Global Europe Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator name
GERF 2.9: Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km2)

2. Technical details

Please use the information provided in OPSYS or the SWD.

Results Dashboard code(s): *(a) 65177; (b) 65216.*

Unit of measure: Square kilometre (km2).

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): Type of ecosystem (*Forests; Other terrestrial; Freshwater; Combination*).

DAC sector code(s): *41010 – Environmental policy and administrative management; 41020 – Biosphere protection; 41030 – Bio-diversity*.

Main associated SDG: *15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements*.

Other associated SDGs: *1.5 resilience to shocks and disasters; 6.1 drinking water; 6.3 water quality and pollution; 6.6 water ecosystems; 8.9 sustainable tourism; 11.4 cultural and natural heritage; 12.2 natural resources; 13.1 resilience and climate adaptation; 13.b capacity for climate related planning; 15.2 forests; 15.3 desertification and soil; 15.4 mountain ecosystems*.

Associated GERF Level 1 indicator: *1.7 Red List Index (SDG 15.5.1).*

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)

3.3 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance contributing to strengthening investment climate

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

3.14 Number and share of EU-funded external interventions promoting disability inclusion

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

3. Policy context and rationale

The indicator is in line with the New Consensus for Development priority to support the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, including land, forests, river basins and other ecosystems.

The 2030 Agenda includes the goal to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (SDG 15).

The EU is party to various Multilateral Environmental Agreements on the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems, including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention).

The Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan is the main EU policy framework to promote sustainable forest management. It places emphasis on forest governance, inclusiveness and transparency.

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:

- Include the indicator directly in the logframe (recommended approach);
- 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:

- **For logframe indicators**: the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting. The current value includes the baseline value which is reported separately for logframe indicators in OPSYS.
- **For matched indicators**: the most recent value for the results achieved at the time of reporting since the start of implementation of the intervention. This value is obtained by taking the most recent value for the indicator at the time of reporting and subtracting off the baseline value which is not reported separately for matched indicators in OPSYS.

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 square kilometres of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management 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

A *protected area* is defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as 'a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values'.

Examples of EU interventions in support of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under protection include:

- support for increasing the surface area of protected areas, either by creating one or more new areas, or extending one or more existing areas;
- support for consolidating the management of existing protected areas, or networks of protected areas, through supplying technical or financial assistance or equipment, strengthening capacity, or setting up management committees and management plans;
- support for strengthening the management system in place so as to effectively protect the area and prevent it from degradation or depletion;
- implementation of sustainable management practices for the conservation of biodiversity in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

Sustainable management practices are designed to maintain and enhance terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and the services they provide and ensure their sustainable use.

Examples of EU interventions in support of the sustainable management of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems include:

- provision of technical and financial assistance to support the restoration of degraded land and sustainable land management through practices such as soil and water conservation, erosion control, reforestation and restoration of land cover;
- provision of technical and financial assistance to support reforestation, afforestation and forest management in line with internationally agreed principles and criteria for sustainable forest management;
- promotion of economic activities to maintain ecosystem integrity, targeting land or freshwater systems, such as eco-tourism, and the sustainable use of non-timber forest products;
- promotion of territorial approaches for sustainable landscape management;
- improvement of forest management plans for production forests and/or increase

in compliance with management plans;
- support for forest policy reforms through capacity building and increased transparency;
- enhancement of freshwater bodies through e.g. pollution control, land management to reduce siltation associated with deforestation.

Counting guidance

1. If sustainable management practices are directly related to productive agricultural or pastoral systems - as covered by SDG 2 *Zero Hunger* - they should be reported under GERF indicator 2.2 *Areas of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (ha)*. This includes productive uses or activities such as agroforestry, apiculture and pastures managed for productive purposes. The same rule applies to the management of inland fisheries (e.g. control of fishing rights and practices, introduction of species, fish processing and trade).

2. If sustainable management practices are directly 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* - they should be reported under GERF 2.9.

3. The unit of measure is square kilometres. Values in any other units should be converted to square kilometres using the relevant conversion rule. 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. Clear information about the actual areas of operation (districts, provinces, departments, natural entities, etc.) must be provided in the comment field to facilitate quality control for double counting.

5. Double counting is not allowed between parts (a) and (b): if an area is reported under part (a), it should not be reported under part (b).

6. 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 of the same reporting period, from the same intervention or different interventions, this area should be counted only once. Report the name of the geographical area(s) counted in the comment field to facilitate quality control of double counting.

Quality control checklist

1. If there are any smallholders (e.g. indigenous people) benefitting from support, please count them under 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*.

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

3. 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?

4. Has the correct match been made with (a) or (b)? Protection (a) involves official recognition, physical protection and specific management; sustainable management (b) involves practices promoting conservation, rehabilitation or

monitoring of these processes.

5. Is the GERF value expressed in km^2?

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

7. (a) only: did you report the official value for the surface area? If the protected area is already established, use the (whole) surface area reported in the WDPA database (www.protectedplanet.net) or the EC JRS DOPA database (https://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/en/mapsanddatasets). If the protected area is newly established, and not yet registered in the WDPA or EC JRS DOPA databases, use the surface area stated in the official declaration adopted by the relevant authorities.

8. 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?

6. Examples of calculations

Example 1

An EU intervention in Bangladesh aims to increase the effectiveness of an existing management system of protected forest that spans an area of 1 000 000 km^2 between India and Bangladesh. Around 60% of the area (or 600 000 km^2) is situated in Bangladesh. The EU support is not meant to extend the area of this internationally acknowledged forest reserve, but to strengthen the management of the forest so as to conserve it. For this intervention, 600 000 km^2 can be reported under (a) protection.

Example 2

An EU intervention in Lesotho supports the development of integrated water catchment management. As a result, 5 000 km^2 of wetlands are restored with EU support, and reported under (b) sustainable management.

7. Data sources and issues

Please use the data source categories specified in OPSYS.

EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: *Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention; ROM reviews; Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention.*

International organisation data portals and reports: *UNEP Environmental Data Explorer, http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), https://www.iucn.org/; World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/thematic-areas/wdpa?tab=WDPA; Joint Research Centre (JRC), Digital Observatory for Protected Areas, https://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/; Global SDG Indicators Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/.*

EU reports and portals: *Copernicus, https://www.copernicus.eu/en; European Space Agency Land Cover website, http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/.*

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

8. 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 is used for corporate reporting 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*

9. Other uses

GERF 2.9 can be found in the following thematic results chains:

- [Food and Nutrition Security and sustainable Agriculture](#)
- [Water](#)

GERF 2.9 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined recommended indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:

- Oceans
- Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-food Systems
- Water

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.

The UNDP Integrated Results and Resources Framework 2018-21 has a similar indicator:

Natural resources that are managed under a sustainable use, conservation, access and benefit-sharing regime: a) Area of land and marine habitat under protection (hectares); b) Area of existing protected area under improved management (hectares); c) Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under cooperative management; d) Area under sustainable forest management (hectares); e) Biodiversity (using appropriate units of measure); f) Amount of chemicals reduced or disposed (metric tons); g) Other

10. Other issues