decent Work*. Geneva: ILO, 2017. Extracted at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---gender/documents/publication/wcms_551189.pdf

- [18] UM Women, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/explainer/2022/02/explainer-how-gender-inequality-and-climate-change-are-interconnected#:~:text=Women%20and%20girls%20experience%20the,less%20access%20to%2C%20natural%20resources.>
- [19] United Nations, World Youth Report 2020, <https://social.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/publications/2023-08/2020-World-Youth-Report.pdf>
- [20] United Nations, World Youth Report 2020, <https://social.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/publications/2023-08/2020-World-Youth-Report.pdf>
- [21] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. *2023 Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters*. Geneva, 2023 Extracted at: <https://www.undrr.org/media/90432/download?startDownload=true>
- [22] World Health Organization, Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities, 2022 <https://www.who.int/teams/noncommunicable-diseases/sensory-functions-disability-and-rehabilitation/global-report-on-health-equity-for-persons-with-disabilities>
- [23] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. *2023 Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters*. Geneva, 2023 Extracted at: <https://www.undrr.org/media/90432/download?startDownload=true>
- [24] International Science Council. 2023. *Report for the Mid- Term Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*. Paris, France. International Science Council. DOI: 10.24948/2023.01. <https://council.science/publications/mtr-sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction/>
- [25] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. *2023 Global Survey Report on Persons with Disabilities and Disasters*. Geneva, 2023 Extracted at: <https://www.undrr.org/media/90432/download?startDownload=true>
- [26] IPCC, 2022: *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Lösschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 3056 pp., doi:10.1017/9781009325844. Extracted at: https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6/wg2/IPCC_AR6_WGII_FullReport.pdf
- [27] UNFCCC, <https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/system/inclusion/#:~:text=The%20inclusion%2C%20support%20and%20empowerment,other%20interrelated%20challenges%2C%20from%20poverty>
- [28] Global Centre on Adaptation, *Youth Engagement with the Global Goal on Adaptation*, <https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/YE-report-digital-version-.pdf>
- [29] 2023 IPCC Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf
- [30] 2023 IPCC Report, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

[31] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-11/EN_GEF_LDCF.SCCF_.33_Inf.04_Assembly_Challenge_Program.pdf

[32] <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/press-releases/winners-inclusive-gef-assembly-challenge-program-announced-vancouver>

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. 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 PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The proposed Project together with its twin project **Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries** aims to empower and support selected CSOs and CBOs worldwide in implementing high-impact and innovative initiatives that **deliver climate change adaptation and environmental benefits in an inclusive manner.** Through the provision of a grant of up to US\$ 100,000 to the 21 non-state actors, this programme aims to foster collaboration between initiatives that actively engage/empower groups such as women, youth, Ips, local communities, LTBTQ2S+, community, and people living with disabilities, to create positive, lasting impacts on both the environment and the well-being of marginalized and vulnerable populations. By connecting these initiatives to knowledge sharing, networking, and capacity building, the project seeks to amplify their collective efforts and contribute to global sustainability and inclusivity goals.

The project will also encourage early-stage projects to continuously evaluate and adapt their respective approaches throughout project implementation, based on the principles of adaptive management which are part of the STAP key elements of good project design which GEF-8 projects are expected to apply. Also, through showcasing CSOs and CBOs locally led **high-impact and innovative initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and community resilience, the GEF is demonstrating the clear application of its approach and a new way forward to achieve impact under its vision "Healthy Planet, Healthy People", demonstrating the importance of inclusivity on its project.** This project design has been selected over alternative approaches for its inclusive collaborative approach, innovation potential and for combining actual project implementation with knowledge management and learning sharing activities, allowing to not only to generate knowledge based on actual project implementation but to share information and knowledge and learn from past and on-going projects results as to avoid repeating the same mistakes and/or to replicate best practices.

In summary, this project will:

- Recognize the vital role played by non-state actors, such as CBOs and CSOs, in delivering inclusive benefits for people and ecosystems empowering non-state actors / underrepresented groups to drive action on the ground to tackle climate change and protect nature and showcasing their innovative and indigenous approaches.

- Increase awareness and understanding on the importance of inclusivity to advance environmental action, through recognizing the actions implemented on the ground by the 21 non-state actors, contributing to its scale-up and/or replication and showcasing it through the dissemination of information (case-studies), sharing of experience and knowledge in global/events and meetings through the establishment of this global coordination and knowledge sharing platform.
- Reduce vulnerability through locally-led adaptation, promoting biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, and pollution reduction.
- Implement holistic land management strategies, including sustainable practices, reforestation, and community-based approaches, to preserve soil fertility, combat deforestation, promote carbon sequestration, ensure sustainable land use, and safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity.
- Implement comprehensive pollution reduction measures, including promoting sustainable practices, adopting cleaner energy sources, and raising awareness, to safeguard ecosystems and human health.
- Strengthen GEF's partnership and its community of practice with actors committed to promoting inclusive approaches to achieve global goals.
- Reinforce GEF's position as a pivotal actor in driving local-led participatory, collaborative, and inclusive initiatives and advance its position as a thought leader on the climate / environment / wellbeing equity space.
- Enable GEF to make the bridge between non-state actors / underrepresented groups and its GEF-8 LDCF and SCCF Programming Strategy, by identifying opportunities and best ways to engage CSOs and CBOs in climate change and nature protection projects, as well as to use this knowledge to shape future GEF programming strategy (GEF-9).

In the long run, this project will contribute to support the establishment of the specialised GEF funding window by 2030, where the GEF should mobilize at least 10% of its financial resources towards civil society^{[1]³³}, as proposed by Carlos Manuel Rodríguez, GEF CEO and chairperson, in its initial speech at the Seventh GEF Assembly in August 2023.

Overall, the project will aim to promote gender equality (50% women participation in all its activities) as well as an aggregated level of 40% youth participation. The project will benefit and engage with women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, LGBTQ2S+ community, and people living with disabilities, to create positive lasting impacts. This engagement will be tracked through the collection of information on the participants of the events, meetings and workshops, so to assess the participation diversity.

To reach the Project's objective, three (3) project components (PC) are proposed to be implemented:

Project Component 1 (PC1): Global convening and coordination.

Project Component 2 (PC2): High impact and innovative inclusive initiatives are supported and implemented.

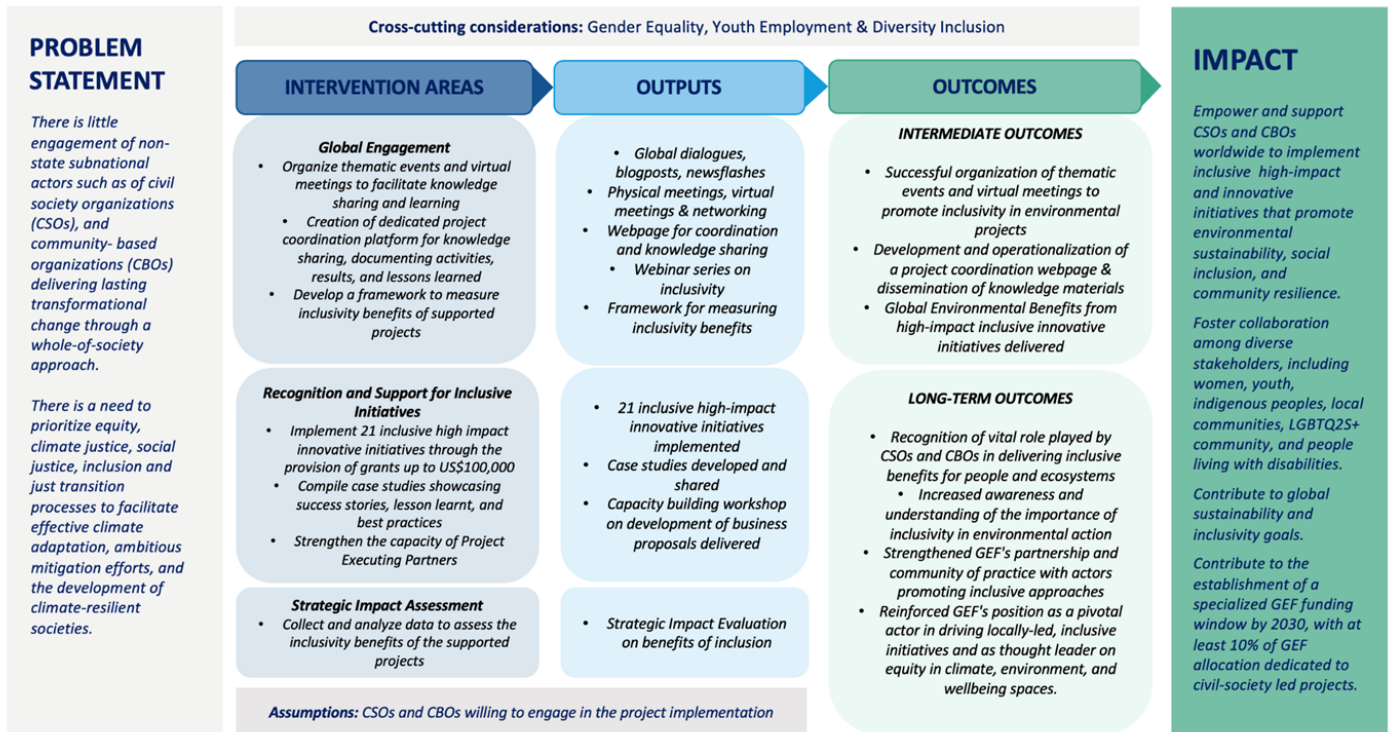
Project Component 2 (PC3): Monitoring & Strategic Impact Evaluation

The following figure shows the Theory of Change (ToC) underlying the proposed Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme of which the proposed Project is part of.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE To empower and support CSOs and CBOs in LDCs and developing countries (including SIDS) to implement inclusive high-impact and innovative initiatives that deliver climate adaptation and environmental benefits in an inclusive manner.

SCALE & FOCUS Global; Supporting inclusive actions and solutions from the ground up

MAIN BENEFICIARIES Indigenous peoples (IPs), women and girls, LGBTQ2S+ community, and people living with disabilities



**FIGURE 6: THEORY OF CHANGE OF THE INCLUSIVE GEF ASSEMBLY PROGRAMME
(INCLUDING BOTH INCLUSIVE GEF ASSEMBLY CHALLENGE PROGRAMME IN LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (GEF ID: 11498) AND THE INCLUSIVE GEF ASSEMBLY
CHALLENGE PROGRAMME IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (GEF ID: 11499))**

PC1: GLOBAL CONVENING AND COORDINATION

PC1 aims to aggregate and disseminate through a Webpage, established within the UNIDO website, the learnings and knowledge generated through the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives as well as foster discussion and sharing of experience and integrated generation of knowledge between them. This Webpage will be established and maintained by UNIDO once the project comes to an end, ensuring its sustainability. As part of this PC, a framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects adherent to the GEF methodologies will be developed and adopted. Under this PC, and towards the end of the project, a webinar series on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects will be developed and delivered, integrating the results, impacts of the 21 inclusive initiatives and evidencing the synergetic knowledge and learnings generated by them and between them through the knowledge sharing and learning activities promoted.

The Communication Strategy & Plan for the proposed Project and its twin project will be developed as part of this PC, including the branding and communication strategy, style and visual identity that communication and promotional materials produced under the project will adopt. The strategy will also include detailed procedures indicating the steps to follow in order to ensure that all disseminated knowledge materials and content produced by the project reaches targeted audience and communicates the proposed message in a clear manner. Particular attention will be given to the inclusion of specific guidelines to ensure that all communication material and knowledge products use a gender-sensitive, unbiased and inclusive language and media to fully mainstream Environmental and Social Safeguards into the project.

This PC will be implemented by UNIDO, which is both the implementing agency and Project Executing Entity (PEE) of this proposed project. The 21 non-state actors (Project Executing Partners (PEPs)), responsible for the implementation of PC2 outputs, will contribute and actively participate to the activities and outputs of PC1.

Outcome 1.1. Enabling environment created for global dialogue, cross learning, knowledge sharing and enhancing inclusive resilience and environmental benefits

A global dialogue on the importance of inclusivity in the delivery of environmental benefits in GEF projects will be coordinated and promoted by: (i) actively engaging the 21 non-state actors in thematic discussions around the implementation of their initiatives, the adopted inclusive approach and the results/benefits achieved; (ii) producing and disseminating thought leadership papers on importance of inclusivity in the delivery of environmental benefits in GEF projects; and (iii) creating and operationalizing a webpage to aggregate and disseminate information on the activities being implemented by the 21 non-state actors, their results and lessons learnt, activities organized by the project itself and learnings and knowledge materials generated.

Output 1.1.1. Strengthened inclusivity of the selected initiatives through organization of at least three (3) thematic events and six (6) virtual meetings to allow for knowledge sharing, showcasing and learning

The core of this output is to organize and facilitate the organization of three (3) thematic events with the participation of non-state actors (such as CBOs and CSOs), the public sector, the private sector and GEF Agencies to promote discussions on the importance of inclusivity and multi-stakeholder approach to climate change adaptation in the delivery of environmental benefits in GEF projects. Like the Seventh GEF Assembly, these events will be key to recognize the pivotal role of CSOs and CBOs in delivering inclusive benefits for people and ecosystems through a whole-of-society approach. In these events, concrete examples from the 21 inclusive initiatives implemented in PC2 will be presented showcasing how the GEF is transforming ideas into actions and supporting bottom-up solutions, advancing in this way a whole-of-society approach by providing resources and knowledge. To be able to reach out to the largest number of beneficiaries, including GEF

agencies, state-actors and other international organizations acting in the environment, sustainability, social inclusion and community resilience fields, these events should be organized back-to-back to or as part of global events attended by the referred groups (e.g., Conference of Parties; International Vienna Energy and Climate Forums; GEF Council Meetings, Regional Climate Weeks). The project will support the participation of representatives of the 21 non-state actors to the organized events (it is expected that one representant from each initiative will participate physically in one of the three thematic events). It is expected that through these thematic events links between UNIDO, the 21 non-state actors and other non-state actors, the GEF Agencies, and state-actors of LDCs, SIDS and developing countries will be established. It is foreseen that at least 70 people will attend to each of the three thematic events (of which at least 50% are expected to be women/girls and at least 40% youth).

Alongside the physical thematic events, UNIDO will organize six (6) virtual half-day meetings. These sessions, spearheaded by UNIDO, will extend invitations to all 21 non-state actors. UNIDO, in collaboration with the 21 non-state actors, will curate the primary themes for discussion and oversee the organisation of these meetings. They will serve as invaluable forums to inform on the progress of the 21 inclusive initiatives, share success stories, address encountered challenges, foster knowledge generation, and promote continuous learning during the implementation phase. Moreover, these meetings will serve as opportune platforms to identify additional areas of action for future GEF support, contributing vital insights to inform future GEF (LDCF and SCCF) strategies. It is foreseen that at least one representative from each winner will be attending the virtual meetings.

The materials developed and presented at the physical events and virtual meetings will follow the Communication Strategy & Plan established for the project, and thus will be gender-sensitive, unbiased and will use inclusive language and **media and** will fully mainstream Environmental and Social Safeguards. Also, translation into most of the UN languages will be provided on the events as well as sign language to ensure complete inclusivity. For the physical events, the selection of location for the event will have all these aspects into account as well as mobility ones, ensuring that people living with disabilities can easily access the events.

It is important to refer that UNIDO is the implementing agency and the 21 non-state actors for the organization of thematic events on another knowledge management project: *Amplifying the impact of the “Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation” of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management* (GEF Project ID: 11303) that will be organized back-to-back to global events. The thematic physical events that will be organized through the proposed Project will be organized also back-to-back with the thematic events of the *Amplifying the impact of the “Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation” of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management* project, so to enable those synergies and economies of scale, and if possible, some discussions between the stakeholders engaged in the three projects. **Specific emphasis will be put on highlighting initiatives to empower women and youth, both through specific initiatives and through mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth.**

The organization of these events and the virtual meetings will be carried out by UNIDO. Newsflashes/blogposts on the events, including videos of the presentations/speeches, will be produced and uploaded on the project Website as a way to disseminate information to any interested stakeholders.

Output 1.1.2. A Webpage created and operationalized to coordinate work under the two proposed Projects: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries and Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries

This output mainly focuses on ensuring coordination and information sharing between the 21 non-state actors and other interested stakeholders through the creation of a common webpage to which both public and non-

public sector stakeholders can access and gather learnings and knowledge on inclusive approaches and initiatives on GEF projects. To ensure that produced materials are used by GEF Agencies and inform project design in the field of the supported inclusive high-impact innovative initiatives, GEF Agencies will be granted access to the webpage and will be invited to share a link to the materials through their channels. All details will be defined in dedicated meetings with the GEF Agencies at the start of the project.

UNIDO is implementing the GEF project *Amplifying the impact of the “Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation” of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management* that aims to promote the role of the private sector in accelerating climate adaptation innovation through learning and knowledge management through the creation and operationalization of a Digital Community of Practice. In the mentioned project, UNIDO is acting as a PEP responsible for the creation and maintenance of a similar webpage, where the knowledge and learning generated by the three communities of practice – (i) investment funds; (ii) MSME incubation and acceleration; and (iii) CCA impact measurement in private sector operations – will be shared with all interested stakeholders. The Webpage for the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme projects will be connected to the one created for the *Amplifying the impact of the “Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation” of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management* project, so that synergies and economies of scale are enjoyed between the projects.

The Webpage will be created and operationalized to aggregate and disseminate information on (i) the activities being organized and implemented by the two Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programmes; (ii) the learnings and knowledge materials generated by the discussions among the 21 non-state actors during their meetings; and (iii) the case studies and videos on the impact of the initiatives that the 21 non-state actors are implementing under PC2. This Webpage will be the primary means used by the project for dissemination of overarching project activities of coordination, experience sharing, knowledge generation and cross-fertilization of learnings so to showcase the importance of inclusivity and involvement of non-state actors in the delivery of environmental benefits in GEF projects. The Webpage will have the links to connect to the websites of the 21 non-state actors’ websites as well as contain information on the proposed Project’s vision, activities, inclusivity impacts and generated knowledge materials/outputs of the project. The Webpage will be established on the UNIDO website and will be kept by UNIDO after the project closure, ensuring its sustainability.

Specific emphasis will be put on highlighting initiatives to empower women and youth, both through specific initiatives and through mainstreaming gender equality and the empowerment of women and youth.

The Webpage will include counters for number of people accessing it and number of people downloading the knowledge materials. It will also give stakeholders the possibility to sign up for the events/meetings of the 21 non-state actors.

UNIDO will analyse the possibility of making the project information accessible through an interactive map which allows users to visualize where the 21 inclusive initiatives are located.

The design of the Webpage will be carried out by UNIDO’s Communication Team (ODG/CSI) that will be engaged throughout the project implementation for updating the Website content and uploading materials and for dissemination and outreach activities through UNIDO’s channels and social media. To support the Communication Team in reviewing and overseeing the content that will be made available, UNIDO will engage a Communication Expert that will work with UNIDO and the 21 non-state actors to proof-read and formally edit the materials produced by the proposed Projects. The Website and information there uploaded will follow the Project Communication Strategy & Plan (see Output 1.1.3).

Output 1.1.3. Project Communication Strategy & Plan developed and implemented

At the start of the Project, UNIDO will subcontract a Communication Expert that will be responsible for developing the Project Communication Strategy & Plan and the “brand” that the project will adopt in all its communications and published materials and overseeing and making sure that all disseminated content follows the strategy. The Communication Expert will have to, amongst other things, assess communications platforms and other means of communication to recommend the most effective outreach and communication action plans to implement the strategy. This will also include the content planning for the Webpage (Output 1.1.2) and social media. The Communication Strategy & Plan will be discussed with UNIDO and approved before implementation.

The developed strategy will follow the UNIDO’s Corporate Design Manual and will include clear guidelines and procedures for the communication and dissemination of information, products (reports, webinars etc) and news from the Project and its twin project and identify the platforms for sharing and exchange of news, knowledge and connect with people. The communication strategy will include:

- Detailed procedures indicating the steps to follow in order to ensure that all disseminated knowledge materials and content produced by the project reaches targeted audience and communicates the proposed message in a clear manner.
- Clear guidelines and procedures for revision and editing of the generated materials before being disseminated.
- Specific guidelines to ensure that all communication material and knowledge products use a gender- and youth-responsive, unbiased and inclusive language and media and to fully mainstream Environmental and Social Safeguards.
- Specific guidelines for trainings and events, ensuring equal participation of women and equitable participation of youth and vulnerable groups, provision of translation into most of the UN languages as well as sign language to ensure complete inclusivity. Guidelines on the selection of location for physical events will also be stipulated ensuring as well that selected venues allow people living with disabilities to easily access the event and benefit from it as well.

All communication and information dissemination activities carried out by the project will have to follow the Project Communication Strategy and guidelines, including the ones generated by the 21 non-state actors and subcontractors. The Project Communication Strategy & Plan will be reviewed and approved by project steering committee (PSC). The Communication Expert at UNIDO will be the main person responsible for the implementation of this strategy. UNIDO will inform the 21 non-state actors engaged in the project activities and in the production of materials to be disseminated by the project about the Project Communication Strategy & Plan. The project Communication Strategy & Plan will be monitored and constantly updated throughout the project implementation period by UNIDO with support of the Communication Expert.

Output 1.1.4. Creation and delivery of a webinar series on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects

This output entails the development of one (1) webinar series on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects, compiling the knowledge and learnings generated, case studies and impact from the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and community resilience. This webinar will be announced in the projects’ Website and the 21 non-state actors, GEF Agencies, donors, other non-state actors, and state actors will be invited to attend. It is foreseen that at least 60 people will attend the webinar.

This webinar series will be compiled by a subcontractor hired by UNIDO towards the end of the project and will follow the projects Communication Strategy & Plan guidelines. UNIDO and the 21 non-state actors are expected to support the subcontractor in the development of this webinar series by providing information for its compilation and inputs as well as through the sharing of their experience throughout the project implementation.

Output 1.1.5. Development and adoption of a framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported initiatives adherent to the GEF methodologies

As the inclusive initiatives to be implemented are varied in nature and GEF thematic area, and there is no global agreed framework that can be adopted to measure the inclusivity impacts of all these initiatives, a framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects in PC2 will be developed by a subcontractor at the start of the project. This framework will include the GEF core indicators of the proposed Project plus its twin project **Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries** and will be developed in consultation with UNIDO, the 21 non-state actors and the GEF. Once completed, a virtual training session on the use of the framework will be carried to inform the PEPs on its use to report on the impacts of their implemented initiatives. It is envisioned that at least one representative of the 21 non-state actors will participate in the training session. A 50% women participation target, and a 40% youth participation target will be sought on this training.

The subcontractor hired by UNIDO to develop the framework will consult with UNEP FI that is the PEP engaged in the *Amplifying the impact of the “Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation” of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management* project responsible for the development of impact metrics for the Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation projects. This will be key so that there is no repetition of work, making sure that GEF grants are used efficiently and effectively.

The developed framework and training materials and its contents will follow the Project Communication Strategy & Plan, will be gender-responsive and inclusive. Both the framework and the training will be made available on the project’s Website. This framework will also be utilized in the Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation (PC3), that will be carried out towards the end of the project, to evaluate the inclusivity benefits of the implemented initiatives.

The following table summarises the outcomes, outputs, and activities of PC1.

<i>PC1: Global Convening and Coordination</i>	
PC1 aims to aggregate and disseminate through a Webpage, established within the UNIDO website, the learnings and knowledge generated through the implementation of the 21 selected high impact and innovative inclusive initiatives as well as foster discussion and sharing of experience and integrated generation of knowledge between them. As part of this PC, a framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects adherent to the GEF methodologies will be developed and adopted.	
<u>Outcome 1.1. Enabling environment created for global dialogue, cross learning, knowledge sharing and enhancing inclusive resilience and environmental benefits</u>	
<i>Planned and Envisioned Outputs</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Output 1.1.1. Strengthened inclusivity of the selected initiatives through organization of at least three (3) thematic events and six (6) virtual meetings to allow for knowledge sharing, showcasing and learning	UNIDO Conference of the Parties; GEF Secretariat, UNFCCC Secretariat
Output 1.1.2. A Webpage created and operationalized to coordinate work under the two proposed Projects: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries and Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries	UNIDO, IT/COM Expert with support from the 21 non-state actors
Output 1.1.3. Project Communication Strategy & Plan developed and implemented	UNIDO, Communication Expert
Output 1.1.4. Creation and delivery of a webinar series on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects	Subcontractor hired by UNIDO with support from 21 non-state actors e
Output 1.1.5. Development and adoption of a framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects adherent to the GEF methodologies	Subcontractor hired by UNIDO with support from 21 non-state actors, UNIDO and GEF

PC2: HIGH IMPACT AND INNOVATIVE INCLUSIVE INITIATIVES ARE SUPPORTED AND IMPLEMENTED

PC2 aims to support the implementation of 6 of the 21 inclusive initiatives selected through the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme through the provision of a grant up to US\$100,000 and enhance the capacity of the selected non-state actors on business proposal development through virtual workshops.

The 21 inclusive initiatives will be implemented spanning over 27 countries around the world (Figure 7). The GEF funding attributed to the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives of US\$1,988,740 is leveraging US\$2,189,073 of co-finance from the selected 21 non-state actors (see Figure 9).

The impacts of the 21 inclusive initiatives are expected to be substantial (see Table 2). The expected ratio of GEF project finance to hectares of land for climate change management is US\$1 to 0.28 hectares for all the 21 inclusive initiatives to be supported by the Inclusive GEF Assembly Programme, while this ratio is US\$0.0059 hectares for all LDCF/SCCF projects in GEF-7[2]³⁴.

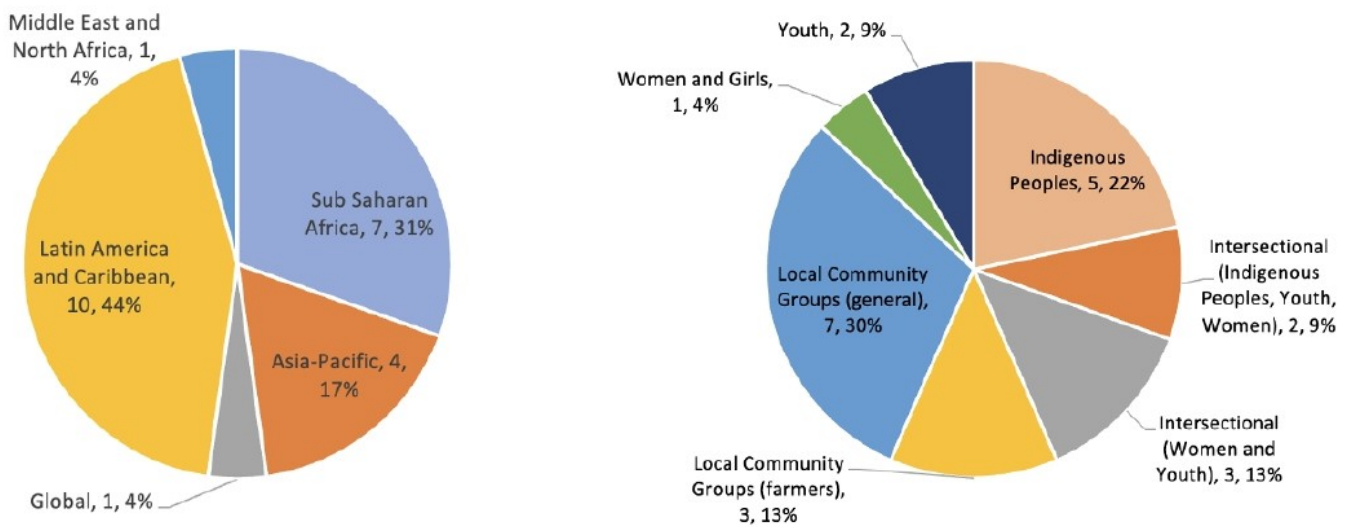


FIGURE 7: REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE 21 SELECTED INITIATIVES AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE SELECTED INITIATIVES ACROSS TARGET BENEFICIARIES[3]³⁵

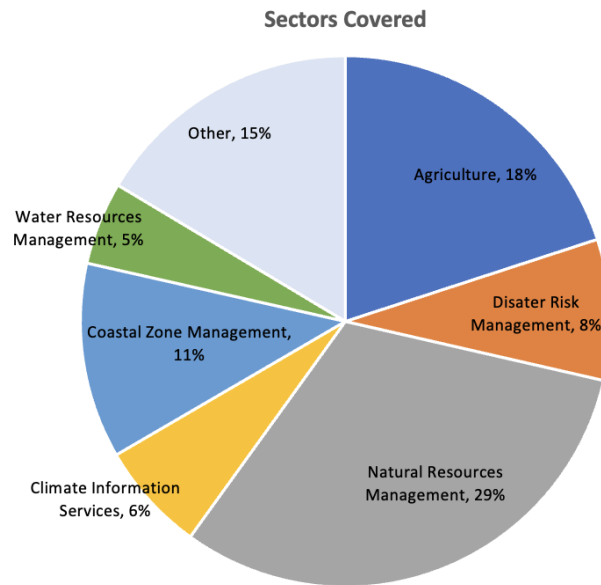


FIGURE 8: SECTORS COVERED

TABLE 2: TOTAL EXPECTED CORE INDICATORS RESULTS FROM THE SELECTED 21 HIGH IMPACT INNOVATIVE INCLUSIVE INITIATIVES

Core Indicator	Total Expected Results	Initiatives supported in LDCs	Initiatives supported in Developing Countries
Direct beneficiaries	522,178 (of which 88,716 are IPs, 303,369 are women, 229,508 are youth and 70 are people living with disabilities)	10,308 (of which 5,200 are IPs, 5,432 are women, 4,257 are youth and 70 are people living with disabilities)	511,870 (of which 83,516 are IPs, 297,937 are women and 225,251 are youth)
Area of land for climate change management	611,748 hectares	403,345 hectares	208,403 hectares
Policies/plans/frameworks/institutions to strengthen climate adaptation	80	26	54
People trained	14,168 (of which 5,975 are IPs, 7,371 are women, 6,801 are youth)	7,366 (of which 4,636 are IPs, 4,213 are women, 3,166 are youth)	6,802 (of which 1,339 are IPs, 3,158 are women, 3,635 are youth)
Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience	1	1	0

A brief summary of the 6 initiatives to be implemented under this project is provided in Output 2.1.1 and a more detailed description in Annex K: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme Initiatives. The other 15 initiatives will be implemented by its twin project) Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries (GEF ID: 11499) and those are detailed on its respective Request for CEO Endorsement.

Outcome 2.1. 6 of the 21 high impact innovative inclusive initiatives are implemented and documented

Output 2.1.1. Implementation of 6 high impact and innovative inclusive initiatives

Under this Project six (6) inclusive initiatives out of the selected 21 of the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme will receive up to US\$100,000 as a grant from GEF to implement their project proposals, totaling US\$574,450 (see Figure 9). As it can be seen in Figure 8 the six (6) initiatives span over several sectors: Natural Resources Management, Water Resources Management, Disaster Risk Management, Agriculture, Coastal Zone Management, Climate Information Services, among other.

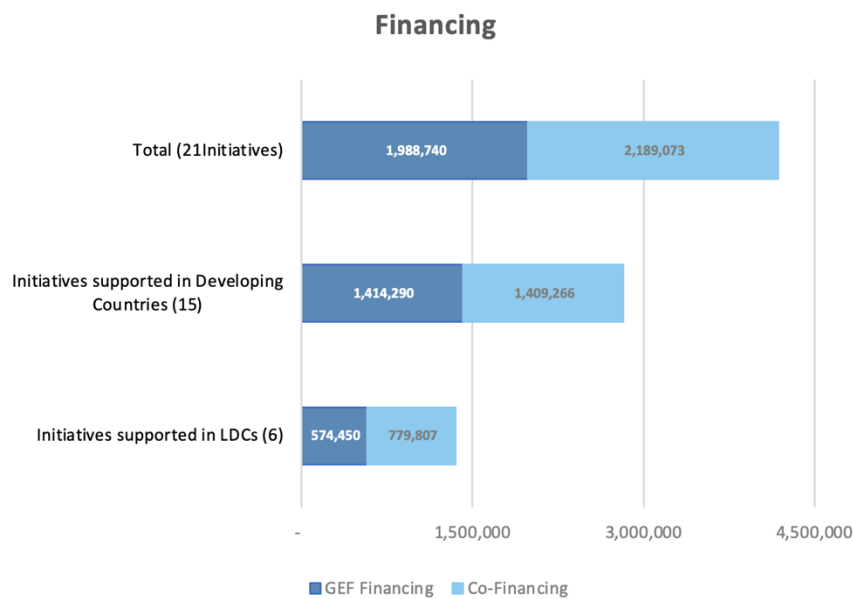


FIGURE 9: FINANCING OF THE 21 HIGH IMPACT INNOVATIVE INCLUSIVE INITIATIVES

These activities aim to benefit 10,304 people of which 5,200 are IPs, 5,432 are women, 4,257 are youth and 70 are people living with disabilities, contribute to improve climate change management of 403,345 ha of land in 11 different countries.

A brief explanation of each of these six (6) initiatives is provided below.

Initiative #1: Implementation of nature-based solutions for the rehabilitation, improved management, and protection of Marine Protected Areas, Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM), Haiti

Haiti's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are consistently facing immediate threats stemming from unsustainable and highly detrimental fishing and agricultural methods, coral exploitation for construction purposes, marine pollution, and deforestation practices, which encompass the cutting of trees, including mangroves, for fuelwood and charcoal production within local watersheds. These activities are predominantly attributed to local communities and have a detrimental impact not only on terrestrial resources but also on coastal and marine environments. Furthermore, these practices are resulting in a decline in local livelihood incomes and heightening the local population's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

FoProBiM proposes to implement an initiative to improve the management and conservation of coastal and marine ecosystems in general, and biodiversity in particular, by providing educational and training activities

and best practices linked to concrete actions in order to increase local environmental and economic resilience and reduce vulnerabilities within local communities. The initiative will target 3 Bays MPA, listed as a Key Biodiversity Area by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, in Haiti North Department encompassing 75,000 hectares that includes numerous bays, islands, inlets, mangrove forests, coral reefs, seagrass beds, watersheds, and rivers, as well as important agricultural and fisheries activities. The targeted stakeholders include, among others, small local coastal community organizations comprised of fishers, farmers, women's, youth, church groups, and local development organizations as well as local and central government public sector officials. The proposed initiative will:

- Train 486 people: (i) 300 local community members in environmental education activities and various NbS focused environmental restoration or rehabilitation activities within their communities; (ii) 46 members of management authorities from four MPAs government agencies, and university students on management of coastal and marine resources; 100 stakeholders in apiculture, mangrove restoration and reforestation; and 40 trained on environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative livelihood income generating activities (fishing, beekeeping etc).
- Support better governance and management of 2,738 km² of marine protected areas throughout Haiti, with the training of all MPA management authorities.
- Improve management of 1,000 hectares of mangrove ecosystem including replanting activities, contributing to increased resilience to the impacts of climate change of local communities.
- Support 40 people with environmentally friendly and sustainable alternative livelihood income generating activities and equipment (fishing, beekeeping etc).

The proposed Project will support this inclusive initiative through the provision of a grant of US\$96,450 to facilitate the implementation of the holistic approach in which educational activities are combined with the development of environmentally friendly and sustainable income generating activities. FoProBiM will contribute US\$5,000 as co-finance for the initiative. This initiative will provide alternatives to damaging resources extraction such as overfishing using inappropriate gear and methods, cutting down of important mangrove forests for the production of charcoal, and the destruction of coral reefs for building material, thus contributing to reforestation and regeneration of mangroves in Haiti, preservation of its important biodiversity and against the impacts of climate change.

Initiative #2: Youth-led Mangroves and Inland Wetlands Restoration for Regional Climate Adaptation and Resilience, Youth Biodiversity Society of Kenya, Africa

Mangroves and inland wetland ecosystems not only contribute to the diversity of Africa's ecosystems but also play a crucial role in the resilience of communities and nature. African youth are acutely aware of the importance of these vital biodiversity zones and are deeply concerned about the rapid loss of these ecosystems. Consequently, they are taking transformative actions to ensure their sustainability. The Youth Biodiversity Society of Kenya is leading this initiative with the goal of promoting climate adaptation and resilience at the community level in six (6) African countries. This will be achieved through the enhanced utilization of mangrove ecosystems and terrestrial wetlands as natural solutions to climate change. African youth CSOs have come together to support this initiative and collaborate closely with respective governments.

The objective is to emphasize the role of mangrove ecosystems and wetlands as natural carbon sinks and strategic investments in revised National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) and their respective implementation plans. This will help these countries meet the 2030 global climate target and Target 8 of the

Kunming-Montreal Framework. It will bring together CSOs, youth IPs, and CBOs to collaborate with government institutions and share knowledge with them in their efforts in developing inclusive and comprehensive NBSAPs. The initiative would primarily include knowledge exchange, networking and awareness raising activities which would likely benefit various countries in mangrove and wetland restoration and benefitting vulnerable communities. The project will deliver a series of web-based and in-person workshops and knowledge sharing sessions with stakeholders, specifically targeting youth, women, IPs and CBOs. It will mainly focus on engaging participants from LDCs in the Africa region such as Tanzania, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and could include other KYBN network countries such as Kenya, South Africa, and Cameroon.

The proposed Project will support this inclusive initiative through the provision of a grant of US\$100,000 to facilitate the deployment of the proposed activities. The Youth Biodiversity Society of Kenya will contribute US\$10,000 as co-finance for the initiative. This initiative will work with youth, IPs, CBO and the government through a holistic approach that combines capacity building, implementation/demonstration, and the revision of the legal framework. The aim is to address both immediate and long-term challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity loss in the African region and align with the Global Biodiversity Framework. This will put into action a whole-of-society approach to reverse biodiversity loss and build climate-resilient communities.

Initiative #3: Western Area Peninsula Tree Planting Project, Environmental Foundation for Africa – Sierra Leone (EFA-SL), Sierra Leone

The Western Area Peninsula National Park, formerly the Western Area Peninsula Forest Reserve (WAPF), established in 1916, protects a 17,000-hectare tropical forest vital for clean air and water in local communities. Presently, this park faces severe threats due to the annual migration of over 100,000 job seekers to Freetown. This influx results in illegal encroachments, causing escalating deforestation in Sierra Leone. Approximately 12% of the park's canopy was lost annually between 2011 and 2018, impacting water catchments and increasing landslide, flooding, and coastal erosion risks while threatening biodiversity. Local community involvement is essential, and the #FreetownTheTreeTown project saw the loss of over 100,000 trees, worsening deforestation across the Western Area Peninsula.

From September 2020 to June 2023, EFA partnered with the Government of Sierra Leone under the Resilient Urban Sierra Leone Project, financed by the World Bank, to manage the #FreetownTheTreeTownCampaign on behalf of the Freetown City Council. EFA collaborated with various stakeholders, including the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, National Protected Area Authority, National Water Resources Management Agency, Catholic Relief Services, Councillors in the Urban and Rural Districts, community members, and Community-Based Organizations. EFA engaged 230 local community members as tree stewards, digitally tracking over 550,000 planted trees. As this project concludes, a new initiative is needed to build upon the established efforts, relationships, and models.

Thus EFA-SL proposes to implement a project that will foster full acceptance and active engagement by the Government of Sierra Leone and local communities in tree planting and maintenance as a valuable and beneficial investment. This will be achieved through re-planting of 20,000 indigenous trees and sustained growth of the more than 500,000 indigenous trees already planted in the 17,000 ha of the WAPF, which will regulate local weather patterns, sequester CO₂, and provide tangible demonstrations of the crucial connection between reforestation and climate change mitigation. The project will also establish and maintain one Power BI digital platform to track and monitor tree plantations, provide capacity building to 500 climate ambassadors (including 250 women/girls and 370 youth); provide plantation/maintenance financial support to local communities for the implementation of their Local Community Climate Adaptation Plans and through these activities, create new green jobs that would be quantified at project inception.

The proposed Project will support this inclusive initiative through the provision of a grant of US\$100,000 to facilitate the deployment of the proposed activities. EFA-SL will contribute US\$500,000 as co-finance for the initiative. This initiative seeks to alleviate the impacts of erratic local weather events, such as soil erosion from heavy rains, by continuing community-driven tree-growing efforts and minimizing periodic fires, floods, and landslides. Additionally, the project aims to enhance tree canopy cover in urban areas and environs, empowering local youths through environmental education and the creation of green jobs. Ultimately, the project aspires to bolster the effectiveness of the National Protected Area Authority by increasing protection efforts for forests and water catchments, while simultaneously enhancing water security and reducing climate insecurity in vulnerable landscapes.

Initiative #4: Promoting Inclusive led Approaches to Nature-based Solutions Initiatives within the Territories and Areas Managed by Local Communities in Madagascar, Jeunes Actifs pour le Développement Durable Madagascar (JADD Madagascar), Madagascar

Madagascar faces a multitude of interconnected challenges. The country's remarkable biodiversity, home to 5% of global species, is threatened by rapid population growth, leading to increased exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, and slash-and-burn agriculture. Madagascar is also among the top five countries impacted by human-induced climate change, with extreme weather events such as cyclones, droughts, and floods exacerbating poverty and affecting biodiversity, ecosystem services, food security, and public health. Additionally, climate crises disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, particularly women, people living with disabilities, youth, and IPs, who rely heavily on increasingly impacted natural resources. These groups face barriers such as limited access to financial support, discrimination in land and resource access, and inadequate access to information and education, making it harder for them to cope with the effects of climate change.

JADD Madagascar proposes to implement an initiative that focuses on enhancing the climate resilience of vulnerable communities, primarily in Madagascar's Central and Southern regions, with a particular emphasis on Key Biodiversity Areas and territories managed by local communities. To address the climate crisis, the initiative will implement the following key solutions: (a) promotion of climate information and knowledge, through which the initiative will provide communities with climate data and local or indigenous knowledge, enabling them to prepare for climate-related risks; (b) embrace the NbS approach through the implementation of practices that restore ecosystems, support biodiversity, and enhance community well-being; (c) improvement of livelihoods through the creation and provision of training on green and blue jobs opportunities for the most vulnerable, such as women, youth and people living with disabilities; and (d) establishment of strategic partnerships through collaboration with universities, CSOs, and the private sector in the implementation of innovative climate resilience measures.

The proposed Project will support this inclusive initiative through the provision of a grant of US\$80,000 to facilitate the deployment of the proposed activities. JADD Madagascar will contribute US\$2,500 as co-finance for the initiative. The activities implemented under this initiative aim to manage an area of 20,000 hectares of land for climate resilience, strengthen 10 institutions, train 500 people of which 150 are women, 225 are youth, 25 are people living with disabilities and 100 are IPs/CBOs. Overall, the project aims to directly benefit 800 people (of which 176 are women, 400 are youth, 25 are people living with disabilities and 200 are IPs/CBOs) and indirectly 10,000.

Initiative #5: Promoting Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Energy (Pro-CCASE) in Juba and Magwi Counties, Base Net (BN), South Sudan

In South Sudan, where the livelihoods of 95% of the population^{[4]³⁶} rely on climate-sensitive natural resources, including rain-fed agriculture, livestock, and forests that provide household energy, communities in Juba and Magwi Counties face escalating vulnerability to climate change impacts. Frequent extreme climate events such as droughts and floods have caused crop failures, water scarcity, increased crop pests and diseases, habitat degradation, loss of ecosystem services, and conflicts over limited natural resources. Moreover, local governments and communities in these areas lack the capacity to predict, respond to, and adapt to climate-induced disasters. Research institutions have been hindered by insecurity and conflict, resulting in a scarcity of crucial data for climate-smart agricultural and natural resource management strategies. These challenges compound the vulnerability of rural communities, leading to extreme climate shocks, poverty, food insecurity, youth unemployment, limited livelihood options, and negative coping strategies like deforestation, which degrade ecosystems and trigger environmental degradation.

The initiative proposed by Base Net – Pro-CCASE in Juba and Magwi Counties – aims to enhance gender-responsive climate change adaptation for resilience among vulnerable rural and marginalized groups, with a focus on supporting food, income, and energy security. By building the community's climate change adaptation capacity through agroforestry initiatives, the project aims to provide significant benefits, including improved food security, income diversification, and environmental conservation. For that the project will raise community awareness about climate change effects, adaptation benefits, and planning skills of 3,000 people, of which 1,500 are women and girls, 900 are youth, 600 are IPs/CBOs and 50 are people living with disabilities. The project also aims to empower rural women and youth in the target areas to become resilient, ensuring food and income security, hazard prediction skills, and advocacy for changes in local practices that worsen climate impacts. Additionally, the project will work towards regenerating degraded landscapes and ecosystems (6 ha), ensuring sustainable resources for healthier living and enhancing community engagement with the private sector.

The proposed Project will support this inclusive initiative through the provision of a grant of US\$100,000 to facilitate the deployment of the proposed activities. Base-Net will contribute approximately with US\$226,667 as co-finance for the initiative.

Initiative #6: Strengthening Commitment to Maasai's Indigenous Knowledge and Culture for Enhanced Climate Resilience in Tanzania (SCMIKC), Kesho Trust, Tanzania

Adverse impacts of climate change including increased drought, changing precipitation patterns, and flooding affect both natural and managed ecosystems, constraining productivity of climate-sensitive sectors such as rain-fed agriculture and livestock keeping. It also reduces availability of water and energy, and thereby affecting community health and wellbeing. Traditionally the Maasai utilized longstanding traditional and cultural practices to manage the ecosystems on which their livelihood depended, but the modern land management strategies are not recognizing such knowledge and management system.

Kesho Trust proposed to implement an initiative to promote the acceptance and use of Maasai traditional knowledge of community land and natural resources management for improved adaptations and resilience strategies to impacts of climate change in two Maasai communities: Enguserosambu ward (Ngorongoro) and Elerai village (Kilindi). This inclusive initiative will work with community members, traditional leaders, organizations and local governments to develop locally accepted community action plans to address climate change impacts and adapt community infrastructure; develop and implement innovative and resilient livelihood activities for increased community's income and food security; and expand supporting partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Project will support this inclusive initiative by providing a grant of US\$98,000 to facilitate the implementation of the proposed activities. Kesho Trust will contribute US\$35,639 as co-financing for the initiative. The proposed project aims to establish a long-term partnership with local communities in the project sites, fostering knowledge-building and effective change implementation. This initiative will directly benefit approximately 4,200 indigenous people through community-led adaptation strategies, including 2,520 women/girls and 2,100 youth, and indirectly impact 17,500 individuals. Furthermore, the initiative aims to manage approximately 89,489 hectares of land to enhance climate resilience.

These initiatives will be implemented by their respective non-state actors under the supervision of UNIDO. UNIDO will establish Project Implementation Agreements with each CBO and CSO following UNIDO Rules and Regulations, which will include amongst other things the terms and conditions that each of them needs to meet to receive the respective requested grant, to report on its use and the impact of its project, and the timeline for the implementation of each project.

The 21 non-state actors will maintain continuous contact with UNIDO and regularly report on the implementation and impact of its implemented initiatives, in accordance with the M&E system implemented for the proposed Project that is detailed in PC3.

Output 2.1.2. Compilation of 6 case studies on the implemented initiatives

The implementation and operationalization of the 6 out of the 21 inclusive initiatives supported through this Project will be documented by the PEPs and disseminated by them and UNIDO through case studies sharing success stories, lessons learnt and best practices. These can be produced as brochures, visual appealing participatory videos and/or photo storytelling. These should contain testimonials of indigenous men, women and youth about the inclusivity of the projects and its importance as well as on the impact of the deployed initiatives on the communities that they are part of. They should include information on the social, economic and environmental impacts of the implemented initiative, technologies and supporting infrastructure introduced, training provided and what their scale up potential for other similar communities in the country that they have been deployed is or in similar ones.

UNIDO will select a couple of initiatives to develop a series of impact videos that should also cover the information above to be uploaded on the Webpage For that UNIDO will subcontract a specialised company to produce the videos that will be then uploaded on the project's Website.

The materials compiled will follow the Project Communication Strategy & Plan. It is expected that these materials will be compiled 6 to 12 months after the implementation of the inclusive initiatives, so that they have been tested by the communities where they are implemented, and meaningful information can be collected about them.

This information will be made available on the project Website and UNIDO will use it on the events of PC1 to showcase these projects and disseminate knowledge on the benefits of inclusivity in GEF projects.

Output 2.1.3. Strengthened capacity of the 6 Project Executing Partners on development of business proposals through a virtual training workshop with 50% women participation and 40% youth participation

As part of the initial selection process of the 21 non-state actors, capacity building on the development of business proposals was highlighted as a capacity that the 21 non-state actors would like to strengthen. The training will address how GEEW, youth, people with disabilities and /where appropriate) integration of indigenous people should be taken into account on the project cycle. Thus, as part of this PC a virtual training

course on the development of business proposals will be developed and delivered. UNIDO will engage with/subcontract Village Capital to carry out a needs assessment in terms of development skills, prepare the virtual training workshop and deliver it. This virtual training workshop will also be open to the participation of other interested stakeholders that can enrol through the project’s Website. It is envisaged that this virtual training course will be provided to at least 40 participants, of which the majority are expected to be CSOs and CBOs. Gender equality (50%) and 40% youth participations will also be sought. Besides sex- and age-disaggregated targets, the diversity of the stakeholders will also be tracked - indigenous peoples, local communities, and people living with disabilities- once the participants link to the virtual workshop, so as to assess the diversity of the stakeholders.

The training session will be recorded and made available on the Website.

The following table summarises the outcomes, outputs, and activities of PC2.

<i>PC2: High Impact and Innovative Inclusive Initiatives are Supported and Implemented</i>	
PC2 aims to support the implementation of the 6 out of the 21 selected high impact and innovation inclusive initiatives and document and disseminate information on them and their impact.	
<i>Outcome 2.1. 7 out of the 23 high impact and innovative inclusive CCA initiatives are implemented and documented</i>	
<i>Planned and Envisioned Outputs</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Output 2.1.1. Implementation of 6 high impact and innovation inclusive initiatives	6 non-state actors to implement
Output 2.1.2. Compilation of 6 case studies on the implemented initiatives	6 non-state actors to develop with support from UNIDO
Output 2.1.3. Strengthened capacity of the 6 Project Executing Partners on development of business proposals through a virtual training workshop with at least 50% women participation and at least 40% youth participation	Subcontractor

PC3: MONITORING & STRATEGIC IMPACT EVALUATION

This PC aims to establish and implement effective project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms, alongside capturing progress and lessons learned. Sex-, age- race-, ethnicity- and geographical-disaggregated data will be gathered wherever possible during monitoring and evaluation efforts. **M&E activities will be carried out during the project implementation by UNIDO, with support from the PEPs (21 non-state actors and subcontractors) engaged in the project.**

Outcome 3.1. Progress on project implementation and impact of the project tracked and reported

Output 3.1.1. Continuous project monitoring and reporting as per UNIDO and GEF guidelines

As recommended by the GEF STAP, ^{[5]37} M&E is a continuous learning process from implementation activities (both success and failure) and acquisition of new knowledge. The proposed project will follow UNIDO standards for monitoring and reporting processes and procedures consistent with the GEF Monitoring Policy.

The M&E Plan to be used in the project will be developed by UNIDO at project inception and will be implemented by UNIDO throughout project implementation. The aim of the M&E Plan is to properly monitor

and evaluate project activities implementation and targets achievement throughout the implementation period. The plan will be based in and will include at least the following items:

- Project Results Framework (PRF) against which targets' achievement will be tracked (Annex A), including:
 - Gender-, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical-disaggregated targets.
 - Indicators to track intended changes from the project implementation, such as economic, environmental, and social benefits of the project, including capacities improvement of the different type of stakeholders involved in project implementation.
- Workplan approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) as well as any changes to project implementation decided by the PSC at the Inception Meeting of the project.
- Schedule for project progress to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and final reports development and issuance, and responsible parties (e.g., the Project Implementation Reports (PIRs) to be submitted by UNIDO to GEF). Content of the reports should be clarified where necessary, as well as language and frequency of issuance (e.g., PIRs are issued on annual basis, following the fiscal year).
- A Gender Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan where activities contributing to gender mainstreaming in the project are identified, with their associated indicators and targets (included in the PRF). The basis of this is provided as Annex J: Gender Analysis & Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan to this document.

Qualitative and quantitative targets will be used to quantify in numbers and descriptive information the extent to which expected project outcomes have been achieved. All management, monitoring and evaluation tools and documents, such as the monitoring plan, progress reports, sustainability, and final evaluation report, will include gender-, age-, race-, ethnicity-, disability- and geographical-disaggregated targets, and report with respect to an established baseline for gender-, age-, race-, ethnicity-, disability- and geographical-disaggregated engagement related targets. When data collection or assessments are conducted, gender-, age-, race-, ethnicity-, and geographical -disaggregated data will be considered.

UNIDO will train the 21 non-state actors (PEPs) on the M&E activities for them to support the systematic collection of data to monitor the progress and achievement of project objectives and impact, especially regarding the implementation of their high impact inclusive activities. The training will include gender-, age-, race-, ethnicity-, -disabilities and geographical considerations to be tracked, as well as information on the impact metrics to be collected as per the framework developed in PC1 to ensure that project impact on the diverse target groups is effectively tracked. The number of attendees their gender-, age-, and race will be tracked (at least 50% women and 40% youth participation targets) along with the level of involvement per race-, ethnicity-, disabilities and geographical location. This will help to access the diversity in terms of stakeholder involvement on the project as well as its impact. This training will be conducted three (3) times during project implementation to ensure that M&E activities are correctly carried out.

Output 3.1.2. Mid-Term Review conducted

The Mid-term Review (MTR) for this three-year UNIDO project serves two primary purposes: assessing project performance and identifying early risks to delivery. As such, it will examine key evaluation criteria, including effectiveness, efficiency, and progress toward achieving results. This MTR has two main objectives: (1) to enhance transparency and foster dialogue among project stakeholders to facilitate learning and inform the

project's further development; and (2) seeks to provide insights into the project's progress toward achieving its objectives, goals, and impacts, thereby allowing for the identification of any necessary corrective actions at that point. Additionally, the review will assess the M&E framework adopted and utilized by the two UNIDO/GEF Projects to ensure effective monitoring during project implementation and evaluability.

The responsibility for coordinating and conducting the MTR lies with UNIDO which will formulate the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the recruitment of an Evaluator in alignment with UNIDO and GEF guidelines. This MTR presents an opportunity to adjust the project's design and implementation to ensure the realization of its objectives, goals, and intended impacts within the project's designated timeline. It will involve a comprehensive assessment of the progress achieved up to this point, comparing it against established baselines and targets. It will also consider the sustainability of results, potential risks, and actions required until the project's conclusion. The MTR Report will include an action plan that should inform the activities of the project going forward. UNIDO, the 21 non-state actors and other stakeholders engaged in the project activities are expected to support the Evaluator by providing essential information and clarifications throughout the review process. The MTR Report produced will follow the Communication Strategy & Plan set up for the project, and thus will be gender-sensitive, unbiased, make use of inclusive language and fully mainstream Environmental and Social Safeguards.

Output 3.1.3. Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation conducted

At project completion, UNIDO will facilitate the conduct of a Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation (TSIE) by an independent evaluator, scheduled within three months of project closure. The primary objective of this TSIE is to assess the actual impact resulting from the collaborative implementation of two Projects: the *Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries* and the *Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries*. The TSIE will evaluate whether these projects have achieved or are on track to achieve their main objectives and targets, while also considering sustainability and scalability factors for increased contributions to sustainable development outcomes. The TSIE serves four key objectives: (i) assess the significance of adopting an inclusive non-state actor-led approach to project implementation; (ii) evaluate project performance in terms of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and progress toward objectives and impact; (iii) identify key lessons to inform the design and implementation of future projects; and (iv) generate findings, lessons learned, and recommendations to enhance the design and implementation of ongoing UNIDO and GEF projects. The TSIE will utilize the inclusivity benefits framework developed in Output 1.1.5 to quantify and assess the inclusivity impacts of high-impact inclusive initiatives implemented under PC2. Data collected through the TSIE will also examine how knowledge management and learning activities influenced or might influence future actions by the 21 non-state actors and provide insights to GEF on new inclusivity approaches for project implementation.

The responsibility for coordinating and conducting the TSIE falls under the purview of UNIDO, which will create the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the recruitment of an Independent Evaluator in accordance with UNIDO and GEF guidelines. The Project Manager (PM) at UNIDO Headquarters will subsequently engage the Independent Evaluator. Coordination and oversight of the TSIE will be managed by UNIDO Headquarters, with active involvement and support from the PEE (UNIDO), PEPs, and other project stakeholders, who will provide essential information and clarifications throughout the evaluation process. The TSIE Report will adhere to the Communication Strategy & Plan established for the project, ensuring gender sensitivity, unbiased and inclusive language, and the full integration of Environmental and Social Safeguards into the project. This report will be published on the project website upon project completion.

The following table summarises the outputs and activities of PC3.

PC3: Monitoring & Strategic Impact Evaluation

PC3 is directed at contributing at making sure that the Projects are on track to achieve its objectives, outcomes, outputs and impacts throughout its implementation.

Outcome 3.1. Progress on project implementation and impact of the project tracked and reported

<i>Planned and Envisioned Outputs</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Output 3.1.1. Continuous project monitoring and reporting as per UNIDO and GEF guidelines	UNIDO with support from the 21 non-state actors.
Output 3.1.2. Mid-Term Review conducted	Evaluators (Project Manager at UNIDO HQ will subcontract the evaluators)
Output 3.1.3. Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation conducted	Independent Evaluators (Project Manager at UNIDO HQ will subcontract the evaluators)

[1] Seventh Assembly video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQTNQ-3II2M>

[2] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06/EN_GEF.LDCF_SCCF_32_Inf.04_Update%20on%20the%20Challenge%20Program%20for%20Adaptation%20Innovation%20Under%20the%20Least%20Developed%20Countries%20Fund%20and%20Special%20Climate%20Change%20Fund.pdf

[3] GEF, Progress report on the inclusive GEF assembly challenge program under the SCCF and LDCF, January 2024

[4] Nihal Fernando and Walter Garvey, “The Rapid Water Sector Needs Assessment and a Way Forward.”

[5] Strengthening M&E of Climate Change Adaptation, GEF STAP and UNEP, May 2017

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. 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)

Figure 10 provides the overall implementation arrangement to be applied to the proposed Project.

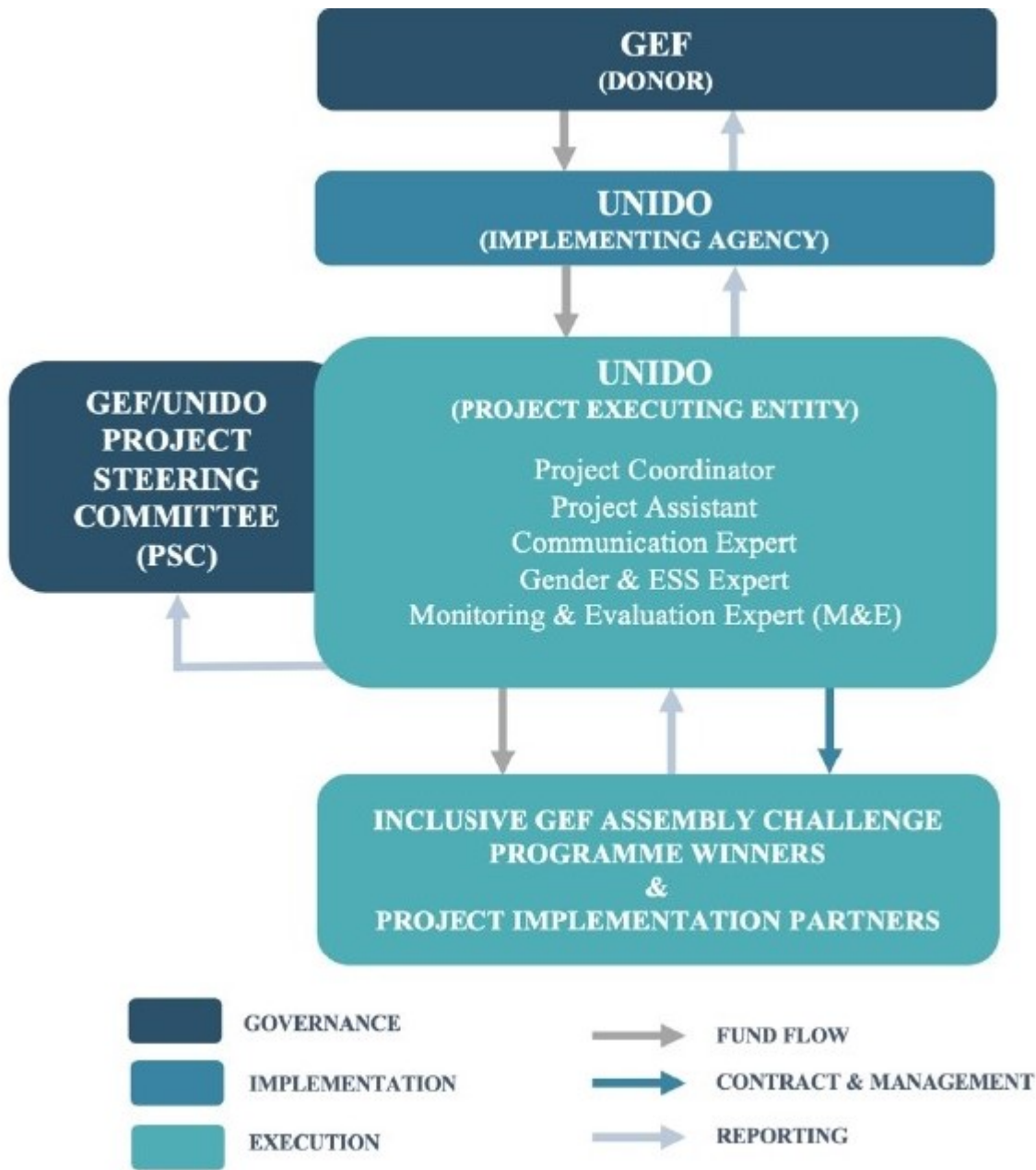


FIGURE 10: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

The Project will be implemented and executed by UNIDO, acting as both the Project Implementing Agency (GEF Agency) and Project Executing Entity (PEE). UNIDO will be:

- (a) Responsible for the oversight and project execution ensuring that the project is being implemented as planned and carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.
- (b) Accountable to the GEF Council for the GEF-financed activities and will be responsible for project cycle management services and corporate activities, including all enquiries regarding the project implementation progress, project-level reporting, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and the achievement of the project’s impacts on the global environment.
- (c) Responsible for contracting and monitoring the implementation of the PEPs activities.

Furthermore, UNIDO will also be engaged in the project as a Project Executing Partner, leading the implementation of the activities under PC1 and PC3.

The 21 non-state actors will be PEPs of the Project, responsible for the implementation and execution of their proposed initiatives under PC2 and in accordance with the submitted Project Information Forms (contemplated in Annex K: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme Initiatives). UNIDO will be issuing an implementing partner agreement to each selected non-state actor for the implementation of their initiative. UNIDO will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives as well as for the disbursement of the funds associated with them.

Village Capital will participate in the proposed Project as PEP and will be responsible for the implementation of capacity building activities under PC2.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be created and will sit at UNIDO. The PMU will include a Project Coordinator, the Communication Expert, The Gender and Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) Expert, the M&E Expert (M&E) and the Project Assistant (PA), together they will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the project and for the implementation of the activities under PC1 and part of PC3, including implementation of the M&E plan and follow-up with PEPs. The Project Coordinator, the Communication Expert and the M&E Expert will have experience working with women's and youth empowerment and community development projects. Additional tasks of the PMU include: development of annual workplans, support the execution of the draft of the PIRs, execution of project activities, ensuring coordination and collaboration with other projects; and ensuring public relations and communication of project results, lessons learned and success stories. UNIDO will take care of reporting on the project's status to the PSC, as well as monitoring and evaluation of project activities, as to be specified in the project workplan.

A PSC will be formed at project start to ensure project oversight, coherence and institutional ownership of the project, as well as to provide advisory inputs in key topics attaining the project. The PSC will be chaired by UNIDO and will include the GEF and selection committee members.

The PSC will approve the annual work plans and budgets, as well as the annual progress reports. The PSC will act as an advisory mechanism to ensure the successful design and implementation of the project through providing operational guidance as well as overall, high-level coordination. Any changes/amendments proposed to the project and/or to the workplans and budgets by the PSC are done in accordance with the approved project document, the GEF policy, and UNIDO rules and regulations. Minutes of meetings are signed by UNIDO and at least one other member of the PSC. It is expected that the meeting of the PSC will be carried out back-to-back to the physical thematic events under PC1, as possible.

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

Yes

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

UNIDO will be involved in the project as the Project Execution Entity (PEE) and the Project Execution Partner (PEP) responsible for implementing PC1 and PC3 activities. In its capacity as the PEE, UNIDO will issue the required contractual agreements with the PEPs involved in implementing the 21 inclusive initiatives, as well as with other arranged to support the delivered of activities in the project (e.g. Village Capital).

Justification of UNIDO as PEE include:

1. Leveraging the presence of UNIDO field offices: UNIDO has 30 field offices, 19 regional hubs and 2 project offices across the world that can support and monitor the implementation of locally-led initiatives.
2. Synergies with other GEF project executed by UNIDO: 'Amplifying the Impact of the Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation' under the GEF, focusing on learning and knowledge management. This project aligns well with the proposed Project, ensuring optimal synergy.
3. Leveraging UNIDO's relationship with CSOs/CBOs: UNIDO has been working with CSOs/CBOs in various countries and regions. UNIDO's good relationship with those CSOs/CBOs and working experience with them in the past would provide good lessons and opportunities for synergies with 21 inclusive initiatives.
4. Supporting capacity building of 21 non-state actors: Through the course of implementation of the project UNIDO, in collaboration with Village Capital, would be in the best place to support 21 non-state actors to enhance their implementation capacity.

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)

The proposed Project will be conducted in coordination with ongoing GEF projects as well as other projects and initiatives as to build upon lessons learnt, increase synergies, and avoid duplication of efforts. The following table provides a list of the projects which have potential for coordination with the proposed Project.

TABLE 3: COORDINATION WITH GEF PROJECTS

Project title	Time-frame / Financiers	Short Description of the Programme/ Project	Coordination Mechanisms
Amplifying the impact of the "Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation" of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management ³⁸ [1]	2023 - ongoing GEF through UNIDO	The KM Adaptation project aims at sharing learning and knowledge generated through the implementation of the Challenge Programme on Adaptation Innovation 19 projects during their implementation between themselves and other private sector actors engaged in climate finance. These projects are envisioned to be part of the active member of the three Communities of Practice through their project components on knowledge management and learning. Specific lessons-learned elements will extend opportunities to replicate and improve the strengths and weaknesses of each project. This project is being implemented by UNIDO and executed by Climate-KIC.	Strong links and coordinatization will be ensured between the proposed Project and the KM Adaptation Project, specially between the sharing of knowledge and learning and definition of metrics under PC1.
19 Challenge Programme on Adaptation Innovation projects ³⁹ [2]	2021 - ongoing GEF through several GEF Agencies including UNIDO	All 19 Challenge Programme projects aim at catalysing innovation to harness the power of private sector actors for achieving adaptation results, through testing and validation of scalable, bankable or otherwise fundable investment approaches, business models and partnerships, and technologies. The Challenge Programme projects are implemented by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (2), World Wildlife Fund United States (WWF-US) (2), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (3), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) (3), UNIDO (4), Asian Development Bank (ADB) (1), Conservation International (2), UNDP (1), Development Bank of Latin America (1). Executing Entities are: Nespresso (2), South Pole Carbon Asset Management, Ltd., Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation, WWF-US, Willis Towers Watson, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and other partners (under discussion), Network Members and/or Consortium Partners of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), Min. of Environment and Forestry / Min. of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (Indonesia); Min. of Climate Change and Disaster Management (Solomon Islands); Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Philippines); Min. of Waterways and Environment (Fiji), Heifer International, BFA Global, World Resources Institute (WRI), BNP Paribas, Alliance of Biodiversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Winrock Solutions, Earth Security,	Strong links with this projects will be created through the connection of the digital platform and synergies between the thematic events / Webpage of the proposed Projects and the similar events of the "Amplifying the impact of the "Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation" of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management" project where the 19 projects selected will be engaged in the Communities of Practice there established and operationalised.

		CI-Ventures, Cropin Technology Solutions B.V., UNDP, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.	
Promotion of climate adaptation technology and business model innovations and entrepreneurship in Sierra Leone ³⁶	2023 - 2029 GEF through UNIDO	This project contributes to building resilience of vulnerable communities by supporting MSME-driven innovation, transfer, and adaptation TPS deployment in the water, agriculture and energy sectors in Sierra Leone. The project's IA is UNIDO and executing agency is Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDA).	The proposed Project will foster collaboration with the objective of this project. This synergy will contribute to collective knowledge learning and sharing.
Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change through promoting innovation, transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies in priority agriculture value-chains and creating jobs ⁴⁰ [3]	2023 - 2029 GEF through UNIDO	The project aims to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change by promoting innovation, transfer and large-scale deployment of adaptation-oriented technologies in priority agriculture value chains and creating jobs in the DR.	The proposed Project will foster collaboration with the objective of this project. This synergy will contribute to collective knowledge learning and sharing.
Building adaptation and resilience to climate change in the essential oil sector in Madagascar (ARCHE) ⁴¹ [4]	2023 - 2026 GEF through UNIDO	The project aims to address the main barriers related to building a climate resilient economy, including financial barriers, capacity building, knowledge and awareness about climate change TPS. This is achieved by engaging the private sector and tapping into the innovation potential, supporting the development of entrepreneurs, start-ups and MSMEs and facilitating the transformation of innovative and entrepreneurial ideas into market ready products for large-scale deployment of climate change adaptation-oriented technologies and solutions across the Essential Oil (EO) value chain. ARCHE is implemented by UNIDO and executed by National Coordination Bureau for Climate Change and REDD+ (BNCC-REDD+), Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development (MEDD).	The ARCHE aims to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change in the EO value chain through innovative adaptation technologies and services. The proposed KM Adaptation project will coordinate with the ARCHE via Climate-KIC. It is expected that Climate-KIC will invite ESOs from Madagascar, who will become active members of Communities of Practice activities under PC3.
Vulnerable Twenty Group funding programme to leverage adaptation by averting and minimizing impacts of climate change ³⁹	2023 - 2028 GEF through UNIDO	The V20 Funding Programme will directly support a range of adaptation interventions such as community infrastructure and livelihood asset repair, climate resilient reconstruction and rehabilitation for communities most recently impacted by extreme weather events to build back better standards. Therefore, the Funding Programme will avert, minimize and address impacts related to extreme weather events, slow onset events, and for provide a comprehensive risk management strategy in the context of adaptation. This programme is implemented UNIDO and executed by Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)/V20 Secretariat and UNIDO	Synergies are expressed within the two programmes through their recognition of the importance of the roles being played by a range of community based/civil society organizations in delivering inclusive adaptation benefits for people and ecosystems; and advance the whole-of-society approach by providing resources and knowledge to scale up their initiatives. Lessons learned from implementation of the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme will assist in the design of the VFP and selection criteria as in PC1 and peer learning and knowledge and exchange as in PC3.
Strengthening engagement and action by the Least Developed Countries Group on climate change ⁴² [5]	2022- 2025 GEF through UNIDO	The project will strengthen the institutional structures of the LDC Group on climate change to enable them to enhance their participation and advocacy for LDC positions in UNFCCC processes and decision-making on climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as to access climate finance.	As this project aims to enhance climate change knowledge and adaptive capacity of the LDC Group. All activities of the project that target LDCs will be important to share with the LDC Group.
Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) ⁴³ [6]		GCIP supports start-ups and SMEs with innovative ideas to transform them into investment-ready, market-competitive and scalable solutions. It brings about transformative change through two main interventions: (1) direct support to emerging SMEs offering innovative cleantech solutions and (2) development and strengthening of cleantech innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems (CIEEs). UNIDO is the IA of GCIP, and GCIP has been operating the programme since 2020.	Synergies should be created with GCIP, at least, through engaging of GCIP in PC3 activities. GCIP can benefit from the knowledge and learning generated in PC1, with regards to impact measurements that it can adopted in assessment of inclusiveness of the project proposals that it receives.

[1] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/11303>

[2] Update on the Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation under the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06/EN_GEF.LDCF_.SCCF_.32_Inf.04_Update%20on%20the%20Challenge%20Program%20for%20Adaptation%20Innovation%20Under%20the%20Least%20Developed%20Countries%20Fund%20and%20Special%20Climate%20Change%20Fund.pdf

[3] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10377>

[4] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10908>

[5] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10994>

[6] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10408>

Core Indicators

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

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF true	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer false	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation false
Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program? true		
This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS). true		
This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state. true		
This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector. false		
This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). false		
This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below		
Green Climate Fund false	Adaptation Fund false	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) false
This Project has an urban focus. false		
This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation true		

This project will support South-South knowledge exchange

true

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *

Agriculture	20.00%
Nature-based management	31.00%
Climate information services	7.00%
Coastal zone management	12.00%
Water resources management	5.00%
Disaster risk management	9.00%
Other infrastructure	0.00%
Tourism	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments)	
Other	16.00%
Total	100.00%

This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:*

Sea level rise true	Change in mean temperature true	Increased climatic variability true	Natural hazards true
Land degradation true	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation true	Groundwater quality/quantity true	

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	10,308	5,154.00	5,154.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	403,345.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	26.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	7,366	3,683.00	3,683.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action	1.00			

SUB INDICATOR 1

	Total	Male	Female
1.1 Number of direct beneficiaries from more resilient physical and natural assets	0	0	0

1.2 Number of direct beneficiaries with diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income	0	0	0
1.3 Number of direct beneficiaries from the new or improved climate information services including early warning systems	0	0	0
1.4 Number of youth (15 to 24 years of age) benefiting from the project	2128	1,064	1,064
1.5 Number of elderly (over 60 years of age) benefiting from the project	2129	1,064	1,065
1.6 Increased income, or avoided decrease in income (per capita in \$ across all relevant beneficiaries)	0		

SUB-INDICATOR 2

2.1 Hectares of agricultural land

403,345

2.2 Hectares of urban landscape

0

2.3 Hectares of rural landscape

0

2.4 Hectares of forests

0

2.5 Hectares of marine area

0

2.6 Hectares of freshwater area

0

2.7 Number of residential houses

0

2.8 Number of public buildings

0

2.9 Number of irrigation or water structures

0

2.10 Number of fishery or aquaculture ponds or cages

0

2.11 Number of ports or landing sites

0

2.12 Km of road

0

2.13 Km of riverbank

0

2.14 Km of coast

0

2.15 Km of stormwater drainage

0

2.16 Number of new adaptation technologies supported

0

SUB INDICATOR 3

3.1 Number of policies/plans developed and strengthened that will mainstream climate resilience

26

3.2 Number of systems and frameworks established for continuous monitoring, reporting and review of climate adaptation impacts

0

3.3 Number of national climate policies and plans enabled, including national adaptation planning processes

26

3.4 Number of institutional partnerships or coordination mechanisms established or strengthened

6

3.5 Number of institutions with increased capacity to plan, implement, monitor, and report for climate adaptation

6

3.6 Number of institutions with increased capacity to attract, and manage climate adaptation finance

6

3.7 Number of local community organizations benefitting from and/or engaged in institution strengthening, partnerships, or financing

6

3.8. Number of climate risk and vulnerability assessments conducted

0

SUB INDICATOR 4

4.1 Number of people trained or made aware of climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation responses	Total	Male	Female
a) National government	0	0	0
b) Local government	0	0	0
c) Local community organizations	0	0	0

d) Extension services	0	0	0
e) Hydromet and disaster risk management agencies	0	0	0
f) School children, university students, and teachers	0	0	0
g) Youth	3166	1,583	1,583

SUB INDICATOR 5

	Total	Male	Female
5.1 Amount of investment mobilized (US\$) from private sector sources	0		
5.2 Number of entrepreneurs supported for climate adaptation or resilience	58	17	41
5.3 Total financial value of lines of credit and/or investment funds	0		
5.4 Number of MSMEs incubated/accelerated with technical assistance, financial matchmaking, and/or direct financing	0		

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	<p>Risk: Climate change events and hazards might disrupt physical events and virtual events and or affect/delay the implementation of the initiatives under PC2 depending on the severity of the impacts to those countries and communities. The project is not expected to pose/contribute to exacerbate climate change risks and events.</p> <p>Mitigation: As the project focuses on the implementation of high-impact inclusive innovative initiatives and knowledge generation and management activities, and thus the project is not expected to create climate risks. In fact, the project is expected to support LDCs and Developing Countries in adapting to impacts of climate change in the targeted regions/communities.</p>

Environmental and Social	Low	<p>Risk: (a) Minimal impacts on the environment are expected due to traveling to thematic physical events under PC1, as the PEPs will have to travel by airplane/terrestrial transport to get into the events. (b) Reduced impacts on the environmental can arise from the implementation of the initiatives implemented under PC2 – the big majority of the 21 initiative classify as Category C projects in term of ESS screening, with only three classified as category B. ESS reports and Environmental Management Plans have been included as needed in the Project Information Forms (Annex K: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme Initiatives). (c) Minimum impacts on the environment can arise from the use of paper in publications and in activities of the Communities of Practice. (d) Minimal risk associated with low level of engagement of women and youth in the project activities. Mitigation: (a) The physical events of the proposed Project will take place back-to-back to physical global events such as GEF Assembly, COPs etc, increasing the attendance and minimizing the need for specific travel for the events, reducing the carbon footprint. (b) The Project Information Forms of the projects screened as category B include specific Environmental and Social Management Plans with concrete measures to be put in place to mitigate the identified environmental and social impacts. The initiatives will implement the state mitigation measures and monitor those throughout the implementation of their activities. It is important to state that this project is envisaged to have high social and environmental benefits due to the locally-led inclusive nature of the initiatives to be implemented. (c) Project implementation will limit the use of paper on their activities, with most of it being conducted virtually and disseminated by the project Webpage. Additionally, the project will fully mainstream ESS across its components, and PC1 and monitoring activities of the project as a whole will include metric to measure potential positive and negative impacts of technologies, activities implemented through the inclusive initiatives. (d) First the nature of the selected initiatives is envisaged to address this risk by it self, as the main beneficiaries of the project are envisaged to be women, youth, indigenous people, LGBT2+ communities and people living with disabilities. In addition to that, the project will also pursue thorough and gender-responsive communication showing the benefits of gender equality for both women and men and ensuring stakeholder involvement at all levels, with special regard to involving both women, IPs and youth as well as in workshops and events conducted by the project. This shall mitigate social and gender-related risks, promote gender equality, create a culture of mutual acceptance and understanding, and maximize the project's potential contribution to improving gender equality in the climate change field.</p>
Political and Governance	Moderate	<p>Risk: Political instability within specific governments of the targeted countries Mitigation: UNIDO and the PEPs will monitor the political</p>

		<p>situation on the countries that they are implementing activities so to adapt the project activities and its implementation to any situation that can occur. UNIDO and the PEPs will be responsible for managing the knowledge sharing activities under PC1, PC2 and PC3, including user experience and effectiveness measurements, focusing on achieving the project vision, and establishing a strong governance structure while encouraging leadership from its participants. On top of that, specific measures will be taken to ensure a high level of inclusivity and outreach, particularly from LDCs and SIDS. It is important to refer that PC1 will sponsor the trip of representants from the 21 initiatives to participate on PC1 global events during the project implementation period (1 trip for a representant of each of the 21 projects has been contemplated in the project budget).</p>
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy		
Technological		
Financial and Business Model		
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	<p>Risk: 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) related measures and restrictions could delay the execution of physical events. Mitigation: COVID- 19 restrictions will be taken into account when planning for the physical events.</p>
Fiduciary	Low	<p>Risk: Delays in procurement and financial management may impact the delivery of the project Mitigation: The Financial and procurement guidelines of UNIDO will be utilized for the contract. The Project Information Forms developed during the preparation of the 1-step MSP, already collected all the necessary information for UNIDO to speed up the process for contracting the 21 non-state actors to implemented their 21 inclusive initiatives.</p>
Stakeholder	Low	<p>Risk: Low level of stakeholder engagement in the activities of the project Mitigation: the PEPs to be engaged in the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives under PC2 have already a track record of working with the targeted communities and other similar communities in their respective countries, thus mitigating this risk.</p>
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Low	

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

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

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.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project is fully in line with:

- (1) **LDCF GEF 8 priorities** – scaling up finance for adaptation; strengthening innovation and private sector engagement and fostering partnership or inclusion and whole-of -society approach. The project aims to contribute to the achievement of the LDCF stated priorities through the implementation of locally-led high-impact inclusive initiatives, learning and knowledge, collaboration and partnership establishment. The proposed Project is specially aligned with Priority 3 “*fostering partnership or inclusion and whole-of-society approach*” as it aims to empower and support CSOs and CBOs in LDCs and Developing Countries in implementing high-impact and innovative initiatives that promote environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and community resilience.
- (2) **transformation lever three (3) of GEF-8 Programming Strategy^{[1]44} “knowledge exchange and collaboration”** as it aims to promote innovation and technology transfer, through project demonstration, sharing of best practices, and scaling-up of climate change solutions, pioneering approaches and experiences. It also fosters collaboration amongst stakeholders through the creation of joint tools for assessment and measurement of inclusivity benefits/impacts and by sharing lessons learnt and findings from non-state actor innovative solutions and approaches implemented to catalyse positive change.
- (3) **LDCF targeted sectors: as it will implement activities in the LDCF targeted sectors, namely, water; agriculture and food security; disaster risk management and prevention; infrastructure; and fragile ecosystems.**

The project will also align with the **women’s empowerment and gender equality component of the GEF’s Private Sector Engagement Strategy.**

Consistency with National and Regional Priorities

The proposed Project is consistent with all the relevant national strategies and policy documents including:

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
- National Action Programme (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury

- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC
- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴⁵, contributing towards the achievement of the following targets: 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 20, 21, 22 and 23. Through the implementation of the selected initiatives, various aspects of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, and community resilience are addressed. By empowering local communities, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering inclusive approaches, the Projects aims to protect biodiversity, enhance ecosystem services, and contribute to the overall well-being of both people and the planet. The commitment to these targets underscores the project's dedication to achieving global biodiversity goals and creating a more sustainable and resilient future.

In line with these, the project will contribute towards the implementation of several of these initiatives through the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives by local CSOs and CBOs and will share knowledge and lessons learnt from these projects through the project website and events, to contribute towards unlocking the deployment of similar initiatives throughout the world.

[\[1\] https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06/EN_GEF.LDCF_SCCF_32.04.Rev_01_GEF%20Programming_Strategy_Adaptation_Climate_Change_LDCF_SCCF_GEF8_July_2022_June%202026_Operational_Improvements.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2022-06/EN_GEF.LDCF_SCCF_32.04.Rev_01_GEF%20Programming_Strategy_Adaptation_Climate_Change_LDCF_SCCF_GEF8_July_2022_June%202026_Operational_Improvements.pdf)

B. 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 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 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;

Yes

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

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the 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 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;

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 project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed 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
-----	--------------------------	-----	----

C. 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.

Yes

Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate and these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF, SCCF). This section identifies the direct beneficiaries from the project.

The proposed Projects hold substantial potential for addressing critical climate change adaptation challenges, contributing to a paradigm shift in the way GEF utilizes its financial resources and also contributing to achieving some global environmental benefits domain. The project's benefits are evident in its multifaceted approach to overcoming barriers and catalysing impactful change:

- Insufficient support to non-state actors' inclusive initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and social inclusion through a whole of society approach (Barrier 1). The proposed Projects will address this barrier through the provision of:
 - grants of up to US\$100,000 to support the implementation of 21 inclusive initiatives to be implemented over 27 different countries. Overall, through the implementation of the 21 inclusive initiatives included on the two GEF/UNIDO Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme projects, the following main environmental and climate-change adaptation benefits are expected: (i) 522,178 people (of which 88,716 are IPs, 303,369 are women, 229,508 are youth and 70 are people living with disabilities); (ii) strengthening climate adaptation on 80 plans/strategies/institutions; (iv) train 14,168 (of which 5,975 are IPs, 7,371 are women, 6,801 are youth); and (v) improve the management for climate change of 611,748 ha of land (see Table 2).
 - virtual training workshops to enhance the capacity of the selected Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in the development of business proposals, and thus enhancing their capacity of attracting additional climate change finance towards similar CBO and CSO-driven projects.
- Lack of recognition of the vital role played by non-state actors, such as CBOs and CSOs, in adaptation to climate change (Barrier 2). This project recognizes the importance of the role of these actors, by: recognizing the importance of engaging them in the implementation of GEF projects at the Seventh GEF Assembly; by selecting and financially supporting the implementation of 21 inclusive initiatives over 27 countries; and by sharing the knowledge and learnings generated by the 21 non-state actors through global convening and coordination activities with other GEF Agencies, the private sector and with state and non-state actors.
- Lack of global coordination and knowledge sharing amongst local stakeholders in environmental and social projects (Barrier 3). The Projects will address this barrier through the establishment of dedicated project coordination Webpage, organization of thematic events, and delivery of webinars to foster collaboration and share knowledge globally.
- Lack of measurement and assessment of inclusivity benefits (Barrier 4). The proposed Projects will address this barrier by developing a framework to assess the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of their outcomes and impacts.

Furthermore, the project's approach to knowledge aggregation and sharing underscores its potential for climate change adaptation benefits and global environmental benefits:

- **Leveraging 21 locally led high-impact innovative inclusive initiatives:** The Projects not only support the implementation of 21 inclusive initiatives across the world but also harnesses the knowledge and learning generated from them and from other GEF adaptation innovation projects, particularly the *“Amplifying the impact of the “Challenge Programme for Adaptation Innovation” of the Global Environment Facility through learning and knowledge management project”* through which knowledge and learning is being generated through and alongside the implementation of 19 private sector driven innovative climate change adaptation projects. By consolidating these insights into a single platform, the project enables cross-learning among projects, accelerating implementation and enhancing the efficacy of climate change adaptation, environmental and social interventions.
- **Wider Reach and Beneficiaries:** The project's influence extends beyond its 522,178 direct beneficiaries, aiming to reach a broader audience that can access the generated materials/participate on the project events etc. The project's focus on civil society involvement in climate change adaptation, environmental and social inclusion initiatives, tailored to the unique circumstances of LDCs and developing countries (including SIDS), has the potential to benefit all countries striving to civil society in the implementation of these types of efforts. This dissemination of knowledge empowers other CSOs, CBOs, investors, entrepreneurs, banks, microfinance institutions, businesses, and policymakers to act on climate change issues.
- **Recognises the pivotal role non-state actors play in climate change adaptation.** It will showcase and share insights on the impact of implementing the 21 inclusive initiatives. This recognition will be manifested through grants provided to propel the advancement of these initiatives. Additionally, results from these initiatives will be disseminated at both thematic events executed back-to-back to global events to ensure broader outreach. Furthermore, knowledge and information materials generated by this project will be disseminated via the Website.
- **GEF's Position and Leadership:** The project elevates the GEF's role in catalytic climate impact investing and enhances its thought demonstration of action and leadership in the relevant areas. By not only supporting deployment of activities by state-actors but supporting implementation of activities by civil society, the GEF will be acting on a second front to address environmental related issues at its routes. In addition, this will enable the identification of opportunities for engagement of civil-society and informing future programming strategies (including GEF9), solidifying the GEF's influence and impact in driving truly inclusive climate adaptation actions at the grass-root level.
- **Catalytic in the aspiration to establish a fund within the GEF programming for civil society action:** the results of this project will be used by the GEF to support the establishment of a financing window dedicated to civil-society action, which is to be established by 2030 and be accounted for 10% of the total GEF financing.
- **Promoting Gender Equality, and Youth Engagement:** The project takes a proactive stance in promoting gender equality and youth participation, setting ambitious targets for women's participation and young voices. Overall, the projects aim to promote gender equality (50% women participation in all its activities) as well as an aggregate level of 40% participation of youth. This inclusive approach enriches actions, discussions, insights, and outcomes, strengthening the overall impact of the project.

In conclusion, the proposed Projects holds significant potential for delivering climate change adaptation, environmental and social benefits by overcoming barriers, implementing high-impact innovative inclusive initiatives, fostering collaboration, providing practical guidance, and disseminating valuable insights. Its unique focus on locally-led civil-society involvement climate change action, coupled with the aggregation of knowledge from ongoing projects, positions it as a transformative force in enhancing climate resilience and catalysing sustainable development in vulnerable regions, benefiting the most vulnerable.

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	Programm ing of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNIDO	LDCF	Global	Climate Change	LDCF Global/Re gional support	Grant	1,585,727.0 0	150,644 .00	1,736,371.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						1,585,727.0 0	150,644 .00	1,736,371.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4750

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional / Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNIDO	LDCF	Global	Climate Change	LDCF Global/Regional support	50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

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

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CCA-1-2	LDCF	1,585,727.00	1,163,587.35
Total Project Cost (\$)		1,585,727.00	1,163,587.35

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	UNIDO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	226,400.00
GEF Agency	UNIDO	Grant	Investment mobilized	30,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Youth Biodiversity Society of Kenya	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	10,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Environmental Foundation for Africa – Sierra Leone	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00

Civil Society Organization	Jeunes Actifs pour le Développement Durable Madagascar (JADD Madagascar)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,500.00
Civil Society Organization	Base Net (BN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Base Net (BN)	Grant	Investment mobilized	176,667.00
Civil Society Organization	Kesho Trust	Grant	Investment mobilized	35,020.35
Private Sector	Village Capital	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	128,000.00
Total Co-financing (\$)				1,163,587.35

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Investment mobilized for this project is to be provided by the GEF Agency (UNIDO), Village capital and the non-state actors that will be engaged in the project activities, more specifically, in the implementation of the 5 inclusive initiatives under PC2.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
Project Coordinator	1/31/2024	Haruka Yoshida	431260264907	h.yoshida@unido.org
GEF Agency Coordinator	2/12/2024	Ganna Onysko		G.ONYSKO@unido.org

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

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (Month, day, year)
Joseph Astrel	Mr	Ministry of Environment (Haiti)	10/30/2023
Sheku Mark Kanneh	Mr	Ministry of the Environm	1/23/2024

		ent (Sierra Leone)	
Hery Andriamirado Rakotondravony	Dr	Ministere de l'Environnement et du Developpement Durable (Madagascar)	1/11/2024
David Batali Oliver	Mr	Ministry of Environment (South Sudan)	10/25/2023
Kemilembe Mutasa	Ms	Environment (Tanzania)	1/5/2024

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.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be conducted in accordance with established UNIDO and GEF procedures. The overall objective of the M&E is to ensure successful and quality implementation of the project by: i) tracking and reviewing project activities execution and actual accomplishments against targets; ii) providing visibility into progress as the project proceeds so that the implementation team can take early corrective action if performance deviates significantly from original plans; and iii) adjusting and updating project strategy and implementation plans to reflect possible changes on the ground, results achieved and corrective actions taken.

According to the M&E policy of the GEF and UNIDO, follow-up studies like Country Portfolio Evaluations and Thematic Evaluations can be initiated and conducted. All project partners and contractors are obliged to: (i) make available studies, reports and other documentation related to the project and (ii) facilitate interviews with staff involved in the project activities.

The budget for the M&E activities for the two Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme projects (IDs: 11498, 11499) is contemplated in the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries. And that is the reason why the targets put forward in the Project Results Framework with respect to PC2 are related to the 21 inclusive initiatives.

The Project Result Framework below provides performance and impact indicators for project implementation/execution along with their corresponding means of verification, verification responsibility and frequency (plus baseline and targets). The actual progress will be reported against the workplan approved by the PSC. In case there are significant deviations between the forecasted workplan and actual implementation, corrective measures will need to be taken.

The M&E Plan (developed as part of PC3) will include time-bound milestones and deliverables. The PMU will also draft progress review reports every six months and will update the PSC before each meeting.

There will be a Mid-term Review by middle of this 3-year project assessing its performance and identifying early risk to delivery. Towards the end of the project a Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation (TSIE) will be carried out approximately 4 months before project expected finalisation date (implemented as part of PC3).

The environmental and social consideration, IPs, gender and youth dimensions and baseline for IP, gender and youth related targets will be appropriately captured in the project’s M&E plan, in the progress review reports, as well as in the collection and assessment of relevant data. The M&E plan will encompass monitoring of the Environmental and Social Management Plan(s), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Gender Analysis Report, and a Risk Analysis.

The methodology for the TSIE of the project should be drafted as part of the M&E having into account the GEF indicators put forward for this project as well as the framework to measure inclusivity benefits developed as part of PC1. This methodology will inform the estimation, tracking, and reporting activities of the project regarding impact. The methodology will enable assessment of social, economic, and environmental impacts, and at a minimum, it will account for global environmental adaptation benefits (number of people reached), IP mainstreaming, gender mainstreaming, youth mainstreaming, and mainstreaming of people living with disabilities. Whenever possible, the data will be sex-, age-, ethnicity, and disability-disaggregated.

An overview of indicative costs of M&E activities is provided in the table below.

TABLE 4: M&E ACTIVITIES

M&E activity	Timeframe	GEF Budget (USD)	UNIDO in-kind co-financing (USD)	Responsible parties
M&E Framework and Plan	First 3 months after implementation start date	20,000	10,000	UNIDO
Periodic progress reports	Every 6 months	120,000	30,000	UNIDO
Project Implementation Reports (PIR)	Every fiscal year the project is under implementation, to be submitted to GEF by 15 September each year.	10,000	20,000	UNIDO
Training on the M&E to PEPs	After M&E framework and plan development and refresher every year	8,000	4,000	UNIDO
Mid-Term Review	Start by month 16	42,000	16,000	External evaluator, submission to UNIDO
Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation (TSIE)	Start 4 months prior to estimated project end date	150,000	20,000	External evaluator, submission to UNIDO
Total		350,000	100,000	

Project Results Framework

This Project Results Framework depicted in Table 5 is applicable to the two projects: “*Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries*” and “*Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries*”.

TABLE 5: PROJECTS RESULTS FRAMEWORK

	KPIs/Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
Project Strategy					
Objective: To empower and support civil society organization (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in Least Developed Countries / developing	Core Indicator 1: # of direct beneficiaries (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated)	None	LDCF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Total number of beneficiaries: at least 10,308 beneficiaries o Women participation target of at least 50%: 5,432 o Youth participation target of at last 40%: 4,257 	Project M&E System Project Annual Reports Events blogposts	There is continuous support for and participation of stakeholders in all activities of the project: implementation of the selected

<p>countries to implement high-impact and innovative initiatives that deliver climate change adaptation and environmental benefits in an inclusive manner</p>	<p><i>(connected to Outputs: 1.1.1, 1.1.4, 2.1.1 and 2.1.3)</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IPs participation of the target: 5,200 <p>SCCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of beneficiaries: at least 511,870 beneficiaries ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 297,937 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 225,251 ○ IPs participation of the target: 83,516 <p>LDCF+SCCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of beneficiaries: at least 522,178 beneficiaries ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 303,369 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 229,508 ○ IPs participation of the target: 88,716 	<p>Statistics/information provided by the high impact inclusive initiatives</p>	<p>initiatives and in knowledge management and learning activities</p>
	<p>Core Indicator 2: Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) <i>(connected to Output: 2.1.1)</i></p>	<p>None</p>	<p>LDCF: Area (ha): 403,345</p> <p>SCCF: Area (ha): 208,403</p> <p>LDCF+SCCF: Area (ha): 611,748</p>		
	<p>Core Indicator 3: Total # of frameworks/institutions to strengthen climate adaptation <i>(connected to Output: 2.1.1)</i></p>	<p>None</p>	<p>LDCF: 26</p> <p>SCCF: 54</p> <p>LDCF+SCCF: 80</p>		

	Core Indicator 4: Total # of people trained (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated) (connected to Output: 1.1.1, 1.1.4, 2.1.1 on training activities and 2.1.3)	None	<p>LDCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number: at least 7,366 ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 4,213 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 3,166 ○ IPs participation of the target: 4,636 <p>SCCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number: at least 6,803 ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 3,158 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 3,635 ○ IPs participation of the target: 1,339 <p>LDCF+SCCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number: at least 14,169 ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 7,371 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 6,801 ○ IPs participation of the target: 5,975 		
Output 1.1.1. Strengthened inclusivity of the selected initiatives through organization of at least three (3) thematic events and six (6) virtual meetings to allow for knowledge sharing, showcasing and learning	<p># of thematic events organized with participation of the high impact inclusive initiatives and GEF implementing entities</p> <p># of participants in the thematic events (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated)</p> <p><i>(Note: this contributes to Core Indicator 1 and Core Indicator 4)</i></p> <p># of non-state actors sponsored by the project to participate in the thematic events (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated)</p>	None	<p># of thematic events organized: at least three (3)</p> <p># of participants in the thematic events: At least 210 stakeholders participate on the thematic events organized (average of 70 stakeholders per event)</p> <p>Women inclusion target: 50%</p> <p>Youth inclusion target: 40%</p> <p># of non-state actors sponsored: At least 21 non-state actors sponsored</p> <p>Women inclusion target: 50%</p> <p>Youth inclusion target: 40%</p>	Project M&E System	<p>Project Annual Reports</p> <p>Events blogposts</p> <p>Thematic events materials, proceedings, and newsflashes</p> <p>Virtual meetings materials, proceedings, and newsflashes</p>

	(Yes/No) Thematic events include discussion on innovation for social inclusion and gender equality aspects of climate adaptation and resilience, as well as the discussion of gender, youth and IP issues and how gender is addressed related to the CBOs and CSOs activities	None	Thematic events include discussion on innovation for social inclusion and gender equality aspects of climate adaptation and resilience, as well as the discussion of gender, youth and IP issues and how gender is addressed related to the CBOs and CSOs activities: Yes		
	# of virtual meetings organized with participation of the high impact inclusive initiatives	None	# of virtual meetings organized: at least six (6)		
	# of participants at the virtual meetings (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- and geographical disaggregated)		# of participants in the virtual meetings: at least 21 per event Women inclusion target: 50% Youth inclusion target: 40%		
Output 1.1.2. A Webpage created and operationalized to coordinate work under the two proposed Project: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries and Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Developing Countries	(Yes/No) Webpage created and operationalized	None	Webpage created and operationalized: Yes	Project M&E System	
	(Yes/No) Webpage includes a dedicated section specifically focused on the intersection of gender, youth and climate adaptation	None	Webpage includes a dedicated section specifically focused on the intersection of gender, youth and climate adaptation: Yes	Project Annual Reports Webpage	
Output 1.1.3. Project Communication Strategy & Plan developed and implemented	(Yes/No) Project Communication Strategy & Plan developed and implemented	None	Project Communication Strategy & Plan developed and implemented: Yes	Project M&E System Project Annual Reports	
	(Yes/No) Website and materials developed under the project follow the Project Communication Strategy & Plan	None	Website and materials developed under the project follow the Project Communication Strategy & Plan: Yes	Project Communication Strategy & Plan Website	
	(Yes/No) Project Communication Strategy & Plan include specific guidelines to ensure that all communication material and knowledge products use a gender- and youth-sensitive, unbiased and inclusive language and to fully mainstream	None	Project Communication Strategy & Plan include specific guidelines to ensure that all communication material and knowledge products use a gender-sensitive, unbiased and inclusive language and to fully mainstream Environmental and Social Safeguards: Yes	Materials produced by the project	

	Environmental and Social Safeguards				
Output 1.1.4. Creation and delivery of a webinar series on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects	# of webinars on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects	None	Number: at least one (1) webinars	Project M&E System	
	# of participants in the webinar ((sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated)	None	Number: at least 60 Women inclusion target: 50% Youth inclusion target: 40%	Project Annual Reports Website Webinar participation list Webinar recordings	
	(Note: this contributes to Core Indicator 1) (Yes/No) webinar will mainstream and have a dedicated specific session on the different inclusivity aspects of the selected 21 inclusive initiatives	None	webinar will mainstream and have a dedicated specific session on the different inclusivity aspects of the 21 inclusive initiatives: Yes		
Output 1.1.5. Development and adoption of a framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported initiatives adherent to the GEF methodologies	# of frameworks to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects adherent to the GEF methodologies	None	Number of frameworks to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects adherent to the GEF methodologies: 1	Project M&E System Project Annual Reports	
	# of participants in the training session (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated)	None	Number: 21 Women inclusion target: 50% Youth inclusion target: 40%	Framework to measure the inclusivity benefits of the supported projects adherent to the GEF methodologies Participation registry on the training session	
Output 2.1.1. Implementation of 21 high impact and innovation inclusive initiatives (6 through the LDCF supported project and 15 through the SCCF supported project)	# of high impact and innovation inclusive initiatives	None	LDCF+SCCF: Number: at least 21 LDCF Number: at least 6 SCCF: Number: at least 15	Project M&E System Project Annual Reports Website	
	# of direct beneficiaries (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated) (Note: this contributes to Core Indicator 1)	None	LDCF: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Total number of beneficiaries: at least 10,308○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 5,432○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 4,257○ IPs participation of the target: 5,200 SCCF: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Total number of beneficiaries: at least 511,870○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 297,937	Reports from the PEPs on the implementation of their initiatives	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 225,251 ○ IPs participation of the target: 83,516 <p>LDCF+SSCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number of beneficiaries: at least 522,178 beneficiaries ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 303,369 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 229,508 		
	Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) <i>(Note: this is Core Indicator 2)</i>	None	<p>IPs participation of the target: 88,716</p> <p>LDCF: Area (ha): 403,345</p> <p>SCCF: Area (ha): 208,403</p> <p>LDCF+SCCF: Area (ha): 611,748</p>		
	Total # of frameworks/institutions to strengthen climate adaptation <i>(Note: This is Core Indicator 3)</i>	None	<p>LDCF: 26</p> <p>SCCF: 54</p> <p>LDCF+SCCF: 80</p>		
	# of people trained (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated) <i>(Note: This contributes to Core Indicator 4)</i>	None	<p>LDCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number: at least 7,366 ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 4,213 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 3,166 ○ IPs participation of the target: 4,636 <p>SCCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number: at least 6,803 ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 3,158 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 3,635 ○ IPs participation of the target: 1,339 <p>LDCF+SCCF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Total number: at least 14,169 ○ Women participation target of at least 50%: 7,371 ○ Youth participation target of at least 40%: 6,801 <p>IPs participation of the target: 5,975</p>		

Output 2.1.2: Compilation of 21 case studies on the implemented initiatives (6 through the LDCF supported project and 15 through the SCCF supported project)	# of case studies on the implemented initiatives (Yes/No) case studies mainstream and have a dedicated specific session on inclusivity approaches and its benefits (gender, youth, IPs, people with disabilities)	None None	LDCF+SCCF: # of case studies on the implemented initiatives: 21 LDCF Number: at least 6 SCCF: Number: at least 15 Case studies mainstream and have a dedicated specific session on inclusivity approaches and its benefits (gender, youth, IPs, people with disabilities): Yes	Project M&E System Project Annual Reports Website Case studies submitted by the PEPs to UNIDO	
Output 2.1.3. Strengthened capacity of the 21 Project Executing Partners on development of business proposal through a virtual training workshop with 50% women participation and 40% youth participation	# virtual capacity building workshops # of representants from the selected non-state actors that attended (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated) # of total participants (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated) <i>(Note: This contributes to Core Indicator 4)</i>	None None None	Number: 1 Number: 21 Women inclusion target: 50% Youth inclusion target: 40% Number: 40 Women inclusion target: 50% Youth inclusion target: 40%	Project M&E System Project Annual Reports Website Materials from the capacity building workshop Recording of the workshop List of attendees	
Output 3.1.1. Continuous project monitoring and reporting as per UNIDO and GEF guidelines	# of M&E System/Plan developed for the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme Projects (one funded by LDCF and the other by SCCF) including gender, youth, IP and people living with disability tracking # of trainings on the M&E system delivered to the PEPs, including gender, youth, IPs, and people living with disabilities perspectives % of PEPs participating in the M&E trainings (sex, age-, race-, ethnicity- disability- and geographical disaggregated)	None None None	Number: 1 M&E plan developed during Y1 for implementation, including gender, youth, IPs and people living with disabilities perspectives tracking Number: at least 1 training delivered to PEPs involved in the implementation of the Projects, including gender, youth, IPs, and people living with disabilities perspectives Percentage: 100% Gender target: 50% Youth target: 40%	M&E System/Plan Project Annual Reports PSC Meeting Minutes Package of training materials developed Training reports	

	(Yes/No) PMU includes an appointed Gender focal point	None	PMU includes an appointed Gender focal point: Yes	
	(Yes/No) PMU includes an ESS focal point	None	PMU includes an appointed ESS focal point: Yes	
Output 3.1.2. Mid-Term Review conducted	# Mid-Term Reviews (gender responsive)	None	Number: 1 Mid-Term Review	Mid-Term Review Report
Output 3.1.3: Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation conducted	# Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation (gender responsive)	None	Number: 1 Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation (gender responsive)	Terminal Strategic Impact Evaluation Report

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
Development and finalisation of GEF CEO Approval Request Forms	30,000.00		30,000.00
Baseline data collection and analysis of ongoing/completed projects	7,500.00		7,500.00
Stakeholder engagement activities (consultations) and preparation of stakeholder engagement plan	12,500.00		12,500.00
Total	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Caracol (Haiti)	194134	720102	3,728,428

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Adams Arcade (Kenya)	11803	364651	8,477,698

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sussex (Sierra Leone)	82048	131350	2,403,669

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Antananarivo (Madagascar)	185449	473210	1,070,940

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Juba (South Sudan)	45106	313457	373,303

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Arusha (Tanzania)	32200	364100	161,325

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yaounde (Cameroon)	35200	113100	2,220,957

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mogadishu (Somalia)	20214	452038	53,654

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kinshasa (DRC)	41939	151849	2,314,302

Location Description:

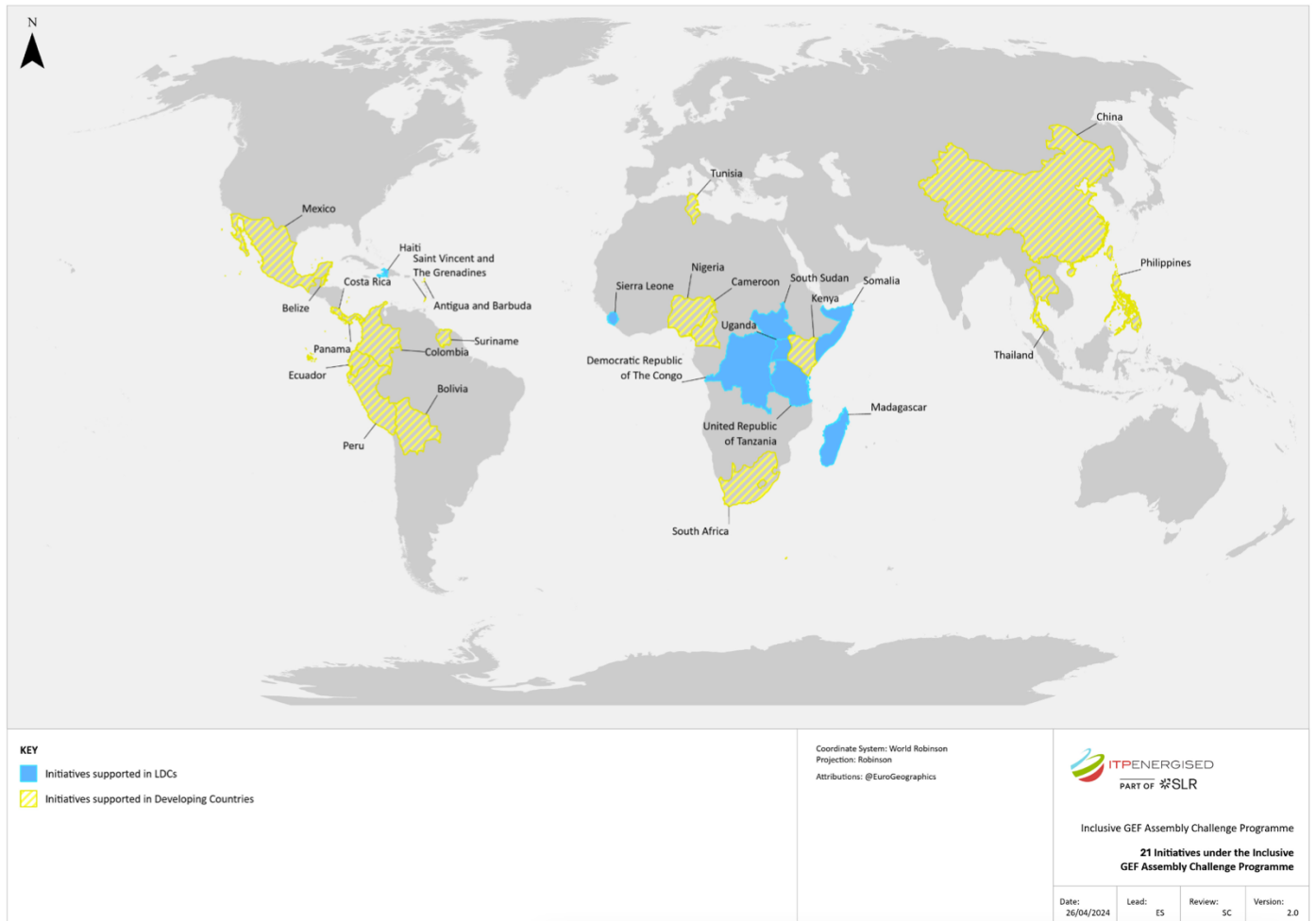
Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Pretoria (South Africa)	254441	281116	964,137

Location Description:

Activity Description:

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



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard screening/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.

Title

ES_Screening_LDCF_Assembly_Challenge

Annex_F_ESMF_LDCF_v2

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

Appendix H: Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (US\$eq.)						Total (US\$eq.)	Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Sub-Total	M&E (and Component 3)	PMC		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1					
Contractual Services – Company	Subcontractor for the creation and delivery of a webinar series on advancing inclusivity on GEF projects (Output 1.1.4)	60,000.00			60,000.00			60,000.00	UNIDO
	Subcontractor for the development of the inclusivity benefits measurement framework (Output 1.1.5)	62,120.00			62,120.00			62,120.00	UNIDO
	Subcontractor for virtual training workshop on the development of business proposal - Village Capital (Output 2.1.3)		55,000.00		55,000.00			55,000.00	UNIDO
	Evaluator for the Mid Term Review (Output 3.1.2)				-	22,000.00		22,000.00	UNIDO
	Independent Evaluator for the Terminal Strategic impact Evaluation (Output 3.1.3)				-	90,000.00		90,000.00	UNIDO
Grant	UNIDO to distribute grants for the implementation of the Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme initiatives in LDCs (6 out of the 21)		574,450.00		574,450.00			574,450.00	UNIDO
Contractual Services - International Consultants	Communication Team within UNIDO (Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3.)	35,000.00			35,000.00			35,000.00	UNIDO
	Communication Expert	52,500.00			52,500.00			52,500.00	UNIDO
	International Expert	160,000.00			160,000.00			160,000.00	UNIDO
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Project Coordinator within UNIDO				-		90,000.00	90,000.00	UNIDO
	Project Assistant within UNIDO				-		30,000.00	30,000.00	UNIDO
	Gender and ESS Expert within UNIDO				-		12,000.00	12,000.00	UNIDO
	M&E Consultant within UNIDO				-	60,000.00		60,000.00	UNIDO
Trainings, Workshops,	Training / Workshops / Meetings of the PC1, PC2 and PC3	90,000.00	-		90,000.00	8,000.00		98,000.00	UNIDO
Travel	Travel to bring the inclusive Challenge Programme Winners to the three (3) physical thematic events	172,500.00	-		172,500.00			172,500.00	UNIDO
	Travel of the PEE to carry PMC activities				-		12,157.00	12,157.00	UNIDO
Grand Total		632,120.00	629,450.00	-	1,261,570.00	180,000.00	144,157.00	1,585,727.00	

1,771,000.00

185,273.00

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

					1,441,570.00		72,078.50		
--	--	--	--	--	--------------	--	-----------	--	--