



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10961

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

LDCF

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

Project Title

Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Countries

Global

Agency(ies)

World Bank

Other Executing Partner(s)

World Bank, Global Program on Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience

Executing Partner Type

GEF Agency

GEF Focal Area

Climate Change

Sector

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster risk management, Complementarity, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Small Island Developing States, Sea-level rise, Mainstreaming adaptation, Least Developed Countries, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Participation, Beneficiaries, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Private Sector, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Theory of change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Principal Objective 2

Biodiversity

Land Degradation

Submission Date

4/28/2023

Expected Implementation Start

7/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

6/30/2027

Duration

48In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

900,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCA-2	Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact	LDC F	5,000,000.00	46,250,000.00
CCA-3	Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaptation	LDC F	5,000,000.00	46,250,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			10,000,000.00	92,500,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To support the uptake of NBS into World Bank project investments in LDCs to address climate adaptation challenges and provide benefits for nature

Project Component	Compon ent Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fun d	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Pillar 1. Building a business case for NBS investment	Technical Assistance	Strengthened business case for NBS financing. Increased NBS integration into policy frameworks	Tools and Analytics (e.g. technical guidelines for the design, financing, and implementation of NBS, guidance notes on best practices and knowledge about NBS investments, and policy notes with recommendations to incorporate NBS into policies and regulations) Innovative NBS Financing screening and NBS Tools and guidelines published, e.g.: Cost-Benefit Analyses for NBS in LDCs economic analyses of NBS as guidance for LDCs in collaboration with different	LD CF	1,500,000.00	

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			teams in the World Bank			
			targeted assessments of the costs of environmental degradation			
			exploratory analyses of innovative financing options for NBS in LDCs, with a focus on long-term sustainability (e.g., green fees, water tariffs, coastal resilience fees, carbon tax, payment for ecosystem services);			
			economic valuation of ecosystem services;			
			identification of the most relevant NBS for private sector investment in LDCs			
			NBS incorporated			

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			into selected LDC Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCD) and Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDR)			

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Pillar 2. Incorporating NBS in country investments	Technical Assistance	Improved LDC capacity in designing and applying NBS	Assessment and guidance to incorporate NBS in policies and regulations implemented	LD CF	6,200,000.00	88,095,200.00
		NBS are integrated into project design and implementation	Technical NBS support for projects and pipeline investments assimilated into Project designs			
		Greater number of viable, bankable NBS pipeline projects	NBS incorporated into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), or Climate Adaptation Strategies and Action Plans.			
			Dedicated NBS Training Programs implemented activities, e.g.:			

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<p>(i) technical courses and workshops on key NBS screening, cost-effectiveness, design, implementation and monitoring;</p> <p>(ii) tailored NBS training courses for government staff and relevant local communities and stakeholders;</p> <p>(iii) exchanges for government staff and task team leaders to learn about successful NBS experiences on the ground;</p> <p>(iv) support for government staff and key stakeholder specialization in pre-existing NBS courses and training or participation in conferences and training events.</p>			

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Pillar 3. Communications, Knowledge Management and Coordination	Technical Assistance	Greater sharing and use of NBS knowledge, good practices, and lessons among LDCs, particularly including experiences that stem from LDCs and reflect their contexts.	<p>Knowledge sharing for NBS best practices strengthened. Knowledge exchange events held on NBS, including technical webinars</p> <p>Global event on mobilizing financing for NBS in LDCs completed. Presentations held at global/regional events to promote NBS</p> <p>LDCs engaged in regional/global NBS events</p> <p>Communications and Knowledge Management Strategies implemented</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy</p>	LD CF	1,850,000.00	

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
			implemented and reported upon. Annual Progress Reports developed and submitted			
			Organization event held in coordination with LDC Climate Group			
			Newsletters, blogs, and feature stories published			
Sub Total (\$)					9,550,000.00	88,095,200.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	LDCF		450,000.00			4,404,800.00
Sub Total(\$)			450,000.00			4,404,800.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			10,000,000.00			92,500,000.00

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	World Bank	Loans	Investment mobilized	92,500,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				92,500,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Current cofinancing commitment is provided by the WB Task Team of the West Africa -Senegal project under the World Bank-led Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP) MPA (cofinancing letter is uploaded). We estimate that the contribution of the WB-led project over the next five years 2023-2028 towards the objectives of Nature Based Solutions will be at US\$92.5 million. The combined effort will in turn boost the resilience of Senegal's agricultural systems, significantly increase awareness about nature-based solutions and support the implementation of the country's dedication to financing nature-based solutions in multiple focus value chains.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
World Bank	LD CF	Global	Climate Change	NA	10,000,000	900,000	10,900,000.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					10,000,000.00	900,000.00	10,900,000.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)PPG Required **true****PPG Amount (\$)**

100,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

9,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
World Bank	LDCF	Global	Climate Change	NA	100,000	9,000	109,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00

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?

false

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). true

This Project has an urban focus. false

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

Agriculture	20.00%
Natural resources management	45.00%
Climate information services	5.00%
Coastal zone management	15.00%
Water resources management	15.00%
Disaster risk management	0.00%
Other infrastructure	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify:)	0.00%
Total	100%

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

CORE INDICATOR 1

Total

Male

Female

% for Women

Total number of direct beneficiaries

0

0

0

0%

CORE INDICATOR 2

Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)

0.00

CORE INDICATOR 3

Total no. of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience

10

CORE INDICATOR 4

Male

Female

% for Women

Total number of people trained

500

250

250

50.00%

To calculate the core indicators, please refer to [Results Guidance](#)

OBJECTIVE 1

Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaption

OUTCOME 1.1

Technologies and innovative solutions piloted or deployed to reduce climate-related risks and / or enhance resilience



[View](#)

OUTCOME 1.2

Innovative financial instruments and investment models enabled or introduced to enhance climate resilience

View

OBJECTIVE 2

Mainstream climate change adaption and resilience for systemic impact

OUTCOME 2.1

Strengthened cross-sectoral mechanisms to mainstream climate adaption and resilience

View

OUTCOME 2.2

Adaptation considerations mainstreamed into investments

View

OUTCOME 2.3

Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures

View

OBJECTIVE 3

Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaption

OUTCOME 3.1

Climate-resilient planning enabled by stronger climate information decision-support services, and other relevant analysis, as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance



OUTCOME 3.2

Increased ability of country to access and/or manage climate finance or other relevant, largescale, pragmatic investment, as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance



OUTCOME 3.3

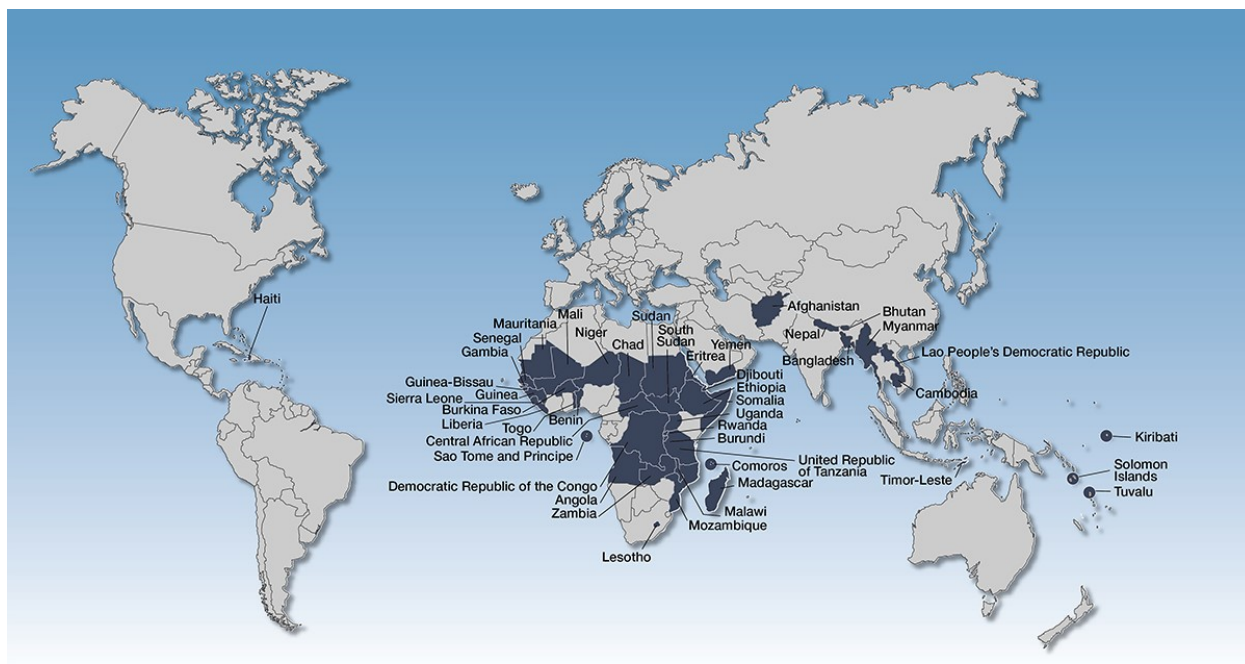
Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance



Part II. Project Justification

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



2. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

1. A series of partner institutions will be engaged at different levels to expand impact, reach and effectiveness of Project activities. These partners will play a variety of roles during implementation through cofinancing and/or the provision of services for the Project, for example, for developing tools and resources on NBS to be disseminated through the Project, contributing to disseminate the results of this Project, strengthening engagement with beneficiaries and communities, or complementing activities such as technical assistance, workshops, or analytical work. GEF-financed and other donor-funded projects and initiatives relevant to NBS will offer lessons learned, best practices for replication, tools and resources for dissemination and capacity development within LDCs, and opportunities for synergistic knowledge exchange and learning. A baseline analysis identified a range of potential partners which were engaged and interviewed during Project preparation, and will continue to be engaged during implementation, including World Bank-led initiatives (e.g., ASL, GWP and others mentioned in the Lessons Learned section), external partners (e.g., WRI, Nature-Based Infrastructure Global Resource Centre), United Nations UN Agencies, MDBs, and the private sector.

A detailed summary the baseline stakeholder assessment is available in Annex 7 of the PAD.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The formal participation of stakeholders is detailed in the section on institutional arrangements and role of core partners sections of the project document (Sections C.I and C.II - page 25-28 of the PAD).

The project includes the LDC Climate Group as a key stakeholder and will contribute through inputs, ideas and information for design and implementation stages, and provide support for the coordination with LDCs. In addition, engagement with LDC countries and knowledge exchange and communications will be implemented through the LDC climate group.

Participating LDC governments as well as GPs within the world bank are part of the project task team. They will be consulted for national and thematic interventions, contribute to coordinate these interventions and support implementation. In addition, participating GPs well as international cooperation agencies, MDBs or similar institutions may be engaged as relevant.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain) Yes

Partner executor of collaborative activities.

The project recognizes the relevance of civil society organizations, primarily at the national and local levels. This will be done at a country-level following Bank procedures, with the support of the task teams and social specialists of each IDA project supported. We will additionally request IDA Project that acquire our support to engage in further consultations with Civil Society Organizations. Please note that there is already demand to receive our support from IDA projects which are working closely with Civil Society Organizations.

This is because the Project aims to accelerate NBS in, at least, 20 countries out of 46 LDCs, and potentially more. In each of these cases, the civil society organizations will be different and face different contexts. This is why the participation of civil society in each case will be tailored and done

through the IDA projects under preparation in each country to incorporate NBS among their investments.

When doing this, the Project leverages into the preparation process of each IDA project, which are already following strict World Bank social and environmental procedures. This includes rigorous and ample participatory processes and specific standards for Stakeholder engagement and information disclosure.

For additional details, please refer to <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/837721522762050108-0290022018/original/ESFFramework.pdf>

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

The Gender Strategy is embedded in the Project design and also described as Annex 4 of the Project Document.

Women and children are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change and represent a significant portion of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of this Project. This critical considering yet they can play a crucial role in improving climate resilience, managing natural ecosystems sustainably, and ensuring a long-term perspective for decision-making. In LDCs, gender inequality is magnified due to persistent and severe development challenges derived from higher levels of poverty, inadequate and insufficient infrastructure, limited commercial and productive capacities, and low-skilled and informal labor conditions. In consequence, the relevance of targeting and benefitting women across Project activities is of paramount importance and a great opportunity to expand the co-benefits of NBS in LDCs.

A Gender Strategy was prepared for this Project in alignment with the World Bank Gender Equality Strategy 2016-2021 and the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming by implementing concrete actions to contribute towards gender equality and through interventions. The main objective of the Gender Strategy is to increase the benefits for and participation of women in NBS projects. It builds on existing global gender gap analyses developed for the abovementioned strategies. Relevant gender gaps that are applicable to most of the interventions of this project, as identified in the World Bank strategy, include (i) Limited access to specialized training and capacity building; (ii) Reduced availability of jobs and economic incentives for entrepreneurship, particularly in agriculture; and (iii) Unequal distribution of property rights among men and women, particularly in rural settings. Key gender gaps identified by GEF that are of particular relevance for the Project include (i) Unequal access to and control over natural resources; (ii) Unbalanced participation and decision-making in environmental planning and governance at all levels; and (iii) Uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services.

Primary actions considered include (i) prioritization of gender-focused projects for support under Pillar 2 and analytical work under Pillar 1, (ii) prioritization of gender equality across teams of firms to be

hired, (iii) gender-relevant design of the capacity building, training and exchanges, (iv) priority access to capacity building and training session to women, aiming to achieve equal gender representation, (v) funding for, at least, five deliverables with a gender perspective. This approach is reflected in the project Results Framework, which includes gender-based indicators for the key beneficiaries of the project. Additionally, country and project-scale Gender Gap assessments will be considered by the Project to inform activities. The Project will review local reports and analyses to inform the detailed design of the interventions, analyses, technical assistance, capacity building and dissemination activities. This will be done in close coordination with partner organizations, governments, and local Country Management Units and Task Teams as relevant. Each World Bank IDA project undergoes a targeted gender gap analysis and includes gender mainstreaming plan or a gender equality strategy as befitting to its context. The project may contribute and support the strengthening of these plans and strategies in the aspects and areas relevant to NBS, as determined in a case-by-case approach.

The project document includes a description of gender-targeted activities in the Pillars: Activities 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, and 3.2. A gender expert will be hired to support the implementation of the Gender Strategy, and gender-relevant activities will be implemented in coordination with GPNBS, FOLUR, PROBLUE and PROGREEN.

The gender aspects will be covered as follows:

Pillar 1 ? Gender targeted tools/products. A gender expert will be hired to support this. Pillar 2 ? Priority will be given to IDA projects that have a high potential for contributing to addressing gender gaps.

As described in Annex 4, tailored capacity building will be offered for gender + NBS + LDC issues.

Pillar 3 ? The role of women in managing landscapes and NBS interventions will be highlighted through the comms strategy.

In addition, please note that all World Bank projects go through a compulsory gender tagging exercise under the supervision of a gender expert who advises and reviews the gender-relevant activities of the project. IDA investments that have positive gender tagging are prioritized to receive support from this Project.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The project will contribute to enable investment from the private sector in NBS by providing the tools and information that can contribute to reduce the risk and quantify the benefits of NBS, facilitate their implementation through improved policies, and indirectly through public campaigns and awareness raising about NBS. Private firms may be hired to contribute to specialized pre-feasibility assessments and trainings, further contributing to strengthen the experience and offer of privates in NBS.

The project will focus on the development of the investment options for accelerating NBS uptake by the donors and private sector; the output will include a dedicated report and engagement workshop.

Engagement with the IFC, especially in collaboration with the IDA portfolio in the selected LDCs will be encouraged, as part of the TOR for the technical assistance under Pillar 2.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Not available at this stage	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

1. **The overall risk rating for this project is moderate.** Even though this is an ASA, the risk considers the weak political and governance contexts in LDCs, which contribute to the complexity of the Project, including many FCV setting, and the global nature of the project. The following table captures risks identified as substantial or High as per World Bank procedures, but other risks have also been evaluated to be moderate or low (for example, fiduciary and environmental and social risks), but will continue to be monitored and managed by the ANBSA Task Team. However, the responsibility of country risks lays the Task Teams of the projects that will receive support under Pillar 2; lowering other risks will require that the project implements activities and interventions in an adaptive manner and in

consideration with the local context, along with conducting effective and broad stakeholder engagement processes throughout design and implementation.

2. **Political and Governance risk is rated substantial.** The Project will work in a large number of countries with diverse and complex, and often volatile, governance and political conditions. On-going Government and stakeholders' buy-in and willingness to participate and provide information will be sought for the project to implement effective activities that spark the changes required to accelerate NBS. To mitigate this risk, the Project will target countries that demonstrate high interest in NBS, which is assessed through interviews with Task Teams working in each country and a review of relevant policies to understand the longer-term national commitment to NBS related efforts.

3. **Potential risk of macroeconomic imbalances is rated substantial.** The current global macroeconomic situation is unstable and LDCs are extremely vulnerable to fluctuations in global prices, demand, and investment. Any changes in this respect may deviate the attention from NBS investments towards other urgent needs. However, the Task Team will continue to monitor these developments and manage the Project in an adaptive manner to adjust activities to potentially new settings, for example, by targeting types of NBS that are relevant for the most affected economic sectors. In addition, support will be provided based on performance, allowing to track progress and redistribute funds to respond to changing macroeconomic conditions.

4. **Sector Strategies and Policies is a substantial risk.** Even though the Project will target countries with existing policies and strategies that relate with NBS and where interest for NBS is acknowledged, unsupportive or even conflicting incentives and regulations from diverse sectors also hinder the uptake of NBS. To mitigate this risk, the Project will promote the incorporation of NBS in national, regional, and global events, and support participation LDC governments. Furthermore, the project will support assessments, diagnostics, technical assistance, and policies to identify, target and revise policies and incentives for scaling up NBS, and will offer technical guidance on how to ensure policy coherence and improve governance for NBS.

5. **Technical Design of Project is rated moderate** due to the large number of countries, stakeholders, GPs (sectors), and activities involved. To mitigate risks, the Project will distribute adaptively the coordination tasks for sectors through GP advisors (who are also part of the Task Team), and regional or thematic activities will be delegated in task team members. During preparation, relevant Global Practices participated in internal and external workshops during project development phase, providing their inputs to project activities and contributing to identify opportunities and mechanisms to coordination with existing initiatives and ensure a cross-World Bank Group (WBG) approach to promoting NBS for adaptation in LDCs.

6. **Stakeholder risk is rated substantial.** This is due to the large number of LDCs and additional relevant stakeholders to be engaged and the low capacities and resources available in LDCs for collaboration and coordination purposes. To mitigate this risk, the Task Team has engaged from an early stage with the LDC Group, which brings together LDCs for climate purposes, and with selected countries. The Project will also work through current on the ground Bank engagement through Task Teams working in each LDC and may designate focal points for specific regions or thematic areas as relevant. In addition, activities will be targeted at countries that demonstrate high interest in NBS.

7. **Other: Health conditions and COVID-19 risk is moderate.** Travel disruptions and social distancing requirements associated to COVID-19 and other health hazards could delay implementation of activities. The Project will work through the project WB teams working with LDC governments, and through other partners with strong in-country presence, reducing the need for international travel to support project activities. The capacity development and knowledge exchange under the project will be designed to use a combination of virtual and in-person events, offering flexibility in case of strict travel and social distancing restrictions.

8. **Other: Violence and Fragility risk is substantial.** Many LDCs are affected by insecurity and violence, and the emergence of fragile situations can substantially delay project implementation and outcomes. The project will seek to develop technical assistance and capacity development that is appropriate for low capacity and FCV settings. Risks of each pipeline investment (including fragility risks) will be assessed with country teams when in-depth pipeline project design support is applicable.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
note on ESF	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Project Results Framework: Section E. Results Framework of the Project Document (P.32)

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

<p>Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:</p> <p>Germany welcomes the proposal which aims to increase the uptake of nature-based solutions (NBS) for addressing climate resilience and adaptation challenges across the World Bank portfolio. The program aims to achieve the objective through the development of targeted knowledge, tools and operational support modalities for task teams and their government clients. Germany appreciates the integration of relevant stakeholders to ensure cross-sectional knowledge management to enhance the pipeline of NBS investment in LDCs with adaptation and nature benefits.</p>	<p>Thank you</p>
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<p>? Germany approves of the aim to enhance the capacity of national governments to design and implement NBS. It further approves of the aim to indirectly support local communities through the development of a pipeline for NBS investments. To the extent feasible and recognizing that national-level stakeholders are the direct beneficiaries of the project, local / indigenous communities should also be consulted to identify NBS needs given that knowledge on NBS is often embedded at the local / indigenous levels. By involving local actors in policy/tool/knowledge product design at the national level, there will be a greater chance of uptake at the local level.</p>	<p>The project will follow approach developed by the Global Platform for NBS (GPNBS). Technical assistance and capacity building will be developed based on the IDA project needs in addressing NBS, and will include various levels of the beneficiaries. Template TOR will serve as a basis for the development of dedicated support, and will be discussed with the IDA task team/client.</p> <p>A targeted NBS training program will be developed for each selected track 1 country, tailored to low-capacity, IDA, considering SIDS and FCV settings as relevant, aiming to build in-country capacity to plan and mainstream NBS in investments across a range of funding sources. A general (not tailored to each country) NBS training program will also be offered to Track 2 countries, including relevant tools and knowledge adapted and prepared for LDCs under Pillars 1 and 2. The training program and capacity development opportunities will be developed during implementation and will leverage existing resources, including tools developed under existing World Bank initiatives, and develop training packages to support their effective uptake. Training sessions for regional and national levels will be developed, and the project will facilitate technical ?twinning? arrangements whereby an LDC could learn from projects that have successfully applied NBS in a similar context. The resources and materials prepared for this program will be made publicly available through the Knowledge Management Strategy under Pillar 3, benefitting all LDCs.</p> <p>5The training program may be delivered, for example, through the following activities (i) technical courses and workshops on key NBS screening, cost-effectiveness, design, implementation and monitoring; (ii) tailored NBS training courses for government staff and relevant local communities and stakeholders; (iii) exchanges for government staff and task team leaders to learn about successful NBS experiences on the ground; and (iv) scholarships to support government staff and key stakeholder specialization in pre-existing NBS courses and training or participation in conferences and training events.</p> <p>Targeted beneficiaries for capacity building are government officials (from multiple relevant ministries and sectors), representatives from communities and key stakeholders, and could include project development and implementation teams supporting LDCs. Indicative topics to be covered include cost-benefit analyses; land planning; integrated landscape management; sensitization around the use of ecological restoration approaches and scaling up to landscape, seascape, and watershed levels; biodiversity assessment and monitoring; water resource management; environmental and social management, risks management, gender and IPLC NBS engagement; financing opportunities</p>
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and strategies for NBS investments; among others to be agreed.

We are in full agreement about the importance of local and indigenous communities. This is reflected throughout the narrative of the Project Document, including the introduction; the design of the communications, knowledge management and training activities; the beneficiaries and sustainability sections; and the analyses performed for designing the Project (see Annex 2).

The team would like to point out that this Project aims to accelerate NBS in, at least, 20 countries out of 46 LDCs, and potentially more. This will be done by tapping into IDA projects under preparation in each country to incorporate NBS among their investments. When doing this, the Project leverages into the preparation process of each IDA project, which are already following strict World Bank social and environmental procedures. This includes rigorous and ample participatory processes, and specific standards for Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, among many others. Please note that the consultation and participation of local and indigenous communities is led by the local team in charge of each IDA project, including the social experts assigned to it, so that each one will be tailored to the local context and needs. In addition, we would like to point out that this Project will not finance NBS activities themselves in the countries, instead, it will serve as cofinancing to promote NBS investments.

For additional details, please refer to <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/837721522762050108-0290022018/original/ESFFramework.pdf>

To report on this, we will encourage the supported Projects to enhance their participatory processes and request information on IPLCs in the proposals requesting our support. This will help to ensure that the proposals supported by this Project will provide adequate attention to the needs and interests of IPLCs.

? Germany notes the list and description of technical initiatives and partnerships where the new project could collaborate and build synergies and suggests that during the final project preparation stage that the roles and contributions of these other initiatives be more clearly defined and described. For example, the involvement of the University of Oxford's Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NBSI) could be clarified regarding how their research and valuation reaches local stakeholders in LDC governments. The descriptions of the City Resilience Program (CRP) and the Sub-national Climate Finance Initiative (SCF) do not provide much clarity on the link to the new project and how, for example, the CR Program's expertise and knowledge in the relevant LDCs can be used to build urban resilience and adaptation in the NBS space. Germany, therefore, again suggests engaging, to the extent feasible, with LDC local governments or to encourage LDC ministries to engage in multi-level governance solutions in their project development.

Thank you. The role of core partners was clarified during the project preparation.

The LDC Climate Group will be a core stakeholder as it represents LDCs at the UNFCCC and for overall climate change purposes. The Project will coordinate with the LDC Chair, and work through the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) of the LDC Climate Group. The LDC Climate Group will be invited to input at a strategic level, primarily by informing about the key priorities, challenges, and opportunities for working with LDCs. The group has already contributed to Project design and will continue to be engaged during implementation, including for knowledge exchange, communications (for example, through joint participation in events and workshops), informing activities, and proposing analytical and capacity building activities.

To maximize incremental impact, the Project will seek to build synergies with relevant initiatives and explore financing opportunities for NBS. This will be achieved by working together with fiduciary trust-funds such as PROBLUE, PROGREEN, and SCALE, which finance technical assistance and cofinancing IDA projects to achieve impacts that are highly relevant to NBS. The Project may also support the adaptation of tools developed by PROGREEN and PROBLUE to LDC contexts, their implementation in operations, and prepare joint capacity building, workshops, and events.

Engagement with other stakeholders will be conducted on-demand basis, with the focus on specific expertise and knowledge, and to explore synergies and collaboration. For example, NBSI Nature-based Solutions Evidence and Case Study Platforms can be utilized in development of NBS options in the selected LCDs.

? Germany approves of the development of a gender engagement strategy and recommends developing targeted procedures in order to address the identified barriers and issues. For example, it is still unclear how the specified goal of 50% female participation in the foreseen training will be reached given the outlined structural challenges of women in many LDCs.

Gender Engagement Strategy was prepared as part of the Project Document (Annex 4)

Project activities will be implemented in collaboration with governments, partner agencies and Task Teams. For these cases, the core Task Team will make available tools, materials, and expert specialists or consultants to support a gender approach in all activities, as agreed upon with each counterpart.

In addition, the Terms of Reference of all consulting firms and consortiums participating or collaborating with Project activities will include adhering to this Gender Strategy and include tailored gender-specific activities or gender prioritization in line with the World Bank and GEF gender guidelines.

During the development of the Capacity Building Strategy, the specialist in charge will consult with a gender expert for advice on implementing training activities. The inclusion of a gender perspective will be incorporated into the narrative and information provided in all courses, which will seek to contribute to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and gender issues. Gender considerations will also be made in the design of the training programs by building the conditions that would facilitate and encourage the participation of women, including timing of the event, formats for connection, duration, and accessibility, among others recommended by the gender expert. In addition, women will be prioritized when limited capacity is available with the aim to achieve equal participation of women and men.

Additionally, gender-focused workshops and trainings will be designed and provided as part of the Capacity Building Strategy under Pillar 2. These will be focused on (i) bridging gender gaps in terms of selected training targeted for women in critical topics, for example, in terms of leadership and natural resource management, or in terms of technical NBS-related skills; and on (ii) providing additional availability of training sessions and material for those topics where access and capacity inequality is most prominent. A more detailed analysis to guide these decisions will be provided under the Capacity Building Strategy.

<p>? It is very valuable to see that the approach shall benefit locals. Building on that approach we strongly suggest to integrate further environmental and social safeguards as a precondition for the implementation process to ensure the investments deliver benefits for people as well as for biodiversity and climate.</p>	<p>The project will provide Technical Assistance and capacity building through the IDA investments in selected countries (tracks 1 and 2). All World Bank projects are subject to Environmental and Social safeguards, as part of the Environmental and Social Framework, approved by the Board of Executive Directors on August 4, 2016. It consists of a Vision for Sustainable Development; ten Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), which set out the requirements that apply to Borrowers; an Environmental and Social Policy for Investment Project Financing (IPF), which sets out the requirements that apply to the Bank; and an Environmental and Social Directive for IPF and a Directive on Addressing Risks and Impacts on Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups. It applies to all IPF projects initiated on or after October 1, 2018.</p> <p>The ESF supports green, resilient and inclusive development by strengthening protections for people and the environment and making important advances in areas such as labor, inclusion and non-discrimination, gender, climate change, biodiversity, community health and safety, and stakeholder engagement. It uses a risk-based and proportionate approach that applies increased oversight and resources to complex projects and allows for greater responsiveness to changes in project circumstances through adaptive risk management and stakeholder engagement. It promotes integrated environmental and social risk management.</p>
<p>? There is no reference included that clearly defines what NbS are. We suggest to integrate a link to the UNEA resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.5 (https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea-5.2/proceedings-reportministerial-declaration-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-5.2) to make sure its definition of NbS provides a solid basis for the project.</p>	<p>Thank you, the definition is adopted by the project document</p>
<p>STAP June 2022</p>	
<p>Comment</p>	<p>Response from the team</p>

<p>STAP acknowledges the project ?Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs).? STAP welcomes the effort to promote NbS for adaptation across LDCs.</p> <p>Given the global and general nature of this project, it is difficult to offer specific comments at country or project level.</p> <p>Overall, however, STAP notes that this project can contribute to overcoming the barriers to adopting NbS ? mainly lack of finance ? and can also contribute to the growing knowledge base on NbS, including building a business case ? to encourage further uptake and scaling.</p> <p>For this reason, knowledge management and learning will be essential ? not only for this project but for the broader community of practitioners. There is broad recognition of the challenges associated with KML related to NbS and the concept note offers several options for addressing this, including the use of existing platforms, rather than duplicating them.</p>	<p>Thank you.</p>
<p>The problem statement is very broad, reflecting the goal of the project to cover all LDCs. This broad goal makes enumerating the specific problems faced in different countries and regions impractical, but also creates the risk of an overgeneralized problem statement that overlooks national and regional differences, as well as opportunities that might arise.</p>	<p>We narrowed the problem statement, however the on-demand nature of the major project activities does not allow to categorize issues and barriers of the NBS adoption. There are at least 15 IDA projects in LDCs will be targeted by the project, with the just-in-time and on demand support through technical assistance and capacity building interventions.</p>
<p>They are well-described, but the document includes no references for these barriers. While these are general barriers, it is not clear how these would have local manifestations. STAP particularly appreciates the note that NbS tend to be implemented through an ecological restoration approach, which places limits on the benefits to people from such actions.</p>	<p>Thank you. technical assistance will be customized to address barriers for NBS adoption in the relevant sector targeted by the IDA investments in the selected LDCs. Specific barriers and solutions will be identified as part of the request for the technical support.</p>

There is no real measured baseline, and even the narrative baseline is very vague. STAP does not doubt the need for this project, or the fact it might deliver adaptation benefits, but measuring those benefits and justifying the additionality of this project is very difficult.	A triple baseline assessment was conducted during Project preparation to inform design, and particularly the country prioritization for the initial Tier 1 LDCs. It is made up of three analyses: (i) a review of NBS included in country policies (NBSAPS, NDCs and NAPAs) and World Bank country strategies (CPFs); (ii) a review of the current (projects under implementation up to December 2021) World Bank portfolio review, collated for LDC countries; and (iii) an LDC IDA20 project pipeline review for priority sectors (water, agriculture, urban, energy, transport, and environment). Each analysis/review is described in the Annex 2 of the Project Document.
The project has only proposed indicative outputs at this point under its pillars. This makes this aspect of the PIF challenging to evaluate. The indicative outputs and outcomes seem reasonable.	On-demand nature of the core project interventions (Pillar 2) allows to provide indicative outputs at this point. However, consultations with the IDA Task Teams demonstrate that estimated outputs are reasonable and feasible.
The mechanisms of change, while only provisional because of the provisional nature of the activities, seem plausible. There is a well-defined set of seven assumptions in the theory of change. All seem reasonable and testable. STAP notes that assumption A4 may not hold up, as the barriers to the adoption of adaptation and other environmental interventions can emerge at the local level and will not be addressed through technical support. These issues can only be addressed through context-sensitive design and engagement.	Analytical work and tools (Pillar 1) and technical support (Pillar 2) aim to provide support in defining NBS options and barriers for NBS adoption, to inform targeted IDA investments design and relevant government stakeholders in selected LDCs about the opportunities for NBS application, policies and instruments supporting NBS adoption.
No, but this project is generally focused on providing tools to address the need for NbS, not implementing specific NbS that could be affected by climate change.	
There are no real baseline indicators at this time, though the PIF has proposed project-end indicators that should allow for the measurement of impact if a baseline is established.	Some of the baseline indicators were identified during PPG stage, mostly based on the results of the IDA portfolio and pipeline review.
There is no discussion of this in the PIF, but this is largely a capacity-building project and therefore its activities are not as vulnerable to climate change as one implementing interventions on the ground.	Agree.

<p>Nature based solutions, though perhaps more rare than grey or other infrastructure, are not necessarily more innovative. There is potential for innovation in financing and other areas; however, until the specific projects are developed in LDCs it is not possible to comment on this</p>	<p>Project approaches combine investment, policy, knowledge exchange and capacity development to build a groundswell of interest among LDCs to program NBS and provide them with the skills, knowledge and tools needed to design effective projects. The project's knowledge exchange mechanisms targeted to LDCs are developed to support the scaling up and replication of approaches across and between LDCs, as they increasingly build supportive learning networks, learn from each other's successes and collectively build a stronger knowledge and evidence base for the adoption of NBS. Project partnership arrangements will also seek to amplify and scale up impact, by sharing the tools and lessons of the project (and participating LDCs) across existing networks and platforms; and by utilizing existing technical tools and resources and re-packaging them for LDC contexts and settings.</p>
<p>There is a long list of stakeholders and their roles laid out on pages 12-20 of the PIF. This list appears appropriate.</p> <p>STAP notes that while this project sees local communities as indirect beneficiaries of the project, the ultimate impact of NbS will 1) rely heavily on local communities and 2) be felt most directly by these communities. STAP suggests that these stakeholders are central to project success and should be engaged as such.</p>	<p>While the project by nature will not engage with the local communities directly, this engagement will be encouraged and will be included as part of the TOR template for the technical support (Pillar 2). Consultations with the task teams during project preparation demonstrate that engagement with the local communities, smallholder farmers, etc., might be incorporated in the focused capacity building programs, training and other KM interventions in the selected IDA projects</p>
<p>STAP appreciates that the project, by way of preliminary responses, will target the three critical gender gaps identified by the GEF Guidance to Advance Gender Equality in GEF Projects and Programs: unequal access to and control over natural resources; unbalanced participation and decision-making in environmental planning and governance; uneven access to socio- economic benefits and services. Further, the project will develop a gender mainstreaming strategy.</p>	<p>Thank you. Gender mainstreaming strategy was developed during project preparation. In addition to that, each task team receiving support under Pillar 2 will be required to tailor gender into the technical assistance and capacity building support</p>

<p>There are a wide range of risks listed. As the project is proposing preliminary actions and activities, it is difficult to assess if these are comprehensive. STAP notes there is no mention of the risk of low uptake of NbS undermining overall project goals. Further, STAP notes that there is no assessment of likelihood or importance of these risks.</p> <p>The project document makes no reference to climate risk to the project. This may be fine in this case, as the project is about building capacity and creating an enabling environment for specific implementation actions, but is not helpful in terms of implementing interventions on the ground. A climate risk assessment should be carried out for individual projects.</p>	<p>Risk assessment was revised to address STAP comments. In addition to that, the projects selected for the support under Pillar 2 will be required to provide climate risk assessment, following WB Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment methodology, to address short- and long-term risks and specify how the technical support will address these risks or raise awareness about these risks with the clients.</p>
<p>There is little specific mention of previous projects and lessons learned. There is a general reference to learning from ongoing efforts to promote NbS.</p>	<p>Portfolio analysis and review of the existing platforms and initiatives targeting NBS is included in the project document. The portfolio analysis provides a summary of the IDA portfolio, as well as pipeline analysis.</p>
<p>KM will be developed under one of the project pillars, with a strategy to be developed in the PPG stage.</p>	<p>Knowledge management and communications plan was developed during project preparation stage, it outlines major tools, channels and products. Existing channels will be employed to ensure efficiency and efficacy of the KM interventions.</p>
<p>The project ?will put in place knowledge sharing mechanisms to support effective networking and exchange among LDCs on the use of NBS for climate adaptation. It will use a range of measures (e.g. website/resources library, newsletters, webinars, technical knowledge exchange events, high-level sessions) to disseminate project materials, and to share experiences in NBS implementation, broadening the knowledge base to close gaps that relate to LDC settings.? STAP appreciates that the project will try to use existing platforms, rather than duplicating them, to ensure that project efforts build on those from other projects.</p>	<p>Thank you</p>

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: US\$100,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>

Preparation of the GEF project document and annexes, portfolio review	40,000	58,466	0
Pre-feasibility study ? NBS in Agriculture (Climate smart agriculture ? Senegal IDA pre-pipeline)	25,000	9,756	15,244
Prefeasibility study ? NBS for urban and rural resilience, Burkina Faso	10,000	0	4,534
Guideline For Mainstreaming Biodiversity Benefits In Projects Implementing NBS	13,000	0	
Workshops and consultations (including travel)	12,000	12,000	0
Total	100,000	80,222	19,778

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Indicative Project Budget
Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (US Deq.)	Responsible Entity
		Pillar 1	Pillar 2	Pillar 3	Sub-Total	M & E	PM C		
									(Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1]

	NBS consultant for track 2 Analytics				550,000			550,000			550,000
Local Consultants	Local specialized consultants for Track 1 TA					300,000		300,000			300,000
	Local specialized consultants for Track 1 Analytics				100,000			100,000			100,000
	Local specialized consultants for Track 2 Analytics				550,000			550,000			550,000
								-			-
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	NBS Tools specialist		350,000					350,000			350,000
	NBS financing specialist	250,000						250,000			250,000
	WB Policy specialist		200,000					200,000			200,000
	Technical NBS specialist for Track 1 TA					300,000		300,000			300,000

	Technic al NBS specialis t for Track 1 Analytic s				100,0 00			100, 000			100,0 00
	Technic al NBS specialis t for Track 2 Analytic s				400,0 00			400, 000			400,0 00
Traini ngs, Works hops, Meetin gs	NBS LDC Seminar s						25 0,000	250, 000			250,0 00
	Dedicat ed NBS Training Progra m (Track 1)			1,00 0,00 0				1,00 0,00 0			1,000 ,000
	General NBS Training Progra m (Track 2)			1,20 0,00 0				1,20 0,00 0			1,200 ,000
	Knowle dge Exchang e						820,0 00	820, 000			820,0 00
Travel	Team travel						100,0 00	100, 000		150 ,00 0	250,0 00
	Travel for TA					100,0 00		100, 000			100,0 00
	Support for LDC particip ation in NBS events (track 1)					150,0 00		150, 000			150,0 00
	Support for LDC particip ation in NBS events (track 2)					350,0 00		350, 000			350,0 00

Grand Total	500,000	1,000,000	2,200,000	1,850,000	2,150,000	1,650,000	9,350,000	200,000	450,000	10,000,000	
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ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).