Global Europe Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator code and name

GERF 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)**

2. Policy context and Rationale

The European Union's external assistance strategy is deeply embedded within the broader context of global environmental challenges and the EU's commitment to sustainable development. The European Green Deal, launched in December 2019, sets out a vision to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050, emphasizing the need for ambitious international cooperation to address global environmental issues. This commitment is reflected in the EU's external action, particularly through the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and other development cooperation instruments that support partner countries in their transition to more sustainable development paths.

The indicator GERF 3.1 is crucial for measuring the alignment and effectiveness of EU-funded external assistance with key environmental goals. By tracking the amount and share of EU external assistance dedicated to climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity protection, desertification combat, and overall environmental protection, the EU can ensure that its development efforts contribute meaningfully to global sustainability objectives.

- Climate Change (adaptation and mitigation): Addressing climate change through adaptation and mitigation efforts is essential for reducing vulnerability and building resilience in partner countries. EU assistance in this area supports the implementation of climate-resilient projects and technologies, promoting sustainable development practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance adaptive capacity.
- Protecting Biodiversity: Biodiversity loss poses significant risks to ecosystems, human health, and economic stability. EU-funded projects aimed at biodiversity protection contribute to the conservation of natural habitats, species, and ecosystems, supporting sustainable land and resource management practices that safeguard biodiversity.
- Combating Desertification: Desertification affects millions of people worldwide, leading to land degradation, reduced agricultural productivity, and increased poverty. EU assistance in combating desertification promotes sustainable land management practices, reforestation, and restoration of degraded lands, contributing to food security and livelihoods.

- Protecting the Environment (Aid to Env): Broad environmental protection efforts encompass a wide range of initiatives aimed at preserving natural resources, reducing pollution, and promoting sustainable consumption and production. EU funding in this area supports projects that enhance environmental governance, improve waste management, and encourage the adoption of clean technologies, contributing to overall environmental sustainability.

By monitoring and evaluating the contribution of EU-funded external assistance to these critical areas, the EU can ensure that its development cooperation efforts are aligned with global environmental targets and contribute effectively to sustainable development in partner countries.

3. Calculation of values

This indicator is included at Level 3 of the Global Europe Results Framework (GERF) and aims to report the annual amounts and shares of EU funded external assistance contributing to (a) climate change (adaptation and mitigation), (b) protecting biodiversity, (c) combating desertification and (d) protecting the environment, in terms of commitments and payments (separately). Only funds from the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) are included.

Technical definitions

In their reporting to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Creditor Reporting System (CRS), donors are requested to indicate for each activity to what extent specific policy objectives are targeted. For the scope defined by this indicator, these objectives are categorised by the Rio policy markers:

a) Climate Change Adaptation or Mitigation Policy Marker

b) Biodiversity Policy Marker

c) Desertification Policy Marker

d) Environment Policy Marker

Each Rio policy marker informs on how its respective objective (climate change adaptation or mitigation, protecting biodiversity, combating desertification, or protecting the environment) is mainstreamed in development cooperation activities.

There are 3 possible scores for each marker:

1. Score 2 – The specified objective is the principal objective of the project/programme and is fundamental in its design and expected results. The project/programme would not have been undertaken without the nutrition objective.
2. Score 1 – The specified objective is an important and deliberate objective, but not the principal reason for undertaking the project/programme.
3. Score 0 - The project/programme has been screened against the marker but has not been found to target the specified objective in any significant way.

Counting guidance

Data is sourced from the European Commission's internal systems.

The amount and share are calculated for commitments and payments, separately, and excluding administrative costs not included elsewhere (OECD DAC CRS cooperation modality code G01), as follows:

1. **Calculation of amount**

1.1. Amount except budget support

The calculations below are limited to the commitments/payments corresponding to the Actions financed by the NDICI, with a commitment/payment date between 1st of January and 31st of December of the reporting year, with the OECD DAC CRS Rio policy marker for (a) climate change adaptation or mitigation, (b) biodiversity, (c) desertification, or (d) environment.

- For the Actions with a score of 2, calculate the sum of the corresponding commitments/payments. *For (a) climate change which uses both the adaptation marker and the mitigation marker, the action is considered to have a score of 2 if either of the markers has a score of 2*.
- For the Actions with a score of 1, calculate the sum of the corresponding commitments/payments, and weight this sum by 40%. *For (a) climate change which uses both the adaptation marker and the mitigation marker, the action is considered to have a score of 1 if either of the markers has a score of 1 and neither have a score of 2*.
- Add the sums calculated above to obtain the amount except for budget support.

1.2. Amount of budget support

Since General Budget Support (GBS, including SDG-Contracts and State and Resilience Building Contracts) is reported to the OECD without the Rio policy markers, the amount calculated in part (a) overlooks the contribution of GBS to supporting the Rio objectives. Therefore, the SDG marking is used to determine the amounts of GBS that support (a) climate change adaptation and mitigation and (b) protecting biodiversity. (The GBS contributions are not calculated for (c) combating desertification and (d) protecting the environment.) Add up the commitments/payments corresponding to the Actions financed by the NDICI, with a commitment/payment date between 1st of January and 31st of December of the reporting year, and with the CRS code 51010 for budget support and for (a) the SDG 13 marking for Climate Action, and for (b) the SDG 14 marking for Life Below Water or the SDG 15 marking for Life On Land.

1.3. Total amount

For each of the sub indicators, add the amounts calculated in steps 1.1 and 1.2 to obtain the total amount.

2. **Calculation of share**

For each of the sub indicators, divide the amounts calculated in step 1 by the sum of commitments/payments corresponding to the Actions financed by the NDICI with a commitment/payment date between 1st of January and 31st of December of the reporting year.

4. Corporate reporting & targets

The data collected on this indicator is accessible through DG INTPA's Statistical Dashboard, on the sheet dedicated to GERF Level 3 indicators.

Please indicate any targets that might exist for this indicator.

a) Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Recital (49) of NDICI-Global Europe provides that:

"Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and to achieve the UN SDGs, the Instrument should contribute to mainstream climate action in the Union policies and to the achievement of an overall target of 30% of the Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives. Actions under the Instrument are expected to contribute 30 % of its overall financial envelope to climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the implementation of the Instrument, and the overall contribution from the Instrument should be part of relevant monitoring, evaluations and review processes."

Recital (25) of the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance Regulation (IPA III) provides that:

"[…] Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union's commitments to implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, IPA III should contribute to mainstreaming climate action in the Union's policies and to the achievement of an overall target of 30 % of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives […]. Actions under IPA III are expected to contribute 18 % of the overall financial envelope of IPA III to climate objectives, with the objective of increasing this percentage to 20 % by 2027. […]"

Recital (24) of the Decision on the Overseas Association including Greenland (DOAG) provides that:

"Actions under this Programme are expected to contribute 25 % of its overall financial envelope to climate objectives. Relevant actions will be identified during the Programme's implementation and the overall contribution from this Programme should be part of relevant monitoring, evaluations and review processes."

In addition, in her State of the Union address in September 2021, President von der Leyen announced an additional EUR 4 billion for climate finance until 2027.

Whereas the whole of NDICI-Global Europe will have to contribute to reaching the target, it has been agreed with SG that the State of the Union increase will be mainly assumed by the geographic programmes. This implies that in order to achieve the 30% target plus the EUR 4 billion, contributions from NDICI-Global Europe geographic programmes (both Neighbourhood and non-Neighbourhood) need to reach 42%.

b) Protecting biodiversity Recital (49) of NDICI-Global Europe provides that: “In view of contributing to halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity, the Instrument should contribute to the ambition of providing 7.5 % of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10 % of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.” In addition, in her State of the Union address in September 2021, repeated during the UN General Assembly 2021, President von der Leyen announced that the EU would double its external funding for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries. In concrete terms, this means that the NDICI-Global Europe and IPA III contributions to biodiversity should collectively reach EUR 7 billion over 2021-2027. Recital (25) of the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance Regulation (IPA III) provides that: “[…]Reflecting the importance of tackling climate change in line with the Union’s commitments to implement the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (7) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, IPA III should contribute to mainstreaming climate action in the Union’s policies and to the achievement of an overall target of 30 % of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives and the ambition of 7.5 % of the budget reflecting biodiversity expenditures in 2024 and 10 % in 2026 and 2027, while taking into account the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.” Recital 24 of the Decision on the Overseas Association including Greenland (DOAG) provides that: “In view of contributing to halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity, this Programme should contribute to the ambition of providing 7.5 % of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in the year 2024 and 10 % of annual spending under the multiannual financial framework to biodiversity objectives in 2026 and 2027, while considering the existing overlaps between climate and biodiversity goals.”
5. Other uses
6. Other issues