IPA III Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator code and name

IPA III RF 3.1.6.2: Areas of marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection, b) sustainable management with IPA III support

2. Technical details

OPSYS and Results Dashboard code: 65177, 65204, 65215, 65216.

Unit of measure: Square kilometre (km2)

Type of indicator: *Quantitative: Numeric; Actual (ex-post); Cumulative (not annual).*

Level of measurement: this is an **outcome** indicator. It would logically be associated with an outcome such as "Improved protection and sustainable management of natural ecosystems".

Disaggregation:

The indicator should be disaggregated by:

       a) protection OR

       b) sustainable management

Where relevant, please disaggregate by: types of ecosystems (marine/terrestrial/freshwater)

Any disaggregation should be agreed with the relevant ministry or IP in advance.

DAC sector codes: 41010; 41020; 41030

Main associated SDG: **SDG 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Other associated SDGs: **SDG 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Associated IPA III Level 1 indicator:

- Window 1:
  - Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (%) (source: SDG 15.1.2) (Ind. 3.1.6) .
- Window 4:
  - Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, value added (% of GDP) (source: Eurostat, online data code: nama_10_a10) (Ind. 4.0.5, same indicator presented under Win 4 – OO & TP 3)
- Window 5:
  - Attitudes on regional cooperation and EU integration (source: Regional Cooperation Council's Balkan Barometer) (Ind. 2.3.1, same indicator presented under Window 2 – TP3)

Associated IPA III Level 3 indicators: none.

3. Policy context and Rationale

- **IPA III PF: Window 3** - Green Agenda and Sustainable Connectivity, **Thematic Priority 1:** Environment and climate change*; Window 4 -* Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth, **TP 4:** Fisheries*;* and **Window 5 -** Territorial and Cross Border Cooperation[1]. This indicator is also Key Performance Indicator (**KPI**) **10** of the IPA III Regulation.
- This indicator is also a **Key Performance Indicator** (KPI) of the **IPA III Regulation**.
- **Chapter of the *Acquis***: The main concerned chapter of the EU *acquis* under this section is chapter 27 (Environment and climate change), included in cluster 4 (Green agenda and sustainable connectivity).
- The indicator corresponds to the **Global Europe Results Framework**, indicators GERF 2.9 (terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems) and GERF 2.8 (Marine areas).

Biodiversity represents a vital element for life but is under continuous threat. The conservation status of more than 60% of species and habitats protected under the EU Habitats Directive is unfavourable. This has fundamental consequences for our society, economy and human health. Clean water is also an essential resource for human health, agriculture, energy production, transport and nature, which is under multiple pressures. Currently, only 40% of Europe's surface water bodies achieve good ecological status. In addition, even though EU countries have managed to reduce selected pressures, the status of European marine ecosystems remains critical, both in terms of species and habitats.

In the Western Balkans, the main challenges at the regional and national level are related to the lack of political commitment to improve implementation of biodiversity policy, lack of financial resources and the impact of economic activities, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and, to a lesser extent, transport, tourism and energy infrastructure developments. This is due in part to the structure of current production systems and in part to lack of awareness, misunderstanding of and lack of guidance related to the added value of services generated by biodiversity for these sectors (e.g. pollination) and of key nature legislation requirements (infrastructure development) or to development pressures[2].

IPA III will support the beneficiaries to bring their environmental protection standards and climate change policies in line with EU requirements and policy priorities represented in the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030. It will focus on reversing environmental degradation, promoting conservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, monitoring and ultimately improving the quality of air, soil, sea and water, abating levels of industrial and chemical pollution, as well as properly disposing of waste, including hazardous and extractive waste. IPA III assistance will be in line with the five pillars identified in the Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, in particular the provisions of the "Biodiversity: protection and restoration of ecosystems" pillar.

More information on European policies is available here: European policy on habitats, European policies see/oceans and European policies on fresh water

4. Values to report

All of the following values must be determined according to the definitions provided in Section 5 below.

- **Reporting values in the logframe:**

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[1] The measurement of areas under protection and/or sustainable management with IPA support is included under several IPA-IPA CBC programmes as programme-specific indicators under slightly different formulations.
[2] Guidelines for the Implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

- **Baseline value**: The value assumed by the indicator at time t0, against which progress will be assessed.
- **Reporting of current value** is done at least once a year: actual latest value on km^2 by the time of reporting and according to the applicable definitions provided in section 5 of the note. Values will be reported cumulatively across the whole implementation period.
- **Final target value**: estimated total number of km^2 by the target year and according to the applicable definitions provided in section 5 of the note.
- **Intermediate targets (milestones).** A tool has been developed in OPSYS to automate the generation of intermediate targets[3].
  - 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[4]) 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 Manager.

5. Calculation of values

The value for this indicator is calculated by counting the **square kilometres (km^2),** using the Technical Definitions and Counting Guidance provided below. Please double check your calculations using the Quality Control Checklist below.

Technical Definitions

- **Marine and terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under protection[5]**: The Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) does not make a distinction between a marine and a terrestrial protected area, which is defined as "*a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, 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 marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems **protection** include:

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[3] This has been done in the framework of the **Intervention Performance Assessment.** Two composite indicators have been developed to provide an overall assessment of an intervention's current implementation and future prospects. These scores will be calculated for all NEAR interventions participating in the annual results data collection exercise.

- The **implementation score** reflects the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness already achieved by the intervention. 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 sufficiently available, or the response to a question in a survey, if not.
- The **risk score** reflects expectations regarding the most probable levels of relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability to be achieved by the intervention in the future. In this case, all the information is provided by the Operational manager's responses to questions in a survey.

[4] a. Constant: The outcomes are achieved continuously throughout implementation; b. Accelerating: The outcomes are achieved towards the end of implementation; c. At the end: The outcomes are mostly achieved at the end of implementation; d. None of the above.

[5] IUCN (2019) Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas.

- support to increase the surface of protected areas, either by the creation of (a) new one(s), or the extension of (an) existing one(s);

- **Sustainable management** practices aim at maintaining and enhancing marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems and the services they provide and ensuring their sustainable use. If sustainable management practices are in direct relation to productive agricultural or pastoral systems they should NOT be reported under this indicator (most suitable IPA III indicator for such purpose is 4.3.1.3). Examples of IPA III interventions in support of <u>sustainable management of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems</u> include:

  - support to consolidate the management of existing protected areas, or networks of protected areas, through supplying technical or financial assistance or equipment, strengthening of capacities, or the setup of management committee and management plans;

  - support to strengthen the management system in place so as to effectively protect the area and to prevent it from degradation or depletion;

  - the implementation of sustainable management practices for the conservation of biodiversity in terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems.

  - the 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, restoration of land cover;

  - the 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;

  - the promotion of economic activities that contribute to maintain ecosystems integrity targeting land or freshwater systems, such as eco-tourism, and the sustainable use of non-timber forest products;

  - the promotion of territorial approaches for sustainable landscape management;

  - to improve Forest Management Plans for production forest and/or help increase the level of compliance with management plans;

  - support to forest policy reforms through capacity building and increased transparency;

  - enhancement of freshwater bodies through e.g. pollution control, land management to reduce siltation associated to deforestation

  - Examples of EU interventions in support of sustainable management of marine ecosystems include:

  - the provision of technical and financial assistance to support the restoration and sustainable use of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems, through reforestation, reducing pollution and waste disposal, and measures to regulate the conversion of mangroves to aquaculture;

  - the provision of technical and financial assistance to promote the monitoring of fish stocks and regulate and control both oceanic and coastal fisheries in order to reduce illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), maintain fish catches at levels that no not exceed sustainable yield thresholds;

  - the promotion of economic activities that contribute to maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems, such as eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries and whale watching;

  - promotion of regional policies and institutional frameworks of secure more sustainable management of marine ecosystems including territorial

<u>Counting Guidance</u>

- **Reference to possible double-counting**: Agricultural and pastoral ecosystems under sustainable management should be counted under IPA III RF indicator 4.3.1.3 "Total agricultural land (ha) under the agri-environment-climate and organic farming measure".

These areas should not be counted under this indicator to avoid double counting. The same area supported by the EU intervention(s) in successive years should only be counted once and particular attention should be given to avoid double counting.

- **Data calculation:** As reported in data sources according to technical definitions in section 3. When it comes to reporting, during and at end of the implementation, clear information about the actual areas of operation (districts, provinces, departments, natural entities, etc.) needs to be provided as part of the reporting against this indicator. For conversions of terrestrial and freshwater areas under protection which are often reported in hectares use the following: 1 hectare = 0.01 km^2.

Quality Control Checklist

1. Has double counting been avoided as indicated in the Counting Guidance above?
2. Have all relevant disaggregations been reported?
3. Has the baseline and final target been encoded with the right dates?
4. Did you encode the latest current value available?
5. Did you use the comment box to inform on the values encoded?

6. Examples of calculations

Example A: an IPA III funded intervention in a candidate country aims to increase the effectiveness of an existing management system of forests that spans an area of 1 000 000 ha. Around 60% of the areas is catalogued as protected areas according to the WDPA database and in the country's list of designated protected areas. IPA III support is not aiming at extending the area under protection, but at strengthening the management of the forest for its conservation. At the end of the intervention, a more effective, modernised and sustainable management system was successfully set up for the whole targeted area.

Values:

Baseline value: 0 km^2.

Target value: (600 000 ha*0.01) = 6 000 km^2 under a) protection AND (400 000 ha*0.01) = 4 000 km^2 under b) sustainable management (note that the values have to be reported separately).

Value and end year: 6 000 km^2 under a) protection AND 4 000 km^2 under b) sustainable management (note that both values have to be reported separately)

Contribution to results: 6 000 km^2 - 0 km^2 of forest areas under a) protection AND 4 000 km^2 - 0 km^2 of forest areas under b) sustainable management (note that both values have to be reported separately).

Example B: an IPA III funded intervention in a candidate country aims at enhancing the conservation and management of marine biodiversity along 2 000 km^2 of coastal areas in the Adriatic Sea, where only 500 km^2 meet the standards of the national biodiversity strategy. As part of its efforts, the intervention has supported the restoration of 1 217 km^2 of coastal areas.

Values:

Baseline value: 500 km^2

Target value: 500 km^2 (baseline)+1 500 km^2 = 2 000 km^2

Current value: 500 km^2 (baseline) + 1 217 km^2

Contribution to results: 1 717 km^2 - 500 km^2 = 1 217 km^2 of marine coastal areas to be reported under b) sustainable management with EU support.

7. Data sources and issues

Data sources in the logframe:

- Data for this indicator must derive directly from the intervention, i.e. intervention internal monitoring and reporting systems from implementing organisations (e.g. governments, international organisations, non-state actors) based on **primary** (baseline and end line studies) **and secondary sources** used for data calculation which, in the case of this indicator, are:
    - For areas under protection, the main data sources are the WDPA[6]; the European protected sites database which includes Natura 2000 sites, Emerald sites and nationally designated protected areas (CDDA) also for all candidate and potential candidate countries; the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) Digital Observatory of Protected Areas[7] (DOPA) which is based on the WDPA, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and the JRC's own remote sensing products such as the Global Landcover 2000; the ministries or government agencies in charge of the management of the National Protected Areas Systems.
- For areas under sustainable management: the national reports on the state of the environment and on the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification; Copernicus[8], which provides information on land cover, land use and their changes; the European Space Agency Land Cover website[9]; regarding forests, the FAO global Forest Resource Assessment[10] (FRA) published annually.
- Other possible sources include studies carried out in the framework of the interventions and external monitoring and/or evaluation reports.

Data source categories specified in OPSYS:

- EU reports and portals (Copernicus, https://www.copernicus.eu/en; European Space Agency Land Cover website, http://www.esa-landcover-cci.org/);
- EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems (Progress and final reports for the EU-funded intervention;
- Baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention ; ROM reviews);
- International organisation data portals and reports (Global SDG Indicators Database, https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/ ; FAO, Forest Resource Assessment (FRA), http://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/; UNEP Environmental Data Explorer, http://geodata.grid.unep.ch/ ; 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/en; International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) https://www.iucn.org/)

8. Reporting process & Corporate reporting

Who is responsible for collecting and reporting the data?

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[6] https://www.protectedplanet.net/en/searchareas?geo_type=site&filters%5Blocation%5D%5Btype%5D=country
[7] https://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/dopa/
[8] https://land.copernicus.eu/
[9] https://www.esa-landcover-cci.org
[10] https://www.fao.org/forest-resources-assessment/en/

- The implementing partner (i.e. the entity responsible for delivering the results) will need to ensure the counting starts at the lowest level of intervention and is reported upwards and aggregated for the entire intervention in the framework of regular monitoring and reporting systems.
- Data verification:
    - For indirect management by beneficiary countries, the National IPA Coordinator will verify the data.
    - For IPA-IPA CBC programmes, the data will be collected, checked and aggregated within the Regional Monitoring System. JTS are to be associated.
    - For other modes of implementation, the Operational Manager in HQs/EUD will verify the data.
- It is then the responsibility of DG NEAR to receive and verify data for this indicator from all relevant interventions and to eventually ensure aggregation within and across all IPA Beneficiaries.

This indicator is used for corporate reporting in the following contexts:

- *IPA III via the Annual Report*
- *IPA III via the Programme Performance Statements*
- *NEAR Strategic Plan via the Annual Activity Report*

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

- *NDICI*
- *EFSD+*
- *TEI MORE*

9. Other uses

IPA III RF.**3.1.6.2** can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:

- European Fund for Sustainable Development PLUS (EFSD+);
- GE RF - Level 2 (GERF L-2);
- IPA III RF Window 3: Green agenda and sustainable connectivity (IPA III W3);
- IPA III RF Window 4: Competitiveness and inclusive growth (IPA III W4);
- IPA III RF Window 5: Territorial and cross border cooperation (IPA III W5);
- NEAR GERF L2 (GERF 2);
- Oceans (Oceans);
- Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-Food Systems (SAAFS);
- Team Europe Initiative - MORE Framework (TEI-MORE);

- Water (Water)

For more information, see: [Predefined indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions | Capacity4dev (europa.eu)](#)

Global Europe Results Framework: GERF 2.9 Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under (a) protection, (b) sustainable management with EU support (km2) and GERF 2.8 Marine areas under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support (km2).

10. Other issues

None.