# GEF-7 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT / APPROVAL CHILD PROJECT – MSP ONE-STEP

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZED (ONE STEP)

Type of Trust Fund: GEF Trust Fund



#### PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: "National Planning for an Inclusive and Effective Conservation Approach to Reaching Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3"

Country(ies):	Global	GEF Project ID:	10916
GEF Agency(ies):	WWF-US	GEF Agency Project ID:	G0037
Project Executing Entity(s):	WWF-US	Submission Date:	
GEF Focal Area (s):	Biodiversity	Expected Implementation Start 31 Ma	
		Expected Completion Date	30 September 2023
Name of Parent Program	N/A	Parent Program ID:	N/A

#### A. Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

			(in \$)		
Programming Directions	Focal Area Outcomes		GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financin g	
BD 2-7	*Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and *Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate.	GEF-T F	2,000,00	343,246.77	
	Total project costs		2,000,000	343,246.77	

#### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project title: Collaborative planning for an inclusive and effective conservation approach to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3

<b>Project Objective</b> : Support country planning to inclusively and effectively meet or exceed GBF Target 3.					
Project Components/ Programs	Componen t Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)

					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Develop inclusive and effective national level plans to achieve Target 3	TA	1.1 Strengthened country planning/ capacity to meet/exceed GBF Target 3	1.1.1 A concise, user-friendly "how-to" guide for countries to develop an inclusive and effective plan to meet or exceed GBF Target 3  1.1.2 National plans for five countries (developed through inclusive processes)	GEFT F	1,755,795	301,335.54
Component 2: Knowledge products and M&E	TA	2.1 Knowledge products are developed and shared with relevant rights holders and stakeholders to contribute to knowledge management	2.1.1 Capacity support and presentation materials for use by country representatives to communicate results at the GEF Assembly in June 2022 2.1.2 Accessible project lessons and KM products and their dissemination, including dissemination of the guide	GEFT F	4,284	735.21
		2.2 M&E plan implemented for adaptive management	2.2.1 A monitoring and evaluation system, mainstreaming gender equality, to	GEFT F	59,370	10,189.20

			gauge the project's implementation progress and impact		
	Subtotal			1,819,449	312,259.95
Project Management Cost (PMC)			180,551	30,986.82	
			Total project costs	2,000,000	343,246.77

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ( )

#### C. Confirmed sources of $\underline{\text{Co-financing}}$ for the project by name and by type

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
GEF Agency	WWF-US	In Kind	Recurrent expenditures	323, 246.77
Conservation Strategy Fund	Conservation Strategy Fund	In Kind	Recurrent expenditure (staff time)	20,000
Total Co-financing				343,246.77

Note: Given the country selection has not been finalized, counterpart government co-financing will be tracked and reported at the end of the project period.

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

					(in \$)			
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total (c)=a+b	
WWF-U S	GEF-T F	Global	Biodiversity	BD-Global Set Aside	2,000,000	180,000	2,180,000	
Total GEF Resources					2,000,000	180,000	2,180,000	

E.1. Project preparation grant (ppg) [Skip this section if PPG has previously been requested (as child project)]

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes  $\boxtimes$  No  $\square$  If no, skip item E.1.

PPG Amount requested by agency(ies), Trust Fund, country(ies) and the Programming of funds

CEE	T4	Garage		Dragramming of	(in \$)		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG (a)	AgencyFe e (b)	<b>Total</b> c = a + b
WWF-U S	GEF-T F	Global	Biodiversity	BD-Global Set Aside	50,000	4,500	54,500
Total PPG	Amount		50000	4,500	54,500		

#### E.2. Does the project include a "non-grant" instrument? No

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Fund).

N/A

#### F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEF 7 CORE INDICATORS

Select the relevant sub-indicator values for this project using the methodologies indicated in the Core Indicator Worksheet provided in Annex F and aggregating them in the table below. Progress in programming against these targets is updated at mid-term evaluation and at terminal evaluation. Achieved targets will be aggregated and reported any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCCF.

Pro	ject Core Indicators	Expected at CEO Endorsement
1	<b>Terrestrial protected areas</b> created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	
3	Area of land restored (Hectares)	
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)	
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	
	Total area under improved management (Hectares)	
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e)	
7	Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	

8	Globally over-exploited <b>marine fisheries</b> moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)	
9	<b>Reduction</b> , disposal/destruction, phase out, <b>elimination</b> and avoidance of <b>chemicals of global concern</b> and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)	
1 0	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of <b>POPs to air</b> from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	
1 1	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	5,000 people (1,000 per country). 50% gender balance.

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided.

#### PROJECT TAXONOMY

Rio Markers

Fill up the table below for the taxonomic information provided at PIF stage. Use the GEF Taxonomy Worksheet provided in Annex G to find the most relevant keywords/topics/themes that best describe the project

in thinex of to find the most relevant key	in rames of to find the most relevant key words, topies, themes that best describe the project.					
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4			
Influencing Models						
Stakeholders						
Capacity, Knowledge and Research						
Gender Equality						
Focal Area/Theme						

#### PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

#### 1.a **Project Description – overview**

Well-governed and effectively managed protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are proven area-based approaches for safeguarding habitats, species, and ecosystem services. Significant progress has been made in increasing the area-based coverage of protected areas since the turn of the millennium. Currently, ~16% of the land and 7.4% of the ocean is reported as PAs or OECMs, although only 2.5% of the ocean is in highly/fully protected areas (UNEP-WCMC, 2021). Yet, despite this, around 4,900 or 33% of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) remained without protected area coverage in 2019. Moreover, the majority of protected areas are state-governed and the protected area networks have tended to be underfunded, leading to levels of management being insufficient to halt degradation ('paper parks'). In some cases, this is also leading to protected area downgrading, downsizing and degazettement (Mascia and Pailler, 2010). The lesser focus placed to date on ecological connectivity and climate resilience also weakens these networks. There are also reported instances of human rights abuses occurring in the context of protected areas (Tauli-Corpuz, 2016), negatively impacting Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs). The emphasis on protected areas has also had the unintended effect of reducing the appropriate recognition of the value of areas outside these networks and led to the undervaluation of their associated governance and management systems at national and international levels - including by IPLCs, private landowners, and sectoral actors - such as farmers, fishers and foresters whose stewardship conserves biodiversity. This is despite the fact that IPLCs, in particular, are important custodians of the world's remaining natural places and support ecosystem services used by people outside their territories and communities (Garnett, 2018; WWF et al., 2021).

In response to the above factors, among others, the area-based conservation paradigm is changing. From 2001–2009, international biodiversity law and policy embraced human rights and equity through the Durban Action Plan that was adopted at the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (IUCN, 2003) and the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (CBD, 2004). Furthermore, the 'new paradigm for protected areas' (Phillips, 2003) emerged as the concept of 'governance' was expanded to include IPLCs as legitimate governance authorities, in addition to state and private actors, under all management types (Dudley, 2008). From 2010–2017, a raft of new guidance was developed to help implement the new paradigm, focusing on territories and areas conserved by IPLCs (Borrini-Feyerabend et al. 2013) and privately protected areas (Stolton et al., 2014).

The area-based conservation paradigm took a further step forward when Parties to the CBD included reference to 'other effective area-based conservation measures' (OECMs) in Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (CBD, 2010; Jonas et al., 2014, 2018). While protected areas are dedicated to the conservation of biodiversity, OECMs are areas that achieve the long-term *in situ* conservation of biodiversity regardless of their management objectives (CBD, 2018; IUCN 2019) - especially those conserved by IPLCs, private landowners and sectoral actors. Target 11 placed an emphasis on ecological representativeness and connectivity as well as integrating protected areas and OECMs into larger landscapes and seascapes. There is also an ever-greater focus on the linkages between area-based conservation and climate change, both in terms of supporting areas and people to adapt to a changing climate and in terms of how those areas can support climate mitigation. These changes are having major ramifications for the kinds of areas and governance authorities that are included in national conservation frameworks with implications for inclusivity, conservation effectiveness and climate resilience. In particular, and in addition to the heightened focus on IPLCs, private landowners and sectoral actors such as those involved in farming, fishing and forestry are increasingly engaged in conservation efforts.

Draft Target 3 of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is currently framed in the following way: *Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes*. Target 3 will incentivize countries to work towards increasing their area coverage of PAs and OECMs towards or exceeding the final agreed percentage target. This will require a range of governance and management approaches at the site-to-network level and the application of policy interventions, systems, tools, and partnerships that catalyze change and facilitate impact at scale. While some of the increase in area coverage will be delivered by the designation of new PAs - particularly in marine areas - a significant percentage of this increase is likely to come from newly identified OECMs, including those governed by IPLCs who own or govern ~32% of the Earth's terrestrial surface (ICCA Consortium, 2021, WWF et al., 2021), as well as by sectoral actors. This will place significant emphasis on at least two core issues, namely: inclusivity and conservation effectiveness:

- Inclusivity and rights: Central to Target 3 is the principle that countries' national-level planning processes are inclusive and are rights-based, including the full and effective participation of all relevant rights-holders and stakeholders and respect for their right to give or withhold their free, prior and informed consent. It is also imperative that existing or new protected areas and newly identified OECMs are governed and managed in ways that meet principles of equity, including recognition, procedure and distribution (CBD Decision 14/8, Annex II, 2018).
- Effective conservation: While the main focus to date has been on management effectiveness within PAs, CBD Decision 14/8 (2018) on 'protected areas and OECMs' has shifted the emphasis towards long-term conservation outcomes' (Jonas et al., 2021). This has put a greater focus on measuring and reporting conservation effectiveness, including through the use of Indigenous knowledge systems, as appropriate.

In this context, this project's objective is to: **support country planning to inclusively and effectively meet or exceed GBF Target 3**. Project partners will develop an easily accessible guide to developing inclusive and effective national level plans to achieve Target 3. In five countries, the project will support a series of in-country consultations and workshops with a wide range of stakeholders relating to GBF Target 3 to discuss local-to-national level priorities, review data, gaps analysis and develop national plans. As part of this, project partners will support in-country assessment and documentation of baseline data and gaps assessment relating to enabling conditions for Target 3, setting out what exists and what additional data are required to support work towards Target 3. This will support an inclusive analysis of those findings to address selected, prioritized (non-exhaustive) data or knowledge gaps. These activities and output will feed into broader multi-stakeholder consultations about local-to-national priorities for Target 3, designed to be inclusive, with a focus on right-based approaches to conservation, and to plan for effective, connected and climate resilient systems of PAs and OECMs. This will result in 5 national plans for achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3.

Project partners will support country representatives to present progress at the GEF Assembly in June 2022 (date TBD). Project partners will also ensure that all project outputs, including lessons, are disseminated widely. A monitoring and evaluation system will be in place throughout, incorporating mainstreaming gender equity and gender responsiveness, to gauge the project's implementation progress and impact.

### 1.a.1 Global environmental problems, threats and root causes i. Environmental Problems

The rate of change in biodiversity since 1970 is unprecedented in human history. Biodiversity has been significantly altered by multiple direct (threats) and indirect (root causes) anthropogenic drivers since the beginning of the industrial revolution and has been accelerating rapidly since 1970. Today a vast majority of local and global biodiversity indicators show a precipitous decline. The global rate of species extinction is now tens to hundreds of times higher than the background rate over the past 10 million years. Anthropogenic activity threatens many more species with global extinction than at any other time in history. An average of 25% of species in studied animal and plant groups are threatened. Extrapolating from those results, scientists have concluded that 1 million species may face extinction within decades unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of the direct threats to biodiversity. Without such action, further acceleration in extinction rates will likely result in future rates that are 10,000 times higher (Maheshwari, 2021) with concomitant and sometimes unpredictable declines in associated ecosystem services.

Since 1970, agricultural production, fish harvest, bioenergy production and harvest of raw materials have increased significantly resulting in 75% of the land surface has been significantly altered, 66% of the ocean has experienced increasing cumulative impacts, and 85% of wetlands has been lost (IPBES, 2019). While these increases in material production have contributed to increases in human wellbeing, they are supported by regulating ecosystem services which have declined, indicating that these gains in material production are not sustainable in the long term. For example, while the value of global agricultural crop production increased threefold since 1970 and raw timber harvest increased by 45%, the regulating services of soil organic carbon and pollination that support that production have declined. These gains will be difficult to sustain in the future as land degradation has reduced productivity in 23% of the global terrestrial area and pollinator loss has put at risk up to \$577 billion in annual global crop output (IPBES, 2019). Similarly, the global wild marine fish harvest increased fourfold between 1950 and the late 1990s, declining due to overfishing (Galbraith et al., 2017) and habitat destruction (Laurance, 2010). And while growth in aquaculture can fill much of the gap in demand, it does so with negative environmental consequences (e.g., habitat degradation, invasive species, pollution). Moreover, habitat destruction along the coasts has also reduced coastal protection, increasing risk from floods and hurricanes for the 300 million people living within coastal 100-year flood zones (IPBES, 2019).

And while most focus in the loss of diversity centers on wild species, the diversity in local varieties and breeds of domesticated plants and animals is also declining, posing risk to global food security by undermining the resilience of agricultural and aquaculture systems to threats such as pests, pathogens and climate change (IPBES, 2019). As of 2016, greater than 9% of domesticated breeds of mammals used for food and agriculture had become extinct and many crop wild relatives important for long-term food security lack protection. Reductions in the diversity of cultivated crops, crop wild relatives and domesticated breeds mean that food production is less resilient against future climate change, pests and pathogens (IPBES, 2019).

#### ii. Threats

The direct drivers of these changes in biodiversity (or threats to biodiversity) with the largest global impact are changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of species, climate change, pollution, and invasive species. In addition, these five direct drivers result from synergistically interacting indirect drivers of change (or root causes) which result from societal values and behaviors including governance, human population dynamics and trends, production and consumption

patterns, trade, and technological innovation. The rate of change in the direct and indirect drivers and their relative impacts differs across regions and countries.

Among the five direct drivers, land-use change has had the largest relative negative impact on biodiversity in terrestrial and freshwater systems, followed by overexploitation of animals, plants and other organisms, mainly via harvesting, logging, hunting and fishing (IPBES, 2019). Changes in land use for agriculture, urban and infrastructure expansion top the list. Currently, over one third of the global terrestrial area has been converted for crop or domestic animal production. In addition, clearing of land for food production (row crops and pasture) is responsible for 70% of tropical forest conversion annually, leading to significant losses in biodiversity. Agriculture is also responsible for 70% of the freshwater withdrawals leading to a decrease in freshwater fisheries and biodiversity. Direct exploitation of fish, shellfish and other organisms through fishing is the largest relative negative impact on biodiversity in marine systems, followed by land- and sea- use change such as coastal development for infrastructure and aquaculture (IPBES, 2019).

Although the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem services will likely become increasingly acute in the coming decades, climate change currently has its greatest impact on the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems services through exacerbating the impact of other drivers. The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events that result in increases in the frequency, severity, magnitude and distribution of warming, fires, floods, droughts and pests and pathogens have increased in the past 50 years. Through these pathways, climate change is demonstrably affecting species distribution, abundance, phenology, population dynamics, community structure and ecosystem function in terrestrial, marine and aquatic ecosystems with a complex array of ramifications that we do not yet fully comprehend.

#### iii. Root Causes

Indirect drivers of change (or root causes) result from societal values and behaviors which drive governance, human population dynamics and trends, production and consumption patterns, trade, and technological innovation. The ways in which biodiversity is conceptualized and valued has implications for choices that influence its degradation. Values differ across cultures and evolve over time. Values toward nature may be grounded in ethical principles, relationships, utilitarian values, or future focused. Cultural values with strong ties to biodiversity, or nature, found in many cultures, are associated with self-imposed restrictions based on norms (IPBES, 2019). Narrow utilitarian views of nature as economic inputs promote resource extraction, industrialization, urbanization, and global trade which have resulted in the decline of biodiversity worldwide. For example, in the last 50 years human population doubled while global extraction of biomass, fossil fuels, minerals, and metals increased sixfold (IPBES, 2019). Humans now extract 60 billion tons of renewable and nonrenewable resources while 75% of the terrestrial environment, 40% of the marine environment, and 50% of freshwater environment are experiencing severe impacts of degradation as a result (IPBES, 2019). In addition, expanding trade has meant that, in aggregate, the value of resource consumption has been disconnected from its impact on biodiversity and ecosystem service degradation. Technological innovation can result in increased pressure on ecosystem services through increased natural resource demand or extraction efficiency but it can also be a part of the solution to biodiversity loss through innovations that contribute to decoupling economic growth and the consumption of natural resources (IPBES, 2019).

#### iv. Barriers that need to be addressed to achieve Target 3 at the national level (systems description)

Target 3 of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, once agreed, will incentivize countries to increase their area-based conservation coverage towards the agreed percentage (currently 30%). But it will also pose a series of challenges that will need to be overcome if Target 3 is to be achieved or surpassed in ways that are inclusive and effective

Barrier 1. Lack of global guides and comprehensive national plans, including sufficient data: At the planning stage for national-level efforts towards Target 3, countries often lack comprehensive and nationally-tailored plans of action (taking account of needs, gaps, barriers, *inter alia*) to guide country efforts to achieve Target 3 objectives and guidance with respect to development of such plans. To support national level plans, countries require comprehensive data. Yet in many countries, environmental and social data are either unavailable or not disaggregated. To make informed decisions, countries will need to address this barrier by conducting gaps analyses of the available data and, based on those findings and through inclusive processes, produce or secure additional analyses and data to address any gaps (including related to projections of future conditions).

Barrier 2. Less than fully inclusive planning and implementation: To develop national plans, related processes must address institutional and procedural barriers to the full and effective participation of IPLCs, women, youth, private landowners, sectoral actors and other stakeholders such as NGOs and universities. IPLC voices, in particular, are often missing or deprioritized from key decision-making spaces at all levels of governance. This is despite the fact that IPLCs and sectoral players (including as cross-cutting categories: farmers, fishers, herders, hunters, ranchers and forest users) play a significant role in the governance, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity and depend on local ecosystem services. Especially as national agencies consider processes leading to any additions to their PA networks and the identification of OECMs, it is critical that rights-holders and stakeholders are engaged formally in planning processes from the earliest stage.

Barrier 3. Area-based conservation approaches that are not adequately planned and connected within landscapes, seascapes and river basins (including transboundary systems) and are not climate resilient: While some protected areas are equitable, effectively managed, well connected within larger ecological systems (including within transboundary systems), planned to be climate resilient, and deliver conservation outcomes for important biodiversity, many lack some or all of these characteristics. At the same time, to date, only 9 countries have reported OECMs to the World Database on OECMs (UNEP-WCMC, 2021). A lack or low levels of political will, capacity or finance can hinder countries' abilities to work towards:

- Improving equity rights-based and governance arrangements and management effectiveness (including monitoring and rights-based enforcement) in inequitable or underperforming protected areas and starting to engage with OECMs.
- Recognizing IPLC rights, lands and territories, and where needed, helping to strengthen rights, tenure and governance; and expanding coverage in areas with other tenure arrangements by enlarging, connecting, or establishing new PAs and OECMs, including in the context of IPLCs, private landowners and sectoral actors.
- Repurposing areas by adapting management objectives to changing conditions to optimize benefits for people including ecosystem services and nature in areas that no longer serve their original intended purpose.
- Planning across transboundary areas, in terrestrial, freshwater, coastal or marine systems, including by engaging with regional seas programmes, large marine ecosystem commissions, and river basin commissions.

The most effective scale for area-based conservation is the landscape/seascape/river basin. Yet there remain countries that continue to plan for single PAs or networks of only PAs, i.e., in some cases neither working at the landscape/seascape/river basin level nor including OECMs or other conserved areas in inclusive plans and actions. This needs to be addressed so that countries can plan at the landscape, seascape and river basin levels, as well as anticipate changing conditions, including due to climate change to enable:

- Redesigning networks of protected and conserved areas in landscapes for more effective conservation, including enhanced connectivity and, where needed, temporary and dynamic protections as well as permanent ones.
- Renovating modified or degraded ecosystems in the face of changing conditions to conserve nature and meet the shifting needs of people.

Barrier 4. Insufficient financial investment and related capacity: There exists persistent public underfunding for the equitable governance and effective management of protected and conserved area systems, which negatively impacts the capacity of governance and management authorities and limits the activities they can undertake. To secure nature and nature's services to people for the long-term, both existing and future PAs and OECMs require sufficient, permanent financing for effective management. Addressing these shortfalls and securing related financing at the scale required – from diverse sources including public, private, and market-based mechanisms, as appropriate and according to the right to FPIC – is critical to achieving new global biodiversity targets and working to address biodiversity loss. That includes enhancing incentives for IPLCs to continue to manage their lands and waters to conserve nature and nature's services to people; incentives include adequate livelihoods and wellbeing conditions (e.g., health); as well as access to credit to the development of native-owned business. Sufficient enabling conditions must be in place for large-scale permanent financing efforts to succeed.

Barrier 5. Policy incoherence hinders progressive approaches to Target 3: As above, there is a need to apply dynamic conservation approaches that account for threats like climate change at large scales and overcome resistance to moving away from outdated or inflexible approaches to conservation. To do this, there is a range of new, innovative approaches that are required to plan for and implement inclusive and effective conservation towards achieving or surpassing Target 3. Yet in-country legal and policy frameworks and related institutional arrangements are not necessarily sufficient or adequate to facilitate what is required, and this can result in 'policy incoherence'; i.e., when the government's diverse stated aims are not fully aligned, including where policies support both subsidies to biodiversity damaging and plans to achieve biodiversity targets. Business as usual approaches to static planning for landscapes, seascapes, and their protected and conserved areas remain influential. Currently, pro-conservation short- and long-term policies are not regarded as a priority by many decision-makers that often favor harmful institutional arrangements and measures such as environmentally perverse subsidies. These constitute a barrier by being at cross-purposes with area-based conservation goals, including by encouraging overuse or wasteful use of natural resources and by contributing to the finance gap. Reforming existing frameworks - including relating to area based-conservation, wildlife crime and perverse subsidies, as well as developing new frameworks, and including for OECMs - will be crucial to address these barriers. In this context, harmful subsidies or policies, such as in the agriculture sector, constitute a barrier to achieving Target 3.

**Barrier 6. Low levels of monitoring, evaluation and learning**: Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) are integral to reflexive and adaptive forms of planning and implementation. Countries that do not fully integrate MEL systems into their approach to Target 3 will underperform.

Taken together, the above 6 broad categories of issues will be barriers to achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3 inclusively and effectively unless they are addressed. The implications of not addressing each barrier effectively include:

- Barrier 1: The lack of global guides and comprehensive national plans, including sufficient data will continue to hinder informed decision making and national-level planning.
- Barrier 2: Less than fully inclusive planning and implementation that result from institutional and procedural
  barriers to the full and effective participation of IPLCs, women, youth, private landowners, sectoral actors and
  other stakeholders such as NGOs and universities denies these rights holders and stakeholders views from
  being integrated into the plans and can generate less engagement with non-inclusive plans and/or may result in
  conflict.
- Barrier 3: Area-based conservation approaches that do not adequately plan for climate change and/or are not connected within landscapes, seascapes and river basins (including transboundary systems) may generate short-term benefits but will not lead to the long-term conservation and social outcomes. They may even exacerbate biodiversity loss over the medium- to long-term.

- Barrier 4: Insufficient financial investment and related capacity, if unaddressed, undermines the ability of
  governance and management authorities to take decisive actions, at scale and over the long-term to address
  biodiversity loss.
- Barrier 5: Laws, policies and institutional arrangements can become a limiting factor if they have become outdated and are not aligned with (and therefore enable) progressive progressive approaches to Target 3. For example, very few countries have begun to engage with how OECMs are either supported or hindered by their (sub-)national legal, policy and institutional frameworks. Policy incoherence results in nature loss and undermines conservation financing and actions. Where they are not/less supportive, some levels of reforms will be required to ensure these enabling conditions are in place.
- Barrier 6: Where low levels of monitoring, evaluation and learning are not addressed, the conservation system will not be responsive enough to mitigate adverse trends or well placed to draw upon and replicate successes.

#### 1.a.2 Baseline Scenario

#### Area-based conservation

Protected areas and OECMs can be effective strategies for addressing the environmental problems described above. In addition to safeguarding biodiversity, they can promote carbon sequestration, resiliency and adaptation to climate change, and a range of other ecosystem services that benefit people. The GBF Target 3 sets out a goal that at least 30% of the Earth's land (including freshwater systems) and sea surface area be conserved through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) (Convention on Biological Diversity, 2021). To help illuminate the needed investments to achieve Target 3, the progress on area-based conservation to date is reviewed below.

The latest data from the Protected Planet indicate that just over 21 million km², 15.7% of the planet's land surface, is within protected areas, as are 28.1 million km², or 7.9%, of the ocean's surface (https://www.protectedplanet.net). The proportions of all river kilometers (Abell et al., 2017) and areas of wetland (Bastin et al., 2019) within protected areas are quite similar to the percentage of land protected, largely because these features maintain a scaling relationship with land area. Large rivers—which support the highest species richness of freshwater species and the greatest production of ecosystem services for people—have a somewhat lower level of protection (Opperman et al., 2021). Further, because wetlands and river ecosystems are strongly shaped by flow patterns and connectivity within hydrological networks and flow patterns, traditional protected areas have limited ability to safeguard many of their processes and values and so scientists are developing other metrics to track their protection, such as the Connectivity Status Index (CSI) (Grill et al., 2019).

In addition to protected areas (in which conservation is the primary management objective), the CBD also tracks the contribution toward Target 3 of OECMs. An OECM is defined as "A geographically defined area other than a protected area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio—economic, and other locally relevant values" (CBD, 2018). OECMs include some Indigenous, locally and privately conserved areas, corridors, water reserves, and security lands, among others (Jonas et al., 2018). According to the data on the *Protected Planet*, the quantification of OECMs adds just over 1% of land surface (bringing the PA + OECM total to 16.8%) and 0.1% to the ocean surface (bringing the total to 8.0%).

Although the Aichi Target 11 for land (17% within PAs and OECMs) was essentially met by 2020, progress fell short of the target for the goal for oceans (10%), and inland waters are not well represented by being lumped in with land (Opperman et al. 2021). Further, while the global coverage goal for overall coverage in PAs and OECMs was met, the associated goal that protected areas coverage be ecologically representative has not been met. The target of 17% in PAs

and OECMs was met for less than half of the world's 821 ecoregions and one-third of Key Biodiversity Areas have no formal protection at all (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021).

Understanding progress toward conservation goals requires more than just spatial mapping and accounting. The effectiveness of management of PAs and OECMs is also key. The Aichi Targets also included goals for countries to survey their PAs and OECMs for management effectiveness with, for example, a goal that countries assess management effectiveness across 60% of their PAs and OECMs. 15% of countries have met this target. Globally, just over one-tenth of PAs, representing 18% of total spatial extent under protection, have documented assessments of their management effectiveness (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021). This metric only tracks whether an assessment has occurred, not on the results of those assessments and these results haven't been organized and reported yet. The IUCN World Heritage Outlook provides some insight as it includes information on management effectiveness for a subset of the world's protected areas (IUCN, 2020). The Outlook found that, since 2017, more Heritage Sites have deteriorated than have improved.

Aichi Target 11, and the draft GBF, also include goals that protected areas and OECMs be "equitably managed" (which includes equitable governance), encompassing "respect for stakeholders and their rights...transparency, accountability...and the fair distribution of costs and benefits." The Protected Planet Report (2020) documents progress on these topics, and concludes, "Despite these advances, achieving equitable governance remains one of the greatest challenges faced by the world's conservation network." Much of the need for improvements in equitable governance (and related arrangements such as shared governance) centers around the relationships between protected areas and indigenous peoples (and other local communities). The land managed by indigenous people represents a potentially major contribution to total global conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, through two ways:

- Overlap with protected and conserved areas. Just over one-quarter (26%)\* of protected or conserved lands (state or private) overlaps with the territory of indigenous people (ICCA Consortium, 2021). Thus, management of these areas must account for the objectives and values of Indigenous peoples.
- Non-overlapping lands with potential for conservation. The area of land managed by Indigenous peoples encompasses approximately 28 million km², more than 20% of the world's land surface. Of this total, approximately 5 million km² is the overlap with protected or conserved areas, described above, while 23 million km² does not overlap. Thus, the land owned by Indigenous peoples that does not have other formal recognition as a protected area represents 17% of the world's land surface. Thus, Indigenous peoples manage an area of the planet's land surface that is just slightly larger than the extent of land within protected areas and OECMs and a substantial portion of that protected and conserved land is also owned and/or governed by Indigenous peoples. It is clear that Indigenous peoples, and the lands and waters they own and manage, can make a critical contribution to the global conservation of nature. However, this contribution is contingent on the respect for the rights of IPLCs, including the right to free, prior and informed consent and their full and effective participation in decisions, transparent communication from governments, and, ultimately, management of resources that reflect the values and priorities of the people who own and/or govern the land, underscoring the need for progress on both equitable governance and effective management of protected and conserved areas.

#### GBF Target 3

Parties were planning on meeting in 2020 at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD to agree a global biodiversity Framework. This did not occur due to COVID and the process is still ongoing. Nevertheless, the Parties have advanced a 'first detailed draft' of the Global Biodiversity Framework, that includes a draft Target 3 on

<sup>\*</sup> Garret et al. 2018 have similar, but somewhat larger numbers. However, the ICCA Consortium report is three years more recent and discusses the Garret report having taken into account those methods but having developed different numbers.

area-based conservation: Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

While this has yet to be agreed, a number of countries have already started progressing towards the Target 3 goal of 30% coverage by 2030, including the 70 members of the <u>High Ambition Coalition</u> - i.e., developing existing plans and strategies to engage with the increased extend called for in draft Target 3 as well as potentially new approaches, such as OECMs. Donors and conservation NGOs are supporting both the global movement for '30x30' (as GBF Target 3 is sometimes referred to) and individual countries' progress.

At the global level, WWF-US has been developing a new and dynamic approach to support countries to achieve the CBD's anticipated post-2020 area-based conservation biodiversity target (WWF-US. 2019. *Area-based conservation: the way forward for WWF-US*. Unpublished report). WWF-US assessed the global area-based conservation situation (summarized in the Annex); reviewed where WWF-US was supporting area-based conservation in the field; and analyzed how the organization will need to adjust its approach considering future change.

A 2019 rapid assessment revealed that WWF-US was supporting area-based conservation in nearly 2.7 million km² around the world, with 85% of this terrestrial and 14% marine, along with 4,460 km of rivers. At least 60% of the total area was in PAs. Outside PAs, IPLC conserved areas covered the largest area, followed by corridors. Twenty-eight percent of all management units (protected areas and conserved areas) contained some Indigenous areas. Within this coverage, the regions where WWF intends to focus its future area-based conservation work are places where it has a long history of work in the field: Amazon, Arctic, the Great Plains of the United States, Eastern Himalayas, Greater Mekong, Congo Basin, and the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area. WWF is currently refining priority landscapes, seascapes, and river basins within these regions and identifying seascapes in additional oceanic regions. WWF US has subsequently undertaken landscape/seascape level area-based conservation assessments in the Bering Strait and Southwest Amazon.

Project Finance for Permanence (PFP), Earth for Life, and Enduring Earth

A series of PFPs are under development and implementation, which are building financial and management capacity for area-based conservation in target geographies around the world. PFPs empower local partners, align resources and efforts toward a specific conservation goal, improve management effectiveness and institutional capacities, and directly address the challenges and threats to protected and conserved areas to generate long term conservation results. Key enabling conditions for this approach include: having a unified goal, a political champion, in-country institutional capacity, good performance achieving international commitments, donor interest and pathways for long term financial sustainability in-country. A guide to the PFP approach – *Securing Sustainable Financing for Conservation Areas* – has been developed by the World Bank GEF-6 Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program, WWF and country partners (in Colombia, Peru and Brazil).

PFPs in implementation during the proposed Target 3 GEF Project period, that this project will coordinate with and learn from, include:

- Amazon Region Protected Areas for Life Project (ARPA). This GEF-funded project utilizes a PFP approach to support the expansion and consolidation of strict protected areas in the Amazonian region to advance government goals to bring at least 10% of the Amazon biome under strict protection.
- Forever Costa Rica. Launched in 2010 in partnership with the Government of Costa Rica, the Linden Trust for Conservation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, the GEF, The Nature Conservancy, and others, Forever Costa Rica aims to double the extent of Costa Rica's marine protected areas,

- improve the management of marine and terrestrial protected areas, and secure permanent financing for protected areas. Over the past ten years it has benefitted 146 PAs, enhancing management effectiveness in 75 PAs.
- Bhutan For Life the first PFP in Asia, BFL covers around 2 million hectares and will mobilize \$43 million from the GEF, GCF, and others (in addition to a government commitment of \$35m million) to strengthen enforcement and management of protected areas; protect and monitoring wildlife and habitats; and support communities through job creation initiatives in Bhutan. It includes interconnected protected areas and biological corridors, and has a target of bringing 51% of Bhutan under improved management, as well as carbon sequestration and climate change resilience goals.
- Peru's Natural Legacy (or "PdP," its Spanish acronym) is supported by the GEF and other donors. PdP covers 17 million hectares of protected areas and aims to cover an identified \$140 million gap for conservation of 38 protected areas and establishment of at least 2 new PAs. \$70 million has been committed by donors towards closing the financial gap.
- Heritage Colombia (or "HeCo", its Spanish acronym) is also supported by the GEF along with other donors.
   HeCo is expected to close in 2022 and will include a donor fund of nearly \$100 million to support 23 protected areas across over 25 million hectares of landscape.
- Parallel processes in Ecuador and Bolivia, funded by the Bezos Earth Fund, to strengthen systemic enabling conditions over three years, which will lay the groundwork for achieving 30x30 goals and for possible PFPs there.

All of the above PFPs are supported by the GEF. Additional key partners to some of the PFPs include the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, WWF, World Bank, UNDP and GCF. New PFPs will be implemented through the new Enduring Earth partnership, comprised of The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and Ben and Lucy Ana Walton through ZOMALAB. The Enduring Earth partnership is proposing a global scaling up of the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach to enable long-term financing and management of conservation areas. The Enduring Earth partners are actively discussing resource mobilization targets in the hundreds of millions for potentially closing 20 PFPs by 2030, with strong signals of interest from various philanthropic sources to advance a conservation vision aligned with the SDGs and other development ambitions. We will consider the countries in which this work is occurring as one of the criteria when selecting the 5 countries for the project. PFPs in development through the Enduring Earth partnership in 2022 and 2023 include: Colombia, Namibia, Belize, Gabon, Canada's Northwest Territories, and the Great Bear Sea along the coast of British Columbia.

#### Bezos Earth Fund and 30x30

The Bezos Earth Fund (BEF) is Jeff Bezos's \$10 billion commitment to fund scientists, activists, NGOs, and other actors that will drive climate and nature-based solutions. Funds will be fully allocated by 2030 - the date by which the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals must be achieved. At the UN General Assembly, BEF announced a \$1 billion pledge to support 30x30, with a focus on regions that are important for biodiversity, hold large carbon stocks and where governments have demonstrated commitment. Grants under this commitment will support creation, expansion, management and monitoring of protected and conserved areas, as well as advance the land tenure rights of indigenous peoples and the role of local communities and organizations in conservation.

On December 6<sup>th</sup>, BEF announced some specific grants under this \$1 billion fund for 30x30, with a focus on the Congo Basin and Tropical Andes. This included 8 grants totaling \$105.05 million towards the Congo Basin to create more than 11 million hectares of new protected areas, including the rights to 5 million hectares of land for local communities. The organizations will also work to strengthen the management of more than 60 million hectares of protected and conserved areas in the DRC, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo. Also announced were grants for the Tropical Andes: 11 grants were made totaling \$151.05 million for the creation of more than 48 million hectares of newly protected areas. This will secure the rights to 19 million hectares of land for local communities and strengthen the management of more than 108

million hectares of protected areas in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. A \$5 million grant will also support the planning of the world's largest transnational marine protected area in the Galapagos and Eastern Pacific. Additionally, a \$25 million grant will support the creation of an innovative global mechanism proposed by the global alliance of territorial communities to provide direct support for IPLC groups working with the Rights and Resources Group in the Campaign for Nature, to advance land tenure rights for indigenous peoples.

In addition to the BEF-funded Enduring Earth project, described above, the project is <u>supporting</u> the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to support countries from the Congo Basin (Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon) and the Andes region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru) to become global leaders in the identification, designation, management, monitoring and reporting of protected and conserved areas. UNEP-WCMC will convene national and international partners, including representatives of IPLCs to achieve three key outcomes regionally and in each country: a) identify, recognise, and map existing protected and conserved areas; b) determine priorities and targets for the designation of new protected and conserved areas; and c) comprehensively monitor and report progress against national targets and contributions to global ambitions for protected and conserved areas.

Additional GEF and non-GEF Programs Supporting Area-based Conservation and Inclusive Conservation

Additional relevant projects that the proposed Target 3 GEF Project will coordinate with, both in-country if there is an overlap with the final five project countries, and at the global and thematic level, include:

- The Blue Nature Alliance to Expand and Improve the Conservation of 1.25 Billion Hectares of Ocean Ecosystems, which targets marine and coastal ecosystems, supported by the GEF, CI, Pew, Minderoo and Ben and Lucy Ana Walton;
- Legacy Landscapes Fund, supported by BMZ, KfW, AfD, and a number of NGOs, which aims to: a) build a global, diversified portfolio of 30+ legacy landscapes by 2030, b) protect more than 60.000km2 of the world's most important biodiversity, and c) set-up a 1bn USD sinking plus endowment funds with public and private donors that will allow to support operational costs of up to 30 landscapes in perpetuity. The Fund focuses on iconic parks only (IUCN categories 1-2) and parks must be at least 200,000 hectares;
- *Pristine Seas*, led by National Geographic Society, an exploration, research, and conservation project that aims to find, survey, and help protect the last healthy, undisturbed places in the ocean.
- The *Inclusive Conservation Initiative* (ICI), supported by the GEF and a partnership between Conservation International and IUCN, aims to support IPLCs to secure and enhance their stewardship over an estimated area of at least 3.6 million hectares of landscapes, seascapes and/or territories with high biodiversity and irreplaceable ecosystems.

The country selection will, to some extent, determine the tools and opportunities available to bring in private investments in support of GBF target 3.

Existing Regional & National Plans and Frameworks

Once the five countries have been finalized in early implementation, the project team will identify existing national and regional plans and frameworks relevant to the selected countries, so that existing plans and frameworks help inform national level planning with a view of securing, for example, critical links between marine fish stocks, their migratory patterns, key national or transboundary habitats, and to reflect experiences from including regional priority strategies and actions into the guide developed under output 1.1.1.

#### Baseline for Knowledge Management

The proposed GBF Target 3 GEF Project will coordinate and build off some existing best-practice and wide-reaching knowledge sharing platforms to disseminate results. This includes exploring the potential to develop synergies with other GEF-supported, World Bank managed programs – Global Wildlife Program, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program, and Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program – which host frequent, well attended webinars. The IW:LEARN Conference (which takes place every two years) and IW:LEARN website provide another GEF-funded platform for dissemination of project information. In 2022, two major events with government attendance include the GEF Assembly in June 2022 (date TBD), and the Biodiversity COP15, to be held in Kunming (China) date yet to be determined.

#### 1.a.3 Proposed Alternative Scenario

The proposed alternative scenario is focused at the national level and involves a substantially more inclusive and effective approach to area-based conservation as the basis for achieving or exceeding Target 3 of the GBF. With reference to the section above on 'barriers', the alternative scenario per category is set out below.

- 1. Comprehensive national plans, including sufficient data: There are comprehensive, nationally-tailored plans of action, taking account of data and analysis needs, gaps, barriers, budget, *inter alia*, to guide country efforts to achieve Target 3 objectives and guidance with respect to development of such plans. These plans include the identification of key terrestrial and marine areas that could contribute to achieve the 30x30 target at the national level and the findings of a rapid-review financial analysis which will estimate not only the baseline funding currently available for the selected countries, but the financial gaps and national roadmaps to address them. These plans will also contain the economic analysis and data about the short and long-term economic benefit from PAs and OECMs, providing information such as the socio-environmental benefits and co-benefits of investing in the improvement or expansion of these systems in each country. This information will be important for governmental agencies and other rights holders and stakeholders to demonstrate the social and environmental return of investment of PAs and OECMs, and they will be in better capacity to evidence the exponential opportunities of conservation and to attract funds and capacity to finance these areas.
- **2. Inclusive planning and implementation**: National plans and implementation produced and undertaken through processes that ensure the full and effective participation of IPLCs, sectoral actors (private sector) and other stakeholders such as NGOs and academic institutions. This will include the plans being developed through inclusive processes as well as being reviewed widely to ensure inputs from diverse rights-holders and stakeholders, from across each country.
- **3.** Area-based conservation approaches that are planned and connected within landscapes, seascapes and river basins and are climate resilient: National plans promote work towards protected areas and OECMs that: a) focus on governance equity and management effectiveness (including monitoring and rights-based enforcement) in inequitable or underperforming protected areas and start to engage with OECMs; b) recognize IPLC rights, lands and territories, and where needed, help to strengthen rights, tenure, governance and equitable access to benefits; and expand coverage in areas with other tenure arrangements by enlarging, connecting, or establishing new PAs and OECMs; c) redesign networks of areas in landscapes for more effective conservation, including enhanced connectivity and, where needed, temporary and dynamic protections as well as permanent ones; d) renovate modified or degraded ecosystems in the face of changing conditions to conserve nature and meet the shifting needs of people; and repurpose areas by adapting management objectives to changing conditions to optimize benefits for people including ecosystem services and nature in areas that no longer serve their original intended purpose.

- **4. Sufficient financial investment and related capacity**: Governmental agencies and other rights holders and stakeholders use their plans to secure sufficient funds to support the appropriate levels of capacity and to fund all related area-based conservation activities. This includes sourcing funding from the GEF as well as from other nationally-based sources, funders and foundations. Funds can be used to support a wide range of relevant activities, including increasing capacity across all kinds of activities, from local implementation to the development of laws and policies (below).
- 5. Laws, policy coherence and institutional arrangements support progressive approaches to GBF Target 3: Countries' Target 3 plans catalyse dynamic conservation approaches through reformed and or new legal and policy frameworks and related institutional arrangements. This may include revising protected area-related legislation to enable or support governance by IPLCs and private entities, or to better recognise OECMs across landscapes, seascapes and river-basins including in transborder areas. This also catalyses the identification of political opportunity windows to redirect harmful subsidies towards instruments and mechanisms that provide incentives for reducing the pressures and competition between land use systems. Key to repurposing harmful subsidies is also the coordination among different sectors in the economy and potentially a paradigm change in some traditional sectors (e.g., agriculture and mining).
- **6.** Adequate monitoring, evaluation and learning: Country GBF Target 3 plans include reference to and generate investments in monitoring, evaluation and learning to ensure reflexive and adaptive forms of management, planning and implementation. This in turn, leads to improved processes and better decisions, which contribute positively to GBF Target 3-related activities being undertaken.

#### i. Theory of Change

- **1 National plans, including sufficient data**: If national GBF Target 3 planning processes are undertaken towards achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3, that draw on comprehensive data, then they will result in national-level plans.
- **2. Inclusive planning and implementation**: If those GBF Target 3 planning processes are inclusive of all relevant rights holders and stakeholders then they will engage with a wide variety of considerations and the resulting plans will be inclusive.
- **3. Innovative, climate sensitive area-based conservation approaches**: If those GBF Target 3 planning processes also engage with issues such as ecological connectivity, climate resilience and disaster risk management then the resulting plans will also include these considerations.
- **4. Sufficient financial investment and related capacity**: If the GBF Target 3 national level plans are comprehensive, then governmental agencies and other rights holders and stakeholders will be better placed to use their plans to secure sufficient funds to support the appropriate levels of capacity and to fund all related area-based conservation activities.
- **5.** Laws, policy coherence and institutional arrangements support progressive approaches to GBF Target 3: If countries' Target 3 plans make clear calls for reformed and/or new legal and policy frameworks and related institutional arrangements then those changes are more likely to be implemented. Coordination among different sectors is also crucial to increase the probability that the necessary institutional reforms to achieve or exceed Target 3 are implemented.
- **6. Adequate monitoring, evaluation and learning**: If Target 3 plans include reference to monitoring, evaluation and learning, those activities are more likely to be funded and undertaken.

Overall, if GBF Target 3 plans are developed with a keen focus on inclusive conservation and conservation effectiveness, and based on comprehensive data, then countries will be in an optimum position to work towards either achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3 in ways that are rights-based, equitable and achieve the in-situ conservation of important biodiversity, ecological connectivity and climate resilience in systems of PAs and OECMs across landscapes, seascapes and river-basins. Taken together, the GBF Target 3 plans will establish an inclusive and scientifically sound basis for working towards Target 3, in ways that will deliver equitable and effective conservation outcomes.

#### ii. Project Objective

The project objective is the following: Support country planning to inclusively and effectively meet or exceed GBF Target 3.

#### iii. Project Components, Outcomes and Outputs

The project will be implemented through two components: 1) a global level component that includes development of a guide for countries related to GBF Target 3 planning, and the development of 5 national plans to inclusively and effectively meet or exceed Target 3, 2) a component relating to knowledge products and M&E, with a focus on: a) knowledge products being shared with relevant rights holders and stakeholders to contribute to knowledge management, and b) M&E plans being implemented for adaptive management. Note that project activities financed by the GEF project budget will include stakeholder consultation, meetings, information collection and analysis, and will not include any site-based activities in the five countries.

Given the relatively short timeframe for project development (under two months), scoping of countries for inclusion in the project is underway in project development but could not be completed with full government sign off. As such, the five participating countries will be finalized early in implementation. A selection process and criteria for selection of the 5 countries has been developed and agreed upon, as follows.

#### Process:

- Develop a long list of countries that meet the goals of geographic representation of the GEF client countries and some level of commitment towards Target 3,
- Hold virtual consultations with in-country representatives from WWF and CSF to assess against the full list of criteria.
- Create a short list with a balance of: geographic representation, LDC, SIDS, MIC, and megadiverse countries, as well as marine and terrestrial area-based conservation opportunities,
- Hold virtual consultations with relevant government ministries, GEF OFPs and CBD Focal Points to discuss the project and gauge willingness and interest to engage, and
- Finalize the list of 5 countries.

#### Selection Criteria:

- Government willingness to generate plans for Target 3 within the project timeframe,
- Likelihood of engagement of civil society and IPLCs in the project and good relationship and attitude of government and project partners to civil society and IPLCs,
- Commitment to IPLC approaches, such as ICCAs and OECMs, and leadership in IPLC conservation,
- WWF office capacity (and CSF reach) to facilitate the project implementation in-country, especially the stakeholder engagement,
- Availability of technical expertise in-country to do the required analyses,
- Strong commitment to Target 3 (high ambition coalition member),
- Low risk of political turnover or instability in the project period,

- Capacity to influence other countries,
- Availability of relevant data, and
- Overall group of countries with inclusion/balance of LDCs, SIDS, megadiverse, and geographic/ecological balance.

The countries selected will represent diverse geographies, biomes, and potential for IPLC and/or OECM integration into Target 3 plans. With representation from four continents, there will be regional examples relevant for other GEF-eligible countries. Selected countries will ideally represent a spectrum of places from those that are already international leaders to places that have further to go for planning to reach Target 3. Finalization of countries will take into account government willingness to champion this work and present the work at global events or forums (such as GEF Assembly, tbd), local capacity that can dedicate time to this project, and no changes at the head-of-state level that would be expected to impact the project. Membership in the High Ambition Coalition, existing relationships between civil society and government to get this work done, and places that have the capacity to influence others and/or lead on IPLC issues will also be factors in consideration. Discussion on all of these criteria with country governments, including GEF Operational Focal Points, is underway and could not be completed during the condensed project development period. Country selection will be finalized during early project implementation.

#### Component 1: Develop inclusive and effective national level plans to achieve Target 3

#### Outcome 1.1 Strengthened country planning/ capacity to meet/exceed GBF Target 3

This component and outcome will develop a guide to support the development of inclusive and effective plans towards meeting or exceeding Target 3 in the 5 countries involved in this project *as well as* all other GEF-eligible countries and other governmental agencies, rights holders and stakeholders who might also use the guide. It also includes the development of plans for achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3 in ways that are inclusive and effective.

# Output 1.1.1: A concise, user-friendly "how-to" guide for countries to develop an inclusive and effective plan to meet or exceed GBF Target 3

The development of the overall guide will be led by one or more experts working with an advisory group. The lead author will first develop a five-page document to support the five countries as they begin their work. The lead author will then develop the guide by drawing upon, among other things: the experiences emerging from the 5 countries, the wide range of expertise across WWF's network and beyond, the literature, international law, policy and related best practice, and relevant datasets. They will also consult widely and may host one or more virtual webinars and focus group discussions to critically engage with the issues at the start of the project. They will facilitate a peer-review process to obtain feedback from a representative cross-section of audiences for the guide, including IPLC and other right holders and stakeholders. As part of this process, project partners will engage with the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group as well as other global bodies, such as the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy. The guide will also have two annexes that set out the core elements of inclusive conservation and effective conservation. The concise, user-friendly "how-to" guide will be produced in an easily accessible format in clear language; contain practical guidance and recommendations; be under 60 pages long (this is an upper limit; including annexes); be produced in English, and translated into at least French and Spanish.

#### Output 1.1.2: National plans for five countries (developed through inclusive processes)

This outcome relates to the development of 5 national level plans setting out actions related to GBF Target 3, with a focus on inclusive consultation processes and data-related gaps analyses. The national plans will outline how each country can achieve Target 3, including actions related to designing, prioritizing, and implementing activities and

policies to support conservation and close any identified data gaps. The project partners will select the 5 countries based on the criteria set out above. The plans will be developed through 4 main categories of activities.

Activity 1. Consultative planning processes: WWF country offices will work with the relevant governmental agencies and other relevant actors to bring together through inclusive consultations and workshops a wide range of rights holders and stakeholders - such as other government agencies/departments, IPLC representatives and federations, private actors, academics and NGOs/CBOs, with a cross-cutting focus on gender - to discuss the issues relevant to developing national level plans for GBF Target 3. This will include a stakeholder analysis at an early stage, with direct linkages to the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan that recognizes, among other things, the importance of cross sector coordination as a consideration in the development of comprehensive plans, particularly in the context of shifting subsidy schemes toward nature-positive outcomes. The work will be guided by a short, 5-page document, produced by the project partners that sets out the key elements of planning for GBF Target 3 in ways that are inclusive and deliver effective conservation outcomes.

Subject to reasonable national-level flexibility and consideration such as COVID, the consultation process will involve the following phases:

- 1. Awareness and capacity: Where necessary, consultations will first focus on right holder and stakeholder-specific workshops where certain groups require awareness raising and/or capacity building to enable them to engage with the issues. This will likely include IPLC groups.
- 2. *Issue identification*: Consultations to identify key opportunities as well as issues that need to be discussed or barriers that need to be resolved to support inclusive and effective GBF Target 3 plans.
- 3. *Issue engagement*: Consultations to address the issues and/or barriers identified in phase 2. This will include discussion of the country-level gaps analysis, *described below*.
- 4. Development of plans: Consultations and working groups to develop a draft GBF Target 3 plan.
- 5. *Inclusive review*: Consultations among all key rights holders and stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft plan.
- 6. *Finalization*: Agreement by all relevant rights holders and stakeholders. *The risk associated with not achieving this is addressed below in section 5: Risks*.

The meetings should be held in ways that make them as accessible as possible to the relevant rights holder and stakeholders, i.e., not held only in the respective capital cities. Rapporteurs will ensure all proceedings are recorded and participants in all activities should be documented. This work will begin immediately when the project is agreed and should end just before the end of the project. The experiences from the 5 countries will inform the development of the guide, above.

**Activity 2. Country-led assessment and documentation on baseline data and gaps assessment**: To plan effectively to achieve or exceed GBF Target 3, countries require comprehensive data. This activity relates to gaps assessments of data relevant for GBF Target 3 planning. The assessment will include review of the following:

- Baseline assessments of land, freshwater, and sea areas currently under some form of conservation through protected areas and other arrangements, including OECMs where they already exist, and including information on governance of those areas, using IUCN and CBD four main types of governance as reference.
- National level gap analyses of ecosystem representation, biodiversity, and ecosystem services coverage in existing protected and conserved areas considering current and future conditions.
- Existing (i) strategic plans for each major landscape/seascape/river basin and/or PA/conserved area/OECM networks and (ii) financial gap analyses for landscapes/seascapes/river basins and/or networks of PAs/OECMs in the country that provide a sense of costs to achieve 30%.
- Analyses of benefits and co-benefits in terms of climate change (carbon sequestration and adaptation), land degradation (sustainable land use), livelihoods (extractive and other biodiversity friendly activities).

- Documentation of existing and potential funding sources for PAs and OECMs within each country.
- Institutional framework for area-based conservation.
- Literature reviews to determine return of investment specific to short/long-term financial and economic benefits.
- Enabling conditions to support bringing internal laws, policies and funding in line with Target 3.
- Identification of other factors affecting achievement of Target 3.

During the baseline data and gaps assessment, to complement the review process described above, interviews with key stakeholders (e.g., line ministries, national and international NGOs, and Indigenous People) will be conducted by national consultants in each country to identify non publicly available or missing data on the four gaps.

More specifically, the table below describes the activities.

Gaps	Activities	Specific activities/goals
Ecosystem representation, biodiversity and ecosystem services coverage, and governance	Collect data on land, freshwater and sea areas that are currently under some form of protection (protected areas and conserved areas including OECMs if they exist). Include transboundary conservation areas within the country	Identify the most threatened ecosystems in each selected country  Identify the percentage of these
	Collect data on governance of the land, freshwater and sea areas that are under protection (protected areas and conserved areas including OECMs if they exist)	ecosystems that are currently protected and the percentage that are not protected  Identify indigenous and local
	Collect data on ecologically significant areas (e.g., IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, KBAs and EBSAs, and Irrecoverable Carbon Stock Areas) and the most important ecosystem services they provide to people	communities living inside areas under some form of protection
	Collect data on climate change risks to protected and conserved areas, biodiversity, the most important ecosystem services, and the people dependent on them, and any existing resilience building	
	Conduct interviews to check the appropriateness of using global data while investigating the existence of national data that could be used instead	
Funding and financial sources	Conduct a literature review to identify which landscapes/conservation areas have up-to-date strategic plans that contains specific conservation management goals and activities that are	Identify baseline funding and one-time and recurrent financial gaps
	standardized within each major PA/OECM network	Identify potential funding sources and opportunities, including the existence of an independent, in-country conservation trust fund

	Conduct a literature review on studies about conservation areas' financial gap  Conduct a literature review to identify current funding sources used by the country to finance protected areas and OECMs, including effective use of public/private funding  Conduct interviews to identify possible missing data	that might be able to administer and channel significant amounts of donor funding to PA/OECM networks  Identify financial gaps specific to strategic plans  Assess how completely the existing analyses reflect existing PA/OECM networks and Target 3 goal  Identify the potential environmental and social benefits and co-benefits associated with PAs and OECMs  Identify what benefits and co-benefits have been quantified in monetary terms  If possible, assess the net benefits (benefits - costs) of PAs and OECMs	
Benefits and co-benefits	Conduct a literature review on financial and economic benefits and co-benefits in terms of climate change (carbon sequestration and adaptation), land degradation (sustainable land use), livelihoods (extractive and other biodiversity friendly activities) of protected areas and conserved areas (including OECMs).		
Factors affecting Target 3	Conduct interviews and desk research to identify the main barriers (e.g., laws, policies, subsidies, data availability, and institutional arrangements) that prevent Target 3 from being achieved, as well as policies that contribute to achieving Target 3 (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements).  Conduct research to identify general land use, economic activities, development stage and issues, planned infrastructure development, socio-economic status, poverty, and gender issues that might affect Target 3.  Conduct a literature review on existing barriers and enabling conditions to Target 3	Identify the main activities inside the most threatened ecosystems in each selected country  Determine which one of these activities pose the biggest threat to conservation and the achievement of Target 3 Identify if these activities receive legal or fiscal benefits (e.g., subsidies)  Assess the possibility of redirecting these benefits towards conservation and/or less harmful activities (e.g., encourage sustainable activities)  Identify additional reforms and policies that are barriers to the implementation of Target 3	

l exceeding larget 3			Identify reforms and policies that contribute to achieving or exceeding Target 3
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The activities and goals described in the table above will be conducted in Phase I. The main goal of this first phase is to identify the financial gap and current and future potential sources that would help close the financial gap. Recommendations based on this data assessment and the other gaps (e.g., enabling conditions) will be made, but no quantitative analysis will be conducted in this phase. In the second phase, because of the short timeframe, countries - through an inclusive and collaborative process - will decide which one of the four gaps should be prioritized for an in-depth quantitative analysis. If countries prioritize the financial gap, the analysis in the second phase should focus on the elements mentioned, especially (2) narrowing the financial gap and (3) filling the gap.

Regarding data management for the literature review, the reports/studies/etc. will be organized by topic using a spreadsheet or other open-access software. The creation of a "review matrix" will facilitate the identification of areas of controversy as well as questions and topics that need further research. For the gaps associated with the benefits and co-benefits, additional columns will be added to the matrix to organize the benefit and co-benefits values identified in the literature review. The findings will be engaged through the national-level processes, described below. This will include a focus on what additional data are required, as well as which are not required, to support national level planning and activities towards GBF Target 3.

The baseline assessment and gaps analysis will be supported by national consultants. National consultants and GIS analysts will be involved throughout the project. However, it is estimated that most of their time will be allocated to the baseline assessment and gaps analysis, from January 2022 to June 2022. National consultants will work closely and collaboratively with WWF country offices, participating in the inclusive processes, including workshops and field interviews. The consultants will be hired and managed by CSF in close coordination with WWF country offices, using their network to identify qualified candidates. Consultants should have knowledge of economics, environmental valuation techniques, environmental policy, governance, and/or finance. In addition to national consultants, CSF will hire a GIS analyst to identify the gaps of ecosystem representation. The GIS analyst will be responsible for conducting the spatial analysis in all selected countries. The gaps analyses will be produced as one report of findings per country, written in the most country-appropriate language, based on an assessment and documentation on baseline data and a gaps assessment relating to enabling conditions for Target 3. CSF will lead the analyses and the creation of the final summation reports, some of which may appear in the national plans and country guide.

Activity 3. Inclusive analysis of the gaps analysis: Project partners will run an inclusive process to evaluate the findings of the respective national gaps analysis (above) and to take decisions about the data required to support GBF Target 3 plans. Based on these discussions with stakeholders, the project partners will include in the national plans which analyses should be conducted to support work towards Target 3. Because each country will have different requirements and will be at varying levels of progress towards Target 3, the types of further analyses required will vary per country. However, to the extent possible, the project partners will make progress on a priority analysis as determined through the consultation process. Given the strict timeframe and limited knowledge at this stage of country readiness, this has been budgeted as one analysis per country, and the development of a roadmap for any additional analyses identified in the consultation process. Depending on the national context, a short report of findings may be developed, to be produced in country-relevant languages, from the deliberations and any follow up analyses.

**Activity 4. Producing 5 national plans:** Countries will draw on the above three activities to develop a national-level plan *each* that promotes action toward GBF Target 3 and is agreed upon through inclusive processes - also described above. These will be produced in the languages most relevant to the national context (and translated to English where

they are not written in English). The plans will cover a number of core topics, *including those regarding the gaps analyses* (above), and include as an illustrative list:

- Report of the country's progress towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, including all elements of the target, as well as a broader focus on inclusive conservation and conservation outcomes.
- Area-based conservation-related opportunities, barriers and issues that arose during 2011-2021.
- Area-based conservation opportunities, barriers and issues that are relevant to work towards GBF Target 3. The
  countries can use the evolving text of Target 3 to guide the focus of this section, that should also consider the
  drivers of biodiversity loss (direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive non-native
  species) and issues related to inclusive and effective conservation, including human rights and land tenure of
  IPLCs
- An identification of data gaps and the necessary analyses to achieve Target 3, with a plan to address those gaps that can be budgeted for.
  - Ecosystem gaps: identification of land and sea areas currently under some form of conservation through
    protected areas or OECMs, and description of each major permanent authority responsible for
    managing conservation of those areas.
  - Financial gaps: identification of the existence of strategic plans for each protected area and OECM identified previously, studies on the financial gap of the country's protected area network, and identification and description of current funding sources and mechanisms used by the country to finance protected areas and OECMs.
  - Financial and economic benefits: identification of potential short- and long-term benefits and co-benefits of protected areas and OECMs.
  - Barriers and factors affecting Target 3: identification of national policies, including subsidies, legal framework and other factors that create an obstacle to achieving Target 3.
- Agreed prioritization of the gaps that should be further analyzed and the establishment of frameworks, including the development of data, to close the gaps.
- Plans that set out how governments and other rights holders and stakeholders from each country have agreed to work towards GBF Target 3, with a focus on inclusive and effective conservation, that respond to the opportunities and address the barriers to achieving or exceeding Target 3.
- Agreed monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks and/or processes.
- Annex I process and stakeholders involved in developing the plan.

The first draft of the plans will be drafted by the project partners, based on the consultation process. CSF will conduct literature reviews, online research, and interviews with key stakeholders to identify the gaps. Additional interviews will be conducted to assess the appropriateness of the collected data and to guarantee that the gaps analysis process is inclusive. As a result of these activities, CSF will write and share a document with WWF country offices and WWF US. This document (one for each country) will contain a description of the baseline, a summary of the missing data, and a set of recommendations regarding the data and analysis that would need to be done to close the identified gaps and support the implementation of Target 3. The information in this report will be used by WWF country offices as input when writing the national plans. Based on CSF's reports and the stakeholder engagement process in the five countries, WWF will be in charge of writing national plans, including recommendations about how to meet / and exceed Target 3 and a roadmap to achieve that goal. The stakeholder engagement in this process will also be key to identifying the national level's planning actions to meet/exceed Target 3. That draft of the national plans will be workshopped and circulated widely for inputs. A second draft will be produced based on feedback, also noting in an annex the main changes. That draft will then be put forward to the relevant rights holders and stakeholders for finalization, taking into account any final changes.

The respective national government agencies will be core partners of each of the national processes and the work will draw on their progress and own priorities. The work aims to advance the existing status of national progress on

area-based conservation and result in inclusively-developed and scientifically-based plans. The project executing team will ensure as work begins that time is taken to understand in each country the respective processes for national level 'sign off' on those plans so that these can be planned for from the start, and included as an element of the individual plans. It is aimed to deliver by the end of the project five GBF Target 3 plans that have been agreed by the relevant national-level bodies, such that they may be endorsed after the project period, and so they can be acted upon expeditiously."

#### Component 2: Knowledge products and M&E

# Outcome 2.1: Knowledge products are developed and shared with relevant rights holders and stakeholders to contribute to knowledge management

This outcome will build off the products developed under Component 1 (guide, five national plans) to develop increased capacity and presentation materials for use by country representatives at the GEF Assembly in June 2022 (TBD) and accessible project lessons and KM products and their dissemination, including dissemination of the guide and plans. This may include a visually impactful Theory of Change, which draws linkages between this MSP (phase 1) and a potential second (implementation) phase in which the GEF supports work towards GBF Target 3 goal fulfillment including: job creation, heritage preservation, and climate change mitigation as benefits of protecting biodiversity.

# Output 2.1.1: Capacity support and presentation materials for use by country representatives to communicate results at the GEF Assembly in June 2022

An event will be held at the GEF Assembly (June 2022, TBD) to inform attendees about this project and the progress that countries are making. WWF-US, CSF and the relevant country representatives to communicate results will work with the GEF Secretariat to co-organize the event. Project partners will support event organization, support for the presentation of processes and plans (including the co-development of PowerPoint presentation materials) and related capacity support. At time of submission, the GEF Assembly has not been confirmed, and may be delayed past June 2022.

# Output 2.1.2: Accessible project lessons and KM products and their dissemination, including dissemination of the guide and plans

The guide and the national plans will be hosted online and disseminated by governmental agencies of the 5 selected countries. The project will support the countries to decide the most effective and inclusive manner to disseminate these documents and their main findings with relevant stakeholders in each country, and these may include through the in-country stakeholder engagement meetings/workshops, emails to key rights-holders and stakeholders (including the people who attended the consultative processes) and other relevant individuals and bodies, national level in person or virtual information sharing sessions, and/or the development of multimedia products to share the plans. During the project, the guide will be shared with in-country government and partners so that its principles and lessons can be incorporated into the development and output of the national plans, such that the project facilitates the uptake of the guide. To complement the national-level sharing, and in order to contribute with the dissemination of the documentation, the project partners will host an online event on Zoom at the end of the project on 'Target 3: the inclusive and effective conservation target' in order to communicate outcomes and will also make available all the information developed in the framework of this project in the GEF (www.thegef.org) and WWF (www.worldwildlife.org) websites respectively. In addition, the GBF Target 3 GEF Project will coordinate and build off some existing best-practice and wide-reaching knowledge sharing platforms to disseminate results. This includes exploring the potential to develop synergies with other GEF-supported, World Bank managed programs – Global

Wildlife Program, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program, and Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program, as well as IW Learn – which all host frequent, well attended webinars.

#### Outcome 2.2: M&E plan implemented for adaptive management

# Output 2.2.1: A monitoring and evaluation system, mainstreaming gender equality, to gauge the project's implementation progress and impact

The main monitoring instrument that will be used by the project is the Project Results Framework (RF) and the project 15-month work plan tracking (to be developed early in implementation). The project results, corresponding indicators and targets (sex-disaggregated where possible) in the project results framework, and the targets in the project work plan, will be monitored at the six-month mark and at project close. The project will, under this output, specifically implement the following M&E suite of activities:

- Collect and collate monitoring data (sex-disaggregated where possible) to report on project performance indicators in the project Results Framework (RF);
- Track implementation of project activities in the 15-month work plan;
- Prepare a six-month and final Project Progress Report;
- Monitor and report on the implementation of the project's Gender Action Plan (GAP), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and conformance to the project's Environmental and Social Safeguards;
- Prepare and submit quarterly and annual financial progress reports; and
- Undertake an independent project terminal evaluation.

This output will be directly implemented by WWF, through the PMU, further detailed below.

#### 1.a.4 Alignment with GEF Focal Area

The project's objective is to *support country planning to inclusively and effectively meet or exceed GBF Target 3*, i.e. to support countries to plan for "ensur[ing] that at least 30 per cent of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes" (draft GBF Target 3, CBD, 2021). Thus, the project will contribute to the following GEF-7 Biodiversity focal area objective:

• BD 2-7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate.

By supporting a series of in-country consultations and workshops with a wide range of stakeholders relating to GBF Target 3 the project will facilitate country-led assessment and documentation on baseline data and gaps relating to enabling conditions for Target 3, setting out what exists and what additional data are required to support work towards Target 3 and then facilitate analysis of those findings to address selected, prioritized (non-exhaustive) data or knowledge gaps. These activities will result in 5 national plans for achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3 which will:

- Enhance capacities in target countries (of governments and other rights-holders and stakeholders) to guide future area-based conservation activities in line with comprehensive data further to an inclusive and effective conservation approach that takes due account of issues such as ecological connectivity and climate resilience. Inclusive and effective conservation ensures that processes are rights-based and include the full participation of all relevant rights-holders and stakeholders and emphasize delivery of long-term conservation outcomes in PAs and OECMs.
- Provide the basis on which government agencies and other rights holders and stakeholders may identify
  financing needs to meet their area-based conservation objectives and thereby facilitate securing funds for
  area-based conservation activities

- Identify where clear calls for reformed and/or new legal and policy frameworks and related institutional arrangements may be needed.
- **Support monitoring, evaluation and learning** by including in Target 3 plans reference to monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The project will contribute to BD 2-7, as the global guide and the country plans for Target 3 will advance planning for the effective coverage and protection of ecosystems as well as indications of associated financial needs. The project will support, indirectly and after the duration of the project, sustainable financing of IPLC-driven conservation, and integration of diverse knowledge systems to achieve conservation outcomes.

#### 1.a.5 Incremental Cost Reasoning (and expected contributions from the baseline+)

Barriers and Baseline Scenario	Summary of GEF Scenario	Increment
Barrier 1. Lack of comprehensive national plans, including sufficient data In the baseline scenario, countries have made progress towards Aichi Target 11 (to conserve 15% of terrestrial and inland water and 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020) and some countries are already working toward the proposed GBF Target 3 (30% coverage terrestrial and marine by 2030). Few countries have developed comprehensive national plans.	The GEF funds will support:  - Country-led assessment and documentation of the baseline data and gaps to reach Target 3  - Targeted analysis to address some of the data/knowledge gaps (as agreed through a consultative process)  - Drafting of national plans for 5 countries based on the above assessments and analyses as well as an inclusive stakeholder engagement process  - A guide for countries to develop an inclusive and effective approach to meeting or exceeding GBF Target 3	National plans that include sufficient data: There are nationally-tailored plans of action, taking account of data and analysis needs, gaps, barriers, inter alia, to guide country efforts to achieve Target 3 objectives and guidance with respect to implementation of such plans.

# Barrier 2. Less than fully inclusive planning and implementation

Often, conservation planning has been individually led through the environment sector with minimal inclusion of (i) key players, such as different resource user groups and especially IPLC, and (ii) influential sectors such as planning, resource extraction, finance, agriculture.

The project will directly support and facilitate inclusive processes towards developing the country's plans. This includes in-country consultations and workshops with stakeholders to review the collated data and gaps analysis, identify analyses needed, and to influence the substance of the national plans.

# Inclusive planning and implementation: National plans and implementation produced and undertaken through processes that ensure the full and effective participation of IPLCs, sectoral actors and other stakeholders such as NGOs and universities.

#### Barrier 3. Area-based conservation approaches that are not adequately planned and connected within landscapes, seascapes and river basins and are not climate resilient

There has been progress, at different levels in different countries, toward IPLC inclusive conservation, including recognition of 'territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities' (ICCAs/territories of life) and OECMs. However, only a small number of countries have reported OECMs to the World Database on OECMs (UNEP-WCMC, 2021). Some protected areas are equitable, effectively managed, well connected within larger ecological systems, planned to be climate resilient, and deliver conservation outcomes for important biodiversity - but many lack some or all of these characteristics. The most effective scale for area-based conservation is the landscape/seascape/river basin. Yet there remain countries that continue to plan for single PAs or networks of only PAs without OECMs or other inclusive conserved areas

The project will collect data on ecologically significant areas, including the places identified as having irreplaceable carbon reserves, the current coverage of ecosystem representation, biodiversity and ecosystem services and the associated governance of areas, and also data on climate change risks to ecosystems. As agreed by stakeholders through consultations, a limited number of analyses will be developed in each country, which could include:

- Analysis of existing protected and conserved areas, and their governance.
- A gap analysis of ecosystem representation, biodiversity and ecosystem services coverage in PAs and conserved areas.
- An analysis of climate risk to protected and conserved areas, and key biodiversity and ecosystem services and the people who depend on them.
- An analysis of factors affecting achievement of Target 3, including subsidies.

Area-based conservation
Approaches that are planned and connected within landscapes, seascapes and river basins and are climate resilient: National plans promote work towards protected areas and OECMs that:

- Focus on governance equity and management effectiveness (including monitoring and rights-based enforcement) in inequitable or underperforming protected areas and start to engage with OECMs.
- Recognize IPLC rights, lands and territories, and where needed, help to strengthen rights, tenure, governance and equitable access to benefits; and expand coverage in areas with other tenure arrangements by enlarging, connecting, or establishing new PAs and OECMs.
- Redesign networks of areas in landscapes for more effective conservation, including enhanced connectivity and, where needed, temporary and dynamic protections as well as permanent ones.
- Renovate modified or degraded ecosystems in the face of changing conditions to conserve nature and meet the shifting needs of people.
- Repurpose areas by adapting management objectives to changing conditions to optimize benefits for people including ecosystem services and nature in areas that no longer serve their original intended purpose.

# Barrier 4. Insufficient financial investment and related capacity

There exists persistent public underfunding for the establishment and equitable governance and effective management of protected and conserved area systems, which negatively impacts the capacity of governance and management authorities and limits the activities they can undertake. As noted in the baseline section, there is commitment by some countries and donors to establish long term, secure financing for the protected and conserved areas of countries, but this is yet to be widely replicated.

The project will conduct a literature review and interviews to establish existing data on conservation areas' a) strategic plans, b) financial gaps and c) current funding sources and mechanisms.

Additionally, financial and economic benefits of protected and conserved areas will be summarized, to help make the case for investing in area-based conservation in the country.

As agreed by stakeholders through consultations, a limited number of analyses will be developed in each country, which could include:

- An analysis of the financial gap for networks of PAs/OECMS and potential funding sources.
- An analysis of the benefits and co-benefits from PAs/OECMs to estimate the return of investment and make the economic and financial case for achieving Target 3.

# Sufficient financial investment and related capacity:

Governmental agencies and other rights holders and stakeholders have plans that can be used to inform allocation of public resources, to redirect financial flows harmful to biodiversity, support the appropriate levels of capacity, and to fund all related area-based conservation activities.

# Barrier 5. Laws, policies and institutional arrangements that hinder progressive approaches to Target 3

In-country legal and policy frameworks and related institutional arrangements are not necessarily sufficient or adequate to facilitate what is required to achieve Target 3.

The project will conduct interviews, research and literature review to identify the main barriers in each country to achieve Target 3.

As agreed by stakeholders through consultations, a limited number of analyses will be developed in each country, which could include an analysis of factors affecting achievement of Target 3, including subsidies.

# Laws, policy coherence and institutional arrangements support progressive approaches to Target 3: Countries' Target 3

to Target 3: Countries' Target 3 plans provide a basis to catalyze dynamic conservation approaches through reformed and or new legal and policy frameworks and related institutional arrangements that can not only provide the enabling conditions to support achieving Target 3, but also redirect financial flows to environmental positive actions.

# Barrier 6. Low levels of monitoring, evaluation and learning

Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) are integral to reflexive and adaptive forms of planning and implementation. Countries that do not fully integrate MEL systems into their approach to Target 3 will underperform.

The five national plans will include agreed monitoring, evaluation and learning frameworks and/or processes.

Adequate monitoring, evaluation and learning: Country Target 3 plans include reference to and generate investments in monitoring, evaluation and learning to ensure reflexive and adaptive forms of management, planning and implementation. This includes catalyzing south-south learning regarding the development of the plans (including sharing at the GEF Assembly event) which can be further developed over time.

#### 1.a.6 Global Environmental Benefits

Taken together, this project promotes inclusive and effective conservation towards the achievement of GBF Target 3, and has multiple benefits including: biodiversity conservation, (customary) sustainable use, human rights, livelihoods, co-benefits to people, traditional knowledge, ecological connectivity, climate resilience. It will also: reduce the risk of the transmission of zoonotic disease, and have other health benefits, including psychological benefits; enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation (e.g., greenhouse gas mitigation, flood protection, storm surge protection, clean water provision and soil conservation); reduce projected economic risks of climate change and biodiversity loss; and sustain livelihoods and other socio-cultural benefits.

The project will have a range of environmental benefits, from the global to the local:

- **Guide**: The guide will support GEF-eligible countries and other countries, rights holders, and stakeholders to develop GBF Target 3-related plans that promote inclusive and effective conservation.
- National level plans: The national level plans will promote inclusive and effective conservation at the national-to-local levels in their respective countries, as well as promote good practice within the regions in which the countries are situated. This will: a) enhance capacities of countries to guide future area-based conservation activities in line with comprehensive data further to an inclusive and effective conservation approach that takes due account of issues such as ecological connectivity and climate resilience to enable long-term conservation outcomes in PAs and OECMs; b) provide the basis on which government agencies and other right holders and stakeholders may identify financing needs to meet their area-based conservation objectives and thereby facilitate securing of funds for area-based conservation activities; c) identify where clear calls for reformed and/or new legal and policy frameworks and related institutional arrangements may be needed; and d) support monitoring, evaluation and learning by including in Target 3 plans reference to monitoring, evaluation and learning.
- **Presentations at the GEF-Assembly**: The presentations at the GEF Assembly of progress will incentivize other countries to engage in similar processes.

#### 1.a.7 Innovativeness, sustainability, and potential for scaling up

As stated in section 1.a, area-based conservation is a rapidly evolving field. In 20 years, the predominant paradigm has advanced from a focus on individual state governed national parks to well-connected networks of protected areas and OECMs integrated into landscapes, seascapes and river basins, with a major focus on diverse governance authorities,

rights based approaches to conservation, ecosystem services and climate resilience. This project will articulate and advance this latest thinking in the guide, and support countries to develop plans that embody these principles and approaches. As per the theory of change, this intends to advance the law, policy and practice of conservation to promote and generate:

- 1. National plans that include sufficient data,
- 2. Inclusive planning and implementation of national level plans,
- 3. Innovative, climate sensitive area-based conservation approaches, including disaster risk management,
- 4. Sufficient financial investment and related capacity,
- 5. Laws, policy coherence and institutional arrangements that support progressive approaches to Target 3, and
- 6. Adequate monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The project provides a strong opportunity for scaling up. The guide will be widely disseminated for use by all countries for potential uptake to build their own Target 3 plans, as well as the 5 country plans as examples for other countries to replicate through their own national process. It is anticipated (though beyond the scope of this MSP) that there will be uptake of the plans by the five countries, such that they will use the national plans to implement Target 3. The coming GEF-8 cycle also provides an opportunity for other countries to replicate the project approach to Target 3 planning, or for participant countries to scale deeply by using GEF and other funds to implement their plans. Policy coherence and domestic resource mobilization, both addressed in this project, will add to sustainability and scaling up.

Beyond GEF-funding, and as set out in section 1.a.2.ii, a growing number of sources of finance are available to support innovative area-based conservation work that is inclusive and delivers conservation outcomes. This project promotes this kind of conservation, which increases the ability of the 5 countries and others that use the guidance and publications to secure funding to ensure sustainability and scale up their efforts. The inclusive approach taken in this project, with government and stakeholders to area-based conservation highly engaged throughout implementation, should develop strong buy-in and assist sustainability of project outcomes.

#### 1b. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates

The project does not present a map or geo-coordinates because it is not a 'site-based' project, and the five participating countries have not yet been agreed upon.

# 1c. Child Project? If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

N/A

#### 2. Stakeholders

Provide the <u>Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.</u> (Type response here; if available, upload document or provide link) In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

 $\Box$  Consulted only;

XMember of Advisory Body; contractor;

XCo-financier;

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

XExecutor or co-executor;

□ Other	(D1	1	احتتما
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The project acknowledges that a key factor to accomplish Target 3 is the principle that countries' national-level planning processes are inclusive; i.e., that they are rights-based and include the full and effective participation of all relevant rights-holders and stakeholders. It is also imperative that existing or new protected areas and newly identified OECMs are governed and managed in ways that meet principles of equity, including recognition, procedure and distribution (CBD Decision 14/8, Annex II, 2018).

Stakeholder engagement is central to the objective of the project to support collaborative planning for an inclusive and effective conservation approach to Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3. Throughout the full process, stakeholder engagement will be a focus and include relevant government ministries, national and international NGOs, Indigenous People (IP) federations/representation and other key sectoral and interest groups. Stakeholder engagement, including workshops and dedicated follow up, will capture perspectives, needs, gaps, and barriers related to area conservation and expansion; discussion about how to ensure inclusive processes required to advance national Target 3 agendas; and identification of challenges and sensitives; and discussions on appropriate process for inclusivity.

Additionally, project partners will support country representatives to present progress at the GEF Assembly in June 2022 (date TBD) and potentially at CBD COP 15 (if it occurs within the project period and side events are held). Project partners will also ensure that all project outputs, including lessons, are disseminated widely. A monitoring and evaluation system will be in place throughout, incorporating gender mainstreaming, to gauge the project's implementation progress and impact.

Stakeholder engagement processes will be central to the development of the national plans to ensure ownership and buy-in amongst government, private sector, IPLCs, and the public. Different stakeholders will require different engagement strategies, potentially including the use of social media and high-impact messaging. Some of the main activities are described below:

#### Component 1: Develop inclusive and effective national level plans to achieve Target 3

- Virtual webinar and focus group discussions to critically engage with the issues at the start of the project.
- Facilitate a peer-review process to obtain feedback from a representative cross-section of right holders and stakeholders, including IPLCs.
- Target 3 will be the subject of a series of in-country consultations. WWF country offices will collaborate with
  relevant governmental agencies (e.g., a ministry/department acting as the CBD national focal point) and other
  relevant actors to bring together a diverse range of rights holders and stakeholders including other government
  departments, IPLC representatives and federations, private actors, academics, and NGOs/CBOs to discuss
  issues relevant to development.
- Additionally, this stage will include a stakeholder analysis at an early stage, with direct linkages to the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The work will be guided by a short, 5 page document, produced by the project partners that set out the key elements of planning for GBF Target 3 in ways that are inclusive and deliver effective conservation outcomes (as outlined in Output 1.1.1).

#### Component 2: Knowledge products and M&E

- Knowledge products are developed and shared with relevant stakeholders to contribute to knowledge management.
- All the national plans, guides, and related reports will be hosted and disseminated by governmental agencies of the 5 selected countries. They will decide the most effective and inclusive manner to disseminate these reports

and their main findings with relevant stakeholders in each country, and these may include emails to at least the people who attended the consultative processes and other relevant individuals and bodies, national level in person or virtual information sharing sessions, and/or the development of multimedia products to share the plans.

A complete Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) inclusive of Grievance Redress Mechanism and a SEP Monitoring Plan is presented in Annex H.

#### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment. (Type response here; if available, upload document or provide link)

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment? (yes  $X/no\Box$ ) If yes, please upload gender action plan or equivalent here. If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality: X closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; X improving women's participation and decision making; and or

☐ generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? (yes X /no□)

#### **General Gender Conditions:**

Around the world, women are heavily involved in the environmental sector including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. Women's participation and representation in decision-making processes that affect their own and their families' environmental well-being, on the other hand, is frequently limited (IUCN, 2015). Women have been disadvantaged in their ability to participate in environmental decision-making due to traditional gender roles reflecting men's participation in commercial spheres and women's participation in household domains. Men exploit natural resources for commercial purposes more frequently than women, contributing to the formal economy and making men's activities more visible to policymakers, economists, scientists, and planners (Aguilar and Castenada, 2002).

Women manage natural resources on a daily basis in a variety of roles, including farming, seafood harvesting, and home provisioning, and hence have unique and crucial environmental knowledge. Women are typically in charge of subsistence food harvesting, such as planting crops, collecting edible forest plants, or gleaning shells near the sea. Women often perform various household tasks, such as collecting fuelwood and water, which requires rural girls and women to go long distances in sometimes dangerous situations (see: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2014. Women and Forestry: Challenges and Opportunities. UN Food and Agricultural Organization. Rome, Italy).

Additionally, women have less access to and influence over natural resources than men, despite their everyday connection with and reliance on them. Women's contributions to natural resource management have been undervalued, resulting in undervaluation of the domestic sphere and unpaid work, as well as undervaluation of the economic and societal benefits that women bring to the environmental sector (IUCN, 2015).

Women's direct access to, benefits from, and governance of natural resources is an internationally recognized goal that is the subject of numerous national and international mandates. Equitable involvement and representation of women not only empowers women and upholds pledges to gender equality and women's empowerment, but it also leads to better development and sustainability outcomes (IUCN, 2015).

In the Draft One of the post-2020 GBF, the Theory of Change recognizes "the need for appropriate recognition of gender equality, women's empowerment, youth, gender responsive approaches, and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of this framework," and pledges that it "will be implemented taking a rights-based approach and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity" (HRC, 2020).

There are clear links between environmental pressures and gender-based violence, and environmental degradation, competition for increasingly scarce resources, and environmental crime and conflict can all exacerbate violence (IUCN, 2020). Biodiversity conservation efforts must include the protection, empowerment, leadership, decision-making, and meaningful and informed participation of women and girls. The priorities of the Draft Post-2020 Gender Action Plan must be reflected in targets and disaggregated indicators; as per the proposed New Target 22 on Gender: "Ensure equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for women and girls, as well as their effective participation in policy and decision-making processes related to biodiversity" (CBD Women).

The gender analysis provided several observations:

**Roles & Responsibilities:** Men, on average, play a larger role than women in the commercial exploitation of natural resources, because women also devote time to domestic activities (i.e., cooking, water and fuelwood collection, childcare, etc.). Women frequently have responsibilities for natural resource management but no rights to them.

**Access & Control Over Resources:** Men and women have different rights to access and control over natural resources such as land and forests. Women have generally faced more restrictions, particularly in terms of independent ownership and access to land. Due to a lack of land and other constraints, women have fewer opportunities to obtain credit and support services, unless these are specifically designed to address women's disadvantages.

**Decision Making:** Women have historically had fewer opportunities to participate in environmental decision-making. As a result, when policies are designed, their perceptions and interests are sometimes ignored or excluded. The lack of opportunities is frequently due to cultural constraints, women's lack of education, and logistical reasons in other cases.

Additionally, women are over-represented in interpretive, communicative, and administrative roles. In contrast, men are over-represented in positions that require more leadership, risk-taking, or involve fieldwork. Women also perform more unrelated office housekeeping tasks, such as taking notes and organizing and coordinating events, that are unrelated to their core responsibilities. This frequently results in women performing lower-status tasks rather than taking on roles such as scientific experts and decision-makers, which are more highly valued and visible in these organizations. All this impacts how conservation and natural resource management work and research are carried out, such as which research questions are asked, which work is prioritized, and who is taken into account.

**Knowledge Base:** Women's and men's knowledge of how to use natural resources may differ as a result of differences in activities and access. Differences in knowledge between men and women are also influenced by their social class, age, and ethnic group. Women frequently have intimate knowledge of their resources, but a lack of formal education

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Westberg, L. & Powell, S. (2015) Participate for women's sake? A gender analysis of a Swedish collaborative environmental management project. Society & Natural Resources, 28, 1233–1248.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> CohenMiller, A.S., Koo, S., Collins, N. & Lewis, J.L. (2020) EXPOsing gender in science: a visual analysis with lessons for gender awareness and science diplomacy. Gender Technology & Development, 24, 215–235.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Westberg, L. & Powell, S. (2015) Participate for women's sake? A gender analysis of a Swedish collaborative environmental management project. Society & Natural Resources, 28, 1233–1248.

prevents them from participating in projects.<sup>4</sup> Women are excluded from conservation projects due to a lack of literacy, financial literacy, experience, and confidence in tools and technologies that specific efforts and resources must be targeted.<sup>5</sup>

#### Gender Considerations and Action Plan

The proposed project recognizes the importance of considering women's contributions across sectors and at all levels for successful, long-term solutions. The consideration of gender issues concerning biodiversity involves identifying gender roles and relations on the use, management, and conservation of biodiversity. Gender roles of women and men include different labor responsibilities, priorities, decision-making power, and knowledge.

The gender analysis and gender action plan were developed based upon a desk review, summaries, and meetings organized during the project design phase. The plan's overall strategy is to ensure the equal participation of and benefits for women during project implementation, with the support of gender specialists and the collection of detailed sex-disaggregated data on project participants and beneficiaries and monitoring of progress on gender-specific indicators.

The Project has identified four specific gender considerations: (i) Roles & responsibilities, (ii) Access & control over resources, (iii) Participation in decision making, (iv) Knowledge Base. The Gender Action Plan sets specific activities designed to ensure the mainstreaming of gender into project Outputs and activities, including critical actions to maximize equal participation in and benefits from the Project, some of the most relevant activities are the following:

- a) Participation of women in the strategy development, monitoring, and sharing lessons learned.
- b) Awareness building among the selected countries and other stakeholders on gender and social concerns.
- c) Sharing of gender-sensitive best practices for knowledge management purposes.
- d) Recruitment of gender experts to advise and support the implementation of the gender action plan.

The gender analysis highlights that, despite the latest international conventions aiming to achieve gender equality and having national and international policy frameworks in place, gender inequalities persist, especially when taking into account the data from women's participation in the environmental sector. The Project aims to contribute progress toward the gender mainstreaming vision through its three components and ensuring that all its outcomes, outputs, and targets are gender responsive, as relevant.

A complete Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan is presented in Annex I.

#### 4. Private Sector Engagement

It is understood that to be more successful under the proposed new global biodiversity framework, area-based conservation must collaborate better with the many Indigenous peoples, community groups and private initiatives that are central to the successful conservation of biodiversity. Unlike legally designated protected areas, OECMs may result in effective in situ conservation of biodiversity, regardless of their primary objectives. Often these objectives are linked to private sector activities, including, for example, tourism, farming, fishing, and forestry. OECMs have been largely overlooked in national level biodiversity strategies and policies to date. This project, by integrating consideration of these important area-based conservation measures into a holistic, and inclusive planning process to achieve Target 3, will necessarily engage private sector actors (resource users and other economic players), including those involved in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> James, R., Gibbs, B., Whitford, L., Leisher, C., Konia, R., & Butt, N. (2021). Conservation and natural resource management: Where are all the women? Oryx, 55(6), 860-867.

farming, forestry and fishing in consultations and capture private sector needs and perspectives. The resulting plans for advancing towards Target 3 will reference and incorporate as appropriate to the individual contexts in target geographies the role of private PAs, as well as communities (of fishers, farmers, and forestry) and other resource users and economic players in area-based conservation activities.

In addition, the national-level plans will highlight the importance of direct private sector actions in achieving Target 3, including their role as potential contributors (e.g. directly through improved business practices to promote sustainability in their supply chains; the development of new financial mechanisms) and barriers to the achievement of Target 3. Similarly, by highlighting the economic and financial benefits and co-benefits of conservation and the risks and costs associated with declining biodiversity, both in the short and long runs, plans will facilitate governments to address perverse subsidies and thereby incentivize the private sector to adopt more sustainable practices.

Furthermore, as countries consider opportunities to advance their area-based conservation objectives in the course of developing their respective action plans for achieving Target 3, WWF is well placed to help identify synergies with ongoing national, regional and global initiatives that seek to enable private sector engagement and investment in area-based conservation. The relevance of individual private-sector initiatives is dependent on the unique circumstances of each target geography, and may include, for example, initiatives facilitating the investment of capital in sustainable commodities production, sustainable tourism, fisheries, and forestry.

#### 5. Risks

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

Risk	Risk Level	Risk Mitigation Measures
Change in government leads to reduced commitment to Target 3 and reduced interest in the project, project progress slows	Moderate	This risk will be considered in the country selection, and only countries where this risk is considered moderate or lower will be considered for the project. However, if there is an unforeseen change of government, then the risk to the project rises. The project will work in 5 countries to provide some buffer if work progress is slow in a certain country(s). The project will work with multiple government ministries and key stakeholders in each country so that there are multiple champions and entry points to delivering the project outcomes.
Right holders of stakeholders make the case that the project duration is not long enough to run a truly inclusive process	Moderate to high	Project partners will work with all right holders and stakeholders to ensure the processes are inclusive.  Considering the relatively short timeframe, it is possible that rights holders and stakeholders will ask for more time to develop/consider the plans. Where certain issues require further development/consideration, those will be noted as not yet finalised in the plans and the forward-looking inclusive processes required to engage them will be set out.

National level authorities may not be ready to 'finalise' GBF T3 plans by the end of the project.	Moderate to high	Project partners will develop clear programmes of work that include enough time for governmental sign off. In case a country is not ready to finalize a GBF Target 3 plan by the end of this project, they will discuss with the project partners (in communication with the GEF Secretariat) a suitable deliverable to illustrate the work they have undertaken and the activities ahead towards a GBF Target 3 plan.
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# COVID-19 risk and opportunity analysis

Below we present the most relevant COVID-19 specific risks and opportunities for the proposed GEF Target 3 Project, based on the categories identified in the GEF's 'Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics' document of August 27 2020.

Table xx. COVID-19 Risk Analysis

Risk category	Potential Risk	Mitigations and Plans
i) Availability of technical expertise and capacity, and changes in	Initial scoping in possible project countries suggests that availability of technical staff is not majorly affected by COVID. Minimal impact is anticipated.	One of the criteria for identifying a short list of countries to participate is the availability and readiness of technical expertise and capacity in country.
timelines	Changes in project implementation timelines.	While COVID is a dynamic factor, currently, no changes in project implementation timelines are anticipated as they have already been designed to take into account the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

ii) Stakeholder Engagement Process	Continued or renewed efforts in COVID-19 containment measures (such as travel and meeting restrictions) are possible over the course of project implementation, in some if not all of the 5 selected countries. This may affect: ability to do in-person workshops; and outreach in person to communities (if planned). This would particularly impact Outcome 2.1.  COVID uncertainties and possible travel restrictions may lead to virtual or hybrid events rather than in-person GEF Assembly and CBD COP. This may particularly impact Output 3.1.1.	The project will comply with each countries' national and local government guidelines and follows COVID-19 safety protocols.  The ability to do in-person workshops and consultations will be assessed early in project implementation, once the 5 countries are selected.  While the goal is in-person workshops and consultations, when this is not possible, the in-country project partners and consultants will hold stakeholder workshops and meetings via virtual platforms. Any outreach to community representatives will be done in person where possible, and if not, attempts will be made over the internet, and as a last resort over the phone.
iii) Enabling Environment	Potential for reduced government focus on the environment during the COVID-19 crisis	The lead up to GEF Assembly and COP15 provides renewed focus on environment ambition. Additionally, one of the criteria for identifying a short list of countries to participate is existing (even if early) commitment to Target 3.
iv) Financing	Reduced co-financing availability	Given this project was rapidly developed and has a very short implementation span (15 months), it is not anticipated that there will be a big impact on co-financing from COVID-19. However, the PMU will continue to track co-finance and will work to find replacement co-finance if any is reduced.

# Climate change risk screen: impacts and adaptation measures

STAP guidance notes that an effective climate risk screening covers four main elements: 1) identify the hazards; 2) assess vulnerability and exposure; 3) rate the risk; and 4) identify measures to manage the risk. The WWF Climate Change Risk Screening Tool, developed based on the STAP guidance, is difficult to apply for a project with no site-based interventions and indeed, without selection of countries in the project development phase. Given that the 5 countries will not be selected until project implementation, assessing the climate impacts on a particular country and its ecosystems, and the potential adaptation measures, is not possible. Rather, an overview is provided below of global trends in weather and climate, impacts on protected and conserved areas, ecosystems and communities, and proposed climate adaptation measures during project implementation.

The most recent report from the IPCC, the Sixth Assessment Report, highlights the increasing threats that climate change poses to human health and safety, food and water security, and socio-economic development, driven by increases in temperature, changing seasonality of rainfall, severe fires, sea level rise and extreme events such as drought and flooding and more intense storms.

These impacts of anthropogenic climate change (e.g. sea level rise, changes in rainfall patterns and water availability, glacial retreat, drought and new fire regimes) will "induce a fundamental redistribution of life on earth that affects the effectiveness of protected areas as well as ecosystem functioning and human welfare" (Hoffman et al., 2019). Changes in abundance and distribution of plant and animal species and of predator/prey, competitors associated with a changing climate will result in the movement of species to places they weren't previously found or the disappearance of species from areas where they previously were. The general trend is for species to move poleward and into areas with higher elevation, resulting in narrower ranges. Even in conservative warming scenarios, the majority of terrestrial species ranges are projected to shrink dramatically. (IPBES, 2019) Species driven out of protected areas and into surrounding, fragmented habitats outside PAs could face increased extinction risk. The fraction of species at risk of climate-related extinction is 5% at 2°C warming and rises to 16 per cent at 4.3°C warming. (IPBES, 2019) Thus, over time, spatially static protected areas that are not managed in line with climate projections may become ill-suited to the purpose for which they were established.

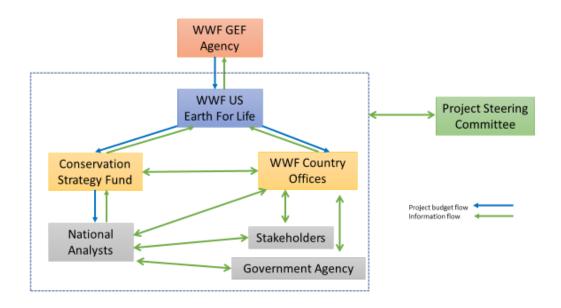
### Proposed climate adaptation measures during project implementation

- (i) The stakeholder engagement process, outlined in Outcome 2.1, will include discussions on the trends and potential impacts of climate change in country, how that is anticipated to affect area-based conservation goals, and how this might be addressed in the plans and longer-term implementation of the Target 3 ambitions, in each country.
- (ii) The gaps analysis (Output 2.2.1) will include examination of whether existing protected and conserved areas, and existing plans for area-based conservation establishment and management, include climate change impact analysis and adaptation measures.
- (iii) The project will overall contribute to the longer-term development of more resilient models for area-based conservation, and climate change will be a key consideration in this process.

### 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Overview of Implementation Arrangement: The proposed implementation arrangement (Figure 1) includes WWF as the GEF Agency, and self-execution through WWF. The project coordination and management, and the global work in Component 1 and Component 2, will be led by WWF-US Earth For Life (EFL) team. WWF-US will sub-grant to WWF country offices in the final selected 5 countries to manage and facilitate the stakeholder engagement processes (Outcome 1.1.2). WWF-US will sub-grant to Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) to contract consultant analysts in each country, and CSF will lead and guide the work for Outputs 1.1.2. The WWF-US EFL team will work with all of the project partners to bring together the information from products in Component 1 to generate the five national plans.

## Figure 1. Executing structure



**WWF Self-Execution:** The World Wildlife Fund will self-execute this project. This modality is proposed for several reasons:

1. Expediency: The goal of this project is to develop global guidance on how countries can plan to reach Target 3, and to facilitate 5 countries to develop plans for achieving Target 3, in an approach that is fully inclusive of stakeholders. Preliminary findings will be presented at the GEF Assembly in mid-2022, country Plans will be finalized by the end of 2022, and the global outputs and closing of the project will be delivered by April 2023. Meeting these goals requires the project support to move as quickly as possible, while adhering to policy and standards of GEF and WWF and maintaining a primary objective of stakeholder engagement throughout to inform the deliverables. In addition to the short project duration, the project development process was limited to a two-month period, a quarter of the time typically taken for project development of an MSP. This brief project development period was necessary so that project start could begin in early 2022, for progress by GEF Assembly in mid-2022. Self-execution through WWF will facilitate efficiencies; for example, working through WWF-US saves time as diligence of the primary grant recipient would not be required, nor the development and negotiation of an external grant agreement. WWF US can procure key services and administer sub grants to project partners – WWF offices, CSF and (for example) UNEP WCMC - directly, and can do so quickly while in compliance to the GEF minimum fiduciary standards and other policies.

2. Global to local network: Implementing this project requires a global network and capacity to (a) deliver the global guidance, (b) have a wide selection of countries to short list for the final 5 participating countries, with WWF Offices ready and available to start the project quickly and with existing relationships with key stakeholders in country. WWF works in almost 100 countries, and as such, WWF has the global reach, structure, staffing, experience, trusted relationships, and history of delivery to make this proposed project operationally possible for making these connections to donors and communities.

- 3. Technical expertise: The focus of this GEF-funded project is on providing global guidance on planning for Target 3 and developing plans in 5 countries. WWF is well placed to execute this project given the in-house expertise and network-wide prioritization of area-based conservation (see baseline for more information). WWF-US has already begun to develop its approach to 30x30 (*Area-based conservation: the way forward to WWF-US* 2019 internal document) and is coordinating its work through the '30x30 Initiative', which brings together leads from across the goal teams.
- <u>4. Partners</u>: WWF has trusted partnerships with key organizations and groups that will support this project through co-financing and/or as sub-grantee partners, including CSF, UNEP-WCMC, country governments, IPLC groups, academic and research bodies, and across the private sector.

**Project Management Unit:** This project execution will be firewalled from the WWF GEF Agency. The PMU will report up to the Chief Executing Officer. As the WWF GEF Agency reports to the Chief Conservation Officer, the executing/implementing firewall will be respected.

WWF-US will appoint a Project Manager (PM) to provide the strategic oversight and guidance to project implementation. Reporting up to the COO, the PM will be responsible for: (i) preparing the project work plan and budget for the 15-month implementation period; (ii) managing project expenditure in line with the annual budget and work-plans; (iii) managing WWF-US staff inputs to the project; (iv) recruiting and contracting partner organizations and consultants to implement global outputs and activities; (v) ensuring technical quality of products, outputs and deliverables; (vi) reporting to the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the WWF GEF Agency on project delivery and impact via six-month and final Project Progress Reports; and (vii) liaising and working closely with CSF and WWF country offices in the 5 countries to link the global and national work.

WWF-US will appoint a Finance and Grant Specialist (FGS) to manage and facilitate administration and financial monitoring of projects including annual budgets, funding distribution, financial analysis, grants management, financial reporting and monitoring compliance with donor regulations. The Finance and Grant Specialist will coordinate directly with all partners on financial matters.

WWF-US will appoint a Project Officer (PO) to lead coordination with global stakeholders for guide input, technical review of report deliverables and country reach out responsible for delivering the M&E component of the project, including collecting monitoring data to report on project performance indicators, preparing project progress reports, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the project's Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and conformance to the project's Environmental and Social Safeguards, and preparing quarterly and annual financial progress reports.

WWF-US will appoint a M&E Specialist and Coordinator to deliver operational support to global guide consultants during development of the guide. Coordination of workshops, stakeholder meetings, consultations for the Inclusive Process in the five countries and development of the five country plans. Delivering on knowledge management and M&E components in collaboration with the Project Officer.

#### **WWF Country Offices in 5 Selected Countries**

WWF Country Offices will play the role of national project coordinators. They will engage with all relevant rights holders and stakeholders, including all relevant government agencies, and ensure that the processes are fully inclusive of Indigenous peoples and local communities, among others. They will be responsible for (co-)facilitating inclusive processes that support the delivery of the GBF Target 3 plans.

Once target countries are identified, it is anticipated that the government will designate a National Focal Agency and focal point who will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components. The WWF country office will help facilitate this.

# **Conservation Strategy Fund**

The Conservation Strategy Fund will play a role as an executing partner/sub-grantee. CSF is responsible for the gaps analyses and related follow-up analyses as required by selected country partners to complete as much of the national plan as possible before the end of the grant period. CSF will hire and manage national consultants, with an emphasis on the gaps analysis and preparation for the GEF Assembly in June. CSF's team of economists will be more actively engaged in the follow up analyses, but continue to work with national consultants. The entire process will include a close collaboration with WWF's country offices and the project partner.

## **Project Steering Committee**

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be constituted to serve as the project oversight, advisory and support body for the project. The final composition of the PSC will be determined at the Project Inception Workshop, but will aim for gender parity, and include representatives of the different project partnering agencies. Partners will include WWF US, CSF leadership, WWF Country Office leadership, a GEF Secretariat representative, and a representative of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group. The PSC will ensure that the project remains on course to deliver the desired outcomes of the required quality. The PSC provides overall guidance and policy direction to the implementation of the project and provides advice on appropriate strategies for project sustainability. It also advises on any conflicts within the project or on any problems with external bodies.

### **GEF Agency Oversight**

WWF-US, through its WWF GEF Agency will: (i) provide consistent and regular project oversight to ensure the achievement of project objectives; (ii) liaise between the project and the GEF Secretariat; (iii) ensure that both GEF and WWF policy requirements and standards are applied and met (i.e. reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, M&E); (iv) approve budget revisions, certify fund availability and transfer funds; (v) organize the final evaluation and review project audits; and (vi) certify project operational and financial completion.

#### **Related GEF Projects**

The PMU will engage other related GEF-funded projects, including a) UNEP-GEF "Enhancing Political Will for Sustainable Protected Area Financing, and b) UNEP-GEF "Policy Coherence and Political Consistency to Achieve Tangible and Durable Results in Conservation Areas for People and Livelihoods."

### 7. Consistency with National Priorities

The project is based on supporting national priorities towards achieving or exceeding Target 3 of the global biodiversity framework and will therefore engage with the respective countries' existing international obligations and national level plans. This will include their existing work towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11. The plans will also feed into and support the future revision of each country's <u>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans</u> (NBSAPs), that many countries will engage with post-COP 15, subject to their national planning processes. The plans may also consider the contributions of meeting GBF T3 to NDCs and meeting commitments under other relevant MEAs.

## 8. Knowledge Management

Utilizing available knowledge to apply best practices and lessons learned is important during both project design and implementation to achieve greater, more efficient, and sustainable conservation results. Sharing this information is then useful to other projects and initiatives to increase effectiveness, efficiency, and impact among the conservation community. Knowledge exchange is tracked and budgeted in Component 2 of the Results Framework.

*Key knowledge outputs:* 

- A user-friendly guide to developing inclusive and effective national level plans to achieve Target 3.
- 5 national-level plans

The first output will have a general, global relevance and will be shared widely over a variety of platforms and global networks and will serve to guide replication in other geographies. The development of the guide will draw upon, among other things: the experiences and perspectives of the 5 countries during the implementation of the project, expertise across WWF's network and in the broader conservation community, literature, international law, policy and related best practice. A virtual webinar and focus group discussions to critically engage with the issues at the start of the project and peer-review process to obtain feedback from a representative cross-section of audiences for the guide, including IPLC and other right holders and stakeholders will ensure a diversity of perspectives are reflected in the document. The project partners will ensure that the guide is produced in easily-accessible formats and translated from English into at least French, Portuguese and Spanish languages. The guide will be shared in-country and also globally disseminated through an online event on Zoom at the end of the project, as well as made available on the GEF (www.thegef.org) and WWF (www.worldwildlife.org) websites respectively.

Regarding the 5 plans, country representatives will report progress at the GEF Assembly, in partnership with the GEF Secretariat, WWF and CSF - which will support south-south exchanges. These nationally-focused outputs will be shared widely with national stakeholders at meetings and workshops and through emails to rights-holders and stakeholders (including the people who attended consultative processes), and promoted through webinars and perhaps multimedia outputs, which might include an international event at the end of the project at which the plans could be presented and which would further support south-south exchange (subject to country interest and availability of funds). All materials will be uploaded to the GEF website and freely available.

Lessons learned and best practices from the Project will be captured from field staff and reports, webinars, dialogues and roundtables, and from stakeholders and will be documented in the semi-annual project progress reports (PPR) (with best practices annexed to the report).

The PMU Project Manager will ensure that project partners and other stakeholders as relevant are informed of, and, where applicable, invited to formal evaluations, and any documentation on lessons and best practices. These partners will receive all related documents, such as Evaluation Reports and relevant knowledge products resulting from the project to ensure the sharing of knowledge products.

All knowledge and communication products produced by the Project will be shared on WWF websites. This will allow a wider audience to gain knowledge from the Project. In addition, where appropriate, WWF Country Offices will share these documents with stakeholders, particularly marginalized communities, more directly through the national networks and NGO partners, via appropriate communication channels.

The proposed GBF Target 3 GEF Project will coordinate and build off some existing best-practice and wide-reaching knowledge sharing platforms to disseminate results. This includes exploring the potential to develop synergies with other GEF-supported, World Bank managed programs – Global Wildlife Program, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program, and Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program, as well as IW Learn – which all

host frequent, well attended webinars. The IW:LEARN Conference (which takes place every two years) and IW:LEARN website provide another GEF-funded platform for dissemination of project information.

The Project has budgeted for the hosting of a final (virtual) event with all key project partners to share best practices and lessons learned from the Project and to learn from practitioners in the same field to strengthen the Project. All partners will use their regional and global communication networks to further promote the knowledge management products. In addition, the resources developed through this project including the materials and capacity built for the event at GEF Assembly (TBD) could be drawn upon for a potential event at CBD COP 15, although direct support at an event there falls outside the scope of this project.

### 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Project results will be monitored through the Results Framework (see Annex A). The Results Framework includes 1-2 indicators per Outcome. The baseline has been completed and feasible targets have been set for project completion. A methodology for measuring indicator targets is provided. Indicator targets are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART), and disaggregated by sex where applicable. Component three of the Results Framework is dedicated to M&E, knowledge sharing and management.

The relevant GEF Core indicator - indicator 11 on direct beneficiaries - has been included to provide a portfolio level understanding of progress towards the GEF Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). The Project Manager and PMU team will be responsible for gathering M&E data for the results framework tracking and tracking against the Annual Work Plan and Budget at project close.

M&E/ Reporting Document	How the document will be used	Timeframe	Responsible
Inception Report	Summarize decisions made during the inception workshop, including changes to project design, budget, Results Framework, etc.	Within three months of the inception workshop	PMU Project Manager and M&E Program Officer
Quarterly Financial Reports	Assess financial progress and management.	Every three months	PMU Program Administrator
WWF Project Progress Report (PPR) with the RF and workplan tracking for the yearly PPR	<ul> <li>Inform management decisions and drafting of annual workplan and budget</li> <li>Share lessons internally and externally</li> <li>Report to the PSC and GEF Agency on the project progress.</li> </ul>	Every six months	PMU Project Manager and M&E Program Officer

Project Closeout Report	Based on the format of the PPR	Project technical close	PMU Project Manager and M&E Program Officer
Terminal Evaluation Report	- External summative evaluation of the overall project - Recommendations for GEF and those designing related projects.	Before project completion	External expert or organization

**Table: M&E Summary Budget** 

Line item	Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$34,370
Consultant	\$25,000
Travel & Workshops	
TOTAL M&E	\$59,370
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	\$2,000,000
% M&E OF TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	2.97%

An independent terminal evaluation has been budgeted in the project and will adhere to WWF and GEF guidelines and policies. The Terminal Evaluation will be completed before the official close of the project. The evaluation provides an opportunity for sharing of lessons and best practices for this and future projects.

As above, a final (virtual) reflection workshop has been budgeted for the PMU and all project partners to review project challenges and impact, at the close of the project, and to inform the project closeout report, as well as to inform further efforts for planning for Target 3.

### 10. Benefits

Overall, the project will encourage national-level **action towards achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3** in ways that are inclusive and effective. This will lead to a number of direct and indirect benefits.

An important part of contributing to Target 3 involves engaging a range of rights holders and stakeholders, particularly Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). Many IPLC groups have been managing their areas and their biodiversity for generations, but are now facing outside threats to their livelihoods, wellbeing and cultures. Work towards Target 3 includes supporting them to gain stronger rights and tenure for their areas, building their capacity to withstand outside threats and govern their areas effectively, and ensure they gain benefits from their areas. This project

will promote approaches that are respectful, just, equitable and inclusive, are led by rights holders and stakeholders, and match their aspirations for their areas.

In addition, Target 3 emphasizes nature's services to people as well as biodiversity. This project will promote a strong focus on ecosystem services in the global guidance and the five country planning processes. In the past, protected area planning often prioritized biodiversity over people's needs from nature; the project team will work to promote conservation of provisioning, regulating and cultural services at multiple scales, on a coequal basis with biodiversity. This is likely to include areas that have lower value for species conservation, and areas that are less remote than protected areas tend to be. Throughout this process WWF will respect local rights-holders' and stakeholders' needs and aspirations. The approach also takes into account likely future conditions as well as current ones, helping build climate resilience of people and nature.

Therefore, this project sets the stage for equitable, just and inclusive processes that deliver positive benefits to people's wellbeing at local and national levels, while enhancing conservation of biodiversity and nature's services to people from local to global levels.

The project will generate benefits in terms of increased access to information and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the decision-making process. The project acknowledges the important role played by those communities in stewarding nature and the need to develop specific policies for the development of sustainable economic activities. As a result of the project and the information generated, countries will be able to allocate their resources more effectively toward activities and policies identified as priorities to the implementation of Target 3, as well as to the establishment of adaptation measures for climate change, for example.

Additionally, the project will generate socioeconomic benefits by developing a roadmap that will lead to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, and more sustainable development. The roadmap will help support local economies, while also reducing the risks of climate change, providing numerous ecosystem services, and benefiting human health. Depending on the country, the project might also contribute to making the case for protection of areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people.

All in all, project will better inform **countries' actions** towards achieving or exceeding GBF Target 3, including by identifying data needs, providing a sense of the costs, elaborating benefits of PAs/OECMs, and the enabling conditions to Target 3. Based on this information, the national plans will outline actions and a "how to" guide to governments that will focus either on policy formulation or on the identification of technical studies that should be further prioritized to close the existing gaps and support achieving Target 3. The resulting investment in conservation areas and sustainable activities have the capacity to generate socioeconomic benefits at the local (e.g., income and employment), national (e.g., food and water security), and global level (e.g., climate change adaptation and mitigation).

# **PART IV: ANNEXES**

**Annex A: Project Results Framework** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Indicator / unit	Definition (note if cumulative)	Method/ source	Responsible	Disaggregation	Baseline	Project Close Target	Notes/ Assumptions
Objective: S	Support country planning to	inclusively and	effectively mee	et or exceed GBF Ta	rget 3.		
Objective indicator 1:	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Workshop and consultation logs	PMU	By sex (male/female)	0	5000 (50% women)	
Outcome 1.	1 Strengthened country plan	nning/ capacity t	to meet/ exceed	GBF Target 3			
Outcome 1.1 indicator (guides)	Number of guides		PMU	N/A	0	1	That we will not decide to develop a higher number of guides. The guide will be translated into at least French and Spanish, but will not be counted against this total.
Outcome 1.1.2 indicator (GBF Target 3 plans)	Number of people engaged in the consultations/workshops /webinars	Consultation and workshops  Will avoid double counting where possible.	PMU and country offices	By sex (male/female)	0	TBD	Names will be double-check ed against previous attendance lists to ensure no double counting.  Note: rolls up into Objective indicator

	Number of gaps analyses		CSF, PMU and country offices	By country	0	5	The number of country plans will not change.
	Research priorities identified		CSF, PMU and country offices	By country	0	5	
	GBF Target 3 plans		PMU and country offices	By country	0	5	
	Outcome 3.1 Knowledge products are developed and shared with relevant <b>rights holders</b> and stakeholders to contribute to knowledge management						
Outcome 3.1 indicator	Presentation materials for the GEF Assembly		PMU and country offices	By country	0	up to 5	
	Project lessons and KM products		PMU	By product	0	TBD	
Outcome 3.2 M&E plan implemented for adaptive management							
Outcome 3.2 indicator	Number of Project Progress Reports	PPRs submitted	PMU		0	2	

**Annex B: Response to Project Reviews if applicable (**from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council, and responses to comments from the Convention Secretariat and STAP).

Annex C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG) (If requesting for PPG reimbursement, please provide details in the table below:

	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)				
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	Budgeted Amount	2			
Project preparation, salaries	50,000	50,000			
Total	50,000	50,000			

# Annex D: Calendar of Expected Reflows (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

# Annex E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

#### Annex F: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table F to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at anytime during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

# Annex G: GEF Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part I, item G by ticking the most relevant keywords/ topics/themes that best describe this project.

Annex H: Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

**Annex I: Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan**