Global Europe Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator name
GERF 2.2: Areas of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (ha)

2. Technical details

Please use the information provided in OPSYS or the SWD.

Results Dashboard code(s): *65196.*

Unit of measure: *Hectare (ha).*

Type of indicator: *Quantitative (not qualitative) – Numeric (not percentage); Actual ex-post (not estimated or ex-ante); Cumulative (not annual).*

Level(s) of measurement: *Specific Objective – Outcome; Direct Output; Output.*

Disaggregation(s): *None.*

DAC sector codes: *31110 – Agricultural policy and administrative management; 31120 – Agricultural development; 31130 – Agricultural land resources.*

Main associated SDG: *2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.*

Other associated SDGs: *1.5 resilience; 2.3 agricultural productivity; 6.3 water pollution; 6.4 water efficiency; 8.4 resource efficiency; 12.2 sustainable management of natural resources; 12.3 food waste; 12.4 chemicals and waste; 13.1 climate adaptation; 14.1 marine pollution; 15.1 terrestrial ecosystems; 15.2 forests; 15.3 desertification and soil.*

Associated GERF Level 1 indicator: *1.1 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status (SDG 2.3.2).*

Associated GERF Level 3 indicators:

3.1 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance contributing to: (a) climate change (adaptation and mitigation), (b) protecting biodiversity, (c) combating desertification, (d) protecting the environment (Aid to Env)

3.5 Leverage of EU blending and guarantee operations financed by EU external assistance, measured as: (a) Investment leverage ratio, (b) Total eligible financial institution financing leverage ratio, (c) Private financing leverage ratio

3.13 Number and share of EU- external interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

3.16 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance qualifying as ODA

3. Policy context and Rationale

The increased degradation of natural capital in developing countries and the negative

impacts of climate change on agricultural ecosystems and food systems in general are major factors affecting agricultural production and the sustainability of food systems. Fighting those trends requires sound and measurable actions to halt and reverse land and water degradation processes and promote the transformation of food systems towards greater sustainability.

In the Consensus for Development (2017), the EU and its Members States declared their commitment to support smallholders, including family farmers and pastoralists, to implement agro-ecological practices and actions to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste, to protect soils, conserve water resources, halt, prevent and reverse deforestation, maintain biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, harness the potential of sustainable agriculture and soils for greenhouse gas mitigation, enhance resilience in the face of climate change impacts and to promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices. The NDICI instrument, the EU Green Deal and the EU Farm to Fork Strategy all include clear commitments to support the transformation of agriculture and food systems and enhance their positive contribution to the SDGs. The EU actively promotes agroecology as a privileged avenue to ensure food security, decent livelihoods, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and reduction of pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Fostering innovation and research, particularly on climate change and biodiversity, is essential to improve agriculture and food systems. Agriculture plays a key role, since this sector is central in many countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Through the DeSIRA (Development Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture) initiative, the EU has supported innovation and research in over 80 projects across all regions.

4. Logframe inclusion

If an intervention generates the result measured by this indicator, then it must be reported in OPSYS. Corporate targets have been set for the indicators used to monitor the Strategic Plan and the Multiannual Financial Framework (see Section 9). Progress towards these targets is reported annually in the Annual Activity Plan (for the Strategic Plan) and the Programme Performance Statements (for the Multiannual Financial Framework). These values are calculated by aggregating the results reported in OPSYS. These reports ultimately contribute to the Annual Management Performance Report submitted by the European Commission to the Council and Parliament during the annual budgetary discharge procedure. If targets are not met, explanations must be provided. Therefore, it is crucial that all results are recorded in OPSYS.

There are two ways of doing this:

1. Include the indicator directly in the logframe (recommended approach);
2. Match the indicator to the closest logframe indicator (only if the indicator was not originally included in the logframe and modification is not possible).

Why? The matching functionality in OPSYS only accommodates reporting current values and does not yet support encoding baselines and targets. This is a significant drawback because targets are a valuable piece of information, especially at the beginning of a Multiannual Financial Framework. Indeed, results take time to materialise as they are the last step in the chain, appearing only after programming,

commitments, contracting, and spending have occurred. Targets allow to see what results are expected long before they materialise, which is reassuring to the different stakeholders concerned with accountability. Therefore, **include all corporate indicators directly in the logframe whenever possible, and reserve the matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible**.

5. Values to report

The following values must be determined in line with the definitions provided in Section 6.

Baseline value: the value measured for the indicator in the baseline year. The baseline value is the value against which progress will be assessed.

Current value: the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting. Current values will be collected at least once a year and reported cumulatively throughout the implementation period.

Final target value: the expected value for the indicator in the target year.

Intermediate target values (milestones). A tool has been developed in OPSYS to generate intermediate targets automatically[1].

- **For outputs**: the intermediate targets are generated using a linear interpolation between the baseline and target values because it is assumed that outputs materialise sooner and more progressively over implementation (than outcomes).
- **For outcomes**: the expected progression over the course of implementation will vary across interventions. During the creation of a logframe, the expected outcome profile must be selected (OPSYS offers four options[2]) and this selection triggers the generation of intermediate targets for all 30 June and 31 December dates between the baseline and target dates for all output and outcome quantitative indicators. All automatically generated intermediate targets values and dates can be subsequently modified by the Operational Manager or the Implementing Partner with the approval of the Operational

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[1] This has been done in the context of the Primary Intervention Questionnaire (PIQ) for the EAMR. Three new KPIs provide an overall assessment of ongoing interventions (current performance and future performance) and completed interventions (final performance). Scores will be calculated for all INTPA and NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.
- *KPI 10* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of ongoing interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided either by the logframe data, if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- *KPI 11* reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability that can be achieved by ongoing interventions in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational Manager's responses to questions in a survey.
- *KPI 12* reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of completed interventions. The information on relevance is provided by the Operational Manager's response to a question in a survey. The information on efficiency and effectiveness is provided by the logframe data if sufficient data is available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.

[2] a. *steady progress*: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. *accelerating progress*: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. *no progress until end*: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. *none of the above*.

Manager.

6. Calculation of values

Specify all assumptions made, list definitions for all technical terms, provide any relevant guidance on (double) counting, and include checklist for quality control.

The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the number of hectares of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support, using the technical definitions and counting guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the quality control checklist below.

Technical definitions

Agriculture and pastoral ecosystems can be identified as land and water resources used for agricultural production, including livestock, inland fisheries and aquaculture.

Sustainable land and water management practices encompass a vast array of agricultural techniques to reverse soil erosion, enhance soil fertility, increase biodiversity, improve water management, reduce chemical inputs, avoid pollution and maintain healthy agro-ecosystems in order to fulfil the productive potential of land, while enhancing resilience against the effects of climate change. Although non-exhaustive, the main practices to be considered for this indicator include:

- Agro-ecological practices
- Climate-relevant agricultural practices
- Rational use of mineral fertilisers
- Integrated pest management
- Integrated management of livestock production and health
- Improved soil organic matter and integrated soil fertility management, no-tillage, etc.
- Grassland, rangelands and pasture management, development, improvement and rehabilitation
- Management of crop rotation and diversification
- Cultivation of green cover crops and nitrogen-fixing crops, permanent cover
- Rainwater harvesting
- Efficient irrigation (i.e. water use is managed)
- Agroforestry (land-use systems and practices involving the deliberate integration of woody perennials with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit)
- Sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture practices
- Conservation agriculture (combination of minimum mechanical soil disturbance, managing the topsoil to create a permanent organic soil cover, and crop rotation with more than two crop species).

Counting guidance

1. Activities related to the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services – as covered by SDG 15 *Life on Land* – should report results under GERF 2.9 *Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km2)*.

2. Activities related to productive agricultural or pastoral systems – as covered by SDG 2 *Zero Hunger* – should report results under GERF 2.2.

3. The unit of measure is hectares. Acres must be converted into hectares by dividing by 2.47. Square kilometres must be converted into hectares by dividing by 100. It is highly recommended to use an online unit converter to avoid careless errors: https://www.unitconverters.net/. Record the calculations in the calculation method field to facilitate quality control.

4. Double counting is not allowed: an area can be counted only once in the same reporting period. This means that if the same area benefits from one or more forms of support over one or more years in the same reporting period, from the same intervention or different interventions, this area should be counted only once. To avoid the double counting of areas over time, two approaches are possible. Report the name of the geographical area(s) counted in the comment field to facilitate quality control of double counting.

Quality control checklist

1. Does the intervention concern agricultural practices? If the intervention concerns non-agricultural practices, i.e. the conservation, sustainable management and use of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems, then count these ecosystems under GERF 2.9 *Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km²)*, NOT under GERF 2.2.

2. If the ecosystem relates to water resources, does the intervention concern inland fisheries and aquaculture? Agriculture in marine areas should be counted under GERF 2.8 *Marine areas under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support (km2)*, NOT under GERF 2.2.

3. Has the indicator been included directly in the logframe? Reserve the OPSYS matching functionality only for cases when this is not feasible.

4. If the indicator has been included directly in the logframe, does the current value *include* the baseline value? If the indicator has been matched to a logframe indicator, does the current value *exclude* the baseline value?

5. Is the GERF value expressed in hectares?

6. Is the area being counted for the first time? If the same area benefits from EU support over successive years, it should be counted only once.

7. Have all calculations been recorded in the calculation method field? Has all relevant information, including the geographic location of results, been reported in the comment field?

8. If the intervention involves smallholders, is information on the number of smallholders assisted available? If so, consider an additional match with GERF 2.1 *Number of smallholders reached with EU-supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land*.

7. Examples of calculations

In country X, a four-year conservation intervention is supporting 100 000 smallholder farmers to adopt water harvesting, among other soil conservation techniques, to help restore land with severe gully erosion and falling crop yields.

The farmers' land has recently been titled and, on average, the intended beneficiary farmers hold farms of a size equivalent to 'four cells'. The relevant land administration

system calculates that this equates to approximately 0.5 ha. Of the 100 000 intended beneficiaries, only 30% have put at least one of the techniques into practice.

Therefore, the total area benefited would be 100 000 x 0.5 x 30% = 15 000 ha.

8. Data sources and issues

Please use the data source categories specified in OPSYS.

<u>EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems</u>: *Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention; ROM reviews; EU-funded feasibility or appraisal reports; Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention.*

Include any issues relating to the availability and quality of the data.

9. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

The data collected on this indicator will be reported in OPSYS by the Implementing Partner. The values encoded in OPSYS will be verified, possibly modified and ultimately validated by the Operational Manager. Once a year the results reported will be frozen for corporate reporting. The methodological services in HQ that are responsible for GERF corporate reporting will perform quality control on the frozen data and aggregate as needed to meet the different corporate reporting requirements.

This indicator will be reported upon in the following contexts:

- ○ *NDICI via the Annual Report*
- ○ *NDICI via the Programme Statements*
- ● *INTPA Strategic Plan via the Annual Activity Report*
- ○ *NEAR Strategic Plan via the Annual Activity Report*
- ○ *FPI Strategic Plan*

This indicator has been included in the following other Results Measurement Frameworks:

- ● *EFSD+*
- ○ *GAP III*
- ○ *IPA III*
- ○ *TEI-MORE*

10. Other uses

GERF 2.2 can be found in the following thematic results chains:

- -   [Food and Nutrition Security and sustainable Agriculture](#)
- -   [Resilience, Conflict Sensitivity and Peace](#)

GERF 2.2 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:

- -   Nutrition (Nutri)
- -   Resilience, Conflict Sensitivity and Peace (Resilience)
- -   Sustainable aquatic and Agri-food systems (SAAFS)

For more information, see: [Predefined indicators for design and monitoring of EU-](#)

funded interventions | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)

Include references to external bodies using the same or similar indicator.

Although the indicator is not part of any specific convention, organisations such as UNDP and CGIAR use it to monitor a number of agricultural and climate-relevant interventions.

FAO's definition of 'Conservation agriculture' is also related to the definition given here.

11. Other issues