



Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO-IP)

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11349

Countries

Global (Grenada, Jordan, Madagascar, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Viet Nam)

Project Name

Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO-IP)

Agencies

FAO, ADB, CAF, UNDP, CI, EBRD, UNEP, World Bank, IADB

Date received by PM

10/17/2023

Review completed by PM

Program Manager

Taylor Henshaw

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

PFD

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Program Information

a) Is the Program Information table correctly filled, including specifying adequate executing partners?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Please enter Program Commitment Deadline date as 9 August 2025

GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi Focal Area:	Program Commitment Deadline:	
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(2) Please considering changing the program duration to 72 months to match duration of other GEF-8 IPs.

The child projects are inconsistent in duration. Some are 48 months, some are 60 months, one is 84 months. Ideally the national child projects are 60 months. The one 84-month national child project (Mexico) must be scaled to match or under the duration of the program. Please revise accordingly.

(3) Please upload Taxonomy Worksheet table to Annex F field in the submission.

(4) Executing Entities:

(i) UNESCO IOC and GWP are listed as executing entities under the GCP, yet are not included in the general program information as executing entities. Please revise accordingly.

(ii) Executing entity titles are incomplete in the general program information and the child projects. An executing entity titled "Ministry of Environment" or "Water Resources Department" is incomplete. Please ensure the ministry country is included in the title/department ministry and country are included in title.

(5) Other comments on General Child Project Information:

(i) **Jordan:** The Jordan child project is titled "Addressing marine hypoxia in the Gulf of Aqaba by reducing land-based sources of pollution in Jordan". The Annex H table in the submission titles this child project "Addressing marine hypoxia in the Aqaba Bay Large

Marine Ecosystem by reducing land-based sources of pollution in Jordan". Please correct the Annex H title and please ensure the project title in the LOE is correct. Please double check whether Quasi-Government is a drop-down menu choice in the template, otherwise revise accordingly. Define Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) (Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan). Include expanded title in PFD front matter. Define Aqaba Development Corporation (Aqaba Development Corporation, Jordan). Include expanded title in PFD front matter.

(ii) **Madagascar:** Please correct typo: "Madagascar" spelled incorrectly. Type of child project is listed as medium-size. Please change to Full-size project, as the funding envelope is \$12,672,999. Select Clean and Healthy Oceans under Program. Please remove empty line under executing entity. Please remove empty selections under GEF Agency. Define Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), Madagascar).

(iii) **Maldives:** Project duration is 48 months, please consider 60 months to match other child projects. Please remove empty line under executing entity.

(iv) **Trinidad and Tobago:** Please change country name to Trinidad and Tobago. Project duration is 48 months, please consider 60 months. Please remove empty selections under GEF Agency. Following project title include "Trinidad and Tobago" in brackets so reader knows where this national project is taking place. Define Ministry of Public Utilities (Ministry of Public Utilities, Trinidad and Tobago).

(v) **Venezuela:** Please remove empty line under executing entity. Multi-Focal Area is listed as GEF Focal Area. Please include specific focal areas rather than MFA. Following project title include "Venezuela" in brackets so reader knows where this national project is taking place. Define Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC) (Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism (MINEC), Venezuela).

(vi) **Sri Lanka:** Define Ministry of Environment (Ministry of Environment, Sri Lanka).

(vii) **Peru:** Define Ministry of Environment (Ministry of Environment, Peru). Multi-Focal Area is listed as GEF Focal Area. Please include specific focal areas rather than MFA. Please remove empty line under executing entity.

(viii) **Moldova:** Child project duration is not listed. Please populate and consider 60 months. Define Ministry of Environment (Ministry of Environment, Moldova). Multi-Focal Area is listed as GEF Focal Area. Please include specific focal areas rather than MFA. Please remove empty line under executing entity. Please remove empty selections under GEF Agency.

(ix) **Mexico:** The overall program duration is 72 months at most. Please reduce the 84 month child project duration and consider 60 months to align with other child projects. Define Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER) (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development (SADER), Mexico). Multi-Focal Area is listed as GEF Focal Area. Please include specific focal areas rather than MFA.

(x) **Thailand:** Define Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Pollution Control Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand). Please remove empty selections under GEF Agency. Correct Trust Fund to GEF TF

(xi) **Panama:** The project title does not appropriately reflect the scope of the child project. Please revise/secure new LOE reflecting appropriate title. Please consider 60 months for child project duration to align with other child projects.

(xii) **GCP:** Please separate executing entities into individual lines and identify corresponding executing type. Please remove empty line under executing entity. "Multiple" is listed as GEF Focal Area. Please include specific focal areas rather than "Multiple"

(xiii) **Grenada:** Multi-Focal Area is listed as GEF Focal Area. Please include specific focal areas rather than MFA. . Following project title include "Grenada" in brackets so reader knows where this national project is taking place. Please remove empty selections under GEF Agency

(xiv) **Vietnam:** Define Department of Water Resources Management (Department of Water Resources Management, Ministry of _____, Vietnam). Please remove empty line under executing entity. International Waters is selected as Focal Area, however, Biodiversity is also providing funding. Please include Biodiversity in Focal Area field.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

- (1) Addressed.
- (2) Addressed.
- (3) Addressed.
- (4) (i) Addressed.
(ii) Addressed.
- (5) (i) Not responded to in review sheet. Addressed.
(ii) Not responded to in review sheet. Addressed.
(iii) Addressed.
(iv) Addressed.
(v) Addressed.
(vi) Addressed.
(vii) Addressed.
(viii) Addressed.
(ix) Addressed.
(x) Addressed.
(xi) Addressed.
(xii) Addressed.
(xiii) Addressed.

(xiv) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 22Nov:

Noted

FAO response 17Nov:

1) Program Commitment Deadline date as 9 August 2025.

2) Program duration to 72 months to match the duration of other GEF-8 IPs. During PPG we will reassess, in consultation with GEF SEC and the Child Projects' teams, if better to decrease to 60 or 66.

Child projects duration aligned with the rest of the CPs (60 months).

3) Taxonomy Worksheet added in the correspondent box in the Portal.

Responses to point 4):

i) UNESCO IOC and GWP added as executing agencies in the PFD in the Portal

ii) Ministry country is included in the title/department ministry and country are included in titles.

iii) Maldives: Project duration updated to 60 months to match other child projects. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comment on the empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted..

iv) Country name changed to Trinidad and Tobago. Project duration is now 60 months. Trinidad and Tobago added after the project title. Ministry of Public Utilities was defined as Ministry of Public Utilities, Trinidad and Tobago. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comment on the empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted.

v) Venezuela: Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal. Kindly note that the selection Multi Focal Area cannot be changed in the Portal. In any case, the source of funding of the CP is from multiple Focal Areas. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comments on the MFA and empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted.

vi) Sri Lanka: Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal.

vii) Peru: Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal. Kindly note that the selection Multi Focal Area cannot be changed in the Portal. In any case, the source of funding of the CP is from multiple Focal Areas. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comments on the MFA and empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted.

viii) Moldova: Child project duration was set to 60 months. Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal. Kindly note that the selection Multi Focal Area cannot be changed in the Portal. In any case, the source of funding of the CP is from multiple Focal Areas. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comments on the MFA and empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted.

ix) Mexico: Project duration set to 60 months to align with other child projects. Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal. Kindly note that the selection Multi Focal Area cannot be changed in the Portal. In any case, the source of funding of the CP is from multiple Focal Areas. If the comment on the MFA referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted.

x) Thailand: Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comments referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted. Trust Fund corrected to GEF TF

xi) Panama: The project title was changed to Reducing coastal pollution in the Parita Bay in Panama. The duration of the project was set to 60 months.

xii) GCP: All the executing entities were entered in the portal as individual record. The corresponding executing type is identified. Kindly note that the selection Multi Focal is the only one available in the Portal. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comments on the MFA and empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted.

xiii) Grenada: Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal. Kindly note that the selection Multi Focal Area cannot be changed in the Portal. In any case, the source of funding of the CP is from multiple Focal Areas. We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comments on the MFA and empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted. Trust Fund corrected to GEF TF.

xiv) Vietnam: Country name and identification of the Ministries were added to identify better the CPs information in the portal. Kindly note that the selection Multi Focal Area is the only option in the Portal. In any case, the source of funding of the CP is from multiple Focal Areas.

We cannot see any empty lines in the portal entries for this CP. If the comments on the MFA and empty lines referred to the PDF of the Child Project uploaded as part of Annex H, this was reviewed and reformatted.

b) Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) The Program indicates no contribution to the Climate Change Mitigation Rio Marker. Please consider revising, given some of the program objectives / results areas relate to this aspect, as also supported by the use of Climate Change Focal Area resources.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 22Nov:

Noted

FAO response 17Nov:

Done. Climate Change Mitigation Rio Marker revised and set to 1. FAO response 17Nov:

2. Program Summary

a) Does the program summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the program objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected outcomes?

b) Is the program's geographical coverage explicit, as well as the covered sectors? Does the summary explain how the program is transformative or innovative?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Partly, please address the following:

(i) Program Objective: What metric will be used to measure the degree to which the program has catalyzed transformation? Please consider recasting the program objective statement in a way that reflects that the program will work to establish the enabling environment to curb coastal pollution (i.e, "To foster the enabling environment to curb the inflow of land-based

pollution into the marine environment, thereby accelerating sustainable blue economic development in Large Marine Ecosystems").

The program objective indicates the program will be "curbing coastal pollution" but the indicators listed under Program Outcomes do not seem to track this aspect. Please consider adding an indicator (under Outcome 3?) that speaks to this part of the program objective.

Please consider these suggestions as the IP will be evaluated against its objective at completion.

Please consider revising the "goal" per comment in next section to be more specific. What does addressing hypoxia really mean?

(ii) Problem to be addressed: Please add a bit more detail here to capture the drivers and barriers presented in the Theory of Change. Further, while the approach to deliver on objectives is summarized, the justification for a programmatic approach is not captured to transition from problem to approach. Please expand the summary accordingly, utilizing aspects of paragraphs 80-83.

How will addressing the global challenge through an IP deliver a range of impacts that single investments would not be able to achieve? This is noted elsewhere but should be brought forward to the summary. Briefly present the GEF incremental cost reasoning in the summary.

(iii) The paragraph 2 text states that "The IP primarily targets nitrogen, phosphorous and organic matter released by agri-food and industrial/municipal systems that cause marine eutrophication, hypoxia and harmful algal blooms." Please ensure the cause and effect science here is correct. The text reads as if eutrophication, hypoxia and harmful algal blooms are separate processes and don't have cause/effect relationships.

(iv) The paragraph 2 text states "Severe oxygen loss (hypoxia) is a rapidly expanding and serious environmental threat to the world's ocean, altering millions of square kilometers of healthy coastal ecosystems into barren dead zones". While accurate, this is a bit misleading in the summary. Please ensure the point is made that this IP is not just addressing dead zones, but also areas of low oxygen not (yet) classified as "dead zones".

(v) The text in paragraph 6 is truncated. The paragraph notes that the IP "will ultimately result in the delivery of substantial and enduring GEBs, including at least the following contributions to GEF-8 Core Indicators." However, no specific Core Indicator targets are then listed. Please revise accordingly.

Further, please not the program link with the GEF's Healthy Planet Healthy People approach

(vi) Throughout the text, please consider the phrase "accelerating action to support sustainable blue economies by curbing inflow of land-based pollution into the coastal environment..." rather than "contribute to a sustainable blue economy..."

(viii) Under the paragraph 3 approach, it would be helpful to include the types of stakeholders engaged/benefitting from each component.

(ix) Please adjust Component summaries based on comments in next sections.

(x) Again, please provide clarity on phrasing/sequencing. Component 3 for example mentions "mitigate nutrient pollution, conserve coastal ecosystem integrity and reduce hypoxia". Should it not read "mitigate nutrient pollution thereby reducing hypoxia thereby conserving coastal ecosystem integrity"? Please check submission for sequencing issues.

"This component will focus on promoting and supporting empirically-informed best management practices in agriculture, municipal services, and industry." Please be more specific. Best management practices in agriculture, municipal services and industry to curb land-based pollution into the marine environment?

For Component 2, "It equips stakeholders with the tools and frameworks needed to implement evidence-based, hypoxia-mitigating practices". Please be less absolute. "It aims to/will work to equip stakeholders..."

Similarly, "Financial investments will be focused to support the achievement of improved policy and regulatory framework objectives, including marine hypoxia reduction targets." Perhaps instead, "the program will work to focus financial investments to support..."

For Component 1: "This component will enhance awareness, knowledge and political will required to stimulate action and inform decision-making". Please be more specific. This component will enhance awareness, knowledge and political will required to stimulate action and inform decision-making to curb land-based pollution into the marine environment.

For Component 1: "The component aims to promote a robust governance structure rooted in empirical data". Where does this governance structure sit? Within countries, regionally? Please clarify for the reader.

"This is particularly important for identifying the root causes of marine hypoxia and nutrient pollution." Isn't the root cause of marine hypoxia nutrient pollution? Please clarify this text.

(xi) Since "The IP will strengthen the integrity and functionality of the world's marine environments" and will have biodiversity benefits, please note how the program contributes to the targets under the GBF.

(b) Partly, please address the following:

(i) Paragraph 4. Please note that the program will not only aim to "generate valuable lessons..." but also experiences and best practices and that these will be largely generated through innovation. The reviewer sees generating/capturing and communicating lessons, experiences and best practices as separate and important aspects of scaling.

(ii) In the summary, please highlight the co-financing that the program will leverage.

(iii) Please provide a few sentences on the scope of the child projects, including that there are 14 participating countries from nine LMEs, and in collective terms why these countries were chosen for this program.

*Please correct spelling of Jordan in the LME/Country/GEF Agency table.

**Addressing these comments will further exceed the summary description word count maximum. However, it is important that these elements are captured up front.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) (i) Addressed.

(ii) Addressed.

(iii) Addressed.

(iv) Addressed.

(v) Addressed.

(vi) Addressed.

(viii) Addressed.

(ix) Addressed.

(x) Addressed.

(xi) Addressed.

(b) (i) Addressed.

(ii) Addressed.

(iii) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 22Nov:

Noted

FAO response 17Nov:

In general, the project logical framework has been revised and changed completely. Components, outcomes, outputs, and indicators were redesigned with more precision. Activities were removed from the framework. Gender language, specific outputs and indicators have been added.

Part (a)

i) Program Objective:

The following indicator was added to Component 1:

of LMEs reporting reduced hypoxia risks as a result of transformative change catalyzed by CHO-IP investments and actions. This will be further explored during the PPG with consideration given to indicators measuring:

- Total hectares of coastal marine environment impacted by hypoxia reduced annually; and/or,
- The total amount of nutrient pollution reaching the coastal marine ecosystems reduced annually.

UNESCO IOC will lead the discussions during the PPG phase to determine a realistic way to measure this impact given existing capacities.

Kindly note that in general, the indicators and IP framework reference the establishment and achievement of specific marine hypoxia reduction targets.

The program objective and goal were revised in coordination with GEF SEC. Indicator as described above

ii) Additional information on drivers and barriers added.

Additional information justifying programmatic approach utilizing aspects of paragraphs 80-83 included within the summary.

GEF incremental cost reasoning briefly presented in summary.

iii) The document was revised thoroughly to clarify the "cause and effect science" of nutrient pollution, coastal marine eutrophication, HAB, decomposition, and hypoxia.

iv) Clarified to reflect IP scope as recommended, i.e. CHO IP is not just addressing dead zones, but also areas of low oxygen not yet classified as dead zones.

v) The text in paragraph 6 is now completely revised and different. No truncated text nor incomplete references are visible.

Link and description of GEF's Healthy Planet Healthy People added

vi) The phrase "accelerating action to support sustainable blue economies by curbing inflow of land-based pollution into the coastal environment" was inserted in the text.

viii) Some information regarding stakeholders included. As GEF knows, the time available to develop and complete the PFD after the selection for the Child projects was not enough to map the stakeholders completely. This will be further elucidated during the PPG.

- ix) The Component summaries edited to reflect suggestions and comments in the review.
- x) Sequencing edited and clarified. All the texts pointed out by the review were edited and clarified. New more specific language added following the guidance of GEF SEC.
- xi) Illustrative Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets added..

Part (b)

- (i) The sentence was removed because it not add value. Concepts well discussed in other sections of both summary and main document.
- (ii) A table summarizing the Co-Financing was included in teh summary.
- (iii) Few sentences on the scope of the child projects included.

Spell of Jordan corrected

3 Indicative Program Overview

- a) Is the program objective statement concise, clear and measurable?**
- b) Are the components and outcomes sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the program objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?**
- c) Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and M&E included within the program components and appropriately funded?**
- d) Are the GEF program Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?**
- e) Is the PMC equal to or below 5%? If above 5%, is the justification acceptable?**

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

- (a) (i) Program objective statement: Please see comment above.

Further, the objective in the summary and the objective under Indicative Overview are not congruent. Please revise accordingly.

Summary: "The IP?s objective is to contribute to a sustainable blue economy by curbing inflow of land-based-pollution into the coastal environment, thereby advancing the ecological, social, and economic well-being of countries and Large Marine Ecosystems(LMEs)?

Indicative Overview: "Address marine hypoxic zones by curbing coastal pollution from agriculture, industrial and municipal sources through a combination of policy and regulatory measures, infrastructure investments, and nature-based solutions."

(ii) The program goal can be made more clear and measurable. The stated goal follows the goal stated in the GEF-8 Programming Directions. However, it can be made more precise at this stage on the meaning of "addressing marine hypoxic zones". The idea of the program is really threefold: to prevent new marine hypoxic zones, to halt further oxygen depletion in current hypoxic zones, and to promote innovations to help countries bring dead zones back to life. A clarifying definition of what "addressing marine hypoxia" means, early on in the text, would be useful.

(b) Partly, please address the following:

(i) Components read like outcomes. Please recast component title, starting each title with an action verb (i.e., building, strengthening, bolstering, fostering, promoting...), i.e., Strengthening ____ to _____.

(ii) Outcomes do not read like outcomes. Please recast outcomes using past participle (i.e., "land-based pollution curbed", "collaborative action accelerated", "marine hypoxia reduced". Each of the four outcomes listed try to capture a lot all at once. Please consider multiple outcomes per component and labeling them as Outcome 1.1, Outcome 1.2., etc.

(iii) The Outcomes column asks for outcomes and indicators only in this column. It is fine to include outputs here, but some clarity would be appreciated. Please consider not including the overarching output headings, removing nested sub-outputs, and instead labeling each nested sub-output (letter) as a distinct major program output. Output 1.1., Output 1.2., Output 1.3., etc.

(iv) Please include GEF Core Indicator targets in the Indicator groupings under the Outcomes column

(v) In general, please revisit and sharpen the indicators to ensure they are the most appropriate for measuring the success of each component. Is it possible that some important indicators are missing? Is each output mapped to an indicator?

Indicator "# of LME?s with at least five riparian countries meeting annually to collaboratively reduce coastal zone hypoxia". Please explain why this indicator measures at least five riparian countries meeting. Why not two or more, which is a more pragmatic measurement.

For guidance in this exercise, please review the indicators for the Ecosystem Restoration IP PFD.

(c) No,

(i) Gender: As per guidance, gender issues specifying any differences, gaps or opportunities linked to program objectives have to be elaborated and taken up in component descriptions. There are important gender dimensions related to the following: Output 1.1 (a, b, c), Output 1.2 (b, c, e), Output 2.1 (b), Output 3.2 (a, b), Outcomes 4.2

(a) and 4.3 (a). Please ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in these project components/outputs. On Output 4.1, please ensure incorporation of lessons learned from a gender perspective.

(ii) Knowledge Management and M&E: For clarity and to properly track/match up with the M&E budget line in the table, please separate Knowledge Management and program M&E into separate components. Knowledge management as Component 4 and M&E as Component 5. Please recast outcomes and indicators taking cues from the Ecosystem Restoration IP outcomes and indicators pasted above.

(d) Yes

(e) Yes

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) (i) Addressed.

(ii) Addressed.

(b) (i) Addressed.

(ii) Addressed.

(iii) Addressed.

(iv) Addressed.

(v) Addressed.

(c) (i) Addressed. There are important gender dimensions related to the following: Output 1.1 (a, b, c), Output 1.2 (b, c, e), Output 2.1 (b), Output 3.2 (a, b), Outcomes 4.2 (a) and 4.3 (a). Please ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in the specific descriptions of project outputs. On Output 4.1, please ensure incorporation of lessons learned from a gender perspective.

(ii) Addressed.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(c) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 22Nov:

c) ? Consideration of gender mainstreaming is explicated in Outputs 1.1; 1.2; 2.1; 2.2; 3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4; 4.1; 4.4 (current/latest numbering): references are embedded in the output titles and in the description of Components 1,2 and 3 (new texts have been introduced in Section B1.3).

? Entry points for possible activities on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment are included in the Components description (for instance, paragraphs 139, 169, 185, among others). Activities and sub-activities will be designed in detail during PPG because the PFD does not go to the level of activities but only outcomes and outputs.

? In the phrasing of Output 4.1 it is implied that lessons learned from a gender perspective will be incorporated in the activities leading to a gender-sensitive project M&E system. Moreover, para 126 in the gender section provides further information on this output: "to bridge persisting data gaps, the project will embed sex-disaggregated data collection and the development of gender-responsive indicators in its M&E framework and across all child projects and at the Program level to help measure progress towards women's empowerment and gender equality and social welfare impacts in meaningful and consistent way. The collection and analysis of sex-disaggregated data will help highlight the largely invisible and unacknowledged but important roles that women play in natural resources management and various subsectors of agriculture and help inform gender-transformative interventions. Gender-responsive best practices and collection of lessons learned across the global and child projects will be fine-tuned, with the aim of informing joint gender activities, knowledge sharing and awareness raising interventions. "

FAO response 17Nov:

Part a:

i) and ii) Objective and Goal Statements clarified and changed in coordination with GEF SEC

Part b:

i) Component titles recast to start with an action verb.

ii) Outcomes recast using past participle.

iii) Overarching output headings removed. Each nested sub-output included and numbered as a distinct output.

iv) In agreement with the GEF, the Core Indicator targets summary included before the log frame.

(v) Indicators revisited, trying to respect as much as possible what was determined and vetted during London meetings with STAP, GEF SEC, partner IFI and UN institutions

(FAO/IOC). During the PPG they will be further revised as required, moving to the level of child projects documents.

The outputs have been mapped to indicators.

Indicator "# of LME's Changed to: # of LME's with at least three member countries meeting annually to collaboratively reduce coastal zone hypoxia.

The CHOIP should be driving cooperative action amongst as many countries within each LME as possible to coordinate pollution reduction. However in agreement with GEF SEC the LME target was set to at least w (CLME and BOB LME).

As agreed with partner institutions, having at least 3 ? 5 countries engaged shows participation beyond the countries included within Child Project portfolio.

Could also say "riparian and/or littoral". The point being to not only capture coastal countries but upstream countries contributing pollution (e.g., Mekong and Laos).

On Gender

(i) A detailed gender approach has been included under section "B1.2 Summary Description Programmatic Logic, Causal Reasoning and Transformational Levers". Moreover, both narrative and logframe were revisited, including gender perspective across the Programme components.

(ii) Component 4 now dedicated exclusively to M&E.

KM embedded throughout the Components with a Knowledge Management platform linked to Component 1.

4 Program Outline

A. Program Rationale

a) Is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective and adequately addressed by the program design?

b) Has the role of stakeholders, incl. the private sector and local actors in the system been described and how they will contribute to GEBs and/or adaptation benefits and other program outcomes? Is the private sector seen mainly as a stakeholder or as financier?

c) Is the baseline situation and baseline projects and initiatives well laid out and how the program will build on these?

d) Have lessons learned from previous efforts been considered in the program design?

e) For NGL, is there a brief description of the financial barriers and how the program ? and the proposed financial structure- responds to these financial barriers.

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Description of Current situation:

(i) Please support listed global environmental problems and key drivers of environmental degradation/climate vulnerability with scientific evidence, utilizing brackets and footnotes as appropriate.

(ii) Paragraph 7: "An estimated 50% of warm-water corals, 29% of seagrass meadows, and 30% of coastal wetlands were degraded or lost during the past three decades". Is this a result of nutrient load? Please ensure each point made in this section is directly related to the problem the program seeks to address.

(iii) It would be helpful for an explanation and diagram of the science behind nutrient pollution and hypoxia (including key terms: eutrophication, hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, dead zones).

(iv) Plastics is mentioned in paragraph 8. Please clarify that plastics is not a focus of this IP.

Paragraph 8 states that the program will reduce coastal hypoxia. Please consider "the program will foster the enabling environment to reduce hypoxia in Large Marine Ecosystems", which better matches the listed indicators. There is no program indicator for measured hypoxia reduction.

(v) Please include the DIN load to LMEs maps <https://iwlearn.net/resolveuid/5f88ca74-982a-4686-9101-3f24e0b64d14> or TWAP maps on nutrient loads to help explain the global problem.

(vi) It would be helpful for the reader to understand the definition and benefits of "sustainable blue economy" here. Please include a definition box.

(vii) Barriers: Yes

(viii) Please include INMS in highlighted baseline examples in paragraph 18

(ix) The BMP acronym is used for two separate terms in the text. Please define and differentiate.

(b) Stakeholders

(i) Paragraph 21: Please clarify the text. Municipal and industrial sectors are considered one sector here but should be separated. Please define agricultural, municipal and industrial sectors and list the types of entities within each that this program will target. Municipal also seems to be lumped into the private sector discussion. Publicly managed municipal wastewater also needs to be highlighted.

(ii) The roles of gender, youth and indigenous peoples and local actors needs to be better described. This program should not just be about ensuring these stakeholders are represented but actively engaging these stakeholders as agents of change/to elevate leaders. To this end, there should be designated outputs for each of these stakeholder groups.

(iii) How are local actors contributing to GEBs under this program? Please explain.

(iv) Text duplication between pages 57 and 60. Please revise.

*Please change "nations" to "countries", as nations is imprecise, defined as a large type of social organization.

(v) Paragraph 61: Scaling up UNIDO's TEST (Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technology) and the International Nutrient Management System (INMS) project and the CREW+ approaches, are important in this investment. Please work closely with focal points from these projects to embed the approaches in the program.

(c) Baseline situation and projects:

(i) What are the DIN load and dead zone projections over the next 10, 25, 50 years in the baseline scenario? Are there any graphics/maps that can be included to depict the urgency for the GEF increment?

(ii) Baseline projects and initiatives the program will build on: Yes, good coverage at global and regional level, but baseline situation in each participating country is missing. Please present a brief baseline summary for each child project.

(iii) To provide a practical example of the type of work the CHO IP will be setting out to do, please include a box that highlights how the series of intervention in the Danube/Black Sea by GEF and partners helped bring the Black Sea back to life in the late 90s and 2000s.

(d) (i) What lessons learned from previous GEF efforts and other initiatives were used/will be used to design the PFD/in PPG, including Danube/Black Sea, INMS, Global Nutrient Cycle, CREW, TEST etc?

(d) The text provides good coverage in terms of how the program will take advantage of the experiences and learning from several past and ongoing initiatives, but the text does not present any lessons learned that were considered in program design. Please clarify with a summary of the lessons learned, if any.

(e) N/A

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) (i) Addressed.

(ii) Addressed.

(iii) Addressed.

(iv) Addressed.

- (v) GEF IT support will uploaded map. Addressed.
- (vi) Addressed.
- (viii) Addressed.
- (ix) Addressed.

- (b) (i) Addressed.
- (ii) Addressed.
- (iii) Addressed.
- (iv) Addressed.
- (v) Addressed.

- (c) (i) GEF IT support will uploaded map. Addressed.
- (ii) Addressed.
- (iii) Addressed.

- (d) (i) Addressed.
- (ii) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 22Nov:

Noted

FAO response 17Nov:

Part a)

i) 135 footnotes that went lost during the first submission have been added to the portal at the end of each section.

ii) Paragraph 7 deleted because in the new version of the PFD, this sentence did not add value.

iii) Diagrams included in the summary.

(iv) The reference to plastics was deleted because, in the new version of the PFD, this sentence did not add value and was included mistakenly in the first submission.

Issued with Paragraph 8 addressed with the new Program's objective and aim.

Re to the program indicator for measured hypoxia reduction: The following indicator was added to Component 1: # of LMEs reporting reduced hypoxia risks as a result of transformative change catalyzed by CHO-IP investments and actions. This will be further explored during the PPG with consideration given to indicators measuring:

Total hectares of coastal marine environment impacted by hypoxia reduced annually; and/or, The total amount of nutrient pollution reaching the coastal marine ecosystems reduced annually.

Discussions with IOC and others must determine whether these impacts are realistically measurable given existing capacities or if they will be measurable by IP close.

Please note that indicators and IP framework reference the establishment and achievement of specific marine hypoxia reduction targets.

v) DIN load to LMEs maps included

vi) Definition and benefits of "sustainable blue economy" included utilizing language from recent STAP guidance document.

viii) INMS project highlighted in baseline

ix) BMPs used only for Best Management Practices. EBRD's Blue Mediterranean Partnership now spelled out.

Part b) Stakeholders

i) The relevant paragraph was corrected, separating the municipal and industrial sectors.

Kindly note that the mapping of the stakeholders was not possible in the time available between the selection of the countries participating in the IP and the deadline for submission. Each country engaged with relevant stakeholders at national and local level. This is reflected in a table included in section A5. A proper stakeholder mapping, engagement process and consultation will be run during the PPG phase.

ii) A detailed gender approach has been included under section ?B1.2 Summary Description Programmatic Logic, Causal Reasoning and Transformational Levers?. Moreover, both narrative and logframe were revisited, including gender perspective across the Programme components.

Relevant outputs have been reviewed to emphasize an inclusive approach for all stakeholders. As these groups will be better analyzed and defined during PPG phase, activities under identified outputs will ensure that women, youth, indigenous peoples and local actors will be actively and adequately engaged in all project initiatives at the appropriate level.

iii) As responded in point i) a proper stakeholder mapping, engagement process and consultation will be run during the PPG phase. However, as noted in the stakeholder overview section. Local actors will be critical to the delivery of GEBs. This includes private sector business interests engaged in all aspects of agriculture along with targeted sources of industrial nutrient pollution and private parties responsible for development and

urban waste management. The IP's framework has been designed to specifically support and incentivize the uptake of practices that shift towards nutrient pollution reductions and result in hypoxia alleviation and prevention.

iv) Revisions made with duplications removed.

*Resolved. Nations changed to countries.

(v) Noted. Please see Section A5: Stakeholders. Working closely with focal points from these and other projects to embed the approaches in the program will be a critical exercise during the PPG. This will include the GCP providing pathways to facilitate CP to embed and upscale best practices within their final project designs.

Part(c) Baseline situation and projects:

i) A DIN load map added in the document

ii) Please see the attached Child Project concept notes for introductory baseline summaries. This information will be more fully developed and embedded with project designs during the PPG phase.

iii) A text (paragraph 257) has been inserted under ?B3: Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Programs?, ?GEF Agencies and Initiatives?.

Part (d)

i) A paragraph has been inserted under ?Project Summary?, ?Baseline and Incremental Reasoning?.

ii) During the PPG phase, both the GCP intends to survey best practices and lessons learned. The GCP will then provide each Child Project with concise, detailed, and useful information/summaries of these best practices that can inform Child Project designs and, potentially, be integrated within the knowledge management base.

As the PFD states: The PPG will be defined in part by close collaboration with focal points from these and other projects to make certain best approaches are embedded across the IP. This will include the GCP providing pathways to facilitate CP to embed and upscale best practices within their final project designs.

However, at this point in the process, a summary document of lessons and experiences learned and embedded within the IP and individual Child Projects is not available

5 B. Program Description

5.1 a) Is there a concise theory of change (narrative and an optional schematic) that describes the program logic, including how the program design elements are contributing to the

objective, a set of identified key causal pathways, the thrust and basis (including scientific) of the proposed solutions, how they provide a robust solution and listing the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences?

c) Are the program components described and proposed solutions and critical assumptions and risks properly justified? Is there an indication of why the program approach has been selected over other potential options?

d) Incremental/additional cost reasoning: Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12? Have the baseline scenario and/or associated baseline programs been described? Is the program incremental reasoning provisioned (including the role of the GEF)?

e) Are the relevant levers of transformation identified and described?

f) Is there an adequate description on how relevant stakeholders (including women, private sector, CSO, e.g.) will contribute to the design and implementation of the program and its components?

g) Gender: Does the description on gender issues identify any differences, gaps or opportunities linked to program objectives and have these been taken up in component description/s?

h) Are the proposed elements to capture, exchange and disseminate knowledge and lessons learned adequate in order to benefit future programs? Are efforts for strategic communication adequately described?

i) Policy Coherence: How will the program support participating countries to improve, develop and align policies, regulations or subsidies to not counteract the intended program outcomes?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Yes, but please consider /incorporate proposed title revisions to components, outcomes and outputs in the theory of change narrative and diagram.

(b) Yes

(c) Yes

(d) Incremental costs. Please describe what will likely happen without the GEF increment, from both a program and child project perspective. Please see comment in later section on

including a child project summary table. What is the role of the GEF in this program?
Why is a program needed?

(e) Yes

(f) Partly, please address stakeholder comments stated elsewhere in the review sheet.

(g) As stated elsewhere in comments, As per guidance, gender issues specifying any differences, gaps or opportunities linked to program objectives have to be elaborated and taken up in component descriptions. There are important gender dimensions related to the following: Output 1.1 (a, b, c), Output 1.2 (b, c, e), Output 2.1 (b), Output 3.2 (a, b), Outcomes 4.2 (a) and 4.3 (a). Please ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in these project components/outputs. On Output 4.1, please ensure incorporation of lessons learned from a gender perspective.

(h) Yes

(i) Yes

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Addressed

(d) Addressed.

(f) Addressed.

(g) Not addressed. see gender comment in earlier section.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(g) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 22Nov:

See responses to the gender above

FAO response 17Nov:

(a) objective, components, outcomes and outputs in the theory of change narrative and diagram revised.

(d) Section B2-Summary Description Programmatic Logic, Causal Reasoning and Transformational Levers now describes what will likely happen without the GEF increment.

(f) As responded above, a proper stakeholder mapping, engagement and consultation will be run during PPG phase. However, a table detailing the stakeholders engaged for each child project was added. In addition, a table describing the type of stakeholder that will be engaged during the PPG phase is also provided. .

(g) A detailed gender approach has been included under section ?B1.2 Summary Description Programmatic Logic, Causal Reasoning and Transformational Levers?. Moreover, both narrative and logframe were revisited, including gender perspective across the Programme components.

5.2 Program coherence and consistency

a) How will the program design ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers and allow for adaptive management needs and options?

b) Is the potential for achieving transformative change through the integrated approach adequately described? How is the program going to be transformative or innovative? Does it explain scaling up opportunities?

c) Are the countries or themes selected as child projects under the program appropriate for achieving the overall program objective?

d) Are the descriptions of child projects adequately reflective of the program objective and priorities as described in the ToC?

e) Is the financing presented in the annexed financing table adequate to meet the program objectives?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) Yes

(d) The Annex H concept notes are adequate, with some higher quality than others in terms of substance and approach. In lieu of revisions to Annex H at this stage, please instead present a detailed table in the submission that depicts how the child projects adequately reflect the program objective and priorities as described in the TOC (a summary of the approach) and why the GEF increment is needed in each child project site to overcome the identified barriers.

(e) Yes

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(d) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 23Nov:

Noted

FAO response 17Nov:

d) A table added within ?B1.4 Child Project Alignment and Contribution to Programmatic Impact showing how each national Child Project is fully aligned with and adequately reflects the Program Objective and priorities as described in the TOC while presenting a strong incremental reasoning

5.3 Program Governance, Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Programs

a) Are the program level institutional arrangements for governance and coordination, including potential executing partners, outlined on regional, national/local levels and a rationale provided? Has a program level organogram / diagram been included, with description of roles and responsibilities, and decision-making processes?

b) Is there a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed initiatives, projects/programs (such as government, private sector and/or other bilateral/multilateral supported initiatives in the program area, e.g.).

Secretariat's Comments

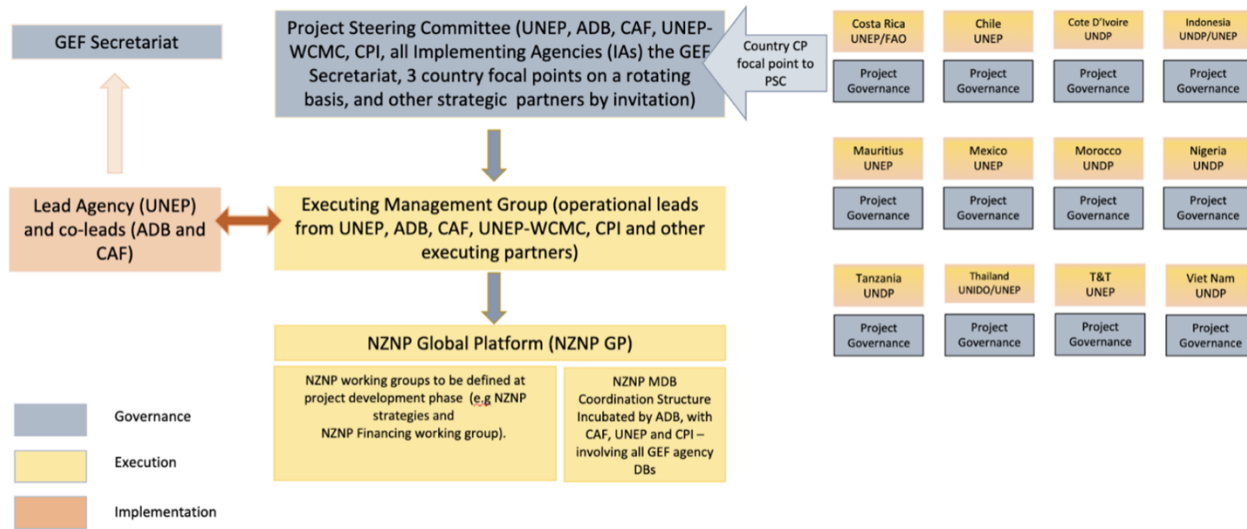
28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Partly.

(i) Please include an overall program governance diagram linking all the key groups, their functions and coordination mechanisms:

IP Example:

Figure 4: Governance Framework Diagram



(ii) Please mention country child project governance arrangements and consider including country level focal points.

IP Example text:

"Country Child Project governance arrangements: Each Country Child Project will have its own governance arrangements, which the IA will define during project development. As a minimum, however, each Country Child Project will appoint a country focal point to represent the Country Child Project on the SC, help with annual Programme reporting and ensure coherence and support coordination between the Global Platform and the Country Child Projects, as well as with the overall Programme."

"Country Child Project focal points: The Lead Agency will agree with each IA a communications protocol between the Global Platform and the Country Child Projects. The aim will be to streamline operational communications, directing communication between parties that are acting, while keeping others informed that need to keep abreast of project implementation, as well as to ensure smooth adaptation to any changing conditions. The expectation is that the IA for each Country Child Project will appoint a primary project contact on the following issues:

- identify appropriate staff to participate in meetings;
- identify the correct counterparts for capacity building needs assessment;
- help identify trainees for capacity building events;
- help to identify opportunities for peer-to-peer exchanges, study tours and other capacity building events;
- participate in the SC meetings and other cohort events;

- f. identify the right counterpart to help organise training events sponsored by the Global Platform;
- g. help with the transfer of lessons learned to the Global Platform and support communications products;
- h. liaise for the preparation of the annual Programme reporting and;
- i. for other organisational or coordination issues between the Global Platform and the Country Child Projects;
- j. represent the country in meetings and events related to the Programme as needed to discuss results, share good practices and lessons learned."

(iii) Please define Global Water Partnership's role in project governance/coordination.

(iv) Please include a bit more information on how the design and governance structure of the IP will ensure resilience and adaptive management vis-?-vis the ?Critical Assumptions? listed in the Theory of change.

(b) No, please include a description of coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed initiatives, projects and programs. Please move the text elsewhere to this section and expand accordingly.

Is there any potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing with ongoing initiatives?

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) (i) Addressed. The governance framework diagram is duplicated. Please remove one.

(ii) Addressed.

(iii) Please include GWP in paragraph 237 as a strategic partner.

(iv) Please respond to this point in the review sheet.

(b) Addressed.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) (i) Addressed.

(iii) Addressed.

(iv) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 22Nov:

a) i. Duplicated figure removed.

ii. The Global Water Partnership (GWP) included in paragraph 237

iii. Additional information regarding how the design and governance structure of the IP will ensure resilience and adaptive management vis-?-vis the ?Critical Assumptions? listed in the Theory of change was added to provide greater clarity to the description of the IP?s approach to ?Governance, Coordination, and Cooperation?. Please see new text included after the TOC and before paragraph 101

The TOC presents 16 assumptions each outlining a particular pressure point. The innovative design and governance structure of the IP is crafted to specifically address this set of assumptions, including ensuring resilience and adaptive management. This is a strength of the proposed approach linking FAO along with ADB, CAF, EBRD, IOC and GWP to support IP implementation. The proposed structure and ability to ensure resilience and adaptive management addressing also reflects a fundamental advantage of and reason for applying a programmatic approach to alleviating and preventing marine hypoxia.

FAO response 17Nov:

Part a)

i) an overall program governance diagram linking all the key groups, their functions, and coordination mechanisms was added.

ii) Text describing the country child project governance arrangements and reference to the country level focal point was added.

(iii) Global Water Partnership's was added in section Co-Lead Agencies and Partners which role is explained in paragraphs 241 -246.

b) Additional information was placed under section B3:Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Programs.

As noted, determining best approaches and pathways to effectively engage with GEF and non-GEF financed institutions will be clarified during the PPG. During implementation, coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF and non-GEF financed initiatives, will be a critical element of effort under Component 1 to be facilitated by the GCP and supported by each Child Project.

5.4 Program-level Results, Monitoring and Reporting

a) Are the global environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits identified? Does the PFD describe how it will support the generation of multiple environmental benefits which would not have accrued without the GEF program?

b) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology and adhering to the overarching principles included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01/GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

c) Are the program's targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators and additional listed outcome indicators) / adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable? Are the GEF Climate Change adaptation indicators and sub-indicators for LDCF and SCCF properly documented?

d) Other Benefits: Are the socioeconomic benefits resulting from the program at the global, national and local levels sufficiently described?

e) Is the described approach to program level M&E aiming to achieve coherence across child projects and to allow for adaptive management?

Secretariat's Comments

128th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) GEBs: Please see below. GEF Sec will be in a position to assess Core Indicator targets/GEBs once the methodological approach/underlying logic is explained in detail.

(b) (i) Under the Core Indicator table please explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators. This matters as any justification available in child project concept notes will not be made public. Given the number of Core Indicator calculations/methodologies to explain, please ignore the 250-word cap.

(ii) Please ensure that the sum of Core and Sub-Indicator values across child projects adds up to the value entered at PFD level

(iii) The program objective indicates the program will be "curbing coastal pollution", but the indicators listed under Program Outcomes do not seem to track this aspect. Please consider adding an indicator (under Outcome 3?) that speaks to this part of the program objective. Alternatively, kindly consider revising the program objective statement in a way that reflects the program would establish the enabling environment to curb coastal pollution. Kindly consider these suggestions as the IP will be evaluated against its objective at completion.

(iv) Under Core Indicators 1 and 2, and Sub Indicators 4.5 and 5.3, please reflect the Name of the Protected Areas and OECMs, as available. Since only PFD-wide information

becomes public, please consider reflecting related information made available only in child project concept notes.

(v) Comments on Annex H Child Project Core Indicator Targets:

Jordan: The direct beneficiaries is listed as 4,972,700. This is much too high for the investment. Please lower the figure to actual direct beneficiaries. Please review the number to ensure it includes only direct beneficiaries. Pages 24-25 of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01) provide examples of what might be counted as direct beneficiary.

Madagascar: Please describe the calculation/methodology for Core Indicator 1: 513,793 ha of terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management and for Core Indicator 3: 20,000 ha of area of land and ecosystems under restoration. Other Core Indicators are TBD. It is expected that at least an indicative Core Indicator 11 can be presented. Please include.

Peru: Core Indicator 11 should target at least 50% women in the direct beneficiaries figure. Please explain/revise.

St. Kitts and Nevis: Core Indicator 4 calculation is Nevis Peak = 3,000 ha and St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Management Area = 18,987 ha. Yet the target is 3,000 ha. Please explain calculation/revise accordingly.

Maldives: Core Indicators should not target entire population or entire geography. Please refine targets to specific intervention sites. For Core Indicator 11, pages 24-25 of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01) provide examples of what might be counted as direct beneficiary.

Trinidad and Tobago: Please consult GEF Sec regarding Core Indicator 7.

Sri Lanka: Please aggregate Core Indicator 4 total. Please explain calculation for Core Indicator 5. This figure seems high. Please consult GEF Sec on Core Indicator 5 as well as use of Core Indicator 7.

Venezuela: Please explain calculation to reach 100,000 direct beneficiaries. Please consult GEF Sec regarding Core Indicator 7

Thailand: 230 direct beneficiaries is low for this investment. Please increase this target and reference pages 24-25 of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines (GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01) provide examples of what might be counted as direct beneficiary. Please consult GEF Sec regarding Core Indicator 7 . Please reformat Core Indicator 2 target to "620,378" ha in the table.

Panama: 750 direct beneficiaries is low for this investment. Please increase this target and reference pages 24-25 of the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines

(GEF/C.62/Inf.12/Rev.01) provide examples of what might be counted as direct beneficiary.

Mexico: Core Indicator 5 is not measured in number of LMEs, but rather in ha. Please revise figure accordingly.

Vietnam: Please aggregate figure for Core Indicator 4. The target seems on the high side. Please consult GEF Sec.

(c) GEF Sec will be in a position to assess Core Indicator targets once the methodological approach/underlying logic is explained in detail.

(d) Other benefits:

Please consult the new STAP document, INCORPORATING CO-BENEFITS IN THE DESIGN OF GEF PROJECTS. https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/2023-06/EN_GEF.C.64.STAP_Inf_03_Incorporating_cobenefits_in_the_design_of_GEF_projects.pdf

Please summarize the "prerequisite co-benefits" and the "incidental co-benefits". Co-benefits are ?positive effects of GEF investments that are not included in its formal set of global environmental benefits (GEBs).? Co-benefits are categorized into prerequisite or incidental co-benefits.

? Prerequisite co-benefits are local benefits that must be achieved to realize the mandated GEF GEBs and ensure their durability. Examples include livelihood benefits that engage local communities in biodiversity conservation, or enhanced skills and education that create job opportunities and strengthen the ability of beneficiaries to implement solutions that generate desired GEBs.

? Incidental co-benefits are environmental and socio-economic benefits outside of GEF?s mandate. They are not critical to achieving GEBs but could help increase the overall impact of GEF investment. Examples include reduced freshwater pollution and the consequent human health benefits from reduced use of harmful chemicals in agriculture, and improved air quality and associated health benefits arising from transitioning to renewable energy or avoiding bad practices (e.g., open burning) in agriculture or waste management.

(e) M&E: Please list the preliminary set of result indicators in a table in the M&E section.

Please consider the following guidance from the Wildlife Conservation IP PFD to further structure/flesh out the M&E section

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Please manually aggregate child project core indicator targets into PFD table, ensuring they match with figures presented in summary table.

(b) (i) When preparing the manual count, please include here in the review sheet a table that shows the calculations for each indicator (child project target + child project target + child project target = _____ ha). It is very difficult to follow the calculations as displayed in the field below the indicator table in the PFD.

(ii) As above.

(iii) Addressed.

(iv) (a) Please manually aggregate child project core indicator targets into PFD table, ensuring they match with figures presented in summary table. Please reflect the Name of the Protected Areas and OECMs, as available. "Several Marine Protected Areas as detailed in the Child Projects" and "Several Terrestrial Protected as detailed in the Child Project" is not acceptable.

(v) Addressed.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Addressed.

(b) (i) Addressed.

Table of Core Indicator calculations is below:

Child Projects under the Program			Relevant core indicators										
Country	Project Title	GEF Agency	Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	Core Indicator 2: Marine protected areas created or under improved management (hectare)	Core Indicator 3: Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (hectare)	Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectare)	Core Indicator 5: Area of marine habitat under improved practices to benefit biodiversity (hectare)	Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (metric ton of CO2e)	Core Indicator 7: Shared water ecosystems under new or improved cooperative management (count)	Core Indicator 9: Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced)	Core Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (count)	Core Indicator 11 Female	Core Indicator 11 male
Grenada	Improving Waste Management and Public Awareness for a Clean and Healthy Ocean [Grenada]	CI		31.71	23.52	6,037.10			CLME		12,400	6,200	6,200
Jordan	Addressing marine hypoxia in the Gulf of Aqaba by reducing land-based sources of pollution in Jordan	EBRD				12.00	290.00	18,000.00			91,200	45,600	45,600
Madagascar	Green, blue and healthy investments to reduce land-based pollution affecting marine ecosystems in Madagascar	UNDP	513,793.00	345,919.00	10,244.40	680.00					3,500	1,750	1,750
Maldives	Sustainable Nitrogen Management for a Clean & Healthy Ocean; Maldives as a SIDS regional catalyst	UNEP		54,000.00		690.00			BOB LIME	120.00	11,400	5,700	5,700
Mexico	Forging Partnerships for the Ocean: Reducing Water Pollution in Mexico through Sustainable Solutions	UNDP			11,000.00	200,000.00	590,377.00	5,994,766.00	CLME		25,000	12,500	12,500
Moldova	BBSEA Moldova WATERWISE (Wetlands and Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration for Watershed Improvements and	World Bank			5,000.00	50,000.00					25,000	12,500	12,500
Panama	Reducing coastal pollution in the Parita Bay in Panama	IADB			43.00	600.00			CLME		750	375	375
Peru	Nature based solutions to reduce coastal pollution in Peru	UNDP		21,800.00	2,003.00		38,680.00				13,800	4,941	8,859
Sri Lanka	Addressing marine hypoxia in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem by reducing land-based agricultural pollution in the north-west of Sri Lanka	FAO			10,000.00	53,000.00	1,000,000.00	500,000.00	BOB LIME		10,000	5,000	5,000
St. Kitts and Nevis	Building a Blue-Green Economy in St. Kitts and Nevis	CI	5,600.00			3,000.00			CLME		4,800	2,400	2,400
Thailand	Seeding a Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy for the coastal waters of Thailand	UNEP				620,378.00					24,200	12,100	12,100
Trinidad and Tobago	Rehabilitation of the Beetham Wastewater Stabilization Ponds (WSP) [Trinidad and Tobago]	UNEP	800.00	1,500.00	8,398.00				CLME		4,702	2,314	2,388
Venezuela	Conservation and sustainable development of the Maracaibo Lake basin as a contribution to the improvement of the large	FAO				40,000.00		2,175,327.00	CLME		100,000	50,000	50,000
Viet Nam	Enhancing water management and compliance to address hypoxia caused by nutrients, and other pollutants, into the Gulf of Tonkin (Vietnam) of Tonkin	FAO			50,000.00	300,000.00	5,000,000.00	500,000.00			15,000	7,500	7,500
Global	Global Coordination Project-Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program	FAO									275,000	150,000	125,000
TOTALS			520,193	423,251	96,712	1,274,397	6,629,347	8,188,093	3	120	616,752	318,880	297,872

(ii) Addressed.

(iv) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 23Nov

a) Core Indicators aggregated manually. The total for each CI corresponds to the summary table presented after paragraph 29

b) i) The table request has been sent by email because it is too big to be properly visible in here.

ii) as above

iii) Core Indicators aggregated manually. The total for each CI corresponds to the summary table presented after paragraph 29

Names of OECMs reflected properly.

FAO response 17Nov

(a) (b) and (c) Work was done on the core indicators with the countries' child projects and at PFD level. The explanation on the way the CI were identified by each CP was added to the PFD.

As discussed with GEF SEC TM, after double-checking the CI of each child Project, we have the impression that the Portal does not sum up properly. This is for example the case for the (ii) Please ensure that the sum of Core and Sub-Indicator values across child projects adds up to the value entered. For example, the table below shows the value entered for each CPs for CI11:

Country	Project Title	Core Indicator 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (count)	Core Indicator 11 women	Core Indicator 11 men
Madagascar	Green, blue and healthy investments to reduce land-based pollution affecting marine ecosystems in Madagascar	3,500	1,750	1,750
Maldives	Sustainable Nitrogen Management for a Clean & Healthy Ocean: Maldives as a SIDS regional catalyst	11,400	5,700	5,700
Mexico	Forging Partnerships for the Ocean: Reducing Water Pollution in Mexico through Sustainable Solutions	25,000	12,500	12,500
Moldova	BBSEA Moldova WATERWISE (Wetlands and Terrestrial Ecosystem Restoration for Watershed Improvements and	25,000	12,500	12,500
Panama	Reducing coastal pollution in the Parita Bay in Panama	750	375	375
Peru	Nature based solutions to reduce coastal pollution in Peru	13,800	4,941	8,859
Sri Lanka	Addressing marine hypoxia in the Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem by reducing land-based agricultural	10,000	5,000	5,000
St. Kitts and Nevis	Building a Blue-Green Economy in St. Kitts and Nevis	4,800	2,400	2,400
Thailand	Seeding a Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy for the coastal waters of Thailand	24,200	12,100	12,100
Trinidad and Tobago	Rehabilitation of the Beetham Wastewater Stabilization Ponds (WSP) [Trinidad and Tobago]	4,702	2,314	2,388
Venezuela	Conservation and sustainable development of the Maracaibo Lake basin as a contribution to the improvement of the large	100,000	50,000	50,000
Viet Nam	Enhancing water management and compliance to address hypoxia caused by nutrients, and other pollutants, into the Gulf of Tonkin (Vietnam)of Tonkin	15,000	7,500	7,500
		341,752	168,880	172,872

However, at PFD level the CI 11 is assessed to be several million. We are happy to discuss the issue and find a solution.

(iii) As addressed above by rephrasing the objective.

(iv) Core indicators were all revised by the IAs. The new value were entered as provided by each Child Project

(v) Comments on Annex H Child Project Core Indicator Targets:

Jordan: A new figure and explanation provided for CI 11

Madagascar: Description of the core indicators methodology used to calculate the overall contribution is provided.

Peru: Done

St. Kitts and Nevis: Additional text was provide to better explain the value set for CI 4

Maldives: Core Indicator 11 updated. New figure and explanation is provided.

Trinidad and Tobago: Addressed in coordination with GEF SEC

Sri Lanka: Both CI 4 and 5 were checked to address the comment of the GEF. CI 5 is confirmed at 1,000,000 ha. A justification is provided in the submission.

Venezuela: Additional Explanation was added

Thailand: Addressed CI 1 increased to 24,200

Panama: IADB provided a new explanation and justification to keep the CI 11 at the same level.

Mexico: a value in ha has been given for CI5 in Mexico.

Vietnam: CI 4 has been checked and corrected for Viet Nam

c) The methodological approach/underlying logic is explained in detail has been added at PFD level

d) This is well noted. Additional clarification added to the PFD following STAP guidance. Paragraphs under section B1.2 was added. The IP will take a very innovative approach capitalizing upon the opportunity to use the programmatic approach to improving the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of both prerequisite and incidental cobenefits. As noted in the PFD this, this will be fully addressed during the PPG phase.

e) The level of detail normally provided at PIF/PFD stage by FAO was also provided for the CHO IP. FAO has a detail M&E framework and standards that will be fully applied to the CHO IP and explained in each child project document at PPG stage. For this, we request to consider approving the M&E section as it is currently described in the PFD mindful that proper M&E arrangements will be in place by CEO endorsement stage, as always applies to FAO GEF projects/programs.

5.5 Risks to Achieving Program Outcomes

a) Are climate and other main risks relevant to the program identified and adequately described? Are mitigation measures outlined and realistic? Is there any omission?

b) Are the key risks and mitigation measures that might affect implementation and the achievement of outcomes adequately rated?

c) Are environmental and social risks and impacts adequately screened and rated and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) Partly, The climate change risk is too briefly described. Given the "substantial" rating, at this stage, more clarification on threats and impacts are needed to be able to consider appropriate mitigation measures. Please outline the key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios at LME / country level (including a time horizon, ideally 2050, if the data is available), list key potential hazards for the program that are related to the climate scenarios and identify mitigation measures. For further guidance, please refer to STAP guidance available here: <https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/stap-guidance-climate-risk-screening>

(b) Yes,

Under Stakeholder Engagement/Social, please note that (i) child project interventions engaging Indigenous Peoples will adhere to GEF Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and (ii) child project interventions will adhere to the GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards.

(c) No, the project overall ESS risk is classified as moderate, and the Preliminary Environmental and Social Screening is attached in the Portal. However, there is no information provided on how the overall ESS risk is defined as moderate. Please include this information for environmental and social risks of the program.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(a) GEF Sec and proponents discussed. Addressed.

(b) No, the PFD does not contain text that " (i) child project interventions engaging Indigenous Peoples will adhere to GEF Principles and Guidelines for Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and (ii) child project interventions will adhere to the GEF Policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards."

(c) Addressed.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(b) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 23Nov

The proposed sentences have been added in the risk table. However, the text has been modified to highlight compliance with the CP's respective Implementing Agencies AND the GEF principles and policies because these are functions transferred by the GEF to the IAs.

FAO response 17Nov

a) This is well noted. FAO together with the other leading agencies to the IP will conduct a Climate Risk screening and assessment during the PPG phase. This analysis will be countries-driven. The timeline for the development of the IP and the definition of the 14 Child Projects did not allow to properly run this analysis and assessment before submission.

Additional detail has been added to the risk table.

Following STAP guidance on climate risk screening (June 2019), each of the Child Projects will conduct targeted climate risk assessments during the PPG under the guidance of the GCP.

It is recommended that future Child Project Concept Notes templates contain a specific section requesting a brief statement summarizing climate risks.

b) Noted with thanks. This recommendation will be carried forward to PPG activities as well.

c) A full ES Risk Screening checklist for CHO IP was uploaded in the portal. This was run after the submission of the 16 October. Its result is LOW risk.

However, Child specific E&S risk determination and management will be carried out during PPG by each respective lead agency according to their ESS framework. Each CP will provide at CEO endorsement stage a detailed risk analysis with a detailed budgeted plan to manage any potential Environmental and Social adverse impact.

Detailed safeguard screening of country child projects will be budgeted and carried out during their full formulation phases, which is when sufficient information will become available to allow site specific analysis and understanding of any potential unintended adverse impact of the project.

As lead agency, FAO will provide overall support and oversight to ensure that all child projects comply with minimum safeguard standards, including the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), rigorous socio-economic baselines and gender analysis. FAO will also make available to other agencies its tools and framework like, for instance, the FAO framework on ending child labor, among others.

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 a) Is the program adequately aligned with Focal Area and IP Elements, and/or LDCF/SCCF strategy?

***For IPs: is the program adequately aligned with the Integrated Program goals and objectives as outlined in the GEF 8 programming directions?**

Secretariat's Comments 28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments N/A

b) Child project selection criteria: Are the criteria for child project selection sound and transparently laid out?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Partly, please address the following:

(1) Paragraph 228 and subsequent: Call for Expression of Interest is given the acronym GCP rather than EOI in several places. Please correct throughout the document.

(2) The Secretariat received eligible EOIs from 18 countries

(3) Please remove references to specific countries and financial figures in the child project selection criteria. Please focus only on documenting the selection criteria (see Ecosystem Restoration PFD).

(3) Paragraphs 243-244: Please do a total sum of all agencies, regions and LMEs represented in the IP.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Addressed.

(3) Addressed.

(4) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

(1) Paragraph 228 noted and corrected. GCP replaced by EOI as needed.

(2) Noted and corrected. Eligible EOIs from 18 countries.

(3) Specific country and financial figure references removed.

(3) Total sum of all countries, agencies, regions, and LMEs represented included. This is more fully detailed in a table showing geographic coverage earlier in the document

6.2 Is the program alignment/coherent with country / regional / global priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) Alignment with and contribution to the GBF is missing. Please revise, including alignment with specific GBF targets.

(2) Please link the program to the GEF's Health Planet Healthy People approach. Please reflect this also in the Summary.

(3) What about SDGs, Regional Seas Conventions, Samoa Pathway? Please include as relevant.

(4) Please include summary of program alignment with all participating country national priorities (in table format)

(5) Paragraph 220: For clarity, please remove "our" partners.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Addressed.

(3) GEF Sec and proponents discussed. Addressed.

(4) Addressed.

(5) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

1) Contributions to GBF covered in Summary and Section B1.4 (Child Project Alignment and Contribution to Programmatic Impact)

2) Contributions to Healthy Planet, Healthy People framework covered in Summary and Section B1.4 (Child Project Alignment and Contribution to Programmatic Impact)

3) To be developed at PPG stage

4) Completed. Table included in Section C: ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

5) Edited as requested

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Are the Policy Requirement sections completed?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) The submission notes confirmation that key stakeholders were consulted during PFD development as required per GEF policy. Please provide additional details on consultations during the EOI and PFD process, including list of names and summary of consultations.

Please explain why IPLCs, CSOs and private sector (not checked as consulted) were not consulted during the EOI/PFD process. What is the plan to engage these stakeholders in PPG?

(2) As per guidance, gender issues specifying any differences, gaps or opportunities linked to program objectives have to be elaborated and taken up in component descriptions. There are important gender dimensions related to the following: Output 1.1 (a, b, c), Output 1.2 (b, c, e), Output 2.1 (b), Output 3.2 (a, b), Outcomes 4.2 (a) and 4.3 (a). Please ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in these project components/outputs. On Output 4.1, please ensure incorporation of lessons learned from a gender perspective.

(3) Private Sector: Yes

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed. But please in para 279 refer the reader back to the description and summary table with A5: Stakeholders listing all the stakeholders consulted by each child project.

(2) Please see comment above.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 23Nov

Done, Reference to paragraph 87 ?brief summary of stakeholder engagement conducted during the EIO and Concept Note preparation process between June and October of 2023? added in paragraph 277 (the numbering was wrong and has been corrected).

2) Please see response on gender above

FAO response 17Nov

1) Please see the description and summary table included within section A5: Stakeholders. A Table listing all the stakeholders consulted by each CPs was added.

As explained above, the timeline of the process and late selection of the Country Child Projects did not allow for a proper mapping of the stakeholders, including IPLCs, CSOs and private sector. This will be done during the PPG phase.

2) A detailed gender approach has been included under section ?B1.2 Summary Description Programmatic Logic, Causal Reasoning and Transformational Levers?. Moreover, both narrative and logframe were revisited including gender perspective across the Programme components.

7.2 Environmental and Social Safeguards

Have safeguard screening document and/or other ESS document(s) attached and been uploaded to the GEF Portal? (annex D)

Secretariat's Comments

28th October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) The project overall ESS risk is classified as moderate, and the Preliminary Environmental and Social Screening is attached in the Portal. However, there is no information provided on how the overall ESS risk is defined as moderate. Please include this information for environmental and social risks of the program.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

c) A full ES Risk Screening checklist for CHO IP was uploaded in the portal. This was run after the submission of the 16 October. Its result is LOW risk.

However, Child specific E&S risk determination and management will be carried out during PPG by each respective lead agency according to their ESS framework. Each CP will provide at CEO endorsement stage a detailed risk analysis with a detailed budgeted plan to manage any potential Environmental and Social adverse impact.

Detailed safeguard screening of country child projects will be budgeted and carried out during their full formulation phases, which is when sufficient information will become available to allow site specific analysis and understanding of any potential unintended adverse impact of the project.

As lead agency, FAO will provide overall support and oversight to ensure that all child projects comply with minimum safeguard standards, including the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), rigorous socio-economic baselines and gender analysis. FAO will also make available to other agencies its tools and framework like, for instance, the FAO framework on ending child labor, among others.

8 Other Requirements

Knowledge Management

8.1 Has the agency confirmed that a project level approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been included in the PFD?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

*As noted above, please separate KM and M&E into separate components.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

Done

9 Annexes

Financing Tables (Annex A and Annex H)

9.1 GEF Financing Table:

a) Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Country STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments N/A

Non-STAR Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments 28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments N/A

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments N/A

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments N/A

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments N/A

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments N/A

IP Set Aside

Secretariat's Comments 28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments

IP Contribution

Secretariat's Comments 28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments

For Child Project Financing information (Annex H)

b) Are the IP Matching Incentives amounts correctly calculated according to the country STAR focal areas? allocated amounts? Are the IP contributions aligned with the Program?

The allocated amounts (including Agency Fee) match those in LoE?

c) Project Preparation Grant Table: Are the IP Matching Incentives amounts correctly calculated according to the country STAR focal areas? allocated amounts? The allocated amounts (including PPG Fee) match those in LoE? Is the requested PPG within the authorized limits set in Guidelines? (pop up information?) If above the limits, has an exception been sufficiently substantiated?

d) Sources of Funds Table: Are the allocated sources of funds for each and every one of the three STAR Focal Areas within the Country's STAR envelope by the time of the last review?

e) Indicative Focal Area Elements Table: (For IPs) The selected Indicative Focal Area element corresponds to the respective IP?

f) (For non-IPs) The selected Indicative Focal Area Elements are aligned with the respective Program?

g) Co-financing Table: Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing provided and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw):

(b) Yes

(c) Yes

(d) Yes

(e) Yes

(f) N/A

(g) No, please see comments below under Indicative Co-financing and revise accordingly.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(g) Addressed.

Agency's Comments Noted

9.2 Project Preparation Grant (PPG): if PPG for child projects has been requested: has the PPG table been included and properly filled out adding up to the correct PPG and PPG fee totals as per the sum of the child projects?

Secretariat's Comments 28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments

9.3 Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation

Does the table represent the sum of STAR allocations sources utilized for this program?

Secretariat's Comments 28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments

9.4 Indicative Focal Area Elements

For non-IP Programs

Does the table contain the sum of focal area elements and amounts as per the sum of the child projects?

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

9.5 Indicative Co-financing

Are the indicative amounts, sources, and types of co-financing adequate and reflect the ambition of the program? Has the subset of co-finance which are expected to be investment mobilized been identified and defined (FI/GN/01)?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

- (1) Public investment is normally investment mobilized. Please revise the "recurrent expenditures" to "investment mobilized" where public investment is classified as recurrent expenditures.
- (2) In-Kind is normally "recurrent expenditure". Please revise the "investment mobilized" to "recurrent expenditures" where recurrent expenditures is classified as investment mobilized.
- (3) Please complete the table for "investment mobilized" category which is missing in the indicative co-financing table.

Recipient Country Government	Ministries	Public Investment	1,325,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministries	In-kind	15,080,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministries	Grant	637,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Local Government	Public Investment	105,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Local Government	In-kind	2,895,000.00
Private Sector	Private Sector, Universities, Local Population	In-kind	5,866,000.00
Private Sector	Private Sector	Grant	892,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CSOs	Grant	150,000.00
Civil Society Organization	CSOs	In-kind	200,000.00
Donor Agency	Bilateral Donors	Loans	40,000,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	500,000.00

(4) Assuming Portal permits, please be more specific on names of co-financiers and in the same field bracket which child project the co-financier is associated with. Generic co-financiers "Local Government", "CSOs", "Bilateral Donors", "Private Sector" are not acceptable.

(5) Please spell out all acronyms of co-financiers in co-financing tables

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) No, Grants and Loans must be "Investment Mobilized". Please correct classification for :

i. Climate Adaptive Integrated Flood Risk Management Project (through MARD (ADB-GCF managed)

ii. Australia/DFAT (through FAO)

(2) Addressed.

(3) Addressed.

(4) please be more specific on names of co-financiers and in the same field bracket which child project the co-financier is associated with. Generic co-financiers "Local Government", "CSOs", "Bilateral Donors", "Private Sector" are not acceptable.

(5) Addressed.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(4) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

1) and 4) co-financing classification and name of co-financiers corrected as requested

FAO response 17Nov

All the child projects co-financing commitments were revised and when possible the comments of GEF SEC were addressed. As usual, co-co-financing will be detailed during PPG phase when letters of co-financing signed by the partners will be submitted together with the Child Project Documents.

Annex B: Endorsements

9.6 Has the program and its respective child project been endorsed by the GEF OFP/s of all GEF eligible participating countries and has the OFP name and position been checked against the GEF database at the time of submission?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

- (1) The LOE from Jordan is missing in the Portal. Please secure/upload to the Portal.
- (2) LOE from Grenada was dated 16th October 2023 and signed by Mr. Peron Johnson. The current OFP- Ms. Nicole Clarke, took office from 13th October 2023. Please obtain a revised LOE with Ms. Nicole Clarke's signature
- (3) The Record of Endorsement of GEF OFPs table is missing the Jordan record. Please include when Jordan LOE is uploaded.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Addressed.

(3) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

(1) The LOE from Jordan was upload to the Portal.

(2) LOE from Grenada was updated and signed by Ms. Nicole Clarke's

(3) The Record of Endorsement of GEF OFPs was completed with Jordan

4) The LOW of Panama was updated changing the CP title.

Compilation of Letters of Endorsement Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) Please see above. The LOE from Jordan is missing in the Portal. Please secure/upload to the Portal.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw): Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

Addressed above

Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) The title of the Viet Nam child project in Portal is different from the project title in the LOE. Please correct child project entry in Portal to match.

(2) The executing partner name for Trinidad and Tobago and Thailand child projects in Portal is different than in the LOEs. Please correct child project entries in Portal to match with LOEs.

(3) LOE from Moldova: While total country STAR allocation contributed from BD, CC, LD match between LOE and financing table and Sources of funds table, the breakdowns into project grant amount, agency fee, PPG and PPG fee are not matching. Please either obtain a revised LOE or correct child project financing table and PPG table to match with LOE.

(4) The Panama child project title "Panama - Pacific Central American Coastal LME" is too generic and must be changed to reflect the child project objective. Please ask the child project IA to rework the title and secure a new LOE that reflects the new title.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

(2) Partly. Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (Thailand) is not listed in the LOE. Please remove this entity from the execution entity list in the PFD.

(3) Please confirm new letter has been secured, as LOE in Portal is dated October 9.

(4) Addressed.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(2) Addressed.

(3) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 23Nov

2) COBSEA was removed form the executing agencies? list in the PFD.

3)The letter uploaded in the portal on 17 November 2023 and labelled LOE Republic of Moldova is an updated LOE.

It is dated 9 October because it was signed in this date. However, the updated LOE was shared with FAO after the first submission on 16 October 2023.

In summary, we confirm that the new updated letter is consistent with the funds?? breakdown for Moldova's CP.

FAO response 17Nov

(1) The Issue for Viet Nam was solved by correcting the child project entry in Portal to match with the LOE.

(2) The executing partner names for Trinidad and Tobago and Thailand were changed accordingly to match with the LOEs.

(3) LOE from Moldova was updated with correct figures

(4) The Panama child project title was changed and a new LOE uploaded

Annex C: Program Locations

9.7 a) Are geo-referenced information and maps provided indicating where the program interventions will take place?

Secretariat's Comments

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address the following:

(1) The information is missing. Please build and include a map that shows the child project interventions. Please also include child project coordinates in this section.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) A helpful map is now included; however, coordinates are not. Please include a coordinate for the rough intervention area of each child project.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw):

(1) Addressed.

Agency's Comments

FAO response 23Nov

Coordinates included below the MAP

FAO response 17Nov

A map showing the child project and the sectors they work with has been uploaded.

The coordinated of each of the country sites will be defined during PPG phase. They are not available at this stage.

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes* (*only for non IP programs)

9.9 a) Does the program provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments.

b) Does the program provide a detailed reflow table to assess the program capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments.

c) Is the Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments N/A

Agency's Comments

FAO response 17Nov

Additional Annexes

10 GEFSEC Decision

10.1 GEFSEC Recommendation

Is the program recommended for clearance?

Secretariat's Comments

18th of October 2023 (thenshaw): Sending PFD back to Agency to address programming of funds issue. Issue will be communicated to the Agency by the GEF PPO Office. Thank you.

28th of October 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address above comments and resubmit.
Thank you.

20th of November 2023 (thenshaw): No, please address above comments and resubmit.
Thank you.

24th of November 2023 (thenshaw): Yes

Agency's Comments

FAO response 23Nov

All comments addressed. Thank you

FAO response 17Nov

All comments were addressed to the extent possible. Some elements such as stakeholders mapping and engagement, a better definition of the coordination mechanism of the IP, the full definition of the M&E framework will require more time during PPG phase. The time available during to go more in detail with all these elements, considering the late selection for the child projects, the period of the year in which this happens (summer with most of the national ministries and partners on holiday), it was impossible to do better.

10.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency(ies) during the child project development.

Secretariat's Comments

Agency's Comments

10.3 Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	10/28/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/20/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/24/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

PIF Review

Agency Response

Additional Review (as necessary)