

Global Europe Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note

1. Indicator name
<p>GERF 2.8: Marine areas under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support (km²)</p>
2. Technical details
<p><i>Please use the information provided in OPSYS or the SWD.</i></p> <p><u>Results Dashboard code(s)</u>: (a) 65204; (b) 65215.</p> <p><u>Unit of measure</u>: Square kilometre (km²).</p> <p><u>Type of indicator</u>: Quantitative (not qualitative) – Numeric (not percentage); Actual ex-post (not estimated or ex-ante); Cumulative (not annual); Stock (not flow).</p> <p><u>Level(s) of measurement</u>: Specific Objective – Outcome; Direct Output; Output.</p> <p><u>Disaggregation(s)</u>: None.</p> <p><u>DAC sector code(s)</u>: 31320 – Fishery development; 41020 – Biosphere protection.</p> <p><u>Main associated SDG</u>: 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.</p> <p><u>Other associated SDGs</u>: 1.5 resilience to shocks and disasters; 8.9 sustainable tourism; 11.4 cultural and natural heritage; 13.1 resilience and climate adaptation; 13.b capacity for climate related planning; 14.1 marine pollution; 14.2 marine and coastal ecosystems; 14.4 fisheries management; 14.b access by artisanal fishers.</p> <p><u>Associated GERP Level 1 indicator</u>: 1.7 Red List Index (SDG 15.5.1).</p> <p><u>Associated GERP Level 3 indicators</u>:</p> <p>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)</p> <p>3.3 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance contributing to strengthening investment climate</p> <p>3.13 Number and share of EU- external interventions promoting gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <p>3.14 Number and share of EU-funded external interventions promoting disability inclusion</p> <p>3.16 Amount and share of EU-funded external assistance qualifying as ODA</p>
3. Policy context and rationale
<p>The indicator is in line with the New Consensus for Development priority to promote the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems and the sustainable management of ocean</p>

resources and sustainable fisheries, through improved ocean governance and the development of the blue economy.

The global blue economy is set to grow faster than the general economy, possibly doubling in size by 2030. However, in a business-as-usual scenario, the environmental impact on and loss of natural capital from unsustainable economic activity in the ocean risk eroding the resource base on which such growth depends. Concerted action to protect and restore ocean health is therefore needed.

The 2030 Agenda also highlights the need to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (SDG 14).

The 2022 Joint Communication on the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda reaffirms the EU's intention to be a leader in the implementation of SDG14 both internally and externally and in shaping the way oceans are managed and used, taking into account the worsening impact of climate change and dangerous decline in biodiversity.

It specifies several integrated actions for a safe, secure, clean, healthy and sustainably managed ocean, under four policy pillars:

- [strengthening the international ocean governance framework](#)
- [making ocean sustainability a reality by 2030](#)
- [ensuring security and safety at sea](#)
- [building up ocean knowledge](#)

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. For GERF indicators, this value is usually zero. This is because the results being measured must be directly attributable to EU support; prior to the start of implementation, the specific intervention has not yet occurred and therefore cannot have generated a result. A non-zero baseline may only occur if the intervention is following up on work achieved by another intervention financed by the same instrument.

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 automatically¹.

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.

- **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 options²) 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.

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 square kilometres of marine areas under a) protection with EU support, 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

Part (a) of the indicator (marine areas under protection): the International 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'.³

Examples of EU interventions in support of marine ecosystems protection include:

- increasing the surface of protected areas, either by the creation of new areas, or the extension of existing areas;
- consolidating the management of existing protected areas or networks of protected areas, through supplying technical or financial assistance or equipment, strengthening capacities, or setting up management committees and management plans;
- strengthening the management system in place so as to effectively protect the area and prevent degradation or depletion.

- *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*.

³ IUCN (2012) Guidelines for Applying the IUCN Protected Area Management Categories to Marine Protected Areas.

Part (b) of the indicator (marine areas under sustainable management): sustainable management practices aim maintain and enhance marine ecosystems and the services they provide and ensure their sustainable use.

Examples of EU interventions for sustainable management of marine ecosystems include:

- implementation of sustainable fisheries practices: for example, the EU supports initiatives that promote sustainable fishing practices, such as the establishment of fisheries management plans, or the implementation of co-management of marine resources, in a clearly identified marine area, or application of measures and initiatives to combat IUU fishing in a specific marine area (this may involve strengthening monitoring, surveillance and control mechanisms and enforcing regulations to deter IUU fishing);
- ecosystem-based management approaches: for example, EU interventions may involve the implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches, (i.e. considering the entire marine ecosystem and human activities, and their interactions, rather than focusing on individual species);
- restoration of degraded marine habitats: for example, the EU supports projects to restore degraded marine and coastal habitats, such as coral reefs, mangroves or seagrass beds, through rehabilitation and protection measures;
- promotion of marine spatial planning: for example, EU initiatives may focus on the development and implementation of marine spatial planning frameworks that allocate zones and times for different uses, ensuring sustainable resource management;
- reduction of pollution and enhancing water quality: for example, EU-supported programs might target a clearly identified geographical area for the reduction of marine pollution and improvement of water quality through measures such as wastewater treatment, control of nutrient runoff, and waste management.

Counting guidance

1. The unit of measure is square kilometres. Hectares must be converted into square kilometres by dividing by 100. Acres must be converted into square kilometres by multiplying by 247. 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.
2. (b) only: generic actions that have a global focus (for example, actions supporting MARPOL implementation) should be excluded.
3. (b) only: the GERF value should represent the spatial extent of the marine areas under sustainable management with EU support. The size of the specific areas where these interventions are implemented must be determined. More specifically:
 - implementing sustainable fisheries practices: report the marine areas where sustainable fisheries practices are implemented and enforced;
 - ecosystem-based management approaches: report the marine areas covered by ecosystem-based management plans and practice;
 - restoration of degraded marine habitats: report the marine areas where habitats have been restored and remain under sustainable management following restoration;

- promoting marine spatial planning: report the marine areas covered by the marine spatial plans that are implemented;
 - reducing pollution and enhancing water quality: report the marine areas where pollution reduction and water quality enhancement measures are implemented.
4. Double counting is not allowed between parts (a) and (b): if a marine area is reported under part (a), it should not be reported under part (b).
 5. Double counting is not allowed for parts (a) and (b): 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. In reference to protected areas with limited fishing, are only oceanic and coastal areas counted? Inland fisheries should be counted under GERF 2.2 *Areas of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (ha)*, NOT under GERF 2.8a.
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 activities and practices maintaining and enhancing marine ecosystems and the services they provide and ensuring their sustainable use (ecosystem-based management, integrated coastal zone management, ecosystem conservation, ecosystem restoration, pollution prevention...).
5. Is the GERF value expressed in km²?
6. (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, then use the surface area stated in the official declaration adopted by the relevant authorities.
7. (b) only: has the area been reported under (a)? If so, do not report it under (b).
8. (b) only: has a well-defined area been reported? If not, it is not possible to report on this indicator.
9. Is the area being counted for the first time? If the same area of land benefits from EU support in successive years, it should be counted only once.

<p>10. 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?</p>
<p>7. Examples of calculations</p>
<p><u>Example 1</u></p> <p>An EU intervention is providing support to four countries to establish six Marine Protected Areas (two MPAs in one country, and one MPA in each of the other four countries). The intervention includes support for the national authorities to draft and adopt the declarations to establish the MPAs. The overall surface of the six established MPAs is 4 500 km².</p> <p>For this intervention, 4 500 km² can be reported as marine areas under (a) protection with EU support.</p> <p><u>Example 2</u></p> <p>An EU intervention managed by the Delegation in Nicaragua aims to enhance the conservation and management of marine biodiversity in the Gulf of Fonseca bordering El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. As part of its efforts, the intervention has supported the restoration of 1 217 ha of mangroves.</p> <p>Converted to square kilometres, 12.17 km² of coastal area can be reported as marine areas under (b) sustainable management with EU support.</p>
<p>8. Data sources and issues</p>
<p><i>Please use the data source categories specified in OPSYS.</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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/.</p> <p>Public sector reports: National statistical report.</p> <p><i>Include any issues relating to the availability and quality of the data.</i></p>
<p>9. Reporting process & Corporate reporting</p>
<p>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</p>

perform quality control on the frozen data and aggregate as needed to meet the different corporate reporting requirements.

Please replace ○ with ● for the relevant items below.

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

- *NDICI via the Annual Report*
- *NDICI via the 2021-27 Programme Performance Statements*
- *INTPA Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *INTPA Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *NEAR Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *ENEST Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *MENA Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *FPI Strategic Plan 2020-24 via the Annual Activity Report*
- *FPI Strategic Plan 2025-29 via the Annual Activity Report*

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

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

10. Baseline alignment and Annualisation

Corporate reports most often cover different timeframes. Only rarely does the 7-year Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) start in the same year as the 5-year Strategic Plans. Because the MFF drives the funding for these interventions, it serves as the primary baseline for data collection. To report against other cycles with different start dates, results must first be annualised and then re-cumulated starting from the required baseline year.

The annualisation method depends on the type of indicator, which can be found in Section 2:

- **Flow Indicators** (discrete achievements): These measure "one-off" events or new beneficiaries reached within a specific timeframe (e.g., Number of people trained). To find the annual result, we calculate the variation (the difference between the cumulative total at the end of the year and the beginning of the year).

Example: If a project reached 500 total people by 2024 and 800 by 2025, the 2025 annual result is 300 (the new results generated that year).

- **Stock Indicators** (continuous support): These measure an ongoing state or sustained support (e.g., Number of countries supported). To find the annual result, we take the total cumulative value at the end of the year, as this represents the full extent of the EU's active footprint.

Example: If the EU supports 10 countries in 2024 and continues supporting those same 10 in 2025, the 2025 annual result remains 10 (the total "stock" of support active that year).

<p>In this case, the result is often achieved at the onset of the intervention and remains ongoing throughout implementation. When re-baselining for a new corporate cycle, these results are maintained rather than recalculated as variations. The annual value is the total number of entities under active support at the end of the reporting year, regardless of whether that support commenced before or after the new baseline year.</p>
<p>11. Other uses</p>
<p>GERF 2.8 be found in the following thematic results chains, along with other related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resilience, Conflict sensitivity and Peace - Water <p>GERF 2.8 can be found in the following groups of EU predefined indicators available in OPSYS, along with other related indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oceans - Resilience, Conflict sensitivity and Peace - Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-food Systems <p>For more information, see: Core indicators for design and monitoring of EU-funded interventions Capacity4dev (europa.eu)</p> <p><i>Include references to external bodies using the same or similar indicator.</i></p> <p>The UNDP Integrated Results and Resources Framework 2018-21 has an indicator that covers both terrestrial and water habitat (fresh or marine):</p> <p>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</p>
<p>12. Other issues</p>