



GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10374

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

Project Title

GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services

Countries

Global

Agency(ies)

UNDP, UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

International Waters

Taxonomy

Biodiversity, Focal Areas, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Seascapes, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, International Waters, Learning, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Private Sector, Communications, Awareness Raising, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Adaptive management, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Fisheries, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, Seagrasses, Biomes, Constructed Wetlands, Mangrove, Coral Reefs, Aquaculture, Pollution, Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater, Persistent toxic substances, Plastics, Nutrient pollution from Wastewater, Large Marine Ecosystems, Freshwater, Lake Basin, Aquifer, River Basin, Marine Protected Area, Coastal, SIDS : Small Island Dev States, Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Plan Preparation, Strategic Action Plan Implementation

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

6/4/2021

Expected Implementation Start

10/15/2021

Expected Completion Date

10/15/2025

Duration

48In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

567,976.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IW-1-1	Strengthening blue economy opportunities through sustainable healthy coastal and marine ecosystems	GET	2,989,350.00	7,346,548.00
IW-3-6	Enhancing Water Security in Freshwater Basins	GET	2,989,350.00	7,346,548.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			5,978,700.00	14,693,096.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Towards a more impactful GEF portfolio: facilitating replication of good practice across GEF International Waters projects, including projects across all focal areas in Small Island Developing States, working in collaboration with development partners, supporting the delivery of training information management, providing programmatic guidance and facilitating partnership building.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Provide Targeted Knowledge Sharing and Results Showcasing Across Projects and Development Partners (Through Face-to-Face Dialogue and Training) to Advance Transboundary Water Management in All IW Focal Area Ecosystems	Technical Assistance	<p>Enhanced portfolio & development partner capacity at the national, regional & global levels, and improved portfolio-wide project performance</p> <p>Increased global awareness of GEF results and increased GEF partnerships beyond the portfolio</p> <p><i>Target 1. 2 GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences (700 beneficiaries)</i></p> <p><i>Target 2. Training strategy to address GEF IW portfolio learning gaps activity</i></p> <p><i>Target 3. Training modules on cross-cutting issues</i></p>	<p>1.1 GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences 10 and 11 for GEF wide portfolio of IW projects and other relevant partners (UNDP)</p> <p>1.2 6 Regional training workshops for GEF IW projects & development partners on cross-cutting themes and key outputs from selected GEF portfolio methodology projects, delivered by partner learning network [UNDP]</p> <p>1.3 Structured and iterative twinning exchange program between projects and institutions with demonstrated excellence in water and ocean</p>	GET	1,717,200.00	4,148,642.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Support the Communication and Replication of Portfolio Results and Experiences	Technical Assistance	<p>Increased experience sharing and replication of successes within and across the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced understanding of GEF IW project interventions beyond the portfolio</p> <p><i>Target 1. Up-to-date and enhanced IW:LEARN web platform (IWLEARN.NET, Spatial Lab, IW:LEARN website solutions, including the LMEHub</i></p> <p><i>Target 2. 50 new layers and 20 maps added to the Spatial Lab</i></p> <p><i>Target 3. 48 issues of Portfolio Bulletin (1958 beneficiaries)</i></p> <p><i>Target 4. 4 regional workshops (two for LAC and Africa/Indian</i></p>	<p>2.1 GEF IW:LEARN website supporting improved GEF IW project snapshots and a searchable knowledge bank of project experience [UNDP]</p> <p>2.2 Support to the use of information technology platforms to establish project websites and for improved management of information by GEF projects [UNDP]</p> <p>2.3 Hands-on communications and project visualization training to both projects & journalists, including support to the production of Experience Notes, for improved project storytelling, data</p>	GET	640,000.00	1,717,837.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Deliver Intra and Inter-Regional Coordination and Knowledge Management Across Focal Areas in Small Island Developing States to Improve Portfolio Performance	Technical Assistance	<p>Enhanced global collaboration and communication among Small Island Developing States</p> <p>Improved coordination of GEF projects & participating country counterparts in Small Island Developing States across all GEF focal areas and increased achievement of relevant environmental performance targets by project participating countries</p> <p><i>Target 1. At least 3 structured and iterative twinnings and 3 SIDS IW specific knowledge products (30 beneficiaries)</i></p> <p><i>Target 2. At least 2 ad-hoc twinnings and 2 SIDS IW</i></p>	<p>3.1 Twinning and dialogue activities in support of regional collaboration among Small Island Developing States via cooperation among all focal area projects and participating countries [UNEP]</p> <p>3.2 Strengthened web portal and resource catalogue to facilitate information-sharing and learning across the SIDS project portfolio in support of the Samoa Pathway areas and beyond [UNDP]</p> <p>3.3 4 Training courses and other capacity-strengthening guidance developed on cross-cutting topics of relevance to SIDS [UNDP]</p>	GET	1,200,004.00	3,168,576.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
4. Deliver Support to Surface Freshwater, Groundwater and Large Marine Ecosystem Subsets in Support of Portfolio Strategic Priorities	Technical Assistance	<p>Improved management of transboundary freshwater and marine ecosystems</p> <p><i>1. Toolbox platform identifying water-energy-food-ecosystem models and tools, case studies</i></p> <p><i>2. 3 global and/or regional events to promote conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater GEF projects (90 beneficiaries)</i></p> <p><i>3. Support to the 2022 World Water Day and World Water Development Report, and the ?Groundwater Summit, the Call to Action on Global Groundwater Sustainability ?</i></p> <p><i>4. 2 Nexus</i></p>	<p>4.1 2 Knowledge exchanges on Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security in transboundary basins (UNDP)</p> <p>4.2 3 Exchanges to promote conjunctive management through governance of freshwater in GEF projects, both groundwater and surface water, as well as with coastal and ocean projects (UNDP)</p> <p>4.3 Training and capacity building activities in support of marine spatial planning as a tool for strengthening blue economy opportunities (UNDP and UNEP)</p>	GET	1,528,996.00	3,575,139.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
5. Mobilize Public and Private Partnership to Enhance Long-term Sustainability of Project Interventions	Technical Assistance	<p>Enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio</p> <p><i>Target 1. Global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel, including two Panel meetings</i></p> <p><i>Target 2. Strategy and Action Plan for International Waters on how to engage and partner with the private and public sector</i></p> <p><i>Target 3. 3 regional-level dialogue sessions aimed at private sector engagement, with at least 3 regional Investment Forums to facilitate regional-level networking and partnerships creation between projects and the business community (9</i></p>	<p>5.1 Support for increased mobilization of public and private financial partnerships via global IW partnerships advisory panel [UNDP]</p> <p>5.2 Facilitation of partnerships with projects and the business community via regional-level networking [UNDP]</p> <p>5.3. Training support to portfolio on attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment priorities [UNDP]</p>	GET	571,000.00	1,402,368.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
6. Monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 6.1: Project management and approaches to country reporting are informed by M&E</p> <p><i>Target 1. 1 inception workshop for project stakeholders</i></p> <p><i>Target 2. 1 inception report</i></p> <p><i>Target 3. 3 PIR?s</i></p> <p><i>Target 4. 1 MTR</i></p> <p><i>Target 5. 1 TE</i></p>	<p>Output 6.1.1 Project monitored to inform adaptive management for successfully delivery of project results. [UNDP]</p> <p>Output 6.1.2. Knowledge and lessons learned generated. [UNDP]</p>	GET	80,000.00	
Sub Total (\$)					5,737,200.00	14,012,562.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	241,500.00	680,534.00
Sub Total(\$)	241,500.00	680,534.00
Total Project Cost(\$)	5,978,700.00	14,693,096.00

Please provide justification

The budget in the Table B includes funds for UNDP and UNEP as follows: Component 1: UNDP USD 1,717,200 Component 2: UNDP USD 640,000 Component 3: UNDP USD 350,004; UNEP USD 850,000 Component 4: UNDP USD 1,278,996; UNEP USD 250,000 Component 5: UNDP USD 571,000 Component 6: M&E - UNDP USD 80,000 PMC: UNDP USD 241,500 UNDP total: USD 4,878,700; UNEP total: USD 1,100,000

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	UNDP	In-kind	Investment mobilized	4,755,000.00
GEF Agency	UNEP	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,300,000.00
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	78,000.00
Other	IOC of UNESCO	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,800,000.00
Other	IOC of UNESCO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	458,946.00
Other	Cap-Net	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	120,000.00
Other	Cap-Net	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	80,000.00
Other	UNECE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	360,000.00
GEF Agency	IDB	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	291,000.00
GEF Agency	IDB	In-kind	Investment mobilized	194,000.00
Other	UNEP DHI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50,000.00
GEF Agency	IUCN GMPP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	80,000.00
GEF Agency	IUCN GMPP	In-kind	Investment mobilized	220,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Other	ICPDR	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	60,000.00
GEF Agency	The World Bank	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	340,000.00
Other	OAS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	120,000.00
Other	OAS	In-kind	Investment mobilized	30,000.00
Other	TNC	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	53,150.00
Other	UNCTAD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	300,000.00
Other	GRID Arendal	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	40,000.00
Other	GRID Arendal	In-kind	Investment mobilized	448,000.00
Private Sector	REVOcean	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,550,000.00
Other	IHP of UNESCO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	600,000.00
GEF Agency	WWF-US	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	15,433.00
GEF Agency	WWF-US	In-kind	Investment mobilized	99,567.00
Other	UNSW-GWI	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	18,000.00
Other	UNSW-GWI	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,232,000.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
			Total Co-Financing(\$)	14,693,096.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

In line with the GEF Co-financing Guidelines, the investment mobilized comprises all relevant investments by project partners that are not operational costs. The investment mobilized by UNDP consists of the support to be provided through the following on-going initiatives: Water and Ocean Governance Programme cross-cutting knowledge and learning; UNDP Ocean Innovation Challenge; Framework Pilot Countries and GoAL-WaterS mechanism, and UNDP-SIWI Water Governance Facility (including support to Shared Waters Partnership & Source-to-Sea). The investment mobilized from UNEP consists of ongoing initiatives that support the development of Blue Economy Decision Support Framework and, a training resource on sustainable blue economy for the GIZ-UNEP ?Blue Planning in Practice? capacity building package. It also includes Regional Seas programme activities on knowledge management and indicators and, activities related to mainstreaming and implementing MEAs related to biodiversity, chemicals and waste and oceans and strengthening the implementation of the Cartagena Convention in Caribbean SIDS. The investment mobilized by the IOC of UNESCO consists of ongoing initiatives, notably the MSPGlobal project and activities related to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The investment mobilized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will support implementation of Sub-components 1.1, 1.4, 2.3, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 of the project through its ongoing initiatives. The investment mobilized by the IUCN GMPP will support the activities related to Sub-component 5.3 Attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment needs. The investment mobilized will be provided through respective Sweden-and Luxembourg funded projects. The investment mobilized by the Organisation of American States will support the hosting of the American hub for the project. The investment mobilized from GRID-Arendal consists of ongoing initiatives that support the development of Ecosystem-Based Integrated Ocean Management Framework for Sustainable Ocean Economy Development; Blue Planning in Practice training, Mami Wata project on transboundary Integrated Ocean Management between Ghana and Cote D'Ivoire; and Sustainable Blue Economy training. The investment mobilized from REV Ocean will, as part of its ongoing activities, support the project?s activities by hosting several of its workshops and meetings. The investment mobilized from the World Wildlife Fund US (WWF-US) consists of ongoing activities that will support and complement activities related to private sector engagement and gender mainstreaming.

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(\$)
UNDP	GET	Global	International Waters	NA	4,878,700	463,476
UNEP	GET	Global	International Waters	NA	1,100,000	104,500
Total Grant Resources(\$)					5,978,700.00	567,976.00

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 **false**

PPG Amount (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
UNDP	GET	Global	International Waters	NA	150,000	14,250
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000.00	14,250.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem	Global	Global		
Count	1	1	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
Global	4	4		
Select SWE				<input type="checkbox"/>

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,000	2,000		
Male	1,000	2,000		
Total	2000	4000	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

After 27 years of GEF investment, significant progress and results have been delivered by the IW focal area. Focusing on transboundary freshwater, the GEF, together with its implementing and executing partners, has made investments in at least 47 river basins, 15 lakes, and 13 aquifers. It has also invested in 23 large marine ecosystems. From those, at least 37 produced transboundary diagnostic analyses and at least 33 ministerially endorsed strategic action programs resulted, many now under implementation. In at least 24 basins, GEF supported existing or catalyzed creation of new joint management bodies (or transboundary commissions). Likewise, at least 15 new basin-wide frameworks resulted. This represents just a fraction of results from GEF investments, which also include significant reductions in agricultural, industrial and municipal wastewater, reduced stress on aquifers, marine protected areas, reduced fishing pressure, reduced invasive species risk, and other types of stress reduction. Most critically, the GEF has been catalytic and transforming water and ocean-related sectors, and the growth of numerous organizations at various scales active in transboundary water management.

Over the last twenty years, IW:LEARN has grown from an informal network of a few projects and agency staff focused on IW projects to a community of individuals from a few hundred public and private sector organizations, including local, national, and international government and non-government organizations. IW:LEARN has produced a number of noteworthy results across multiple service lines that foster this community?from coordinating information management through the IW:LEARN website (www.iwlearn.net) and its applications to face-to-face events, including: 37 project twinnings involving 287 beneficiaries from 64 GEF IW projects; 31 training workshops on water management issues and 15 training workshops for building capacity on information and technology issues, with 956 participants representing 151 IW projects; ten regional transboundary dialogues in the Mediterranean and Central American regions; and nine Biennial International Waters Conferences, the signature learning event of the portfolio, bringing together over 1800 stakeholders over the years, averaging about 70 GEF IW projects from 80 countries at each conference. IW:LEARN portfolio programmatic support also includes guidance, publications and other knowledge products and media. IW:LEARN has produced a number of practical manuals and methodologies that have been utilized by IW practitioners (TDA/SAP Methodology; Public Private Partnerships Guidebook; Project Management Manual; Mainstreaming Climate Change Guidance; a series of seven Marine Toolkits). The IW practitioners have responded positively to this effort by participating in large numbers to several respective training courses and using them in developing water management strategies and plans, as well as marine spatial plans. Very often, these manuals have been used in an integrated manner. IW:LEARN also contributes significantly to raising awareness among experts and policy-makers about the GEF IW projects and their outcomes, thus indirectly also contributing to new investments. In addition, it serves as a linkage to other global processes, frameworks and initiatives on

water management as well as transboundary water cooperation. Although IW:LEARN has been providing crucial input that has helped bridge knowledge management and learning gaps in IW investments, particularly at regional level, which sometimes made role of the respective governments less direct, there is still a need to continue towards such bridging.

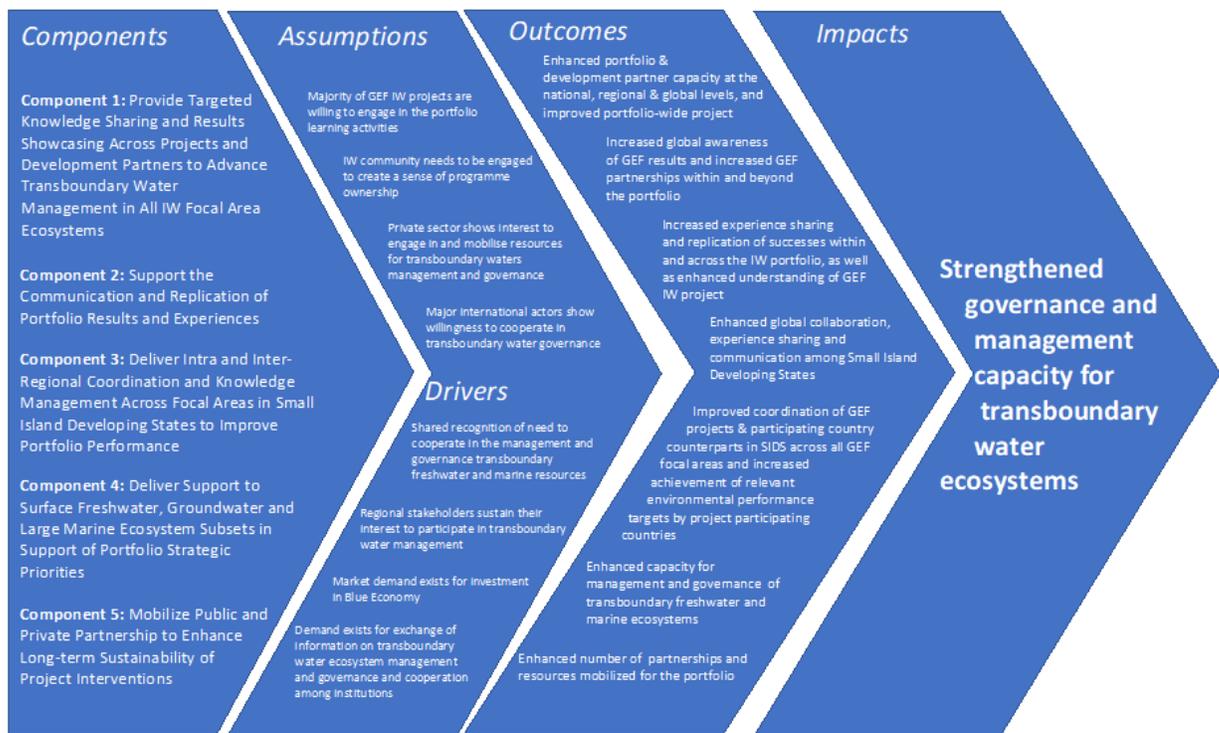
IW:LEARN provides a KM exchange and learning platform for GEF IW practitioners at local, national, and international levels. The project provides a range of KM products and activities including an information management platform which includes a content management system, the GEF International Waters Biennial Conferences, project twinning exchanges promoting peer-to-peer learning and South-South cooperation, targeted training workshops addressing common capacity building needs, regional dialogue processes fostering transboundary and South-South cooperation among projects and national partners within a geographical region, and a range of products capturing experiences and results. Several GEF IEO evaluations have recognized IW:LEARN as the unique and effective knowledge management initiative of the international waters focal area and has been considered as a model for expansion to other focal areas. GEF Council Members have noted its replication potential in the past. There are several notable examples of projects that overcame barriers to achieving regional and global impact through IW:LEARN KM support. One such example is IWCAM, which successfully replicated watershed and coastal management practices at the regional scale guided by a clear theory of change and use of the IW:LEARN website. Many other international waters projects have replicated IW:LEARN knowledge management approaches including experience/results notes, website platforms and management approaches disseminated via regional/global training. IW:LEARN has fostered a culture of learning across the focal area, as well as collaboration across projects implemented by different Agencies sharing the same ecosystem or across linked freshwater and marine ecosystems.

There are still barriers to making the above actions more effective. They include: inadequate level of scientific knowledge as well as unsatisfactory degree of dissemination of scientific results; ineffective integration of scientific knowledge into decision-making and actions (inadequate science-to-policy integration); missing appropriate institutional arrangements; lack of adequate stakeholder participation; unsustainable financing, in particular because of lack of adequate participation of the business community in solving freshwater and marine resource management problems; and, finally, inadequate strategic planning and SIDS policy development at the global, regional, national and local levels. It is also worth mentioning that the "GEF 2020: Strategy for the GEF" (in further text: GEF 2020 Strategy) states that "GEF's engagement with the private sector will be further strengthened. For compelling reasons, the private sector is a high priority in addressing global environmental challenges. The private sector dominates the socioeconomic sphere, and therefore limited public sector resources need to be used most effectively to redirect private sector activities toward environmentally sustainable approaches. Private enterprises, which are the dominant source of economic activity, must be encouraged to pursue commercially viable activities that also generate global environmental benefits."

The essential logic of the Theory of Change developed for the IW:LEARN is taken to mean the process and product of developing an explicit account of how and why an **intervention** is expected to achieve its intended **outcomes** and impact **goal**, based on outlining a set of key **causal pathways** arising from the **outputs** of the intervention. Figure 1 explains that logic.

The theory of change below neatly captures the significant added-value of the proposed IW:LEARN project. The outputs of this project will generate outcomes that strengthen the governance and management capacity for transboundary water ecosystems. This ultimate outcome rests on the broad service line of activities captured in IW:LEARN's basic structure, which rest on a combination of knowledge management, partnership building, data and information management and programmatic guidance services. These leverage the outcomes indicated in the Figure. The absence of IW:LEARN would mean no entity would be acting to generate the outputs indicated in the theory of change. No project would support coordination across ecosystems with projects implemented by different Agencies and along the source-to-sea continuum of linked freshwater and marine projects.

Each of IW:LEARN's stakeholders has varying contributions and needs to engage with IW:LEARN for information and knowledge pertaining to IW. Moreover, it is this collection and coordination of varying needs that give GEF IW:LEARN a value-added quality in serving this community. IW:LEARN functions as a relay hub of knowledge management by pulling, pushing, and transforming knowledge content; by matching supply with demand, and in providing specific services to and connecting a broadening community of practice. It pursues this through an ever-expanding web presence, search and management of content, tools and services, and it helps to connect practitioners across projects, themes and regions through project twinning exercises to share specific know-how and experiences, regional dialogues and through the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference.



The GEF is the largest funding mechanism for multi-country collaboration on water and the ocean, with 156 GEF recipient countries and 24 non-recipient countries working together to manage their transboundary water resources. Countries participating in GEF International Waters (IW) projects have successfully negotiated numerous regional cooperation frameworks, treaties, and protocols, ranging from cooperation on shared freshwater resources to agreements on marine resources.

The unique mandate of GEF's International Water Focal area to support transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems has proven successful in achieving long term benefits. Complex transboundary water ecosystems, cut across a myriad of sectoral needs and themes while not being bound by political boundaries. Consequently, setting effective policy goals, coupled with investments, requires working at all scales, with a range of stakeholders, in the public and private sectors and across the watershed from source-to-sea and beyond. GEF IW investments facilitate integrated, cross-sectoral approaches that engage the public and private sector, civil society, nongovernmental organizations, and bilateral and multilateral institutions. They are designed to work at multiple scales—from village chiefs to cabinet ministers—and across entire watersheds, from source to sea.

It is in that same space that the proposed project IW:LEARN operates. IW:LEARN operates with a variety of public and private sector organizations to deliver its knowledge management, partnership building and information management services. The proposed project will leverage such partnerships to help GEF IW projects deliver socioeconomic benefits to their beneficiary countries.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

With investments over the past nearly 27 years come many invaluable experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations for future GEF IW projects. However, unlike most GEF focal areas that are tied to global conventions with permanent secretariats that can house and/or assist the GEF with knowledge management (e.g., the CBD and UNFCCC for the BD and CC-M focal areas, respectively), the IW focal area has handled knowledge management and focal area coordination with the help of a series of phases of the "International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network", or IW:LEARN. As the GEF7 Programmatic Directions states, IW:LEARN is the "GEF funded cross-agency and multi-actor platform of knowledge exchange and capacity building, supporting facilitating partnerships between a range of actors to stimulate conversation and capacity between, and beyond, GEF funded activities."

An IW:LEARN impact survey found that 70% of respondents indicated that IW:LEARN had provided IW project staff and partners with the necessary knowledge to engage with the private sector; and 67% of respondents noted that IW:LEARN has been influential in creating new partnerships with other projects and institutions. Since its inception, four and a half phases of IW:LEARN as well as the closely related project, LME:LEARN, have successfully delivered services to more than 225 GEF IW-funded projects and connected almost 1800 people with its services.

Although the proposed project aims to work with a suite of development partners, such as transboundary commissions and civil society organizations in the water sector, there is an immediate set of partners, whose work programs during the life of IW:LEARN form an extensive baseline of capacity-development or information management activities to support GEF IW:LEARN services. This solid baseline of programs and initiatives supports transboundary water and ocean management. Some of these include: UNDP's Global Water and Ocean Governance Support Programme, Cap-Net, Water Governance Facility, Ocean Innovation Facility and Shared Water Partnership programs, UN

Environment's Regional Seas Programme, the Global Programme of Action (GPA) with its three thematic partnerships on nutrient management (GPNM), marine litter (GPML), and wastewater (GW2I), and its Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative, IOC-UNESCO's United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Global Marine Spatial Planning Programme, SPINCAM project as well as the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) of IASS, EU and UN Environment, to name just a very few. Regarding the SIDS Component, the project will build upon the programs and work of the Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat for the Pacific Community and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been a strong partner and supporter of sustainable development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) since it was founded over 27 years ago. In recent years, growing recognition of the vital importance of the oceans to economies and livelihoods in SIDS has increased calls for integrated blue economy approaches. In total, the GEF has provided SIDS with more than US\$578 million in country allocated finance across all focal areas. In addition, SIDS participated in a significant number of regional and global projects and programs that overall totaled an additional US\$ 810 million. GEF finance has leveraged several times that amount in additional resources for sustainable development. The current GEF 7 funding cycle (2018 ? 2022) continues to provide strong support and an emphasis on the needs of SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

In 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda, setting universal and transformative goals and targets. Two SDGs are particularly relevant for IW:LEARN: SDG6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) and SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). In the years since the adoption, progress has been achieved in reaching the relevant SDGs' targets, but still many challenges remain. For SDG6, billions of people still lack proper safe water and sanitation facilities, while data suggests that achieving universal access to even basic sanitation service by 2030 would require doubling the current annual rate of progress. More efficient use and management of freshwater are critical to addressing the growing demand for water, threats to water security and the increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods resulting from climate change. For SDG14, the expansion of protected areas for marine biodiversity and existing policies and treaties that encourage responsible use of ocean resources are still insufficient to combat the adverse effects of overfishing, growing ocean acidification due to climate change and worsening coastal eutrophication. Increased efforts and interventions are still needed to conserve and sustainably use ocean resources at all levels.

Besides these 'core' IW SDGs, three other SDGs provide context where IW:LEARN will operate. Within SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), focus will be on giving women equal rights to economic resources. In SDG13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), in particular by strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, and promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and SIDS, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities. Finally, all components of SDG17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) will be relevant for IW:LEARN. IW:LEARN has on a number of occasions already contributed to implementation of these SDGs, in particular by organizing a number of side

events to raise awareness on the need to reach the stated targets. The IW:LEARN will continue supporting efforts of all relevant stakeholders in reaching these targets.

The baseline scenario has not changed and no new associated baseline projects have impacted the development of the project's strategy significantly since the PIF submission.

3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

Proven GEF IW:LEARN approaches but also a suite of new and innovative activities are proposed to facilitate the GEF International Waters Focal Area to implement the GEF7 and GEF8 International Waters Strategy (and eventually prepare for the 9th GEF Replenishment). IW:LEARN will refine approaches to its traditional "service line" covering a suite of face-to-face training, twinning and partnership building activities, as well as continued focus on information management in the portfolio. It will be additionally extended to cater for the need of SIDS, in particular the priorities adopted by GEF: The Blue Economy, Integrated Resource Management from Ridge-to-Reef, Protected Areas, and Climate Resilience. As a lateral result, the activities will contribute towards the achievement of the two outcomes of the Samoa Pathway: Climate Action and Blue Economy, as well as other areas such as water security, sustainable food and nutrition; sustainable tourism and sustainable energy.

GEF IW:LEARN will engage with current and additional partners both in the public sector and business community, building partnerships that can lead to new and innovative ways to manage the wealth of transboundary water management knowledge for the benefit of the IW community (composed of IW project managers and staff, government officials, local communities, transboundary commissions, non-governmental organizations, the GEF agencies and the business sector) and deliver on the requirements of the focal area strategy in the GEF7 & GEF8 Programmatic Directions.

In particular, the new IW:LEARN project will continue supporting the core mandate of the GEF International Waters Focal Area to support transboundary cooperation in shared marine and freshwater ecosystems and assist the project portfolio in achieving long term benefits. The project's proposed activities will help the portfolio to implement regionally endorsed SAP priorities, mainstream gender considerations, and stimulate private sector investment. IW:LEARN's outcome will contribute in particular to two of the three GEF7 IW objectives: (1) Strengthening Blue Economy opportunities, (2) Improve management in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and (3) Enhance water security in freshwater ecosystems. The proposed project will also align with proposed GEF8 objectives 1) Accelerate joint action to support Blue Economic Development 2) Advance management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and 3) Enhance water security in freshwater ecosystems.

Specifically, the project will retain focus on its core objective, towards a more impactful GEF portfolio: facilitating replication of good practice across GEF International Waters projects, as well as projects across all focal areas in Small Island Developing States, working in collaboration with development partners, supporting the delivery of trainings, information management, providing programmatic guidance and facilitating partnership building.. It will leverage outcomes across the focal area, between focal areas especially in SIDS, and in focal area projects from source-to-sea which help the portfolio improve its performance, build partnerships, replicate its success, improve coordination and ultimately

improve the management of transboundary ecosystems. The project will seek to increase visibility and impacts of GEF interventions and move towards robust integrated management in a source to sea continuum, sharing of portfolio planning and management tools, best practices and solutions; enhancing networking and data sharing; continuing commitment to capacity building and expanding the partnership with the private sector.

The proposed project includes five interrelated and mutually supportive components: 1) Provide targeted knowledge sharing and results showcasing across projects and development partners (through face-to-face dialogue and training) to advance transboundary water management in all IW focal area ecosystems 2) Support the communication and replication of portfolio results and experiences 3) Deliver inter- and intra-regional coordination and knowledge management across focal areas in Small Island Developing States to improve portfolio performance 4) Deliver support to surface freshwater, groundwater and large marine ecosystem subsets in support of portfolio strategic priorities 5) Mobilize public and private partnership to enhance long-term sustainability of project interventions

Component 1: Provide Targeted Knowledge Sharing and Results Showcasing Across Projects and Development Partners (Through Face-to-Face Dialogue and Training) to Advance Transboundary Water Management in All IW Focal Area Ecosystems (global/regional, with UNDP and Partners)

International waters focal area surveys continue to confirm that the vast majority of projects value face-to-face learning supported by the project. This face-to-face learning takes place through the conduct of workshops, trainings and conferences and facilitating dialogue and twinnings. The project proposes to enhance portfolio capacity building at the regional and global levels and establish effective portfolio-wide dialogue opportunities for south-to-south learning through a similar but proven suite of programs and events. First, the component will feature the 10th and 11th GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences (IWC) in 2020 and 2022 respectively, which convene on average 300 participants from about 70 projects, 80 countries and the GEF agencies to share practical experience, apply evolving policies and procedures, address emerging priorities and improve overall project performance covering all water systems. Second, the component will include regional and global training, through workshops, on specific topics such as, inter alia, climatic change and variability, ocean governance, science-to-management, financing the implementation of Strategic Action Programs, transboundary water conflict management and attracting investment, all of which a majority of the portfolio expressed major interest. The workshops would also address strategic priorities such as gender mainstreaming, economic valuation and source-to-sea action management as well as support mainstreaming of tools developed by selected GEF IW portfolio methodology or learning projects (Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services, Floods and Droughts, Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme, Nutrient Management, Blue Forests and many others). All training would be delivered by current and future IW:LEARN partners. The audience for these workshops will include all types of GEF IW projects but also importantly, national level partners in GEF project implementation, as well as members of relevant regional bodies and basin-level joint management bodies. Third, the Component will include facilitating project-project twinning exchanges on a more programmatic and long-term basis, between projects linked by hydrology, newer projects needing technical experience from more experienced projects, or projects needing access to expertise from centers of excellence. Finally,

Component One will continue activities in support of global and regional transboundary dialogue. At the regional level, the Component will facilitate the replication and expansion of proven trust- and consensus-building regional dialogue approaches, to promote transboundary cooperation in various regions, where nascent success was realized in the previous iteration of the project. At the global level, the component will focus especially on supporting participation in key global dialogue processes as an organizing partner, mostly of side events and in supporting GEF IW project participation at large international IW events to promote the IW portfolio, build partnerships and obtain tools and ideas to enhance its knowledge management activities. The activities in this Component will enhance portfolio & development partner capacity at the regional & global levels and improve portfolio-wide project performance. Moreover, the Component should leverage increased global awareness of GEF results and increased GEF partnerships beyond the portfolio.

Component 2: Support the Communication and Replication of Portfolio Results and Experiences (global, with UNDP and Partners)

Information management, backed by a robust content or knowledge management platform, forms a key GEF IW:LEARN service that backstops the experience-sharing and capacity-development activities the project conducts. The portfolio's management of data and information has improved since the start of IW:LEARN, however, key stories and achievements, with their ability to influence policymakers and engage communities, remain difficult to discover. The project will build on past achievements but increase focus on improving the portfolio's capacity to harvest, codify, communicate and replicate its results. First, the Component will see new functionality added to the portfolio's content management system, iwlearn.net, to vastly improve the content of project snapshots, providing clearer information and introspective material on replicable lessons. The website will be enhanced to include a searchable knowledge bank of project experience. Second, the Component will feature various types of support to the use of various information technology platforms (including the IW:LEARN Website Toolkit, utilized by many portfolio projects) to improve projects' capacity to manage and communicate information about themselves, including through the establishment of project specific sites. Finally, the Component will feature training activities, led by the project coordination unit and partners, on data and information management, but particularly on hands-on communication and project visualization to result in more comprehensive output of portfolio IW Experience Notes covering all projects, results dissemination, data packaging and innovative focal area communication products. The last sub-component will also include focal area thematic review publications covering portfolio experience and results across different topics. The activities in this Component will lead to increased experience sharing and replication of successes within and across the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced understanding of GEF IW project interventions beyond the portfolio

Component 3: Deliver Intra and Inter-Regional Coordination and Knowledge Management Across Focal Areas in Small Island Developing States to Improve Portfolio Performance (global, inter-regional and regional, with UNDP & UNEP and Partners)

This component will be based on generic tools developed through IW:LEARN but will be thematically be close to issues that are relevant for SIDS, in particular those outlined within the SAMOA Pathway: Blue Economy, Climate Resilience and, to a lesser degree, Digital Transformation (related to Disaster

Risk Reduction). The component will also address other areas of the SAMOA Pathway, including for example water security, sustainable food and nutrition; sustainable tourism and sustainable energy.

The project will try to improve the portfolio performance in SIDS. First, the Component Three will aim at supporting the collaboration among SIDS through regional and inter-regional twinning and dialogue activities among all focal area projects and participating country counterparts, focusing on the subjects that are emanating from the SAMOA Pathway, as well as on water security, sustainable food and nutrition, sustainable tourism and sustainable energy. The component will support the existing dialogues and share IW portfolio freshwater and large marine ecosystem experience through GEF projects. Information will be exchanged, among other, on new management tools related to: improving climate resilience and SIDS actions on adaptation to climate change; Blue Economy, first by assisting countries to address a suite of environmental stressors that may affect the local economies and, then, by creating opportunities for Blue Economy investments; and, where possible, improving countries response to natural risks, as well as information on water security, sustainable food and nutrition, sustainable tourism and sustainable energy. The Component will also cooperate with other focal area projects related to freshwater and marine matters of interest to SIDS. Partnerships will be formed with the applicable Regional Seas or other regional intergovernmental environment bodies as appropriate. The Component will also seek synergies with the GEF7 Islands program's knowledge management component. Second, a new section at iwlearn.net or another established web portal will be developed cataloguing available resources and opportunities to facilitate information-sharing and learning across the SIDS project portfolio in support of the SAMOA Pathway and SIDS Action Platform. The portal will strengthen, not duplicate the existing resources. **The investment in a SIDS GEF-wide knowledge management mechanism will prepare the ground for future large investments on SIDS during the 8th GEF Replenishment.** Third, the training course modules and other capacity-strengthening guidance documents will be developed on cross-cutting topics of relevance to SIDS. These topics will focus on the SAMOA Pathway themes: Climate Resilience, Digital transformation, and the Blue Economy, but also include other areas mentioned earlier. Finally, an intra and inter-regional training will be delivered in and among SIDS regions delivered through regional partners, utilizing the resources developed within this component. A link will be established with the SIDS Global Business Network. The activities in this Component will lead to enhanced global collaboration among Small Island Developing States on integrated water, coastal and ocean resource management, biodiversity conservation, reducing land degradation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and Source-to-Sea management, and improved coordination of GEF projects and participating country counterparts in Small Island Developing States across all GEF focal areas and increased achievement of relevant environmental performance targets by project participating countries.

Component 4: Deliver Support to Surface Freshwater, Groundwater and Large Marine Ecosystem Subsets in Support of Portfolio Strategic Priorities (global, with UNDP & UN-Environment and Partners)

The GEF7 Programmatic Directions highlight several strategic priorities for the 2018-2022 GEF IW portfolio to address regarding specific ecosystem types in the international waters focal area. The proposed project will, in Component 4, organize activities to directly address some of these strategic priorities in support of investments in groundwater, surface freshwater and marine/coastal ecosystems.

The proposed project will also support Objective 3, Enhance Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems and in particular Strategic Action 3.3. Investments in Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security but also Strategic Action 3.2 to help projects improve policy formulation processes and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources, as well as information management. The project will also address Strategic Action 3.1, advancing information exchange and early warning. **The project will eventually address corresponding objectives in the GEF8 International Waters Strategy.**

The component will feature first, knowledge exchanges, training on new tools and approaches in key regions and sub-regions on Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security, to help guide transboundary regional projects in supporting their participating countries to address these tradeoffs and incorporate them into the TDA-SAP Process. Second, the component will feature exchanges and programmatic guidance on managing the conjunctive management of linked groundwater and surface freshwater ecosystems through better governance, as well as with coastal and ocean projects. Third, the component will build and expand on works in the previous project on marine spatial planning, by conducting further training events for all marine and coastal projects, building on the course and manual already developed. Fourth, the project will develop a training package, synthesis materials and guidance to provide training and capacity building assistance to marine and coastal projects and strategic planning methodologies in addressing development and implementation of blue economy opportunities. Finally, Component will feature annual meetings and dialogue to strengthen collaboration among LME projects, Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries Management bodies, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and River Basin Organizations (RBOs), particularly through the Annual Marine Consultation process, originally established under the auspices of IOC-UNESCO, ICES, IUCN and U.S. NOAA, but working closely in coordination with FAO and UN Environment. Where possible, the Annual LME Consultation will be back to back with a portfolio meeting such as the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference. The activities in this Component are expected to lead to improved management of transboundary freshwater and marine ecosystems and enhanced transboundary cooperation in those ecosystems.

Component 5: Mobilize Public and Private Partnership to Enhance Long-term Sustainability of Project Interventions (global, with UNDP & UN-Environment and Partners)

The GEF7 International Water Strategy states that GEF International Waters investments will stimulate private sector investment through all of its three objectives. This engagement will occur through two different entry points, namely: 1) Stimulating engagement along the different supply chains towards reducing impacts on the freshwater and marine ecosystem environments and 2) de-risking innovative investments within the freshwater and marine sectors, through support to testing of innovative approaches and technologies. The IW portfolio has repeatedly expressed interest in greater support and guidance with private sector engagement. This interest was most clearly expressed during the 8th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference, where a follow-on workshop on Financing Sustainable Management of Transboundary Basins outlined a clear set of actionable recommendations that a future GEF IW:LEARN project could address. These included inter alia, strengthening GEF IW capacity, establishment of a global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel to provide advice and support partnership building, further IW dialogue awareness, communication and training. Given the significant number of GEF IW projects supporting the implementation of Strategic Action Programs and the portfolio's

stated interest in attracting investment towards those SAPs priorities, this Component will help guide and support the portfolio with private and public partnerships.

The Component will feature first, the establishment and operation of a global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel to help match-make GEF IW projects and development partners with the business community, focusing on identifying SAP priorities in given ecosystems and reducing the transaction costs for both entities to identify opportunities for partnership and investment. The sub-component will also guide partner institutions and projects on different public-private modalities including GEF's Non-Grant Instrument (NGI). Second, the Component will support further facilitation of partnerships via regional-level networking and dialogue events, convening public and private sector entities together with GEF IW projects and development partners with a specific focus on interactive networking. Finally, the component will support the development of training materials and programmatic guidance on attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment priorities. The activities in the Component are expected to leverage an enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio.

The Two Outputs/Sub-components of the Component 4 (4.3 Training and capacity building activities in support of marine spatial planning in LME SAP implementation projects and 4.4 Training and capacity building for marine and coastal projects and strategic planning methodologies on strengthening blue economy opportunities) were combined into a new output entitled: 4.3 Training and capacity building activities in support of marine spatial planning as a tool for strengthening blue economy opportunities (to be jointly implemented by UNDP and UNEP). The rationale for the change was great complementarity between the two main topics of the initial outputs: Marine Spatial Planning and the Blue Economy, where MSP is considered to be a tool to advance the opportunities for the expansion of the blue economy in marine and coastal areas. However, both subjects, now merged in one output, will continue to be placed in the context of the TDA/SAP process with a view to expanding the opportunities for stronger involvement of the private sector and the business community in the implementation of SAPs.

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The proposed project aligns directly with the GEF focal area strategy for International Waters. Most directly, the proposed project responds to the calls for a new phase of IW:LEARN in both Strategic Objective One and Three, which mention "Engagement with national, regional and global stakeholders to increase collaboration and

cross support to investments and processes, through IW:LEARN." Besides this however, the project includes components and sub-components directly addressing significant elements in the IW strategy. This includes a focus on Objective 1 Strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities, specifically the portfolio's ability to address the development and implementation of environmentally sustainable blue economy opportunities, foster collaboration among LMEs, Regional Seas conventions, and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and mainstream marine area management and spatial tools. The proposed project will also support Objective 3, Enhance Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems and in particular Strategic Action 3.3. Investments in Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security, Strategic Action 3.2 to help projects improve policy formulation processes and conjunctive

management of surface and groundwater resources as well as Strategic Action 3.1, advancing information exchange and early warning. And although the GEF 2020 Strategy is older now, the project remains in line with its focus on knowledge generation and sharing that will complement enhanced results management and help remove the above-mentioned barriers to better management of freshwater and marine resources. It also states that "...the potential audience for GEF knowledge products extends well beyond the GEF partnership. Lessons learned through GEF-funded interventions can guide other investments by bilateral funds, major foundations, the private sector, and national financial institutions, as well as the work of civil society." Consequently, the knowledge sharing, and lessons learned exchange through IW:LEARN will be the primary tool in this effort.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

GEF IW:LEARN is the flagship portfolio learning initiative of the GEF IW focal area and sets the cross-project and cross-agency experience and learning agenda. The GEF increment will fund a set of activities that leverage cost-savings and improve project performance for all projects in the IW focal area. By its nature, the project needs a grant to generate the positive externalities that regular project processes would not otherwise provide. Moreover, while many GEF IW:LEARN services are mainstreamed, there are still significant components of the project that transcend the GEF Agencies ability to serve the entire GEF IW portfolio, the GEF IW Conference for example. In the absence of GEF investment, these portfolio-wide tools will not be produced, and existing services will be only partially continued with part of the GEF IW portfolio.

This project represents a modest incremental cost which aims to leverage increased project effectiveness and results for GEF IW investments across the GEF portfolio. Through regional, thematic and portfolio learning and experience-sharing the project integrates GEF-supported transboundary experiences into global efforts to improve freshwater and marine resources management in the context of achieving SDGs. As GEF Council documentation has emphasized, facilitating transfer of lessons and experiences between projects is an important investment: potential yields are large in terms of improvements in replication efficiency and scaling up successful approaches. This project focuses on this as it adds an increment to agency activities included in their sustainability plans and fosters new partnerships for building IW project capacity with new partners to address the new global issues being faced by transboundary water systems. Additionally this project adds an increment to support south-south cooperation between GEF funded IW projects, and others, as a necessary tool for sharing knowledge and innovation to fill critical gaps and produce timely and significant results. Through these exchanges, demonstrated value and effectiveness of south-south solutions will be shared across borders and further inspire innovation and partnerships. This is especially pertinent to the support provided by IW:LEARN to GEF funded projects across all focal areas assisting Small Island Developing States by helping to find and share solutions to the challenges they face which are easier to adapt to their priorities and needs at the global, national and local levels. The proposed project will leverage contributions from and also build upon the following elements of the baseline.

UNDP's Water and Ocean Governance Programme includes a number of programs on which, the proposed project will leverage and build incremental activities to leverage greater benefits. Cap-Net UNDP works together with over 40 international partners and 23 affiliated networks, reaching over 1.000 member institutions in developing regions, and in joint strategic efforts with the Water and Ocean Governance Programme (WOGP) to deliver capacity development on key topics such as water governance, water integrity, IWRM, science and technology, and policy making. Partnerships with UN Environment, UNEP-DHI Centre, GWP, and Cap-Net UNDP are supporting and monitoring progress

with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (SDG6- SP). The UNDP GoAL-Waters (Governance, Accountability and Learning for Water Sustainability) programme supports equitable, efficient and environmentally sustainable use and protection of freshwater and marine resources. It helps identifying priorities and opportunities and addressing gaps and constraints in water and ocean governance by developing policy reform plans and action at national and local levels. Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) promotes cooperative approaches to shared waters to advance peace, security, regional economic development and protect the environment. SWP also aims to open new opportunities for riparian states to sustainably develop their water resources. It works to strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms, improve efforts to align diplomatic and development work, and build capacity to create robust, responsive institutions for cooperative shared water management. Finally, UNDP will address current global ocean challenges, the Ocean Innovation Facility (OIF) will identify and facilitate finance to a suite of pilot initiatives that demonstrate highly innovative approaches to ocean sustainability, cutting across most of the SDG14 targets with a potential for scaling up.

UN Environment's comparative advantage lies in knowledge management, science-to-policy linkages, ecosystems management and capacity building. It is part of several key processes in the ocean realm (e.g. Friends of Ocean Action, Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, Secretariat for the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy) and also has access to a worldwide consortium of data partners such as the Environmental Situation Room and REV Ocean. The Regional Seas Programmes could be engaged with respect to their work on SDG 14, as outlined in their contribution to the SDG 14 Outlook Report. The UNEP-DHI Centre for Water and Environment could be leveraged for monitoring and advancing IWRM approaches, but also for accessing the real-time Flood and Drought Portal. Many online courses including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) relevant to several thematic areas are available through the organization, including those related to Marine Litter and Nutrient and Wastewater Management. The UN Environment SIDS Programme could also be leveraged as it is implementing several activities as a contribution to the SAMOA pathway. Other UN Environment led initiatives such as the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) through its 10 Year Framework Programme (10 YFP) assist SIDS in developing models and addressing issues along the value chain with a special focus on sustainable tourism. In addition, a cascade of protocols, toolboxes and partnerships may be accessed in support of SIDs such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring (GCRMN) reporting protocol, Green Fins Toolbox and the Global Coral Reef Partnership.

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) is a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, and is the only competent organization for marine science within the UN system, promoting international cooperation and coordinating programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States. UNESCO-IOC is engaged with a number of activities on which this project will leverage opportunities. MSPglobal is a joint initiative by UNESCO-IOC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) to develop new international guidelines on Maritime Spatial Planning. The SPINCAM project 'Southeast Pacific data and information network in support to integrated coastal area management' supports integrated coastal area management at national and regional levels to provide information on sustainability of practices and development of existing and future coastal management.

The incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline remains the same, however, the text has been refined for enhanced clarity. Please refer to UNDP prodoc for more information.

At PIF stage, the project had committed to provide US\$ 12,206,540 in co-financing from UNDP, UNEP and IOC of UNESCO, while a number of other partners was indicated, though without committed co-financing. However, during the PPG phase, additional partners and sources of cofinancing were identified and table C was modified accordingly. The new total co-financing amounts to US\$ 14,615,096, and the total of 18 partners have committed themselves through issuing co-financing and partnership letters.

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The GEF increment will support the proposed project to deliver on these global environmental benefits by fostering conditions for improved GEF IW project delivery and impact for transboundary water systems. It will build directly on the foundations of the GEF IW portfolio of river-and-lake-basin, groundwater-systems, and large-marine-ecosystem (LME) projects, as well as the last five phases of GEF IW:LEARN (a 1998 pilot and full-sized projects dating from 2000 to 2020 inclusive) as well as the GEF LME:LEARN project. The project will utilize existing mechanisms and establish new ones for learning in the four key GEF regions to improve the management of international waters and combat the threats to ocean ecosystems (climate change, acidification, habitat loss, pollution, fishing, shipping, and seabed mining) and freshwater ecosystems (climate change, urbanization and increasing food demand). The proposed project will aim to catalyze action and enhance the effectiveness of the GEF IW portfolio through the provision of knowledge and the application of innovative techniques.

Global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits have not changed significantly from the PIF.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

With regard to innovation, the GEF IW:LEARN previous phases has been repeatedly upheld as an innovative model, including by the GEF itself. The project continues to innovate itself, both in the design phases and during the implementation. This proposed new phase will incorporate feedback from the portfolio obtained through portfolio surveys and event evaluation forms of GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences and regional workshops. The proposed project will contain innovative approaches as well as tried and tested methods. For example, the project will help the portfolio adapt and mitigate the consequences of the COVID19 Pandemic through the development of a Digital Productivity Suite. The project assess the most appropriate tools for online and remote collaboration, learning and events organizing, remote on-site project reporting and monitoring among others, and offer the solutions to GEF IW projects. The project will also leverage unique approaches to hybrid learning and knowledge-sharing, also partially as a consequence of the pandemic. Increased and novel utilization of online interactive approaches will be deployed to support activities such as training and project-project twinning exchanges, the latter of which will become more sustained in the future through innovative redesign. The project will also innovate the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis-Strategic Action Program through incorporation of new approaches concerning Marine Spatial Planning and Sustainable Blue Economy. The project will also furnish the portfolio with innovative approaches to private sector partnership and leveraging those benefits to support implementation of strategic action programs, a key goal of the GEF8 strategy. The proposed project will execute other innovative approaches, truly realizing source-to-sea continuum management of linked freshwater and marine ecosystems by drawing freshwater basin organizations to planned marine ecosystem-based events. Finally, the project will capitalize on novel approaches to knowledge management, including through enhanced approaches to capturing tacit knowledge from practitioners.

With regard to scaling up potential, the 5th GEF Operational Performance study notably calls IW:LEARN, the GEF's "one highly effective learning mechanism". The most recent independent evaluation of IW:LEARN (2018) noted that existing phase of the project moved from a demonstration phase where successful knowledge management services to GEF IW projects were piloted, tested and replicated, towards a scaled up project which became a hub for global learning on transboundary waters, working both inside and outside the GEF-financed portfolio. The 2018 evaluation state further that this "enhanced role as a global knowledge hub will support the scale up of GEF IW investments globally, as the project will harness experience from more than 27 years of GEF portfolio and partner activities to improve the current and future portfolios and impacts of investments. GEF IW:LEARN will also help GEF IW projects in improving their project outcome sustainably by linking them up to the global processes and framework, as well as partners at the regional and basin levels." Based on the experience to date, there remains significant potential to scale up the work of the project, particularly on the latter point of linking the portfolio to global processes and frameworks.

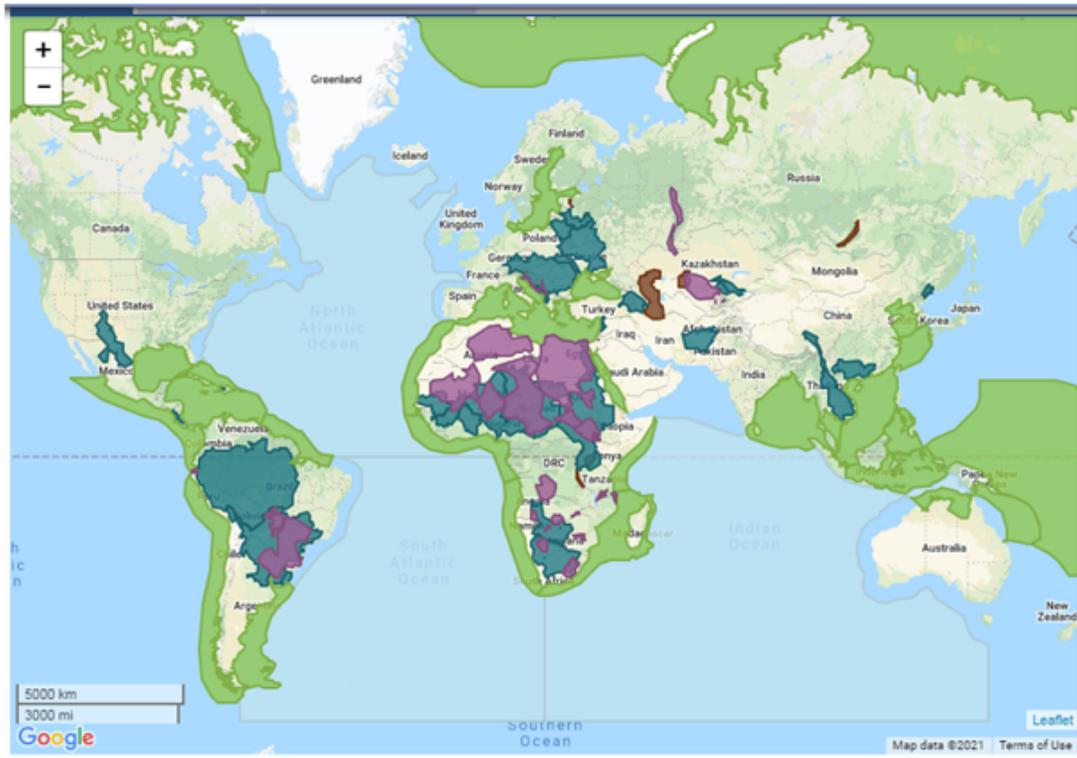
In the absence of the GEF increment, and a fully executed IW:LEARN Sustainability Plan to facilitate knowledge management across the GEF agencies and IW portfolio, learning and information transfer would revert to ad hoc arrangements. Project personnel, agencies and government partners would operate in an experience vacuum, creating project isolation and sacrificing momentum, institutional memory and continuity, which would ultimately constrain the pace and quality of project implementation and delivery and limit the overall performance and impact of the GEF IW portfolio. Furthermore, without the GEF increment, potential synergies among the GEF IW portfolio, the private sector and other global environmental efforts will likely not be realized. Without the GEF increment, there would be no dedicated knowledge management agenda to exert positive pressure on IW projects to interact and share experiences and results, reducing the potential for scaling up successful approaches to management and governance of IW.

The innovativeness of this project has not changed markedly since from the PIF.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Project interventions will take place globally and in all ecosystems with GEF investments through the international waters focal area, as well as projects from other focal areas. The relevant freshwater and marine ecosystems are depicted in this map. Stakeholders in these ecosystems will be the beneficiaries of IW:LEARN products and services.



1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The Stakeholders Engagement Plan has been prepared and attached to the UNDP project document.

The project stakeholder engagement activities should be robust and enough disclosure on information should be made in order to promote better awareness and understanding of its strategies, policies and operations. During this disclosure, the project requires to:

- ? Identify stakeholder groups that are or could be affected by the project as well as other interested parties;
- ? Ensure that such stakeholders are appropriately engaged through a process of information disclosure and meaningful consultation; and
- ? Maintain a constructive relationship with stakeholders on an on-going basis through meaningful engagement during project implementation.

The stakeholder consultations are an on-going process taking place during the project life and during this process it is necessary to ensure that stakeholders are informed about consequences of the project implementation and ensure the opportunity for feedback.

Identification of stakeholders for engagement and methods of communication

In order to ensure inclusive participation and consultation, the following stakeholders have been identified for consultation on on-going basis:

- ? Stakeholders affected directly or indirectly by the outcomes of the Project implementation;
- ? Stakeholders that participate in the project directly or indirectly; and
- ? Stakeholders who are able to influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the Project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project.

Stakeholders have been identified in accordance with the above classification as shown in Table below.

Stakeholders' Classification

Stakeholders to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the outcomes of the Project implementation	Stakeholders that participate in the project directly or indirectly	Stakeholders who are able to influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the Project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project
? GEF IW Project Managers and respective PCUs ? Transboundary/Basin Bodies ? Participating countries ? Civil Society/Local Community Organisations ? Private Sector ? Vulnerable Groups ? Youth groups and entrepreneurs	? Project partners directly involved in project implementation ? Academic Research Institutes ? Bilateral/Multilateral Agencies	? GEF Secretariat ? The GEF Implementing Agencies, including especially UNDP and UNEP ? IOC/UNESCO ? Policy influencers

Stakeholder Concerns Analysis

The IW:LEARN project will aim to collect and analyse stakeholder expectations and concerns as well as to take appropriate responsive measures throughout the Project life in order to ensure that there is enough support for the project.

The project has identified the following interests and concerns of the key stakeholder groups as presented in Table below.

Key stakeholders Expectations and Concern Analysis

Stakeholder group	Key expectations	Key concerns	Recommendation
GEF IW Project Managers and respective PCUs	To improve capacity to manage transboundary water ecosystems and share experience between them	Budgetary and technical capacity constraints Country ownership	Projects to budget for experience sharing and capacity building
UNDP	To secure orderly project implementation and replication of results	Project delay Lack of replication of good results in future projects	Establish adequate project implementation monitoring system Utilize IW:LEARN services and products to promote replication
UNEP	To secure orderly project implementation and replication of results	Project delay Lack of adequate results to be replicated in future projects	Establish adequate project implementation monitoring system
IOC/UNESCO	To execute the project and facilitate synergy by integrating technical subjects of common interest	Project delay Lack of interest among partners to participate in the project implementation	Provide adequate technical support to the project
Policy influencers	To create synergy with the project's activities To gain opportunity for elevating portfolio concerns into high-level panels and policymaking bodies	Lack of interest in project activities	Leverage IW partnerships and projects existing relationships with influencers
Project partners directly involved in project implementation	To create synergy with the project's activities To gain opportunity for future activities in the transboundary water bodies by utilising their technical expertise	Budgetary constraints Lack of interest for their technical expertise among project beneficiaries	Provide co-financing Make attractive products

Participating countries	Benefit from participation in regional and thematic dialogues and other capacity building activities of the project Scale-up knowledge management sharing collective experience	Budgetary constraints Lack of technical capacity to absorb project outputs	Replication of project results at national and local levels
The GEF Agencies besides UNDP and UNEP	Replication of project results	Lack of interest among agencies	Ensure better communication with the agencies
GEF secretariat	Project to assist meeting the objectives of the International Waters Focal Area	IW:LEARN products are not up taken by projects in IW portfolio	IW projects assisted to uptake IW:LEARN products
Civil Society/Local Community Organisations	Improvements in the quality of the environment in freshwater and marine ecosystems Contribute with their expertise and networks to the successful implementation of the project	Transparency of the decision-making and communication processes	Ensure there is free access for information about the project to various groups whenever they request for it
Academic Research Institutes	Participate in technical activities such as workshops, training courses, experience sand research findings? exchange etc.	Budgetary constraints	Secure co-financing
Bilateral/Multilateral Agencies	Participate in technical activities such as workshops, IW conferences, technical meetings, twinning, training etc. Benefit from technical products of the project	Lack of networking opportunities during the IW:LEARN events	IW:LEARN should assist in establishing contacts with the IW focal points
Private Sector	Utilise investment opportunities offered by the project Assist IW projects in leveraging additional financing for implementation of SAPs	Obstacles in establishing adequate linkages with projects that might result in investment opportunities	Ensure that IW:LEARN facilitates clear communication with the projects
Transboundary/ Basin Bodies	Receive scientific knowledge, experiences and lessons learned from IW projects Ensure that there is clear communication with the projects	Transparency of the decision-making and communication processes	Maintain relationship with IW projects in their regions

Vulnerable Groups	To be identified/analysed and given more opportunity to interact with IW:LEARN project and air their concerns	Impacts on their lifestyles brought about by projects Not being given chance to participate in projects	Ensure that there is clear communication with these groups and project impacts on marginalised groups if any are identified and addressed
Youth groups and entrepreneurs	To be identified/analysed with the IW portfolio to provide more opportunity to interact with IW:LEARN	Not being given the chance to participate in projects	Work with the GEF IW portfolio to identify opportunities for youth engagement through their networks and activities

The project will engage or communicate to various identified stakeholders as outlined in Table below.

Methods of Communicating to Stakeholders

Stakeholders group	Means of engagement	Rules for communication
Stakeholders to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the outcomes of the Project implementation	Project website Brochures and other printed materials Face to face trainings and dialogue events	Communication to be done by PCU
Project partners directly involved in project implementation	Meetings, exchange of minutes, memos etc.	In accordance with the rules for internal communication
Particularly vulnerable social groups (women, children, marginalised societies)	Consultation meetings ? providing information, exchange of documentation and correspondence associated with projects	In accordance with the rules for internal communication, and the accepted custom
County governments and transboundary water commissions	Project website Brochures and other printed materials Face to face trainings and dialogue events	Communication to be done by PCU
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) interested in the Project	Direct meetings, Official letters	During meetings and on demand

Making Available Information

The project will endeavour to make information available to the public to allow stakeholders to get to know and understand both the environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the project, as well as opportunities provided by the project. This will enable them to utilise the project results and outputs to make informed decision in areas associated with trans-boundary water management.

On an ongoing basis, the project will have consultation on the new emerging issues of the project. The disclosures will be done to all stakeholders through project briefs or technical annual/biannual meetings and conferences.

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring is an integral component of project management as it tracks and assesses progress towards achieving tangible development results associated with the project being implemented. It is an essential management tool which provides an opportunity to know whether results are being achieved as planned, what corrective action are needed to ensure delivery of the intended results and how they are making positive development contributions. This helps to detect problems earlier and coming up with appropriate measures to address them. Therefore, monitoring usually provides data used for analysis and synthesis prior to reporting for decision making.

Reporting Format

	Parameter	Monitoring and reporting responsibility	Reporting period
1	Number of government agencies, transboundary water commissions, civil society organizations, private sector companies, indigenous groups and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase	PCU	Annual basis
2	Number of persons (sex disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase	PCU	Annual basis
3	Number of engagement (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations, conferences) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase	PCU	Annual basis
4	Percentage of stakeholders who rate as satisfactory the quality of the services they receive	UNDP/UNEP-GEF (externally hired consultant)	Biannual basis

Stakeholder Engagement Programme

Stakeholder group	Engagement method	Materials to be used	Location	Responsible organisation, person	Frequency
Stakeholders to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the outcomes of the Project implementation	Project Steering Committee Meeting Inform on the project implementation status Collect opinions and concerns Consultation meetings Holding targeted group meetings, as necessary Inform on the internal Project development issues, success and difficulties	Presentations Booklets, Brochures and progress leaflets Website posting GEF agencies reports	PCU	Project manager Communications officer	Annually

Stakeholders that participate in the project directly or indirectly	Project Steering Committee Consultation meetings Inform via direct meetings and reporting	Monitoring and Evaluation System	PCU	Project Manager	Ad-hoc Annually
Stakeholders who are able to influence and decide the outcomes and the manner of the Project implementation or make decisions based on the outputs of the project	Project steering committee Inform on the project implementation status Consultation meetings Holding targeted group meetings	Surveys Leaflets Presentations Newsletters Project website posting Project reports	PCU	Project Manager Training Specialist Communication Officer	Annually Ad-hoc

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

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

The first step of the Gender Plan is to conduct a gender analysis at the early stage of project preparation in order to determine the different roles, needs and knowledge of women and men, thereby setting a baseline. This will then enable the development of gender-responsive project design, including the allocation of an appropriate budget and roles and responsibilities.

The gender goal of the project is to have appropriate skilled gender mix in the project. Since the project is global, and its activities are not directly geared towards the improvement of conditions of gender in specific national and local settings, the project aims at establishing a gender balance through equal participation in all of its activities. This should be reflected in the recommendations in the context of detailed explanations of the project's activities.

Adequate financial resource allocation is key to the achievement of all steps in the gender mainstreaming process in any project and is one of the biggest challenges in efforts to implement gender mainstreaming. While the project's budget structure does not explicitly present allocations for gender mainstreaming, it will implicitly identify resources required to mainstream gender during implementation and will allocate enough money to ensure that gender considerations are met during the life of the project.

Implementation

Implementation of gender mainstreaming involves strengthening the gender expertise involved in the project. This will ensure the longevity of gender responsiveness following completion of the project. Therefore, it's key during implementation that the project builds gender capacities in both the project staff, partners and stakeholders.

The capacities to be build will focus on identifying gender needs, how to monitor gender parameters, how to report them, listing gender-responsive activities (e.g. gender analysis, monitoring and reporting of disaggregated data) etc. the project will therefore ensure that senior staff have information on how gender is mainstreamed in the project and how to ensure that all genders play their part during implementation.

The project will endeavour to ensure that women and men are represented equally in the project management, governance and activities. More significantly the project will assist the IW portfolio of projects to understand how the work can best assist women with water management issues.

The Project Management Unit will be staffed with considerations of gender balance and will also promote the use of women in technical roles within the project.

Through management and technical capacity training sessions the project will encourage a balance of women and men to further encourage the role of women in senior positions in water management.

The project will continue to address the gender dimension, in particular through activity 4.4.3 with the aim of streamlining this aspect into the TDA-SAP process. The project will capitalize on the materials developed and lessons learned and apply these to maximize uptake by the GEF IW portfolio either via innovative training techniques (online/face to face) or committed targeted support delivered by partners. The aim will continue to be to introduce systematic consideration of gender equity, woman empowerment and social inclusion in GEF's international waters portfolio approach for the improved management of transboundary waters and for more integrated resources management initiatives. The project will accelerate portfolio learning on this key thematic priority for the GEF portfolio. It will provide access to GEF IW partners, IW projects, and recipient countries (scientific institutes, national bodies, basin organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, students) to relevant training materials, and cutting-edge experience on gender-responsive indicators, including but not limited to sex-disaggregated data collection.

The project could also facilitate exchanges of experiences and online learning mechanisms on gender integration and the use of gender indicators. These may include ad-hoc trainings and workshops on sex-disaggregated water data collection and analysis, and on gender sensitive indicators. These twinings (between projects) or wider trainings could be based on the 5 multi-faceted macro-modules ? each composed by one or more sub-modules and exercises already developed in the previous phase, which offer a theoretical, interactive and practical learning experience.

The PCU will coordinate all dialogue events, in collaboration with the partners. This sub-component will seek to leverage further partner contributions by working with FAO, UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and regional development banks, all focused on coastal and marine issues. Collaboration with SIWI's Source to Sea Action Platform, ICPDR and UNECE will bring in the freshwater focus in the context of this complex issue. Specific gender mainstreaming issues will be brought in the project through collaboration with WWF-US and UNESCO-WWAP.

In activity 4.4.3: Enhancement of the TDA-SAP Methodology to integrate Source-to-Sea management considerations as well as gender mainstreaming, the project will focus on including gender considerations as regards the TDA-SAP methodology.

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting of gender-sensitive targets and indicators, both qualitative and quantitative are identified as key to the efficacy of these processes. Using baseline data, gender-responsive indicators are established at the project design stage. The indicators should be formulated to monitor impacts and progress in relation to the gender goals and targets and be integrated throughout the overall monitoring plan in order to identify good practices and lessons learned that promote gender equality, and incorporate remedial action that will redress any gender inequalities that arise during project implementation.

Gender Indicators

Indicator	Data Type	Frequency of reporting	Responsibility
Participation	Number of men and women that participated in project activities (e.g. meetings, workshops, etc.)	Annually	Project Manager
Benefits	Number of men and women that received benefits (e.g. training, twinning, participation at global conferences etc..) from the project	Annually	Project manager
Project planning considerations	Number of strategies, plans and policies derived from the project that include gender considerations and were implemented within the IW portfolio	Bi-annually	Project manager
Gender balance of staff	Balanced gender at both management and technical consultancies of the project	Annually	Project manager

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;

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.

Since the PIF formulation phase, firm commitments to support this component of the project were secured with REVOcean, IOC of UNESCO, UNECE, IUCN, The Nature Conservancy and two international financial institutions: The World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

The project will seek to increase visibility and impacts of GEF interventions and move towards robust integrated management in a source to sea continuum, sharing of portfolio planning and management tools, best practices and solutions; enhancing networking and data sharing; continuing commitment to capacity building and expanding the partnership with the private sector.

The GEF7 International Water Strategy states that GEF International Waters investments will stimulate private sector investment through all of its three objectives. This engagement will occur through two different entry points, namely:

1. Stimulating engagement along the different supply chains towards reducing impacts on the freshwater and marine ecosystem environments, and
2. De-risking innovative investments within the freshwater and marine sectors, through support to testing of innovative approaches and technologies.

The IW portfolio has repeatedly expressed interest in greater support and guidance with private sector engagement. This interest was most clearly expressed during the 8th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference, where a follow-on workshop on Financing Sustainable Management of Transboundary Basins outlined a clear set of actionable recommendations that a future GEF IW:LEARN project could address. These included, inter alia, strengthening GEF IW capacity, establishment of a global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel to provide advice and support partnership building, further IW dialogue awareness, communication and training. Given that the significant number of GEF IW projects are supporting the implementation of SAPs and the portfolio's stated interest in attracting investment towards those SAPs priorities, this project will help guide and support the portfolio with private and public partnerships. The activities in the project are expected to leverage an enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio.

The project will feature the establishment and operation of a global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel to help match-make GEF IW projects and development partners with the business community in line with the draft GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy on a portfolio level. Second, the project will support further facilitation of partnerships via regional-level networking and dialogue events. And finally, this component will support the development of training materials and programmatic guidance on attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment priorities. The activities in the project are expected to leverage an enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio.

It is the crucial area of matchmaking private sector with SAP investment priorities where the project aims to be indispensable to the portfolio. The project will leverage the experience and networks of other GEF IW projects with established private sector linkages including, but not limited to, the Strengthening the Blue Economy: the Economic Case, Science-Informed Policy and Transparency project, the Glofouling Partnerships project, Dniester SAP Implementation project, and the International Nitrogen Management System project. IW:LEARN will also engage with the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy whose Advisory Network includes over 30 leaders from private sector, international organizations, and civil society. Furthermore, the project will also enhance the visibility of GEF IW funded freshwater projects through the opportunities offered via the CEO Water Mandate platform.

Building on the preceding examples, the project will attempt to create multiple entry points for all focal area projects across all ecosystem types, in alignment with SAP defined priorities. For example, in river basins, the project will attempt to match-make SAP investment projects with industries, such as the beverage industry, whose interests in catchment management and water protection often overlap with similar SAP priorities. In groundwater ecosystem projects, IW:LEARN will seek to establish collaboration with companies in the agricultural sector, whose interest in sustainable groundwater management and aquifer protection also align with SAP priorities. For large marine ecosystems, the project will seek to build on the successes realized in the LME:LEARN project at finding entry points along the value chain already created with for example, the seafood industry, with common interest for example in sustainable fisheries (including traceability and enhanced/modified fishing gear and practices). Another entry point for marine ecosystem projects could be in connection with the private sector as a key stakeholder in the processes leading to the development of national Blue Economy and Marine Spatial Plans.

The activities in the project are expected to leverage an enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

The number of risks has been expanded. The COVID-19 pandemic that emerged in the middle of the IW:LEARN fifth phase project preparation process has been the most important new identified risk. It has posed a significant challenge because of the unknown temporal trajectory. This situation may cause disruption in the orderly implementation of the project and will require very strict implementation of adaptive management principles. The pandemic might pose risks during project execution to project staff and beneficiary stakeholders. However, it has reinforced the need and relevance for the project's environmental mandate more than ever, in particular by increasing water, food and energy security for people by fostering healthy freshwater and marine ecosystems. The project document has considered risks that COVID-19 could pose to all project's components and outputs, and solutions were provided including: availability of technical expertise and capacity including changes in the timelines; stakeholder engagement process, including the mobility of stakeholders; a wider enabling environment including the changing beneficiary government's short- and medium-term priorities; financing repercussions; as well as consideration of possible future risks or similar crises.

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
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1	COVID-19 crisis may affect the modalities of implementation of the project activities	Safety and Security	Moderate	Adaptive project management, as the underlining approach to IW:LEARN implementation, requires that project implementation be regularly monitored and adaptive measures be taken immediately, such as online learning and online events	UNESCO-IOC
2	A key risk to this project is an operational one as it brings together several agencies and partners. This may increase the complexity of project implementation and hinder positive impacts	Strategic	Moderate	Definition of roles and responsibilities of all parties to the project were given full consideration during the project preparation phase, which anticipated all the complexities of the project implementation	UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO ? IOC
3	Not all GEF IW projects are willing to engage in various types of portfolio learning activities or expose weaknesses in project implementation to external scrutiny	Operational	Low	Project stakeholders will be expressly encouraged to utilize GEF IW:LEARN services at all levels of implementation and execution. The project will make an investment in direct interaction with beneficiaries. Constituents need to be engaged to the extent possible to create a sense of ownership.	UNESCO-IOC
4	IW projects fail to respond in a timely manner to IW:LEARN PCU requests or to develop websites compliant with IW Website guidelines	Operational	Low	IW:LEARN partners and GEF Agencies to actively encourage: IW project participation; provide data; develop websites; utilise the visualisation tool; deliver experience notes, etc.	UNESCO-IOC, UNDP, UNEP

5	New projects are not aware of IW:LEARN, do not have sufficient time to participate or do not know how to sufficiently engage its services and provide experiences to peers (via twinning, training, regional dialogue events, IWC engagement and information syndication)	Operational	Moderate	The project will effectively market its basic service line to the portfolio throughout implementation	UNESCO-IOC
6	Insufficient country involvement in GEF IW:LEARN activities	Political	Low	GEF IW:LEARN and all GEF IW projects will actively engage country representatives and ensure awareness of events etc. in support of national processes	UNESCO-IOC
7	Synergy potential (linking with other relevant initiatives/governance partners, including private sector) is not fully materialised	Operational	Low	During the PPG phase, partners and IW projects to participate in joint regional ocean governance and other forms of transboundary water governance were involved and their commitment was secured	UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO-IOC

Regarding Social and Environmental Screening, all outputs in project Component 1 (sub-components 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4), Component 2 (sub-components 2.1, 2.2, 2.3), Component 3 (sub-components 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4), Component 4 (sub-components 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4) and Component 5 (sub-components 5.1, 5.2, 5.3) concern a global project with no country-level activities. Because of this alone, the project is considered thus as SESP-exempt.

Many of the project's outputs also qualify for other SESP exemption criteria. These include the following:

c. Organization of an event, workshop, training:

- ? All outputs in project Component 1 involve the organization of events, workshops and training (exemption criteria c), and no other activities.
- ? Outputs under project Component 2, Sub-component 2.3 involve the organization of training (exemption criteria c), and no other activities.
- ? Outputs under project Component 3, Sub-components 3.1, 3.3, and 3.4 involve the organization of workshops and training (exemption criteria c), and no other activities.
- ? Outputs under project Component 4 involve the organization of events, workshops, and training (exemption criteria c), and no other activities.

- ? Outputs under project Component 5, Sub-component 5.2 and 5.3 involve the organization of workshops and training (exemption criteria c), and no other activities.
- d. Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences:
- ? Outputs of project Component 1, Sub-component 1.1 involve strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international conferences (exemption criteria e), and no other activities.
 - ? Outputs under project Component 4, Sub-component 4.4
- e. Partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks:
- ? Outputs of project Component 1, Sub-component 1.1 and 1.4 involve partnership coordination and management of networks (exemption criteria e), and no other activities.
 - ? Outputs of project Component 3, Sub-component 3.1 and 3.2 involve partnership coordination and management of networks (exemption criteria e), and no other activities.
- Outputs of project Component 4, Sub-component 4.4

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

GEF IW:LEARN will be implemented by UNDP and UN Environment (for sub-components 3.1, 3.4 and 4.4), who will jointly be responsible for ensuring overall project supervision and will ensure consistency with GEF policies and procedures. UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) will act as the lead UNDP office for components/sub-components under UNDP oversight, and will be responsible for project supervision and implementation through UN Agency execution modality with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO serving as Implementing Partner/Executing Agency for both UNDP and UN Environment. UNDP will be represented at the Project Steering Committee by IRH Manager delegated to the UNDP/ GEF International Waters Regional Technical Advisor. Project Assurance from IRH will be provided by the Senior Programme Coordinator.

GEF IW:LEARN will be executed for both UNDP and UN Environment through UNESCO-IOC for all Components. The EA will be responsible for, the following activities, required to achieve the project objectives, outputs and outcomes, including:

- ? Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring and reporting
- ? Procurement of goods and services, including human resources
- ? Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets, as indicated in the Project Document and/or revised by the Project Coordination Unit and approved by the Project Steering Committee

IOC-UNESCO will ensure that all activities including procurement services are carried out in strict compliance with UNDP / UN Environment's respective rules and procedures. IOC/UNESCO will be responsible for the establishment, adequate staffing and uninterrupted functioning, throughout the project's life span, of the global Project Coordination Unit (PCU).

The GEF IW:LEARN partnership includes project stakeholders and principal target groups. It includes Development Partners (UNDP and UNEP), Implementing Agency (IOC-UNESCO) and other partners-stakeholders such as NGOs, other UN Agencies, transboundary organizations, academia, IFIs and other. Partners participating in the implementation of the project's activities may be observers to the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The IW:LEARN's principal target group are the GEF IW projects' coordinators. They will be involved in the project decision-making through participation the PSC. Thus, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will include IW:LEARN Development Partners (UNDP and UNEP), the Project Executive (UNESCO IOC) and Beneficiary Representatives (representatives of IW project's coordinators, rotating for two-year terms, and representing key portfolio subsets). Representatives of additional GEF IW implementing agencies, with multiple projects under implementation, will be invited to become PSC members. A representative of the GEF Secretariat IW technical team will also be a PSC member. The PCU will be acting as the PSC Secretariat.

An Inter-Agency Forum, comprising of the IAs and the EA, will be created to have close dialogue on the overall project execution. This will further ensure that there is adequate project oversight and consistency with GEF policies and requirements. A PCU will be headquartered at UNESCO-IOC's offices in Paris.

The PCU will be responsible for the overall project co-ordination and will ensure that activities are undertaken in conjunction with partners and are delivered according to the PSC agreed timeline. The PCU will also have extensive responsibilities for monitoring the overall performance of the project against the indicators/targets in the results framework as part of the M&E activities. Much of the monitoring data for this project will come from surveys of workshop follow-up, twinnings, exchanges, etc., to gather as much quantitative data as possible about the outcomes and impacts of the GEF IW:LEARN project, and to report this data to the PSC (based on the baseline established from the last phase of the project).

In terms of regular administrative reporting, the PCU will work with project partners in the preparation of quarterly reports to be submitted to UNDP and UN Environment. The PCU will be responsible to prepare in coordination with UNDP/UN Environment/UNESCO-IOC the annual GEF Project Implementation Review. Finally, there will be a number of management and evaluation activities that will be carried out and supported by the PCU. These will include a midterm and final evaluation together with such other activities as may be requested from time to time by UNESCO IOC and the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit in Istanbul, as well as United Nations Environment.

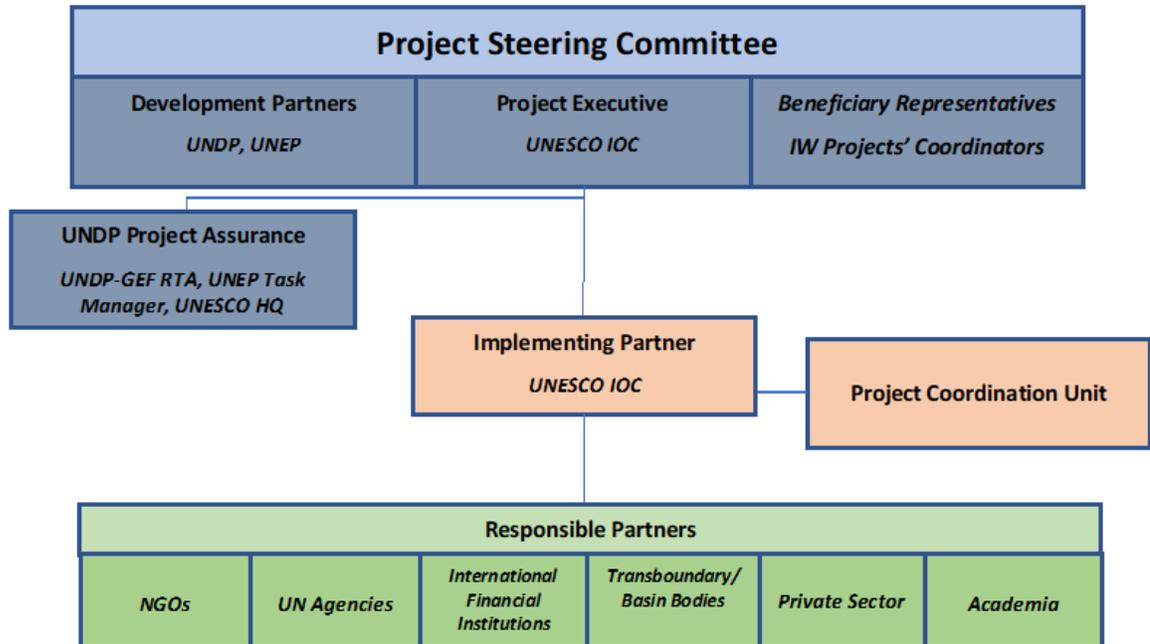
GEF-supported Initiatives

The proposed project will build on experiences of the previous GEF IW:LEARN phases and will specifically build on the sustainability plan and final evaluation of the current phase jointly implemented by UNDP and UN Environment. Special attention will be devoted to disseminating management tools developed by other portfolio learning projects including inter alia, Development of Tools to Incorporate Impacts of Climatic Variability and Change, in Particular Floods and Drought into Basin Planning Processes, Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP), Blue Forests Integrated Nutrient Management System and Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services projects. The proposed project will liaise with the UNDP implemented GEF Small Grants Programme to harvest SGP experience in the translation of SAPs into local actions and identify community-based management models. Finally, the project will work closely with the GEF Secretariat itself, specifically its Results-Based Management and Knowledge Management staff, on upscaling IW:LEARN-tested approaches to other focal areas.

Non-GEF initiatives

The proposed project will also coordinate with the following non-GEF funded partner initiatives. The project will liaise with secretariats, coordinating bodies or administrative entities of legal frameworks for transboundary cooperation, such as the UN Water Courses Convention, the UNECE Water Convention, ILC draft articles on transboundary groundwater and UN Law of the Sea Convention. For the work in SIDS, the project will coordinate with the Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme. The project will also collaborate with the secretariats of the Cartagena and Nairobi Conventions.

No change has been envisaged since the PIF formulation. The overall management arrangement of IW:LEARN is presented in the figure below.



7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

While the project is global in scope, it is designed to support the implementation of regional investments by the GEF. As with all GEF projects, being country-driven is the sine qua non, and all IW projects assisted by IW:LEARN have the country GEF focal point endorsement. GEF IW:LEARN aims to support and improve the management of GEF IW projects and enhance project capacity to address national priorities and plans. The proposed project will support all these various regional, national and local strategies by building networks, creating tools, improving linkages, harvesting best practices and generating knowledge. The proposed project will also have a focus on building capacity at the national level through SAP actions and regional workshops. The project will also contribute indirectly to help countries in achieving SDG6, 14 and related goal targets.

No changes have been made since the PIF formulation phase.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

No changes have been made to this section since PIF approval.

The GEF International Waters Learning and Exchange Resource Network (IW:LEARN) is a global effort that promotes experience, knowledge sharing, learning and dialog among GEF International Waters projects and their stakeholders. The overall goal of GEF IW:LEARN is to strengthen transboundary water management around the world by collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common challenges.

The previous project phase of GEF IW:LEARN produced a Knowledge Management Strategy for the project, the basic contours of which the proposed project will also follow. The strategy document summarized the key priorities that should be reflected in the overall approach to knowledge management within the project and its partners. GEF IW:LEARN has a solid history of developing an increasingly impactful knowledge sharing and management enterprise and has developed and evolved this history through a series of Global Environment Facility-funded projects since the late 1990s. Early architects within the GEF International Waters focal area recognized the vital importance of learning and sharing of knowledge from IW's breadth of experiences; IW:LEARN was a pioneer within the GEF in this regard.

IW:LEARN's goal is to strengthen Transboundary Waters Management by facilitating global portfolio experience sharing and learning, dialogue facilitation, targeted knowledge sharing and replication in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of GEF IW projects to deliver tangible results, and in partnership with other IW initiatives. In working toward this goal, IWL4 had four major pillars on which it built its activities from 2015-2019. These were:

- (1) Assisting projects in acquiring relevant knowledge related to transboundary waters management in order to improve future project design;
- (2) Enhancing the understanding and application of GEF IW experiences across the IW portfolio to produce better quality project results;
- (3) Facilitating the replication and scaling up of good practices in transboundary waters management, resulting in lower costs and improved capacity to address transboundary concerns; and
- (4) Ensuring that insights generated through project interventions are shared and add value to the IW portfolio and beyond.

Each of IW:LEARN's stakeholders has varying contributions and needs to engage with IW:LEARN for information and knowledge pertaining to IW. Moreover, it is this collection and coordination of varying needs that give GEF IW:LEARN a value-added quality in serving this community. IW:LEARN functions as a relay hub of knowledge management by pulling, pushing, and transforming knowledge content; by matching supply with demand, and in providing specific services to and connecting a broadening community of practice. It pursues this through a growing web presence, search and management of content, tools and services, and it helps to connect practitioners across projects, themes and regions through project twinning exercises to share specific know-how and experiences, regional dialogues and through the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. The Monitoring Plan included in Annex details the roles, responsibilities, and frequency of monitoring project results.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the [UNDP POPP](#) and [UNDP Evaluation Policy](#). Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the [GEF Monitoring Policy](#) and the [GEF Evaluation Policy](#) and other [relevant GEF policies](#). The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring plan in Annex, will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report. These activities may include UNDP guidance regarding adopting remote monitoring approaches and for M&E procedures as a whole during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:

Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement, with the aim to:

1. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
2. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
3. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
4. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
5. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
6. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.

7. Plan and schedule Project Steering Committee meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan.
8. Formally launch the Project.

- GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Steering Committee. The quality rating of the previous year's PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent PIR.

- GEF Core Indicators:

The GEF Core indicators included as Annex will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent ground-truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the [GEF website](#).

- Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):

The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center (ERC).

The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from BPPS/GEF Directorate.

The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by **15 October 2023**. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's completion.

- Terminal Evaluation (TE):

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. UNDP will liaise with the UNEP Evaluation Office throughout the TE process. Key decision points in the evaluation process will be made jointly by both Evaluation Offices in a collaborative manner (finalisation of Evaluation ToRs, selection of evaluation consultants, review of draft report and acceptance of final report).

The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate.

The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by **15 July 2025**. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

Final Report:

The project's terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project's deliverables and disclosure of information: To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the Project logo as well as UNDP and UNEP logos on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP and UNEP Disclosure Policy and the GEF policy on public involvement.

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Budget:			
GEF M&E requirements	Indicative costs (US\$)	Time frame	Output Target
Inception Workshop	20,000	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project.	1 inception workshop for project stakeholders (approximately 40 people)
Inception Report	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project.	1 inception report
M&E of GEF indicators in project results framework	None	Annually prior to GEF PIR. This will include GEF core indicators.	3 PIR's
GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	None	Annually typically between June-August	3 PIR's
Monitoring all risks (UNDP risk register)	None	On-going.	
Supervision missions	None ^[1]	Annually	

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	30,000	15 December 2023	1 MTR
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	30,000	15 March 2025	1 TE
TOTAL indicative COST	80,000		

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): 6, 14

This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): Not Applicable

	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 20 indicators)	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Objective: Towards a more impactful GEF portfolio: facilitating replication of good practice across GEF International Waters projects,	<i>Indicator 1 (Mandatory):</i> Indicator #11: Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)[1]	0	1000 females, 1000 males	2000 females, 2000 males

<p>including projects across all focal areas in Small Island Developing States, working in collaboration with development partners, supporting the delivery of training information management, providing programmatic guidance and facilitating partnership building.</p>	<p><i>Indicator 2</i> (GEF Core Indicator):</p> <p><i>Indicator #7:</i> Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>Project component 1:</p>	<p>Provide Targeted Knowledge Sharing and Results Showcasing Across Projects and Development Partners (Through Face-to-Face Dialogue and Training) to Advance Transboundary Water Management in All IW Focal Area Ecosystems</p>			
<p>Outcome 1 (UNDP implemented)</p> <p>Enhanced portfolio and development partner capacity at the national, regional and global levels, and improved</p>	<p><i>Indicator 3:</i></p> <p>Number of IW projects indicate at least 1 enhanced management or governance approach following workshops / IWC / twinning</p>	<p>Partial progress of up-take of knowledge from training, twinning, IWC over time</p>	<p>20 IW projects indicate at least 1 enhanced management or governance approach after attending workshops/IWC/twinning</p>	<p>60 IW projects indicate at least 1 enhanced management or governance approach after attending workshops/IWC/twinning</p>
<p>portfolio-wide project performance</p>	<p><i>Indicator 4:</i></p> <p>Basins have enhanced co-operation or thematic knowledge as a result of IWL activities</p>	<p>Current cooperation between basins on an ad-hoc basis</p>	<p>2 Basins have enhanced cooperation or thematic knowledge as a result of IWL</p>	<p>4 Basins have enhanced cooperation or thematic knowledge as a result of IWL</p>

Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences 10 and 11 for GEF wide portfolio of IW projects 2. Training strategy to address GEF IW portfolio learning gaps activity 3. Training modules on cross-cutting issues 4. 6 regional training workshops for GEF IW projects and development partners on cross-cutting themes 5. 3 structured and iterative twinning exchange programs 6. 6 ad-hoc twinning exchange programs 7. 3 regional transboundary and 2 thematic dialogues 			
Outcome 2 (UNDP implemented) Increased global awareness of GEF results and increased GEF Partnerships beyond the portfolio	<i>Indicator 5:</i> GEF IW projects have increased visibility at key global dialogue events	On average, small increase in interest for sessions beyond GEF IW community	2 projects report new project partners as a result of global dialogue participation	6 projects report new project partners as a result of global dialogue participation
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6 sessions in key global events to showcase GEF IW results, build partnerships and facilitate cooperation 			
Project component 2	Support the Communication and Replication of Portfolio Results and Experiences			
Outcome 3 (UNDP implemented) Increased experience sharing and replication of	<i>Indicator 6:</i> % of projects offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines	50% of projects offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines	75% of projects utilizing r offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines	85% of projects offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines

<p>successes within and across and beyond the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced understanding of GEF IW project interventions beyond the portfolio</p>	<p><i>Indicator 7:</i> % of projects communicating results (via project profile, communications product or experience/results note) and through mainstream media</p>	<p>23% of projects communicate one experience or result via project profile, communications product or website</p> <p>No major stories in mainstream media</p>	<p>At least 50% of projects communicate one experience or result via project profile, communications product or website</p> <p>One (1) story or news on the work of the portfolio featured in a mainstream media channel (TV, website, radio/podcast, print)</p>	<p>100% of projects communicate one experience or result via project profile, communications product or website</p> <p>Three (3) stories or news on the work of the portfolio featured in a mainstream media channel (TV, website, radio/podcast, print)</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Up-to-date and enhanced IW:LEARN web platform (IWLEARN.NET, Spatial Lab, IW:LEARN website solutions, including the LMEHub) 2. 50 new layers and 20 maps added to the Spatial Lab 3. 48 issues of Portfolio Bulletin 4. Four regional workshops (two for LAC and Africa/Indian Ocean on ICT/DIM topics, two for Asia and Africa/Indian Ocean on project communications) and ten Webinars tackling innovative tools and best practices in ICT, data and info management, social media, and communications organized 5. New reference materials on project communications, DIM and website management in IWLEARN.NET 6. Roster of communications specialists, environmental journalists and media outlets 7. Three new webpages in iwlearn.net, namely for SIDS, Nexus and Project Communications 			
<p>Project component 3</p>	<p>Deliver Intra and Inter-Regional Knowledge Management Across Focal Areas in Small Island Developing States to Improve Portfolio Performance</p>			
<p>Outcome 4 (UNDP and UNEP implemented)</p> <p>Enhanced global collaboration and communication among Small Island Developing States</p>	<p><i>Indicator 8:</i> Number of SIDS that establish new management and governance approaches</p>	<p>Progress of up-take of knowledge from training, twinning in SIDS related projects</p>	<p>5 new management and governance approaches established or replicated from one SIDS to another</p>	<p>10 new management and governance approaches established or replicated from one SIDS to another</p>

Outcome 6 (UNDP and UNEP implemented) Improved management of transboundary freshwater and marine ecosystems	<i>Indicator 11:</i> % of the portfolio reports either incorporation of Nexus considerations, conjunctive management, blue economy approaches or transboundary MSP approaches in their implementation	Previous phases of IW:LEARN (and LME:LEARN) have built on the growing experience to implement transboundary water management, but the needs are growing and without continuous development and upgrade the future challenges would not be met	50% of the portfolio reports either incorporation of Nexus considerations, conjunctive management, blue economy approaches or transboundary MSP approaches in their implementation	75% of the portfolio reports either incorporation of Nexus considerations, conjunctive management, blue economy approaches or transboundary MSP approaches in their implementation
	<i>Indicator 12:</i> Number of LME's report enhanced collaboration with Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies	Lack of satisfactory collaboration between Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies at the basin levels	2 LMEs report enhanced collaboration with Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies incorporating also the Source-to-Sea approach	5 LMEs report enhanced collaboration with Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies incorporating also the Source-to-Sea approach
Outputs to achieve Outcome 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Toolbox platform identifying water-energy-food-ecosystem models and tools, case studies 2. Three global and/or regional events to promote conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater GEF projects 3. Support to the 2022 World Water Day and World Water Development Report, and the ?Groundwater Summit, the Call to Action on Global Groundwater Sustainability? 4. Two Nexus Roundtables in all GEF regions 5. Practical approach to integrate Marine Spatial Planning into TDA-SAP process and respective training materials and tools 6. At least 3 regional trainings on basic concepts and specific technical issues of MSP 7. At least 3 regional trainings on MSP for Blue Economy in the context of the TDA-SAP process 8. At least 4 Large Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Partner Consultations 9. At least 3 regional ocean governance dialogues 			
Project component 5	Mobilize Public and Private Partnership to Enhance Long-term Sustainability of Project Interventions			

<p>Outcome 7 (UNDP implemented)</p> <p>Enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio</p>	<p><i>Indicator 13:</i></p> <p>Number of projects supported in developing a private sector partnership in transboundary water management</p>	<p>Lack of partnership approach tailored specifically to the GEF IW context results in minimal amount of investments to implement the activities</p>	<p>2 projects identify GEF IW:LEARN support as resulting in a private sector partnership</p>	<p>5 projects identify GEF IW:LEARN support as resulting in a private sector partnership</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 7</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel, including two Panel meetings 2. Making the business case for the relevant portfolio of projects 3. Strategy and Action Plan for International Waters on how to engage and partner with the private and public sector 4. 3 regional-level dialogue sessions aimed at private sector engagement, with at least 3 regional Investment Forums to facilitate regional-level networking and partnerships creation between projects and the business community 5. 3 training sessions to portfolio on attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment priorities 			

[1] We have opted here for 'beneficiaries' as persons impacted by the projects. At the start of the project it is 0.

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?

The socioeconomic benefits of the project contribute to freshwater security and better utilisation of marine resources, in particular through expansion of the blue economy opportunities. The Blue Economy identifies the oceans as areas for potential sustainable development of both existing and new sectors, ensuring environmentally and socially sustainable commercial activities such as tourism, extractive industries, renewable energy production, fisheries and aquaculture, coastal development and marine transport, as well as local communities and stakeholders relying on healthy and productive oceans and coasts for their sustainable livelihoods and resilience. The project will develop capacities to foster cooperation with the economic sectors, private or public, in particular through implementation of tools such as Marine Spatial Planning. The project envisages support to partnerships with the private sector, which may result in significant socio economic benefits in a long term.

With regard to both freshwater and marine ecosystems, the project will also seek to identify the investment opportunities, in particular those that could be integrated in the Strategic Action programmes. This identification of opportunities forms a critical part of the project's private sector engagement activity, which envisions leveraging such partnerships to deliver socioeconomic benefits by attracting private sector investments in SAP delineated priorities. The ultimate result of these partnerships, leveraged by this project, will be socioeconomic benefits and the national and local levels.

The project also includes a unique component addressing knowledge management across all GEF focal area investments in Small Island Developing States. SIDS are a recognized classification of countries based on shared socio-economic development constraints, including small population, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, and excessive dependence on international trade. The growth and development of SIDS is also often hindered by high transportation and communication costs, disproportionately expensive public administration, and infrastructure due to their small size, and little to no opportunity to create economies of scale. The knowledge generated from past and current GEF SIDS investments are an important resource to inform achievement of national sustainable development goals, including the priorities of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway).

Awareness, knowledge and capacities of civil society, government institutions and the private sector will also increase as a consequence of the different communication, knowledge generation and management instruments of the project. The project's overall knowledge management approaches, tested over many years, will help leverage socioeconomic benefits at national/local levels as the sharing of lessons-learned helps other GEF IW investments in facilitating recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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
Low			

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.

Excerpt from [2021 SESP Guidance Note](#)

7. Projects that consist **solely** of any of the following functions or activities will be **exempt** from the screening requirement:
- a. UNDP serves as Administrative Agent;
 - b. Preparation and dissemination of reports, documents and communication materials;
 - c. Organization of an event, workshop, training;²
 - d. Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences;
 - e. Partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks; and/or
 - f. Global/regional projects with no country-level activities (e.g. activities such as knowledge management, inter-governmental processes);
 - g. Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects.
8. The exemption criteria apply when they comprise the entire scope of the project, not just one component. For projects that meet the SESP exemption criteria, Project Developers indicate in the SESP Tool that the SESP is not required and indicate the reason for the exemption. The SESP exemption is recorded in the project Design Stage QA Assessment Rating Tool.

Simple Method for Visualizing/Determining Exemption

Complete this table for the project under consideration; if even one activity does not logically fall under any criterion, then the project is not exempt from the SESP. In that case, the SESP must then be prepared to capture the environmental and/or social risks associated with all projects activities (with a focus on those outside these criteria).

For projects that are exempt ? i.e. all activities can logically be placed under one or more criteria ? the completed table can be used to structure or guide the justification for the exemption. e.g. ?All outputs in project Component X involve the organization of training (exemption criterion c), and no other activities. All outputs in Component Y?? (etc.).

Note that not all criteria must be met for a project to be exempt.

<i>SESP Exemption Criteria</i>	<i>Project Outputs/Activities</i>
a. UNDP serves as Administrative Agent	
b. Preparation and dissemination of reports, documents and communication materials	
c. Organization of an event, workshop, training	
d. Strengthening capacities of partners to participate in international negotiations and conferences	

e. Partnership coordination (including UN coordination) and management of networks	
f. Global/regional projects with no country-level activities	All outputs in project Component 1 (sub-components 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4), Component 2 (sub-components 2.1, 2.2, 2.3), Component 3 (sub-components 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4), Component 4 (sub-components 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4) and Component 5 (sub-components 5.1, 5.2, 5.3) concern a global project with no country-level activities. The project should be considered thus as SESP-exempt.
g. Development Effectiveness projects and Institutional Effectiveness projects.	

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Module

Submitted

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).

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): 6, 14				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): Not Applicable				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 20 indicators)	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
Project Objective: Towards a more impactful GEF portfolio: facilitating replication of good practice across GEF International Waters projects,	<i>Indicator 1 (Mandatory):</i> Indicator #11: Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (individual people)[1]	0	1000 females, 1000 males	2000 females, 2000 males

<p>including projects across all focal areas in Small Island Developing States, working in collaboration with development partners, supporting the delivery of training information management, providing programmatic guidance and facilitating partnership building.</p>	<p><i>Indicator 2</i> (GEF Core Indicator):</p> <p><i>Indicator #7:</i> Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>Project component 1:</p>	<p>Provide Targeted Knowledge Sharing and Results Showcasing Across Projects and Development Partners (Through Face-to-Face Dialogue and Training) to Advance Transboundary Water Management in All IW Focal Area Ecosystems</p>			
<p>Outcome 1 (UNDP implemented)</p> <p>Enhanced portfolio and development partner capacity at the national, regional and global levels, and improved portfolio-wide project performance</p>	<p><i>Indicator 3:</i></p> <p>Number of IW projects indicate at least 1 enhanced management or governance approach following workshops / IWC / twinning</p>	<p>Partial progress of up-take of knowledge from training, twinning, IWC over time</p>	<p>20 IW projects indicate at least 1 enhanced management or governance approach after attending workshops/IWC/twinning</p>	<p>60 IW projects indicate at least 1 enhanced management or governance approach after attending workshops/IWC/twinning</p>
	<p><i>Indicator 4:</i></p> <p>Basins have enhanced co-operation or thematic knowledge as a result of IWL activities</p>	<p>Current cooperation between basins on an ad-hoc basis</p>	<p>2 Basins have enhanced cooperation or thematic knowledge as a result of IWL</p>	<p>4 Basins have enhanced cooperation or thematic knowledge as a result of IWL</p>

Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences 10 and 11 for GEF wide portfolio of IW projects 2. Training strategy to address GEF IW portfolio learning gaps activity 3. Training modules on cross-cutting issues 4. 6 regional training workshops for GEF IW projects and development partners on cross-cutting themes 5. 3 structured and iterative twinning exchange programs 6. 6 ad-hoc twinning exchange programs 7. 3 regional transboundary and 2 thematic dialogues 			
Outcome 2 (UNDP implemented) Increased global awareness of GEF results and increased GEF Partnerships beyond the portfolio	<i>Indicator 5:</i> GEF IW projects have increased visibility at key global dialogue events	On average, small increase in interest for sessions beyond GEF IW community	2 projects report new project partners as a result of global dialogue participation	6 projects report new project partners as a result of global dialogue participation
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6 sessions in key global events to showcase GEF IW results, build partnerships and facilitate cooperation 			
Project component 2	Support the Communication and Replication of Portfolio Results and Experiences			
Outcome 3 (UNDP implemented) Increased experience sharing and replication of	<i>Indicator 6:</i> % of projects offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines	50% of projects offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines	75% of projects utilizing r offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines	85% of projects offering a website consistent with the GEF IW Website Guidelines

<p>successes within and across and beyond the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced understanding of GEF IW project interventions beyond the portfolio</p>	<p><i>Indicator 7:</i> % of projects communicating results (via project profile, communications product or experience/results note) and through mainstream media</p>	<p>23% of projects communicate one experience or result via project profile, communications product or website</p> <p>No major stories in mainstream media</p>	<p>At least 50% of projects communicate one experience or result via project profile, communications product or website</p> <p>One (1) story or news on the work of the portfolio featured in a mainstream media channel (TV, website, radio/podcast, print)</p>	<p>100% of projects communicate one experience or result via project profile, communications product or website</p> <p>Three (3) stories or news on the work of the portfolio featured in a mainstream media channel (TV, website, radio/podcast, print)</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Up-to-date and enhanced IW:LEARN web platform (IWLEARN.NET, Spatial Lab, IW:LEARN website solutions, including the LMEHub) 2. 50 new layers and 20 maps added to the Spatial Lab 3. 48 issues of Portfolio Bulletin 4. Four regional workshops (two for LAC and Africa/Indian Ocean on ICT/DIM topics, two for Asia and Africa/Indian Ocean on project communications) and ten Webinars tackling innovative tools and best practices in ICT, data and info management, social media, and communications organized 5. New reference materials on project communications, DIM and website management in IWLEARN.NET 6. Roster of communications specialists, environmental journalists and media outlets 7. Three new webpages in iwlearn.net, namely for SIDS, Nexus and Project Communications 			
<p>Project component 3</p>	<p>Deliver Intra and Inter-Regional Knowledge Management Across Focal Areas in Small Island Developing States to Improve Portfolio Performance</p>			
<p>Outcome 4 (UNDP and UNEP implemented)</p> <p>Enhanced global collaboration and communication among Small Island Developing States</p>	<p><i>Indicator 8:</i> Number of SIDS that establish new management and governance approaches</p>	<p>Progress of up-take of knowledge from training, twinning in SIDS related projects</p>	<p>5 new management and governance approaches established or replicated from one SIDS to another</p>	<p>10 new management and governance approaches established or replicated from one SIDS to another</p>

Outcome 6 (UNDP and UNEP implemented) Improved management of transboundary freshwater and marine ecosystems	<i>Indicator 11:</i> % of the portfolio reports either incorporation of Nexus considerations, conjunctive management, blue economy approaches or transboundary MSP approaches in their implementation	Previous phases of IW:LEARN (and LME:LEARN) have built on the growing experience to implement transboundary water management, but the needs are growing and without continuous development and upgrade the future challenges would not be met	50% of the portfolio reports either incorporation of Nexus considerations, conjunctive management, blue economy approaches or transboundary MSP approaches in their implementation	75% of the portfolio reports either incorporation of Nexus considerations, conjunctive management, blue economy approaches or transboundary MSP approaches in their implementation
	<i>Indicator 12:</i> Number of LME's report enhanced collaboration with Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies	Lack of satisfactory collaboration between Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies at the basin levels	2 LMEs report enhanced collaboration with Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies incorporating also the Source-to-Sea approach	5 LMEs report enhanced collaboration with Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries or River Basin Management bodies incorporating also the Source-to-Sea approach
Outputs to achieve Outcome 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Toolbox platform identifying water-energy-food-ecosystem models and tools, case studies 2. Three global and/or regional events to promote conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater GEF projects 3. Support to the 2022 World Water Day and World Water Development Report, and the ?Groundwater Summit, the Call to Action on Global Groundwater Sustainability? 4. Two Nexus Roundtables in all GEF regions 5. Practical approach to integrate Marine Spatial Planning into TDA-SAP process and respective training materials and tools 6. At least 3 regional trainings on basic concepts and specific technical issues of MSP 7. At least 3 regional trainings on MSP for Blue Economy in the context of the TDA-SAP process 8. At least 4 Large Marine Ecosystem and Coastal Partner Consultations 9. At least 3 regional ocean governance dialogues 			
Project component 5	Mobilize Public and Private Partnership to Enhance Long-term Sustainability of Project Interventions			

<p>Outcome 7 (UNDP implemented)</p> <p>Enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio</p>	<p><i>Indicator 13:</i></p> <p>Number of projects supported in developing a private sector partnership in transboundary water management</p>	<p>Lack of partnership approach tailored specifically to the GEF IW context results in minimal amount of investments to implement the activities</p>	<p>2 projects identify GEF IW:LEARN support as resulting in a private sector partnership</p>	<p>5 projects identify GEF IW:LEARN support as resulting in a private sector partnership</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 7</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel, including two Panel meetings 2. Making the business case for the relevant portfolio of projects 3. Strategy and Action Plan for International Waters on how to engage and partner with the private and public sector 4. 3 regional-level dialogue sessions aimed at private sector engagement, with at least 3 regional Investment Forums to facilitate regional-level networking and partnerships creation between projects and the business community 5. 3 training sessions to portfolio on attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment priorities 			

^[1] We have opted here for 'beneficiaries' as persons impacted by the projects. At the start of the project it is 0.

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).

Project Information	STAP Response	PPG Response
<p>STAP Overall Assessment</p>	<p>Minor issues to be considered during project design: STAP welcomes the project from UNEP and UNDP to support portfolio coordination within and beyond the International Waters Focal area through IW:Learn. Overall, STAP feels that the project design is well articulated, with clearly defined components, and evidence of building upon earlier phases. There is an appropriate selection of new areas of thematic emphasis. However, further work is needed to specify quantifiable outcomes and pathways to achieving these, along with recognition of substantial barriers in the broader context, especially regarding policy and private investment.</p>	<p>Quantifiable outcomes have been defined in the Project Results Framework.</p>

<p>Is the baseline identified clearly?</p>	<p>Adequate with reference to SDGs; for full project development would be good to describe science base on status of transboundary marine and freshwater resource</p>	<p>The IW:LEARN's purpose is to strengthen transboundary waters management. The complementary TWAP reports provide adequate description of the science base</p>
<p>Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?</p>	<p>Only at output level; additional work required to provide basis for quantifying contribution to outcomes, e.g., global awareness of results, improved management of transboundary resources, replication of successes. In sum, need to show how the contribution of IW:Learn activities towards scaling will be measured.</p>	<p>The project main aim is to strengthen the IW portfolio performance by providing a suite of tools, methods and approaches, which are supposed to change/improve transboundary waters management in a long term. This is the process which has started with the first phase and will continue in its forthcoming, the fifth, phase. Assisting projects with its resources, it is providing the enabling conditions for improved transboundary waters management in a long term. The project has proven to be the major driving force in this respect.</p>

<p>What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?</p>	<p>Sequencing not well defined; links among the components implied</p>	<p>Sequencing described in the timeline table. Links among components presented in the Theory of Change.</p>
<p>Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions</p>	<p>Assumptions need to be made explicit</p>	<p>Assumptions defined in the Risk Matrix</p>
<p>Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?</p>	<p>Notes adaptations from past phases</p>	<p>Adaptive management principles are implicit to the project management. (for example, adapting to the impacts of Covid-19 on project implementation, see section numerous section in the project document where actions to be taken due to COVID 19 are proposed)</p>
<p>Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits, and are they measurable?</p>	<p>Yes global, but meaningful measurement is lacking.</p>	<p>As this is long-term knowledge management project that will support overall GEF IW in creating an improved enabling environment for transboundary waters management, global and direct environmental benefits are not possible to calculate within the limited project time frame.</p>

Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment?	Difficult to evaluate, because of lack of specification on measurement of outcomes	While exact cost-benefit analysis of the project cannot be made, the terminal evaluations of the previous phases have assessed the project's cost as commensurate to its results. Similar principles as in previous phases have been applied to this phase as well.
Are the global environmental benefits explicitly defined?	yes, in reference to IW focal area goals; but meaningful measurement of actual advances in transboundary management would be much more convincing	See above
Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?	Mechanisms and measures for private and public sector scaling need to be defined.	Component 5 of the project is dealing with scaling up role of private sector engagement in transboundary water management
Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?	Very generic. Scoping required to assess key CSOs, research institutes, and private sector networks / platforms.	Done
What are the stakeholders' roles, and how will their combined roles contribute to robust project design, to achieving global environmental outcomes, and to lessons learned and knowledge?	Poorly addressed.	Stakeholder roles described in detail in the project document.
Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?	Recognition of importance of measures addressing empowerment and inclusion, complementing sex-disaggregated measurement of outcomes (the latter is a bare minimum expectation).	This aspect has been elaborated in detail in the project document.
Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control?	Inadequate. Risks are identified related to direct implementation but these should be supplemented by risks addressing the wider environment in which scaling needs to occur. These include barriers to scaling of impact related to policies, private investment, etc.	Expanded in the risk matrix.

Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed?	No	Not relevant to a portfolio knowledge sharing project.
What technical and institutional capacity, and information, will be needed to address climate risks and resilience enhancement measures?	Needs addressing.	Addressed through respective project components.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

COUNTRY	COMMENT	RESPONSE
Denmark	Project may be the most efficient if focused on beneficiaries from ODA-eligible countries.	They are the primary focus of the project.
	Project to consider reporting the project's direct contribution to the SDGs, by including IW's contribution to the indicators of relevant SDG-targets, while we acknowledge the difficult and often subjective assessments which are necessary to achieve this.	IW:LEARN's contribution to long term SDG 14 and 6 implementation progress has been strengthened.
	The proposed budget does not include costs for each output.	This has been done in the prodoc
	Indicators, targets and baselines are missing on output levels in the PIF.	This has been done in the PRF

Denmark&Norway	<p>This new phase of IW:LEARN fully incorporates the goals and activities of LME:LEARN. LME: LEARN is ending and, as far as we are aware, not being renewed, with the view that LME activities would be folded into this new phase of IW:LEARN. It appears that this is covered under project objective #4, but we would have liked to see this more explicitly stated.</p>	<p>The budget is limited and there is not much room to expand the LMEs component. However, it indirectly exists in Components 1,3 and 5.</p>
Germany	<p>Proposal should elaborate further on the choice of its focal point in project component 3 (Coordination and Knowledge Management in Small Island Developing States) and the specificities of operating in SIDS (as opposed to e.g. LDCs).</p>	<p>Lead agencies in Component 3 of the project are UNDP and UNEP, while partners are, among other, UN DESA, UNCTAD, UNESCO, etc.</p>

	Proposal should be more specific about the potential partners mentioned in the respective project components, the targeting of their knowledge exchange, and the complementarity with existing information management progress	The prodoc has expanded on this issue.
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**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: 150,000			
<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>
Component A: Preparatory Technical Studies and Review	96,000	96,000	0
Component B. Formulation of the UNDP-GEF Project Document, CEO Endorsement Request, and Mandatory and Project Specific Annexes	20,500	20,500	0
Component C. Validation Workshop and Report	33,500	33,500	0
Total	150,000	150,000	0

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

N/A Global Project

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (US\$eq.)								Total (US\$eq.)	Responsible Entity [Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency][1]	
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Component 5	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC			
		Sub-component 1.1	Sub-component 2.1	Sub-component 3.1	Sub-component 4.1	Sub-component 5.1						
Furniture/Equipment	Communication & Audio-Visual Equipment (USD 10,000): Use of communication facilities in the head office and in the field, and supplies such as PCs and printers									10,000	10,000	UNESCO-IOC
Contractual Services – Company	Contractual services – organizations (USD 709,820): Contracts for the execution of the International Waters Conferences (1.1), regional workshops (1.2), Implementing Partner Agreements with UNECE, ICPDR, SIWI, GWP for the execution of Regional Workshop (1.2) and Regional/Global Dialogue activities (1.4)	709,820						709,820			709,820	UNESCO-IOC
Contractual Services – Company	Contractual services – organizations (USD 113,924): Contracts for the execution of the Data and Information Management Component (including website hosting), Implementing Partner Agreements with GRID-Arendal, ICPDR, for the execution of Website Toolkit and Guidelines (2.2), project communications and publications (2.3)		113,924					113,924			113,924	UNESCO-IOC
Contractual Services – Company	Contractual services – organizations (USD 134,740): Contracts for the execution of the SIDS Component (including SIDS Hub (3.2) and SIDS Training Material Development (3.3)			134,740				134,740			134,740	UNESCO-IOC
Contractual Services – Company	Contractual services – organizations (USD 316,500): Contracts for the execution of Component 4 events including Nexus Roundtables (4.1), Groundwater dialogues (4.2), MSP Trainings and TDA-SAP Modifications (4.3), Regional Ocean Dialogue meetings (4.4) as well as Implementing Partner Agreements with GRID-Arendal, IASA, CSS, UNECE (as well as other partners possibly to include IHP-UNESCO, UN-IGRAC, IAEA, OAS, SIWI), for the execution of Component 4 activities				316,500			316,500			316,500	UNESCO-IOC
Contractual Services – Company	Contractual services – organizations (USD 160,000): Contracts for the execution of Component 5 events including PS Advisory Panel meetings (5.1), PS Engagement Roundtables (5.2), as well as Implementing Partner Agreements with WWF, IUCN, TNC and UNECE						160,000	160,000			160,000	UNESCO-IOC
International Consultants	International Consultants (USD 568,696): This includes international consultants working on project activities, including PCU staff, plus midterm review and terminal evaluation (MTR/TE) consultants. As described in the TORs, the Project Coordinator/Deputy Project Coordinator will provide strong technical advice and guidance to the implementation of project Component One by providing specific content interventions to IW-LEARN face-to-face events (to supplement partner contributions). Moreover, the PCU will require a consultant to help with strategic issues concerning the IWCs, specifically politically and also in terms of securing sponsorship. Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager (CTA/PM) (78 weeks @ USD 4,153.85/week) (Project Appointment P-4) Deputy Project Coordinator (52 weeks @ USD 3538.46) (Project Appointment P-3) IWC10 Coordinator (121,39 days @ USD 500)	568,696						568,696			568,696	UNESCO-IOC
International Consultants	International Consultants (\$413,224): This includes international consultants working on project activities, including PCU staff. As described in the TORs, the Project Coordinator/Deputy Project Coordinator will provide strong technical advice and guidance to the implementation of project Component Two by providing specific content interventions to IW-LEARN face-to-face events (to supplement partner contributions) as well as website content management. Moreover, the PCU will require consultants to help with the management of website and associated service infrastructure, communications and content and ICT training support. Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager (CTA/PM) (50 weeks @ USD 4153.85/week) (Project Appointment P-4) IT and Knowledge Management Consultants (431 days @ 500 USD)		413,224					413,224			413,224	UNESCO-IOC
International Consultants	International Consultants (USD 64,432): This includes international consultants working on project activities, including PCU staff, plus midterm review and terminal evaluation (MTR/TE) consultants. As described in the TORs, the Project Coordinator/Deputy Project Coordinator will provide strong technical advice and guidance to the implementation of project Component Three by providing specific content interventions to IW-LEARN face-to-face events (to supplement partner contributions). Moreover, the PCU will require a consultant to help with coordination of the SIDS component. Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager (CTA/PM) (11 weeks @ USD 4,153.85/week) (Project Appointment P-4) SIDS Component Coordinator (37,48 days @ 500 USD)			64,432				64,432			64,432	UNESCO-IOC

International Consultants	International Consultants (\$565,608.00): This includes international consultants working on project activities, including PCU staff, plus midterm review and terminal evaluation (MTR/TE) consultants. As described in the TORs, the Project Coordinator/Deputy Project Coordinator will provide strong technical advice and guidance to the implementation of project Component Four by providing specific content interventions to IW:LEARN face-to-face events (to supplement partner contributions). Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager (CTA/PM) (69 weeks @ USD 4153.85/week) (Project Appointment P-4) Deputy Project Coordinator (78.74 weeks @ USD 3538.46) (Project Appointment P-3)					565,608		565,608			565,608	UNESCO-IOC
International Consultants	International Consultants (\$290,664): This includes international consultants working on project activities, including PCU staff, plus midterm review and terminal evaluation (MTR/TE) consultants. As described in the TORs, the Project Coordinator/Deputy Project Coordinator will provide strong technical advice and guidance to the implementation of project Component Five by providing coordination support to private sector engagement activities. Deputy Project Coordinator (76 weeks @ USD 3538.46) (Project Appointment P-3) Private Sector Engagement Coordinator (43 days @ 500 USD)							290,664			290,664	UNESCO-IOC
International Consultants	International Consultants (\$60,000): Monitoring and Evaluation Component Plan - This includes international consultants working as independent evaluators as part of the project's M&E Plan. M&E Plan: Independent Evaluation Mid-term and Terminal Consultants (120 days @ 500 USD)								60,000		60,000	UNESCO-IOC
International Consultants	International Consultants (\$16,576): This includes international consultants working on project management support activities, including PCU staff. Chief Technical Adviser/Project Manager (CTA/PM) (3 weeks @ USD 4153.85/week) (Project Appointment P-4) Deputy Project Coordinator (1.18 weeks @ USD 3538.46) (Project Appointment P-3)									16,576	16,576	UNESCO-IOC

Local Consultants	Local Consultants (USD 128,684): Including experts working on project activities and PCU staff working on program, finance and event assistance activities. Project Assistant (52 weeks @ USD 1,357.62) (Project Appointment G-5) - Project assistant will provide technical support to the execution of all face-to-face events (regional dialogues, regional workshops, twinings, GEF International Waters Conference), including organizing participation, facilitating content and contributing to the overall learning agenda Local consultancies for event management support and communications (USD 58,088)	128,684								128,684		UNESCO-IOC
Local Consultants	Local Consultants (USD 51,852): Including PCU staff working on program, finance and event assistance activities. Project Assistant (38.2 weeks @ USD 1,357.62) (Project Appointment G-5) - Project assistant will provide technical support to the execution of all face-to-face events (trainings on ICT and communications), including organizing participation, facilitating content and contributing to the overall learning agenda		51,852							51,852		UNESCO-IOC
Local Consultants	Local Consultants (USD 25,928): Including PCU staff working on program, finance and event assistance activities. Project Assistant (19.1 weeks @ USD 1,357.62) (Project Appointment G-5) - Project assistant will provide technical support to the execution of all face-to-face events (SIDS regional training), including organizing participation, facilitating content and contributing to the overall learning agenda			25,928						25,928		UNESCO-IOC
Local Consultants	Local Consultants (\$142,924): Including PCU staff working on project management support and communications. Project Assistant (100 weeks @ USD 1357.62) (Project Appointment G-5) Communications Consultant (11.77 days @ USD 500)								142,924		142,924	UNESCO-IOC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Trainings/workshops (USD 270,000): Participation of project beneficiaries in the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (1.1), Regional Workshops (1.2), Project Twinning (1.3) and Global/Regional Dialogues (1.4)	270,000								270,000		UNESCO-IOC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Trainings/workshops (USD 41,000): Participation of project beneficiaries in the data and information management, as well as communications training workshops (2.2, 2.3)		41,000							41,000		UNESCO-IOC

Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Trainings/workshops (USD 104,904): Participation of project beneficiaries in the SIDS Twinning (3.1) and SIDS regional/global training workshops (3.4)				104,904				104,904		104,904	UNESCO-IOC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Trainings/workshops (USD 356,888): Participation of project beneficiaries in the Nexus Roundtables (4.1), Groundwater Dialogues (4.2), MSP/Blue Economy Trainings/Meetings (4.3), Regional Ocean Dialogues (4.4) and Annual Marine and Coastal Consultations (4.4)				356,888				356,888		356,888	UNESCO-IOC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Trainings/workshops (USD 100,336): Participation of project beneficiaries in the PS Advisory Panel events (5.1), PS Roundtables (5.2) and other activities of the component							100,336	100,336		100,336	UNESCO-IOC
Travel	Travel (540,000): Travel by consultants, beneficiaries and PCU staff on supporting component related activities (including for Project Steering Committee meeting participation and PCU oversight of component technical activities) is included, except for the travel cost of the Project Coordination Unit when performing project management tasks (Project Steering Committee meetings).	40,000							40,000		40,000	UNESCO-IOC
Travel	Travel (520,000): Travel by consultants, beneficiaries and PCU staff on supporting component related activities (including for Project Steering Committee meeting participation and PCU oversight of component technical activities) is included, except for the travel cost of the Project Coordination Unit when performing project management tasks (Project Steering Committee meetings).		20,000						20,000		20,000	UNESCO-IOC

Travel	Travel (USD 20,000): Travel by consultants, beneficiaries and PCU staff on supporting component related activities (including for Project Steering Committee meeting participation and PCU oversight of component technical activities) is included, except for the travel cost of the Project Coordination Unit when performing project management tasks (Project Steering Committee meetings).				20,000				20,000		20,000	UNESCO-IOC
Travel	Travel (USD 20,000): Travel by consultants, beneficiaries and PCU staff on supporting component related activities (including for Project Steering Committee meeting participation and PCU oversight of component technical activities) is included, except for the travel cost of the Project Coordination Unit when performing project management tasks (Project Steering Committee meetings).					20,000			20,000		20,000	UNESCO-IOC
Travel	Travel (USD 20,000): Travel by consultants, beneficiaries and PCU staff on supporting component related activities (including for Project Steering Committee meeting participation and PCU oversight of component technical activities) is included, except for the travel cost of the Project Coordination Unit when performing project management tasks (Project Steering Committee meetings).						20,000		20,000		20,000	UNESCO-IOC
Travel	Travel (520,000): Monitoring & Evaluation Component-Travel by beneficiaries and project steering committee members for participation in the Project Steering Committee meeting.							-	20,000		20,000	UNESCO-IOC
Travel	Travel (USD 10,000): Travel by consultants, beneficiaries and PCU staff on supporting project management activities (including for Project Steering Committee meeting participation and PCU oversight of component technical activities) is included, except for the travel cost of the Project Coordination Unit when performing project management tasks (Project Steering Committee meetings).									10,000	10,000	UNESCO-IOC
Office Supplies	Supplies (USD 30,000): Includes office consumables and production of various project outreach materials								-	30,000	30,000	UNESCO-IOC
Other Operating Costs	Miscellaneous (USD 20,000): Support for in-house executing agency costs, in particular to fund expenses associated with the Annual Marine and Coastal Consultations				20,000				20,000		20,000	UNESCO-IOC
Other Operating Costs	Professional services - Audit costs \$12,000 (\$3,000 per year)									12,000	12,000	UNESCO-IOC

Other Operating Costs	Miscellaneous expenses (USD 20,000): Includes smaller items and printing/design costs for in-house executing agency production								-	20,000	20,000	UNESCO-IOC
Grand Total		1,717,200	640,000	350,004	1,278,996	571,000			4,557,200	80,000	241,500	4,878,700

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).