

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

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

Taxonomy

SIDS : Small Island Dev States, International Waters, Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Mainstreaming adaptation, National Adaptation Plan, Climate information, Climate finance, Sea-level rise, Innovation, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Private sector, Complementarity, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Communications, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Participation, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Course, Workshop, Training, Learning, Theory of change, Knowledge Exchange, Conference

Sector

Mixed & Others

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 2

Duration

48 In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

900,000.00

Submission Date

4/6/2022

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
CCA-1	LDCF	3,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
CCA-2	LDCF	7,000,000.00	5,280,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		10,000,000.00	6,280,000.00

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

Project Objective: 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.

Project Outcomes

Component 1. Component 1. Building a business case for NBS investment.

Outcomes:

Enhanced pipeline of NBS investment in LDCs with adaptation and nature benefits, as indicated by:

- # of pipeline project investments in LDCs with NBS elements, including # of IDA20 lending projects
- Amount (USD) of pipeline investment in NBS in LDCs, including IDA 20 lending
- # of pipeline projects that blend financing options including private sector investment
- # of pipeline projects with measurable outcomes and targets to restore biodiversity and ecosystem services for climate change adaptation.

Component 2. Capacity building and technical assistance to address barriers to NBS programming.

Outcomes:

Improved mainstreaming of NBS into LDC policy and regulatory frameworks, as indicated by:

- # of policy instruments in LDCs developed or strengthened to better incorporate and facilitate NBS.

Improved capacity of LDCs in designing and applying NBS, as indicated by:

- # of people trained in NBS project design and adoption
- # of direct project beneficiaries (technical assistance, knowledge exchange and capacity development on NBS, webinars and outreach events).

* one of the Bank Core Results Indicators - Land area under sustainable landscape management practices – might allow to track changes in the land management practices in the pipeline investments in the selected LDCs. In addition to that, under the updated WB Results Management system (RMS) in IDA 20, tracking of the NBS adoption will be implemented under Climate Change Special Theme. The NBS project will be able to tag investments targeting sustainable land and/or forest management and integrated landscape management using WB RMS under IDA 20. The project will be able to monitor the # of hectares set as targets in pipeline projects as they are approved (based on targets set in their own results frameworks)

Component 3. Coordination, knowledge exchange, outreach and M&E.

Outcome:

Increased knowledge exchange, access to and understanding of NBS practices and experiences, as indicated by:

- # of LDC best practices, case studies and lessons on NBS identified, documented and disseminated
- % of stakeholders rating project's LDC coordination and knowledge exchange as satisfactory or higher.

Project Component	Financing Type	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1. Building a business case for NBS investment.	Technical Assistance	LDCF	3,800,000.00	1,500,000.00
Component 2. Capacity building and technical assistance to address barriers to NBS programming.	Technical Assistance	LDCF	3,200,000.00	2,580,000.00
Component 3. Coordination, knowledge exchange, outreach and M&E.	Technical Assistance	LDCF	2,524,000.00	1,900,000.00
Sub Total (\$)			9,524,000.00	5,980,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)				
		LDCF	476,000.00	300,000.00
Sub Total(\$)			476,000.00	300,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			10,000,000.00	6,280,000.00

Please provide justification

C. Indicative 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(\$)
Donor Agency	World Bank	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	6,280,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)				6,280,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Cofinancing at this stage includes the WB GFDRR firm commitment to provide in-kind support in the amount of US\$6.2M. However, potential contribution from the investments with NBS interventions in LDCs has been estimated at \$200 million. During preparation, we will have to assess pipeline potential and work with the portfolio of selected LDCs to confirm cofinancing.

D. Indicative 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	LDCF	Global	Climate Change	NA	10,000,000	900,000	10,900,000.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					10,000,000.00	900,000.00	10,900,000.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
100,000				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).

false

This Project has an urban focus.

false

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

Agriculture	15.00%
Natural resources management	35.00%
Climate information Services	5.00%
Costal zone management	20.00%
Water resources Management	10.00%
Disaster risk Management	10.00%
Other infrastructure	5.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify:)	0.00%
Total	100%

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

Sea level rise	Change in mean temperature	Increased Climatic Variability	Natural hazards
true	true		true

	Land degradation	Costal and/or Coral reef degradation	GroundWater quality/quantity
	true	true	false

Core Indicators - LDCF

CORE INDICATOR 1	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
Total number of direct beneficiaries	4,500	2,250	2,250	50.00%
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	20			
CORE INDICATOR 4		Male	Female	% for Women
Total number of people trained	400	200	200	50.00%

Part II. Project Justification

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Map. Least Developed Countries (April 2022, Source: World Bank)



2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Civil Society Organizations

Private Sector Entities

If none of the above, please explain why: Yes

Through its networks and partners within and outside of the World Bank the project will aim to disseminate project resources and collaborate to ensure greater impact. There is a wide network of organizations, donors and multilateral institutions working on NBS knowledge and mainstreaming NBS in investments, and the project will aim to partner with those that are engaged in LDCs.

The initial baseline analysis has identified a range of potential partners that this proposed project can coordinate with, including World Bank-led initiatives, external partnerships, UN Agencies and MDBs supporting implementation of NBS in LDCs, and the private sector. These partners have developed tools and resources on NBS that can be leveraged by this project and disseminated to LDCs. An initial assessment of key initiatives, as well as primary project stakeholders, is provided below.

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. Areas and mechanisms for coordination will be defined during the project development phase. During project development, the team will reach out to identified initiatives, projects and stakeholder groups to identify areas of potential collaboration and partnership mechanisms.

The detailed implementation arrangement framework will be developed during the preparation stage. Project Steering Committee (or Advisory Body) will include key stakeholders within the Bank, ensuring the relevant level of decision making in engagement with the focus on the IDA 20 process and indicators (through IDA20 RMS). The proposal is fully aligned with the IDA20 target which is already a strategic priority for Bank management.

While major part of the stakeholder engagement interventions is anticipated to be conducted during PPG stage, during design stage (PIF preparation) the team held extensive consultations and received support and interest from the World Bank key Global Practices (Environment, Water and Agriculture), consultation group for IDA 20, Global Program for NBS (GPNBS), WB ProBLue and ProGreen programs, as well as WB/GEF IP GWP management. Major comments and recommendations from these stakeholders were incorporated in the project document and will be considered during PPG stage. The Project will be implemented with the direct support of the GPNBS.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

Stakeholders and proposed coordination arrangements will be confirmed during the project development phase, with an initial assessment shown below (see also Annex 1 of the Concept Note).

INITIATIVE/PROJECT/	BASELINE, RELEVANCE TO THIS PROJECT AND PROPOSED COORDINATION
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STAKEHOLDER GROUP	
<i>LDC stakeholders</i>	
Least Developed Countries (LDC) Climate Group	<p>The LDC Group brings together the 46 LDCs at intergovernmental negotiations on climate change under the UNFCCC, collaboratively negotiating as a group to ensure LDC interests and priorities are reflected in UN climate change negotiations. The LDC Group Charter recognizes that LDCs will provide progressive leadership, inspire domestic climate action and formalize joint governance mechanisms towards implementation of enhanced climate action. This proposed project aligns with the short- and medium-term goals of the LDC Group noted in its Charter, namely strengthen networks and capacity within and outside of UNFCCC, support LDC's implementation of Paris Agreement commitments at national level, and support implementation of LDC initiatives. One such initiative is the LDC initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR).</p> <p>https://www.ldc-climate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Charter_Final_Web.pdf</p> <p>The project will directly support governments of LDCs that are interested in adopting NBS to address adaptation challenges. The LDC Group will be a key stakeholder and invited to be a member of the Project Steering Committee. The project will also collaborate with LDC Group Ministerial, national focal points and technical points as appropriate to support the implementation of project activities. The LDC Group will be consulted on proposed activities during the project development phase to ensure they reflect LDC needs and priorities.</p>
Regional bodies and platforms for LDCs (including SIDS)	<p>Along with LDC Group, the project will seek to engage regional bodies and groups that represent LDCs, including SIDS. Examples include LLDCs group, South African Development Corporation (SADC), Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), etc.</p> <p>These regional bodies and entities could help the project engage LDC governments and offer coordination opportunities on strategic communication and knowledge exchange and dissemination.</p>
LDC governments	<p>The governments of the world's 46 LDCs are the primary stakeholders and intended beneficiaries of the project. Government officials and ministries will be engaged in project activities through capacity development, knowledge exchange, and global and national-level analytics and feasibility assessments. The project</p>

	<p>will aim to engage staff from a range of relevant ministries given the multi-sect or focus of NBS, both at (i) technical level through capacity development and technical assistance, and through policy improvement that facilitates multi-sector coordination; and (ii) at higher levels through national/regional policy dialogue and integration of NBS in high-level planning instruments, dissemination of key findings of cost-benefit analyses, and proposed side events at major global events and fora to raise the profile of NBS among LDCs.</p> <p>Engagement of LDC governments will commence during the project development phase, when pipeline projects are identified and country priorities and needs to adopt NBS are assessed. Engagement of governments will be progressed through LDC Group, World Bank country teams and other partners.</p>
Local communities	<p>Local communities, including Indigenous Peoples, will be indirect beneficiaries of the project, and the ultimate beneficiaries of the pipeline NBS investments that the project will help facilitate. The project will predominantly work with LDC governments, but project activities may indirectly support and engage local communities, e.g. local outreach materials, capacity development, project-level feasibility assessments and NBS cost-benefit effectiveness. While the local communities will not be direct stakeholders of the project, they will receive generated knowledge and technical assistance through the pipeline investments in the selected LDCs.</p> <p>The project will consult with LDC governments to identify areas of priorities to local communities, and the tools and materials needed to improve community understanding and support for projects that contain NBS elements.</p>
<i>Partners to LDCs on NBS adoption</i>	
Implementing partners supporting LDCs on NBS (e.g. MDBs, GEF Agencies)	<p>A range of implementing partners support LDCs with NBS pipeline investment, including the 18 institutions that act as GEF/LDCF agencies. Many MDBs, UN agencies and NGOs acting as GEF Agencies have established NBS related policy, research, and investments portfolio, for example: WWF, IUCN, IFAD (focus on mainstreaming NBS in programs and portfolio), UNEP (focus on forestry, biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, partnerships), FAO (agricultural NBS), UNDP (extensive GEF and LDCF portfolio, and implements the NAPA program).</p> <p>The NBS-related initiatives of these partners provides the opportunity for technical coordination and joint knowledge exchange, and they will be important partners in the project given their role in supporting project pipeline development. Key UN, MDB and NGO partners supporting LDCs on NBS interventions will be engaged during the project development phase to identify potential areas of coordination and obtain their inputs to proposed project outputs and activities.</p>
MDB informal working	At COP 26, multiple MDBs, including the World Bank Group, Asian Development

MDB informal working group on biodiversity	<p>At COP-26 multiple MDBs, including the World Bank Group, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Development Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Intra-American Development Bank and Islamic Development Bank, adopted the MDB Joint Statement on Nature, People and Planet. Supporting the implementation of the statement, MDBs operate an informal working group on biodiversity which meets monthly to discuss issues of joint relevance to MDBs, including areas of joint or parallel action. This includes NBS. Among other areas, the joint statement notes that MDBs commit to support countries to secure high ambition for implementing NBS.</p> <p>The MDB informal working group on biodiversity (and its parallel working group on climate) offer a coordination mechanism with joint MDB processes around NBS and will help the World Bank update other MDBs on this project and its proposed activities being offered to LDCs, and confirm alignment with relevant initiatives of other MDBs.</p>
Private sector	<p>Private sector is a potential funder of NBS interventions in LDCs.</p> <p>The private sector will be engaged in activities to develop and promote financing options and opportunities for private sector investment. Feedback from the private sector will be incorporated into the development of project activities, making them more tailored and responsive to the expressed needs of different NBS actors.</p>
<i>NBS technical initiatives and partnerships</i>	
Global Program on NBS for Climate Resilience	<p>The Program is a cross-sectoral effort at the World Bank Group with a mission to increase investments in solutions that integrate and strengthen natural systems across regions and sectors. consolidate and scale up the advances on NBS for addressing climate resilience and adaptation challenges throughout the World Bank's activities. https://naturebasedsolutions.org/about-us</p> <p>Key partner for assessments, training, mobilizing LDC governments, knowledge management etc. This project will be processed as a sub-task under the GPNBS and formally collaborate with it to ensure close alignment and coordination. Project activities and work plans will be defined and alignment and leveraging opportunities confirmed during the project development phase.</p>
IUCN	<p>IUCN provides global leadership on technical aspects of NBS and developed the Global Standard for NBS. The NBS Standard aims to equip users with a robust framework for designing and verifying NBS that yield the outcomes desired in s</p>

	<p>framework for designing and verifying NBS that yield the outcomes desired, in solving one or several societal challenge(s). IUCN also runs the PANORAMA knowledge-sharing platform which captures lessons and best practices across a range of technical themes including NBS.</p> <p>There are opportunities to coordinate with IUCN on technical guidance material, disseminate their existing resources to LDCs, develop LDC case studies and lessons that can be captured on the PANORAMA platform, and partner with them on knowledge exchange and technical events.</p>
IISD Economic Valuation Network	<p>Funded by the GEF, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) has an initiative to assess the economic value of nature-based infrastructure that can help mainstream NBS in policy, planning and investments. https://www.iisd.org/projects/nature-based-infrastructure-climate</p> <p>The potential cooperation with IISD Economic Valuation Network provides a great opportunity for LDCs to receive high quality assessment of the investment proposals with NBS option, to compare with the traditional/grey solutions. These tools can be disseminated through this project.</p>
University of Oxford's Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NBSI)	<p>The NBS Initiative collaborates with various stakeholders from across the University of Oxford and beyond. It provides support to biodiverse, climate-vulnerable nations through Nature-based Solutions by conducting research into the ecological and socio-economic effectiveness of nature-based solutions to addressing the causes and impacts of climate change, whilst supporting biodiversity and sustainable development. Working with local organizations, the NBSI maps current and future in-country opportunities for NBS and combine knowledge from science and local experience to develop policy guidelines, targets, and indicators on nature-based solutions for businesses and governments. In addition, the NBSI work includes case studies, with the new country programs set in Bangladesh, Peru, and Ghana. https://www.naturebasedsolutionsinitiative.org/</p> <p>NBSI offers high quality research and valuation that could be used by the project to help identify NBS opportunities. In addition, the global evidence base of NBS interventions is a potential platform to disseminate project and LDC experiences.</p>
GEF-6/7 impact programs and proposed GEF-8 integrated programs with an interest in NBS	<p>Examples include the World Bank-led Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program, Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program, Global Wildlife Program and Global Program on Sustainable Cities (GPSC), along with the UNEP-led Sustainable Cities Impact Program and Congo Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program. Further, many of the proposed new GEF-8 Integrated Programs have a focus on NBS, including NBS in SIDS in Blue and Green Islands IP Urban NBS in Sustainable Cities, etc.</p>

	<p>US 11, Urban NBS in Sustainable Cities, etc.</p> <p>The project will seek collaboration opportunities with the different platforms to scale up knowledge exchange and reach out during project development to identify joint NBS programming opportunities and to raise awareness of the technical support being offered to LDCs under this project. For GEF-8, the project will make contact as lead agencies for these new programs are identified.</p>
City Resilience Program (CRP)	<p>The City Resilience Program (CRP) is a partnership between the World Bank and GFDRR. Launched in June 2017 as a multi-donor initiative aimed at increasing financing for urban resilience, the Program is supported by the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Finance. CRP's vision is resilient cities with the capacity to plan for and mitigate adverse impacts of disasters and climate change, thus enabling them to save lives, reduce losses, and unlock economic and social potential. The aim of the program is to catalyze a shift toward longer term, more comprehensive multi-disciplinary packages of technical and financial services, building the pipeline for viable projects at the city level that, in turn, build resilience.</p> <p>https://www.gfdr.org/en/crp</p> <p>The coordination with CRP offers an opportunity to apply CR Program's expertise and knowledge in the relevant LDCs to build urban resilience and adaptation.</p>
Global Program on Sustainability (GPS)	<p>The World Bank's Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) aims to integrate environmental and other sustainability considerations into public and private decisions, by providing policy makers and the financial sector with the necessary metrics and tools. This approach involves looking beyond GDP and traditional financial metrics to include accounting for environmental risks and opportunities and valuing natural capital and ecosystem services.</p> <p>https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-program-on-sustainability/overview</p> <p>GPS provides expertise and tools for valuation of NBS – which is one of the barriers for adoption of NBS in national policies, and could provide useful technical inputs and analytics for this project.</p>
GFDRR	<p>GFDRR is a grant-funding mechanism, managed by the World Bank, that supports disaster risk management projects worldwide. Working on the ground with local, national, regional, and international partners, GFDRR provides knowledge, funding, and technical assistance. GFDRR contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction by helping countries to integrate disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into development s</p>

	<p>strategies and investment programs and recover from disasters quickly and effectively.</p> <p>GFDRR offers technical expertise on disaster risk reduction which is a critical issue for many LDCs, and partnership and coordination on technical support will be facilitated via the GPNBS.</p>
Climate Investment Funds (CIF)	<p>CIF accelerates climate action by empowering transformations through its existing programs clean technology, energy access, climate resilience, and sustainable forests in developing and middle-income countries. The CIF's large-scale, low-cost, long-term financing lowers the risk and cost of climate financing. CIF manages a collection of targeted programs that enable climate-smart development planning and action through 325 projects in 72 developing and middle-income countries worldwide.</p> <p>The majority of FIP and DGM are already under implementation and might provide valuable examples and evidence for NBS application in the portfolio.</p>
PROGREEN	<p>PROGREEN, the Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes, is a World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Fund that supports countries' efforts to improve livelihoods while tackling declining biodiversity, loss of forests, deteriorating land fertility, and increasing risks such as uncontrolled forest fires, which are exacerbated by a changing climate. Through an integrated landscape approach, PROGREEN helps countries meet their national and global sustainable development goals and commitments, including poverty reduction, in a cost-effective manner.</p> <p>PROGREEN offers potential co-financing through its targeted grants to World Bank country teams to develop NBS opportunities, and potential coordination on knowledge exchange and events to raise awareness of NBS.</p>
PROBLUE	<p>PROBLUE, the umbrella multi-donor trust fund, administered by the WB, is supporting coastal resilience efforts associated with nature-based solutions, particularly mangrove protection and restoration, and beach and shoreline stabilization.</p> <p>PROBLUE offers potential co-financing through its targeted grants to World Bank country teams to develop NBS opportunities, and potential coordination on knowledge exchange and events to raise awareness of NBS.</p>
The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)	<p>FCPF implements REDD+ program with social safeguards, and monitoring, reporting and verification systems. These initiatives set the foundation for transfer</p>

	<p>mative program in the forest and broader land-use sectors through FCPF Readiness Fund to set up the building blocks to implement REDD+, and the FCPF Carbon Fund which pilots results-based payments to countries that have advanced through REDD+ readiness and implementation. Such mechanisms can then be used by future public funding facilities to incentivize climate action while at the same time helping de-risk national climate solutions and attract funding from the private sector.</p> <p>Coordination with FCPF will be an important part of the NBS-related technical advice in selected LDCs, with the potential of unlocking private sector finance for Sustainable Landscape Management (enabling environment and supply chain for forest-risk commodities)</p>
National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network	<p>The NAP Network was established in 2014 and now connects over 1,500 participants from more than 150 countries working on national adaptation planning and action and has delivered direct support to more than 50 countries. National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes present a strategic opportunity to raise the profile of NBS approaches, providing a framework—and, potentially, financial resources—for implementation at scale. https://napglobalnetwork.org/themes/nature-based-solutions/</p> <p>Coordination with NAP Network would allow the project to utilize the results of the successful case studies and coordinate the process of mainstreaming NBS into NAPs in LDCs.</p>
Sub-national Climate Finance Initiative (SCF), managed by IUCN	<p>Pegasus Capital Advisors (Pegasus), IUCN, BNP Paribas, Gold Standard, and R20 – Regions of Climate Action, have partnered for the Sub-national Climate Finance Initiative (SCF) to mitigate climate change and strengthen community resilience projects, with an initial commitment of up to US\$ 150 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). This equity fund that will support small- and medium-sized sustainable infrastructure projects in developing countries, including 13 Least Developed countries (LDCs) and 6 Small Island Developing States (SIDS). A grant-funded dedicated technical assistance facility managed by IUCN with a target size of US\$ 28 million, of which US\$ 18.5 million have already been committed by the GCF. Through this facility, IUCN will provide technical assistance in identifying suitable projects for the fund to invest in, and train implementers to ensure that projects are feasible and deliver environmental and social benefits in addition to financial performance.</p> <p>Coordination with SCF will support country engagement and development of the suite of investments and policy actions for NBS mainstreaming.</p>
Key donors	

Least Developed Climate Fund (part of GEF family of funds)	<p>GEF/LDCF has served as a core member of the Global Commission on Adaptation Action Track on Nature-based Solutions since 2019 but has been actively involved in NBS initiatives over the past few decades, as NBS fall under GEF thematic programming on adaptation, climate change mitigation, biodiversity, land degradation, forestry and other areas.</p> <p>As donor of this project, LDCF Secretariat will be invited to join the Project Steering Committee. As a key donor of NBS interventions the LDCF and GEF are potential funders of NBS projects in LDCs.</p>
Green Climate Fund	<p>The GCF has extensive experience in providing finance for nature-based solutions. As of 30 June 2020, GCF has invested approximately USD 2.9 billion to support 41 projects related to nature-based climate change mitigation and adaptation activities (32% of the GCF portfolio by the number of projects, or 15.2% of the portfolio by value). Of this investment, \$700 million has been directly allocated to supporting and restoring ecosystems and ecosystem services.</p> <p>As a key donor of NBS interventions the GCF is a potential funder of NBS projects in LDCs.</p>
Adaptation Fund	<p>The AF has supported NBS projects that tackle climate change, many of which have been ecosystem-based adaptation interventions. Projects included in the AF portfolio have covered reforestation and other restoration and rehabilitation initiatives, the management of natural resources, improved sustainable practices and conservation efforts, among others.</p> <p>As a key donor of NBS interventions the AF is a potential funder of NBS projects in LDCs.</p>

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

There is increasing evidence that successful adaptation depends on equitable development and climate justice; for example, gender inequality (SDG5) and discrimination (SDG16) are among the barriers to effective adaptation³⁴. To address these and ensure gender mainstreaming, the project will develop during its project development phase a gender engagement strategy that includes the identification of key gender gaps in the NBS policies, guidance and investments, opportunities, and actions that the project will pursue. The strategy will be built on the existing initiatives and analysis conducted under the GPNBS but will focus on selected LDCs, barriers, and issues.

Women will represent a potentially large share of project beneficiaries, directly or indirectly benefiting from the capacity building, policy tools and follow-up NBS focused investments in LDCs. Gender issues are an important entry point and a key concern for making NBS efforts more accessible and gender responsive. Women have long faced a greater burden from a changing climate compared to men, which exacerbates many other inequalities. For example, women in sub-Saharan Africa rely heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods. This is common in rural areas, where women are often responsible for gathering and supplying food for their households, along with collecting water and firewood for heating and cooking. With climate change making these tasks more labor-intensive and time-consuming, women are left with little time to access education and training, earn income, or develop new skills. Moreover, women often face barriers to accessing and control over natural resources. Traditional roles and norms, land tenure systems, and a lack of capital tend to disadvantage women, restricting their access to the land, fisheries, and forests they depend on. Women are also under-represented in environmental decision-making and natural resources management, such as forest user groups, water user associations, and environmental policymaking. Due to these disadvantages, women are less likely to benefit from NBS projects³⁵.

The project 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. The project will identify and promote specific gender success stories and relevant gender indicators in NBS investments and policies. The project will also provide training and technical assistance to assist pipeline investments to design gender-responsive activities, built around the forthcoming guidance on gender inclusion and NBS being developed by the GPNBS, allowing for its targeted roll-out among LDCs. The project will share best practices for incorporating gender considerations in NBS investments and assist clients with defining project-specific gender outcomes, actions, and indicators. It will develop a set of recommendations for the NBS projects gender analysis and action plan. These activities and others will be defined in the project's gender mainstreaming strategy.

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The private sector will be engaged in activities to develop and promote financing options and opportunities for private sector investment. During project preparation stage the feedback from the private sector will be incorporated into the development of project activities, making them more tailored and responsive to the expressed needs of different NBS actors. IFC is among potential stakeholders of the project.

5. 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			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

Note on Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)

Accelerating investment in nature-based solutions (NBS) to help address climate adaptation

in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) Project

The World Bank is fully compliant with the GEF Policies on Environmental and Social Safeguards, Gender Equality, and Stakeholder Engagement and their minimum standards^[1]. The World Bank has demonstrated that it has in place the necessary policies, procedures, systems, and capabilities to meet these standards. In December 2019, the GEF Council reviewed document GEF/C.57/05, Report on the Assessment of GEF Agencies' Compliance with Minimum Standards in the Policies on Environmental and Social Safeguards, Gender Equality, and Stakeholder Engagement. The assessment was conducted by experts engaged by the GEF Secretariat and reviewed the alignment between the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and other relevant World Bank policies, procedures, guidelines, and systems and the various requirements and the GEF three policies mentioned above. The expert assessment found that the World Bank met all requirements and is compliant with the minimum standards of the three policies.

The Program will help task teams and their counterparts at national and city level to identify, prepare, implement, finance and monitor NBS for climate resilience purposes as stand-alone interventions or as part of wider investment, policy and analytical engagements. The Program will furthermore use its position as a global program to support the development and transfer of knowledge on NBS within and outside the World Bank Group. This project is a Bank-executed advisory and technical assistance activity focused on capacity building, knowledge sharing and policy reform. While it is envisaged that the program will engage with IDA20 selected LDCs, this will not be directly linked to, or dependent upon, the results of the ASA or TA.

In May 2019, the World Bank's Operations Environmental and Social Review Committee (OESRC) provided an Advisory Note on TA and the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). A key part of this guidance states that: "This OESRC Advisory Note is intended to assist Bank teams in addressing environmental and social risks and impacts associated with TA that is supported through Investment Project Financing (IPF) in accordance with the ESF. TA may be supported by other instruments such as RAS and BETF or take the form of ASA. As the ESF does not apply to these instruments, they are not the subject of this Note. However, the principles and concepts described here may be of use to teams designing and implementing TA under those instruments."

As a World Bank-Executed ASA, the Program is not expected to prepare and disclose separate ESF documents that would be usually part of a regular Investment Project Lending operations. Nevertheless, the GPs and Task Team responsible for the Global Program have embraced the spirit of the OESRC Advisory Note by seeking the review and advice of a senior expert in the ESF- Implementation Support Unit (ISU) based on the structure and activities presented in the Project Concept Note. The **overall** risk assessment and rating is outlined in the following section. The Task Team will continue to work closely with the ESF-ISU to review the activities to be financed by the Global Project through the annual work planning process and screen for potential ESF-related concerns, following the standard procedures and guidance.

[1] 1 GEF/C.55/07/Rev.01 (http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/councilmeetingdocuments/EN_GEF.C.55.07.Rev._01_ES_Safeguards.pdf)

SD/PL/02 (http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Gender_Equality_Policy.pdf)

SD/PL/01 (http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Stakeholder_Engagement_Policy.pdf)

The respective minimum standards for the three Policies are contained in Annex I.A of the Policy on Environmental

and Social Safeguards, Paragraph 19 (a)–(e) of the Policy on Gender Equality and Paragraph 16 (a)– (f) of the Policy on Stakeholder Engagement

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Submitted

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name

Position

Ministry

Date

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

