



## **Intersessional Meeting of the Global Climate Action Programs (GCAP) Sub-Committee**

**Washington D.C. (Hybrid)**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2022**

**NATURE, PEOPLE AND CLIMATE (NPC) INVESTMENT PROGRAM  
INDEPENDENT EXPERT GROUP REPORT AND ASSESSMENT OF EXPRESSIONS  
OF INTEREST**



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GCAP/SC.IS.2/03

October 4, 2022

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**PROPOSED DECISION**

**[ To be added ]**



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# **Final Report of the Independent Expert Group**

**For the**

**Nature, People and Climate Investment Program  
Climate Investment Funds**

**To the Global Climate Action Programs (GCAP) Sub-committee  
of the SCF Trust Fund Committee**

29 September 2022

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## **Acknowledgements**

The Independent Expert Group (IEG) of the Nature, People and Climate (NPC) Investment Program wishes to acknowledge the support of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) Administrative Unit (AU) and technical inputs provided by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs). The background and insights provided by all enhanced and contributed much to our discussions as an IEG.

The IEG also wishes to thank the CIF Administrative Unit and Governance team for their support in assisting with the organization of meetings and preparation and workload development for the demanding process of performing assessments of the large number of Expressions of Interests (EoI) submitted under the 2022 NPC Investment Program (or “NPC Program”) call for submissions.

Finally, the IEG would like to recognize the efforts of all the countries that submitted their ideas for cooperation with the CIF NPC Program aligned with their national needs and priorities, especially given that concepts and approaches for nature-based solutions (NbS) to climate and development challenges are still evolving.

## List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
CCVs	Climate Change Ventures (CIF Climate Ventures)
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
CIF AU	Climate Investment Funds Administrative Unit
CTF	Clean Technology Fund
DGM	Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
DPSP	Dedicated Private Sector Program
DPSW	Dedicated Private Sector Window, CIF Nature Solutions Program
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EoI	Expression of Interest
FIP	Forest Investment Program
GCAP	Global Climate Action Programs Sub-committee of SCF Trust Fund Committee
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gasses
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEG	Independent Expert Group
IFC	International Finance Corporation
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
NPC	Nature, People and Climate Program
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PPP	Public Private Partnership
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REI	Renewable Energy Integration Program
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SCF	Strategic Climate Fund
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SREP	Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries
SPCR	Strategic Program for Climate Resilience
PFM	Participatory Forest Management
PPCR	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience
UN	United Nations
WB	World Bank

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## Summary Recommendations

The Independent Expert Group (IEG) for the CIF Nature, People and Climate (NPC) Investment Program was tasked by the CIF Administrative Unit (AU) to assess Expressions of Interest (Eols) from 48 countries and regions seeking support under the NPC Investment Program. Following their Terms of Reference (see *Appendix 3*), the IEG reviewed all submissions and scored them against criteria provided by the CIF. These criteria were set out in the [Country Selection Process Document](#), to which a link was provided in the announcement of a call for Eols by CIF (see *Appendices 1 and 2*), and were reflected in the Eol template (see *Appendix 4*).

A ranked list of the 48 Eols was produced, as requested in the IEG's ToR (see Table 11 below). In reviewing the outcomes of the assessment process that resulted in the ranking, the IEG members felt that all Eols ranked from 1 to 21 should be recommended to the Global Climate Action Programs (GCAP) Sub-committee of the SCF Trust Fund Committee for funding consideration. The IEG agreed that these 21 Eols all satisfied the basic NPC program objectives while offering a range of promising options for CIF support, including a diversity of nature-based solutions and representation across country circumstances and regions of the world.

Thus, 21 of the 48 Eols are recommended for further consideration by GCAP, while the remaining 27 are not recommended as they are deemed to have an insufficient fit with the selection criteria of the NPC Investment Program. Summary assessments of the 21 Eols recommended for funding consideration are provided in Section 4 below. Summary assessments of the 27 Eols not recommended for funding consideration are included as *Appendix 6*.

The IEG is fully satisfied that a fair process was followed in assessing the 48 Eols, and the approach and methodology undertaken by the IEG is set out in full in Section 3 of this report. The ranked regional breakdown of the 21 recommended Eols is as follows:

Sub-Saharan Africa	Latin America & Caribbean	North Africa & Europe	Asia & Pacific	Regional
Kenya	Brazil	Egypt	Fiji	Africa Regional 2 ( <b>Zambia</b> , Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania)
Zambia	Dominican Republic	Turkey	Nepal	
Ethiopia	Argentina		India	
Rwanda	Jamaica			
Namibia				
Mozambique				Africa Regional 1 ( <b>Niger</b> , Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Senegal)
Ghana				
Madagascar				
Burkina Faso				
Niger				



# 1. Background

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The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) were established in 2008 to provide scaled-up climate finance to developing countries in support of low-emission and climate-resilient development, as well as to accelerate climate action. To date, over USD 10.3 billion from 15 countries through the CIF have been channeled for fast-tracked mitigation and adaptation interventions at scale in 72 recipient countries. CIF support is implemented exclusively through Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) partners<sup>1</sup>, which enables complementary resources to be leveraged. In addition, the CIF has leveraged additional finance from governments and the private sector in addition to the MDBs, channeling a further USD 61 billion in co-financing into climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries on top of the USD 5.5 billion of CIF resources already disbursed – a leveraging ratio of over 1:8.

The CIF business model allows for a country-led programmatic and participatory approach, enabling the design and implementation of strategically linked investments, aligned with national needs and priorities and building on existing efforts and strategies. The delivery of financing through MDBs working together in a coordinated manner to support the implementation of coherent large-scale investment packages, enables important financial leverage responding to countries' priorities and objectives. These investment packages help to create and deepen markets, stimulate private investments, and encourage policy reform, through scaled-up, predictable, and flexible envelopes of concessional resources. Investment programs consider system transformation and social inclusion at the outset, and a participatory and multi-stakeholder approach facilitates effective engagement with civil society and the private sector.

To maximize the comparative advantages of CIF's proven business model in support of accelerated climate action in priority areas, the CIF and partner MDBs have developed four new strategic programs in areas seeking to drive the "rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructures, and industrial systems" called for by the international scientific community and needed to fulfil the goals of the Paris Agreement. The new CIF strategic programs are the following: Renewable Energy Integration, Accelerating Coal Transition (ACT); Smart Cities; Industry Decarbonization; and Nature, People, and Climate (NPC).

## Nature, People and Climate Investment Program

On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, the CIF officially launched the NPC Investment Program, as one of these new strategic programs. The NPC Program seeks to tackle in an integrated manner the multiple drivers and impacts of human activities and climate change on land resources, ecosystem services and vulnerable people. By fostering strategic partnerships and deploying scaled-up and flexible concessional capital, the program aims to support multi-sectoral solutions, including the creation of enabling environments and direct investments for improved use of land and natural resources leading to reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increased resilience, and enhanced capacity

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<sup>1</sup> African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Finance Corporation (IFC), and World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association).

for human adaptation to climate change. The program is premised on a landscape approach<sup>2</sup> that will enable CIF and its implementing partners to further contribute to integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts and progress toward sustainable rural development.

The NPC Program seeks to deploy concessional resources at scale to address climate change and improve livelihoods through the sustainable use of land and other natural resources. It will do so in key areas of relevance for achieving land and ecosystem transitions, namely for agriculture and food, forests, and other ecosystems like coastal environments.

As per the *Nature, People and Climate Investments Program Design Document* (August 2022), the NPC Program will deploy CIF's concessional resources to achieve the following:

- Establish a shared vision for sustainably using and managing land resources through a programmatic multi-stakeholder process, fostering partnerships across government levels, sector agencies, the private sector, local communities, and Indigenous Peoples.
- Strengthen enabling environments to encourage investments in nature-based solutions (NbS) and enable the adoption of sustainable practices. This will involve scaling-up support to national and sub-national governments in identifying specific socio-economic development and climate and land-related issues to address and in promoting measures to boost sustainable livelihoods, build resilience at the local level, and conserve, restore, and enhance natural resources.
- Tackle risks and financing barriers and create incentives for sustainable use of lands and natural resources, including those from coastal systems, by providing risk coverage and catalytic funding.
- Foster innovation by providing funding support to pilot innovative projects and financial models and support the uptake of new technologies, including the use of data-driven spatial planning tools and agricultural innovations like biotechnology.
- Support Indigenous Peoples and local communities to actively develop and implement projects catering to their unique needs through dedicated resources.

Through the NPC Program, CIF will seek to enhance the ability of CIF's partner MDBs to innovate how concessional finance is delivered on the ground to cater to the needs of developing countries in their efforts to conserve and restore land productivity and ecosystem services. CIF will support MDBs in the design and implementation of innovative financing strategies aimed at, for example, accelerating recipient countries' ability to deliver on their climate and sustainable development targets, tackling barriers to private investments, or mobilizing capital toward areas that have not yet been able to attract commercial capital at all or at scale.

A systems-wide approach offers a more viable option compared to a sector-by-sector approach, but it may involve longer preparation and implementation periods and complicated processes, requiring the need for concessional finance to identify, pilot test, and demonstrate the approach. Investments targeted at strengthening the climate resilience of rural communities, land resources, and ecosystems can have long-term or uncertain returns and call for access to local currency and

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<sup>2</sup> A landscape approach deals with large-scale processes in an integrated and multidisciplinary manner, combining natural resource management with environmental and livelihood considerations. The landscape approach also factors in human activities and their institutions, viewing them as an integral part of the system rather than as external agents. (FAO 2012)

adaptive management solutions. Concessional capital can help improve the risk-return profile of such investments or hedge currency risk, thereby enabling enhanced access to finance in local currency.

Engagement, coordination, and collaboration of stakeholders from different administrative levels and sectors are critical to any sustainable initiatives. The process for prioritizing investments that target the root causes of climate vulnerability and high GHG emission activities will require a participatory approach involving various stakeholders from the government, the private sector, development partners, non-government actors, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The [NPC Design Document](#) includes an annex with *Investment Criteria under the CIF Nature, People and Climate Investment Program*, which sets out further detail on the investment criteria for the program. It should be noted that the NPC Investment Program is also sometimes (for example, in the Design Document) referred to in shorthand as “CIF Nature Solutions”. This terminology was not used in the IEG terms of reference or the briefing to the IEG, so this report uses the term “NPC Program” and “NPC” as a shorter way of referring to the CIF Nature, People and Climate Investment Program.

## **Governance of the NPC Program**

The two trust funds that comprise CIF, the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF), are each governed by a Trust Fund Committee that oversees and decides on strategic direction, operations, and other activities, as well as the policies that drive those activities. The SCF Trust Fund Committee<sup>3</sup> is thus the decision-making body that oversees the operations and activities of SCF.

Within the SCF, Technical Committees are designated to govern its targeted programs: Forest Investment Program (FIP), Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP); and the Global Climate Action Programs Sub-committee (GCAP Sub-committee), which oversees the operations and activities of the four new strategic programs: Renewable Energy Integration, Smart Cities, Industry Decarbonization, and Nature, People, and Climate. The GCAP Sub-committee met for the first time in October 2021.

The SCF aims to provide financing to pilot new development approaches or scaled-up activities aimed at a specific climate change challenge or sectoral response. The SCF makes available, through the MDBs, a range of financing, credit enhancement and risk management tools such as loans, credits, guarantees, grants and other support, targeted to the needs of developing countries. This strategic response is implemented by the MDBs and focuses on accelerating and scaling up transformational low carbon and climate resilient investments, while at the same time promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction. The MDBs utilize their own policies and procedures in developing and managing activities financed under the SCF.

The objectives of the SCF are to<sup>4</sup>:

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<sup>3</sup> For current members of the SCF Trust Fund Committee, see [https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif\\_enc/about/directory/strategic-climate-fund](https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif_enc/about/directory/strategic-climate-fund)

<sup>4</sup> Governance Framework for the Strategic Climate Fund, Adopted November 2008 and amended December 2011

- a. promote international cooperation on climate change and support progress toward the future of the climate change regime;
- b. provide experience and lessons in responding to the challenge of climate change through learning-by-doing;
- c. promote and channel new and additional financing for addressing climate change through targeted programs to be established as part of the SCF or through separate funds like the CTF or other funds addressing climate change, such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility;
- d. utilize the skills and capabilities of the MDBs to raise and deliver concessional climate financing at a significant scale to unleash the potential of the public and private sectors to achieve meaningful reductions of carbon emissions and greater climate resilience;
- e. provide incentives for scaled-up action and transformational action (both mitigation and adaptation) and for solutions to the climate change challenge and poverty reduction in developing countries, consistent with poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies that are robust to climate change;
- f. provide incentives to maintain, restore and enhance carbon-rich natural ecosystems to prevent carbon sinks from becoming sources of increased emissions, and to enhance all the services they provide, including climate resilience or adaptive capacity, and thereby support sustainable development;
- g. complement other multilateral financial mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Adaptation Fund, and bilateral sources of financing, and seek co-financing where appropriate; and
- h. maximize co-benefits of sustainable development, particularly in relation to the conservation of biodiversity, natural resources ecosystem services and ecological processes.

Equal numbers of representatives from donor and recipient countries serve on the decision-making CIF Trust Fund Committees and Sub-committees, including the GCAP Sub-committee. Official Observers from stakeholder groups also have an important voice, advocating on behalf of their constituents and driving increased transparency and the efficient use of CIF's resources. The MDB Committees, IBRD as Trustee, and the CIF AU support the work of the governing bodies by providing strategic policy guidance and recommendations; leading CIF knowledge, learning, and communications; reporting on operational, financial, and administrative matters; facilitating meetings; and through other services.

## **NPC Call for Proposals**

In late May 2022, the CIF put out a call to invite interested and eligible recipient country governments to submit their Expressions of Interest (EoI) to participate in the CIF NPC Program (deadline 12th August 2022). *Appendix 1* contains the text of the online call for proposals that was publicized on the CIF website. *Appendix 2* has the text of an email sent out to governments and MDBs on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022<sup>5</sup>, inviting them to submit EoIs. A [CIF press release](#) from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 at the UN's Stockholm 50+ meeting marked the official launch of the NPC Program, and the deadline for submissions was subsequently extended to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

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<sup>5</sup> At the time the deadline was 1st August, but it was later extended to 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

In addition to the general information about the NPC Program and how to submit an EoI, the text of the EoI announcement indicated that “New donor commitments to the NPC will allow potential allocation per investment plan of up to approximately USD 50 million. Fundraising for the program will continue subsequent to selection of an initial cohort of countries for inclusion in the NPC Program. Additional countries will be brought into the program as funding becomes available.” Both the email and the online call included links to the [NPC Design Document](#) and the [Country Selection Process Document](#) for more information about the program.

The EoI template stated that all countries that meet the following criteria could submit an EoI:

1. Country is eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) at the time of the call(s) for EoI.
2. Country must have an active lending program with at least one of CIF’s partner MDBs.
3. The proposed line of actions contribute to one or more of the following Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change:
  - Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring natural ecosystems or enhancing forest, coastal, or soil carbon stocks, while supporting rural livelihoods and conserving biodiversity;
  - Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions, and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, while supporting rural livelihoods;
  - Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, and developing livelihood options for local communities;
  - Addressing the climate vulnerability of coastal systems and communities.

In recognition of the presence of multi-national drivers and pressures of climate change, and the fact that addressing systemic barriers to low-emission and/or climate-resilient development pathways can require multi-country partnerships and actions, a country could also express interest on behalf of a group of ODA-eligible neighbor countries in their region to receive CIF concessional resources through a regional intervention.

As specified in the *Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds’ New Strategic Programs*,<sup>6</sup> approved by the CIF governing body, an Independent Expert Group (IEG) was to be established to review and rank EoIs submitted by countries eligible and interested in participating in the new CIF program. The document provided details and procedures on how independent expert groups will be identified and selected to review EoIs for each program and make recommendations to the relevant SCF governing body on the countries to invite to participate in the new CIF programs; and the criteria and selection process by which countries that have submitted an EoI will be assessed.

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<sup>6</sup> Following from and complementing document CTF-SCF/TFC.22/4 Operational Modalities for the Climate Investment Funds’ New Strategic Programs submitted to the joint meeting of the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) Trust Fund Committees for approval in April 2020 by the CIF AU and the CIF partner MDBs.

## Independent Expert Group

The mandate of the IEG for the CIF NPC Program, as well as the process for appointing the group, was set out in the [Country Selection Process Document](#). The IEG is described in the terms of reference as “an inter-disciplinary team of six experts, acting in their personal capacities, and chosen based on their strategic and operational expertise and experience in the areas relevant to CIF NPC Program”.

The role of the IEG is to perform the following tasks in consultation with the CIF AU and the MDBs:

- a) Evaluate country Eols submitted to the CIF AU against the assessment criteria in Table 1 below and questions posed in the NPC Eol template, which are based on Sections 6 and 7 of the [Country Selection Process Document](#); and
- b) Present to the relevant CIF governing body, i.e., the GCAP Sub-committee of the SCF Trust Fund Committee, a ranked list of countries for the CIF NPC Program and produce a report on the methodology and analysis conducted to reach that ranked list.

The group would select two co-chairs: one a national from an CIF eligible recipient country and the other a national from a CIF contributing country.

The CIF AU would supervise the IEG activities, with the CIF partner MDBs providing strategic and technical guidance. The terms of reference indicated that “to assess each country’s Eol submission for this new program, the IEG will review the Eols and official documents annexes/referenced in the Eol, assess the submission according to the criteria summarized in Tables 1 and 5 [of the [Country Selection Process Document](#)], and weigh them according to the weights indicated in Table 1. As specified in the expert group Terms of Reference (see *Appendix 3* to this report), the expert group may undertake additional research and/or consultations to inform their assessment.”

The IEG was duly selected according to the agreed process, and is composed as follows:

**Table 1: Members of Independent Expert Group**

Name (in alphabetical order of first name)	Nationality
Berenice Hernández Toro	Mexico
Caroline Petersen	South Africa
David McCauley	United States
Olagoke Oladapo	Nigeria
Peter King	Australia
Sylvia Marín von Köller	Costa Rica/Germany

The IEG at its first meeting, designated David McCauley (United States) and Caroline Petersen (South Africa) as its co-chairs. The co-chairs were assisted on group coordination and other matters by Sylvia Marín von Köller.

The IEG started work with an onboarding session with the CIF Administrative Unit and the Governance team on 10 August 2022. The members of the IEG were briefed on the CIF and the NPC Program, their roles and responsibilities, key dates and deliverables, and documentation and support available from the CIF AU. This session provided an opportunity for IEG members to ask questions about the objectives of the new program, and the way in which it will enable the Program's funds to be invested in integrated and transformative projects that bring about multiple benefits, as shown in the diagram below.

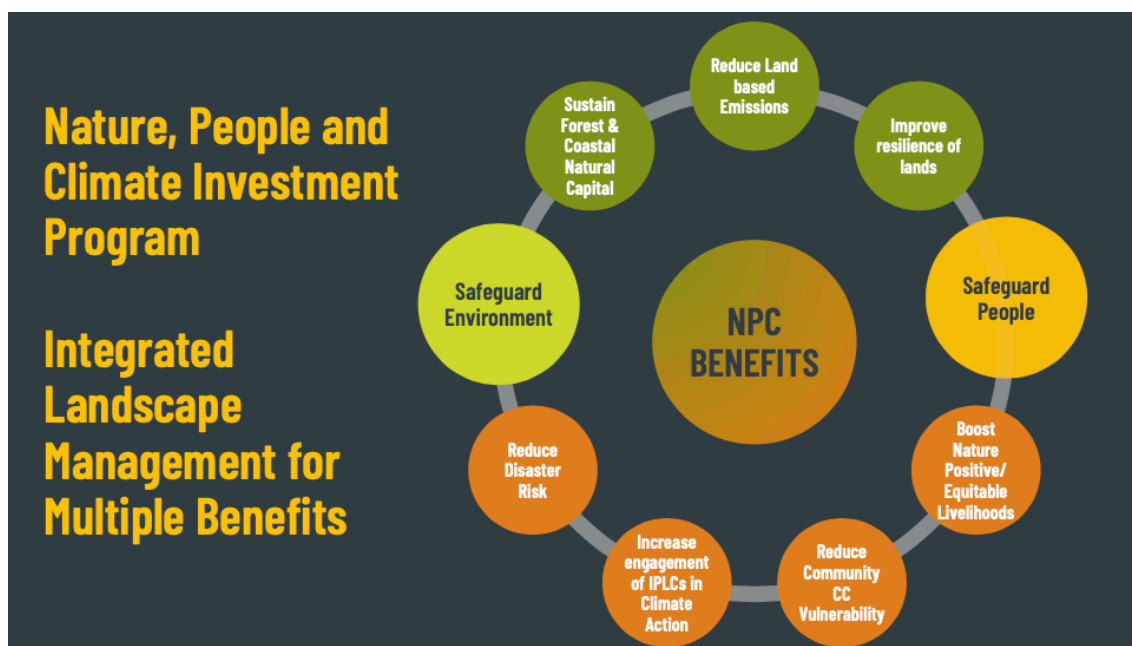


Figure 1: Multiple benefits from the NPC Investment program

The briefing highlighted the importance of a landscape approach, as a mechanism to integrate mitigation and adaptation measures in areas of high human vulnerability to climate change impacts, with important natural or semi-natural ecosystems providing services that enhance resilience of communities and economic sectors to climate hazards like drought, flood, landslides and coastal erosion, in many cases also acting as effective carbon sinks.

The illustration below shows visually the integrated and interconnected nature of landscapes, using the example of a "catchment to coast" or "ridge to reef" approach, which also demonstrates a continuum from natural ecosystems, through semi-natural agroforestry systems, and transformed agri-ecosystems, to highly transformed urban settings.<sup>7</sup> In each case, a different approach is required to harnessing the power of nature-based solutions (NbS), ranging from protecting an intact tropical rainforest for its multiple socio-economic, biodiversity and climate risk management benefits, to utilizing a hybrid "grey-green" infrastructure approach to addressing coastal flooding intensified by climate change.

<sup>7</sup> Noting that the NPC Program is not designed to work directly in urban settings.



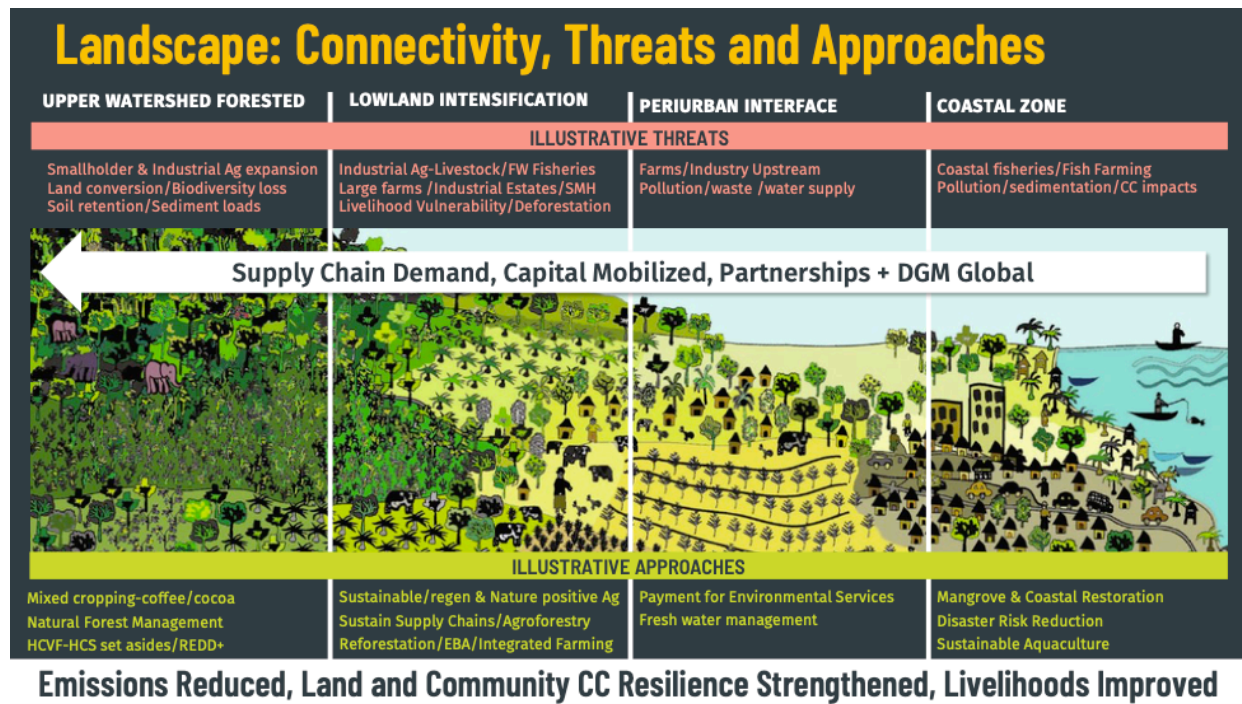


Figure 2: The landscape approach in the NPC Investment Program

The briefing also highlighted a range of possible interventions considered by the NPC Program in terms of enabling activities, nature-based mitigation activities, and nature-based resilience strengthening activities that could be supported by CIF's NPC Program. The illustration below provides examples of activities countries could propose in their EoIs.

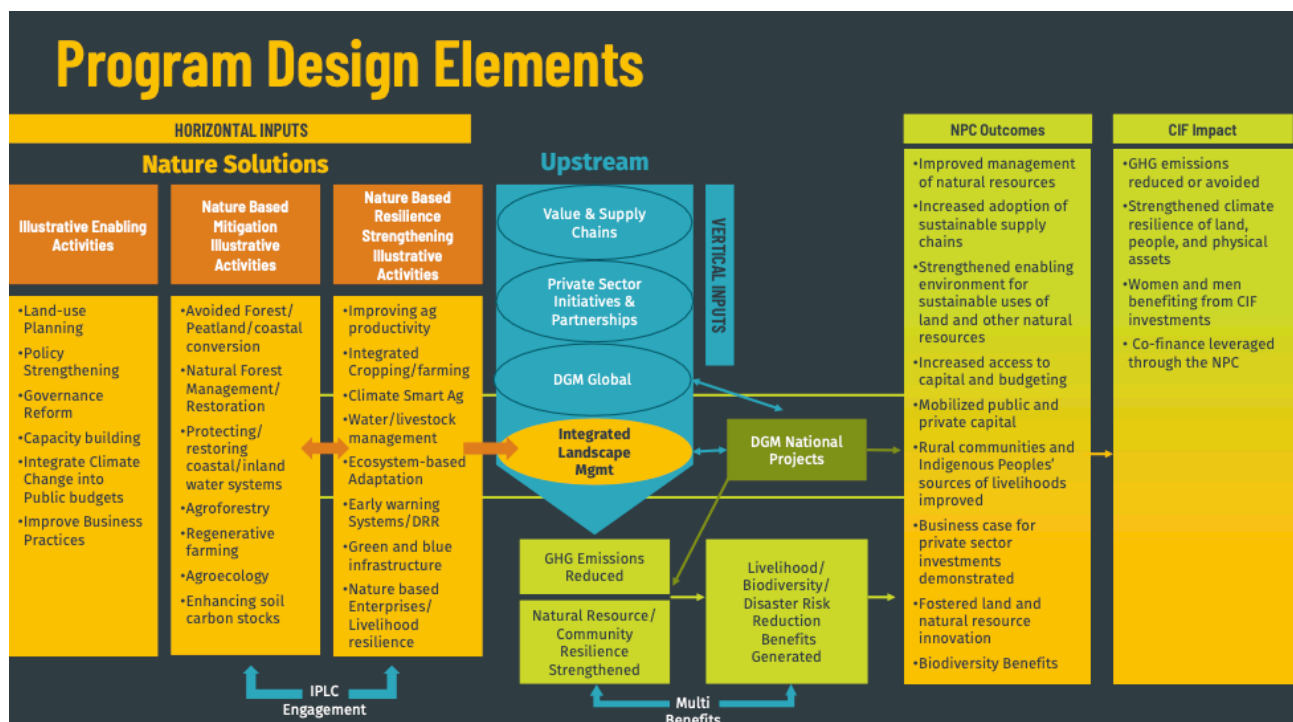


Figure 3: Potential design elements for NPC Investment Program



## 2. Expressions of Interest

Overall, 48 Eols from eligible countries were received by the CIF AU by the August 12<sup>th</sup> deadline and made available to the IEG for review. Eols submitted in response to the call needed to include both a completed Eol Template, and an Eol Cover Page signed by the relevant government ministry. The Eol template is attached as *Appendix 4* to this report.

In terms of contact details, the following instructions were given:

- The Eol should be accompanied by a cover page signed by either the submitting country's Ministry of Finance (Minister, Deputy Minister, or equivalent) or the designated line ministry (Minister or Deputy Minister or equivalent), with a copy to the Ministry of Finance.
- The Eol should also include the contact details of MDB representatives consulted in preparing the EOI, if any.

Table 2 shows the full set of Eols that were received, deemed eligible by the CIF AU, and shared with the IEG for review.

**Table 2: Expressions of Interest received (alphabetical order)**

Argentina	Madagascar
Bangladesh	Malawi
Belize	Mali
Bolivia	Mozambique
Brazil	Namibia
Burkina Faso	Nepal
Cameroon	Niger
Central African Republic	Nigeria
Chad	Regional Africa 1 <sup>8</sup>
Democratic Republic of Congo	Regional Africa 2 <sup>9</sup>
Dominica	Regional Africa 3 <sup>10</sup>
Dominican Republic	Republic of Congo
Egypt	Rwanda
Eswatini	Sao Tome and Principe
Ethiopia	Senegal
Fiji	Somalia
Gambia	South Sudan
Ghana	Sri Lanka
Guatemala	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Honduras	Tonga
India	Tunisia
Jamaica	Türkiye
Jordan	Uganda
Kenya	Zambia

<sup>8</sup> Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, and Chad

<sup>9</sup> Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia

<sup>10</sup> Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone

## Investment program types

The Eol template (Question 4) asked submitting countries to indicate for which type of CIF funding they would like to be considered. Three options were provided on the form:

- Investment Plan
- Dedicated Private Sector Program (DPSP)/CIF Climate Ventures
- Regional Investment Plan

An explanatory note was included for the Dedicated Private Sector Program / CIF Climate Ventures option, that defined DPSP as “dedicated funding windows that provide risk-appropriate capital to finance high-impact, large-scale private sector projects.” The [NPC Design Document](#) outlines the CIF’s programmatic approach in the allocation of resources to programs and projects, which generally has four main modalities, all of which could be developed for the NPC over time:

- Government-led investment plan
- Dedicated private sector windows
- Dedicated Climate Ventures windows for innovation
- Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (DGM).

The 48 Eols included three submissions which selected “Regional Investment Plan”, and 45 national submissions. A total of 11 national submissions ticked the box for the option “DPSP/CIF Climate Ventures”, with 9 of these also selecting “Investment Plan”. The other 34 national submissions selected only “Investment Plan”. Table 3 illustrates the spread of the 14 Eols which ticked boxes other than “Investment Plan”.

**Table 3: Funding types for Expressions of Interest**

Countries	DPSP*/CCVs**	Investment Plan***	Regional Investment Plan
<b>Regional Africa 1: Great Green Wall (Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal)</b>			X
<b>Regional Africa 2: Zambezi Basin (Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Tanzania)</b>			X
<b>Regional Africa 3: Coastal West Africa (Benin, Ghana, Cote d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone)</b>			X
Brazil	X	X	
Dominican Republic	X	X	
Ghana	X	X	
India	X	X	
Mali	X	X	
South Sudan	X	X	
Türkiye	X	X	
Egypt	X	X	

Countries	DPSP*/CCVs**	Investment Plan***	Regional Investment Plan
Senegal	X	X	
Bolivia	X		
Nigeria	X		

\*DPSP: Dedicated Private Sector Program Window

\*\*CCVs: Dedicated Climate Ventures Window

\*\*\*Investment Plan: Government-led investment plan<sup>11</sup>

Figure 4 shows the spread of Eols by the three support types offered in the announcement:

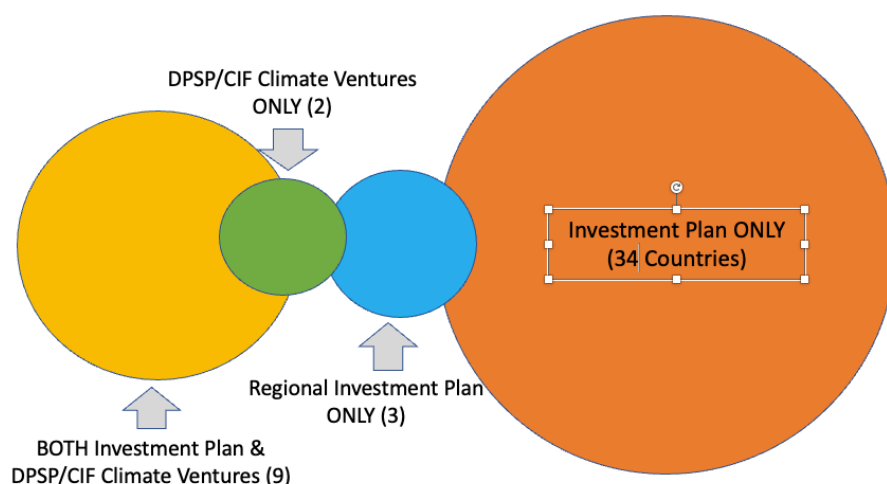


Figure 4: Expressions of Interest by type

Of the 16 countries included in the three regional submissions, 10 also made national submissions:

**Table 4: Countries in regional submissions also with national submissions**

Countries	Lead Country of Regional Submission	Regional Investment Plan	Country Submissions by countries included in the Regional Eols
<b>Regional Africa 1: Great Green Wall</b> (Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal)	Niger	X	Niger Chad Burkina Faso Mali Senegal
<b>Regional Africa 2: Zambezi Basin</b> (Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, and Tanzania)	Zambia	X	Zambia Malawi Mozambique Namibia
<b>Regional Africa 3: Coastal West Africa</b> (Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone)	Benin	X	Ghana

<sup>11</sup> see NPC Design Document pages 10-11

## Spread of countries and regions

There was strong interest across all geographical regions, with the distribution of Eols indicated in Table 5 below. A large proportion of the Eols (25 plus three regional submissions) were received from African countries, representing 58% of the total number of Eols. Latin America and the Caribbean was fairly well represented with 10 submissions (21%), with a relatively smaller number from the other regions of the world.

**Table 5: Spread of Eols country coverage across regions (in alphabetical order)**

Sub-Saharan Africa	Latin America & Caribbean	North Africa & Europe	Asia & Pacific	Regional	Total
25	10	4	6	3	48
56% of national submissions	22% of national submissions	9% of national submissions	13% of national submissions		
Burkina Faso Cameroon Central African Republic Chad Democratic Republic of Congo Eswatini Ethiopia Gambia Ghana Kenya Madagascar Malawi Mali Mozambique Namibia Niger Nigeria Republic of Congo Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Somalia South Sudan Uganda Zambia	Argentina Belize Bolivia Brazil Dominica Dominican Republic Guatemala Honduras Jamaica St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Egypt Jordan Tunisia Türkiye	Bangladesh Fiji India Nepal Sri Lanka Tonga	Regional 1 (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, Senegal)  Regional 2 (Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia)  Regional 3 (Benin, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone)	Including countries under regional Eols, 51 countries applied for NPC support

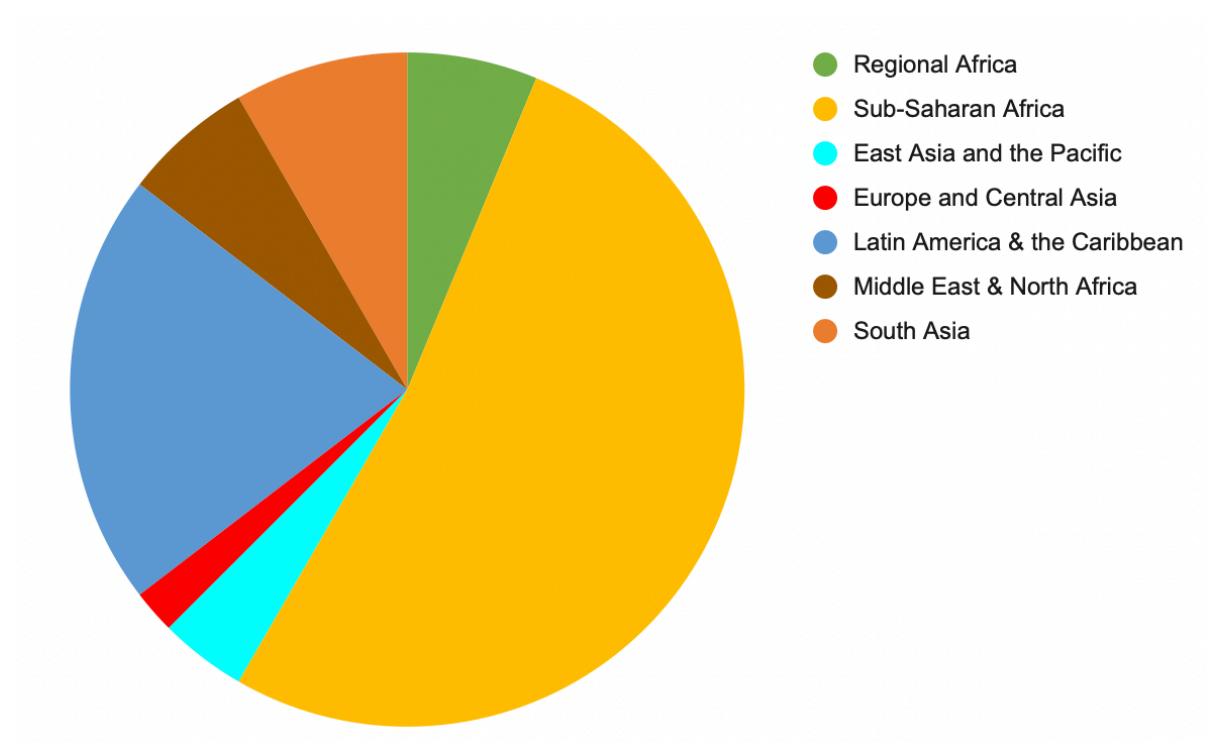


Figure 5: Spread of Eols across regions

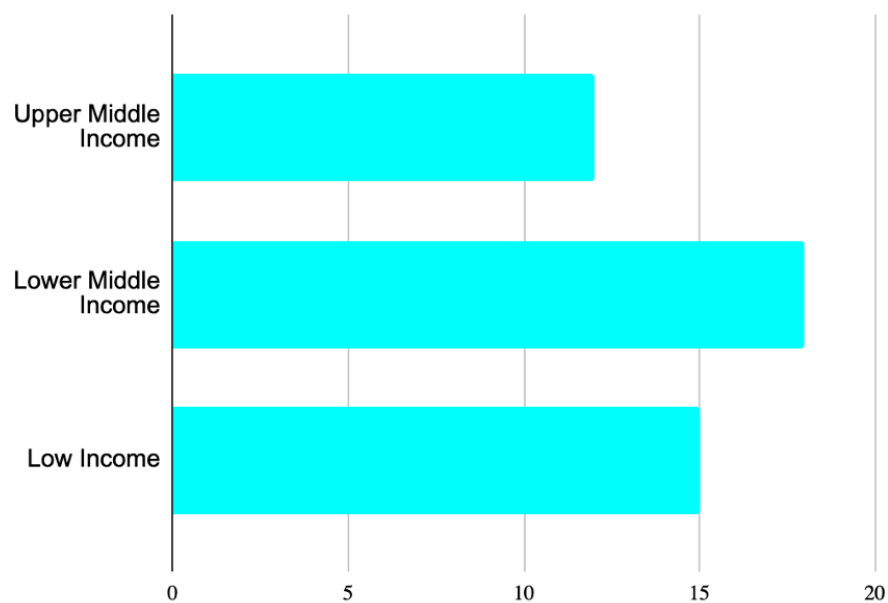


Figure 6: Spread of Eols across World Bank income categories

**Table 6a: Eols by World Bank country income category**

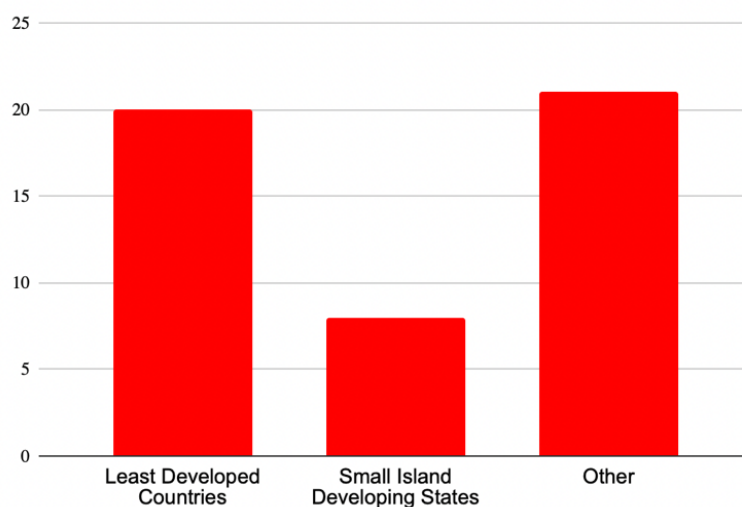
Low Income Countries	Lower Middle Income Countries	Upper Middle Income Countries	Regional Eols	Low Income Countries of the group	Lower Middle Income Countries of the group	Upper Middle Income Countries of the group
16	16	13	3 Eols 16 countries			
Burkina Faso Central African Republic Chad Democratic Republic of Congo Ethiopia Gambia Madagascar Malawi Mali Mozambique Niger Rwanda Somalia South Sudan Uganda Zambia	Bangladesh Bolivia Cameroon Egypt Eswatini Ghana Honduras India Kenya Nepal Nigeria Republic of Congo Senegal Sao Tome and Principe Sri Lanka Tunisia	Argentina Belize Brazil Dominica Dominican Republic Fiji Guatemala Jamaica Jordan Namibia St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tonga Türkiye	Africa Regional 1 (led by Niger)	Burkina Faso Chad Mali Niger (4)	Mauritania Senegal  (2)	  (0)
			Africa Regional 2 (led by Zambia)	Malawi Mozambique Zambia (3)	Tanzania  (1)	Namibia  (1)
			Africa Regional 3 (led by Benin)	Liberia Sierra Leone  (2)	Benin Cote d'Ivoire Ghana (3)	  (0)

Of the 45 national Eols submitted, there was a fairly even spread across the three World Bank country income groups (Low Income, Lower Middle Income and Upper Middle Income countries)<sup>12</sup>, as shown in Figure 6, and detailed in Table 6. Taking the UN classification of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) into account, nearly half of the national submissions fell into this category, with 8 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) represented, as shown in Figure 7.

<sup>12</sup> <https://data.worldbank.org/country/XL>  
<https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/list-sids>

**Table 6b Country EoIS by UN classification of LDCs and SIDS**

Least Developed Countries	Small Island Developing States	Neither LDC nor SIDs	Regional EoIs	Least Developed Countries of the group	Small Island Developing States of the group	Neither LDC nor SIDs of the group
20	8	18	3 EoIs 16 countries			
Bangladesh Burkina Faso Central African Republic Chad Democratic Republic of Congo Ethiopia Gambia Madagascar Malawi Mali Mozambique Nepal Niger Rwanda Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Somalia South Sudan Uganda Zambia	Belize Dominica Dominican Republic Fiji Jamaica Sao Tome and Principe St. Vincent and the Grenadines Tonga	Argentina Bolivia Brazil Cameroon Congo, Republic of Egypt Eswatini Ghana Guatemala Honduras India Jordan Kenya Namibia Nigeria Sri Lanka Tunisia Turkey	Africa Regional 1 (led by Niger)	Burkina Faso Chad Mali Niger Mauritania Senegal (6)	(0)	(0)
			Africa Regional 2 (led by Zambia)	Malawi Mozambique Zambia Tanzania (4)	(0)	Namibia  (1)
			Africa Regional 3 (led by Benin)	Benin Liberia Sierra Leone (3)	(0)	Cote d'Ivoire Ghana (2)

**Figure 7: EoIs from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States**

## Contacts listed in Eols

The table that follows shows the government agencies listed in the Eols as contact people, and the MDB partners listed as having provided support.

**Table 7: Government agency and MDB contacts**

	<b>Countries</b>	<b>National Contact</b>	<b>MDB Contact</b>
1	Regional Africa 2 (Zambezi Basin)	Zambia Ministry of Green Economy and Environment	African Development Bank
2	Kenya	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	African Development Bank
3	Zambia	Green Economy and Environment	African Development Bank, World Bank
4	Ethiopia	Ministry of Agriculture	African Development Bank
5	Rwanda	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning	World Bank
6	Namibia	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism	African Development Bank
7	Brazil	Ministry of Finance	Inter-American Development Bank
8	Egypt	Ministry of International Cooperation	EBRD, World Bank, AfDB, IFC
9	Mozambique	Land and Environment	African Development Bank
10	Ghana	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	World Bank/AfDB
11	Türkiye	Ministry of Treasury and Finance	World Bank/EBRD
12	Dominican Republic	National Council for Climate Change/Presidency of the Dominican Republic in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economics Planning and Development, National Institute of Hydraulic Resources and the Commission for the Promotion of the Technification of the National Irrigation System	Inter-American Development Bank
13	Madagascar	Ministry of Economy and Finance	African Development Bank
14	Burkina Faso	Ministry of Environment, Energy, Water and Sanitation	African Development Bank
15	Argentina	Ministry of Economy	Inter-American Development Bank



	<b>Countries</b>	<b>National Contact</b>	<b>MDB Contact</b>
16	Jamaica	Ministry of Finance and the Public Service	Inter-American Development Bank
17	Niger	Ministry of Planning	African Development Bank
18	Fiji	Ministry of Economy	World Bank
19	Nepal	Ministry of Finance	Asian Development Bank
20	India	Head of Climate Finance	World Bank
21	Regional Africa 1 (Great Green Wall)	Niger Ministry of Environment and the Fight against Desertification	African Development Bank
22	Senegal	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Equipment	-
23	Guatemala	Ministry of Public Finance	Inter-American Development Bank
24	Congo, DRC	Ministry of Forest Economy	-
25	Bangladesh	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	World Bank
26	Somalia	Ministry of Agriculture	African Development Bank
27	Eswatini	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development	World Bank Group African Development Bank
28	Chad	Ministry of Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation	African Development Bank
29	Sao Tome & Principe	Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources	African Development Bank
30	Uganda	Ministry of Water and Environment	-
31	Honduras	Office of Finance	Inter-American Development Bank
32	South Sudan	Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	AfDB/World Bank
33	Nigeria	Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning	African Development Bank
34	Dominica	Ministry of Finance	World Bank
35	Mali	Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development	African Development Bank
36	Tonga	Ministry of Finance	Asian Development Bank
37	Republic of Congo	Ministry of Forest Economy	World Bank
38	Bolivia	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Agua	-
39	Central African Republic	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable development	World Bank

	<b>Countries</b>	<b>National Contact</b>	<b>MDB Contact</b>
40	Gambia	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	African Development Bank
41	Belize	Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment	-
42	Regional Africa 3 (Coastal West Africa)	Benin Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development	World Bank African Development Bank
43	Jordan	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation	-
44	Tunisia	Ministere de l'Agriculture des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Peche	African Development Bank
45	St. Vincent & Grenadines	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development	-
46	Cameroon	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife	African Development Bank
47	Sri Lanka	Ministry of Environment	-
48	Malawi	Ministry of Energy	-

### 3. Methodology

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In developing and applying a methodology for their work, the IEG members met virtually several times over a four week period, also conducting review work individually, and moderating review work in pairs and collectively. The four stage process followed by the group is set out below. In developing a methodology for the work, the IEG considered two key elements outlined in the terms of reference (ToRs):

The first element considered was the general approach to the work, as set out in the IEG's terms of reference (see *Appendix 3* to this report), which stated that, "to assess and rank countries' Eols and make recommendations to the relevant CIF governing body, the independent expert group will undertake the following tasks:

- a) Review the quality of responses in submitted Eol forms by applying the assessment criteria and weighting outlined in Table 1.
- b) Review the official documents annexed or referenced in the Eol.
- c) Undertake additional desk research as needed. The program-specific indicators included in Table 2 of this document can be considered, in addition to other relevant information and indicators that are available at a country or, for regional programs, region level.
- d) If required, interview country representatives to better understand their context-specific circumstances, absorptive capacity, and priorities and opportunities for climate action.
- e) Consult with the CIF partner MDBs to ensure that prospective countries meet the 'MDB Partnership' criteria in Table 1 and the *CIF - Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs* document are taken into consideration."

The second element considered was the end product for the IEG's work, also captured in the ToRs: "Through the CIF Administrative Unit, the independent expert group will submit to the relevant CIF governing body a final report that includes the following components:

- A ranked list of Eols from eligible countries for the CIF NPC Program.
- Relevant methodological notes and justifications that led to the proposed ranking.
- Assessment of key issues and shortcomings encountered in the assessment.
- Process and recommendations for improvements.
- Concluding remarks on the recommended ranked list of Eols.
- List of stakeholders consulted."

These two elements of the terms of reference were taken into account in developing a proposed methodology, which was then refined by the group, as the work progressed. This section of the report outlines the stakeholders consulted during the review process, and the four stages of the process itself:

**Stage 1:** Development of a Scorecard

**Stage 2:** Scorecard Assessments

**Stage 3:** Moderation and Ranking

**Stage 4:** Making Recommendations

## Stakeholders consulted

The CIF relies on active collaboration and partnership among multiple stakeholders, including national governments, citizen groups, private sector entities, MDBs, UN agencies, and other development partners. Some key stakeholders of the IEG's review process were presented in the briefing by the CIF AU and the Governance team. Following the briefing, the IEG co-chairs had several exchanges with the CIF AU to clarify the expectations on the process, as well as the timeline. A call was also held between IEG members, supported by the CIF AU, with CIF Chief Executive Officer Mafalda Duarte, who outlined the CIF's vision for the NPC Program, answered questions and assured the IEG of her full support.

Figure 8 shows the different stakeholders as part of the CIF business model that could provide inputs for IEG analysis.



Figure 8: Stakeholders for the Independent Expert Group

The IEG also participated in a call with the MDBs, i.e. African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB), World Bank (WB), and International Finance Corporation (IFC). In general, CIF's resources are disbursed through the MDBs to recipient countries in two ways - as technical assistance and advisory services for public and private sector operations, often through non-reimbursable grants; and as investments, deployed through a variety of instruments such as senior concessional loans, subordinated loans/mezzanine instruments, equity, convertible grants and contingent recovery grants, investment grants, and guarantees.

The call provided an opportunity for the IEG to learn more about how the MDBs view the NPC Program and the opportunities it poses for strategically linked investments, aligned with national priorities and building on existing MDB country portfolios. A follow-up call was held with the MDB representatives supporting the three regional program Eols submitted (AfDB and World Bank) for IEG members to ask some questions for clarification. Because of the short time-frame for the work, it was not feasible to hold individual calls with countries, MDBs or with members of the GCAP Sub-

committee. The IEG members also felt that to hold calls with some countries and not others might be perceived as inequitable, or having potential to cause bias in the IEG's review process. A list of those from MDBs consulted on the IEG terms of reference and for clarifications on the regional submissions is given in *Appendix 7*.

## Stage 1: Development of a Scorecard

The terms of reference for the IEG's work made it clear that the ranking of countries' EoIs should be based on a numerical scoring of each individual EoI, taking into account in each case the relevant documentation provided. This documentation was made available to the IEG by the CIF AU in encrypted folders, containing in each case the answers submitted in the EoI form, its cover sheet with government signature, and any annexes of supplementary information also provided.

The terms of reference contained a set of weighted criteria, based on a combination of the [NPC Design Document's](#) Annex 1 (generic criteria for SCF programs, reproduced here as Table 8) and its Annex 5 (specific criteria for the NPC Investment Program, reproduced here as Table 9).

General criteria for the four new strategic programs are as follows:

**Table 8: General overarching assessment criteria and weightings established by CIF**

Assessment Criteria	Criteria Weighting
<p><i>1. Vision and Ambition</i></p> <p>The EoI indicates the country's level of ambition as it relates to the new CIF strategic program and specifies how the country seeks to use CIF resources to drive transformational change and help achieve its low-carbon and climate resilient development plan(s) or strategy(ies).</p>	20%
<p><i>2. Alignment and Complementarity</i></p> <p>The EoI explains how the CIF program aligns with the country's climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, SDG related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plans). Demonstration of the country's commitment to these strategies and plans, as well as progress towards achieving the strategies and plans, will be preferred.</p> <p>The EoI also explains the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals and demonstrates that CIF fills a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available, or complementary to existing ones.</p>	20%
<p><i>3. Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs</i></p> <p>The EoI identifies potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF program and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the respective country, as well as financing strategies to leverage MDB and other co-financing to support these projects. Lines of action that cover both mitigation and adaptation are encouraged, where relevant.</p>	15%
<p><i>4. MDB Partnership</i></p> <p>The EoI provides evidence of a successful past or ongoing lending program with one or more CIF partner MDBs and reflects indicative investment future opportunities.</p>	10%
<p><i>5. Leadership</i></p> <p>The EoI confirms active involvement of the Ministry of Finance, relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation and implementation of the line(s) of action, including</p>	10%

Assessment Criteria	Criteria Weighting
supporting responsible government entities through horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms.	
<b>6. Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization</b> The Eol, including annexes, proposes ideas for engaging the private sector in the delivery of the program and mobilization of resources.	10%
<b>7. Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality</b> The Eol, including annexes, affirms the country's commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in its development investments, and willingness to work to strengthen climate action and its governance in the country through gender-responsive and socially inclusive investments and planning mechanisms. The Eol, including annexes, includes potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills, and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society.	15%

Specific and more detailed assessment criteria for CIF's NPC Program included the following:

**Table 9: NPC-specific overarching assessment criteria**

Assessment criteria	Expression of Interest (Eol)
1. Vision and Ambition	The Eol demonstrates the country's commitment to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing or avoiding GHG emissions stemming from the changing use of land and other natural resources (e.g., from the agriculture, forestry, and other relevant sectors)</li> <li>• Building the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources</li> <li>• Building the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems</li> <li>• Grounding these commitments in official document(s), such as NDC, NAP, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy referenced or annexed in the Eol</li> </ul>
3. Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic programs	The Eol, including its annexes, identifies the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific or multiple landscape(s)<sup>22</sup> relevant for delivering on a country's commitment(s), such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable use of natural resources, inland or coastal degradation</li> <li>• Actions contributing to one or more of the following goals:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring ecosystems or enhancing forest or soil carbon stocks while protecting biodiversity and supporting rural livelihoods</li> <li>- Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions and the pressures on natural resources while enhancing livelihood options for local communities</li> <li>- Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and developing livelihood options for local communities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Assessment criteria	Expression of Interest (Eol)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing the climate vulnerability of rural and/or coastal communities</li> <li>- Piloting or scaling-up innovative sustainable solutions to land and natural resources management</li> </ul> <p>The Eol, including its annexes, includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to institutional and/or policy frameworks of relevance for the implementation of sustainable solutions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems and natural resources</li> <li>• Demonstration of the country's successful experience effectively deploying MDB funds for relevant low carbon and/or climate resilient initiatives</li> </ul>

The IEG discussed at length how best to conduct the process of scoring against the general and NPC-specific criteria, and decided to transform the text of the rubric into specific questions, using the text contained in the Eol template (see *Appendix 4* to this report) to develop weighted sub-criteria under each of these overarching assessment criteria. This meant that scores out of a smaller number could be provided for each sub-criterion, building up a more nuanced picture for each criterion, rather than relying on a single impression mark out of a larger number (10-20). The resultant table (see Table 10) was utilized in the IEG Scorecard (see *Appendix 5* to this report).

The IEG noted that the scorecard was worded as if intended only for national level Eols, because it reflected the EOI template and the criteria, all of which were worded as though intended only for national submissions. See Section 5 for reflections on the challenges associated with reviewing the three Regional Investment Plan submissions.

**Table 10: Overarching criteria with sub-criteria used by IEG**

Overarching Assessment Criteria and Sub-Criteria	Weighting
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>1. Vision and Ambition</b>	<b>20</b>
1.a. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's commitment to reducing or avoiding GHG emissions from changing use of land and other natural resources (e.g., from the agriculture, forestry, and other relevant sectors)?	3
1.b. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's commitment to building the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources?	3
1.c. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's commitment to building the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems?	4
1.d. Does the Eol ground these commitments in official document(s), such as NDC, NAP, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy (in annex)? Are the documents recent and still valid?	5

Overarching Assessment Criteria and Sub-Criteria	Weighting
1.e. Does the Eol indicate how the country intends to use CIF resources for transformational change in integrated management of natural resources at landscape level?	5
<b>2. Alignment and Complementarity</b>	<b>20</b>
2.a. Does the Eol explain the alignment between CIF program and country's existing climate strategies and plans?	4
2.b. Does the Eol identify policy / legal and/or other gaps that need to be addressed?	3
2.c. Does the Eol describe and demonstrate the country's progress on climate strategies and plans?	4
2.d. Does the Eol present evidence for a funding gap for reaching the goals expressed in its strategies and plans? Is there a strategic gap according to the Eol?	5
2.e. Does the Eol explain the additional value of CIF resources for achievement of Eol goals?	4
<b>3. Implementation and Relevance for CIF NPC Program</b>	<b>15</b>
3.a. Does the Eol (including annexes) identify specific or multiple landscape(s) relevant for delivering on a country's commitment(s), such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable use of natural resources, inland or coastal degradation?	4
3.b. Does the Eol propose a landscape of ecological and/or wider geographic importance with potential to providing CC solutions?	3
3.c. Is the Eol proposing actions contributing to one or more of the following 5 goals? i- Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring ecosystems or enhancing forest or soil carbon stocks while protecting biodiversity and supporting rural livelihoods ii- Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions and the pressures on natural resources while enhancing livelihood options for local communities iii- Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and developing livelihood options for local communities iv- Addressing the climate vulnerability of rural and/or coastal communities v- Piloting or scaling-up innovative sustainable solutions to land and natural resources management	3
3.d. Does the Eol describe potential climate benefits under the proposed work (mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience, economic, social, and biodiversity co-benefits)?	5
<b>4. MDB Partnership</b>	<b>10</b>
4.a. Is there evidence provided in the Eol of relevant past or ongoing lending programs with the MDBs / Status of ongoing programs?	3
4.b. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's (successful) experience effectively deploying CIF funds for relevant low carbon and/or climate resilient initiatives (e.g. FIP, PPCR)	2



Overarching Assessment Criteria and Sub-Criteria	Weighting
4.c. Does the Eol reflect on indicative investment future opportunities? Is there an indication of the size of the opportunity?	5
<b>5. Leadership</b>	<b>10</b>
5.a. Does the Eol confirm the active involvement of the relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the <u>formulation</u> of the line(s) of action?	2
5.b. Does the Eol confirm the intended active involvement of the relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the <u>implementation</u> of the line(s) of action?	2
5.c. Are there descriptions of the expected horizontal and vertical mechanisms of coordination between responsible government entities?	4
5.d. Is there evidence of strong engagement of the Ministry of Finance?	2
<b>6. Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization</b>	<b>10</b>
6.a. Does the Eol propose ideas for engagement of the private sector?	6
6.b. Does the Eol build on any existing alliances with the private sector in specific / multi / transboundary landscapes for NBS?	4
<b>7. Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality</b>	<b>15</b>
7.a. Does the Eol identify the gaps and/or challenges faced by women, Indigenous People, persons with disabilities and other groups that experience social exclusion in access to sustainable use of natural resources?	5
7.b. Does the Eol, including annexes, include potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society?	5
7.c. Does the Eol, including annexes, affirm the country's commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in its development investments, and willingness to work to strengthen climate action and its governance in the country through gender-responsive and socially inclusive investments and planning mechanisms.	5

The IEG members then designed a Scorecard to reflect the values in Table 10 using an Excel spreadsheet with a tab for each of the 7 overarching criteria spreadsheet (see *Appendix 5* to this report) that included:

- The criteria and sub-criteria with total possible score for each
- Cells to record the score for each sub-criterion (out of 2-5), adding up to a score per criterion
- Fields to record a comment on the Eol's fit with each sub-criterion
- Fields to capture relevant text from the Eol for each sub-criterion (optional)
- A field to record an overall comment on the overarching criterion, explaining the overall score for that criterion

- A cover page where all the scores for the overarching criteria are reflected, and a total calculated (out of 100) for the EoI as a whole
- A field on the cover page for a summary assessment paragraph on the whole EoI and its fit with the overarching criteria, and the objectives of the NPC as a whole.

## **Stage 2: Scorecard Assessments**

Following the IEG's peer review, adjustment and finalization of the IEG Scorecard, the group met virtually to divide up the work of reading and reviewing the 48 EoIs (all those received by the CIF AU and deemed by the unit to meet the overarching eligibility criteria), made available to the IEG through secure online folders. The purpose of this stage of the review was to score each EoI against the criteria supplied by the CIF, and the more detailed sub-criteria, in order to produce a ranking of all the EoIs.

Because of the volume of EoIs, combined with the short timeframe, it was not deemed feasible for all six IEG members to read all 48 EoIs. However, it was felt that simply dividing the batch by the six members might result in an uneven application of the scoring system based on the criteria provided. For this reason, it was decided to institute a peer review system among IEG members, in which each EoI was allocated to a pair of reviewers, both of whom would independently complete the scorecard for the EoI in question, before meeting to discuss the EoI, with discussion to resolve any marked differences in scores. Where scores were similar, for example, where the first reviewer scored 64 and the second reviewer 66, the average would simply be taken, and the EoI given a final score of 65. Where there was a significant difference – typically a difference of more than five points on the overall score and/or the score for a particular overarching criterion, the pair of reviewers would hold further discussion and reach agreement on the appropriate score.

Reviewers were allocated based on their knowledge and experience of regions, as far as possible. The large number of EoIs from Africa meant that it was not possible to match regional expertise and EoI regions completely, but each pair of reviewers included at least one IEG member with expertise in the region in question. On average, each IEG member reviewed 8 EoIs as first reviewer, and 8 EoIs as second reviewer, which meant the group completed a total of 96 scorecards over a two-week period. First and second reviewers were both asked to complete the numerical parts of the scorecard, and first reviewers to complete all the comment sections as well (this was left optional for second reviewers). All completed scorecards were uploaded to a secure shared drive, so that all IEG members could access any completed scorecard at any time.

## **Stage 3: Moderation and Ranking**

Once the initial scoring was completed for all the EoIs (48 EoIs x 2 scorecards each = 96 scorecards), each of the pairs of IEG members held calls to discuss the EoIs on which they were paired. A fairly high degree of convergence was found in the scoring, and it was possible to simply take the average score in most cases. In a few cases, following the discussion, one or other of the reviewers moderated one or more of the sub-criteria scores slightly up or down, following a point made by the other reviewer which they had not previously taken into account, reducing the gap between the scores before recording the average as the final score.

Once this process was completed for all 48 Eols, it was possible to place all the scores in numerical order, producing a ranked list, as requested in terms of reference for the IEG. The list is reproduced in full in the section below.

At this point, the IEG held a call to take stock of the ranked list and how it could be used to progress to the next stage of making recommendations to the GCAP Sub-committee – through this IEG report, and a presentation by the co-chairs to the GCAP meeting in October. It was decided to consider all those Eols with a score of 66% and over as “recommended”. This meant that 21 of the 48 Eols were recommended, and 27 were not recommended. The 21 recommended Eols all had a reasonable fit with most (and usually all) of the seven overarching investment criteria of the NPC Investment Program, and could be seen as promising investments for the CIF. In the group’s assessment, the 27 Eols which were not recommended for funding consideration were deemed to have an insufficient fit with the selection criteria of the NPC Investment Program.

## **Stage 4: Making Recommendations**

In reviewing the outcomes of the scoring exercise – based on criteria provided by CIF – that resulted in the Eols ranking, the IEG members felt that all Eols ranked from 1 to 21 should be recommended for funding consideration to the GCAP Sub-committee of the SCF Trust Fund Committee. The IEG agreed that these 21 Eols all satisfied the basic NPC program objectives while offering a range of promising options for CIF support, including a diversity of nature-based solutions and representation across country circumstances and regions of the world.

The group agreed that the unique strengths and weaknesses of each of the recommended Eols were captured well in the summary assessment texts written by the first reviewers as part of filling out the scorecards. The IEG decided to present these summary assessments in this report in full, to guide the GCAP Sub-committee as to potential benefits of investment in the 21 recommended Eols (see Section 4: Recommendations). It was also decided to make available all the summary paragraphs of the Eols not recommended, in order to provide the GCAP Sub-committee with a further indication in each case for why the Eol was not recommended (see *Appendix 6*).

## 4. Recommendations

The ranking of the 48 Eols, based on the process of reviewing and scoring against the IEG Scorecard, resulted in the following order. As indicated by shading below, the top 21 of the 48 Eols are recommended for further consideration, while the remaining 27 are not recommended. All of the 21 recommended Eols meet the basic criteria of the NPC Investment Program and can be seen as promising investment opportunities for the CIF. The 27 Eols which are not recommended for funding consideration were deemed to have an insufficient fit with the selection criteria of the NPC Investment Program.

**Table 11: Ranking of 48 Expressions of Interest**

Ranking	Expression of Interest
1	Regional Africa 2 (Zambia as lead)
2	Kenya
3	Zambia
4	Ethiopia
5	Rwanda
6	Namibia
7	Brazil
8	Egypt
9	Mozambique
10	Ghana
11	Türkiye
12	Dominican Republic
13	Madagascar
14	Burkina Faso
15	Argentina
16	Jamaica
17	Niger
18	Fiji
19	Nepal
20	India
21	Regional Africa 1 (Niger as lead)
22	Senegal
23	Guatemala
24	Democratic Republic of Congo
25	Bangladesh
26	Somalia
27	Eswatini
28	Chad

Ranking	Expression of Interest
29	Sao Tome and Principe
30	Uganda
31	Honduras
32	South Sudan
33	Nigeria
34	Dominica
35	Mali
36	Tonga
37	Republic of Congo
38	Bolivia
39	Central Africa Republic
40	Gambia
41	Belize
42	Regional Africa 3 (Benin as lead)
43	Jordan
44	Tunisia
45	St Vincent and Grenadines
46	Cameroon
47	Sri Lanka
48	Malawi

This ranked list of the 48 Eols was produced, as requested in the IEG's ToR (see *Appendix 3*). In reviewing the outcomes of the assessment process that resulted in the ranking, the IEG members felt that all Eols ranked from 1 to 21 should be recommended to the Global Climate Action Programs (GCAP) Sub-committee of the SCF Trust Fund Committee for funding consideration. The IEG agreed that these 21 Eols all satisfied the basic NPC program objectives while offering a range of promising options for CIF support, including a diversity of nature-based solutions and representation across country circumstances and regions of the world.

In the next section, the unique strengths and weaknesses of each of the recommended Eols are highlighted in summary assessments for each Eol to guide the GCAP Sub-committee as to potential benefits of investment in any of the 21 recommended Eols. Summary assessments of the Eols not recommended are included in *Appendix 6* to provide the GCAP Sub-committee with a clearer understanding in each case of why the Eol was not recommended.

**Table 12: Ranking of Recommended 21 Expressions of Interest<sup>13</sup>**

Ranking	Expression of Interest	Score
1	Regional Africa 2 (Zambia et al.)	80
2	Kenya	77
3	Zambia	77
4	Ethiopia	76
5	Rwanda	75.5
6	Namibia	75.5
7	Brazil	75
8	Egypt	75
9	Mozambique	73.5
10	Ghana	73.5
11	Türkiye	71
12	Dominican Republic	70
13	Madagascar	70
14	Burkina Faso	70
15	Argentina	69.5
16	Jamaica	69.5
17	Niger	69
18	Fiji	68.5
19	Nepal	68
20	India	67
21	Regional Africa 1 (Niger et al.)	66

## Assessments of recommended Eols

This section contains summaries of the IEG's assessment of the 21 recommended Eols (presented in the order of their ranking based on application of the assessment criteria provided), highlighting their strengths and weaknesses, and particularly highlighting opportunities which they may offer for investment by the CIF through the NPC Investment Program.

### Regional Africa 2 (Zambia as lead)

The Eol presents a compelling opportunity for five contiguous countries of the Zambezi River Basin – Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia – to craft a regional investment program for nature-based solutions to climate and development challenges within the transboundary governance framework of the 8-country Zambezi Watercourse Commission. The NPC regional investment program would leverage, implement, and upscale the activities and interventions proposed under the emerging AfDB-financed Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Zambezi Watercourse (PIDACC), a regional program that will support a cross-sectoral approach to natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and economic development in the 13 sub-basins of the Zambezi River. The Eol highlights particular

<sup>13</sup> In cases where Eols received the same score, the IEG decided to use the sub-scores received by each Eol for the 2 unique overarching criteria specifically developed for the NPC Program (namely, OC1 and OC3) to determine the rank order for presentation.

landscapes selected for the PIDACC Zambezi project which are not contiguous and were selected as climate vulnerability hotspots and for their suitability for a number of PIDACC activities – including potential for climate-resilient infrastructure development, agriculture and agribusiness support. The proposal fits well the NPC criteria, identifying clearly the applications of nature-based solutions in sub-national landscapes, linked by regional coordination. The proposed regional investment program will focus on integrated landscape and water resource management (Component 2 of PIDACC), including strengthening the enabling environment for ecosystem restoration, water resource and use monitoring, and supporting on-the-ground actions for protecting and restoring degraded agricultural lands, wetlands, forests and the headwaters of the Zambezi, for climate-related and development benefits. Consideration would need to be given to the sub-national landscapes with the most potential to deliver carbon sequestration benefits and enhance resilience to flash floods, drought and loss of hydropower capacity, all of which are exacerbated by climate change. An NPC regional program could achieve significant impact across the participating countries by building on previous CIF investments through PPCR and FIP and leveraging AfDB funding to scale up PIDACC activities, enabling a comprehensive, holistic, effective, and inclusive response to the impacts of climate change on communities and economic sectors of the Zambezi Watercourse, with a strong emphasis on nature-based solutions and incorporating public-private-community partnerships.

## **Kenya**

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The EoI focusses on improving sustainable forest management, emphasizing its alignment with Kenya's Strategy and Investment Plan of REDD+. The proposed NPC investment targets increasing agricultural and forest productivity and climate resilience through promotion of climate-smart agriculture practices, identifying priority intervention areas which include restoration of degraded landscapes and building climate resilient communities through promotion of nature-based enterprises. Specifically, NPC investments are proposed to conserve and restore the degraded ecosystems of: Cherangany Hills and Mt. Elgon water catchment in Bungoma; Trans Nzoia; West Pokot; Elgeyo; Marakwet; and Uasin Gishu Counties. Mt Elgon and Cherangany Hills forest ecosystems are part of Kenya's "water towers" as major sources of rivers draining into Lakes Victoria and Turkana. The EoI identified the gaps that would be addressed by the proposed NPC project. It systematically addresses all pertinent issues in the NPC guidelines (though renewable energy elements do not fit). NPC support would be consistent with Government mainstreaming of climate change considerations into development plans; and the legal and policy framework as well as institutional directions are clearly linked to the vision of the Government of Kenya and its international climate commitments, including the country's ambitious goal in the nationally determined contribution (NDC) of reducing GHG emissions by 32% by 2030. The EoI highlights strong collaboration between the Government and MDBs, citing opportunities to leverage their relevant "greening operations". There are indicative estimates of benefits, including mitigation and resilience building. Kenya has also had experience with past CIF programs, especially SREP and CTF. The proposal provides details of the institutional framework, with coordination mechanisms and roles specified. While a picture was presented of a vibrant private sector with engagement potential, no details on such alliances were provided. The submission did, however, identify potential mechanisms for engaging women, indigenous people, youth organizations, local communities, environmental climate change advocacy NGOs as well as other civil society organizations. In short, this is a very solid proposal that responded well to the NPC criteria given.

## **Zambia**

Zambia proposes to develop investments that will protect, restore or build climate resilience in several targeted landscapes, namely the: Lower Kafue Sub-basin; Middle Zambezi Basin; and Lake Tanganika Basin. As lead country for the closely related regional Zambezi Basin (Regional Africa 2) EoI, good coordination would need to be established to ensure complementary investments, in the event that both proposals move forward to receive funding. While the EoI presented some superfluous material, the core of proposed interventions fit the NPC criteria well. The newly formed climate oversight ministry is seeking to further mainstream climate change considerations into the development strategy, strengthening ecosystem-based climate actions as well as associated legal, governance and partnership arrangements to respond to adverse climate impacts that are contributing to declining agricultural and fisheries production, inter-basin water instability, and rising wildlife-livestock competition over access to water. Zambia's CIF experience and its relationships with both AfDB and the World Bank seem strong, offering leveraging opportunities with the two MDBs. A CIF-sponsored "transformational change case study on Zambia" indicates strong capacity to move forward with nature-based approaches to climate adaptation. The EoI thus responds well to the NPC Program criteria, offering good investment opportunities and a chance to complement regional nature-based climate actions in the Zambezi Basin.

## **Ethiopia**

Ethiopia proposes to design and implement an innovative and integrated program that will scale up best practices on landscape restoration and biodiversity and forest conservation and facilitate integration of all marginalized social groups. The EoI identifies three integrated intervention areas which would be covered by an NPC investment program: reducing deforestation and forest/biodiversity degradation; restoring degraded landscapes through expanding agroforestry and climate smart agriculture; and sustainably using forest products and services to build green value chains for both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Ethiopia's EoI is well grounded in relevant policies and highlights how proposed NPC investments would contribute to the country's Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy, the ten-year Perspective Development Plan, the National Forest Sector Development Program, the REDD+ strategy as well as relevant climate change policies and commitments, including under the NDC and National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Further links are made to the country's commitments to build community resilience while reducing GHG emissions, including through the Green Legacy Initiative and its ambitious tree-planting efforts. The proposal elaborates progress made over the past decade, with millions of hectares of degraded forest landscapes put under restoration, and carbon- and biodiversity-rich forests put under Participatory Forest Management (PFM) with communities – with quantitative targets given for NPC investments, such as bringing over 20,000 hectares of Dry Afromontane forests under PFM while generating benefits of avoided / reduced emissions of 52 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent. Spatial targets are also provided for afforestation and reforestation, assisted natural regeneration and recovering grazing land from invasive *Prosopis juliflora* to reduce drought and flood risk. Private sector engagement is anticipated around opportunities for companies and SMEs to get involved in climate-resilient alternative livelihoods, including establishment of commercial agroforestry and product marketing. The EoI shows strong understanding, readiness and capacity to use NPC resources to help fulfil Ethiopia's vision to build a green and carbon neutral economy and create an enabling environment and capacity to scale up and scale out best practices that can restore critical ecosystem services, halt deforestation, conserve remaining forests, and provide communities, youth and women with alternative livelihood options.



## **Rwanda**

The EoI proposes to protect landscapes from the impacts of climate change and resource mismanagement through stronger community involvement in the buffer areas of the Virunga, Gishwati-Mukura, and Nyungwe National Parks, as well as the Kivu catchment and upper and lower Nyabarongo catchment. The proposed NPC investments are consistent with the broad policy and planning framework that informs Rwanda's sustainable development vision and strategy, which follows landscape restoration principles. The Government has a comprehensive and progressive institutional framework to deal with climate change, with the Ministry of Environment playing an overall coordination role engaging with other agencies, NGOs and development partners. While other agencies have climate-related responsibilities, mandates are well defined and activities coordinated. The EoI anticipates that NPC support would contribute significantly to the National Land Use and Development Master Plan. The proposal identifies enabling policy reforms to be undertaken that align with the strategic objectives of NPC, including those supporting ecosystem-based adaptation and rural landscape development, piloting nature-based solutions for flood mitigation and improved storm water management, and improving the sustainability and productivity of forest and tree-based systems. The EoI presents evidence of a strong partnership with both the World Bank and the African Development Bank, which the Government hopes to leverage in NPC implementation. An expanding national private sector and improving ease of doing business indices are cited as encouraging for private sector engagement in development and implementation of the NPC. The EoI alludes to the need – based on past national experience – to build an inclusive and representative system to support sustainable development, with this social inclusion commitment carried into the approach proposed for the NPC Program. Though greater detail could have been provided on proposed interventions in the targeted landscapes, the country's proposal fits well with NPC criteria, and it appears to build on strong existing capacities for nature-based approaches.

## **Namibia**

Namibia proposes a two-phase approach to placing its critical ecosystems onto a climate resilient path by 2030, beginning with enabling conditions and followed by on-the-ground investments. An initial phase would strengthen policy and institutional arrangements as well as baseline information on relationships between ecosystem health and climate impacts as well as local beneficiaries' engagement. This would be followed by investments across agriculture, forest, savannah, rangeland, inland water, and coastal ecosystems to widen landscape partnerships, ecosystem services for resiliency, and sustainable enterprises – though specific locations are yet to be identified. The proposal builds on the country's constitutional commitment to maintain "ecosystems, essential ecological processes and biological diversity" and its track record of landscape management through community-led conservancies alongside use of integrated approaches to simultaneously address climate, biodiversity, and land degradation challenges. The relationship with AfDB for implementation needs further elaboration, and duplication with a closely related GCF proposal and GEF project must be avoided. While the EoI describes the country as comprising five distinct geographical areas, each with characteristic abiotic conditions and vegetation (Central Plateau, Namib Desert, Great Escarpment, Bushveld and Kalahari Desert), designation of specific landscapes to be the focus of CIF NPC interventions is left for the Investment Plan. The proposal thus shows good understanding of and is well aligned with NPC objectives, and it offers strong readiness, but has not presented details on locations or proposed activities.

## **Brazil**

The EoI of Brazil lays out its broad aims to demonstrate the value of ecosystem protection and restoration, promoting ecosystem-positive solutions based on the development of sustainable value chains, low-carbon technologies and development of the bioeconomy, and focusing on integration with nature to restore economic growth, wellbeing, income, and ecosystems protection. An integrated approach will be used for implementation, which is based on three main pillars: i) conservation and recovery of ecosystems; ii) bioeconomy and sustainable supply chains; and iii) low-carbon agriculture production. These three pillars are generally aligned with the NPC Program approach, as well as Brazil's cross-ministerial policies and programs, comprising an integrated framework. In this context, CIF funding will help leverage more resources to increase implementation of Brazilian policies and activities related to the pillars mentioned, though the geographies where this would be implemented are not specified (although Pillar 3 on low carbon agriculture makes mention of the Amazon and Cerrado biomes). The implication is that NPC support is needed to enable the implementation of policies and programs related to the recovery and conservation of ecosystems, and expand sustainable economic activities to support conservation. This will leverage additional private finance to scale up the activities and to maximize policy results, improving ecosystem recovery and providing capacity and incentives to local/traditional communities and family farmers to change their production model. Specific plans for crowding-in private financing are not provided, but the EoI does say the Government is willing to develop strategies to generate partnerships with big industries to leverage resources for environmentally and socially sustainable programs. In addition, the Government could provide incentives for the development of sustainable networks and promote campaigns to favor the marketing of sustainable products over mainstream ones. The approach advocated in the proposal will include agroforestry and other agroecological practices that restore and increase productivity of degraded lands and contribute to the recovery of biodiversity and critical ecosystems. The activities will also involve the management of native vegetation, including for timber and non-timber forest products, and capacity and implementation tools for development of a nature-based economy. The EoI highlights the integrated engagement of several ministries as well as relevant subnational governments – in the formulation and implementation of the lines of action, including horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms. The EoI mentions activities already underway that could be included in the NPC Program, but it does not specify how they will be integrated. World Bank and IADB are involved in the ongoing Brazilian CIF projects under the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the Dedicated Private Sector Program III (DPSP III)/CTF Window. They are also partnering with Brazil in the Renewable Energy Integration Program (REI), for which an Investment Plan (IP) is still to be developed. Some of the main criteria observed by the Government to grant sovereign guarantees to loans are the inclusion of social minorities and the use of resources in policies focused on gender, youth, and ethnicity. In short, the proposal is generally aligned with NPC objectives, and the potential scale of impact in Brazil, combined with its CIF readiness, offers considerable promise, but details are lacking.

## **Egypt**

This proposal is grounded in a strong national climate policy, NDC, and associated institutional structures. NPC financing is proposed to be folded in strategic ways under the Government's recently launched national Nexus of Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) Program, with special attention to improving agricultural resilience and food security. The proposed links with NWFE are highlighted in the EoI as evidence of a country-driven approach to NPC engagement. NWFE has identified six geographic regions with 26 targeted projects, seven of which are proposed for NPC

financing. Five of these projects are highlighted in the EoI, of which two (“Enhancing agricultural production for adaptation to climate change in the Valley and Nile Delta region”, and “Increasing the resilience of climatically vulnerable areas through combating desertification, water harvesting and rehabilitating degraded pastures in marginal areas”) are aligned with nature-based solutions and provide an excellent fit with NPC criteria, while others offer weak or no fit. There are aspirations to mobilize private sector participation through blended finance and carbon markets, tapping CIF DPSP resources. The potential for MDB leveraging and engagement is high, especially as three MDBs have active programs in the country. Potential climate adaptation impacts in the country are significant if support were to be focused on the densely populated Nile Valley and Delta, but further elaboration of relevant landscapes to be targeted for pastureland interventions would be needed. Also important would be a clear analysis of the ways in which protected and restored natural ecosystems can complement grey infrastructure, in an integrated approach to promoting resilience to drought, preventing coastal erosion, and optimally managing floodwaters.

## **Mozambique**

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Mozambique recognizes the link between climate change impacts and the agricultural sector and proposes to introduce adaptation and mitigation measures in high priority ecosystems facing challenges such as deforestation and unsustainable agricultural practices. These interventions will be combined with institutional and legal reforms, research, training, and technology transfer to address climate change. The EoI notes that the country’s FIP program (MozFip) has been implemented in some districts of Zambézia and Cabo-Delgado provinces, with high potential for forestry development but vulnerable to land degradation and ecosystem decline. It is proposed that NPC support build on these efforts to top up funding and link to other sustainable development initiatives. However, no specific target landscapes are identified. There is high sensitivity to increasing risks from climate-induced extreme weather events, and the EoI states the country’s interest to enhance disaster risk reduction measures (though a summary description of the key climate threats facing the country is not provided). Mozambique argues that effective and sustainable natural resource management such as conservation agriculture, fisheries co-management, nature-based tourism, and results-based payments for conservation efforts can increase and diversify incomes while also rehabilitating and protecting ecosystems. Improvements are needed in the currently limited coordination mechanisms among sectors (environment, land, agriculture, energy, education, etc.) and government levels (national, provincial, and districts) to achieve comprehensive land zoning and planning deemed essential for controlling deforestation. There is a commitment to participation in design and implementation of all interested stakeholders, namely government, civil society, private sector, academia and other relevant groups. The proposal seeks to build on past CIF support, and the wording of the country’s approach seems consistent with NPC directions, but specific locations for interventions are lacking, along with details of the types of and rationale for introduction of nature-based measures.

## **Ghana**

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Ghana proposes to build on its FIP experience to consolidate and scale up forest conservation and restoration work, utilizing community-based models and to expand this from terrestrial to coastal ecosystems. The approach would have been stronger, had attention been given to further elaborating anticipated adaptation benefits and quantifying biodiversity and social co-benefits. Nonetheless, the proposal is largely responsive to NPC criteria and goals. Forest loss is the largest source of the country’s GHG emissions, and forest degradation has diminished climate resilience.

The proposal thus offers a good fit within the national strategy for reversing deforestation. Past deforestation has been driven by expanding the area under cocoa, as the country's principal export crop. The NPC Program would promote shade cocoa and introduce innovative early stage intercropping of cocoa with food crops, using the Modified Taungya System. A gender sensitive approach would seek to simultaneously enhance sustainability, reduce poverty and improve community engagement and benefits. The EoI further proposes to extend these nature- and community-based approaches to coastal settings for economic and climate benefits. Both World Bank and African Development Bank appear to be well engaged, and the proposed measures build on strong government engagement with the cocoa industry. The EoI thus offers a good fit with NPC criteria and a promising opportunity to build on advances made through prior FIP support.

## **Türkiye**

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Türkiye's EoI presents a very ambitious vision for an NPC Program at national level, aimed at increasing the resilience of nature and people to the impacts of climate change through introducing integrated landscape approaches in a diverse set of ecosystems that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, especially those that can increase livelihood opportunities for rural communities. Although the forestry and agriculture sectors are targeted, no specificity is provided on the geographies where nature-based solutions are to be applied. The EoI describes mechanisms for coordination among relevant ministries at the national level, but it lacks clear indications of how local administrations will be engaged. The EoI does provide a good explanation of the multiple climate change challenges faced by the country as well as mitigation and adaptation progress made, with a comprehensive description of the range of themes and sectors where the country has developed climate change policy and initiatives. Türkiye has a strong track record of work with MDBs on a variety of programs and projects and has been involved in CIF programs since 2008. The EoI lays out the country's solid engagement with multiple MDBs and bilateral/multilateral donors that has helped develop a foundation for climate investment in mitigation and more recently also in adaptation. The EoI stresses Türkiye's readiness to engage with NPC, given this capacity to manage bilateral and multilateral international development assistance. From the EoI it can be inferred that the country wants to blend CIF resources into existing government programs carried out with MDBs and other international partners. This could be positive in terms of financial leveraging, but care will be needed to avoid diluting the NPC approach and CIF resources within large investment programs without strategic focus on integrated nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation. The Government has established PPPs with the private sector on a variety of important mitigation initiatives, and alliances exist with agriculture producer associations which could be used as a foundation for engagement under the NPC Program. Türkiye is working on overcoming policy gaps affecting women, and to some extent youth, in the country and indicates that a comprehensive gender analysis will be conducted as part of the NPC Investment Plan design to close gender gaps during implementation. In short, there appears to be a good overlap with NPC strategies, but the EoI does not propose clear priorities or locations for NPC interventions. The EoI makes a good case for NPC investment based on country readiness and financial leverage, but the approach would need to be considerably tightened and focused during investment planning.

## **Dominican Republic**

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The Dominican Republic proposes to use NPC resources to support a potentially transformative ridge-to-reef program in the Yuna Watershed and Samana Bay in the north of the country. This would be designed to help farmers, cattle ranchers and fishermen transition away from

unsustainable natural resource management practices to generate both economic and climate benefits. This would be achieved by introducing a nature-based approach that would integrate mitigation and adaptation considerations into the management practices of key resource users within the watershed and in coastal areas. Several relevant ministries, the private sector and NGOs were involved in the Eol's formulation, but horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms need further development. Although private sector stakeholders have been consulted, there is no clear evidence of their level of interest that could serve as a foundation for the development of alliances and coordination mechanisms under the NPC Program. The Eol describes strong engagement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and incipient engagement with CIF while indicating the country's readiness to engage with the CIF on NPC. Exclusions faced by women regarding land ownership and management of natural resources are addressed, but not those faced by other social groups. The country may need to strengthen engagement with private sector stakeholders, especially since it applied for the DPSP/CCVs and investment planning windows. And while the Eol describes potential interventions, it did not explain how these would fit into a coherent program. In short, the proposed ridge-to-reef approach is technically sound and represents a strong fit with NPC Program parameters, and with further detailed planning could have transformative impact.

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## **Madagascar**

Building on prior PPCR investments, the proposal of Madagascar focuses on expanding REDD+ investments and more systematically introducing nature-based approaches into disaster risk management (DRM) in coastal areas and in the south of the country. The Eol clearly expresses the interest and commitment of the Government – consistent with national climate change action strategies – to engage with the NPC Program to link with other related international and domestic financing for DRM, land restoration, REDD+, and improved agricultural productivity and resilience in the country. Special interest is shown in using NPC resources to leverage the African Disaster Risk Financing Program (ADRFi), REDD+ processes, and the AfDB pipeline of nature-based infrastructure solution projects in Madagascar to support climate change and DRM goals. The proposed approach is of national relevance, but it does not specify landscapes where the integrated nature-based model would be applied, referring instead to use of the NPC Program to test and develop a proof of concept for nature-based solutions in the country, while establishing understanding of the costs of and returns on green infrastructure investments. The focus of the proposal on linking NPC support with climate-related DRM stands out as offering opportunities for innovation, learning and leveraging, including work with MDBs, though caution would be needed to ensure the NPC approach is well integrated into DRM programs. Incipient private sector participation in climate and DRM financing in Madagascar is identified, but not elaborated. Likewise, the Eol presents a relatively superficial assessment of how social exclusion and inequities in access to natural resources would be addressed, beyond MDB safeguard standards.

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## **Burkina Faso**

NPC investments are proposed to build upon the base created by FIP / REDD+ programming in Burkina Faso of multi-sector investments for the sustainable management of natural resources at the landscape scale. The areas selected for NPC interventions are those under the country's jurisdictional Emission Reduction Program. This covers 8 of 13 national regions and potentially 6 million direct and indirect beneficiaries. These areas also comprise the main agricultural production zones of the country, with agricultural land expansion a principal driver of deforestation. Four main approaches with key institutional champions are proposed: (i) sustainable management of

protected areas and conservation of biological diversity – led by the Government; (ii) support for the process of decentralized management of natural resources – driven by municipalities; (iii) support for community management of natural resources – driven by civil society; and (iv) support for reducing the carbon footprint of high-potential value chains – led by the private sector and NGOs. NPC funding is proposed to support (in addition to management oversight) the interrelated goals of: biodiversity conservation (with related climate benefits, including reduced deforestation and soil carbon sequestration); improving the enabling framework for forest governance, including the financing and regulatory framework of the forest sector (with development of non-timber forest products and marketing of agricultural produce); and sustainable agricultural land management (resulting in improved participation of vulnerable groups and women in the management bodies of forests and new infrastructure). In short, NPC resources will be used to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation objectives through better management of natural resources, resulting in improved livelihoods of rural populations through a strengthened agro-silvo-pastoral sector. As both a precursor and complement to NPC support, implementation of four FIP projects has helped make it possible for the country to advance to the third phase of the REDD+ process – seeking to use payments received for forest carbon emission reductions to support rural sustainable development. The Eol notes continuing social challenges that will be addressed as part of NPC programming, including the need to better engage nomadic and pastoral populations, women, marginalized young people, community, and religious minorities – noting that women face an accumulation of deprivations in terms of access to education, employment and decision-making that expose them to poverty more than men. The Eol also puts forward some interesting ideas on enhancing public-private partnerships such as tax incentives or support to companies for the costs of transitioning to greener technologies. Finally, it will be important to further develop national coordination mechanisms and strong engagement of the Ministry of Finance as the basis for implementing a landscape-based approach to achieving the country's climate action and sustainable development objectives.

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## **Argentina**

Argentina's Eol proposes to focus on locations in the Gran Chaco region – a hotspot for deforestation in South America – already designated for support through the introduction of integrated silvopastoral and agroforestry systems for small producers. The country seeks NPC support to further drive transformational change and greater environmental sustainability in land management in these landscapes. This will be achieved through the adoption by small-scale producers of low-carbon technologies and livestock practices and the integration of forest and livestock management. This approach has been successfully tested in pilot projects, and the Eol proposes to scale it up with small farmers and landholders in the targeted areas of the Chaco. An integrated nature-based approach is proposed to generate mitigation, adaptation, social and environmental benefits. The NPC Program would introduce practices to improve agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods, while simultaneously reducing GHG emissions and/or strengthening the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change. Argentina's Eol proposes to work with existing private sector associations and networks who have embraced sustainable production practices for GHG reduction and biodiversity conservation. It is not clear though, how these networks will interact with the small farmers who are the targets of this program. Similarly, the Eol proposes to work through existing networks to foster social inclusion, but no details are provided on existing gaps and challenges faced by indigenous groups and other excluded stakeholders. Multiple related IDB and WB projects are listed, though there is no indication as to the status or success of these interventions. There are apparently good coordination

mechanisms in place among government ministries for climate action, and a formal letter of endorsement from the Ministry of Economy was received (albeit late, due to Government restructuring).

## **Jamaica**

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The NPC program proposed by Jamaica is focused on achieving climate adaptation benefits using a nature-based and ridge-to-reef approach in the watersheds of the Yallahs, Hope, and Morant Rivers and along the entire length of these river systems – focusing on the Blue and John Crow Mountains within which these watersheds are located. These areas are characterized by high biological diversity, and they provide valuable ecological services to vulnerable rural communities. However, they currently suffer from deforestation and are under threat from climate change impacts, including increased fire risk. NPC interventions are not costed, but would benefit from and build upon significant similar project experience, especially from PPCR interventions in the Upper Rio Minho Watershed. The proposed program is fully aligned with Jamaica's climate strategies and plans, including the Climate Change Policy Framework, the "Climate Change Adaptation and Hazard Risk Reduction" outcome of Vision 2030 Jamaica, the NDC, and the national Climate Change Research Agenda. Coordination is to be provided by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, which is responsible for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The EoI represents a good fit with the NPC objectives, as it proposes to mainstream nature-based approaches into sustainable land management and agricultural practices in a socially inclusive and gender responsive manner, promoting both sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience. However, there are few details about the exact nature of proposed interventions, their costs, and how NPC support would fill the country's funding gaps for such initiatives.

## **Niger**

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Operations under Niger's proposed NPC program will focus on the integrated management of landscapes in the realm of the Great Green Wall, and target specific ecosystems such as valley ecosystems (Irhazer, Tarka, Goulbin Kaba, Maggia, Komadougou Yobé, Koramas, etc.); oasis basins; dallols, and other wetlands; and areas with particular fauna (giraffes, addax, hippos, transnational basin ecosystems, etc.) as identified on an accompanying map. However, the EoI is not clear on the interventions which would be funded through NPC support, and it lists several potential sets of activities, some of which are nature-based solutions, and others which are not. Nevertheless, Niger has a clear ambition to improve the resilience of its ecosystems and communities in the face of the negative impacts of climate change, including flood and drought, and to invest in climate adaptation technologies for the improvement of land productivity and to increase resilience of local communities. The EoI highlights potential investment in integrated management of water resources, restoration of ecosystems, improved agro-silvo-pastoral and fisheries productivity, development of value chains by promoting low-carbon technologies; valuation of ecosystem services; and improvement of access to renewable energy. Figures are provided for potential GHG emission reductions, numbers of people with reduced vulnerability, and agricultural yield increases with RNA (*régénération naturelle assistée*, i.e. assisted / farmer-managed natural regeneration). Niger's commitment to and policy context for climate change and sustainable land management are clearly set out, as are its achievements so far, particularly in the context of the Great Green Wall. While the proposal is generally aligned with NPC concepts and objectives, it did not provide much information on specific targeted landscapes.

## **Fiji**

Fiji has expressed high vision and ambition in both climate change mitigation and adaptation, and its EoI has all the elements of a successful integrated landscape-based approach consistent with the concept and goals of the NPC program. The EoI lays out five key areas where NPC resources would add value, with an emphasis on nature-based solutions, ecosystem protection, human health and wellbeing, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. Flood management activities will be prioritized for river systems, such as the Nadi River, Sigatoka River, Rewa River, and Labasa River. The types of nature-based solutions identified include protecting and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems (included the sustainable management of coastal wetlands), stabilizing riverbanks, and agroforestry, among others. Fiji has established and implemented a wide range of measures for combating climate change, from laws, policies, NDC, NAP, sector strategies, and a national climate finance strategy, with a strong emphasis on the application of nature-based solutions. The proposed NPC program for Fiji is quite comprehensive in the EoI, so a narrowing of focus would be needed to hone in on specific landscapes that are most vulnerable to climate change and/or offer the greatest potential for carbon sequestration through nature-based interventions. But overall there appears to be quite strong NPC alignment and complementarity.

## **Nepal**

The EoI for Nepal proposes to introduce various management actions across the landscape of mountainous and rural Karnali province, including forest and wetland restoration and watershed conservation, as well as promotion of climate-resilient crops and eco-agricultural techniques advantageous for adaptation and mitigation like intercropping, agroforestry, conservation tillage and livestock and agricultural waste management. The proposed approach at the landscape level includes capacity building in watershed planning (creating a management plan for the Karnali Watershed and its sub-watersheds) as well as integration of climate change adaptation and social inclusion considerations into local development plans. Nepal's vision is to achieve "transformational change and greater environmental sustainability in land management through sustainable management of mosaic landscape[s] for the future through the integration of nature-based solutions for resilient and adaptive production systems". The climate change impacts faced by the country – primarily flooding, drought and landslides – are discussed, but the EoI does not spell out how NPC-supported interventions would be used to directly address these risks. And despite focusing on the Karnali landscape, there is little emphasis on management of high altitude pastures that the EoI notes are of particular importance to these upland communities. Private sector roles in the target area are largely centered on agricultural and consumer product trade, and the EoI does not really explore potential engagement. The country has significant CIF experience to build upon, with 9 projects having been approved. Of these, two under the SPCR (both ADB implemented) are particularly relevant: Building Climate Resilience of Watersheds in Mountain Eco-Regions; and Mainstreaming Climate Change Risk Management in Development. In short, there are some significant gaps in presentation, but the gist of the country's proposal is well aligned with the approach advocated by the NPC program.

## **India**

India's submission envisions using NPC resources, consistent with its NDC, to complement government and World Bank funding under the umbrella of the National Green India Mission (GIM), primarily focusing on forest conservation and restoration – with mitigation and adaptation benefits linked to improved hydrological management, biodiversity conservation and enhanced forest-



based livelihoods. The approach aspires to build the country's technical and institutional capacity while attracting private sector financing around non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains. This would complement and catalyse innovation across the GIM, taking advantage of the "flexibility" of CIF resources compared to the rigid structures of "regular government programs". However, the specific States and landscapes for NPC support are not identified. With a strong forest sector orientation and a need for cross-sectoral coordination, emphasis is placed on local level resilience building in the water, agriculture and rural development sectors. The targeted landscapes and niche for NPC funding as a means for incorporating stronger attention to nature-based adaptation and mitigation approaches in government programming, could have been better articulated, along with the potential impact in terms of climate benefits and numbers of people positively affected is large, as is the leveraging opportunity through direct links with both GIM and World Bank co-financing.

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### **Regional Africa 1 (Niger as lead)**

The Eol highlights a number of ongoing AfDB investments in the Great Green Wall countries but does not say precisely how NPC support would be used to build on these, consistent with promoting an integrated landscape-based approach. The Eol highlights the strong transboundary cooperation of the six countries submitting the proposal (led by Niger): Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. They are all members of two regional institutions (together with five other countries) providing the framework for regional cooperation: the Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall (PAGMV); and the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS). The submission points to the global significance of the Great Green Wall Initiative (IGGW) as the "result of regional cooperation between the Saharo Sahelian States, faced with the urgent need for concerted responses to the impacts of desertification, climate change, land and resource degradation, dwindling water resources, the loss of biodiversity; poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition and more recently, insecurity and forced migrations", and suggests strong potential for transformative interventions applying nature-based solutions. However, the Eol contains no detailed information on the six countries' climate commitments or progress, drawing largely on existing regional investment programs which could be leveraged – the Climate Investment Plan for the Sahel Region (PIC-RS) and its Priority Program to Catalyse Climate Investments in the Sahel (PPCI) as well as the Ten-Year Priority Investment Plan (PIPD 2021-2030) of the Great Green Wall – which are described as consistent with the NDCs and NAPs of the six countries. There is undoubtedly strong potential for alignment between the IGGW and its investment plans with the NPC program objectives, which would offer significant leveraging opportunities, given current MDB investments and a multiplicity of other international investments. But much work will be needed to identify the particular strategic gap(s) which an NPC regional investment program might fill and the actions which might be supported. This would need to include regional level actions (complementing several existing regional cooperation, governance and monitoring initiatives), as well as national government-led actions and, private sector engagement opportunities, identifying sub-national Sahel landscapes in which on-the-ground interventions might be supported, taking into account the need for planning around civil conflict.

### **Assessments of remaining Eols**

Summary assessment texts are also provided for the 27 Eols which are not recommended for funding consideration. These summary assessments can be found in *Appendix 6*.

## 5. Reflections on the process

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The Terms of Reference for the IEG include identifying key issues and any shortcomings encountered in the assessment process and making recommendations for improvements. This section of the report outlines some of the group's observations on the process, which may provide useful guidance for such processes in the future.

### ***Support Provided to the IEG***

The on-boarding process, including discussions with CIF AU staff and MDB staff has been described above, and was efficiently handled. IEG members were given the opportunity to clarify elements of their Terms of Reference (ToR), to confirm their independence, and otherwise understand clearly CIF expectations along with their roles and responsibilities. Time constraints were acutely felt, however, as the IEG was brought on board only days before the closing of the call for Eols, and when it became clear there were 48 submissions, work was quickly divided among team members. The CIF AU (NPC Program lead, Governance Team, and others) was responsive and helpful throughout, respecting the independence of the IEG in conducting its work.

While the IEG ToR provided for consultations with countries and MDBs, there was clearly not sufficient time to do so in a manner which would be fair to all applicants. As a result, the IEG relied on the written Eol submissions with the exception of some clarifications sought and received from MDBs on the regional submissions.

Recommendation: For future such processes, at least a further two calendar weeks of time and perhaps 5 more days of work time per panel member should be considered.

### ***Concept and Practice of Nature-based Solutions***

A key goal of CIF's NPC Program is to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation through supporting NbS at landscape level to provide multiple social, environmental, and economic co-benefits. From reviewing the 48 Eols, it became evident to the IEG that many countries had difficulty in articulating their Eols with an adequate understanding of this concept. Only a few Eols proposed crisp ideas and described clear priorities for NbS in specific landscapes. Many of the Eols presented lists of mitigation and adaptation actions that might be considered during investment planning, without an articulated vision of how these actions would be combined in an integrated and transformative landscape approach and with associated enabling conditions.

In general, the IEG observed a wide range in terms of the quality and depth of the Eols submitted, with relatively few submissions indicating a high level of effort, thought, planning and consultation. CIF and its partner MDBs should thus consider ways to provide direct support to those countries selected for NPC support to strengthen their understanding of the intended NPC Program approach and how it can help achieve climate and development objectives. Such support might be particularly useful in the early stages of a new program, such as the Nature, People and Climate program, if the concepts are still relatively new.

Recommendation: CIF AU and/or the MDBs could offer an online introductory seminar or undertake some other form of capacity building on 'proof of concept' for NbS so that a common understanding and interpretation is achieved across the board. A team of experts drawn from all MDBs – or for each partner MDB – could be assembled to support countries during the Investment Plan preparation stage.

### ***Value of MDB support***

Out of a total of 48 Eols, 41 indicated having received support from one or more MDB in developing the proposal. This analysis was conducted by the IEG only after the review process was completed, and Eols not supported by MDBs were not penalized in the scoring. Nonetheless it is noteworthy that, of the 8 Eols not receiving MBD support, none were scored high enough to fall into the group of Eols recommended by the IEG. This seems to indicate a clear value to active support from MDBs in developing country-driven proposals, not only in assisting governments to articulate well the linkages with MDB portfolios, but also helping to understand the CIF requirements and ensure all-round good quality proposals.

Recommendation: Countries should avail themselves of MDB support during Investment Plan development while maintaining a country-driven approach. For future CIF calls for Eols, MDBs and countries should be encouraged to collaborate closely in preparing proposals aligned with CIF program directions.

### ***Recent, current and planned related initiatives***

It makes sense that the Eol template asked for information on CIF investments in the country, and specifically on how the NPC Program might build on the Forest Investment Program (FIP) and/or Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR). This specific focus in the guidelines for Eol preparation, however, seems to have led many countries to downplay or not even mention other closely related investments – both past projects from which lessons could be gleaned, and current and future projects with which it would be important to achieve synergy and avoid overlap. For example, some Eols mentioned potential synergies with projects and programs financed by their own governments or through cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was useful for potential coordination and to avoid duplication.

On the flip side, several of the Eols presented a lot of information on unrelated programs in infrastructure, energy, health, etc. to demonstrate readiness for MDB/CIF investment in country. These lists of projects did not include analysis on impact and lessons that could have been relevant or useful for the NPC Program.

Recommendation: CIF AU could consider adding a question on all domestic and internationally supported initiatives specifically related to the CIF Investment Program in any future such calls for proposals, and it could ensure that this is part of further NPC Program development.

### ***Questions in Eol template***

Questions 8, 9 and 10 of the form were very lengthy and contained some areas of overlap. It is not the IEG's view that this undermined in any way the fairness of the process, but it is worth noting that there were differences in the ways applicants handled their responses. A few countries copied the text into a Word document, split the many sub-questions up and answered each one separately.

The vast majority, however, entered the text in the online form which included space for their responses to the lengthy questions. This seems to have resulted in some issues not being covered in some cases, or attempts to answer more than one question simultaneously, often creating text that was not well structured or easy to read.

Recommendation: CIF AU could consider a template with more but shorter and simpler questions for future calls for expressions of interest.

### ***Specificity in Eols***

Question 10 was the first and only place in the form where the respondents were asked explicitly to say what they would actually do with the funds, if they received CIF NPC funding. Even here, respondents were not asked to outline clearly the potential elements of an investment program, their geographical (or enabling environment) scope, indicative costs and suitable financial instrument. Those Eols which did provide this indication were not scored higher, but may be able to move more quickly to more detailed planning and implementation.

Recommendation: CIF AU could consider how best to structure the templates to elicit as much concrete information on proposed interventions as possible, at various stages in the process.

### ***Consistency between criteria and Eol template***

Recognizing the challenges of aligning policy statements and tools, when possible, CIF AU and its governing bodies should strive for consistency and simplicity. Although most of the questions in the Eol template were thematically linked to the 7 overarching evaluation criteria, it might have been helpful if the template were more streamlined and precisely aligned with the criteria outlined in the Country Selection Process document. For example, Table 13 highlights information from the NPC template related to the seven overarching criteria.

***Table 13: Links between criteria and template sections***

<b>Overarching criteria for Evaluation</b>	<b>EOI Template Section</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Vision and Ambition	8	
Alignment and Complementarity	8, 9	
Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs	6, 8, 9	6 relates to the specific eligibility criteria to be assessed even before the start of the evaluation process
MDB Partnership	11	
Leadership	8, 9, 11	While there was no specific template section for an EOI to show leadership, there was space within the sections noted to assess demonstrated leadership qualities.
Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization	13	
Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality	14	

**Recommendation:** Where possible, Eol template design should be precisely aligned with the criteria in the Country Selection Process document.

### **Template focus on Investment Plans**

The Eol template (Question 4) asked submitting countries to indicate for which type of CIF funding they would like to be considered. Three options were provided on the form, not shown as mutually exclusive, and 7 countries ticked more than one box (see *Figure 4: Expressions of Interest by type*). The options were as follows, (noting that the Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will be offered as an integral part of the NPC Program, following the development of Investment Plans in selected countries):

- Investment Plan
- DPSP/CIF Climate Ventures
- Regional Investment Plan

The IEG notes that no further detail was requested of countries ticking the DPSP/CIF Climate Ventures box on how private sector partners would be involved, or what kinds of innovation might be promoted; and likewise no further detail was requested of groups of countries ticking the Regional Investment Plan on regional challenges and coordination structures or proposed regional actions. While this did not negatively affect the fairness of the process, it means that follow-up work will be needed to clarify such issues for those Eols proceeding to the planning stage.

**Recommendation:** GCAP may wish to request MDBs supporting the next stage of the process to work with countries / regions to clarify the anticipated CIF financing sources.

### **Regional programming and template**

IEG members found it somewhat challenging to assess the regional programs against the criteria and the Eol template questions provided by the CIF, as translated into the IEG scorecard, since these were primarily written with country submissions in mind. The IEG believes, however, that it was fully able to appreciate and consider the proposals as submitted.

The regional dimension is important for a program like the NPC which is designed to encourage systems thinking and broader potentially transboundary landscapes. Guidelines that deal specifically with Regional Investment Programs as distinct from national-level Investment Programs would be useful, and a separate template for regional submissions might have facilitated more comprehensive regional Eols.

**Recommendation:** GCAP may wish to give special consideration to the unique features of regional programs, and CIF may consider issuing a separate set of criteria and template customized for regional programs in future.

### **Focus for DPSP/CIF Climate Ventures**

The IEG observed that the NPC Program Design Document (CIF Nature Solutions Program) contains the following language regarding private sector engagement (paragraph 30): *"Dedicated private sector window – Private sector engagement will be critical to driving transformational change under the CIF Nature Solutions program. Under the CIF Nature Solutions program, a dedicated private sector*

*window (DPSW) can support a programmatic approach that will enable private sector and MDB operations to work together to identify priority thematic and technology-based private sector funding opportunities in all countries deemed eligible for CIF funding by the relevant governing body. This approach seeks to harness CIF's comparative advantage in enabling innovation by supporting MDBs in pursuing frontier approaches in difficult contexts. Transformational change dimensions and guiding questions as provided in Annex 1 should be used when designing DPSW programs and projects..."*

However, the Eol form referred to the Dedicated Private Sector Program / CIF Climate Ventures option, and an explanatory note to the NPC Program announcement stated that: "Dedicated Private Sector Programs are dedicated funding windows that provide risk-appropriate capital to finance high-impact, large-scale private sector projects"; and that "The CIF's Climate Ventures window is a first-of-its-kind venture facility aiming to foster and advance climate innovation in developing countries". These discrepancies may have caused some confusion regarding the types of funding available to NPC Program proponents, as noted in comments received on the IEG draft report from one of the MDBs.

The IEG noted that, while the Eol template did include Question 13 on Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization, this was not linked explicitly to these two potential implementing modalities where the private sector (and non-grant instruments) would be central. One of the MDBs, in reviewing the draft of this report, observed that "in almost 50% of the EOI submissions, details on private sector engagement either needed further elaboration or were not provided". The GCAP Sub-committee may wish to give further consideration to understanding the reasons behind this area of relative weakness in the Eols, since private sector engagement and leveraging will be critical to driving transformational change under the NPC Investment Program.

Since the DPSP windows of the CTF have previously been used for large-scale private sector projects mostly in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors, it would be useful for the GCAP to discuss what high-impact, large-scale private sector projects might look like in the context of the Nature, People and Climate Investment Program, where investment is often required in public goods.

Recommendation: GPAC Sub-committee could discuss how the Dedicated Private Sector and CIF Climate Ventures windows might be utilized in the NPC context.

### ***Mode of operation of IEG***

Although the members of the IEG have worked together very well through this process, and modern communication technologies clearly facilitate remote work and collaboration across time-zones, the IEG would have greatly benefitted from physical time together, perhaps a 2-day face to face meeting towards the end of the Eol review process, allowing a dedicated opportunity for technical discussions and in-depth analysis. The peer review process of the IEG's collective work based on a robust assessment process was limited by the overall time constraints, time-zone differences and the use of internet-based communication platforms.

Recommendation: Resources permitting, GCAP and CIF AU could consider the possibility of providing for face-to-face meetings for future independent expert groups.

## **6. Concluding remarks**

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The NPC Investment Program offers support for promising but still evolving investments in nature-based solutions for climate change and development challenges. This presents an important opportunity not only for participating countries but also a chance to further develop viable approaches in this new area of climate investments.

The submissions received from the call for Eols indicate that there is strong interest in the approach offered through the NPC Investment Program, but the mixed quality of responses is a further indication that, while appreciation for nature-based approaches is growing, associated concepts and practices are still being developed.

The NPC IEG worked diligently to give all eligible proposals a fair review, and constructive feedback received from the CIF AU and MDBs has been appreciated, and incorporated as warranted. The IEG is pleased to see that a significant group of Eols could be recommended to be considered for CIF support, and it looks forward to interaction with GCAP members to answer any questions regarding the group's findings and recommendations.

## **7. Appendices**

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**Appendix 1: CIF online call for Expressions of Interest**

**Appendix 2: Text of CIF email announcing call for Eols**

**Appendix 3: Terms of Reference for NPC Independent Expert Group**

**Appendix 4: NPC Expression of Interest Template**

**Appendix 5: IEG scorecard**

**Appendix 6: Summaries of Eols not recommended**

**Appendix 7: List of those consulted**





## **CIF Nature, People and Climate Investment Program Country Expression of Interest (EOI) Form**

The CIF Nature, People and Climate (NPC) Investment Program will tackle in an integrated manner the multiple drivers and impacts of climate change resulting from human activities on land resources and ecosystems services. By fostering strategic partnerships and deploying scaled-up and flexible concessional capital, the program aims to support multi-sectoral solutions, including the creation of enabling environments, and direct investments for improved use of land and natural resources. The program is premised on a *landscape approach* that will enable CIF and its implementing partners to further contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts while generating multiple benefits (GHG mitigation, resilience strengthening of lands and communities, improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction) and progress toward sustainable, just and equitable rural development.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) must demonstrate a country's firm commitment to successfully executing the CIF NPC program. Below are the program specific criteria by which this EOI will be evaluated.

For countries submitting a request for a regional investment plan, please indicate so below and include relevant regional-level information in your responses.

The Expression of Interest should be accompanied by a cover page signed by either the submitting country's Ministry of Finance (Minister, Deputy Minister, or equivalent) or the designated line ministry (Minister or Deputy Minister or equivalent), with a copy to the Ministry of Finance.

The Expression of Interest should also include the contact details of MDB contacts consulted in preparing the EOI, if any.

**EOI Submission deadline: August 12, 2022.**

Please read the [NPC Design Document](#) and the [Country Selection Process Document](#) for more information about the program.

If there are any questions, please contact the CIF Administrative Unit at [cifadminunit@worldbank.org](mailto:cifadminunit@worldbank.org).

Link to "preview" of online call text and survey form through Survey Monkey:

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Preview/?sm=qsGtuCrn7axoyLwss\\_2FUDyRzW7BEbUfN8YT3Xpw3aRlclxcjfADZMOa140aHVAGXn](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Preview/?sm=qsGtuCrn7axoyLwss_2FUDyRzW7BEbUfN8YT3Xpw3aRlclxcjfADZMOa140aHVAGXn)

Dear CIF Stakeholders,

It is our pleasure to announce that the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is launching a selection process to identify countries that will receive funding from the new **Nature, People and Climate (NPC) Investment Program**. With this announcement, we are writing to invite eligible recipient countries to express their interest in participating in the NPC Program through one of the CIF Operational Modalities (Investment Plan, Private Sector Programs, Regional Program) by completing an Expression of Interest (Eoi) form. A link to the Eoi form can be found at the bottom of this message. **Interested countries should [submit an Eoi](#) before the closing date of August 1, 2022.**

New donor commitments to the NPC will allow potential allocation per investment plan of up to approximately USD 50 million. Fundraising for the program will continue subsequent to selection of an initial cohort of countries for inclusion in the NPC program. Additional countries will be brought into the program as funding becomes available.

Since it was established in 2008, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) has succeeded in accelerating progress towards a climate-smart future that leaves no one behind, promoting climate resilience, seeding investments in clean technology, and supporting sustainable forest management. Now, after widespread consultation, CIF has mapped the next frontier of climate challenges – among them, deploying Nature-based Solutions that recognize the interdependence between land use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and improving the sources of livelihoods of rural communities and Indigenous Peoples.

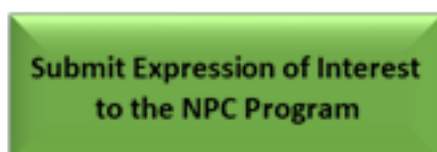
CIF's NPC Program will tackle in an integrated manner the multiple drivers and impacts of climate change resulting from human activities on land resources and ecosystems services. By working with multilateral development banks as implementing agencies, fostering strategic partnerships and deploying scaled-up and flexible concessional capital, the program aims to support multi-sectoral solutions, including the creation of enabling environments and direct investments for improved use of land, coastal and other natural resources.

The NPC Program is premised on a landscape approach that will enable CIF recipient governments and implementing MDB partners to deliver core climate results (GHG mitigation, resilience strengthening of lands and communities), while also generating improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and disaster risk reduction among other benefits. The program seeks to contribute progress towards sustainable, just and equitable rural development.

Please read the [NPC Design Document](#) and the [Country Selection Process Document](#) for more information about the program.

Should your country be interested in accessing funding for the NPC Program, kindly submit an Eoi before the closing date of **August 1, 2022 by clicking on the box below.**

If you have any questions, please contact: [cifadminunit@worldbank.org](mailto:cifadminunit@worldbank.org)



Sincerely,

**Mafalda Duarte**

Head

Climate Investment Funds

[cifadminunit@worldbank.org](mailto:cifadminunit@worldbank.org)

[www.facebook.com/CIFaction](https://www.facebook.com/CIFaction) | [@CIF\\_Action](#)



## **Terms of Reference for the Independent Expert Group of CIF Nature, People and Climate Investment Program**

### **a) Background and purpose**

1. The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) was established in 2008 to provide scaled-up climate finance to developing countries in support of low-emission, climate-resilient development. The CIF business model is characterized by six main features:
  - Country-led programmatic participatory approach enabling the design and implementation of strategically linked investments aligned with national priorities and building on existing efforts and strategies
  - Delivery of financing through multilateral development banks (MDBs) working together in a coordinated manner to support the implementation of coherent large-scale investment packages for cross-sectoral interventions responding to countries' priorities and objectives
  - Large-scale investment packages helping to create and deepen markets, stimulate private investments, and drive policy reform
  - Scaled-up, predictable, and flexible envelopes of concessional resources
  - Consideration of system transformation and social inclusion at the outset
  - Participatory and multi-stakeholder approach geared to effectively engaging non-state actors within the civil society and private sector
2. To maximize the comparative advantages of CIF's proven business model in support of accelerated climate action in priority areas, the CIF Administrative Unit and partner MDBs developed four new strategic programs in areas seeking to drive the "*rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructures, and industrial systems*"<sup>1</sup> called for by the international scientific community. The new strategic programs are the following: *CIF Renewable Energy Integration, CIF Smart Cities, CIF Industry Decarbonization, and CIF Nature, People, and Climate*.
3. CIF Nature, People and Climate (NPC) Investment Program seeks to tackle in an integrated manner the multiple drivers and impacts of human activities and climate change on land resources and ecosystems services. By fostering strategic partnerships and deploying scaled-up and flexible concessional capital, the program aims to support multi-sectoral solutions, including the creation of enabling environments, and direct investments for improved use of land and natural resources. The program is premised on a *landscape approach*<sup>2</sup> that will enable CIF and its implementing partners to further contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts while contributing multiple benefits (GHG mitigation, resilience strengthening of lands and communities, improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction) and progress toward sustainable, just and equitable rural development.
4. The CIF has put out a call to invite interested and eligible recipient country governments to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to participate in the CIF NPC Program. The call for EoIs

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<sup>1</sup> IPCC (2018), *Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C*, [Summary for Policymakers](#).

<sup>2</sup> A landscape approach deals with large-scale processes in an integrated and multidisciplinary manner, combining natural resource management with environmental and livelihood considerations. The landscape approach also factors in human activities and their institutions, viewing them as an integral part of the system rather than as external agents. (FAO 2012).

estimates the indicative range of CIF funding allocation per country of approximately 50 million USD.

5. As specified in the [Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs](#) approved by the CIF governing body, an independent expert group is to be established to review and rank Eols submitted by countries eligible and interested in participating in the new CIF program.

**b) Mandate of the independent expert group for the CIF NPC program.**

1. The independent expert group will perform the following tasks in consultation with the CIF Administrative Unit and the MDBs:
  - a. Evaluate country Eols submitted to the AU against the assessment criteria in Table 1 below and questions posed in the NPC Eol form, which are based on Sections 6 and 7 of the Country Selection Process document.
  - b. Present to the relevant CIF governing body a ranked list of countries for the CIF NPC program and produce a report on the methodology and analysis conducted to reach that ranked list
2. The CIF Administrative Unit will supervise the independent expert group activities, with the CIF partner MDBs providing strategic and technical guidance.

**c) Criteria and general composition of the independent expert group**

1. The group will be composed of an inter-disciplinary team of **six experts**, acting in their personal capacities, and chosen based on their strategic and operational expertise and experience in the areas relevant to CIF NPC Program.
2. Selection of experts will consider geographic and gender balance and work to ensure diverse backgrounds/experience are encompassed by the team.
3. The expected timeline for the work of the Expert Group will be **mid-July to mid-September 2022. with the presentation of the final report to the CIF governing body expected in October 2022.**
4. Specialists to be included in the Expert Group:
  - a) Should have at least 12 years of experience in area of technical expertise relevant to the NPC Program.
  - b) Past experience working in developing country contexts (including small island states) is required.
  - c) Prior history working with or for multilateral, regional, or international organizations is preferred.
  - d) Experience private sector financing modalities for NBS would be looked upon favorably.
5. While specifically meeting the above general principles, it is proposed that the composition of the six-person group should reflect a wealth of knowledge and experience on climate change mitigation and adaptation practices in developing countries, including the land and ecosystems transitions, and will *collectively* hold in-depth knowledge of the following disciplines:

- a) **Climate change mitigation.** Including understanding the latest science on short-term and long-term climate emissions. Knowledge of methodologies for quantifying Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reductions resulting from practical Nature-based interventions, including avoiding forest/peatland/coastal conversion; protecting and restoring coastal and inland water systems; agroforestry; regenerative farming; agroecology; enhancing soil carbon stocks, etc.
  - b) **Climate Change Adaptation.** Climate change risk and vulnerability analysis. Familiarity with integrated ecosystems-based planning and natural management measures that strengthen and expand an area's/community's resilience to climate change impacts (e.g., climate smart agriculture, ecosystem-based adaptation, drought mitigation, water delivery, storage and management, disaster risk reduction etc.).
  - c) **Natural Resources Management.** Understanding of Nature-based Solutions to climate change derived from environmental management of agriculture (e.g., sustainable crop intensification, livestock rearing and commodity supply chains), and natural resource management (e.g., forest, coastal, water catchment, and biodiversity management, etc.). Familiarity with and knowledge of successful private sector financing models for nature-based solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation that generate livelihood and biodiversity co-benefits.
  - d) **Climate Change Policy/Governance.** Familiarity with critical country policies and development processes, including national development plans and policy responses aimed at natural resource management, poverty alleviation and both mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts.
  - e) **Economics.** Expertise in environmental economics related to natural resource management and rural livelihoods, circular economy and the challenges posed by undertaking key adaptation and mitigation measures in critical forest, agriculture and livestock, coastal, and water systems.
  - f) **Governance and Institutions.** Knowledge of institutional and organizational issues underlying climate change action at various levels (local, national, regional, global). Expertise in formal and informal rules and accountability structures that shape intergovernmental processes and relations between key sectors.
  - g) **Social Development.** Familiarity with social and community issues, including Indigenous Peoples issues and rights; gender equality issues as they relate to climate change; sustainable livelihoods and social issues in agriculture, natural resource management, coastal and other climate-sensitive sectors. Understanding of the social dimensions of climate change governing the global climate change negotiations regime.
6. Applications for independent expert group members should include the expert's **name, contact information, cover letter which details areas of expertise and suitability for the position, and a resume demonstrating professional experience and expertise in the target areas.** Applicants must also disclose if they have potential conflicts of interest (e.g., they work on behalf of a government that is submitting an EoI or are currently employed by a CIF partner MDB). Prospective experts can apply to more than one CIF expert group, though experts will only be able to serve on two expert groups for CIF's new programs.

7. The CIF Administrative Unit and MDB Committee will review all applications against the qualifications outlined in the call and prepare a proposed expert group composition to present to the relevant CIF governing body for review and approval.
8. When formed, the group will select two co-chairs: one a national from an CIF eligible recipient country and the other a national from a CIF contributing country.

**d) Assessment and Eol ranking methodology**

1. To assess and rank countries' Eols and make recommendations to the relevant CIF governing body, the independent expert group will undertake the following tasks:
  - a) Review the quality of responses in submitted Eol forms by applying the assessment criteria and weighting outlined in Table 1.
  - b) Review the official documents annexed or referenced in the Eol.
  - c) Undertake additional desk research as needed. The program-specific indicators included in Table 2 of this document can be considered, in addition to other relevant information and indicators that are available at a country or, for regional programs, region level.
  - d) If required, interview country representatives to better understand their context-specific circumstances, absorptive capacity, and priorities and opportunities for climate action.
  - e) Consult with the CIF partner MDBs to ensure that prospective countries meet the 'MDB Partnership' criteria in Table 1 and the *CIF- Country Selection Process for the Climate Investment Funds' New Strategic Programs* document are taken into consideration.

**e) Deliverables**

Through the CIF Administrative Unit, the independent expert group will submit to the relevant CIF governing body a final report that includes the following components:

- a) A ranked list of Eols from eligible countries for CIF NPC Program.
- b) Relevant methodological notes and justification that led to the proposed ranking
- c) Assessment of key issues and shortcomings possibly encountered in the assessment process and recommendations for improvements
- d) Concluding remarks on the recommended ranked lists
- e) List of stakeholders consulted

**f) Proposed sequence of milestones**

1. The independent expert group must meet the following milestones:
  - a. Independent expert group virtual meeting
  - b. Independent expert group meeting and report writing
  - c. Report of independent expert group submitted to the CIF Administrative Unit and shared with the MDBs
  - d. CIF Administrative Unit submission of independent expert group report to the relevant SCF governing body
  - e. Representative from expert group to present findings and recommendations to SCF governing body
  - f. Expert group to be available to respond to governing body questions.

2. The primary components of the expert group's work, as described in steps a-d of the preceding paragraph, are expected to take 6-8 weeks from **mid-July to mid-September 2022**.

**g) Roles and responsibilities**

1. The independent expert group is responsible for preparing and submitting through the CIF Administrative Unit a report to the relevant CIF governing body, including a ranked list of countries and/or regions for CIF NPC Program.
2. The CIF Administrative Unit will service and coordinate the independent expert group process and will provide general guidance to the group.
3. The CIF partner MDBs will provide strategic and technical guidance during this process.

**h) Remuneration**

Experts will be remunerated in accordance with World Bank rules and regulations on procurement of consultants.

**i) Applications**

Applications for the expert group should only be submitted through the CIF Administrative Unit service account - **cifadminunit@worldbank.org**. Applications received through any other means will not be accepted.



**Table 1: Criteria for assessing Eols**

Assessment criteria	Expression of Interest	Criteria Weighting
<b>Vision and Ambition</b>	<p>The Eol demonstrates the country's level of ambition as it relates to the CIF NPC Program and specifies how the country seeks to use CIF resources to drive transformational change<sup>3</sup> that follows a holistic, integrated, socially inclusive and gender equal approach. It explains the country's potential to lead multi-sectoral investments on nature-based solutions to climate change through a landscape approach that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces or avoids GHG emissions stemming from the changing use of land and erosion of natural resources and systems across various sectors (e.g., forestry agriculture, animal husbandry, coastal fisheries, etc.)</li> <li>• Enhances the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources through ecosystems-based planning and natural management measures (e.g., climate smart agriculture, integrated cropping, rainwater harvesting and storage, drought mitigation, etc.)</li> <li>• Builds the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems (e.g., ecosystem-based adaptation; green and blue infrastructure, protecting and restoring coastal and inland water systems, buffering against sea-level rise and storm surge, planting and protecting mangroves and maintaining 'Blue Forests,' water management, etc.).</li> <li>• Supports the livelihoods of rural communities and indigenous peoples, empowerment of women, and the management of biodiversity</li> </ul>	20%
<b>Alignment and Complementarity</b>	<p>The Eol, including a limited number of annexes<sup>4</sup>, explains how the CIF Nature Program aligns with the country climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, SDG-related plans) and other institutional and/or policy frameworks of relevance for the deployment of Nature based solutions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems and natural resources and strengthen the resilience of lands and communities<sup>5</sup>. It demonstrates the country's commitment to these strategies and plans, identifies any gaps in its legal</p>	20%

<sup>3</sup> CIF's Transformational Change Learning Partnership (TCLP) defines transformational change in climate action as strategic changes in targeted markets and other systems, with large-scale, sustainable impacts that shift and/or accelerate the trajectory toward low-carbon and climate-resilient development. The definition and dimensions of transformational change of may be further updated in 2020/2021 in collaboration with the TCLP. Please see the [TCLP webpage](#) for more information on this topic.

<sup>4</sup> Note that annexes should be limited in pages and should not supplant information that needs to be included in the EOI template itself to respond to criteria.

<sup>5</sup> For instance, incentive programs for corporates and producers; carbon pricing signals; monitoring, reporting and verification systems, etc.

	<p>framework that it needs to address to achieve Nature-based Solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation related goals, and progress towards achieving the strategies and plans.</p> <p>The EoI establishes the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals, demonstrates how CIF fills a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available or complementary to existing ones, and the potential and pace for replication and transformational change in the sector.</p>	
<b>Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs</b>	<p>The EoI, including annexes, identifies potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF NPC Program (as described in the NPC Program Design Document) and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the respective country, and, where possible, engage non-state actors, such as communities, NGOs, and private sector entities.</p> <p>Lines of action supporting mitigation and/or adaptation benefits, with both considered optimal.</p> <p>Specific or multiple landscape(s) relevant for delivering on a country's climate change commitment(s) should be referenced, such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable agriculture, inland or coastal degradation, etc.</p> <p>Proposed actions should contribute to one or more of the following to be considered eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring natural ecosystems or enhancing forest, coastal, or soil carbon stocks, while supporting rural livelihoods</li> <li>- Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions, and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, while supporting rural livelihoods</li> <li>- Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, and developing livelihood options for local communities</li> </ul>	15%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing the climate vulnerability of coastal systems<sup>6</sup> and communities</li> </ul> <p>An indicative estimate of climate benefits (mitigation, adaptation and resilience strengthening), and co-benefits (e.g., biodiversity) should be identified, as should the economic and social opportunities associated with the proposed activities.</p>	
<b>MDB Partnership</b>	The Eol provides evidence of a successful past or ongoing lending program with one or more CIF partner MDBs and explains if and how the work envisioned under the program will build upon existing CIF-supported work. It reflects indicative investment opportunities with partner MDBs and other co-financing in the context of the NPC program.	10%
<b>Leadership</b>	The Eol confirms active involvement of the Ministry of Finance, relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation and implementation of the line(s) of action, including supporting responsible government entities through horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms.	10%
<b>Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization</b>	The Eol, including annexes, proposes ideas for engaging the private sector in the delivery of the program and mobilization of resources that are aligned with CIF modalities.	10%
<b>Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality</b>	The Eol, including annexes, identifies gaps women, Indigenous People, persons with disabilities and other groups that experience social exclusion face in access to sustainable use of natural resources. It explains how these gaps would be addressed by proposed activities. The Eol includes potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills, and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society.	15%

<sup>6</sup> Coastal systems host an abundance of natural resources, on land and at sea, that provide vital ecosystem services and help buffer against severe weather events. These resources play a key role in the economic and physical resilience of coastal regions to existing and future challenges.

**Table 2. CIF Nature, People and Climate Investments Program – Indicators for Consideration by the Independent Expert Group**

Indicator	Time frame	Source
Historical GHG emissions from land-use change and forestry (metric tons per capita)	Latest available 5 years	<a href="#">Climate Watch GHG Emissions</a> <a href="#">FAO Stat</a>
Historical GHG emissions from the agriculture sector (metric tons per capita)	Latest available 5 years	<a href="#">Climate Watch GHG Emissions</a> <a href="#">FAO Stat</a>
Activities from the AFOLU sector included in the country's relevant low-carbon development plans	Most recent data	<a href="#">UNFCCC NDC registry</a> , <a href="#">BUR submissions</a>
Country's tree cover loss	Most recent score or ranking	<a href="#">Yale Environmental Performance Index's Tree Cover Loss indicator</a> <sup>7</sup>
Country's sustainable nitrogen management index	Most recent score or ranking	<a href="#">Yale Environmental Performance Index's Sustainable nitrogen management index</a> <sup>8</sup>
Mountain Green Cover Index (Changes in area of green vegetation in mountain areas: forests, shrubs, pastureland, and crop land) (SDG 15.4.2)	Most recent data	<a href="#">FAO data</a> (links to SDG 15)
Progress towards sustainable forest management (SDG 15.2.1)	Most recent data	<a href="#">FAO data</a> (links to SDG 15)
Country's vulnerability, ND-GAIN Country Index <sup>9</sup>	Latest available score	<a href="#">ND-GAIN Country Index</a>
Country's water risk	Latest available ranking	<a href="#">WRI Aqueduct Country Rankings</a>

<sup>7</sup> The Tale's indicator measures the total area of tree loss in areas with greater than 30% tree canopy cover divided by the forest cover in the year 2000. It applies a five-year rolling average to better capture trends in forest management strategies. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

<sup>8</sup> The Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index uses nitrogen use efficiency and crop yield to measure the environmental performance of agricultural production. For more information, please refer to: <https://epi.envirocenter.yale.edu/epi-issue-summaries>.

<sup>9</sup> The ND-GAIN Country Index summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.

## EOI Template Sections

<b>1. Country Name</b>
<b>2. Contact information</b>
<b>3. Details of MDB contacts consulted in preparing the EOI, if any</b>
<b>4. For what type of CIF funding would you like to be considered?</b>
<b>5. Eligibility: Is your country eligible for Official Development Assistance (ODA) at the time of this call for EOI?</b>
<b>6. Eligibility:</b> Does the proposed line of actions contribute to one or more of the following Nature-based Solutions to Climate Change (please check all that apply)?  <input type="checkbox"/> Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring natural ecosystems or enhancing forest, coastal, or soil carbon stocks, while supporting rural livelihoods and conserving biodiversity. <input type="checkbox"/> Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions, and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, while supporting rural livelihoods. <input type="checkbox"/> Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and/or strengthen the resilience of lands and rural communities to the impacts of climate change, and developing livelihood options for local communities. <input type="checkbox"/> Addressing the climate vulnerability of coastal systems and communities.
<b>7. Eligibility:</b> Does your country have an active lending program with at least one of CIF's partner MDBs?  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>8. Country's vision and ambition for using CIF resources:</b>

Describe how the enabling environment within the country increases the likelihood for successful outcomes related to the CIF Nature, People and Climate Investment Program?

How does the country seek to use CIF resources to drive transformational change and greater environmental sustainability in land management that follows a holistic, integrated, socially inclusive and gender equal approach?

Please indicate the country's potential to lead multi-sectoral investments on nature-based solutions to climate change through a landscape approach that accomplishes one or more of the following:

- a) reduces or avoids GHG emissions stemming from the changing use of land and erosion of natural resources and systems across various sectors (e.g., forestry, agriculture, animal husbandry, coastal fisheries, etc.);
- b) enhances the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources through ecosystems-based planning and natural management measures (e.g., climate smart agriculture, integrated cropping, rainwater harvesting and storage, drought mitigation, etc.);
- c) builds the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems (e.g., ecosystem-based adaptation; green and blue infrastructure, protecting and restoring coastal and inland water systems, buffering against sea-level rise and storm surge, planting and protecting mangroves and maintaining 'Blue Forests,' water management, etc.); or
- d) supports the livelihoods of rural communities and indigenous peoples, empowerment of women, and the management of biodiversity?

#### **9. Alignment and complementarity:**

Please address these questions in your response:

How does the CIF Nature, People, Climate Investment Program align with the country's climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, SDG-related plans, and other long-term strategies, institutional and/or policy frameworks of relevance) for the deployment of Nature based solutions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems and natural resources and strengthen the resilience of lands and communities?

What is the country's progress towards achieving these strategies and plans as they relate to Nature-based Solutions?

Have gaps in the country's policy and legal framework been identified that need addressing to accelerate this progress, and if so, what are the key ones?

What is the additional value CIF resources could bring to the country meeting its goals? How does CIF fill a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available, or complementary to existing ones?

#### **10. Implementation and relevance for CIF Nature, People and Climate Investment Program:**

Please address these questions in your response:

What are potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF NPC program and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the country(ies), and, where possible, engage non-state actors, such as communities, NGOs, and private sector entities?

Do proposed actions support outcomes related to climate change mitigation, adaptation or both (which is encouraged)?

Please reference the specific or multiple landscape(s) relevant for delivering on your country's climate change commitments, such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable agriculture, inland or coastal degradation, etc.

Describe the affected populations/beneficiaries?

What is the indicative estimate of climate benefits (mitigation, adaptation and resilience strengthening), economic and social benefits, and co-benefits (e.g., biodiversity)?

**11. Relevance of active lending programs with CIF's partner MDBs?**

Please provide a brief overview of these engagements. If possible, please reflect indicative investment opportunities with partner MDBs and other co-financing in the context of the NPC Program.

**12. Has the country been selected to implement a CIF program in the past?**

Yes/No. If so, please provide a brief overview of implementation experience, benefits, and lessons learned and how they would support implementation of the NPC Program.

**13. Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization:**

Please propose ideas for engaging the private sector in the delivery of the program and mobilization of resources that are aligned with CIF modalities.

**14. Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality:**

What gaps do women, Indigenous People, persons with disabilities and other groups that experience social exclusion face in access to sustainable use of natural resources? How would these gaps be addressed by proposed activities?

What potential mechanisms will be employed for engaging with women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society?

## Overarching Evaluation Criteria for the NPC Program

Assessment criteria	Expression of Interest	Criteria Weighting	Specific Criteria for NPC
<b>Vision and Ambition</b>	The EoI indicates the country's level of ambition as it relates to the new CIF strategic program, and specifies how the country seeks to use CIF resources to drive transformational change <sup>13</sup> and help achieve its low-carbon and climate-resilient development plan(s) or strategy(ies).	20%	<p>The EoI demonstrates the country's commitment to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing or avoiding GHG emissions stemming from the changing use of land and other natural resources (e.g., from the agriculture, forestry, and other relevant sectors)</li> <li>• Building the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources</li> <li>• Building the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems</li> <li>• Grounding these commitments in official document(s), such as NDC, NAP, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy referenced or annexed in the EoI</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment and Complementarity</b>	The EoI explains how the CIF program aligns with the country's climate strategies and plans (e.g., Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plans). Demonstration of the country's commitment to these strategies and plans, as well as	20%	



	progress towards achieving the strategies and plans, will be preferred. The EoI also explains the additional value CIF resources could bring to meeting its goals and demonstrates that CIF fills a funding gap by providing the country with access to concessional resources not otherwise available, or complementary to existing ones.		
<b>Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs</b>	The EoI identifies potential actions (e.g., policy reforms or investments) or project(s) that are aligned with the strategic objectives of the CIF program and can be implemented through one or more MDBs active in the respective country, as well as financing strategies to leverage MDB and other cofinancing to support these projects. Lines of action that cover both mitigation and adaptation are encouraged, where relevant.	15%	<p>The EoI, including its annexes, identifies the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific or multiple landscape(s) relevant for delivering on a country's commitment(s), such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable use of natural resources, inland or coastal degradation</li> <li>• Actions contributing to one or more of the following goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring ecosystems or enhancing forest or soil carbon stocks while protecting biodiversity and supporting rural livelihoods</li> <li>- Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions and the pressures on natural resources while enhancing livelihood options for local communities</li> <li>- Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and developing livelihood options for local communities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<p>- Addressing the climate vulnerability of rural and/or coastal communities</p> <p>- Piloting or scaling-up innovative sustainable solutions to land and natural resources management</p> <p>The EoI, including its annexes, includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference to institutional and/or policy frameworks of relevance for the implementation of sustainable solutions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems and natural resources</li> <li>• Demonstration of the country's successful experience effectively deploying MDB funds for relevant low carbon and/or climate resilient initiatives</li> </ul>
<b>MDB Partnership</b>	The EoI provides evidence of a successful past or ongoing lending program with one or more CIF partner MDBs and reflects indicative investment future opportunities.	10%	
<b>Leadership</b>	The EoI confirms active involvement of the Ministry of Finance, relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation and implementation of the line(s) of action, including supporting responsible government entities through horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms.	10%	

<b>Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization</b>	The Eol, including annexes, proposes ideas for engaging the private sector in the delivery of the program and mobilization of resources.	10%	
<b>Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality</b>	The Eol, including annexes, affirms the country's commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in its development investments, and willingness to work to strengthen climate action and its governance in the country through gender-responsive and socially inclusive investments and planning mechanisms. The Eol, including annexes, includes potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills, and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society	15%	

## Master Score Sheet CIF NPC Eol assessment

Country:

Regional Initiative:

Total score  
for Eol:

0

Overarching Assessment Criteria and Sub-Criteria	Total Possible Weight	Evaluator Score	Summary comments
	100		
<b>1. Vision and Ambition</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	abcd
1.a. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's commitment to reducing or avoiding GHG emissions from changing use of land and other natural resources (e.g., from the agriculture, forestry, and other relevant sectors)?	3	0	
1.b. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's commitment to building the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources?	3	0	
1.c. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's commitment to building the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems?	4	0	
1.d. Does the Eol ground these commitments in official document(s), such as NDC, NAP, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy (in annex)? Are the documents recent and still valid?	5	0	
1.e. Does the Eol indicate how the country intends to use CIF resources for transformational change in integrated management of natural resources at landscape level?	5	0	
<b>2. Alignment and Complementarity</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	efgh
2.a. Does the Eol explain the alignment between CIF program and country's existing climate strategies and plans?	4	0	
2.b. Does the Eol identify policy / legal and/or other gaps that need to be addressed?	3	0	
2.c. Does the Eol describe and demonstrate the country's progress on climate strategies and plans?	4	0	
2.d. Does the Eol present evidence for a funding gap for reaching the goals expressed in its strategies and plans? Is there a strategic gap according to the Eol?	5	0	
2.e. Does the Eol explain the additional value of CIF resources for achievement of Eol goals?	4	0	

<b>3. Implementation and Relevance for CIF NPC Program</b>	<b>15</b>	0	ijkl
3.a. Does the EoI (including annexes) identify specific or multiple landscape(s) relevant for delivering on a country's commitment(s), such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable use of natural resources, inland or coastal degradation?	4	0	
3.b. Does the EoI propose a landscape of ecological and/or wider geographic importance with potential to providing CC solutions?	3	0	
3.c. Is the EoI proposing actions contributing to one or more of the following 5 goals? i- Conserving, sustainably managing, or restoring ecosystems or enhancing forest or soil carbon stocks while protecting biodiversity and supporting rural livelihoods ii- Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions and the pressures on natural resources while enhancing livelihood options for local communities iii- Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystems while reducing GHG emissions and developing livelihood options for local communities iv- Addressing the climate vulnerability of rural and/or coastal communities v- Piloting or scaling-up innovative sustainable solutions to land and natural resources management	3	0	
3.d. Does the EoI describe potential climate benefits under the proposed work (mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience, economic, social, and biodiversity co-benefits)?	5	0	
<b>4. MDB Partnership</b>	<b>10</b>	0	mnop
4.a. Is there evidence provided in the EoI of relevant past or ongoing lending programs with the MDBs / Status of ongoing programs?	3	0	
4.b. Does the EoI demonstrate the country's (successful) experience effectively deploying CIF funds for relevant low carbon and/or climate resilient initiatives (e.g. FIP, PPCR)	2	0	
4.c. Does the EoI reflect on indicative investment future opportunities? Is there an indication of the size of the opportunity?	5	0	
<b>5. Leadership</b>	<b>10</b>	0	qrst

5.a. Does the Eol confirm the active involvement of the relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation of the line(s) of action?	2	0	
5.b. Does the Eol confirm the intended active involvement of the relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the implementation of the line(s) of action?	2	0	
5.c. Are there descriptions of the expected horizontal and vertical mechanisms of coordination between responsible government entities?	4	0	
5.d. Is there evidence of strong engagement of the Ministry of Finance?	2	0	
<b>6. Private Sector Engagement and Mobilization</b>	<b>10</b>	0	uvwx
6.a. Does the Eol propose ideas for engagement of the private sector?	6	0	
6.b. Does the Eol build on any existing alliances with the private sector in specific / multi / transboundary landscapes for NBS?	4	0	
<b>7. Social Inclusion, Stakeholders Engagement, and Gender Equality</b>	<b>15</b>	0	uvwx
7.a. Does the Eol identify the gaps and/or challenges faced by women, Indigenous People, persons with disabilities and other groups that experience social exclusion in access to sustainable use of natural resources?	5	0	
7.b. Does the Eol, including annexes, include potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities, environmental and climate NGOs, private sector associations, and the civil society?	5	0	
7.c. Does the Eol, including annexes, affirm the country's commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in its development investments, and willingness to work to strengthen climate action and its governance in the country through gender-responsive and socially inclusive investments and planning mechanisms?	5	0	
<b>Overall Assessment (for inclusion in IEG report)</b>			

Vision and Ambition					
	1.a. Does the EoI demonstrate the country's commitment to reducing or avoiding GHG emissions from changing use of land and other natural resources (e.g., from the agriculture, forestry, and other relevant sectors)?	1.b. Does the EoI demonstrate the country's commitment to building the climate-resilience of communities, local economies, and/or businesses dependent on natural resources?	1.c. Does the EoI demonstrate the country's commitment to building the climate-resilience of natural resources and ecosystems?	1.d. Does the EoI ground these commitments in official document(s), such as NDC, NAP, SDG-related plans, and/or other relevant low-emission and climate-resilient development plan or strategy (in annex)? Are the documents recent and still valid?	1.e. Does the EoI indicate how the country intends to use CIF resources for transformational change in integrated management of natural resources at landscape level?
Total score 20%	3	3	4	5	5
Evaluator scores					
0					
Evaluator comments					
Summary asses	abcd				
Relevant extracts from EoI (optional)					

Alignment and Complementarity					
	2.a. Does the Eol explain the alignment between CIF program and country's existing climate strategies and plans?	2.b. Does the Eol identify policy / legal and/or other gaps that need to be addressed?	2.c. Does the Eol describe and demonstrate the country's progress on climate strategies and plans?	2.d. Does the Eol present evidence for a funding gap for reaching the goals expressed in its strategies and plans? Is there a strategic gap according to the Eol?	2.e. Does the Eol explain the additional value of CIF resources for achievement of Eol goals?
Total possible score	4	3	4	5	4
Evaluator scores					
0					
Evaluator comments					
Summary assessment					
Relevant extracts from Eol (optional)					



Implementation and Relevance for CIF Strategic Programs							
3.a. Does the EoI (including annexes) identify specific or multiple landscape(s) relevant for delivering on a country's commitment(s), such as priority ecosystems facing environmental challenges like deforestation, unsustainable use of natural resources, inland or coastal degradation?	3.b. Does the EoI propose a landscape of ecological and/or wider geographic importance with potential to providing CC solutions?	3.c. Is the EoI proposing actions contributing to one or more of the following 5 goals? i- Conserving , sustainably managing, or restoring ecosystem s or enhancing forest or soil carbon stocks while protecting biodiversity and supporting rural livelihoods	ii- Improving agricultural productivity through practices that reduce GHG emissions and the pressures on natural resources while enhancing livelihood options for local communities	iii- Protecting or restoring coastal and/or other inland water-related ecosystem s while reducing GHG emissions and developing livelihood options for local communities	iv- Addressing the climate vulnerability of rural and/or coastal communities	v- Piloting or scaling-up innovative sustainable solutions to land and natural resources management	3.d. Does the EoI describe potential climate benefits under the proposed work (mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience, economic, social, and biodiversity co-benefits)?
Total possible	4	3	3				5
Evaluator Scores							
0							
Evaluator Comments							
Summary aijkl							
Relevant Extracts from EoI							

<b>Partnership with Multilateral Development Bank(s) &amp; CIF involvement</b>			
	4.a. Is there evidence provided in the Eol of relevant past or ongoing lending programs with the MDBs / Status of ongoing programs?	4.b. Does the Eol demonstrate the country's (successful) experience effectively deploying CIF funds for relevant low carbon and/or climate resilient initiatives (e.g. FIP, PPCR)	4.c. Does the Eol reflect on indicative investment future opportunities? Is there an indication of the size of the opportunity?
Total possible score	3	2	5
Evaluator scores			
0			
Evaluator comments			
Summary assessment			
Relevant extracts from Eol (optional)			

## Leadership

	5.a. Does the Eol confirm the active involvement of the relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the formulation of the line(s) of action?	5.b. Does the Eol confirm the intended active involvement of the relevant line ministries and relevant subnational governments in the implementation of the line(s) of action?	5.c. Are there descriptions of the expected horizontal and vertical mechanisms of coordination between responsible government entities?	5.d. Is there evidence of strong engagement of the Ministry of Finance or equivalent?
Total possible score	2	2	4	2
Evaluator scores				
0				
Evaluator comments				
Summary assessment				
Relevant extracts from Eol (optional)				

<b>Private Sector Engagement</b>		
	6.a. Does the Eol propose ideas for engagement of the private sector?	6.b. Does the Eol build on any existing alliances with the private sector in specific / multi / transboundary landscapes for NBS?
Total possible score	6	4
Evaluator scores		
0		
Evaluator comments		
Summary assessme	uvw	
Relevant extracts from Eol		

Social Inclusion			
	7.a. Does the Eol identify the gaps and/or challenges faced by women, Indigenous people, persons with disabilities and other groups that experience social exclusion in access to sustainable use of natural	7.b. Does the Eol, including annexes, include potential mechanisms for engaging and advancing the voice, skills and livelihoods of women, indigenous peoples, youth organizations, local communities	7.c. Does the Eol, including annexes, affirm the country's commitment to social inclusion and gender mainstreaming in its development investments, and willingness to work to strengthen climate action and
Total possible score	5	5	5
Evaluator scores			
0			
Evaluator comments			
Summary assessment	uvwxyz		
Relevant extracts from Eol (optional)			

## **Appendix 6: Summaries of Eols Not Recommended for Consideration**

### **Senegal**

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The Eol for Senegal brings into focus government commitments under the Emerging Senegal Plan. This provides a robust vision that lays out actions needed to address climate change and how the government can meet its international obligations whilst simultaneously addressing pressing development needs. Multi-sectoral investments in nature-based climate solutions are part of this vision, including the provision of information about climate change risks, advice on climate-sensitive agricultural practices, restoration of fragile ecosystems such as mangroves, measures to control land salinity and restore soil fertility, and the promotion of agroforestry. The Eol targets only DPSP/Climate Ventures funding, though the approach to engaging the private sector in realizing this vision is not elaborated. Some aspects of these aspirations are aligned with NPC directions, and the Eol lists policies, investment frameworks, plans and strategies as evidence of relevant supportive legislative instruments meant to support improved environment and natural resources management including for climate-related benefits. The Eol provides evidence of the government working with AfDB along the lines of some of these relevant projects and programs, but the country has not been a beneficiary of past CIF funding. While there are elements of the proposal that align with NPC directions, the Eol does not present a coherent strategy for introducing an integrated landscapes-based or other nature-related set of investments that would support the country's climate action and sustainable development plans.

### **Guatemala**

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The Eol from Guatemala responds to an identification in the national REDD+ Strategy Emission Reduction Program of promotion of sustainable livestock production as the primary approach to addressing deforestation and associated emissions in the AFOLU sector. Despite its strong private sector orientation, the proposal does not request DPSP support. The NPC program in Guatemala would focus on supporting financial institutions to develop and offer accessible and blended financial instruments to livestock producers to invest in the adoption of improved management practices and technologies to decarbonize the sector. The provision of such financing is meant to generate incentives for farmers to start managing the forest, grazing and agricultural landscapes in a sustainable manner. Specific landscapes are not identified, though the Eol states that the NPC program would be implemented for protected areas and forest ecosystems involving small, medium and large enterprises. In addition to provision of targeted financing for sustainable commercial landscape management, Guatemala would also promote expansion of the voluntary carbon market, introducing emission reduction certification programs to reward emission reduction results achieved by agriculture and livestock producers. This is seen as providing an extra incentive for producers to invest in land and forest management practices that are climate-resilient and support carbon emission reduction in the AFOLU sector. Producer organizations would be trained by public extension staff as partners to provide technical assistance to producers, through a farmer-to-farmer extension approach. Financial sector partners would be engaged to design associated blended finance schemes and lines of credit for producers and companies to encourage their adoption of sustainable livestock farming practices and innovative technologies to decarbonize production processes. The Eol was submitted by the Ministry of Finance, but there

is no clear reference to its being involved in implementation. There are no clear descriptions of the financial institutions to be involved, coordination mechanisms to be employed, supporting enabling regulations for the proposed interventions to foster participation of targeted institutions, or the way financial incentives are to be designed to ensure repayment. In short, the EoI takes an interesting approach that is strongly market-oriented towards provision of innovative private financing to reduce deforestation, but the description lacks sufficient detail to fully assess its merits.

## **DR Congo**

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NPC resources are proposed to be allocated in DR Congo to implementation of agroecology and sustainable forestry projects through an approach that integrates community investments with policy guidance at the national and provincial levels in 5 extremely poor provinces with high environmental degradation in central and western DRC: Kasai Oriental, Kasai Central, Lomami, Kwango and Kwilu. The CIF investments are expected to generate carbon emission reductions. However, the EoI does not lay out how a landscape approach would be applied to generate environmental, social and economic benefits for each province. A variety of activities are proposed to be implemented with NPC resources, including: preparation of development plans and the conduct of strategic interventions at the provincial level for improving land use policy; sedentarization of the rural population in target provinces and improvement of agricultural yields through ecological methods; development of agricultural value chains and improvement of access to internal and external markets; securing of community land tenure and socio-economic inclusion of vulnerable groups, specifically access to land for women; and promotion of sustainable approaches to access finance, including incentives such as bank guarantees to enable entrepreneurs to obtain credit to set up processing and transport facilities. With respect to social inclusion, the proposal is to build strongly on the achievements supported by the DGM and on the land reform support program, funded by the first capitalization of FONAREDD. But it is not clarified how NPC resources would bring additional value as these activities are implemented, or how these activities would foster a landscape-based approach. The EoI was submitted by the Ministry of Finance through the Coordinator of the National REDD+ Fund, however it does not describe the involvement of various responsible ministries. Regarding the private sector, it is mentioned as being expected to play a major role in the development and marketing of carbon certificates and creation of partnerships to attract private co-investment.

## **Bangladesh**

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The EoI for Bangladesh outlines commitments of the Government to continue protecting the globally important Sundarbans mangrove forest ecosystem and its associated coastal greenbelt, that serves as a buffer from the impacts of climate change while also strengthening the capacity of these ecosystems to sequester carbon and contribute to achieving mitigation goals. The main value-added of NPC support would appear to be as co-financing for MDB investments (connecting with at least \$100 million of IDA financing) and to crowd in private financing to promote deployment of nature-based solutions at scale. Bangladesh has participated in the FIP program. As many of the targeted benefits of the NPC program relate to provision of public goods, with relatively low scope for financial returns, further clarification and stronger examples should be given on how innovative financing approaches could de-risk or otherwise mobilise

private sector funding. While there does appear to be ample scope for NPC support to leverage other project funding from World Bank and ADB, the proposal does not provide information on the NPC value addition from a technical perspective. The Eol identifies some of the gaps and challenges faced by various groups in the Sundarbans which may be excluded from effective and equitable access to natural resources, with the expectation that, should Investment Plan support be provided, activities would be developed to generate community-led accelerated adaptation outcomes, strengthen the enabling conditions for female empowerment and provide education and training of under-represented groups. While the Eol offers a strategic geographic focus on the climate and development benefits of improving management of the Sundarbans ecosystem, it does not present a case for how such nature-based investments would be organized and sustained consistent with the directions of the NPC program.

## **Somalia**

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The Eol for Somalia outlines its ambition that "CIF resources will be utilized to conserve critical natural resources which are essential for livelihoods, economic growth, and a broad conception of human well-being", though this is not clearly articulated in terms of transformational change through use of nature-based solutions at landscape level. The Eol highlights the country's commitments through its NDC, NAP and various environment and development policies, emphasizing the building of resilience of communities to drought, flood and other adverse climate change impacts. The proposal states that it is "well aligned to the CIF Nature, People, Climate Program as it seeks to implement activities that will manage and restore landscapes in Somalia, leading to improved crop and livestock productivity and livelihoods". NPC resources would be used to address funding gaps identified in the Drought Impact and Need Assessment (DINA) and the Flood Impact and Need Assessment (FINA) of 2018. The Eol lacks clarity over how NPC support would be used to help meet national needs. In one section, the Eol highlights potential NPC support for: sustainable land management with afforestation, agroforestry and climate-resilient crops; and restoring irrigation systems, roads and drainage infrastructure damaged by floods. There appears to be an emphasis on provision of grey-green infrastructure, with both built infrastructure and river channel and bank protection and rehabilitation proposed to reduce flood risk. Elsewhere, the Eol proposes three components of work, namely: sustainable land management; rehabilitation/construction of productive agricultural infrastructure; and strengthening institutional capacity and governance. And then later it presents activities oriented to: climate-smart agriculture; alternative energy supply; forest restoration; and planting of mangroves in coastal areas. No specific geographical landscapes are highlighted. Another potential set of measures and comprehensive set of nature-based solutions is also highlighted, based on the Country Programming Paper (CPP: 2019-2024), but the final choice of focus remains unclear.

## **Eswatini**

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The Eol for Eswatini states that its natural resources are under threat from a changing climate and proposes NPC program support for activities that would help minimize further land degradation and the restoration of areas already degraded. However, the geographies and landscapes where NPC program support would be focused were not specified. The National Development Strategy for Eswatini, Vision 2022, was designed to promote the country's sustainable economic



development, social justice and political stability. Climate change adaptation is identified as an integral part of this vision. The Eol cites this and other relevant national strategies and policies, including National Climate Change Policy, National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, NDC, and Land Degradation Neutrality Plan. All are said to favour use of nature-based solutions, with biodiversity and ecosystems important to Eswatini's people, being used for both consumptive and non-consumptive purposes. The Eol lists some ongoing partnership with MDBs, namely World Bank and African Development Bank. While some operations cited are relevant, others did not have close alignment with NPC directions. The submission letter was from the Ministry of Planning, which plays a coordinating role amongst Government agencies. But the Eol does not explain how horizontal and vertical coordination would be accomplished amongst participating agencies. Private sector engagement in climate change programming was not clearly explained. Social inclusion was stated as an intention without measures elaborated.

## **Chad**

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No specific landscapes are mentioned in the Eol from Chad, although it steers in the direction of addressing land management challenges in arid and semi-arid regions of the Sahel. The NPC program would involve improving integrated water resource management, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and land restoration. The Eol stresses that climate adaptation is needed to build the resilience of rural populations for sustaining their livelihoods and developing social resilience. A nature-based approach integrating mitigation and adaptation at landscape level is not articulated. The case is made that Chad is highly vulnerable to climate change, experiencing increasing desertification. The Eol presents a detailed overview of Chad's existing climate change policy framework, but it does not highlight linkages and overlaps with NPC program interests. Gaps are identified in the areas of policy development, institutional capacity building, developing regulations for existing laws, provincial development planning, partnerships with agricultural research centers, financial institutions, and private sector operators, but NPC interventions to overcome these barriers are not presented. AfDB and WB have worked with the government, but the country does not have prior engagement with CIF. The Eol proposes to leverage NPC funding to complement other ongoing projects and programs (funded by WB/GCF) linked to: agricultural production, food security, and land restoration. There is only incipient engagement with the private sector due to the centrality of the public sector. Existing PPPs could provide some initial models to develop under a possible NPC program in Chad. The country remains among the most unequal countries in the world, where women face persistent gender inequalities, including access to land and other factors of production, access to financial services, and the intensity and hardship of their workload. Although the Eol proposes to address this gap through its National Gender Policy (NGP), with a five-year Implementation Action Plan for 2019-2023, it does not discuss the exclusion of other social groups in the country. Although the Eol shows the government's interest in establishing a partnership with CIF under the NPC program, it does not make a compelling case that links the country's needs and priorities with the approaches offered under the NPC program.

## **Sao Tome and Principe**

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The country's long-term vision seems to be highly aligned with the objectives of the NPC program, with its emphasis on sustainable land use and improved forest management. But the Eol does not propose specific landscapes to be targeted for NPC support, mentioning forests, fisheries,

agriculture, and the coastal zone. The Eol is backed by a wide range of policies and plans, including the updated NDC and Vision 2030 Transformation, among others. Preparation of the National Adaptation Plan is underway with UNEP/GEF assistance. A strong point of the Eol is its clear backing for socially inclusive processes given the existing "weak and insignificant" involvement of vulnerable groups in environmental and climate change issues. The Eol further emphasises the need to address gender issues, especially in the agriculture sector. While there is clearly a financing gap, there is no attempt to estimate the funding required to meet the vision or narrower goals. Commercial banks are not yet prepared to grant loans to the private sector in the field of climate change, so further measures would be needed to be elaborated to engage the private sector. Further background and greater clarity on specific proposed interventions would be needed to assess the benefits of potential NPC support.

## **Uganda**

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The Eol for Uganda lists the various international climate related conventions, protocols and other commitments of the country. It further highlights how engagement around these commitments would help in building a green economy. A National Climate Change Policy is in existence and geared towards accomplishing the country's Vision 2040 and low-carbon development. There are indications of the strong alignment of the Eol proposal with the NPC programming directions, but these are not clearly defined. The Eol alludes to the progress being made to recognize the importance of natural resource management through ecosystems restoration and protection. However, most activities proposed appear to have been carried over from the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience without making necessary adjustments to fit with the goals of the NPC program. The Eol was not explicit in outlining of NPC opportunities and the size of the commitments required. It also did not provide strong evidence that the Ministry of Environment is actively involved. Expectations that the private sector will play a role in implementing the NPC are expressed, along with information about the challenges of women and intentions to address them.

## **Honduras**

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Over the last few decades, Honduras has developed a large portfolio of forest management programs. The Eol proposes to use NPC funding to scale-up these investments – with a focus on forest management, agroforestry and agriculture at national level, with active social and private sector engagement. No specific landscape is proposed to apply a nature-based approach, instead presenting a generic proposal to scale up existing work in forest management at the national level. The country has made good progress on developing climate policy instruments, but there is no reference to capacity to measure change or regulations to scale up climate actions. The Eol mentions multiple areas where there could be overlap with NPC program priorities, but it fails to make the case for how the proposed focus on forest management integrates mitigation and adaptation measures at landscape level. There is a description of ongoing programs with MDBs, but without timelines of duration and status or monitoring results. The Eol provides adequate language on inter-institutional coordination, but it lacks evidence showing how the NPC program could build on existing coordination mechanisms (though supporting documentation in Eol annexes provides more evidence of horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms that exist in-country). The Eol indicates that mobilization of private sector resources in sustainable forestry

investments is key to meeting the goals of rural landscape restoration, reduction of fuelwood consumption and provision of water-related ecosystem services. It mentions that private sector investment could be available for circular economy models in agroforestry, but it does not provide lessons from Honduras' long-standing experience in this area. Given the expressed interest in private sector engagement, the country could have applied for the DPSP funding window. The EoI identifies social exclusion challenges and indicates that much effort is being placed on developing and finalizing social inclusion strategies with emphasis on gender, youth and the disabled. Measures for inclusion of afro-Honduran or Miskito populations are not mentioned. The EoI would need considerable further work on developing a clear nature-based approach to apply in specific landscapes.

### **South Sudan**

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The EoI proposes the introduction of integrated farming aimed at building resilience, especially in the post-conflict context of South Sudan. It proposes community focused integrated farming, the boosting of economic trees and fruits /agroforestry, and associated carbon sequestration for GHG emissions reduction. It tries to link the INDC and NAPA and proposes some activities for carbon sequestration through agroforestry and promotion of commercial forest management. Evidence is provided in the EoI as to the level of commitments in actualizing the INDC and NAPA through some activities proposed for NPC support. The EoI is linked to NAPA, INDC and SDG II as well as the country's Comprehensive Agriculture Master Plan and its Irrigation Development Master Plan. Although a partnership exists with the AfDB and the World Bank, the EoI did not adequately characterize how this presents opportunities for the MDBs' collaboration under the NPC program. The private sector proposition is weak, which reflects the limited private sector in this post-conflict emerging economy. There was no clear-cut elucidation in the EoI on how gender equality would be promoted.

### **Nigeria**

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This is a DPSP/Climate Ventures application, and the EoI seems to be requesting funding to support an existing private sector project led by RegenFarm, a company with a technology partner, commodities trader partner and carbon finance partner. An NPC-funded initiative would work to access \$200 million through global carbon markets. This would enable the RegenFarm platform, currently providing technical support to 10,000 producers of organic sesame, groundnut and hibiscus flower (20% women and youth) in northern Nigeria, to include 20,000 additional farmers. This information is only apparent at the end of the EoI form, from text in the Social Inclusion section, and elsewhere a different set of activities is indicated, focusing on forest protection, eucalyptus plantations, environmental awareness and waste management, and covering six States spread across Nigeria. The EoI does not clearly articulate how the expansion of RegenFarm's support would constitute a transformative nature-based solution at landscape scale, and the landscape in northern Nigeria is not described. It is not clear what role, if any, government would play, for example in strengthening the enabling environment, and although the project has the support of an official in the Ministry of Finance, there is no indication of involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture. The role of AfDB is also not clear.

## **Dominica**

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In response to the devastation caused to its people and economy by Hurricane Maria in 2017, Dominica has set the ambitious target of becoming the first truly resilient – “hurricane-proof” – country in the world by 2030. Support from the NPC program is sought for a range of investments: ecosystem-based planning; watershed protection; climate-smart agriculture; rainwater harvesting; slope stabilization; and coastal asset protection. Some seem well aligned with NPC objectives, addressing both mitigation and adaptation in at-risk landscapes (forests and Protected Area buffer zones as well as coastal ecosystems). However, the Eol does not present any specifics regarding targeted landscapes. The country’s effort to establish climate resilience is especially directed towards the poorest and most vulnerable Dominicans, including the indigenous Kalinago community, who are particularly dependent upon nature-based livelihoods. There are also mitigation objectives – albeit at small scale – linked to sustaining carbon in ecosystems and avoiding forest loss. The overall proposed approach is underpinned by the country’s Resilience Development Policy and Strategic Framework. An ongoing PPCR project has provided, in part, a platform that a NPC program could build upon, along with recent progress in policy development, forest inventory work and improved forest management. However, the funding gap and size of the proposed investment as well as how NPC support would fit within the country’s wider climate action agenda are not outlined in the Eol. In short, there are elements of the country’s vision and investment priorities that might fit well with NPC directions, but the low level of specificity in the Eol is a constraint to its consideration.

## **Mali**

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The Eol for Mali proposes to use NPC resources to support restoration of the Southern portion of the country focusing on reducing pressure on forests, improving agricultural practices and water management (aligned with investments under the Great Green Wall Initiative). This area is critical for increasing the resilience of rural populations and fighting land degradation and desertification, and provides the foundation for the country’s subsistence agriculture, pastoral activities and other economic activities. Gender gaps are identified, and the Eol states that the country will prioritise establishment of mechanisms and instruments to combat discrimination against disadvantaged groups, though no specific approach or documentation was provided. While the Eol refers to nature-based solutions as part of its climate action strategy, it does not offer a clear vision of how the approach would be implemented in Southern Mali, nor does it provide any specificity on target landscapes for interventions. It is proposed that NPC resources could be used for any among a large array of activities, proving an open-ended list of potential interventions that do not comprise a coherent program of action integrating adaptation and mitigation measures at the landscape level. Engagement with AfDB revolves around expanding basic infrastructure services such as roads, water and sanitation systems or electricity networks, and the country is still recovering from the recent lifted trade embargo imposed by ECOWAS. The Eol was prepared based on existing documentation for Mali under the leadership of the Ministry of the Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development. Local government authorities are mentioned, but it is not clear if they were involved in preparing the Eol and how they would be engaged during implementation. The Eol provides very limited discussion on private sector engagement, although it states that Mali has had since February 2022 a strategic plan for private sector engagement (developed with the National Employers’ Council). The lack of any concrete proposal for private sector engagement is

out of step with its application for access to the DPSP/CCVs window in addition to Investment Plan support. In short, the EoI would need additional development, including specificity on landscapes for intervention, further discussion with relevant national stakeholders and firm grounding in national climate and development strategies.

## **Tonga**

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Tonga's ambition is to use NbS to transform its agriculture, forestry, and land use (AFOLU) and fisheries sectors through improved land use management, coastal protection, and livelihood support, while reducing GHG emissions through sustainable forest management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Three priority landscapes are identified: inland forests and sloping land on uplifted coral islands (primarily 'Eua and Vava'u islands); inland low-lying arable land (primarily Tongatapu and Ha'apai Islands); and coastal lagoons to fringing 'reef' environments (all populated coral islands). These goals are well embedded in national plans and strategies and generally aligned with NPC directions. While there is considerable potential for NPC support to contribute to addressing the issues raised in the EoI, the funding gap identified is about \$289 million, or 140% of 2018 GDP, with adaptation costs by 2030 amounting to \$671 million. A collection of individual projects is included in the EoI, costed at over \$49 million, however, these are not presented in a manner consistent with the NPC integrated landscape approach. The institutional arrangements for vertical coordination are unclear, and the Government would need to find new approaches to building effective public-private partnerships and strengthened gender empowerment in the AFOLU sector. Exactly how transformational change would be achieved in the three priority landscapes is not clearly presented and would need to be expanded upon prior NPC Investment Plan consideration.

## **Republic of Congo**

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As charcoal is the primary source of energy for households in the Republic of Congo, forests are degraded by the activities of charcoal makers, especially in the vicinity of large cities. Beyond these pressures, agriculture is recognized as the primary cause of forest degradation. The Republic of Congo is promoting the practice of agroforestry systems in the savannah zone to reduce pressures from charcoal production and agricultural expansion. NPC resources would support: production of sustainable charcoal (i.e., from plantations); promotion and development of climate-smart agriculture; and conservation of biodiversity through protected areas (including coastal and marine). The ROC has advanced its REDD+ implementation, and in April 2021, the Government and the World Bank signed Emission Reductions Purchase and Sale Agreements (ER-PA) to develop partnerships between the Government and the forest industry, agro-industrialists and the local populations of the Sangha and Likouala forests. The estimated financing needs for full implementation of the national REDD+ strategy are \$1.7 billion. NPC resources would contribute to implementation of this strategy, and would be used to finance activities of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Program (PRO NAR) already being executed. But there is no clear explanation of how these NPC investments would align with and add value in term of the NPC objectives, nor are mechanisms for coordination among sectors presented. Private sector contributions are expected through realization of land preparation works and supply of seedlings. There is also a proposal to establish a zoological and botanical park on the outskirts of the Lésio-Louna nature reserve, but this is not presented as a coherent part of a wider landscape-based

approach to achieving climate and development goals. Finally, the Eol does not explain how expanding agroforestry would involve women and vulnerable people beyond the targeting of beneficiaries. NPC support as proposed is firmly embedded in the country's successful REDD+ program, but the value addition of NPC resources in a landscape-based approach is not well developed.

## **Bolivia**

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The Eol for Bolivia explains that the country faces significant climate risks due to declining soil fertility and water resource availability in the country's highlands, affecting the major cities of El Alto and La Paz as well as surrounding rural communities dependent upon subsistence farming. The Eol proposes to scale up sustainable production of quinoa, potatoes and fodder in the highlands. Although food security is certainly a critical topic in terms of building resilience to climate change, the Eol does not discuss nature-based solutions at landscape level that could contribute to an integrated approach. Further, the Eol does not include analysis on links between Bolivia's climate change needs and priorities and what is proposed to the NPC program. Although the Eol includes several letters of support from universities, and subnational governments, the document does not describe vertical and horizontal coordination mechanisms. Alliances with national NGOs are mentioned, but there is only very limited information on potential engagement of the private sector that would be required to scale up such an effort, especially considering that the Eol has requested DPSP/CIF Climate Ventures support. The country has a weak relationship with MDBs, and the Eol does not mention progress with MDB-funded projects relevant to CIF support. The Eol would need further development to provide a sufficiently developed and NPC-aligned set of interventions.

## **Central African Republic**

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The Eol from CAR proposes that NPC resources be used to support the country's ecosystem restoration efforts, following their over-exploitation for firewood and charcoal. The focus of NPC support would be in the Sudano-Guinean zone in the northwest and center east of the country, the Guinean transition zone in the center and center east regions and the Sudano-Sahelian zone in the north. NPC support is expected to redirect agribusinesses from its current land-exploiting practices to adopt alternative production practices for high value-added crops. While the locations are specified, proposed interventions are not presented in a landscape-based approach. CAR aims to make the AFOLU sector more productive, profitable and respectful of the environment – relying on initiatives engaging local communities, that are gender sensitive and meant to create conditions for the emergence of a dynamic agricultural private sector. This is consistent with the country's climate action agenda – as seen in its recently updated NDC, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, and the Strategy for Rural, Agricultural and Food Security Development. CAR has advanced its REDD+ process with strong support from the World Bank through FCPF. This has enabled the country to adopt a National REDD+ strategy and management framework, with the country now moving from the REDD+ preparation phase (phase 1 of the R-PP) to investment. The National REDD+ Investment Framework is the tool for operationalizing implementation of the country's REDD+ process, and since proposed NPC support would be aligned to this National REDD+ strategy, good coordination among ministries would be needed, though this is not clarified in the Eol. While there

are elements of potential strong connection between NPC directions and the various activities proposed for NPC support, tied to the REDD+ strategy, the application of a landscape approach is not explained. The EoI does not coherently outline the specific value added from NPC support to show how restoration of damaged ecosystems would be accomplished in a transformational, nature-based approach consistent with NPC directions.

## **Gambia**

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Despite the country being defined by its unique hydrological characteristics, the EoI for the Gambia provided little detail on how NPC resources would be used to achieve transformational impact through a landscape approach. The emphasis of the EoI was mainly on community forestry participation, as routinely practised by government, without any innovation. The presentation was rather general, without specifying locations for interventions. The EoI also did not provide a clear rationale for application of a nature-based approach. Furthermore, the EoI did not articulate a coherent nexus between the country's various development and climate strategies – SDGs, NAMA etc. – and how NPC support would fit. The EoI is also missing the context of the country's progress regarding implementation of its climate plans and strategies. The funding and strategic gaps that NPC support might help fill and add value to are not identified. There is a clear partnership with AfDB, especially in drawing up the Investment Plan for the PPCR, though this has not been reflected in relation to the EoI. Although there were indications of cooperation between the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, it was albeit tangentially. The role and expectations of the private sector were not clear, and the presentation of a proposed approach to achieving social cohesion backed by government commitments is also weak. In short, insufficient information is presented to assess the fit of proposed actions with NPC directions.

## **Belize**

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Belize is recognized for its commitment to playing a strong role in global and regional climate change response efforts, and is building its capacity to develop and implement multi-sectoral nature-based investments in response to climate change through a landscape approach. However, the EoI does not present such actions for NPC support. Instead the EoI focuses on the North Ambergris Caye Water and Wastewater Expansion Project, which appears to be a rather standard wastewater treatment plant, albeit to be constructed in an environmentally sensitive area. This is inconsistent with NPC directions and would not provide an opportunity for transformational change through integrated management of natural resources at the landscape level, nor does it have a strong climate change connection.

## **Regional Africa 3**

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This EOI is submitted as a regional investment programme, building on the World Bank-supported West Africa Coastal Management Program (WACA) which is working to achieve political cooperation and development of cross-border coastal solutions to climate change and development challenges across the 17 countries of West Africa's coastline, 6 of which are currently supported through the WACA Resilience Investment Programme for on-the-ground work, with an orientation towards nature-based solutions – including mangrove restoration, river and lagoon de-siltation, riverbank and dune stabilization, alternative livelihoods and sanitation. However, only Benin's national investments are presented in the EoI, which provides a good summary of the way in which Benin could undertake potentially transformational work – by further strengthening the

enabling environment for coastal nature-based solutions at the national level to integrate adaptation and mitigation results at landscape scale in the Mono and Lower Ouémé Valley Biosphere Reserves – protecting and restoring carbon sinks whilst reducing coastal communities’ vulnerability. A phased regional programme is suggested beginning with Benin, in which it would “benefit from investment resources from the NPC Program, while subsequently four countries could be included as additional CIF NPC resources become available”, namely: Ghana, “where specific sites are available to absorb financing”; Côte d’Ivoire, which “also is ready to absorb more investment resources”; and Liberia and Sierra Leone, “where upstream dialogue on WACA has started”. For purposes of geographical contiguity and transboundary governance, Togo is also mentioned in the EoI as being included in dialogue, but it will not require funding for coastal protection and livelihoods. No regional activities are proposed in the EoI, presumably since the phased national investments would be fully integrated into the WACA program, with its existing regional integration approach enabling environmental coherence and institutional cooperation. The EoI notes that “unlike other countries participating in the WACA Res-IP regional project [i.e., Côte d’Ivoire, Mauritania, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Sénégal and Togo] which will benefit from additional funding to make the achievements of their respective projects sustainable, Benin has not yet been able to mobilize the additional resources that will make it possible to consolidate the achievements of the WACA project after its closure in December 2023”. The EoI further explains that “...added value of CIF resources would help Benin to upscale and complement what was already started under the WACA project and other projects supported by other donors, and with a stronger emphasis on promoting nature-based solutions essential for transformative change along the coastal areas of Benin, and thereby help fill a financing gap on green investments.” Proposed investments are supported by the NAP, NDC, National Climate Change Policy, Multi-sectoral Coastal Zone Investment Plan, and Coastal Development Master Plan. Transformational change is expected in flood management, return of spawning grounds and fish habitats, coastal value chains and food security, and increased blue carbon stocks. The indicative first-phase national investment in Benin under the umbrella of the regional programme would comprise (i) Strengthening the institutional framework (\$5 million); (ii) Restoration of coastal ecosystems and natural resources (\$20 million); (iii) Strengthening social investments (\$20 million); and (iv) Project Management (\$5 million) - Total \$50 million. Although this proposal is well developed and potentially aligned with NPC directions for the single country of Benin, it is only one piece of the wider regional WACA initiative, and little information is provided on the countries proposed to follow Benin in sequenced funding. No regional activities are proposed for NPC investment, despite this being presented as a regional submission.

## **Jordan**

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The EoI for Jordan proposed four main interventions for NPC support, namely: urban forest development; hydroponics expansion (to cope with water stress); wetlands construction and management (Aqaba Bird Observatory); and green development in Petra (eco-transport and tourism). These activities are identified as part of the country’s NAP and NDC. Though high water stress is noted, there is no clear assessment of climate change trends and threats, and how NPC support would address these challenges. Jordan does not have prior CIF engagement, and the EoI states that there is no active lending program with an MDB. However, the World Bank is supporting the country’s green and inclusive Covid-19 recovery, and EBRD has a large portfolio in



the country, including several green investments. Some of the ideas presented might be developed to align with NPC program directions, but they are not sufficiently developed in the Eol.

## **Tunisia**

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The Eol for Tunisia proposes to focus on the AFOLU sector to pursue the country's low-carbon and integrated landscape objectives. However, the submission lacks detail and coherence with specific reference to aligning with NPC program directions. Further, the activities proposed for NPC support are not shown to be embedded in the country's national development and climate strategies and programs. Most of what is presented appears to relate to programs already underway, but even this is difficult to assess. The Eol was not clear on gaps to be addressed using NPC resources. Some of the listed activities were more related to waste management and thus not well aligned with NPC activities. In terms of private sector engagement, the Eol proposed to issue a request for proposals to develop a PPP framework. There were only slight indications of the involvement of relevant ministries, and in general the Eol did not present a proposal that was clearly aligned with the NPC program.

## **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

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The vision and ambition of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) government in relation to the NPC program is not clearly presented in the Eol. It is indicated that NPC resources would be used to build on work already being done by government agencies (e.g., Forestry, National Parks and Sustainable Development Unit) and to resource unfunded activities. However, there is no elaboration of such funding gaps or how the NPC program could strategically fill them. The list of possible activities for NPC support includes: (i) development/revision of sector policies to ensure climate issues are given due consideration; (ii) restoration and reforestation of forests, coastal and marine ecosystems using a ridge-to-reef approach; (iii) capacity building for communities and agencies introduced to build climate change and community resilience; and (iv) updating natural resource management policy and the legislative framework. These were not presented as embedded in government commitments under the National Climate Change Policy, National Ocean Policy, National Climate Change Strategy, National Adaptation Plan, and draft NDC. The level of expected investment is not discussed. A general statement is made about the agencies responsible for natural resources management being in varying stages of implementing nature-based solutions, with a ridge-to-reef approach, through their annual work programs and various projects. While this is intriguing in the NPC context, the Eol does not further elaborate or explain how institutional coordination mechanisms and leadership would be demonstrated. Much more detailed information would be needed, along with information on private sector engagement and social inclusion.

## **Cameroon**

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The Eol for Cameroon is centered on addressing the sustainable livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples perceived to be endangering forest integrity through their population growth and use of the forest for shelter, hunting, as a source of fuel as well as for commercial purposes. The proposal is thus that Indigenous People should be educated on alternative livelihood strategies built around agroecology, reforestation and the introduction to new farming systems using improved seedlings and sustainable agriculture, pisciculture, rearing of cattle, poultry and piggeries. NPC

investments are meant to serve as co-financing for such activities under two national programs already underway: the program for the protection and valorization of protected areas; and the program for development of forestry plantations. The areas of intervention proposed are Western highlands of Cameroon and the Sudano-Sahelian zones. These programs are supported by the African Development Bank and include an action plan on gender and Indigenous People. The lead agency would be the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife, which the EoI states manages its projects through a participatory approach, to ensure that the voice of the different stakeholders is heard. Coordination mechanisms are not described. The two programs proposed by Cameroon to be co-financed with NPC resources are already under implementation, so it is difficult to see the added value of NPC investments. While the role of Indigenous People in the country's sustainable land management in the face of climate change is crucial, the EoI does not lay out a clear and community-driven approach to improving engagement. Further, a landscape approach is mentioned only in the sense of regrouping protected areas, and the EoI does not describe integrated landscape management mechanisms in the country context.

### **Sri Lanka**

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While oriented toward supporting expansion of regenerative agriculture, the EoI does not develop connections to addressing climate change impacts or reducing emissions in a landscape-based approach. Further, there is no evidence of government support or any proposed MDB relationship. Blended financing for market creation and business model development, of what appears to be a private company as principal proponent, are proposed, but it is not clear how this would be embedded in enabling policy conditions or institutions.

### **Malawi**

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The EoI is not aligned with the objectives of the NPC program, and would fit more closely with a Renewable Energy submission. Because of its inappropriate focus, it was difficult to properly assess Malawi's submission. Explanations given on alignment and complementarity were also not consistent with the programmatic interests of NPC. The EoI includes brief mention of improved crop production with conservation agriculture training, and promotion of bamboo plantations for alternative fuel and carbon sequestration, but otherwise lacks a nature angle. The EoI provides only limited information on coordination mechanisms and is primarily oriented towards promoting renewable energy policy. It does not appear that the Ministry of Energy engaged much with other agencies of the Government in preparing the proposal. Furthermore, there was no evidence of NPC relevant partnership with MDBs.

## Appendix 7: List of those consulted

Attendance list by each meeting with the IEG	Attendance list by Organization for all meetings
<p><b><u>Kickoff meeting – Aug 18</u></b></p> <p>Ablasse Bilgo (AFDB)  Anabella Palacios (IADB)  Ayesha Malik (IFC)  Christian Ellermann (ADB)  Erin Conner (WB)  Andrea Iro (EBRD)  Gergo Mathe (EBRD)  Hamza Al-Assad (EBRD)  Innocent Musabyimana (AFDB)  Ancha Srinivasan (ADB)  Karan Chouksey (ADB)  Kyla Matias (ADB)  Muharrem Askin (EBRD)  Sumeet Manchanda (EBRD)  Tendai Madenyi (IFC)  Zhihong Zhang (WB)</p> <p><b><u>Informal Independent Expert Group discussion with AfDB – Aug 25</u></b></p> <p>Ablasse Bilgo (AFDB)  Constant Adeniyi (AFDB)  Gareth Phillips (AFDB)  Innocent Musabyimana (AFDB)  Kidanua Abera Gizaw (AFDB)  Laouali Garba (AFDB)</p> <p><b><u>Informal Independent Expert Group discussion with AfDB and WB – Aug 26</u></b></p> <p>Ablasse Bilgo (AFDB)  Ines Susana Angulo De Aviles (WB)  Innocent Musabyimana (AFDB)  Manuela Ravina da Silva (WB)  Peter Kristensen (WB)  Rivaldo Kpadonou (AFDB)  Zhihong Zhang (WB)</p>	<p><b><u>AFDB</u></b></p> <p>Ablasse Bilgo (AFDB)  Constant Adeniyi (AFDB)  Gareth Phillips (AFDB)  Innocent Musabyimana (AFDB)  Kidanua Abera Gizaw (AFDB)  Laouali Garba (AFDB)  Rivaldo Kpadonou (AFDB)  Kader Sanfo (AFDB)  Lucy Naydenova (AfDB)  Musole Mwila Musumali (AFDB)</p> <p><b><u>EBRD</u></b></p> <p>Gergo Mathe (EBRD)  Hamza Al-Assad (EBRD)  Muharrem Askin (EBRD)  Sumeet Manchanda (EBRD)  Andrea Iro (EBRD)</p> <p><b><u>ADB</u></b></p> <p>Christian Ellermann (ADB)  Karan Chouksey (ADB)  Kyla Matias (ADB)  Ma. Jemimah Jamolangué (ADB)  Ancha Srinivasan (ADB)  Sumit Pokhrel (ADB)</p> <p><b><u>IADB</u></b></p> <p>Anabella Palacios (IADB)  Ricardo Goncalves (IADB)  Gloria Visconti (IADB)  Gisela Ferrari (IADB)</p> <p><b><u>WB</u></b></p>

Attendance list by each meeting with the IEG	Attendance list by Organization for all meetings
<p><b><u>Independent Expert Group Draft Report feedback call with MDBs – Sept 22</u></b></p> <p>Anabella Palacios (IADB)  Andrea Iro (EBRD)  Constant Adeniyi (AFDB)  Erin Conner (WB)  Gayane Minasyan (WB)  Gisela Ferrari (IADB)  Gloria Visconti (IADB)  Hamza Al-Assad (EBRD)  Hisham Osman (WB)  Innocent Musabyimana (AFDB)  Iretomiwa Olatunji (WB)  Kader Sanfo (AFDB)  Kidanua Abera Gizaw (AFDB)  Laouali Garba (AFDB)  Lucy Naydenova (AfDB)  Ricardo Goncalves (IADB)  Ma. Jemimah Jamolangue (ADB)  Manuela Ravina da Silva (WB)  Musole Mwila Musumali (AFDB)  Ngao Mubanga (WB)  Rivaldo Kpadonou (AFDB)  Andrea Iro (EBRD)  Sumeet Manchanda (EBRD)  Sumit Pokhrel (ADB)  Ancha Srinivasan (ADB)  Zhihong Zhang (WB)</p>	<p>Erin Conner (WB)  Ines Susana Angulo De Aviles (WB)  Manuela Ravina da Silva (WB)  Peter Kristensen (WB)  Zhihong Zhang (WB)  Iretomiwa Olatunji (WB)  Hisham Osman (WB)  Gayane Minasyan (WB)  Ngao Mubanga (WB)</p> <p><b><u>IFC</u></b>  Ayesha Malik (IFC)  Tendai Madenyi (IFC)</p>



## The Climate Investment Funds

The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) were established in 2008 to mobilize resources and trigger investments for low carbon, climate resilient development in select middle and low income countries. To date, 14 contributor countries have pledged funds to CIF that have been channeled for mitigation and adaptation interventions at an unprecedented scale in 72 recipient countries. The CIF is the largest active climate finance mechanism in the world.

### THE CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

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