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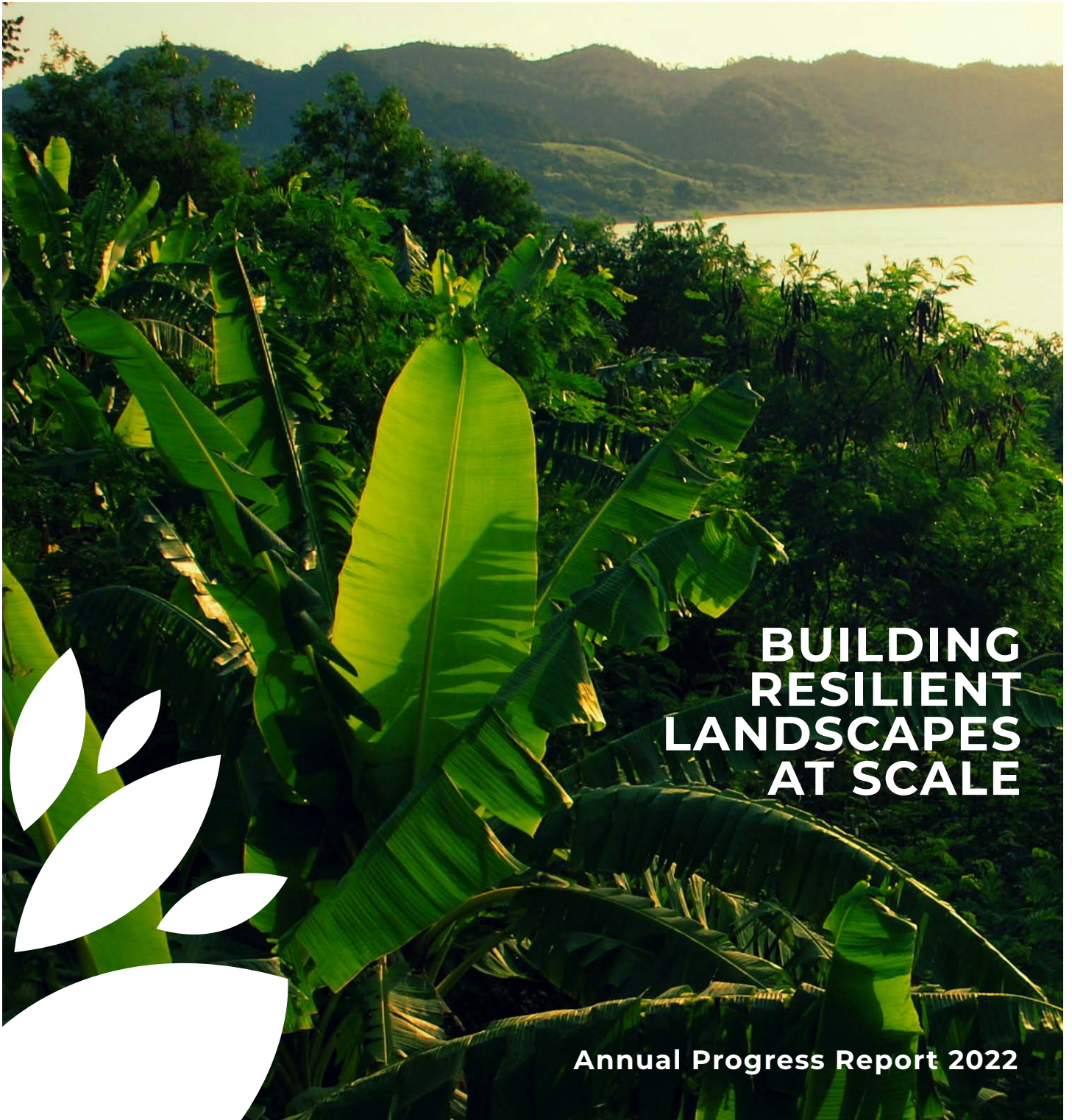
**GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR RESILIENT
AND SUSTAINBLE LANDSCAPES**

BUILDING RESILIENT LANDSCAPES AT SCALE

Annual Progress Report 2022

Administered by
WORLD BANK GROUP

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

Sida
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

The Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes (PROGREEN) is an Umbrella 2.0 program administered by the World Bank; it supports rural livelihood development and landscape restoration while tackling declining biodiversity, forest loss, and deteriorating land fertility.

LAPANTAN, MU CANG CHAI, YEN BAI, VIETNAM.

FOREWORD

Forests, woodlands, and landscapes are critical for the planet, people, and economies. They contribute direct goods and benefits in terms of timber, fiber, fodder, and energy that feed the wider economy, and provide more than 86 million green jobs. They also store approximately 861 gigatons of carbon and are home to more than three-quarters of the world's life on land. Better forest and landscape management contributes to climate and nature goals, as well as food security, biodiversity, human health, and economic prosperity.

Yet, forests and terrestrial ecosystems remain under clear and present danger. We lost almost 100 million hectares of forest cover between 2000 and 2020. One million animal and plant species are at risk of extinction within decades – that's one eighth of all species on earth. Less than 13 percent of wetlands that were present a few centuries ago remain today, and live coral reefs have nearly halved in the past 150 years, while a third of fish stocks are over-exploited.

However, by working with governments and rural communities to improve landscape management approaches and restore forests, we can strengthen a critical buffer against climate change, maintain valuable natural capital, and contribute to healthier air and water.

Investments in nature offer a powerful pathway to strengthen landscape protection while tackling the interlinked crises of climate change, nature loss, and pollution. Recognizing this, our client countries are challenging the World Bank to provide more support and impact by improving data and evidence, closing institutional knowledge gaps, and scaling up financing opportunities.

We are tackling these challenges head-on thanks to PROGREEN's focus and flexibility. With this support, the exemplary commitment of our partner countries is building the foundation for impact. We appreciate the work of our client countries on the frontlines of the climate, nature, and pollution crises. Their initiatives and actions prove that landscape investments are critical to protecting our planet's future.

Our partner countries continue to make impressive strides to strengthen integrated natural resource management. In this respect, Ghana is a trailblazer. With PROGREEN's support, 210,000 hectares of the country's rolling savannah and cocoa forest landscapes are being brought under Community Resource Management Areas. This approach places communities in the driver seat, empowering them to shape and manage their nature-resilient futures. In a country where agriculture contributes to 54% of GDP, PROGREEN is also promoting sustainable farming practices among Ghana's farmers – 2,855 of whom have made the sustainability switch.

PROGREEN resources support our country partners as they take on the acute challenges that can arise from balancing economic considerations with nature-smart development. Take Costa Rica – a forestry conservation and rehabilitation success story. Economic progress placed undue pressure on grazing pastures and the agricultural land used for high-value exports. PROGREEN is helping rebalance this tension between forest conservation and private sector opportunity. By working to align fiscal policies and financial programs with the country's low-carbon and climate resilient ambitions, Costa Rica is firmly on track to meeting its conservation, economic growth, and poverty reduction goals.
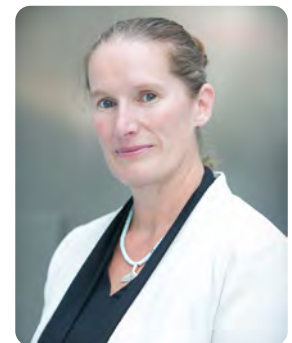
This is the power of PROGREEN: the ability to be responsive to stakeholders by finding solutions that improve livelihoods, support national development objectives, and advance climate and biodiversity action. PROGREEN helps to build the foundations upon which coalitions of the willing can become coalitions of the working, to deliver harmonized financing in landscapes and build green economies.

We are in a wonderful period of creation in terms of understanding what natural assets, like forests and landscapes, mean to development. Following two impactful years of operation, PROGREEN is building the momentum to a shared understanding and appreciation of forests and landscapes – all with the goal of improving the health of our ailing planet and the livelihoods of the people who depend on it the most.

Above all else, this Annual Report is a testament to the unparalleled benefits of investing in nature. We want to thank our partner countries – both for the resources and the action on the ground – that help PROGREEN to produce results and impact. As a result of their vision, resolve, and commitment to this global agenda, we are steadily making progress on our shared goals. My hope is that you enjoy reading this report as much as we enjoyed compiling it.

Valerie Hickey
Global Director
Environment, Natural Resources and
Blue Economy Global Practice,
World Bank

CONTENTS

List of Tables and Figures

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFE	**Eastern and Southern Africa**
AFW	**Western and Central Africa**
BETF	**Bank-Executed Trust Fund**
CPF	**Country Partnership Framework**
CREMA	**Community Resource Management Areas**
DGM	**Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**
EAP	**East Asia and Pacific**
ECA	**Europe and Central Asia**
ENB	**Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice**
EoI	**Expressions of Interest**
ER	**Emissions Reductions**
FAO	**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**
FCI	**Finance, Competitiveness, and Innovation Global Practice**
FCV	**Fragility, Conflict and Violence Global Theme**
FFP	**Forests for Prosperity Project**
FOLUR	**Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program**
GEF	**Global Environment Facility**
GHG	**Greenhouse Gas**
GIZ	**Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit**
GIS	**Geographic Information System**
GLF	**Global Landscapes Forum**
GPS	**Global Program on Sustainability**
HRF	**Hailemariam and Roman Foundation**
IBRD	**International Bank for Reconstruction and Development**
IDA	**International Development Association**
IFPRI	**International Food Policy Research Institute**
LCR	**Latin America and Caribbean**
MDTF	**Multi-Donor Trust Fund**
M&E	**Monitoring and Evaluation**
NBS	**Nature-Based Solutions**
NDC	**Nationally Determined Contributions**
NTFP	**Non-Timber Forest Product**
PA	**Protected Areas**
PES	**Payment for Environmental Services**
PMT	**PROGREEN Management Team**

RETF	**Recipient-Executed Trust Fund**
SALM	**Sustainable Agricultural Land Management**
SAR	**South Asia Region**
SCD	**Systematic Country Diagnostic**
SFM	**Sustainable Forest Management**
SLM	**Sustainable Landscape Management**
TF	**Trust Fund**
UNFSS	**United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards**
WBG	**World Bank Group**

1

1   BUILDING RESILIENT LANDSCAPES AT SCALE

The Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes (PROGREEN) supports rural livelihood development and landscape restoration while tackling declining biodiversity, forest loss, and deteriorating land fertility. Since its establishment in early 2020, PROGREEN has provided in-country support through Country Program and Knowledge Activity grants and contributed tools and knowledge through a series of multi-year flagship initiatives that address global sustainable landscapes management issues. Following initial program establishment and resource mobilization undertaken in FY20/FY21, PROGREEN is now developing the knowledge and tools necessary to use these gains to build resilient landscapes at scale.

FY22 saw a growth in knowledge development and exchange for PROGREEN. The Program developed and solidified knowledge management and learning opportunities to increase information exchange across all PROGREEN activities and provided guidance and technical assistance to help countries leverage landscape restoration investments. This approach has also strengthened collaboration with development partners and across World Bank programs and trust funds—such as Forest Investment Program (FIP), Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), BioCarbon Fund (BioCF), BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL), and in the future Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions (EnAble), and Climate Emissions Reduction Facility (CERF) —leading to greater collaboration and integration across sectors and funding sources. In Ghana and Ethiopia, for example, PROGREEN co-financed activities with the World Bank's International Development Association, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund, to reach an investment scale of over $100 million. This greater integration of assistance is appreciated by both donors and client countries seeking to assemble large packages of financing to solve difficult sustainability, climate, and landscape challenges.

In total, PROGREEN delivered 145 workshops, training sessions, and consultations, developed 15 tools, and prepared 33 knowledge products (see Table 1). In December 2021, PROGREEN launched a second call for Country Program investments, culminating in five Expression of Interests (EoIs) and the approval of two new projects by the end of FY22.

Table 1: Outputs delivered by BETF activities (Type 1 and Type 2) as of June 30, 2022

	Delivered in FY22	Total to date
Workshops, trainings, and consultations conducted	129	145
Tools developed	15	15
Knowledge products prepared	28	33

As PROGREEN enters its third year of implementation, the Program is investing in the necessary capacity, institutions, policies, and practices on the ground to build on gains made since its foundation, with specific focus on:

- Continuing to expand, strengthen, and support the Country Programs by monitoring performance, reporting on results, and identifying key areas for cross-program learning to amplify the voices of countries on a global scale.

- Expanding knowledge management and learning by systematizing efforts to share on the ground lessons and resources and identify ongoing opportunities to expand work with partners.

- Promoting more integrated landscape and seascape approaches to provide holistic client support across the range of environmental challenges.

- This involves increasing collaboration with other partner supported umbrella trust funds across the Environment Global Practice (PROBLUE and GPS) and with the GEF financed FOLUR Impact Program under the Agriculture Global Practices. This could include both thematic analytical works, as well as on-ground investments and impact through activities such as joint knowledge production, flagship reports, and training programs.

- Engaging new stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries through outreach activities, visibility at global events, and increased coordination with development partners.

- Consolidating and deepening work on flagship initiatives and cross-cutting themes to build-on and integrate the rich findings, knowledge and results emerging from the country program work. This includes potential support for new initiatives with specific attention to key themes such as landscape-scale monitoring and the global effectiveness of payment for environmental services schemes.

PROGREEN Overview

PROGREEN is implemented through three areas of engagements:

Country and Regional Programs (Type 1): PROGREEN Type 1 grants support activities within existing or planned World Bank operations through Recipient-Executed Trust Funds (RETF), which are supported by Bank-executed analytical activities, technical assistance, and consultations.

Knowledge Programs (Type 2): PROGREEN Type 2 grants are Bank-Executed Trust Funds (BETF) that include analytical products, technical assistance, policy dialogue, and relationship building to support countries in strengthening their policies, practices, capacities, and actions for improved sustainable landscape management.

The Global Program: Supports global analytics, knowledge development, and capacity building to advance country engagements for scaling up landscape restoration and contribute to global dialogue on forest and agriculture issues.

There are three key pillars underpinning PROGREEN's engagements:

Pillar 1:

Integrated and Sustainable Management of Terrestrial Ecosystems to strengthen the integrity of forests and land-based ecosystems and increase their total land coverage to improve livelihoods, support economic development, and maintain and restore ecosystem services.

Pillar 2:

Management of Land Use Changes from Agriculture supports the strengthening of sustainable management of key production landscapes where agriculture is a threat to biodiversity, forests, habitat, and ecosystems services.

Pillar 3:

Management of Landscapes with Sectors that Affect Land-use Change beyond agriculture such as infrastructure, mining, and transport to advance sustainable landscape management and nature-based solutions that can benefit project design in those sectors.

Three cross-cutting themes are integrated across PROGREEN's work:

Engaging Communities and Vulnerable Groups, women, youth, indigenous peoples, and marginalized populations through project assessments and diagnostics, and participatory consultations during project preparation.

Addressing Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation by aligning project design and implementation with existing climate change plans and targets in specific countries and landscapes.

Leveraging and Mobilizing Development Financing by increasing both public and private sector investment in forests and natural landscapes through in-depth analysis and outreach.

2

2   COUNTRY AND REGIONAL LANDSCAPE PROGRAMS (TYPE 1)

Country and Regional Programs, referred to as Type 1 engagements, support key activities that are integrated in into larger landscape investments in countries where World Bank operations are either ongoing or planned, and where policy dialogue and commitment to landscape programs are well advanced. Implemented over a three-to-five-year period, Type 1 PROGREEN grants co-finance World Bank International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA) operations through RETFs, which are supported by Bank-executed analytical activities, technical assistance, and consultations.

2.1   AFRICA

2.1.1 Ethiopia: Sustainable Land Management Program

Pillars 1 & 2

Implementing agency: Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture

Parent project: Ethiopia Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods Project (RLLP-II)

Project cost: $178.24m; Green Climate Fund (GCF): $165.3m

Timeframe: March 2021 – April 2026

RETF component: $13m in co-financing for the RLLP- II Project.

BETF component: $2.1m to support analytical, technical assistance, and capacity building activities in support of the RLLP-II Project.

Background: Ethiopia country profile

RETF: PROGREEN support focuses on seven major watersheds adjacent to the protected areas of Chebera Churchura, Maze, and Gambela national parks. The support includes multi-year watershed development planning, participatory micro-watershed planning, soil and water conservation, area closures, and livelihoods activities. It also emphasizes a strong biodiversity focus in sustainable landscape management planning and implementation in Gambela, The Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region, and South-Western Ethiopia.

The project is in the early stages of implementation due to COVID-19 delays and internal conflict in the southern region of Ethiopia. In FY22, the project established sustainable land management platforms, Community Watershed Users' Cooperative Societies (CWUCSs), and community based Kebele Watershed Teams. In addition, a multi-year development plan was produced for 43 micro-watersheds in the seven targeted areas, as well as a Gender Action Plan to support gender inclusion training for district (woreda) administrators.

The project is conducting ongoing community consultations, hosting awareness-raising events, and exploring collaboration and knowledge sharing opportunities through active discussions with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the Hailemariam and Roman Foundation (HRF), Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Wetland International, and the Norwegian and Canadian embassies.

Looking ahead, PROGREEN support will focus on reducing human-wildlife conflict, expanding sustainable landscape management (SLM) practices, boundary demarcation and national park management, and the development of ecotourism and nature-based solutions. Expected results from PROGREEN-funded activities include:

- 9,000 land users in targeted watersheds adopting SLM practices including agro-ecological practices, soil and water conservation, and agroforestry.

- 30,000 hectares under sustainable forest management through participatory forest management where communities and the state work together to manage, protect, and utilize forests sustainably.

- 3 key habitats protected resulting from areas being brought under sustainable management.

BETF: In parallel to the above activities, PROGREEN support is providing analysis, capacity-building, and technical assistance on the following:

- Expanding geospatial monitoring systems.

- Integrating green corridors into watershed management.

- Engaging biodiversity institutions such as the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority in planning and implementation.

- Supporting Protected Areas within the project target landscape.

The project is exploring opportunities to increase private sector investment and community-based tourism. This includes working with the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the Hailemariam and Roman Foundation, and the International Finance Corporation on creating an enabling environment for private sector participation through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) and other mechanisms.

Through BEFT support, PROGREEN engages in activity planning discussions and consultations with development partners. Examples include the preparation of management plans for national parks, identification and design of green corridors, ecotourism development support, and government and community engagement on natural resource management and biodiversity conservation.

2.1.2 Ghana: Sustainable Landscape Management in Northern Savannah Zone

Pillars 1, 2 & 3

Implementing agency: Environment Protection Agency under the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) working in close coordination with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR).

Parent project: Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project (GLRSSMP)

Project cost: $103.36m; IDA/IBRD Commitment: $75m; GEF TF: $12.76m; Extractives TF: $0.6m

Timeframe: August 2021 – September 2027

RETF component: $15m in co-financing.

BETF component: $1.5m to support analytical, technical assistance and capacity building activities in parallel with project implementation.

Background: Ghana country profile

In FY22, PROGREEN-funded activities strengthened natural resource management on the ground by mobilizing community participation in decision making, supporting the adoption of sustainable landscape management practices among farmers, promoting multi sectoral planning and effective monitoring for landscape management, and fostering effective forest and wildlife management. The activities will help maximize benefits to communities by supporting sustainable food systems and alternative livelihoods to diversify incomes, improve food security, and reduce pressure on land and forests.

RETF: Activities are now operational in five districts in the Western Wildlife Corridor in the Northern Savanna Zone. The main beneficiaries are small-scale farmers investing in improved practices for crop production and landscape planning and management.

Since becoming operational in February 2022, the GLRSSMP project has made significant progress on implementing key activities, including:

- Developing watershed plans in 108 communities in the Northern Savannah Zone.
- Establishing Community Watershed Committees in 59 communities.
- Piloting Earth Ranger Technology in Mole National Park to monitor wildlife and support overall park management (initiated by The Wildlife Division).
- Preparing for enrichment planting in forest reserves with the Forest Services Division.
- Completing fauna, flora, and socio-economic surveys in four Forest Reserves where the project will support preparation of forest management plans.

As of May 31, 2022, over 50,000 people have been engaged in the GLRSSMP project with early implementation of activities fostering equitable participation of women in decision making. For example, 56% of participants developing community watershed plans were women. Additionally, 40 women are currently serving as members of District Management and Planning Committees.

In FY23, RETF support will focus primarily on sustainable crop and forest landscape management. Activities will include:

- Establishment of cashew agroforestry farms, 750 hectares of green firebreaks, five Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) spanning 703 hectares, and 18 agro-processing facilities.
- Restoration of degraded landscapes.
- Community extension workers training.
- Promotion of natural resource-based livelihoods and support to farmers.
- Implementation of watershed service provision incentives.
- Publication of forest management plans.

BETF: The PROGREEN-supported analytical work provides recommendations on how the government can protect forest and terrestrial ecosystems by strengthening integrated and sustainable land management protocols, thus increasing benefits for local communities. In FY22, work commenced or continued in the following areas:

- Green infrastructure: analysis of options for financial sustainability of CREMAs; analysis to address challenges to SLM; and analytics on Payments for Environmental Services.

- Greening the agriculture supply chain: advisory support for the newly established Tree Crops Development Authority; analysis and advice on value-chains for agroforestry species.

- Greening the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Policy Framework: assessment of Mineral License Management for Artisanal Mining Report; Political Economy Analysis and Gender Gap Analysis.

- This technical analysis work is informing and leveraging GLRSSMP investments, increasing government capacity to improve land-use planning and monitoring for restoration, conservation, and livelihood development efforts in the Northern Savanna Zone and Cocoa Forest landscapes. Key activities in FY22 include:

  - Completing a Wildlife Monitoring Options Report to inform wildlife management in protected areas and biological corridors (pending final approval before dissemination). The information contained in the report is increasing the capacity of the Wildlife Division's to respond to hotspot issues and informed the Forest Service Division's wildfire management for green fire belts and community woodlots.

  - Producing a Wood Fuel Assessment to inform the Forest Service Division's implementation of enrichment planting and modified Taungya System in selected sites in forest reserves to meet demand for wood fuel without further deforestation.

  - Completing a Wildfire Monitoring Options Report, also pending approval for dissemination.

The GLRSSMP's integrated approach to tackling the drivers of deforestation aligns with Ghana's National REDD+ Strategy. The project also aligns with objectives outlined in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which features sustainable land use, including food security and sustainable forest management as priority sectors for climate mitigation and adaptation. The project is expected to contribute to Ghana's Land Degradation Neutrality target, AFR100 commitment, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Looking ahead, PROGREEN-supported activities are expected to result in:

- 676,794 hectares managed as CREMAs for Sustainable Land and Water Management.

- 89,968 hectares of forest reserves and wildlife protected areas being sustainablynmanaged.

- 21,320 hectares of restored landscapes, including areas under agroecological practices, rangelands, and riparian vegetation.

- The adoption of ecological production methods to improve livelihoods in 24 farmer and forest fringe communities.

- The promotion of numerous innovations, including:

   - Scaling up and financial the sustainability of CREMAs;

   - Scoping market needs, interests of the producer communities, and potential for alliances for Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFPs);

   - Technologies for Wildfire and Wildlife Monitoring;

   - "Greening" artisanal and small-scale mining practices by including mining in integrated land-use planning at the community level, plus the integration of mining considerations into five PROGREEN-supported district development plans;

   - Reforms in forest policy, legislation and other regulations supported.

VERY LARGE TERMITE MOUND IN AFRICA, GHANA. SOLENEBA | SHUTTERSTOCK

2.1.3 Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger:
Sahel Landscape Restoration Program

Pillars 1 & 2

Implementing agency: Burkina Faso Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change

Parent project: Burkina Faso Communal Climate Action and Landscape Management Project (CCALM); Sahel Landscape Restoration Program

Project cost: $100m; IDA/IBRD Commitment: $88m

Timeframe: January 2022 – June 2028 (Burkina Faso); August 2021 – June 2024 (Sahel)

RETF component: $12m in co-financing to the Burkina Faso CCALM Project.

BETF component: $2.5m to support analytical, technical assistance, coordination, and capacity building activities for these five countries under the umbrella of the Sahel Land Restoration Program. Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger formed the G5 Sahel as an institutional framework for coordination of regional cooperation in development policies and security matters.

Background: Sahel Landscape profile

PROGREEN's support to the Sahel Land Restoration Program is two-pronged:

- On the ground co-financing of $12m for the CCALM Project to strengthen sustainable landscape management practices and improve access to revenues, including climate finance, for greater resilience of rural communities in targeted forestry zones in Burkina Faso.

- Analytical, technical assistance, and capacity-building support of $2.5m for the G5 Sahel countries to increase knowledge and communication products and tools available to stakeholders towards restoration and increased productivity of land, and strengthen resilience to climate change.

RETF: Overall progress has been challenging due to the political instability and resulting insecurity in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali. PROGREEN support will be used to finance investment plans for Integrated Municipal Development Projects REDD+ (PDIC/REDD+) to strengthen sustainable landscape management in targeted municipalities. In addition to supporting sustainable Shea value chains to improve the income generation of targeted beneficiaries.

*Preparation activities for project implementation are underway. During FY22, the project funded planning diagnostics in 30 municipalities where PROGREEN will support municipal investment plans, as well as diagnostics and consultations for investments in Shea value chains. The project is expected to strengthen and facilitate the development of selected value chains and foster the development of private sector initiatives in the green economy.

Expected results of PROGREEN co-financing include:

- 1,900,000 tCO2eq GHG emissions reduced in targeted landscapes;
- 237,000 people in targeted landscapes with increased benefits (50% women);
- 135,417 hectares of area under sustainable forest management;
- 10% of land-users adopt new practices in targeted landscapes;
- 2,640 women and youth will benefit from landscape-based value chains; and
- An improved Country Policy and Institutional framework.

BETF: With BETF support, the program is conducting analytical work to identify solutions and recommendations to improve natural resource management in Mali, including a policy note on Integrated Landscape Management. In Mauritania, the program is developing a Landscape Management Manual characterizing different types of landscapes and their management approaches and tools. In Niger, a knowledge product is in development that will highlight the Maisons des Paysans experience for replication. In Burkina Faso, technical studies on landscape management are underway, including a pilot study on Forest-Smart Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining Standards, which includes principles, criteria, indicators, and a roadmap for the adoption of standards related to mining. The program is also developing an Agro-Slvo-Sastoral Public Expenditure Review to support the implementation of the National Agro-Slvo-Pastoral Investment Plan. In Chad, the program helped develop a virtual 360-3D realistic view of the Ouadi-Rimé Ouadi-Hachim Faunal Reserve (OROA), showcasing how SLM will improve land-use, combat climate change, and build greater water, restoration, and agricultural resilience. The analytical work includes an assessment of the economic value of ecosystem services provided by the OROA reserve and related cost of degradation – informing the Chad Country Environmental Analysis (CEA). The 3D product is available in English, French, and with Chadian Arabic subtitles.

The Sahel Land Restoration Program is also supporting and informing four World Bank operations: Mali Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project (pipeline), Niger Integrated Landscape Management Project (pipeline), Burkina Faso Community Climate Action and Landscape Management Project (approved), and Chad Local Development and Adaptation Project (ongoing).

2.2 EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

2.2.1 Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan: Resilient Landscape Program (RESILAND)

Pillars 1 & 2

Implementing agency: Uzbekistan, Committee of Forests; Kazakhstan, Forestry and Wildlife Committee of the Ministry of Ecology, Geology, and Natural Resources; Tajikistan, Committee of Environment; Kyrgyzstan, Ministry of Agriculture

Parent project: CA-RESILAND-Kazakhstan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project CA-RESILAND-Uzbekistan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project
Central Asia Climate and Environment Program (CLIENT)

Project cost: i) Kazakhstan RESILAND: $6.34m; GEF TF: $4.34m; ii) Uzbekistan RESILAND – $153m; IDA/IBRD Commitment: $142m; Korea-WORLD BANK Partnership: $3m

Timeframe: Kazakhstan RESILAND: June 2021 – September 2025; Uzbekistan RESILAND: June 2022 – September 2028; Central Asia CLIENT Program: January 2021 – January 2024

RETF component: Co-financing $2m as additional financing to the Kazakhstan RESILAND project and $8m to the Uzbekistan RESILAND project.

BETF component: $2.5m to support the Central Asia Climate & Environment Program (CLIENT) Knowledge Platform comprising four countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan), which provides knowledge exchange, coordination, and capacity building across the countries.

Background: Central Asia Landscape Profile

RETF: The Uzbekistan RESILAND project is expected to begin in 2023, while the Kazakhstan RESILAND project is in its implementation phase. RETF financing is supporting the design of operations and expected results.

PROGREEN will support policy and institutional reform for forest landscape management, including informing the draft Forest Code and action plan for Forest Landscape Restoration. It will also provide technical assistance for Uzbekistan's first National Forest Inventory and Forest Monitoring System, support capacity building for the Forest Research Institute, including forest management and restoration training for staff, and review Uzbekistan's stated Land Degradation Neutrality targets for refinement on land degradation status.

PROGREEN will also support regional collaboration between Uzbekistan and Central Asian countries on transboundary cooperation related to landscape restoration and climate change impacts, promoting dialogue and knowledge exchange between various stakeholders. This includes the establishment and management of a regional sustainable landscape management and restoration database as part of the Central Asia Climate Information Platform. The project will also support the 10-year Regional Environmental Program for Sustainable Development, which includes activities on transboundary protected areas and nature-based tourism, protection of key species and habitats, development of nature-based solutions such as erosion control and tree planting along roads, and Peace Parks between countries along the lines of UNCCD Peace Forest Initiative.

Key expected results in Uzbekistan include:

- 280,000 hectares of land area under sustainable landscape management practices;

- 25,000 land-users adopting landscape restoration practices;

- 26,536 hectares of land designated as Protected Areas under improved management using the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score;

- Supporting land degradation neutrality and NDC targets.

- In Kazakhstan, RETF co-financing supports scaling-up the GEF-financed Kazakhstan RESILAND project in protected areas. PROGREEN will help pilot community-centered agroforestry practices and build government capacity for integrated landscape management of protected areas through:

- Environmental rehabilitation and biodiversity preservation, including capacity building, environmental tourism development support, the development of orchards and gardens, and the restoration of a plant collection. This is linked to ongoing activities under the GEF component on capacity building for the Forestry and Wildlife Committee (FWC).

- Piloting a grants program that funds community–centered dryland agroforestry and landscape restoration in areas adjacent to the protected territories. PROGREEN's support will extend and test ongoing activities under the GEF project to demonstrate the benefits and potential of agroforestry in selected farms near protected areas.

BETF: PROGREEN supports RESILAND at the regional level through the World Bank's five-year Climate and Environment (CLIENT) Program, which supports Central Asian countries to achieve sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economic growth. CLIENT also facilitates transboundary collaboration and catalyzes joint actions to increase resilience to climate change impacts, restore landscapes, and protect lives and livelihoods. PROGREEN supports activities with important regional links, namely (i) improved connectivity and integrity of natural resources across borders; (ii) increased resilience of key regional infrastructure prone to the impacts of land degradation (for example, roads and railways); (iii) increased resilience of transboundary communities benefiting from more productive landscapes and livelihood opportunities; and (iv) increased GHG mitigation due to restored landscapes.

BIG ALMATY LAKE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF ZAILI ALATAY, KAZAKHSTAN, CENTRAL ASIA. PIKOSO.KZ | SHUTTERSTOCK

The Program will also support a Regional Exchange Platform for high-level dialogue to support the harmonization of policies and approaches between countries on landscape restoration, to be executed by the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program CAREC. During the past year, PROGREEN support has contributed to the following results:

- An assessment of climate change impacts on terrestrial ecosystems in Kazakhstan;

- A [Forest Policy Note for Uzbekistan](#);

- 11 policy dialogues in Uzbekistan on "Choosing an Innovative and Green Future" in collaboration with the Government of Uzbekistan and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and with co-financing from the Climate Support Facility, NDC Support Facility, and UK Aid;

- Green growth policy dialogues in Uzbekistan involving the participation of the private sector, entrepreneurs, farmers, and small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as well as the Global Green Growth Institute.

- A deep dive study on rangelands to inform Kazakhstan's CCDR, which outlines policy reforms and investments needed to build resilience to climate change and reducing GHG emissions.

- Preparatory work for the "Almaty Tree Management and Urban Green Corridor Action Plan;"

- Preparatory work for a deep dive study on natural capital to inform Uzbekistan's CCDR;

- The preparation of a study on the viability of using the AnchorEd Schools Project model to raise awareness on landscape restoration among youth in Central Asia. The study, "Anchor Schools as a Model for Landscape Resilience in Central Asia: Feasibility Study in Rural Tajikistan," was presented at the Second International Peace Conference in February 2022.

- The team sponsored and participated in webinars and presentations in international and regional forums on the RESILAND program that can be found on the events page of the [PROGREEN website](#)

In the coming year, PROGREEN will support the development of monitoring systems for agriculture, land-use, land-use changes, and forestry sectors for Kazakhstan; guidelines for sustainable rangeland management in Central Asia; and the establishment of a RESILAND Steering Committee made up of participating countries, among other activities.

2.3   LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

2.3.1   Argentina: Production and Conservation Landscapes in Northern Subtropical Forests

Pillars 1 & 2

Implementing agency: Administración de Parques Nacionales (APN)

Parent project: Sustainable Recovery of Landscapes and Livelihoods Project

Project cost: $60m; IDA/IBRD Commitment: $45m

Timeframe: The parent project was approved in February 2022 and will close in May 2027

RETF component: $12m in co-financing for the Sustainable Recovery of Landscapes and Livelihoods in Argentina Project.

BETF component: $1.2m to support analytical, technical assistance, and capacity building activities to enhance the quality of the design and implementation of the investment project.

Background: Argentina Country Profile

RETF: The Sustainable Recovery of Landscapes and Livelihoods Project was approved by the World Bank Group (WBG) Board in February 2022 and began on the ground implementation in the second half of 2022. A gender and vulnerability strategy was developed to help guide its work with vulnerable populations. This included an action plan aimed at providing guidance and support to project teams performing gender and vulnerability-focused activities. The project will contribute to the post-COVID pandemic economic recovery by creating new sources of income and green jobs for rural communities through public and private investments directed towards the management of protected areas and their buffer zones, eco-tourism, and other low-impact productive activities. A short and mid-term strategy will be implemented to preserve and restore skills and connections between workers and firms (or worker cooperatives). In the mid-term, the integrated management of landscapes will be fostered, for example through the implementation of value-chain sub-projects, aiming at increasing the benefits communities derive from them while preserving or restoring the environmental services they provide.

The PROGREEN grant will scale successful pilot experiences and achievements financed by the recently closed "Rural Corridors and Biodiversity" Project ($6.28 million GEF grant), and escalate community-driven rural development activities, such as nature-based tourism through bird watching and canoeing, and certified organic stingless bee honey production in protected area buffer zones and connecting corridors. In prior phases of funding, this initiative benefited approximately 580 campesino and indigenous people over almost 200,000 hectares.

With PROGREEN's support, the project is expected to:

- Directly benefit 15,000 people from local communities.

- 160,000 hectares of area under sustainable forest management in subtropical forests in the Yungas and Chaco ecoregions. This is based on implementing new practices (such as fire management, intercropping with trees, alley cropping with trees, improved tree/bush fallows, shelterbelts, hedgerows, parklands, multistory cropping, etc.).

- 87,000 hectares of land under restoration in subtropical forests of the Yungas and Chaco ecoregions. This focuses on areas subject to invasive species control subprojects, which will contribute to the natural recovery of the native vegetation and ecosystems.

- 13 key Climate Resilient Infrastructure investments in targeted protected areas, including climate related features such as bioclimatic design, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and water reuse or recycling, among others.

- Investments in habitat restoration, enhanced management of ecosystems, renewable energy, and energy efficiency that will contribute to meeting Argentina'sGHG emissions commitments, with an estimate of 750,000 tCO2e over the next 20 years.

Examples of promoting inclusive and equitable approaches to natural resources management

Engaging communities, especially youth, women, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable groups, is one of PROGREEN's three cross-cutting themes and a key component of all country led investment projects promoting participatory management of natural resources for local benefits. PROGREEN also seeks to strengthen links with other funds at the World Bank such as the Dedicated Grant Mechanism and EnABLE (Enhancing Access to Benefits while Lowering Emissions), both of which focus on supporting the meaningful participation of marginalized groups for equitable and socially just access to natural spaces, through innovative pilots and mainstreaming inclusion in large-scale investment projects. Some specific country examples are provided below.

Argentina: *Resilient ecosystems and strengthening local livelihoods.* The Sustainable Recovery of Landscapes and Livelihoods project seeks to improve the management and resilience of ecosystems for improved livelihoods of local communities in selected conservation and production landscapes and seascapes. Promoting sustainable local livelihoods through the sustainable management of protected areas and their buffer zones, eco-tourism, low-impact productive activities is one of the three key components of the project. As a part of the supporting analytical activity, the team has surveyed 92% of the population in a rural poverty survey to assess vulnerability in the region. This information will improve policy design and implementation to benefit vulnerable groups. The survey includes defined subgroups for indigenous peoples, smallholder farmers and women, representing around 60% of the total.

Ghana: *Increasing benefits to communities in savannah and cocoa forest landscapes.* The Ghana project aims to strengthen integrated natural resource management and increase benefits to communities in targeted savannah and cocoa forest landscapes. It will help to mobilize communities to participate in decision-making, support adoption of sustainable land management practices among farmers, promote multisectoral planning and effective monitoring for landscape management, and foster effective forest and wildlife management. These activities will help improve benefits to communities by supporting sustainable food systems and alternative livelihoods to diversify income, improve food security and reduce pressure on land and forests. The project seeks to double the extent of community resource management areas (CREMAs). So far, the project has supported development of 108 community watershed plans in the Northern Savannah Zone. Community Watershed Management Committees have been established in 59 communities, following consultations with local stakeholders. The project has received over 30,000 proposals for community subprojects from 6,000 farmer groups in 11 districts. Initial screening has also been completed for agro-processing facilities in selected areas.

BETF: PROGREEN is supporting the production of knowledge and tools to strengthen the management and protection of ecosystem services that benefit local livelihoods, support the development and scaling-up of low-impact productive land uses, and mainstream sustainable agricultural practices. Of the four planned analytical pieces, three are currently under implementation, including: a quantitative assessment of rural poverty and sustainable landscape management practices in the Chaco and Yungas region; a regional assessment of value chains; and proposals to develop existing and new market incentives, as well as national and subnational regulatory frameworks to strengthen decision-making and policy design on integrated landscape management.

The analytical work includes interviewing key stakeholders, such as national and sub-national government agents and decision-makers, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, and academic experts.

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2.4   MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

2.4.1   Morocco, Tunisia: Oasis Landscape Management—A Multi-Country Program in North Africa

Pillar 1

Implementing agency: Ministry of Environment, General Directorate of Environment and Quality of Life

Parent project: TN-Sustainable Oasis Landscape Management (SOLM) Project; Morocco investment project is under discussion with the Government.

Project cost: $65.75m; IDA/IBRD Commitment: $50m

Timeframe: 2021 – May 2026

RETF component: PROGREEN will provide $5.5m in co-financing to the Tunisia SOLM Project and $6.5m in co-financing to an investment project in Morocco that is yet to be identified.

BETF component: PROGREEN is providing $1.35m to support the North Africa Oasis Knowledge Platform.

Background: Oasis Landscape Profile

RETF: Initial groundwork for the Tunisia Sustainable Oasis Landscape Management project is underway through stakeholder engagement, including a workshop in February 2022 with participation from key national and regional level ministries, NGOs and CSOs, beneficiaries, communities, and development partners such as GIZ and FAO. Official project approval is expected in June 2023, with the objective of strengthening integrated Oasis landscape development in targeted governorates in Tunisia. The project has faced significant delays due to COVID-19 challenges and the overall macroeconomic situation in Tunisia.

Expected results include:

- 25,000 hectares of land area under sustainable landscape management practices.

- 250 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) financed through the project, disaggregated by male/female-led SMEs.

- 65% of target beneficiaries with rating of 'satisfied' or above on project interventions, disaggregated by gender.

BETF: PROGREEN-supported activities will provide knowledge and analysis, capacity building, and convening and coordination support to the North African Oasis countries of Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt through the North Africa Oasis Knowledge Platform (OKP).

The program supports capacity building on the landscape approach and integrated local planning, products certification, value-chain development, and analytical work on policies, legal and institutional provisions related to oasis landscapes in all four countries. The program is working to establish and strengthen existing networks between national institutions and local level community organizations (including the private sector) in participating countries. These networks will encourage the sharing of knowledge and strategic communication activities on key issues related to sustainable oasis management and their associated livelihoods. In Tunisia, the activities will help identify investment opportunities related to the project and develop nature-based solutions in oases landscapes, agroecology, and nature-based tourism. The program will also support the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Oases 2015 and related Action Plan.

Activities will be launched in early FY23, with the main results and key findings to be achieved by January 2024. Once fully implemented, the activities will support several international commitments and targets including, among others. (i) the Paris Climate Agreement/NDCs through mitigation actions (afforestation, reforestation, and prevention of oases and rangelands degradation) and adaptation actions (climate-smart agriculture/ agroecology practices); (ii) UNSCBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the (iii) UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality targets.

During FY23, key outputs and deliverables will include:

- A report defining the process of formal labeling of historical oases in Tunisia.

- An analysis to promote certification of some oasis products and by-products.

- An interactive platform.

- A report presenting the developed contractual specifications.

- Monographs of North African oases for Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia.

- Training materials and awareness-raising campaign support documents.

- Reports of capacity building workshops.

- Community engagement platforms.

OASIS IN THE DRY REGIONS OF MORROCO, AFRICA. LUCVI | SHUTTERSTOCK

2.5   SOUTH ASIA REGION

2.5.1   Nepal: Integrated Forest Landscape Management Program

Pillars 1, 2 & 3

Implementing agency: Ministry of Forests and Environment

Parent project: Forests for Prosperity Project (FPP)

Project cost: $24m; Strategic Climate Fund: $24m

Timeframe: November 2020 – September 2025

RETF component: $12m in co-financing to the Forests for Prosperity Project (FPP).

BETF component: $2.5m to support program implementation through analytical, technical assistance, and capacity building activities.

Background: Nepal Country Profile

RETF: PROGREEN support aims to improve sustainable forest management by increasing benefits from forests and contributing to net GHG emission reductions in selected municipalities in Province 2 and Province 5 in Nepal

Declared active in July 2021, the FPP is making slow but steady progress with meeting the requirements for disbursement readiness. Despite significant delays due to COVID-19 challenges, the project is expected to start implementation by September 2022.

Expected results include:

- 110,000 people in targeted forest and adjacent communities with increased monetary or non-monetary benefits from forests, disaggregated by gender and disadvantaged groups.

- 17,740,000 MtCO2 eq net GHG emissions reduced.

- 80% of project beneficiaries with rating of "satisfied" or above on project interventions (livelihoods, forest management, other), disaggregated by gender and disadvantaged groups.

- 15,900 hectares of forest area are brought under management plans.

BETF: PROGREEN is supporting knowledge development for enhanced decision making and capacity in forest landscape management. These efforts will support the Government of Nepal in its adoption of a Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID) approach that is core to achieving economic growth, providing a robust pandemic recovery, and advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The FPP Project will be integrated with several other World Bank investments, including: i) Forests for Prosperity Project (P170798); ii) Emission Reduction Program in the Terai Arc Landscape (P165375); iii) REDD+ Readiness Project (P125198); (iv) Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Nepal (P171720); and (v) upcoming BBIN MPA Regional Transport and Trade Facilitation Project (P177902).

In June 2022, the Government of Nepal approved the 2021 Forest Regulation containing a set of provisions that support the acceleration of the World Bank's forests portfolio in the country. In late June, the [Emission Reduction Program in the Terai Arc Landscape](#) met all its effectiveness conditions, which will allow Nepal to receive its first transfer by June 2023. This high-level decision, in addition to several new and ongoing inter-related World Bank projects, presents an important opportunity to bring together stakeholders across projects and ministries to share knowledge, successes, and best practices on Integrated Landscape Management, including participatory planning and management approaches, as well as community management of forest enterprises. PROGREEN will fund convenings, dialogues, analytics, and evidence to support the country's transition toward more sustainable landscape outcomes by building consensus on the incentives and practical guidelines needed to scale up implementation. PROGREEN resources will help t coordination across ministries and development partners, and across regions and levels of government to improve practices and outcomes. PROGREEN support is instrumental in supporting the Government's efforts to coordinate forest projects that improve the sustainability and efficiency of forest landscape management in the country.

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2.6   SUMMARY OF TYPE 1 STATUS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Table 2 below outlines the status of the approved Type 1 (investment) projects. A table summarizing the expected results from these projects, as well as the PROGREEN indicators and projected contribution can be found in Annex 1. As implementation proceeds and actual results are reported against the targets, the table will be updated. The Monitoring and Evaluation process is explained in more detail below.

Table 2: Country and Regional Program (Type 1) RETF status

| Program | Country/ Region | Approval date (EoI) | RETF amt (M $) | Parent project information | | | | | |
				Project ID	Project name	IBRD/IDA lending ($M)	Add'l co- finance ($M)	Board approval (Start Date)	Closing
Argentina	Argentina	9/31/20	12	P175669	Sustainable Recovery of Landscapes and Livelihoods in Argentina	45		2/24/22	5/31/27
Central Asia – RESILAND	Kazakhstan	10/19/20	2	P171577 /P179008	CA–RESILAND– Kazakhstan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project PROGREEN–Additional Finance*		4.34 (GEF)	9/30/2022 (expected)	11/28/25
	Uzbekistan	10/19/20	8	P174135	CA–RESILAND– Uzbekistan Resilient Landscapes Restoration	142		6/7/22	9/15/28
Ethiopia	Ethiopia	10/19/20	13	P174385	2nd Ethiopia Resilient Landscapes and Livelihoods		165.3 (GCF)	3/18/21	4/30/26
Ghana	Ghana	10/19/20	15	P171933	Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-scale Mining	75	12.75 (GEF); 0.6 (ETF)	8/30/21	9/30/27
Oasis	Tunisia	10/19/20	5.5	P169955	TN–Sustainable Oasis Landscape Management	50		6/19/23 (expected)	1/31/28
	Morocco	10/19/20	6.5		Under Discussion with Govt				
Sahel	Burkina Faso	10/19/20	12	P170482	Communal Climate Action and Landscape Management	113		6/15/22	6/30/28
Nepal	Nepal	6/1/21	12	P170798	Forests for Prosperity		24 (SCF)	7/8/20	9/30/25
Total			86			425	206.9		

* PROGREEN co-finance will be processed as additional financing

Table 3 below shows the status of the BETF activities for Type 1 countries. These are undertaken by World Bank Task Teams with a short approval process (no Board approval required) and in time to support the design and implementation of the co-financed investment operation.

Table 3: Country and Regional Program (Type 1) BETF status

	Country or Regional Program	BETF amount ($M)	BETF grant approval date
1	Argentina	1.27	6/15/2021
2	Central Asia	2.50	1/8/2021
3	Ethiopia	2.10	5/10/2021
4	Ghana	1.60	1/8/2021
5	Nepal	2.50	5/1/2022
6	Oasis	1.35	9/9/2021
7	Sahel	2.50	2/11/2021
TOTAL		13.82	

3

3   COUNTRY KNOWLEDGE ACTIVITIES (TYPE 2)

Through knowledge generation, PROGREEN helps countries improve their understanding of how sustainable landscape management practices contribute to national development goals and scale up landscape investments. These Bank-Executed activities include analytical products, technical assistance, policy dialogue, and relationship building to support countries strengthen their policies, practices, capacities, and actions for improved sustainable landscape management. Knowledge support also helps to inform countries engaged in upstream diagnostics and investment prioritization through the World Bank Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) and associated Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs).

3.1   AFRICA

3.1.1   Burundi: Diagnosing Drivers of Climate and Environmental Fragility in Burundi's Colline Landscapes — Landscape, Climate & Conflict Risks

BURUNDI

Timeframe: July 2021 – June 2022

Objectives: Diagnose the drivers of climate fragility in Burundi's colline (hill) landscapes and inform multi-sector investment plans to scale up landscape restoration and climate resilience post–COVID-19.

Background: [Knowledge Activity Profile](#)

Activities:

- Diagnose underlying drivers of fragility at the landscape level in Burundi's colline landscapes.

- Inform a multi-sector investment plan to address drivers of fragility in Burundi's colline landscapes.

- Resource mobilization and alignment with WBG Country Partnership Framework.

Progress: The project conducted a climate risk impact and a landscape risk assessment with a focus on landslides and soil erosion with the support of the Climate Centre and the Natural Capital Project at Stanford University (further details in section 4.2.5 Strengthening Technical Foundations for Incorporating Landscape Assessments into Investment). The analysis identified and ranked collines for climate resilience investment based on their overall climate risk score, geographical location, and hazard exposure. The results helped to inform climate-resilient investment decisions in Burundi and contributed to the evidence for investment in project design and locations.

Overall, the activity produced two technical reports, a synthesis report, an e-book, a story map, a digital knowledge platform, and four sample colline-level climate action plans (CCAPs) for Bugarama, Bibare, Kibandi, and Maramvya. The CCAPs informed the costing of the national scale climate resilience investment project that is under development. In addition, the activity supported 65 workshops, training, and consultations with stakeholders. Within target hotspot collines, the team organized and facilitated community workshops to validate the findings of the technical reports and prioritize identified nature-based solutions and investment options to address drivers of multi-risk vulnerability. After being reviewed by the Burundi National Steering Committee, the technical reports were presented to multiple stakeholders and validated by the Government.

The findings have informed and influenced the Government of Burundi to work with the World Bank to develop a multi-sectoral investment program that will strengthen climate resilience across collines in a post–COVID-19 context. The program will be supported by a multi-donor platform and implemented by national stakeholders, including provincial leaders, civil society, the private sector, and multi-sector ministerial representatives, based on priority areas stated in the colline-level CCAPs.

Results:

- An interactive story-map for Burundi climate and fragility Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) findings.
- An interactive digital e-book: ENGLISH FRENCH
- A knowledge Platform
- Webinar: Transformative Programs for Forest Conservation and Restoration

LESOTHO

3.1.2   Lesotho: Landscapes for Wealth — Integrated Catchment Management for Lesotho's Wetlands

Timeframe: March 2021 – December 2022

Objectives: Enhance the management of ecosystem services through improved knowledge, partnerships, and support for strengthened governance and capacity to implement inclusive, integrated, and climate resilient management in selected catchment landscapes in Lesotho.

Background: [Knowledge Activity Profile](#)

Activities:

- Strengthen governance and revise incentive structures for integrated catchment management.
- Inform green and resilient road infrastructure.
- Develop a strong knowledge base.

Progress: The project conducted a network analysis of integrated catchment management (ICM) in Lesotho that shows the relationships among ICM stakeholders and their spheres of influence. In collaboration with GIZ, the network analysis report was delivered in February 2022. The analysis improved understanding of the multi-sectoral coordination for catchment management in the country. An initial scoping of the diagnostic was presented to the Ministry of Finance at an in-person meeting in Maseru and the diagnostic is on track to be completed by October 2022. In June 2022, the World Bank coordinated a joint meeting between GIZ, the Ministry of Water, and the Ministry of Finance (Budget Controller and Accountant General) to discuss designating an institutional "home" for ICM within Lesotho's legal framework, including sustainable financing if long-term funding from donor partners is phased down.

In June 2022, a firm was hired to develop a climate change and environmental vulnerability assessment tool and apply it to road transport infrastructure in select catchment areas. The activity is on track for completion in December 2022.

The team provided expertise on a new concept for natural capital accounting being developed by the Ministry of Water. In addition, they are preparing a training course for decision makers and technical experts on the role of ecosystem services in integrated catchment management to be delivered in the first quarter of FY23.

3.1.3   Nigeria: Adopting Multi-Sectoral Approaches Towards Climate-Resilient Landscapes as Part of Integrated Catchment Management in Northern Nigeria

NIGERIA

Timeframe: June 2021 – January 2023

Objectives: Contribute to the knowledge base for multi-sectoral approaches to climate-resilient landscape management practices for integrated catchment management in northern Nigeria.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Establishing a knowledge base for sustainable forest and landscape management interventions.

Progress: Completed in FY22, the scoping analysis of the wood fuel value chain serves as a basis for the biodiversity assessment of wood lots, and sustainable biochar or charcoal interventions in semi-arid regions of Nigeria. This analysis is informing the stakeholder and poverty mapping, which will include two major studies: (i) scoping of climate-smart agriculture and community revolving fund initiatives in Nigeria, and (ii) an assessment of the barriers to the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups in landscape management in northern Nigeria. Both studies are on track to be completed within the first half of FY23. Key findings from these studies will influence the implementation of climate-smart agricultural activities at the community level under the World Bank's Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACRESAL) project.

A scoping analysis of sustainable landscape and watershed management examples from around the world commenced in FY22 and is expected to be delivered in the first half of FY23. An introduction to global good hydrological and meteorological ("hydromet") practices was provided as part of a virtual meeting with many counterparts. PROGREEN has also been supporting ACRESAL with an upstream identification of priority intervention sites using drone surveys. Additional tools and knowledge products include:

- Nigerian Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes Tools and Resources (currently only available internally).

- Historical, real-time, and forecast data services to support watershed management in a landscape framework Nigeria E-Atlas Data Dashboard prototype

- New ways to showcase available data for Nigeria: Nigeria Interactive Data Dashboard WebApp.

- An interactive public Tableau based data dashboard for Nigeria showing a number of ways to visualize key state-level data compiled from various sources by the team.

- A prototype interactive Nigeria Landscape Technology Knowledge Base of articles, reports, videos, and websites of relevance to the use of technology for various aspects of landscape management in Nigeria.

- Stocktaking and Gap Analysis of Current Rural Energy Practices and Initiatives in Nigeria (draft): This activity is going to be followed by a wood fuel assessment in key hotspots of Northern Nigeria (currently only available internally).

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RWANDA

3.1.4 Rwanda: Incentive Mechanisms for Landscape Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions in the Congo-Nile Ridge Landscape of Rwanda

Timeframe: April 2021 – September 2022

Objectives: Identify, design, and evaluate incentive mechanisms for improved landscape management and nature-based solutions in the Congo-Nile Ridge landscape in Rwanda.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Support the development of management plans in the Congo-Nile Ridge landscape.
- Develop incentives to strengthen the sustainable management of the
- Congo-Nile Ridge landscape to improve ecosystem service provision.
- Develop incentives for scaling up nature-based solutions and facilitate community access to the benefits of protected areas to reduce runoff and mitigate the impacts of floods in population centers.
- Support resource mobilization through contributions to investment planning and prioritization.

Progress: Initial results from this project demonstrated the need for conservation and climate adaptation. As a result, there is increased momentum around the need for investments that drive economic growth, and mobilize stakeholders and decision makers to increase resources available for these investments.

PROGREEN is supporting the development of a roadmap for enhancing collaboration, increasing investment, and supporting resource mobilization with the Government and Rwanda Green Fund. The partners in the process of hiring consulting firms and officializing the Terms of References for the activities to be proposed to the Rwanda Green Fund.

This activity has contributed to an ambitious updated NDC, which aims to make Rwanda a low-carbon and resilient economy by 2050 and to reduce GHG emissions by 38% by 2030 compared to business as usual. The submission outlines sector-specific implementation plans for both adaptation interventions and mitigation measures.

ZIMBABWE

3.1.5   Zimbabwe: Sustainable Production Landscape Management

Timeframe: March 2021 – September 2022

Objectives: Promote nature-smart sustainable land management practices for enhanced biodiversity and climate resilience in selected production landscapes in Zimbabwe.

Background: [Knowledge Activity Profile](#)

Activities:

- Design integrated landscape management and sustainable biodiversity management approaches in production landscapes.
- Stakeholder engagement.
- Disseminate digital climate advisory services (DCAS) for increased productivity and enhanced resilience, housed in the Agriculture Observatory

Progress: In FY23, PROGREEN conducted an in-depth assessment and valuation of ecosystem services and Payments for Ecosystem Services opportunities in the Mazoe watershed. A report (currently being finalized) details the geographical, ecological, and socio-economic characteristics of the area, ecosystem services provided, and the range of interventions that could be implemented in the study area.

Stakeholder engagement in FY22 included working closely with government counterparts in the ministries of Agriculture and Environment. The project also engaged farmers, extension officers, and the Zimbabwe Farmers Union around DCAS to enhance resilience to climate shocks and guide agroecological decisions at the local level. Discussions were also held with private agricultural insurance providers.

During implementation, the project team has consulted closely with other development partners working on nature-based solutions issues such as the Swedish Development Agency, FAO, Foundations for Farming, USAID, and GIZ. Consultations with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office led to additional financing for the Agriculture Observatory to scale up DCAS, thereby enabling further training to be provided to government officials and additional farmers to be added to the database for receiving DCAS.

In FY22, PROGREEN supported the Agriculture Observatory with the dissemination of agro-meteorological information to local governments and farmers across all ten of Zimbabwe's provinces. During the growing season (November to April), SMS with digital advisories were broadcast three times a week to 19,290 farmers, 46.8% of whom were female. An impact assessment of the program is being finalized.

The activity offered three sets of training on the interpretation and analysis of climate information to government officials, farmers, farmers unions, and academia. The project will further provide targeted agrometeorology training to enable the Ministry of Agriculture and Meteorology Services to institutionalize the Agriculture Observatory. The project worked with the Ministry of Agriculture on the automation of DCAS and created three modules to operationalize the Government's existing farmers database in two pilot districts.

3.2   EAST ASIA & PACIFIC

3.2.1   China: Reconciling Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use Within China's Protected Areas System

CHINA

Timeframe: April 2021 – December 2022

Objectives: Deepen knowledge of integrated landscape management approaches in the Chinese protected areas network, with a focus on effective and participatory ecosystem conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Compile global good practices on designating and managing different types of protected areas (PA) and their applicability to the Chinese context.

- Improve the balance of conservation and sustainable natural resource use in conservation landscapes.

- Provide analytical contributions and a toolkit on large-scale restoration of ecosystems and conservation landscapes.

Progress: In FY22, PROGREEN collaborated with the lead agency in China to conduct a global review on best practices in PA management. Two studies compared the Chinese PA system with global standards such as the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas and conservation networks in other countries including Canada, Germany, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The studies identified management gaps and made recommendations to inform improved planning and management. The reports are currently being consolidated for wider distribution.

The Institute of National Parks at Tsinghua University is conducting a series of literature reviews and case study analyses on the nexus between conservation and development, and best practices for ecosystem restoration in PAs, with particular focus on five national parks in China. PROGREEN is also supporting a restoration toolkit tailored specifically

for PA managers. An expert workshop, attended by key stakeholders from government agencies, national park managers, and academia, was convened to discuss the launch of an inception report, key findings from the literature review, and the initial toolkit design.

These activities are providing critical insight in the sustainable design and management of China's PA network. The project is also expected to inform and influence two World Bank lending programs in the pipeline: (P178401) Yellow River Basin Ecological Protection and Environmental Pollution Control Program phase 2, and (P177450) Sustainable Ecosystem Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation Project.

3.2.2   Mekong: Scaling up Sustainable Forest Landscape Management in the Lower Mekong Subregion

MEKONG

Timeframe: July 2021 – June 2023

Objectives: Improve landscape and forest management in the Lower Mekong Region and promote regional dialogue and collaboration across Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar, and Vietnam to scale up resilient and productive forest landscapes.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Promote resilient, large-scale landscape programs and leverage innovative financing, with the following assessments:

    - Regional trends for forest landscapes, including ecotourism and forestry value chains;

    - Identify innovative financing options and design a framework for forest landscape operations;

    - Key interventions in priority cross-border ecological corridors and support to policy dialogue between the countries; and

    - Country-specific analysis to complement the regional studies.

- Improve regional dialogue and knowledge exchange.

Progress: Promote resilient, large-scale landscape programs and leverage innovative financing by performing a needs assessment analysis of key stakeholders on ecotourism, including extensive consultation meetings with the Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Environment in Cambodia and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism in Lao PDR. The analyses will focus on understanding the demand for nature-based and ecotourism from the Chinese market, including both consumer and investor demand. The Terms of References for the regional demand analysis have been finalized, and the procurement process is in the final stages.

A report on sustainable forest plantations for the Lower Mekong Region is undergoing peer review in advance of dissemination. A policy note will follow that will include other non-forest related aspects to provide solutions for the looming timber supply gap which impacts forest conservation. The policy note is planned to be delivered in the first half of FY23.

One Health ASA[1]: Contributing to analysis in identifying gaps and opportunities to strengthen policy, and institutional systems for pandemic preparedness and resilience, including cross-border cooperation between Cambodia and Lao PDR. Particularly, the focus of the analysis is the Cambodia and Lao PDR Sector Assessments on Environment and Wildlife Health, and a cross-border risk assessment of wildlife trade and One Health coordination.

In addition, improved regional dialogue and knowledge exchange WILL streamline the communication process between the Government and relevant stakeholders on analytical studies results and activities. A webpage has been developed to serve as a regional knowledge repository.

Results:

Webpage repository: [Scaling Up Sustainable Forest Landscapes in the Mekong Region](#)

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1   The One Health work is co-financed through the Agriculture and Food global practice and was not part of the original proposal to PROGREEN but is relevant for discussion here on cross fertilization and influence.

PHILIPPINES

3.2.3   Philippines: Tenure Security — Underpinning Sustainable Landscape Management in the Philippines

Timeframe: April 2022 to June 2023

Objectives: Support the Government of Philippines to inform the procedures for clarifying tenure rights in forest landscapes.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Inclusive mapping and verification: Strengthen subdivision and titling efforts by supporting clarification of land classification on a unified map and enabling the participatory approach for determining tenure in forest areas.

- Legal and institutional support: A review of the current regulatory framework and institutional structures of relevant government agencies related to recognition of land rights, forest land, and Indigenous peoples' tenure rights.

Progress: An inception report and initial fact-finding mission with the partner agencies have been completed. The work plan was finalized, and potential pilot areas were reviewed by implementing and partner agencies of the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project. It was also agreed that the SPLIT Technical Working Group (TWG) on Land and Forestry will be the coordination and engagement platform for the grant activities. This Working Group will collaborate with the Bank during the implementation.

In June 2022, consultations continued with development partners through members of the SPLIT project TWG on Land and Forestry. The key members of the TWG are the Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), which are also the key agencies with a mandate to address overlapping issues and competing claims on forest, agriculture, and ancestral lands. Initial discussions were made on the selection of pilot areas for technical assistance.

3.3   LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

3.3.1   Bolivia: Bolivia's Green Recovery Program for Sustainable and Resilient Landscape Management

BOLIVIA

Timeframe: March 2021 – March 2023

Objectives: Support the creation of enabling conditions for ecosystem restoration, sustainable landscape management, and resilient food systems in the Chiquitania ecoregion.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Ecosystem valuation, forest governance, and land use planning.
- Coordinating financial incentive mechanisms that encourage agroecological approaches.
- Community capacity building to practice sustainable landscape management.

Progress: In collaboration with the regional Government of Santa Cruz, the inception and draft reports on forest governance, ecosystem valuation, and land-use planning have been prepared.

A preliminary diagnosis of three production systems, namely livestock, agriculture, and forestry, has been completed. The diagnosis included statistics, national and regional technical reports, and interviews with technicians and managers of relevant institutions. In addition, best practices at the regional and local levels have been documented, along with relevant case studies on innovative initiatives in the three production systems.

A workshop was organized to discuss draft reports on ecosystem valuation, forest governance, and land-use planning. The workshop also offered an opportunity for several regional government departments to reflect and agree on natural capital functions and approaches to protect biodiversity in the Chiquitania region.

COSTA RICA

3.3.2   Costa Rica: Informing the Operationalization of Costa Rica's Agenda Agroambiental

Timeframe: April 2021 – February 2023

Objectives: Support scaling-up low-carbon measures, sustainable food production, and forest conservation in coffee and livestock landscapes and value chains in Costa Rica.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Develop knowledge for scaling up the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) model in key value chains.

- Identify options for using GIS and other existing spatial analytics tools to improve the monitoring of nature-based solutions used in productive landscapes that contribute to ecosystem services.

- Identify fiscal measures to promote adoption of low-carbon and ecosystem-friendly practices in the agriculture sector

Progress: Stocktaking, a gap analysis, and stakeholder interviews have concluded for the technical analysis and modeling work to strengthen the environmental, socio-economic, and financial business case for scaling up the coffee and livestock NAMAs in Costa Rica. Strategic planning and prioritization have begun, as well as stakeholder consultations that will inform a roadmap for the development of a National Adaptation Plan for the Rural Agricultural Sector (PASAR). The objectives are defined, and key institutional leaders and committees needed to accompany PASAR development have been identified.

Following discussions with government agencies, mapping of the spatial data systems with potential to monitor ecosystem services from a diverse set of land uses has been prioritized. Work has begun on primary and secondary data collection and targeted expert interviews to map existing systems in place for Payments for Environmental Services (PES) and land use/land cover monitoring and Sistema Nacional de Monitoreo de Bosques (SNMB) and systems used for REDD+. The analysis is expected to advance discussions with the government agencies on how to best support the effort to more effectively use spatial data to expand the PES program.

The mapping of financial instruments available to agricultural producers and land managers is underway to facilitate the transition to low-carbon practices. The analysis involves defining what practices are considered green in terms of agriculture and agroforestry under the Agenda Agroambiental and providing a brief description of the landowners involved in its delivery. The analysis will also estimate the total financing

needed by landowners to make the transition to green practices. Following this, the activity will map all the available financing instruments for green practices, including loans, credit, and grants. The work will include analyzing gaps between existing sources of financing and the financial needs of landowners. The first draft is expected to be ready in FY23.

Links:

Feature Story: How Costa Rica is Investing in a Landscape Approach to Build a Sustainable Future

COFFEE PLANTATION IN COSTA RICA. SERGE GOUJON | SHUTTERSTOCK

DOMINICA

3.3.3   Dominica: Integrated Forest Sector Reform

Timeframe: May 2021 – March 2022

Objectives: Improve the management of Dominica's three national parks and the Waitukubuli trail.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Forest sector policy review and considerations for a revised Forest Law.

- Policy and operational guidance notes on: (1) Protected Area (PA) planning and fee structures to maximize revenue (and its investment) for sustainable management of national parks and PAs, (2) tourism and driving demand for nature-based tourism, and (3) forest-smart agriculture, including timber, export crops, and potential with the Kalinago community.

Progress: PROGREEN supported technical assistance for the revision and approval of Dominica's National Forest Policy — the first revision to national forestry governance since 1949. In FY23, PROGREEN will support the development of a series of Policy and Operational Guidance Notes to develop practical approaches for sustainable forest management and livelihood generation, serving as important inputs to the WBG project Leveraging Eco-tourism for Biodiversity Protection in Dominica (P170846).

The National Forest Policy (NFP) aims to support achievement of Dominica's climate resilience agenda through a focus on (a) maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecological functioning of forests; (b) maintaining and increasing forest area cover; and (c) optimizing governance and institutional arrangements for forest resources to help support forest-derived livelihoods. Moreover, it will serve as an entry point for Dominica to attract increased international financing for the forest sector, particularly innovative streams including payment-for-ecosystem services to ensure that forests continue to serve as Dominica's critical enabler of climate and disaster resilience.

The timely technical assistance enabled by the PROGREEN grant allowed for the Policy to be approved by Dominica's cabinet in March 2022 which in turn made it a key justification for a USD20 million Catastrophe Draw-down Operation (Cat DDO, DPF) which was approved by the Board in June 2022. Inclusion of the NFP as a Prior Action also helped ensure that the Cat DDO was assessed as having 89 percent climate co-benefits in line with the agreed multilateral development bank climate co-benefit methodology.

Results:

Commonwealth of Dominica - National Forest Policy

Feature Story: The importance of Dominica's Indigenous Kalinago community in the protection and sustainable management of the fragile tropical rainforest ecosystems

3.3.4   Panama: Designing Financial Instruments and Incentives Schemes for Panama's Integrated Landscape Management

PANAMA

Timeframe: February 2021 – February 2023

Objectives: Support the Government of Panama in strengthening capacity to identify and develop policies and programs to: (i) scale-up ecosystem services restoration, sustainable landscape management, low-carbon development, and (ii) attract green and socially conscious private and institutional financing, such as green or social bonds, for investment in resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and efficient agricultural and agroforestry value chains in rural areas.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Financial instruments for landscape management.

- Sustainable agriculture for landscape management.

- Outreach, knowledge sharing, and training activities.

Progress: A FY22 report on best practices and key lessons on Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) in Latin America generated substantial interest from the Forest Directorate under Panama's Environment Ministry, who subsequently requested a PES rapid assessment into the country's current forest policies, programs, and regulatory frameworks. These products provided critical knowledge and data to inform the revision of Panama's Forest Law. Additionally, an in-depth legal and policy analysis to support these developments assessed the country's different tenure regimes and identified opportunities to enhance policies and regulations for the development of a PES Program.

Counterpart financing through the [NDC Climate Action Enhancement Package](#) funded the FY22 report: 'An Overview of Finance Mechanisms to Leverage Private Sector Capital for Nature.' The report illustrates how existing financial mechanisms can catalyze innovative approaches to overcome social, environmental, and economic challenges in Latin America, if leveraged correctly and structured appropriately. A catalog of financing mechanisms assesses and compares ways to leverage private sector capital for sustainable and socially inclusive investments for nature. The team is working with Panama's Environment Ministry on using this analytical framework to identify suitable mechanisms for investments in sustainable landscapes and natural resource management.

PROGREEN technical assistance is helping to clarify farmer ownership status as a basis for accessing capital and financial loans by supporting the design and implementation of a single registry for family farmers and the design of the National Fund for Family Farming. The Decree establishing the Fund is pending signature. The Operational Manual was designed and validated in March 2022 and a budget allocation for 2022 and 2023 has been agreed upon with the Ministry of Finance. Further technical and IT support will be needed to implement the registry.

A regional workshop and roundtable with key government stakeholders were organized in FY22 to discuss PES knowledge, success stories, and lessons learned.

ALGERIA

3.4   MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

3.4.1   Algeria: Strengthening Sustainable Forest Landscape Planning and Management to Address Forest Fires in Algeria

Timeframe: December 2021 – March 2023

Objectives: Support forest and landscape planning to improve the management of forest fires in Algeria. The program will also foster an enabling environment and strengthen capacity for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Forest Management 2035 and the National Plan for Forest Fire Management 2021- 2030.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Analytical review of the National Strategy for Sustainable Forest Management 2035, the implementation of the National Plan for Forest Fire Management 2021-2030 and other relevant strategies as appropriate.

- Institutional capacity assessment and stakeholder analysis.

- Recommendations to develop a national forest fire early warning system, including forecasting and monitoring at the landscape level.

- Consultation and engagement processes to better inform the development of a national forest fire early warning system.

- Technical assistance, capacity building, and knowledge exchanges at both the national and regional levels to reinforce sustainable forest management.

Progress: An analytical review of documentation and data gathering is currently ongoing through a desk review and focus group discussions with government entities, local actors, private sector, and experts. A comprehensive forest note for Algeria will be developed with focus on the link between sustainable forest management and forest fire risk management.

Stakeholder mapping at the national, sub-national, and local levels, along with a questionnaire to assess institutional capacity has been prepared to deliver online. This will provide the basis for recommendations to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of existing institutions, increase ownership for local actions, and support sustainable forest management in Algeria as well as identify priority needs.

An analysis of existing early warning systems including forecasting and monitoring at landscape level is ongoing. A field mission is planned for October 2022 to define the

technical specifications for a dedicated module on forest fires that will be integrated into the national early warning system.

Stakeholder consultations have also begun to support the development of the system.

The analytical findings and assessment of capacity will feed into the preparation of a capacity development plan. Once the Government of Algeria identifies its priority topics, three training or knowledge exchanges will be facilitated with governments working on similar issues, including with Lebanon. It is expected that these events will be organized in the third quarter of FY23.

Links:

Blog: Sustainable forest management will help Algeria tackle the risk of wildfires

AURES REGION, ALGERIA. ETACARINAE89 | SHUTTERSTOCK

LEBANON

3.4.2   Lebanon: Promoting Sustainable Forest Management to Address Forest Fires in Lebanon

Timeframe: September 2021 – September 2023

Objectives: Support the Government of Lebanon in the preparation of forest fire management strategies as part of a wider move towards more sustainable forest landscape management.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Analytical review of the existing forest policy, forest programs, and the national forest fire management strategy.

- Institutional capacity assessment and stakeholder analysis.

- Policy notes on sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest fire management for specific legislative application and implementation decrees.

- Establishment of a forest fire management information system.

- Technical assistance, capacity building, and knowledge exchanges at both the national and regional levels to reinforce SFM and improved forest fire management.

Progress: Activities are ongoing. A gap analysis is underway to review existing forest policy, forest programs, and the national forest fire management strategy. The analysis is conducted through public discussion groups with local actors, state actors, and experts. The stakeholder mapping has also begun for the national, sub-national, and local levels, and will focus on two to three fire hotspots agreed on by the Government. With the support of the grant, the Government has developed a forest fire hotspot map as the basis for targeting its TA activities.

The review and assessment of Lebanon's forest and forest-relevant legislation is currently on-going and will lead to the development of the Forest Note. This note aims to discuss forest and tree resources, forest governance, institutions and stakeholders, challenges to Lebanon's forests and trees (with focus on forest fires), and identify areas for improvement. Based on the request from the Government, a deeper dive will explore two to three identified hotspots in more detail.

The project team is conducting a data and needs assessment for the development of a forest fire management information system. The work will build on the 2022 Emergency Plan for Preventing and Combating Forest Fires.

Highlighting Policy Reform:

The sustainable forest management activity in Lebanon is providing an analytical review and direct inputs to Lebanon's existing Forest Policy and National Forest Fire Management Strategy. The review and assessment of Lebanon's forest-relevant legislation is currently on going, and a gap-analysis is set to be conducted trough public discussion groups, inclusive of local and state actors and experts. This review is part of the development of the forest note which will discuss Lebanon's forest and tree resources, forest governance, institutions and stakeholders, and challenges to Lebanon's forest and trees (with a focus on forest fires). It will also identify areas for improvement. Based on the request from the Government of Lebanon, a deeper dive will be conducted in pre-determined hotspot areas.

3.5 SOUTH ASIA

3.5.1   Bangladesh: Landscape Modeling and Planning in Selected Landscapes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh

BANGLADESH

Timeframe: April 2021 – December 2022

Objectives: Support the Government of Bangladesh and local ethnic communities to sustainably manage selected landscapes in the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) to help restore the provision of ecosystem goods and services while increasing socio-economic benefits.

Activities:

- Analyze the institutional and policy framework for landscape level sustainable management planning, implementation, and monitoring, for selected areas in CHT, in order to perform a capacity needs assessment.

- Conduct community outreach and capacity building for participatory sustainable land use management planning.

- Perform a baseline landscape level analysis to determine the extent and status of natural resources in selected areas.

- Prepare a sample land-use management plan for a targeted area.

Progress: The first three activities have been completed. The team conducted an institutional analysis using the inter-institutional gap framework to identify the role of formal and informal institutes in natural resources management in the CHT region. Key management gaps and challenges were identified. A stakeholder mapping exercise was conducted to map existing stakeholders, and their interests and power relations in decision making. The findings were outlined in a stakeholder analysis report. A baseline landscape level analysis was completed to ascertain the extent and status of the resources in the target area. In addition to the development of models to examine the different land use options, trade-offs, and a cost benefit analysis of the options being proposed.

The fourth item is on-going. In the coming year, the team plans on carrying out a scenario modeling exercise for different land uses in the selected areas and organizing a multi stakeholder consultation workshop. The activities will inform the development of a ten-year landscape management plan for the Reingkheyong Reserve Forests and complementary summary report for policy makers.

The activities have been informed by a large-scale community and stakeholder consultation process including focus group discussions with 170 participants, workshops with 234 participants, and key informant interviews. Major development partners were included in the consultations including the Regional Council, Chittagong Hill Tract Development Board, Rangamati District Council, Bandarban District Council, District Administration, UNDP, USAID, and regional NGOs.

Links:

Creating a Green and Sustainable Growth Path for Bangladesh

BANGLADESH. JEWEL PORAN | SHUTTERSTOCK

INDIA

3.5.2   India: Support to World Bank's Programmatic Engagement in Selected Terrestrial Landscapes in India

Timeframe: July 2021 – November 2022

Objectives: Develop the World Bank Group's programmatic engagement in sustainable terrestrial landscape management in India with cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Support a knowledge platform on sustainable terrestrial landscape management.
- Support the WBG's programmatic engagement in selected terrestrial landscapes in India.
- Strengthen the institutional framework for high value forest products and trees outside of forest operations.

Progress: Roundtables and discussions with key stakeholders were organized to understand the political economy, policies, and practices on forestry thematic areas. A Technical Advisory Group will be formed to support and advise the team on the design and implementation of issues on an on-going basis.

The multi stakeholder knowledge platform was created in partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), FAO, USAID, WRI, academics, and relevant independent resources. The platform is useful for understanding the engagement of bilateral agencies in the sector, the analytical underpinnings available, and for the sharing of resources. This activity also supported the development of the WBG's India Green Engagement Strategy.

Current analysis and discussions on the political economy of India's forest sector are supporting the WBG's programmatic engagement in selected terrestrial landscapes. As a result, approach papers were produced on i) forest enhancement to meet India NDC targets related to creating carbon sinks, and ii) forestry engagement and leverage of other government programs for inter-sectoral collaboration. In addition, technical reports were produced on i) a civil society perspective on opportunities and challenges in meeting India's forestry, land degradation, and biodiversity goals, and ii) unlocking private sector participation in sustainable forests and resilient landscapes in India. Additional technical reports underway include: i) adding value to the design of the WBG pipeline projects in the areas of forestry and natural capital in priority landscapes and ii) a landscape-based approach for sustainable land use through a review of

technological innovations, livelihood linkages, and the associated opportunities and challenges for effective implementation.

A technical report on the potential of high-value forest products and their value chains from the north-eastern region of India is underway. A separate study was commissioned to identify engagement and investment models for the private sector in: i) wood-based industries that harvest whole trees for their business such as pulp and paper, ii) non-timber forest products that harvest only parts of trees without felling trees such as bamboo and agarwood, and iii) carbon and payment for environmental services (PES) with an interest in the sector from an ecosystem services or livelihood perspective. The learnings are being synthesized to produce a knowledge brief. The technical reports and outputs were circulated to state and non-state actors for their feedback. The report dissemination enabled dialogue and engagement with many state actors leading to the generation of a preliminary project proposal to the Bank for a new investment project.

Highlighting Policy Reform:

This activity informs and supports the Green India Mission. One of the eight programs under the Government of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, the Green India Mission aims to protect, restore, and enhance India's diminishing forest cover. This PROGREEN-funded activity enabled the strategic thinking around and re-engagement in India's forest sector after a ten-year gap. PROGREEN's analytical support facilitated strategic dialogue at the highest level in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Notably, PROGREEN supported the development of the papers on "Strategy for Supporting India in Meeting the NDC Carbon Sink Target" and "Role of Forests and Landscapes in Climate Preparedness: Government Plans, Prioritization, Institutional Aspects, Monitoring and Coordination," which helped improve the planning framework for the MoEFCC to achieve the country's NDC targets.

TEA PLANTATIONS IN STATE KERALA, INDIA. SCORPP | SHUTTERSTOCK

3.6 ANALYTICAL WORK TO INFORM SCDS AND CPFS

PROGREEN country-led analytical work is contributing to the development of World Bank Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCD), Country Partnership Frameworks (CPF), and Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDR) about forest, landscape, and nature management issues and needs. These are upstream documents that influence country dialogues on investment planning and prioritization.

3.6.1   Honduras: Prioritizing Forests and Landscapes — Technical Assistance to Assess Opportunities for Growth, Poverty Alleviation, and Increased Resilience

HONDURAS

Timeframe: June 2021 – September 2022

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Objectives: Strengthen the analytical and economic case for developing policies and programs for improved landscape management. Contribute evidence and analysis to the SCD and CPF updates for FY22.

Progress: The activities have been completed. The analytical inputs highlighted the importance of bringing forests and landscapes to the center of priority setting for fostering inclusive development going forward, as evidenced in the updated SCD (section 4.3) and the CCDR. The CCDR highlights the crucial role that sustainable management of forests and landscapes play in climate change efforts to reduce GHG emissions and increase resilience (chapters 1, 2 and 4) and includes improving the management of forest ecosystems as a priority policy.

PROGREEN supported the compilation of forest economics data to better understand the role and contribution of forests in the national economy. The activity included three phases: i) planning and systematization of information, including meetings with government staff from relevant institutions, defining indicators, and developing templates to compile information; ii) collecting data for each indicator; and iii) identifying opportunities for improvement and recommendations. The activity included various consultations and interviews with government staff from key agencies. In addition, a high-level meeting with the Minister of the National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife was held to present the key messages and define next steps to continue the collaboration between the World Bank and the Government of Honduras.

The following deliverables were produced:

- A report outlining the methodological approach and indicators.

- A report containing the compilation of forest economics data systematizing existing data, identifying gaps, and providing recommendations.

- A technical note targeted to policy makers summarizing findings from the compilation of forest economic data.

- A summary report of the meeting with the Minister of National Institute of Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife and techni

3.6.2   Regional Pacific Island Countries: Inputs into Strategic Country Diagnostics and Country Partnership Frameworks Processes

REGIONAL PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Timeframe: June 2021 – June 2023

Objectives: Identify priorities and opportunities to improve sustainable forest and landscape management through a scoping and diagnostic exercise to inform World Bank engagement, the SCD process, and CPFs, along with potential policy and investment opportunities.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Activities:

- Scope and prepare inputs for the Strategic Country Diagnostic (SCD) process, and subsequent Country Partnership Frameworks (CPFs) in Vanuatu, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea.

- Prepare an initial rapid scoping exercise to determine which of the four countries provides the best opportunities to influence World Bank engagement on the forest sector.

- Select two countries for the preparation of forest sector briefs that will be used as technical inputs to the upcoming SCD process. The briefs will also inform discussions with government stakeholders and contribute to strengthening the inclusion of forestry, conservation, and landscapes in other World Bank strategic processes and reviews as opportunities arise.

Progress: FY22 saw the redesign and operationalization of this activity with a focus on four key countries that influence World Bank strategic engagements on forests and landscapes in the Pacific.

Initially, the objective was to provide input on forestry, conservation, and landscapes for the Regional Partnership Framework for nine Pacific Island Countries (RPF9). This has since been reevaluated due to changes in the timeline for preparation of the RPF9, continued COVID-19 impacts, and a better understanding of forest coverage and issues in the Pacific region. Among RPF9 countries, only Vanuatu has significant areas of terrestrial forests. Additionally, significant forested terrestrial landscapes exist in Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea, but they are not included in the RPF9. Refocusing the activity on these four countries provides an opportunity to influence a range of World Bank strategic products that will be produced in the next two to three years.

These inputs to the SCD and RFP processes focusing on forest resources will complement and be integrated into a broader set of inputs to the World Bank's Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy (ENB) team in the Pacific that encompass a ridge-to-reef approach to ecosystems resilience and sustainability in Pacific Island Countries funded by PROBLUE.

YASAWA ISLAND, FIJI ISLANDS. IGNACIO MOYA CORONADO | SHUTTERSTOCK

SRI LANKA

3.6.3   Sri Lanka: Promoting a Forest Landscape Approach to Transport Infrastructure Planning and Implementation in Sri Lanka

Timeframe: June 2021 – September 2022

Objectives: Inform upstream planning and the green design of transportation infrastructure as well as inform nature-smart forest landscape strategies and related investment plans to minimize and mitigate forest fragmentation and degradation. The activity contributes to the SCD FY22, and the CPF FY22-25.

Background: [Knowledge Activity Profile](#)

Activities:

- Facilitate a policy dialogue between Environment (forestry and wildlife) and

- Infrastructure (transport) Agencies and jointly develop mitigation measures,

- knowledge materials, and prototypes of smart, green, and resilient transportation infrastructure within the forest landscapes across the country.

- Support collaborative arrangements between the Environmental and Transport Agencies for cross-sectoral planning of transport operations and their institutional capacity to minimize the negative impacts of road construction activities on forest ecosystem services and other natural resources.

- Inform and catalyze lending operations: Inclusive Rural Connectivity and Development Project (P176164), Transport Connectivity and Asset

- Management Project (P132833), and Ecosystem Conservation and Management Project (P156021), more than $400m in total financing.

Progress: The activity was initially delayed due to political constraints in the country. In January 2022, an inception workshop engaged several relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance (Department of National Planning), Road Development Authority (RDA), Forest Department, Department of Wildlife Conversation, Irrigation Department, Department of National Physical Planning, Central Environmental Authority, Department of Project Management and Monitoring, National Building Research Organization (NBRO), Disaster Management Center, academia, and NGOs. The activity supported extensive consultations with the above-mentioned stakeholders on the issues of biodiversity and climate resilience in the transport sector of Sri Lanka. The activity was scheduled to end on September 30, 2022, with the following deliverables in their final stages:

- Environmental and climate vulnerability assessments of transport infrastructure in Sri Lanka.

- Finalized SCD FY22 and the CPF FY22-25 informed through the introduced concepts of cross-sectoral planning and management of forest landscapes in Sri Lanka.

- A policy, legal, and institutional analysis.

- An assessment of the knowledge and capacity of the road sector agencies to incorporate smart green and resilient infrastructure concepts.

- A draft sectoral Code of Conduct for Smart Green and Resilient Transport

- Infrastructure (CoC) produced in close collaboration with RDA and other stakeholders.

- Knowledge materials for training and capacity development of the relevant line agencies in mainstreaming the concept.

- A proposed institutional mechanism for implementation of the Code of Conduct **and** mechanism.

TUKTUK TAXI ON ROAD OF SRI LANKA CEYLON TRAVEL CAR. NOMAD_SOUL | SHUTTERSTOCK

3.6.4   Vietnam: Mapping and Re-assessment of Options for Achieving Net-Zero GHG Emissions from Rice Production in Vietnam's Mekong Delta

VIETNAM

Timeframe: July 2021 – June 2022

Objectives: Support the design of the Mekong Delta Green and Low-Carbon Agriculture Transformation Pathways. The activity contributes to the CPF FY 2023-26, and the CCDR.

Background: Knowledge Activity Profile

Progress: The activity is complete and the report is being finalized. The activity is part of a broader analysis on pathways for achieving GHG emission reductions in rice production as well as in rice post-harvest activities, including storage, milling, and distribution. The activity contributed to the government's new 2021 – 2030 Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development with a vision to 2050. The strategy aims to reduce emissions by scaling-up climate action to sustain Vietnam's agricultural competitiveness in the face of global commitments to curb emissions.

PROGREEN also contributed to the WBG's analytical work on "Spearheading Vietnam's Green Agricultural Transformation: Moving to Low-Carbon Rice." Overall, the analytical work provided input into the action plan for implementation of the new strategy and will inform the design of specific programs aimed at supporting Vietnam's green growth and low-carbon agriculture agenda. Specific recommendations include scaling-up Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) systems of rice irrigation for water use efficiency, input management technologies such as One Must Five Reduction (1M5R) to reduce the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides, reducing energy intensity in post-harvest activities and milling, including the incorporation of appropriate digital technologies in rice production and processing that contribute to emission reductions. The report will inform the design of pipeline operations aimed at contributing to the Government's green growth and low-carbon agriculture strategy implementation.

Links:

Vietnam Country Climate and Development Report

Highlighting Policy Reform:

The Vietnam study's focus was to analyze effective pathways to promote climate-smart rice production. Rice emissions amount to 44Mt CO_2e/year, representing about 48 percent of the GHG emissions from agriculture in Vietnam. Rice production systems also contribute to over 70 percent of the total methane emissions. The results of the study directly informed the formulation of Vietnam's new Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development and its Action Plan, which promotes improved management of terrestrial ecosystems and management of land use changes for agriculture.

This analysis was conducted by researchers from the Institute for Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD) in collaboration with technical departments under Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and World Bank Group staff. This collaborative arrangement enhanced the activity's contribution to the capacity of public officials who were mandated to help develop the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy and Action Plan. This activity was embedded into the Government's strategy development process and informed the country's climate change agenda, particularly on specific actions aimed at reducing emissions from rice production and post-harvest practices.

RICE FIELDS IN NORTHWEST OF VIETNAM. JUNPHOTO | SHUTTERSTOCK

3.7 SUMMARY OF TYPE 2 STATUS AND FY22 RESULTS

The approval status of Type 2 BEFT activities are outlined in Table 4 below. A table summarizing the FY22 results from the approved Type 2 projects can be found in Annex 2.

Table 4: Approval status of Type 2 BETF activities

FY22	Country or region activity	Region	Grant amount ($)	Grant approval	Grant closing
1	Algeria	MNA	290,000	11/8/2021	3/31/2023
2	Bangladesh	SAR	470,000	4/10/2021	12/31/2022
3	Bolivia	LAC	419,000	3/6/2021	3/31/2023
4	Burundi	AFR	400,000	5/11/2021	12/31/2022
5	China	EAP	500,000	8/2/2021	12/31/2022
6	Costa Rica	LAC	300,000	6/30/2021	2/28/2023
7	Dominica	LAC	312,500	5/25/2021	4/30/2023
8	India	SAR	500,000	6/25/2021	11/30/2022
9	Lesotho	AFR	300,000	3/9/2021	12/31/2022
10	Mekong: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam	EAP	500,000	7/27/2021	3/31/2023
11	Nigeria	AFR	500,000	8/6/2021	6/30/2023
12	Panama	LAC	350,000	6/30/2021	2/28/2023
13	Philippines	EAP	300,000	6/23/2021	6/30/2023
14	Rwanda	AFR	442,500	4/23/2021	9/30/2022
15	Zimbabwe	AFR	402,000	3/18/2021	9/30/2022
16	Lebanon	MNA	300,000	10/8/2021	9/30/2023
17	Honduras	LAC	80,000	7/21/2021	9/30/2022
18	Pacific Islands RPF9	EAP	92,000	10/21/2021	6/30/2023
19	Sri Lanka	SAR	80,000	6/15/2021	9/30/2022
20	Vietnam	EAP	80,000	8/6/2021	6/30/2022

FY23	Country or region activity	Region	Grant amount ($)	Grant approval	Grant closing
21	East Asia & Pacific Regional: Indonesia, Philippines, Laos, Vietnam	EAP	500,000		6/30/2023
22	Guatemala	LAC	350,000	9/19/2022	2/29/2024
23	Guyana	LAC	450,000	9/27/2022	3/31/2024
24	Kenya	AFR	450,000	9/1/2022	6/30/2024
25	Madagascar	AFR	500,000	8/26/2022	9/30/2023
26	Pakistan	SAR	360,000	8/29/2022	8/31/2024
27	Peru	LAC	500,000	7/26/2022	6/30/2024
28	Thailand	EAP	500,000	9/30/2022	10/31/2024

PMT approved	Country or region activity	Region	Grant amount ($)	Grant approval	Grant closing
29	Central African Republic	AFR	434,000		

3.8   FY22 SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In February 2022, PROGREEN announced a second call for expressions of interest in Type 2 activities. Out of the twelve proposals received, ten met the selection criteria for links to existing activities in the region, landscape-level commitments, a cross-sectoral approach, and policy influence. As a result, eight new Type 2 activities have been approved and two are being reviewed. The PROGREEN Management Team focal points review and discuss the activities with the country teams, seeking clarifications, consultations, and connection to related work. A summary of new Type 2 activities is provided below. These have only recently been approved and work is just beginning.

3.8.1   Central African Republic: Support for the Update to the Forest Code and Improved Mapping for Multi-Sectoral Landscape Management in Central African Republic

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Objectives: Strengthen the government's capacity to manage forestry resources by supporting revision of the Forest Code and improved multi-sectoral land use mapping and planning.

Activities:

- Engage communities and inform in the revision of the Forest Code.
- Support analysis and digitization of agricultural, forestry, and mining map data.
- Support and facilitate intersectoral ministry meetings on overlapping land use.

3.8.2   East Asia and Pacific: Security of Tenure in Forests of East & Asia and Pacific

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

Objectives: Strengthen the capacity of selected government agencies, the WBG, and relevant stakeholders to enhance land tenure security of all land holders in Forest Areas of the East Asia & Pacific region.

Activities:

- Prepare a communications and outreach plan for the activity.
- Prepare a regional good practice note on the recognition and formalization of land rights in forest areas.
- Support selected government agencies in the development of country action plans for recognition and formalizing land rights in forest areas.
- Organize a regional conference on the recognition and formalization of land rights in forest areas.

3.8.2   East Asia and Pacific: Security of Tenure in Forests of East & Asia and Pacific

Objectives: Strengthen the capacity of selected government agencies, the WBG, and relevant stakeholders to enhance land tenure security of all land holders in Forest Areas of the East Asia & Pacific region.

Activities:

- Prepare a communications and outreach plan for the activity.

- Prepare a regional good practice note on the recognition and formalization of land rights in forest areas.

- Support selected government agencies in the development of country action plans for recognition and formalizing land rights in forest areas.

- Organize a regional conference on the recognition and formalization of land rights in forest areas.

3.8.3   Guatemala: Green Landscapes and Forests for Growth, Jobs, and Resilience

Objectives: Inform national policies and plans on the economic contributions of sustainable forest and landscapes management practices across sectors.

Activities:

- Perform an economic sector analysis.

- Mainstream the forest and green landscape agenda into strategies and practices across key sectors.

- Build the capacity of national institutions to use economic analysis tools.

- Evaluate the incentive mechanisms for forest and ecosystem management.

- Disseminate knowledge and conduct outreach.

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

GUATEMALA

KENYA

3.8.4   Kenya: Landscape Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions in the Water Towers and ASAL Landscapes of Kenya

Objectives: Develop new, innovative financing mechanisms and tools for improved landscape management and nature-based solutions in priority ecosystems in Kenya. Identify and evaluate incentives and the implementation capacity of stakeholders to deliver such projects.

Activities:

- Map the institutional capacity of key stakeholders to invest in the implementation of national land and watershed restoration, and in nature-based solutions.

- Analyze stakeholder incentives in land use and landscape restoration.

- Develop a roadmap for improved technology use in land management and monitoring.

MADAGASCAR

3.8.5   Madagascar: Adding Biodiversity and Water Assets to Madagascar's Landscape Management

Objectives: Improve the local understanding of how to apply an integrated landscape approach to biodiversity and water resource management in Madagascar.

Activities:

- Assess opportunities to reduce threats to biodiversity in productive agriculture landscapes.

- Assess the demand for water resources in dryland landscapes in the South of Madagascar.

- Develop an Ecosystem Index.

- Manage and disseminate knowledge.

3.8.6   Pakistan: Green Jobs Through Healthy Ecosystems

PAKISTAN

Objectives: Develop an ecosystem assessment and landscape restoration framework to support the realization of green jobs and green growth opportunities in Pakistan.

Activities:

- Perform an ecosystem assessment to map key ecosystems that form the natural capital foundation of the country. Subsequently, identify degradation trends and key drivers of degradation, including climate change.

- Design a Phase 1 restoration plan to support green jobs and ecosystem restoration while building climate resilience.

3.8.7   Peru: Resilient Landscapes Management

PERU

Objectives: Support policy dialogues on key legal and institutional reforms to promote sustainable forest and landscape management, and forest restoration within and outside of natural protected areas in Peru, with a focus on the Amazon biome and associated landscapes.

Activities:

- Analyze existing policies and host a dialogue on policy and institutional reform priorities for the development of commercial forest plantations, NPA based eco-tourism development, and forest restoration and financing.

- Facilitate knowledge exchange on international best practices through workshops and disseminate research findings.

THAILAND

3.8.8   Thailand: Technical Assistance to Improve Knowledge and Innovative Policy for Forest Fire Reduction in Northern Thailand

Objectives: Assess and recommend innovative and inclusive policy options and disruptive technology to reduce forest fires and improve forest fire management systems in close collaboration with the private sector, local communities, regional academic institutions, and local and national government.

Activities:

- Perform a production level assessment to identify practical and cost–effective ways to sustainably minimize agricultural biomass residue and forest fire reduction measures in the target landscape area.

- Assess value chains to identify suitable economic incentives and measures, such as the BioCarbon Fund tracking system, to minimize forest fire risk. Use measures to promote burning-free agricultural management throughout the value chain.

- Develop a risk map and implement a Management Information System (MIS) to integrate the use of selected disruptive technologies and a monitoring framework for forest fires and the resulting particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) in cooperation with related agencies.

3.8.9   Guyana: Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry Policy Assessment

GUYANA

Objectives: Assess agriculture and forestry programs and incentives in Guyana to support the design of evidence-based investments and policies that boost sustainable, low-carbon, and climate resilient development.

Activities:

- Examine agricultural policy reform options, including productivity enhancing and emissions reducing agricultural R&D investments, agricultural expansion, and import substitution.

- Produce a Policy Framework for Ecosystem Services to support the development of blueprints for (i) interlinked payments for ecosystem services and sustainable land management models; and (ii) deforestation-free certification for supply chains.

- Validate and disseminate findings.

INDIA

3.8.10 India: Himachal Pradesh State Strategy for Agricultural Sustainability through Environmental Risk Management

Objectives: Assist the Government of Himachal Pradesh to develop a sector-specific strategy to effectively, efficiently, and economically protect the farmed environment.

Activities:

- Provide technical assistance to establish an Agri-Environmental Policy Unit within the Horticulture Department.

- Support the development of a monitoring and evaluation system to study the environmental impacts of agriculture and horticulture development initiatives.

- Support the establishment of a system of rapid pre-appraisal of potential climate-smart technologies and program interventions.

- Review and categorize agriculture and horticulture policies on the basis of cost-effectiveness.

- Assess the feasibility of an auction-based approach to allocating funding for priority agri-environmental support programs, and if found feasible, develop procedures to implement such an approach.

4

4

THE GLOBAL PROGRAM: KNOWLEDGE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

PROGREEN's Global Program supports global analytics, knowledge development, and capacity building to advance country engagements for scaling up landscape restoration and contribute to the global dialogue on forest and agriculture issues. The Global Program consists of four key parts:

- Flagship Initiatives
- Cross-Cutting Themes and Emerging Global Analytics
- Capacity Building and Knowledge Management
- Communications & Outreach

4.1   FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

Flagship initiatives investigate, contribute to, and advance knowledge on a major global or multi-country systemic issue related to sustaining or restoring forest and agricultural landscapes. They fill a significant knowledge or policy gap, prioritize needs defined through implementation activities and assessments, and advance resource mobilization toward improved landscape outcomes. Flagships aim to advance the global policy dialogue by contributing new analysis and research that is shared with the wider community through global dissemination and knowledge events with key stakeholders and decision-makers.

4.1.1   Flagship: Nature-Based Solutions and Improved Financing for Forest and Landscape Restoration through the Finance Task Force of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

Objective: Support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration by providing guidance on how to increase financing and economic incentives for restoration and create enabling socioeconomic and governance conditions.

Background: Financing Flagship Webpage

Overview: Supported by PROGREEN, the World Bank is chairing the Finance Task Force (FTF) of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Consolidated in FY22, the Task Force is catalyzing action to unlock the capital needed to scale up investment in ecosystem restoration through the development of research tools, databases, projects, and partnerships. The Task Force convenes 13 members representing private sector companies and banks, multilateral institutions, non-governmental organizations, and bilateral cooperation agencies working on ecosystem restoration. Led by the World Bank, the Task Force convenes monthly to share experiences and lessons learned from restoration work, collate feedback on ongoing work and analysis, and identify opportunities to collaborate with UN Decade partners and other stakeholders.

Links to Global Dialogue & Events: Inform the nature-based, blue and green financing initiative led by the World Bank's Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Practice (FCI); provide inputs to CBD COP-15 & UNFCCC COP-27; collaborate with the UN Decade Secretariat and partners.

Progress in FY22: Key analysis activities included a Stocktake Report, providing a global overview of the needs, potential, and challenges of restoration finance, as well as a Task Force Roadmap outlining activities through 2030. In addition, work is underway to identify case studies to highlight promising examples of financial solutions for restoration. These analyses are expected to be released in the first half of FY23. Throughout FY22, the monthly Task Force meetings and ongoing communications have been instrumental in their contribution and shaping of the Stocktake Report and Case Study Analysis.

Next steps: In FY23 and beyond, the team expects to complete the following:

- Finalize the Stocktake Report and FTF Roadmap. The Roadmap will outline the economic and financial case for restoration, clarify approaches to monetize restoration efforts, map investors, scale up products and investments, and promote the enabling environment for restoration.

- Publish a deep-dive report on restoration finance case studies, building on projects and investment models defined in the Stocktake Report.

- Create a Working Group on restoration costs and benefits to strengthen collaboration and align efforts for data gathering with relevant organizations.

- Lead a global event on Financing Ecosystem Restoration at the Global Landscape Forum's GLF Climate in November.

- Contribute to and participate in additional global events, such as COP27, COP15, GLF Climate 2022 and GLF Luxembourg.

- Produce additional communications and dissemination materials, such as an FAQ story, case studies blog, and a short film for promotion through the World Bank, PROGREEN, and partner websites, newsletters, social media, and other platforms.

4.1.2   Flagship: Nature-Based Solutions and Agricultural Incentives

Objective: Support governments to reform public agricultural policies and repurpose subsidies towards measures that promote sustainable and resilient growth while reducing the environmental footprint of the agricultural sector.

Background: Agricultural Incentives Webpage

Overview: Agricultural practices and expansion contribute to deforestation and ecosystem degradation, partly due to policies and subsidies that distort agricultural markets and farmer incentives. At a local level, repurposing agricultural subsidies is expected to increase efficiency, resilience, and enhance positive environmental impacts, thus boosting global environmental benefits and contributing towards multiple Sustainable Development Goals. Under this flagship, PROGREEN is supporting: (i) technical assistance to review and repurpose Colombia agri-food policies; (ii) a review of nature-based solutions; and (iii) a toolkit for practitioners on repurposing agricultural policies and support programs.

Audience and beneficiaries: This activity will directly support the Just Rural Transition (JRT) and the Policy Action Coalition (PAC). It will engage and partner with the PAC's knowledge and implementation partners and support knowledge sharing among the interested coalition member countries.

Potential partner links: International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), FAO, WRI.

Links to global dialogue & events: UNFCCC Climate COPs, UNFSS, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Progress in FY22:

- Completed a deep dive analysis into Colombia's agriculture sector, finding that much of the country's agricultural support is market-distorting and drives the lack of competitiveness in the rice, corn, and milk sectors. This market distortion is contributing to the high GHG emissions in the rice and milk sectors and to the inefficient use of water resources in the rice sector. The study identified opportunities to repurpose the US $166 million currently spent on payments based on output and variable input use towards measures that promote nature-based solutions. The final version of the report will be published and shared with stakeholders in FY23.

- Continuation of the literature review on nature-based solutions, which is set to be completed in the first half of FY23. The report will provide a comprehensive review of economic costs and benefits of nature-based solutions in the agriculture sector. The report will also provide recommendations regarding policy reforms and public support for decision-makers, as well as insights for reshaping agricultural policies to promote nature-based solutions for people, economies, and the planet.

- Produced a first draft of the Practitioners Toolkit, a joint effort with the Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP)/FAO, with the final version due for publication and dissemination in FY23.

Relevant links:

Report: Repurposing Agricultural Policies and Support: Options to Transform Agriculture and Food Systems to Better Serve the Health of People, Economies, and the Planet

TEA PLANTATION IN RWANDA COUNTRYSIDE, EAST AFRICA. LMSPENCER | SHUTTERSTOCK

4.1.3 Flagship: Nature-Based Tourism (NBT) and Its Contribution to Local Economies

Objective: Increase the positive impact of nature-based tourism and bolster solutions that protect natural assets through knowledge generation, capacity building, and global outreach.

Background: [Tourism Flagship Webpage](#)

Overview: PROGREEN is expanding and deepening its work to measure the economic impact of protected area tourism on local economies. A pilot methodology is being standardized and distributed by the World Bank with partners, clients, and World Bank teams, who will also receive implementation training to help integrate the economic value of protected areas into policymaking. The work will also assess and develop simplified valuation methodologies that can be used in data- and cost-constrained environments.

Progress in FY22:

- Provided technical inputs on the nature-based tourism chapter in the Malawi Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR).

- Published three country reports on the economic impact of protected area tourism on local communities (Brazil, Nepal, and Zambia), which argued that public investments in protected area systems can produce both economic and conservation benefits.

- Completed a World Bank-wide portfolio review of nature-based tourism projects and launched the nature-based tourism World Bank intranet site.

- Initiated the development of a rapid version of Local Economy Wide Impact Evaluation methodology (LEWIE-lite) to estimate the economic impact of protected area tourism on local communities. The LEWIE-lite methodology will be piloted in Uganda and Madagascar in FY23, including training and capacity building for government officials.

Global engagement and knowledge sharing is a key part of this Flagship, with participation in international events such as the IUCN World Parks Congress, World Ocean Conference, Global Landscapes Forum, and Tourism Naturally Conference 2022. Strategic participation in global and regional tourism-related fora is set to continue into FY23.

Looking to FY23, technical guidance materials on key gaps in nature-based tourism operations will be published, including materials on tourism benefit sharing, climate-resilient and low-emission tourism infrastructure, demand assessment methodologies, concessions, and tourism capacity building for PA managers. PROGREEN will also release knowledge products on nature-based tourism's role in generating conservation finance and leveraging private investment, including a knowledge sharing series through the World Bank's Open Learning Campus.

Partner links: Work under this Flagship includes links with other World Bank Global Practices, including Urban, Disaster Risk Management, Resilience and Land; Rural Resilience; Finance, Competitiveness & Innovation; and Development Economics. The University of California (Davis) is contributing to the analytics and approaches. PROGREEN is also exploring potential links with IUCN, World Travel and Tourism Council, World Wildlife Fund, UN World Tourism Organization, United States National Park Service, South African Parks, Fauna and Flora Fauna International.

Relevant links:

Report: Assessing the Economic Impact of Tourism in Protected Areas on Local Economies in Zambia

Report: Economic Impacts of Protected Area Tourism on Local Communities in Nepal

Feature story: Harnessing Tourism to Enhance the Value of Biodiversity and Promote Conservation in Nepal

Feature story: Protecting biodiversity to improve economic outcomes in Zambia

4.1.4 Flagship: Improving Governance of Forest Landscapes

Objective: Improve sustainable forest landscape governance capacity, mobilize funding, and influence policy reforms to build healthy landscapes that can support sustainable production, climate mitigation and resilience.

Background: [Forest Governance Flagship Webpage](#)

Overview: Forest landscapes are vital for sustainable production, climate mitigation and resilience, and their governance has a huge impact on resource management and economic potential. Governance challenges relate to inter-agency coordination, policy and legal frameworks, stakeholder participation, tenure, land-use planning, government administration, political economy, and rule of law.

To mitigate some of these challenges, this Flagship is developing an assessment approach and index for measuring the quality of landscape governance. A Landscape Governance Assessment Tool (LGAT) was constructed based on the index to help identify practical pathways for improving governance and country-based case studies carried out to ensure the relevance and validity of the work. An assessment approach and index based on thirty indicators was developed in FY22. To increase the sensitivity of the indicators to change, assessors will score them on the current state of governance and on the perceived trend in that state, i.e., whether governance in that area is improving. Assessors will report the strength of evidence for each score, from low to high, judged against a standardized scale. LGAT piloting began in Ghana, Uzbekistan, and Argentina in landscapes with PROGREEN co-financed projects. Data from the assessment of core indicators in Ghana is now available and indicates relatively good landscape governance (an index value of 3.1 out of 5) with weaker scores on stakeholder participation (2.7) and resilience to foreseeable stresses (2.5).

The piloting phase will continue throughout FY23 and include two additional landscapes: In Nepal, the LGAT will be applied in four landscapes with the aim of improving planned activities, including a regional transport project; and in Pakistan, where the LGAT will inform ecosystem restoration activities.

Audience and beneficiaries: World Bank teams working with clients to diagnose governance issues and solution pathways, as well as national and regional governments working in landscape management. Development partners, NGOs, think tanks, and enterprises seeking to assist countries with forest governance interventions will also benefit.

4.2   CROSS CUTTING THEMES AND EMERGING GLOBAL ANALYTICS

PROGREEN's three cross cutting themes—Gender and Vulnerability, Mobilizing and Greening Finance, and Climate Change—are integrated across the Program's country and global knowledge activities to the fullest extent possible. The PROGREEN Global Program also seeks to improve uptake on these issues through analysis, guidance, training, and collaboration. FY22 offered several opportunities to scale-up knowledge work and fill gaps through "emerging initiatives" that extend, deepen, and disseminate ongoing lines of work that also contribute to capacity building efforts.

More background on these issues can be found on the [Cross Cutting Themes page of the PROGREEN website](#).

4.2.1   Gender & Vulnerability Program

PROGREEN aims to raise awareness on tools and knowledge for gender-transformative actions in landscape initiatives, share knowledge and lessons from inclusive landscape approaches that empower vulnerable groups, and strengthen partnerships and capacity to scale-up gender-transformative actions in landscape initiatives within and beyond PROGREEN. This is expected to result in increased gender-responsive programming in country project investments; greater inclusion of women and vulnerable groups as beneficiaries of project interventions; and greater representation of these groups in decisions about land and resource allocation.

PROGREEN is working to achieve these goals by developing targeted guidance to countries, practitioners, regional initiatives, and commodity value chains based on demand-driven assessment of needs. Training products and materials including videos, short e-learning modules, and interactive workshops, most of which can be delivered in remote or hybrid format. Innovative communication approaches including website materials, newsletter columns, blogs, contributions to global events, and potentially contest or reward programs are also being explored

In FY22, PROGREEN's gender advisor regularly reviewed and provided feedback on gender-related content in project proposals and progress reports, surveyed project teams, and analyzed gender activities across all PROGREEN projects. Throughout the year, PROGREEN's Gender and Vulnerability Program worked closely with the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) Gender Working Group and several FOLUR country teams to widely share knowledge and best practices from both programs.

A dedicated Gender and Vulnerability Program webpage was developed on the PROGREEN website to provide additional information and resources, including a webinar on Supporting Women's Empowerment in Integrated Landscape Programs for International Women's Day. At the country level, FY22 saw a significant uptake in prioritizing gender and vulnerability-focused actions with several PROGREEN projects now implementing participatory work with local partners. Country examples of this work include:

- In Argentina, a gender gap analysis and gender action plan, in addition to an Indigenous People's Action Plan, included vulnerability-specific indicators in the Results Framework.

- In Ghana, a gender action plan highlights mainstreamed actions to address gender gaps and includes indicators to monitor progress. Gender actions include promoting equitable gender representation in decision-making on natural resources management, especially participation and leadership positions in Community Resource Management Areas management committees. This resulted in 56% female participation in the development of community watershed plans and 40 women serving as members of District Management and Planning Committees.

- In the Lower Mekong Region, a timber supply gap study analyzed the roles of women, youth, and Indigenous peoples and provided recommendations on how the slowing of tropical forest loss can address social inequality. Results will inform the forthcoming policy note and provide specific policy recommendations to strengthen equality.

- In Zimbabwe, women represented almost half of the nearly 20,000 farmers who received digital climate advisory services information. Women comprise the majority of Zimbabwe's agriculture labor force and the weather information and agronomic messages will assist them to better prepare, manage their land, and reduce land degradation.

- In Honduras, analytical work found important gaps in information related to forests, gender, and Indigenous people. The final report highlights the lack of information as a potential barrier for the generation of public policies and decision making in forest management and conservation and provides recommendations to address these gaps.

Next steps: In FY23, PROGREEN will partner with Women Organizing Change in Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) to provide strategic gender capacity training in women's empowerment approaches to PROGREEN teams. WOCAN will work with several country project teams to provide training for local counterparts to pilot a women's empowerment certification standard (W+) to measure and value women's empowerment outcomes. Procurement for this initiative was completed at the end of FY22.

Discussions are ongoing with local counterparts in Nepal and Mexico to launch these training efforts and PROGREEN will continue to explore opportunities for joint gender and vulnerability activities, knowledge products, and events with related programs managed by the World Bank, including DGM, ENABLE, and FOLUR-funded activities, where the country focus is appropriate.

A private sector finance session on gender is being planned for the GLF Sustainable Finance (hybrid) Event in Luxembourg in December 2022.

4.2.2   Mobilizing and Greening Finance

This cross-cutting theme aims to increase and "green" financial flows through private sector collaboration and investment in sustainable land management and activities that reduce deforestation and habitat loss and promote restoration of ecosystem services. PROGREEN analysis and technical assistance can promote an enabling environment for green investment, promote models and evidence that support the business case for investment in nature-based products and services, and identify opportunities to leverage private sector investment throughout the project cycle and value chain. PROGREEN is collaborating with the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS), a World Bank managed trust fund in this effort. The Mobilizing and Greening Finance Program builds on the World Bank's ongoing contribution to the global conversation around this topic.

In FY22, this effort focused on supporting the consolidation of the Finance Task Force on Ecosystem Restoration as an opportunity to engage with high-level private sector organizations in a global forum. Additionally, in-country activities engaged with private sector entities and contributed to building enabling conditions for increasing investments in sustainability and nature-based enterprises. Specific examples include:

- Collaboration between the Hailemariam and Roman Foundation (HRF) in Ethiopia, the Natural Resources Sector State Minister, and the Ministry of Agriculture. The HRF has a strong record of building government and private sector awareness to advocate for landscape-level restoration and biodiversity conservation.

- In Ghana, the World Bank's Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining project is implementing recommendations on how to harness private sector funding for Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), thereby improving sustainability without heavy reliance on donor/public finance. An analysis of Shea and cashew value chains (tree crops with high potential in the Western Wildlife Corridor) examined priorities for government investment and private sector engagement. Prioritized activities include strengthening linkages between cashew producers (especially women) and reliable buyers, traders, and processors, and exploring opportunities for private sector funding for production and processing activities.

- PROGREEN-supported knowledge produced under the RESILAND project generated a US$500,000 grant from the Program for Asia Connectivity and Trade (PACT) of the South Asia Regional Integration Partners (SARIP). The grant will finance: (i) collaboration with the University of Central Asia to scale up the AnchorEd pilot and mobilize rural schools as anchors for addressing shared natural resources and climate change; and (ii) prepare technical manuals for landscape restoration in the Kyrgyz Republic to inform its participation in the RESILAND Program. In April 2022, a roundtable by the Kazakh-German University (DKU) facilitated academics and private sector actors to discuss developing private forestry, agroforestry, and urban plantations in the Republic of Kazakhstan based on international experience. The green growth policy dialogues in Uzbekistan involved the private sector, including entrepreneurs, farmers, and SMEs.

Next steps: PROGREEN will continue working with country teams to promote activities on private sector engagement, exploring potential partnerships through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration organizers (FAO and UNEP), as well as global institutions interested in scaling-up financing for restoration (e.g., WRI, GLF). In FY23, PROGREEN intends to build on the strong work of the Finance Task Force on Ecosystem Restoration to further advance the use of environmental and social sustainability considerations in financial systems. This will involve linking with initiatives being advanced by FCI Global Practice and building on the financial innovations being pioneered by GPS. PROGREEN will increase collaboration with FOLUR, which has established a private sector strategy and links with major commodity roundtables as an entry point for improved production standards, traceability, and disclosure.

4.2.3   Enhancing Climate Resilience in Forestry Projects

Objective: Develop an approach to help assess and influence project designs to invest in climate resilience, thus contributing to the overall climate benefits of country investments.

Overview: PROGREEN is supporting the development of an approach to integrate climate resilience into the design of forest and landscape investment projects. This work involves two aspects: (i) country level work on integrating the resilience approach into project design in Lao PDR, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; and (ii) refining and customizing the tools developed for the approach, based on country piloting efforts and collaborating with the International Finance Corporation and the World Bank's Climate Change Group.

Expected outcomes: Better informed country teams and counterparts on assessing and incorporating resilience interventions into the design of forest and landscape projects; and contributions to global knowledge and dialogue in this area.

Audience and beneficiaries: World Bank teams and country counterparts designing forestry and landscape projects seeking to enhance the climate resilience outcomes of the investments. A secondary audience is the wider community of development practitioners reached through PROGREEN outreach, training, demonstrations, and publications.

Potential partner links: Outcomes can inform capacity building activities with PROGREEN and FOLUR task teams and country counterparts. The team is also working with ESRI and the European Space Agency to develop a methodology and platform for the spatial analysis and representation of various hazards and their risks for project sites.

Progress in FY22: The resilience approach and tools were piloted in Lao PDR, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. This included contribution to technical missions, presentations to multiple government teams, and consultations with forestry and landscape design teams. This resulted in key analytics on climate hazards being incorporated into World Bank project documents and operational manuals. The pilots demonstrated the value of the approach both at the preparation stage and during implementation as a way of fine tuning and assessing the selection of sites and interventions. This means further engagement in making tools easy to use and disseminate.

Country activities on climate resilience: All PROGREEN country activities align with and contribute to climate change related priorities, initiatives, and targets. Climate adaptation and resilience considerations are integrated into PROGREEN's program development, implementation priorities, and project design. All activities build on existing plans and responses to specific climate risks within the local landscapes or habitats. Several examples of how PROGREEN activities are contributing to climate resilience are highlighted below:

- The Burundi ASA (P176579) conducted a climate risk impact assessment and a landscape risk assessment. The findings revealed that 98% of Burundians are socioeconomically vulnerable to climate change impacts, 41% are 'highly' exposed to multiple climate and conflict hazards, and nearly 99% lack the ability to withstand and cope with climate change impacts such as droughts, floods, and landslides. Findings from the assessment precipitated a multi-donor roundtable conference for mobilizing climate financing from bilateral and multilateral partners, international NGOs, and the private sector, to co-develop and co-finance colline-climate action plans to reduce climate fragility and strengthen the communities' adaptive capacity.

- The Lesotho ASA (P172476) supported the country's national priority to implement integrated catchment management. Sustainable catchments preserve stored carbon and provide some natural resilience against natural disasters, including those caused by or made more extreme by a changing climate. This ASA will increase the Government's capacity to design road infrastructure with climate change and sustainable catchments in mind. The project team is currently designing a training course on "Incorporating the Ecosystem Service Approach into Integrated Catchment Planning." This training seeks to increase the capacity of government, civil society decision makers, and technical experts to build their foundational understanding of ecosystem services. This activity will also design a climate and environmental vulnerability assessment tool and develop a report on climate and environmental risk assessment for road infrastructure in two catchments, expected in December 2022.

- The Sustainable Management of Historical Oasis Landscapes Project (P169955) is contributing to carbon sequestration and mitigating climate change by promoting climate-smart agriculture and agroecology practices. Monographs of North African oases for Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia are being developed with PROGREEN funding to highlight the role of oasis ecosystems in climate change mitigation and adaptation. These will become the basis for training material and putting together awareness-raising campaigns on the climate benefits of maintaining healthy oasis ecosystems.

Next steps: The team will complete work on ongoing country pilots and initiate work with the project teams in India and Kazakhstan, if demand and uptake from the teams is confirmed. The team will further develop a GIS-based platform for spatially assessing sites and areas vulnerable to the various hazards because of climate change.

4.2.4   Emerging Initiative: Strengthening Technical Foundations for Incorporating Landscape Assessments into Investment

Overview: The initiative offers substantial benefits from taking an integrated, watershed- or landscape-scale approach to targeting investments in infrastructure, agriculture, environment, and other development goals. There are currently several spatial mapping and modeling tools available that bring this level of analysis within reach of technical specialists designing investment projects. As global climate commitments increase and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration progresses, the value of these tools and client demand for them will increase. To increase understanding and uptake, the activity has adopted a new title: Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Landscape Assessment (BELA).

Objective: The activity aims to produce knowledge and tools, and to build capacity among project designers and experts to assess key challenges and opportunities for integrated landscape management. This work will enhance the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of Bank investments in infrastructure, agriculture, environment, and development and to enhance countries' resilience to climate change.

Progress in FY22: BELA is working with ten country teams on advisory, analytic, and capacity building efforts to deliver analyses for policy or project processes. It has piloted innovative and streamlined approaches for bringing ecosystem services assessment tools into analytical products and operations. Key outcomes achieved include:

- Completing a portfolio of case studies demonstrating how the ecosystem services assessment tools add value to client engagements.

- Securing over 2x funding match from other sources to support the pilot activities, far exceeding the goal of 1x matching.

- Delivering capacity building workshops to clients in two countries covering natural capital assessment, ecosystem services modeling tools, and their use in policy making.

- Conducting interviews with project teams and a portfolio review of 223 World Bank projects along with 12 deep-dive interviews with project teams to identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities for greater uptake of spatial analysis of ecosystem services to inform project design.

Next steps: The initiative will: (i) develop a portfolio of examples for how spatial analyses can support landscape-level planning in Bank operations; (ii) strengthen the capacity of practitioners and client counterparts to apply landscape-scale management tools; and (iii) develop a three-year strategy for mainstreaming the use of these tools and for creating a sustainable funding mechanism.

In FY23, the BELA initiative will continue to support the substantial demand from Bank project teams and client counterparts for spatial analyses of ecosystem services as analytic and advisory services. It will complement the technical assistance model with knowledge exchange and learning opportunities so that more practitioners can deploy tools and methods for mapping and assessing ecosystem services to inform project design and implementation.

4.2.5   Emerging Initiative: Integrated Wildfire Management in Terrestrial Systems Initiative

Overview: Wildfires are an escalating global problem and increasing climate extremes and uncertainties are making conventional fire management approaches less effective. This initiative is exploring ways that countries can mitigate or prevent future disasters through the development of new strategies, land management policies and practices, and science and technology.

Objective: This initiative aims to produce knowledge and tools to build capacity among project designers and experts and provide technical assistance and guidance for integrated fire risk assessment and management. This work will develop the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of investments in environment, agriculture, and disaster risk management, and enhance countries' resilience to climate change. The work includes a global overview and risk assessment, in addition to case studies in five PROGREEN countries: Algeria, India, Lebanon, Nepal, and Thailand, which each have Type 2 activities related to fire management and risk reduction.

Partner links: The modeling work to create a global fire risk map is being done in collaboration with ESRI and the European Space Agency. The global institutional mapping and risk assessments undertaken will enhance the global dialogue on wildfire management with partners such as UNDP, UNEP, FAO, IUFRO, and the Global Wildland Fire Network.

Progress in FY22: The wildfire team completed a review of World Bank projects, global institutional mapping, and global wildfire risk assessments. Multiple consultations have taken place between ESRI, ESA, and various World Bank GIS teams on the conceptualization of a global wildfire risk map.

Next steps: The wildfire team will engage with country teams to showcase results and findings of wildfire analyses. The initiative will engage with two additional countries working on fire risk assessment: Argentina and Türkiye. In addition, the team will review the pipeline of projects to identify opportunities to provide guidance on designing wildfire components. A proof-of-concept platform for global wildfire risk mapping will also be constructed.

4.3   CAPACITY BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

PROGREEN's Knowledge and Learning Program strengthens collaboration across Bank programs and trust funds (FCPF, BioCarbon Fund, EnAble, CERF) and with development partners. In FY22, the program expanded knowledge exchange across all PROGREEN activities, allowing country task teams to showcase results and innovations, and Flagship teams to share new knowledge and policy results. A seminar series drew over 500 participants from World Bank country offices and partner organizations to discuss themes such as landscape restoration, ecosystem modeling, financing restoration, climate resilience and practical gender topics. PROGREEN knowledge series recordings and products are integrated into the Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice (ENB) webinar weekly series and communities of practice learning initiatives. Additionally, the Program Management Team (PMT) organized regular technical meetings with development partners that focused on learning and issues of interest outside the formal decision-making environment. Combined, these activities act as a continuous knowledge sharing loop that is essential for further knowledge generation and strategic engagement at different levels.

Building upon the "Learning Track Framework" (Table 5) that was developed in FY21 in collaboration with FOLUR, work continued designing and delivering learning offerings targeting country teams and other relevant audiences. Global Flagships and emerging initiatives serve as a foundation for PROGREEN's Learning Framework.

In addition to the ongoing publication and updating of knowledge and information through the PROGREEN website, the team advanced the way that PROGREEN manages and stores knowledge:

- The redesign and enhancement of the Reports & Publications repository on the PROGREEN website. This included transferring relevant reports from the former PROFOR website and improving user experience, such as the inclusion of a new filters feature.

- The repackaging of 22 tools produced under the PROFOR and PROGREEN programs. This included the design and construction of a new tools platform to share detailed information, applicability, and links for each tool.

Next steps: In FY23, PROGREEN will expand its capacity building and knowledge development through several activities, including but not limited to:

- New knowledge tools, deep-dives, e-courses, targeted training series on topics identified in PROGREEN's Learning Framework (e.g. Land Use e-course with ISFL, BELA training initiative, Finance Task Force Case Studies, etc.).

- Four task team learning events will be organized and redesigned with a new thematic and geographic approach to focus on emerging themes from country programs.

- Enhanced collaboration on producing and disseminating knowledge and learning with FOLUR, EnABLE and DGM, and other potential partners.

- Continuation of the monthly PROGREEN Knowledge Series targeting wider audiences.

Table 5: PROGREEN Learning Track Framework

Technical / Thematic tracks	Introductory level (establish baseline knowledge)	Advanced level (develop proficiency)	Deep dives / Case studies	Associated Flagship studies and analytics
Learning topics commenced in FY21 and continued in FY22				
Gender & social inclusion	Webinar: Supporting Women's Empowerment in Integrated Landscape Programs	Training products on the W+ certification standard being developed	Case studies in progress	Gender and Vulnerability Program
Integrated landscapes management & land use	Webinar (internal)	Integrated Land Use e-course – in progress		Land Use Toolkit
Green finance	Planning events at the GLF Climate in November and GLF Luxembourg in December 2022		Case studies in progress	Finance Task Force of UN Dec-ade on Ecosystem Restoration
Repurposing agricultural subsidies	Introductory presentation at Task Team meeting		Colombia deep dive completed	Nature Based Solutions and Agriculture Incentives
Learning topics initiated in FY22				
Integrating landscapes assessments into investment	Webinar: Planning Effective Landscape Investments for People and Nature: Innovations from Africa (internal)	BELA Training series – in progress, for more information read 4.2.5 section		
Climate resilience	Webinar: Enabling a Whole-of-Society Ap-proach to Tackle Climate and Conflict Risks in Burundi		Case studies in progress	Climate Resilience Tools
Wildfire management			Case studies in progress	

4.4   COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

PROGREEN's communications work centers around raising awareness and building support for sustainable landscape management and cross-sectoral collaboration at the national, regional, and global levels. As PROGREEN's projects and activities increase result delivery, the communications team is working to disseminate the knowledge and tools to promote wider application and scaled up investment in sustainable landscape management practices and policies.

In FY22, communications activities focused on showcasing PROGREEN results at global events, collaborating with other World Bank programs and initiatives on landscapes management related activities and events, producing stories and outreach pieces emphasizing PROGREEN impacts at the country level, and continuously working with partners, knowledge communities, and practitioners to advance the restoration and landscapes management agenda globally.

4.4.1   Global and Regional Events

PROGREEN organized and participated in several events throughout FY22. PROGREEN was highlighted in World Bank management's remarks at high level global events for its impact on ecosystem and landscape restoration.

World Forestry Congress:

- [Transformative Programs for Forest Conservation and Restoration at Scale for Economic Growth, Climate Mitigation, and Biodiversity Conservation](#)

- [Satellite monitoring for forest management](#)

PROGREEN results:

[Enabling a Whole-of-Society Approach to Tackle Climate and Conflict Risks in Burundi](#)

[Supporting Women's Empowerment in Integrated Landscape Programs](#)

- Planning Effective Landscape Investments for People and Nature: Innovations from Africa

Global Landscapes Forum:

[Investing in Nature for People and the Planet: Innovative Financing for Landscape Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Action](#)

4.4.2   Social Media

PROGREEN continues to maintain and grow @forestideas on Twitter with daily outreach, a consistent uptick in new followers, and a steady engagement rate. At the end of FY22, for example, @forestideas garnered over 16 thousand impressions over a one-month period. In addition to @forestideas, PROGREEN's messages and content are also posted by @WBG_environment, the World Bank's Environment, Natural Resources, and the Blue Economy platform, which has over 22.6 thousand followers. Looking ahead to early FY23, PROGREEN plans to run a paid Twitter campaign to increase followers, draw traffic to the website, and grow the Trust Fund mailing list.

4.4.3   PROGREEN Website

In February FY22, PROGREEN launched its new website: www.progreen.info featuring an overview of the program and its goals, dedicated pages for each country's activity, and description of the activities under the Global Program. Since then, the website has grown to include a newly designed Landscape Restoration tools platform, an infographic overview of the overall program, as well as a re-designed Knowledge & Reports section. The website is a crucial tool in PROGREEN's communication strategy. It is regularly updated and strives to display information in a user-centric design. Events, stories, and reports are shared monthly, and these updates will become increasingly robust as country activities continue to deliver results and knowledge products.

4.4.4   Newsletter

PROGREEN maintains an active newsletter and mailing list with over 3000 subscribers from the donor community, partners, civil society, client governments, and the general public. Released on a quarterly basis, the newsletter features the latest program updates and stories, upcoming events, new publications, and knowledge from the global forest and landscape management community. PROGREEN uses the mailing list for additional outreach and communications, such as event announcements.

4.4.5   Building Partnerships

Building partnerships, encouraging collaboration and knowledge sharing is central to PROGREEN's strategy and goals. PROGREEN activities deliver results by harnessing strategic partnerships locally and globally. In FY22, the Program made several advances in this area, including:

- Co-sponsoring global dialogue and capacity building (Global Landscapes Forum, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, Climate Change funds).

- Advancing joint work on analytical flagship initiatives (Global Wildlife Program, Global Program on Sustainability, PROBLUE, Agriculture & Food GP, Health GP, etc.).

- Building capacity and targeting technical assistance (FOLUR, ISFL e-course, FCPF, DGM).

- Engaging the financial system through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

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5

5   MONITORING AND EVALUATION

PROGREEN's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) function is an integral part of the PROGREEN Management Team (PMT) that allows the Program to respond to questions related to the relevance of objectives, the extent to which these are met (efficacy), the use of resources against results achieved (efficiency), and the sustainability of results. PROGREEN M&E aims to facilitate results reporting to development partners and Bank management, identify problem areas and propose corrective measures, and provide input for the mid-term and final reviews. Monitoring activities involve systematically collecting data on the specific indicators to provide visibility of progress and achievement of objectives. Evaluation is the process of determining the value and significance of PROGREEN done through Annual Progress Reviews in PC meetings, the Mid-Term Review planned for the end of FY2023, and the Final Review at completion.

As an important selection criterion, country expressions of interest for funding need to demonstrate alignment with the PROGREEN Theory of Change (ToC) and that the activities are linked to outcomes. Every activity has its own ToC and Results Framework with indicators, baselines and targets, and M&E arrangements.

Task Teams managing RETF activities report bi-annually through an Implementation Status and Results Report (ISR) and at completion through an Implementation Completion and Results Report (ICR). ISRs and ICRs are publicly accessible on the World Bank's website and linked on the PROGREEN website. Those managing BETF activities report annually with key data presented on the PROGREEN web page: catalyzation, policy change, knowledge products and management, tools, TA, and capacity building. All PROGREEN Task Teams are asked annually to share narrative reports of important achievements and publications (partly the basis for this Annual Report).

RETF projected results are summarized in Annex Table 10, and BETF results are summarized in Annex Table 11. While there are results in FY22 recorded for BETF activities, RETF activities on the ground take longer to materialize and have not yet generated results captured through indicators in FY22 to record.

The PMT will finalize the M&E plan in FY23 and continues to work on the 'Landscape Governance Index.' A database has been created to systematically record and monitor results across activities. In FY23, the PMT will continue to operationalize the M&E system and tracking tools to summarize results and contribute to the Annual Report process. The PMT will also prepare guidance with the technical definitions of indicators to improve the quality of results reporting.

6

6   FINANCIALS

6.1   PROGREEN FY22 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

PROGREEN's fiscal year ran from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022 (FY22). As of the end of FY22, the PROGREEN Umbrella program included two trust funds: the anchor PROGREEN MDTF (TF073388) and the associated Accelerating the Implementation of REDD+ in Africa (AccelREDD) (TF073235). The PROGREEN MDTF has signed contributions of $229.3 million, from two development partners: Germany's Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit (BMZ), and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency under the PROGREEN Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) trustee account (TF073388). Paid-in contributions (actual funds received) as of June 30, 2022, were $113.3 million.

As of the end FY22, over $87.1 million of the paid-in contributions had been allocated to various PROGREEN activities in the form of approved grant amounts, of which $11.8 million was disbursed. Table 6 below provides the PROGREEN financial summary, as of June 30, 2022.

Table 6: PROGREEN MDTF financial summary (in US$, as of June 30, 2022)

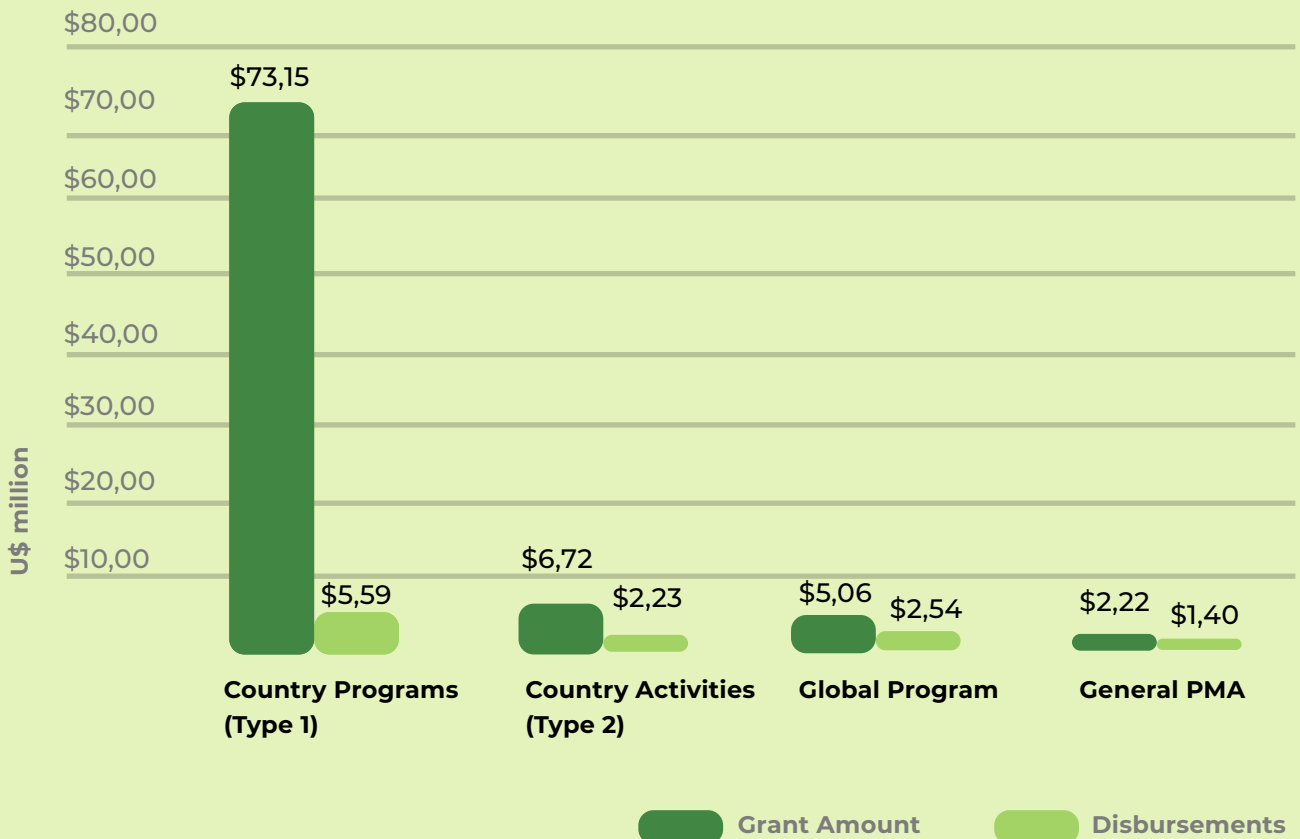| PROGREEN MDTF (TF073388)Argentina	Amount
Signed contributions	229,258,228
Paid-in contributions	113,339,110
Unpaid contributions	115,919,118
Investment income (+)	368,812
Administration fee (-)	1,400,000
Approved grant amount	87,144,596
Disbursements (-)	11,754,851
Fund balance	100,552,971
Commitments (-)[2]	27,790,813
[1]Available balance	73,038,558

2   Commitments relate to the amounts yet to be disbursed for active and pending recipient executed grant agreements, undisbursed balance of bank executed trust funds and the administration fees to be deducted. Even though the report itself is as of June 30, 2022, the Commitments data is derived from the system in real time, meaning on the date the report is run (in this case, August 21, 2022). This leads to a slight discrepancy in the data derived from Commitments (i. e., Available Balance).

The $87.1 million of approved grant amounts were distributed among 51 grant activities that fell into four program areas, as shown in Table 7. Country Programs (Type 1) account for 84% of the portfolio and Country Knowledge Activities (Type 2) account for another 8%. The Global Program and Program Management and Administration accounting for the rest. Table 7 and Figure 1 show the breakdown of activities, by grant amount and by disbursements.

Table 7: PROGREEN MDTF activities by activity type (in US$, as of June 30, 2022)

Activity Type	Grant amount	Disbursements
Country Programs (Type 1)	73,150,000	5,585,098
Country Activities (Type 2)	6,718,000	2,227,699
Global Program	5,061,596	2,544,900
Program management and administration	2,215,000	1,397,153
Grand total	87,144,596	11,754,851

Figure 1: PROGREEN MDTF portfolio by activity type (in $US million, as of June 30, 2022)
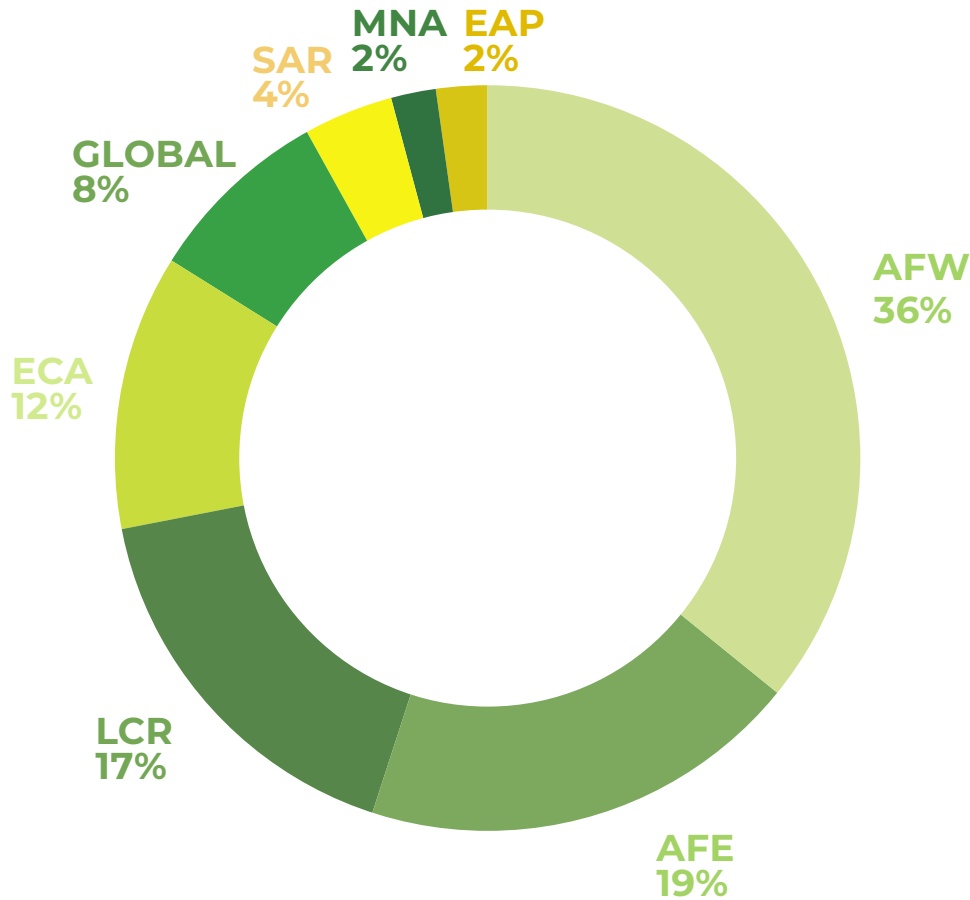
Across the Bank's regions at end FY22, the PROGREEN portfolio was heavily focused on the Africa Region (including Eastern and Southern Africa, or AFE, and Western and Central Africa, or AFW). 55% of the total portfolio, or $48.2 million of the approved grant amount, concentrated in the Africa Region (AFE and AFW combined), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (LCR) at 17% or $14.7 million, Europe and Central Asia (ECA) at 12% or $2.5 million, and South Asia (SAR), East Asia and Pacific (EAP), and Middle East and North Africa (MNA) at 4%, 2%, and 2% respectively. Global activities (including the Global Program and PMA) made up 8% of the portfolio.

In terms of disbursements, AFW Region made up the largest share of total disbursements, at 35% or $4.1 million out of $11.8 million, followed by the Global Program and PMA, at 34% or $3.9 million. Regional disbursements grew significantly compared to FY21 due to the increase in implementation pace and RETF disbursements in countries where implementation is progressing (e.g., Ghana and Ethiopia). Table 8 and Figure 2 below shows the PROGREEN portfolio's geographical focus breakdown.
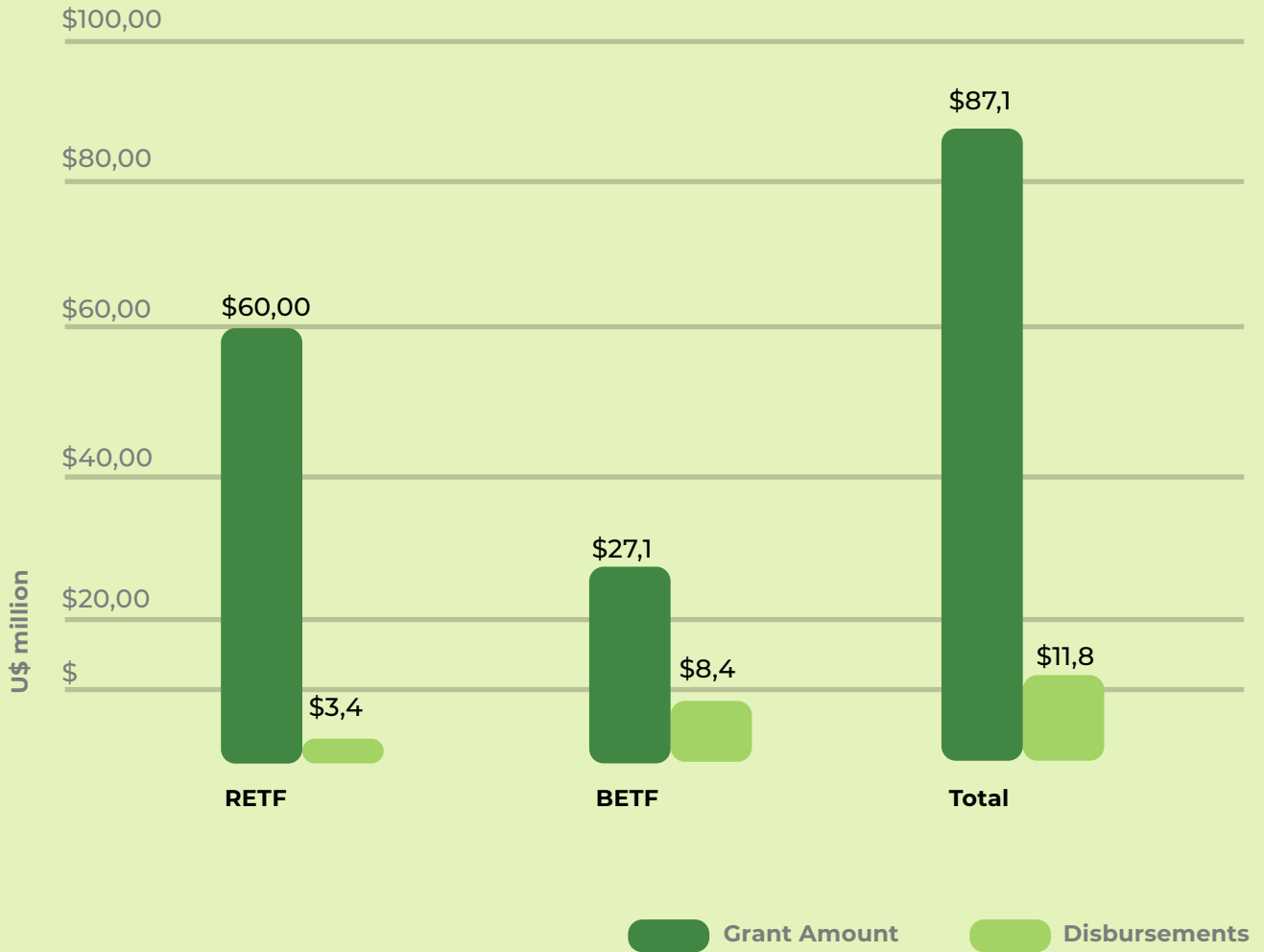
Table 8: PROGREEN MDTF portfolio, grant amount, and disbursements by region (in $US, as of June 30, 2022)

Region	Grant amount	Disbursements
AFE	16,744,500	1,690,613
AFW	31,500,000	4,132,692
EAP	1,472,000	167,679
ECA	10,500,000	486,722
LCR	14,661,500	844,250
MNA	1,440,000	190,250
SAR	3,550,000	300,592
Global	7,276,596	3,942,054
Grand total	87,144,596	11,754,851

Figure 2: PROGREEN MDTF portfolio grant percentage by region (as of June 30, 2022)

MNA
2%

EAP
2%

SAR
4%

GLOBAL
8%

ECA
12%

AFW
36%

LCR
17%

AFE
19%

PROGREEN MDTF activities fall into two categories, depending on the execution type – Bank-Executed Trust Funds (BETFs) and Recipient-Executed Trust Funds (RETFs). RETFs made up 69% of the PROGREEN portfolio by approved grant amount due to the large size of approved Country Programs (Type 1). In terms of disbursements, however, RETFs only made up 29% of the portfolio. Their share was comparatively smaller due to the fact that RETF disbursements only commenced in FY22. BETFs which account for 31% of the approved grant amounts, were responsible for 71% of the total FY22 disbursements. This situation will reverse as recipient-executed activities get underway in more countries and as more Type 1 grants are approved and become effective.

Figure 3: PROGREEN portfolio by execution type (in US$ million, as of June 30, 2022)

6.2   Accelerating the Implementation of REDD+ in Africa

At the end of FY22, Accelerating the Implementation of REDD+ in Africa (AccelREDD) had signed contributions of $17.1 million from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. All the signed contributions were paid in.

As of the end of FY22, $7.9 million had been allocated to AccelREDD activities in the form of approved grant amounts, of which $3.8 million was disbursed. However, the amount of AccelREDD Steering Committee-approved envelopes was actually higher, at $17.5 million. Several RETF operations are currently under preparation (e.g., Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Madagascar). Table 9 below provides the AccelREDD SDTF financial summary, as of June 30, 2022.

Table 9: AccelREDD SDTF financial summary (in US$, as of June 30, 2022)

AccelREDD SDTF (TF073235)	Amount
Signed contributions	17,110,500
Paid-in contributions	17,110,500
Unpaid contributions	0
Investment income (+)	689,799
Administration fee (-)	0
Approved grant amount	7,878,511
Disbursements (-)	3,801,812
Fund balance	13,998,490
Commitments (-)[3]	1,048,516
Available balance	12,949,974

All AccelREDD activities focused on Africa and benefitted the following countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, and Burkina Faso.

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3   Commitments relate to the amounts yet to be disbursed for active and pending recipient executed grant agreements ,undisbursed balance of-bank executed trust funds and the administration fees to be deducted. Even though the report itself is as of June 30, 2022, the Commitments data is derived from the system in real time, meaning on the date the report is run (in this case, September 2, 2022). This leads to a slight discrepancy in the data derived from Commitments (i. e., Available Balance).

7

7   ANNEXES

7.1   ANNEX 1: EXPECTED RESULTS FROM APPROVED TYPE 1 PROJECTS[4]

Table 10: PROGREEN indicators and projected contribution

Indicator		Attribution	Contribution
1.	Area of conservation landscapes under sustainable use (ha)	N/A	N/A
2.	Area of production landscapes under sustainable use (ha)	N/A	N/A
3.	GHG emissions reduced (tCO2eq.)	1,026,315	17,107,273
4.	People in targeted landscapes with increased benefits (number) (disaggregat-ed by sex; age (youth); Indigenous; poor(number)	644,000	3,728,429
5.	Landscape governance index (TBD)[5]	N/A	N/A
Pillar 1 Outcome indicators		**Attribution**	**Contribution**
1.1	Area under sustainable forest management (ha)	661,451	4,368,967
1.2	Share of land-users adopting new practices in targeted landscapes (%)	10 % – 50%	10%–50%
1.3	Land area under restoration (ha)	11,700	3,385,737
1.4	Key habitats protected (number)	3	3
1.5	Landscapes with same or increased forest cover (ha)	0	0
1.6	Countries with policy and institutional framework improved (number)	4	4
Pillar 1 Cross-cutting indicators		**Attribution**	**Contribution**
Women, youth, Indigenous people	Women and youth with increased benefits from landscape-based value chains (number)	6,340	188,552
Women, youth, Indigenous people	Area under collaborative management (ha)	701,621	1,712,553
Climate change	Landscapes with improved climate resilience (ha)	0	0
MFD	Additional financing catalyzed for integrated and sustainable landscape management including from WORLD BANK (US$)	0	0

4 Projected contributions are from projects with established results frameworks, I.e., Argentine, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sahel (Burkina Faso) and RESILAND (Uzbekistan).

5 PROGREEN is piloting the Landscape Governance Assessment Tool in a number of countries. The application of the tool generates an index called the Landscape Governance Index (LGI). Piloting is ongoing and the index will be ready by the end of next fiscal year.

Pillar 1 Cross-pillar indicators		Attribution	Contribution
	Value of NTFPs integrated into agricultural value chains (US$)	0	0
	Innovative NBS solutions used in production landscapes (number)	0	0
Pillar 2 Outcome indicators		Attribution	Contribution
	Area under agroecological production (ha)	118,170	337,800
	Farmers adopting agroecological agricultural practices (number) (disaggregated by poor)	34,000	127,200
	Farm-level production for responsible commodity value chains (t)	0	0
	Countries with policy and institutional framework improved (number)	4	4
Pillar 2 Cross-cutting indicators		Attribution	Contribution
Women, youth, Indigenous people	Women and youth with less exposure to agricultural chemicals (number) (disaggregated by poor)	0	0
Women, youth, Indigenous people	Small-scale farmers with access to up-to-date meteorological and market data (number) (disaggregated by poor)	0	0
Climate change	Area of production systems with improved climate resilience (ha)	0	0
MFD	Additional finance leveraged for low-impact value chains including from WORLD BANK (US$) (disaggregated by private sector/public sector)	0	0
Pillar 2 Cross-pillar indicators		Attribution	Contribution
	Trees in production landscapes outside of forests (ha)	4,000	16,000
	Area under PES in production landscapes (ha)	5,000	10,000

Pillar 3 Indicative indicators	Attribution	Contribution
Targeted landscapes where planning for hydropower, transport and mining incorporates NBS to mitigate negative environmental impacts (number)	0	0
National development plans, laws, policies and regulations on hydropower, transport and mining that apply sustainability and climate-smart standards (number)	0	0
Key infrastructure climate-resilient (number)	0	0
Countries with policy and institutional framework improved (number)	0	0

Pillar 3 Cross-cutting issues		Attribution	Contribution
Women, youth, Indigenous people	Innovative NBS engaging women, youth and/or Indigenous people accessible to public and private investors (number)	0	0
Climate change	Green infrastructure and land use plan models accessible that simultaneously address climate change mitigation and adaptation (number)	0	0
MFD	Mechanisms for leveraging additional finance for reducing and/or off-setting environmental impacts from hydropower, transport, and mining investments in place (number)	0	0

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7.2   ANNEX 2: INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES OF TYPE 2 BETF ACTIVITIES

The intermediate outcomes of Type 2 projects are captured by three measurements that are widely used in the World Bank– catalyzing ratio, catalyzing policy reforms, and catalyzing investment cases. The table below features the current status of intermediate outcomes for Type 2 BETF activities collected for the period ending on June 30, 2022. The results data is gathered annually from project progress reports.

Table 11: Intermediate outcomes of Type 2 BETF activities as of June 30, 2022

Indicator	FY22 result	Description	Examples from PROGREEN activities
Catalyzing ratio	WBG financing 390:1	This indicator measures the role of PROGREEN supported knowledge activities in influencing, shaping, or improving, the direction and quality of World Bank investment operations. It has been calculated as the ratio between the total WB financing amount of the influenced investment projects ($2.617 billion) and the total grant amount for Type 2 BETF activities as of June 30, 2022 ($6.718 million).	• Supporting scaling up activities in existing investment projects in Burundi • Meeting prior action requirements for new investments in Dominica • Supporting the design of reforestation activities financed under investment projects in India
	Total development financing 505:1	This indicator measures the role of PROGREEN supported knowledge activities in influencing, shaping, or improving, the direction and quality of all development investments, including $777 million financing by clients and partners. It has been calculated as the ratio between the total financing amount of the influenced investment projects ($3.394 billion) and the total grant amount for Type 2 BETF activities as of June 30, 2022 ($6.718 million).	
Catalyzing policy reforms (number)	9	This indicator measures how many policies, laws, strategies, plans, regulations, standards or codes were informed by PROGREEN supported knowledge activities.	• Providing research input to support the design of new policies in Vietnam and Algeria. • Conducting policy reviews to inform the drafting of new laws in Dominica. • Supporting the preparation of strategies, action plans, and codes of conduct by government agencies in Lebanon and Sri Lanka
Catalyzing investment cases (US$)	US$ 251,000	This indicator measures the total amount of additional public and private financing in relevant sectors mobilized or proposed as a result of PROGREEN knowledge activities.	• Additional financing mobilized from the UK government to support digital climate advisory services in Zimbabwe

8

8   IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS OF THE "ACCELERATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REDD+ IN AFRICA" SINGLE-DONOR TRUST FUND (N°. TF073235)

8.1   SUMMARY

Support from the "Accelerating the Implementation of REDD+ in Africa" (AccelREDD) trust fund has helped teams overcome and resolve issues related to the fulfillment of enabling conditions for results-based carbon schemes. In addition to the operationalization of REDD+ strategies across the Africa region to generate Emission Reduction Certificates. The analytics and capacity building support that these grants have provided were critical in FY22 for the preparation of Benefit Sharing Plans in Ethiopia, Ghana, and the Republic of Congo, as well as the development of frameworks and strategies for increased private sector involvement. Teams in Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of Congo built foundations and financed the preparation activities (procurement, project approvals, etc.) necessary to quickly start implementing in FY23. Despite COVID-related delays in Madagascar, the analyses generated through the first AccelREDD grant allowed for a deepened understanding of how to implement sustainable forest management in the country, and the critical second phase of the project should be able to build on this knowledge base in FY23.

8.2   BURKINA FASO

- *Overview of REDD+ Sector*

As part of the implementation of its National REDD+ Strategy, Burkina Faso is developing a jurisdictional REDD+ program. The program aims to generate emission reductions (ER) and monetize Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) and REDD+ activities through international carbon markets. This is a first of its kind initiative in Burkina Faso – and in the Sahel region in general. The REDD+ jurisdictional program is drawn from stand-alone projects aligned with REDD+ and landscape management (soil carbon, biomass energy), which will help the country to build its carbon market expertise.

One of these projects is the Burkina Faso Agricultural Carbon Project (BUFACAP) led by the Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, which groups together projects investing in CSA and REDD+ and certifies the ER generated for monetization through the carbon market. Its ultimate objective is to: (i) sustainably increase smallholders' agricultural productivity, income, and welfare; ii) adapt and strengthen resilience of agrarian landscapes to climate change; iii) reduce forest loss and degradation; and iv) increase net forest cover. The West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP), financed by the International Development Association and Global Agriculture and Food Security Program, implemented in Burkina Faso by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (US$ 114 M; 2021-2026), is the first initiative incorporated into BUFACAP to finance its underlying activities.

- *Objective of the AccelREDD Grant*

The grant supports the generation of ER from investments made by the Burkina Faso component of the FSRP, thereby maximizing revenues for participating farmers, helping improve the resilience of food systems, and contributing to the implementation of Burkina Faso's National REDD+ Strategy. Specifically, the grant will mobilize technical assistance and capacity building for the Ministry of the Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to support the implementation and monitoring of emission-reducing activities in the FSRP, in line with the Sustainable Agricultural Land Management (SALM) methodology approved under the Verra carbon standard. It will support the integration of the necessary elements into the design, implementation arrangements and monitoring of the FSRP that would make it eligible to generate ER under the BUFACAP. It will also provide technical assistance and capacity building to certify the emission reductions generated.

- *Highlights from FY22*

The competitive process to recruit the firm responsible for providing technical assistance and capacity building to the ministries in charge of environment and agriculture for the integration of FSRP into BUFACAP was completed, and the contract signed. It consists of a consortium including an international and a national firm. The technical work was launched in September 2022.

- *Expectations for FY23*

Work expected to be completed in FY23 includes:
  - The eligibility and suitability assessment for FSRP to be integrated into BUFACAP, as per the Verra requirements (including land suitability and selection of priority areas).
  - Progress with the set-up of the monitoring system that requires work through FY24 (including designing and setting data collection and monitoring arrangements, defining standard operating procedures, developing tools, and setting up digital monitoring system).

- *Risks and Opportunities for FY23*

The security situation keeps deteriorating with new areas of the country becoming inaccessible, potentially affecting project implementation. In addition, the political situation in Burkina Faso remains fragile following the resignation of President Kabore under military pressure and the advent of the Patriotic Movement for Safeguard and Restoration (MPSR). Failure to manage the security situation may fuel new opposition from civil society and political parties resulting in further political instability.

8.3   ETHIOPIA

- *Overview of REDD+ Sector*

The program in Ethiopia is a REDD+ program pioneering jurisdictional emissions reduction results-based payments. The Oromia Forested Landscape Program – Emission Reductions Project (P151294) is being prepared under the BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL), which aims to pay for ER delivered via a comprehensive landscape management approach. To accomplish this, the program is taking a phased approach whereby drivers and sectors are addressed and added in sequence in ER calculations. The first phase will focus on ER from avoided deforestation and afforestation/reforestation activities. In the following phase, the main sectors to be added include ER from those forests that remain ('forest-remaining-forest') by reducing forest degradation and ER from livestock sector (enteric fermentation).

Various aspects of the ER Program have made good progress, but key challenges remain that require targeted support:

1. ER ownership: The Ethiopia ER Program has advanced with drafting legislation that will clarify the ownership of ER from forests, but it is still under review by the Federal Forest Institute. There is also a need to address ownership, title transfer and capacity issues in relation to ER generated by other sectors. Clarification of ER ownership arrangements may be a disbursement condition for the project.

2. Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP): The Oromia program has already prepared a BSP for the first phase of the Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA). However, there is still a need to update the BSP and prepare an operational BSP manual that guides the detailed implementation of the BSP For the second phase, a comprehensive BSP that includes ER benefits coming from other sectors, especially livestock, is under preparation. Having a comprehensive BSP will be a disbursement condition for the second phase of the ERPA.

3. Livestock monitoring, reporting, and verification system (MRV): The ER monitoring from the livestock sector will start as soon as adequate data is generated meeting ISFL requirements of Tier 2 standard to compute emission baseline/emission intensity. The probable time of inclusion of livestock in the ERPA is indicated to be within three years' time after signing the ERPA.

4. Leveraging private sector support: The production (plantation) forestry sector in Ethiopia plays an important role in wood supply to industries and other domestic users. It also has a role in building forest-based carbon sinks. However, the sector is underperforming due to underinvestment, lack of private sector participation, and insufficient management by the State Forest Enterprises (SFE) that own the plantations. Improving the business climate and increasing carbon payments to the sector could be one way to increase financing for climate-smart production systems in Ethiopia.

- ***Objective of the AccelREDD Grant***

The objective of the activity is to enhance investments and private sector participation, independently or in partnership with SFEs and communities, in sustainable livestock and forest-based value chains. It will also address the ownership and title transfer right issue of the ER generated, which is a key element for a well-functioning and inclusive emission reduction system. This will positively impact the sectors' contribution to emission reduction. Improved livestock and forest management will also contribute to climate adaptation.

The activity addresses three key impediments for finalizing and expanding the scope of the ERPA. The sub-components are:

1. Technical assistance to finalize the ownership and title transfer right of ER, and to support the preparation of a comprehensive BSP that includes the livestock sector (Bank-executed);

2. Removing constraints to private sector participation in emission reduction through production forestry (Bank-executed); and

3. Refining the MRV system for the livestock sector and building capacity for its operation (recipient-executed).

- ***Highlights from FY22***

The key achievements in FY22 include:

1. Preparation of a draft comprehensive BSP that is currently under technical review before opening it for stakeholder consultations in Ethiopia. It will expand the current forest-only benefit sharing models to capture ER revenues from other rural production sectors.

2. Development of a framework for conducting the legal review of ER ownership and title transfer. There are ongoing discussions with the Ethiopian legal authorities and BioCarbon Fund on where the key development needs are and how the legal clarity can best be advanced.

3. A team of specialists are conducting an options mapping for private sector participation in jurisdictional level land-based ER schemes, including nesting, globally and in Ethiopia. This review will form a basis for developing a shortlist of "business models" for private investments in ER schemes.

4. Regarding the MRV system, a US$ 1.2 million grant was prepared as part of the larger carbon operation. The joint package is currently being negotiated with the government and the signature should happen before the end of 2022.

- ***Expectations for FY23***

For the Bank-executed activities, it is expected that all analytical work will be completed by the end of FY23. However, it is likely that consultations and awareness-raising activities — particularly for the private sector activities — will continue even in the subsequent periods.

For the recipient-executed activities, it is expected that the grant financing the MRV data collection system for the livestock sector will be signed and become effective before January 2023.

- ***Risks and Opportunities for FY23***

Two main risks were identified at the outset:

1. (Private sector (including smallholder livestock owners) interest depends on a number of factors, and activities will mostly cover only sector-specific enabling conditions. Issues related to general macroeconomic development and sector-agnostic private sector issues are beyond the scope of the work but still have an impact on the outcomes reached.

2. The SFEs are major raw material suppliers for private industry and — based on international experience — their clients may be reluctant to share criticism of their performance with outside observers.

In addition, there has been a deterioration in the operating environment in Ethiopia due to increased security concerns. This may have an adverse impact on the possibilities to conduct field activities.

8.4   DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- *Overview of REDD+ Sector*

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been engaging in and championing the REDD+ process since 2008 and has developed a large-scale REDD+ program for results-based payments in the Mai-Ndombe Province to deliver both significant climate and development outcomes. An ERPA between the World Bank (WB) and the Government of DRC worth US$ 55 million was signed in September 2018, based on a net ER target of 29 MtCO2e over the period of 2018 to 2022. There are six effectiveness conditions that need to be met before the ERPA can be operationalized. As of July 2022, all of these conditions, as well as a legal covenant, have been met — in some cases, thanks to the set-up of the AccelREDD operation.

- *Objective of the AccelREDD Grant*

The original objective of the AccelREDD grant was to finance the Operationalization of the ERPA Support Project (OPERPA), which aims to improve the enabling environment for effective result-based payments under the Mai-Ndombe ER Program. The project will fill the existing resource and capacity gaps and help the ER Program move past ERPA signature to transition towards steady, sustainable operations. Core activities will include support through necessary technical assistance and equipment to key REDD+ stakeholders to address capacity gaps and strengthen skills for the targeted beneficiaries at national and provincial level, including communities. Most importantly, the achievement of the project's development objective will help increase the success of the implementation of the ER Program itself to generate emission reductions, distribute payments to communities in alignment with the BSP, and ultimately enhance the carbon stocks in the ER Program area.

- *Expectations for FY23*

The project's grant agreement will be signed with the Government in the coming weeks. Once the grant agreement is signed and effective, the OPERPA project will start its implementation.

- *Risks and Opportunities for FY23*

The main risks facing the project's objectives and sustainability include: i) political instability; ii) weak institutional coordination (between REDD+ bodies, Ministries, etc.); iii) donor coordination (dependence on follow-up support from CAFI's Governance project); and iv) technical risks (performance of the ER-Program necessary to enable payments).

8.5 GHANA

- **Overview of REDD+ Sector**

REDD+ in Ghana has progressed significantly since 2008 when the country joined the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Programme. Ghana's National REDD+ Strategy was officially launched in 2016, and its R-Package was accepted in the same year. With cocoa expansion as one of the main drivers of deforestation in the High Forest Zone, the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP) was also accepted into the WB Carbon Fund in 2017, and early implementation within target Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIA) began in 2018, in line with the National REDD+ Strategy. The GCFRP seeks to reduce carbon emissions from cocoa expansion into forests through the promotion of climate-smart cocoa production systems, community-based landscape governance mechanisms, monitoring, and cross-cutting actions with partners and stakeholders using best social and environmental practices.

The Government of Ghana (GOG) signed an ERPA on June 11, 2019, for an estimated 10,000,000 tons of ERs to be generated for US$ 50 million in performance-based payments from the FCPF. The ERPA contains three effectiveness conditions that needed to be addressed before payment of ER, including submission of a final BSP, submission of sub-project arrangements (Framework Agreements), and submission of evidence demonstrating the Program entity's ability to transfer title to the ERs without encumbrances.

- **Objective of the AccelREDD Grant**

The objectives of Filling Ghana's Final Gaps to Accelerate Implementation of the GCFRP operation are to: (i) address effectiveness conditions; (ii) leverage private-sector Cocoa Forests Initiative (CFI) commitments into real investment/engagement in HIA; and (iii) take steps to more concretely operationalize core program systems at HIA and the program-level.

- **Highlights from FY22**

Fulfilling the conditions of effectiveness:

- The GOG fulfilled all of the ERPA conditions of effectiveness, and it became effective as of April 2, 2020. Subsequently, Ghana received its first upfront advance payment in 2020 and implementation of ER Program is progressing steadily.

Complete analytical work to revise FREL and develop forest benchmarks for HIAs:

- The Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) has been established, and issues on accuracy assessment and change detection have been addressed. The design of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) has been completed and became fully operational and tested for the First Monitoring. There was data collection for the refinement of the FREL for the GCFRP following the work on initial assessment of data and sample points and interpretation of plots on Collect Earth.

Build capacity on safeguards for private sector and other consortia members and support operationalization to enable implementation:

- A REDD+ Registry and Safeguard Information System (SIS) has been developed, and training on the operationalization of the FGRM and SIS framework systems continues to ensure effective implementation. Additional training on Safeguards was held in Kumasi from March 8-10, 2022. Participants included: NRS staff; Safeguards Focal Points; HMB and SHEC representatives; and representatives from COCOBOD, EPA, World Cocoa Foundation, OLAM, Tropenbos Ghana, and Proforest.

- Targeted training for HIA leaders in the Asunafo-Asutifi and Ahafo Ano-Atwima HIAs was also conducted for 521 individuals on HIA operationalization, management and monitoring, including the FGRM, SIS, BSP and fund flow mechanism.

Support to the development of governance structures and plans for four HIAs in alignment with private sector and civil society partners:

- The development of governance structures and implementation of activities moved forward from the start of the program in two of the HIAs—Juaboso-Bia and Kakum—with full support of private-sector chocolate companies and NGOs, in partnership with the government. However, not all of the HIAs received such support. Therefore, AccelREDD has supported the development of HIAs through two main consultancies: (i) one focused on the development of governance bodies and systems; and (ii) the second focused on engagement with private sector cocoa companies and other stakeholders to build partnerships and engagement in HIAs on climate-smart cocoa production.

Finalize BSP and initiate structures to support implementation.

- A consultant was procured to support the Forestry Commission to develop a GCFRP M&E Framework, results-based monitoring system, and manual to ensure a robust Management Information System to organize the planning and implementation of relevant activities in an evidence-based manner. This work has been completed.

- The consultant has finalized the preparation, consultation, and validation of relevant RDA Committee documents. Other mandated institutions were notified to nominate representatives to the RDA Steering Committee and public calls were made for submissions from three additional forest sector based CSOs/NGOs to also serve on the Committee. At the HIA level, all relevant documents have been developed in support of the FFM.

- Performance indicators at the HIA level and an options paper have been prepared, and work on developing the HIA landscape reference levels and emission reduction estimations completed.

- *Expectations for FY23*

In FY23, Ghana is expected to have completed or advanced the implementation of the following:

- Operationalization of the BSP and ERPA payment from the First Monitoring Period.

- Completion of the second ER Monitoring Report and generation of a Second Monitoring Report on the validation and ERPA payment.

- Completed work on the development of the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA governance system and expanded HIA governance development and capacity training in the Sefwi-Wiawso-Anhwiaso- Bibiani HIA and other HIAs.

- *Risks and Opportunities for FY23*

The following are the major risks and challenges of great concern:

- Considering that implementation of various outstanding activities will involve consultation and engagement with various stakeholders across different levels (national and sub-national), the processes can sometimes be under pressure due to time constraints. Attempts and efforts to engage and consult with appropriate stakeholders on the process could sometimes be very time-consuming.

8.6   MADAGASCAR (ROUND 1 - BETF)

- *Overview of REDD+ Sector*

The ER Program in Madagascar is a REDD+ program pioneering jurisdictional results-based payments. It was designed by the Government of Madagascar (GOM) and aims to contribute to long-term sustainable management of forests by reducing deforestation and improving the well-being of rural communities. The ER Program area covers a total of 6,904,417 hectares (more than 10 percent of the Malagasy territory), including 0.9 million hectares of primary forests (14 percent of the total ER Program area), 1.1 million hectares of disturbed forests (16 percent of the total ER Program area), and approximately 40,000 hectares of young secondary forests. It aims to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the ER Program area by 16 percent on average against the reference level in the first two and half years of Program implementation and by 39 percent in the following three years. The Emission Reduction Potential of the ER Program is based on the intervention strategy and funding level presented in the financing plan. The ERs to address reversal (28 percent) and uncertainty (8 percent) is estimated at 13,718,472 tCO_2eq, from which 13 million tCO_2eq are available to the Carbon Fund.

The country has benefitted from REDD+ readiness funds, used effectively to build institutional and technical capacity, to develop reference levels and monitoring systems, and to operationalize consultative platforms. The country has developed the Emission Reductions Program Document (ERPD) and has been working to improve efficiency and effectiveness in delivery of the ERPD.

The ERPA for the ER Program was signed on February 4, 2021. While this significant milestone was the culmination of a long path to preparation, there remains significant work to ensure that the Program is operational and can function efficiently and effectively.

- *Objective of the AccelREDD Grant*

The objective of the BETF in Madagascar is to improve several key aspects of support that will assist in the preparation of an appropriate benefit-sharing mechanism, signing of the ERPA, and rapid implementation on the ground.

- *Highlights from FY22*

AccelREDD has been helpful in adding depth and dimension, as well as exploring innovation in the REDD+ program in Madagascar. Some of the opportunities have not played out as expected, but some have been impactful in moving forward with the Program and laying the groundwork for opportunities that the country, and World Bank, still seek to develop.

Activities in Madagascar under the Round 1 BETF assisted in providing several key elements in the preparation of the ER Program. The support for mapping launched at broadscale assisted in facilitating the identification of specific areas and land use types that could be targeted for reforestation and restoration in the ER Program area. These activities enabled other investments, such as the WB/AfD/GEF financed PADAP project – of which four out of the five landscapes are in the ER Program Area – to move more quickly and decisively to specific reforestation activities. The GOM also used the mapping as a foundation in several of the regions. The outputs were so well received that the GOM requested additional analyses, particularly in areas where PADAP or other partners were not available. This also correlates with the fact that the initial target, mapping the National Forest Domain areas (DFN) in the ER Program area, was not enough. Through the support of the grant the supposition that DFN were widely available and the most relevant land tenure types was, unfortunately, not as robust as expected (by all parties), and thus, a more detailed analysis of land types and availabilities is ongoing to help specify additional land types that can be adequate for agroforestry, restoration, and productive forestry. It had been hoped that the analysis would leverage up to EUR 20 million from the NAMA Facility Trust Fund for investments in the ER Program area, but the proposal was ultimately not approved. The analysis nevertheless is being used to further proposals for different investment opportunities by the World Bank but also other development partners and the GOM.

The AccelREDD funds helped outline how the nesting will work concretely in the benefit sharing process, and it helped initiate an analysis of carbon revenue electronic payments. The COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions critically slowed down work on the establishment of the electronic payments, but substantial groundwork has been conducted and dialogue continues with EFI on if/how this can be relaunched. The ER Program was activated in 2022 and advance payment is expected in the coming months.

Implementation challenges related to the closing of some of the technical opportunities due to COVID-19 or decisions beyond the control of WB or GOM (such as NAMA facility to not fund the proposal) reduced the potential impact of grant activities. Despite this, the activities were largely executed as planned and allowed the program to explore alternative innovative opportunities. Even with the setbacks, the knowledge base of the ER Program is richer, and the diagnostics provide a key understanding of operationalizing sustainable forest management.

8.7   MADAGASCAR (ROUND 2 - RETF)

- *Objective of the AccelREDD Grant*

The objective of the RETF in Madagascar is to provide resources to the government to execute strategic activities that are not adequately addressed through other sources. In addition, it will accelerate the implementation of activities in the area covered by the ERPA to encourage rapid implementation on the ground and delivery of ERs.

While these objectives remain, the client has suggested a slight readjustment in light of the signing of the ERPA, meeting certain funding gaps, and new details about other activities. More specifically, there is a request to support operational costs for demonstrating and launching the ER Program BSP. During negotiations with the participants of the FCPF, there was an emphasis on not using an advance to fund a disproportionate percentage of operating costs but rather to deliver benefits. Thus, approximately only 10 to 15 percent of the advance negotiated (US$ 200,000 of US$ 2 million) could be utilized, including financial management, which has left some shortfalls in terms of operationalizing the BSP and ensuring adequate functioning costs until subsequent payment periods.

- *Highlights from FY22*

With regards to the RETF (Phase 2), the support from AccelREDD is still highly relevant. Financing gaps exist, especially in support of the REDD+ implementing framework and institutions, and with the first payments not yet available these needs have not yet been met. The exclusion of operating costs from the advance payment, for example, makes the use of AccelREDD critical to being able to operationalize the ER Program successfully. However, processing the grant as part of a Bank operation has been more challenging than anticipated, causing a delay. The situation is expected to be resolved in FY23 so that the grant can be effective as soon as possible.

- *Expectations for FY23*

The GOM and WB will continue to seek to process the grant as part of another Bank Investment operation in order to directly support the implementation of the ER Program. It is expected that a solution will be found in FY23, and the grant agreement can be negotiated with the Government as part of a broader investment operation.

- *Risks and Opportunities for FY23*

The AccelREDD grant was proposed as an opportunity for negotiating the advance payment with the FCPF CF participants to reduce the need for operating costs and was instrumental in securing it. The grant has now become a crucial part for the first years of the ER Program. Further delay on the AccelREDD grant implementation due to WB procedures could impair the ER Program.

8.8   REPUBLIC OF CONGO (ROUND 1 - BETF)

- *Overview of REDD+ Sector*

Since reporting in FY20, two major milestones have been achieved, including the approval of the ER Program in Sangha and Likouala (ERP-SL) by the WB and the signature of the two ERPAs on April 22, 2021 (FY21). As a result, the Republic of Congo (RoC) Ministry of Forest Economy nominated a transition team to start completing the six effectiveness conditions of the program and drafting the Emission Reduction Monitoring Report (ERMR) for the first Monitoring Period (January 1, 2020, to April 22, 2021). Given additional delays in the process due to client capacity constraints and the complexity of the task at hand, the deadlines for this were extended to October 5, 2022, for achieving effectiveness and October 31, 2022, for submitting the ERMR to the FCPF Carbon Fund's Facility Management Team (FMT).

There has been substantial progress on all of these activities, most notably: (i) the acceptance of the BSP as a final version for the sake of effectiveness by the Carbon Fund Participants (CFPs) and the FCPF Carbon Fund's FMT; (ii) the finalization of the Project Implementation Manual; and (iii) the recruitment of a Project Management Unit, supported through the fiduciary cell of another WB-financed project. AccelREDD support was crucial for this progress, most notably by funding the Bank's hands-on support for completing complex effectiveness conditions like finalizing the BSP and by financing background studies to inform the ERMR. The first performance payments are expected to be possible in late FY23.

- *Objective of the AccelREDD Grant*

The objective of the Round 1 funding of the BETF "Technical Assistance for finalizing the building blocks of the Emissions Reduction Program in Sangha and Likouala" in RoC is to finalize key building blocks underpinning the ER Program, which will require additional technical work and stakeholder consultation around the following areas: (i) BSP; (ii) reference emission levels (REL); (iii) MRV system; and (iv) strengthening ERPD investments.

- *Highlights from FY22*

With support from AccelREDD, the BSP was finalized in FY22, leading to its conditional approval in FY23 (see above). A consultant supported the ERP-SL transition team in drafting the document and in facilitating discussions with various stakeholders.

Key work for improving the REL and performance accounting frameworks was completed with AccelREDD funding. FRMi finalized its collection of data for the forest sector reference level emissions. In October 2021, the Bank and the transition team organized a capacity building workshop in Brazzaville to present and consult on these results.

Finalizing the MRV system will require analytical work that is currently being developed with Round 2 funding from AccelREDD.

- *Expectations for FY23*

The aim is to declare the ERP-SL effective, complete the first ERMR, and hopefully make the first performance payment. The REL and the MRV system are expected to be completed so that the analytics financed by the two rounds of AccelREDD funding for RoC can be integrated in Annex 4 of the ERMR.

- *Risks and Opportunities for FY23*

The funding for operating the ERP-SL (i.e., for maintaining the Program Management Unit and its activities) are currently covered by the REDD+ sub-component of the Integrated Public Sector Reform Project, Projet des Réformes Intégrées du Secteur Public (PRISP; P160801). However, it is expected that this funding will only be available until the second quarter of FY23. If no performance-based payments can be made by then, there will likely be a funding gap to assure the continued operation of the Program. The issue has been highlighted by the Bank team in its policy dialogue with the Government.

8.9   REPUBLIC OF CONGO (ROUND 2 - RETF)

- *Objective of the AccelREDD Ggrant*

 Round 2 Funding of the AccelREDD grant for Congo seeks to accelerate ERP-SL effectiveness, improve REL and MRV for enhanced performance accounting frameworks, ensure safeguards compliance, and support project management.

- *Highlights from FY22*

To advance effectiveness, the Bank provided hands-on support (including through a dedicated consultant) to assist the Government in drafting the Program Implementation Manual. In addition, AccelREDD funding allowed contracting an ongoing study to identify and assess potential gaps in key beneficiaries' implementation of environmental and social safeguards. The assessment is also reviewing compliance on Reduced Impact Logging in select forest concessions.

To improve the REL and MRV, a team from the University of Maryland was recruited to estimate the activity data for the historical reference period 2005-2014, the interim period 2015-2019, and the first monitoring period 2020 to enable the revision of the REL and the estimation of GHG emissions and removals, as well as emission reductions and their uncertainties for the first monitoring period. Also, a consultant was recruited to support the Bank through further work on estimating uncertainty of emissions and emission reductions. Both assignments have been completed and will inform the ERMR.

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