

Annual Review – UNDP Climate Promise

Title: United Nations Development Programme: Climate Promise		
Programme Value £ (full life): Defra funding £9m (100% ICF, 100% RDEL) Total Programme funding: \$88.5m		Review date: May 2024
Programme Code: GB-GOV-7-ICFUNDPCP	Start date: February 2022	End date: March 2025

Year	22 – 23	23 – 24	24 - 25	25 - 26
Overall Output Score	B	A		
Risk Rating	Moderate	Moderate		

DevTracker Link to Business Case:	https://devflow.northeurope.cloudapp.azure.com/files/documents/UNDP-Climate-Promise-Business-Case-Addendum-20230426050434.pdf
DevTracker Link to results framework:	[To be included after conclusion of the Annual Review]

A. SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

Description of programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Climate Promise (CP) programme has global coverage, supporting over 120 countries since its launch in 2019, ten of which Defra funding supports, to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and is the world’s largest provider of support to developing countries on NDC enhancement and implementation.

Currently in its second phase (2022 – 2026), whilst still seeking to raise ambition, the programme pivoted to focus on delivery i.e., implementation of NDCs commitments, and related engagement activities. For this second phase UNDP, together with partners, aims to provide NDC implementation support to at least 100 countries between 2022 and 2026, helping them to use their NDCs as sovereign plans for investment and as key engines of sustainable development – focusing on sectors such as energy, water, nature-based solutions, forests, agriculture, transportation, and green economy.

Defra’s contribution to the UNDP CP commenced in the second phase of the programme, supporting the shift to delivery and implementation. Our funding has been directed towards the Forests, Land and Nature (FLN) work area. We have made three financial contributions to the programme, totalling £9m, through which we are supporting ten countries, Cambodia, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Dominica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Republic of Congo, and Vietnam.

In the ten Defra supported countries, our funding supports a range of activities including reviewing and analysing key information/data gaps, developing and validating strategies/frameworks/plans, holding training sessions/events/workshops, sharing, and disseminating lessons/communications, engaging stakeholders, and providing grants to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

Summary progress of performance in the past year (towards outcome and output indicators)

In this (second) annual review for the programme, covering the period January – December 2023, the Climate Promise has scored an ‘A’, which reflects the fact that the programme has met the expectations of progress this year. The Climate Promise has made substantial progress over the review period, the details of which are set out in Section B for outcomes, and in Section C for outputs. We have worked closely with UNDP to build a Defra contribution-specific matrix, improving

monitoring, evaluation, and reporting over the last year, and are now able to report more comprehensively on the activities supported by Defra’s contributions, and the progress they have made.

Major lessons and recommendations for the year ahead

Five recommendations were included in last year’s annual review, detailed in Annex 1. All of these recommendations have been addressed and implemented. The key lessons and recommendations for the year ahead are detailed in the table below and labelled as ‘[RECOMMENDATION x]’ when referenced in the text of this Annual Review (AR).

Table 1. Programme recommendations.

No.	Description	Owner	Deadline
1	Provide clear methodologies for newly added indicators focusing on nature (e.g. land area) and people (e.g. communities).	UNDP and Defra	December 2024
2	Set future targets (i.e. entire length of programme funding contribution, to 2025) for Defra-funded activities, to provide a long-term outline of expected results.	UNDP	January 2025
3	Provide an outline of activities expected to take place at the beginning of the calendar year, so that progress and results can be assessed against plans.	UNDP	September 2024
4	Expand information contained on the programme Donor Dashboard, to include country-specific risk analysis and monitoring.	UNDP	December 2024
5	Limited to a specific country context, ensure that UK Government support is highlighted when implementing activities in-country, which are undertaken as a result of Defra contributions to the programme.	UNDP / delivery partners	September 2024
6	Further detail should be provided in deliverables progress updates on how indicators have been met in an inclusive and gender responsive way.	UNDP	September 2024

B: THEORY OF CHANGE AND PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES

Summarise the programme’s theory of change, including any changes to outcome and impact indicators from the original business case.

The Climate Promise’s Theory of Change (ToC) is used to model how the programme is expected to achieve its desired impact and outcomes, alongside and considering other policies and initiatives. The programme’s desired impact is to support countries to advance their net zero commitments and climate resilient development, in line with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

There are four outcomes in the programme’s ToC which contribute to the programme’s desired impact relating to:

1. Scale and Speed – Countries have effectively strengthened inclusive and gender-responsive governance and financing mechanisms to enable delivery and tracking of NDC targets across sectors.
2. Amplifying Ambition – Countries have established long-term net-zero and climate resilient development pathways aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement.
3. Lasting Inclusivity – Key actors within society are systematically engaged and empowered to contribute to accelerated NDC implementation, long-term net-zero, and climate resilient development pathways.
4. International Engagement – Regional and global awareness, advocacy, and partnerships are strengthened to contribute to enhanced NDC and Long-term Strategies (LTS) ambition and delivery capacity.

All International Climate Finance (ICF) programmes are required to report against at least one Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that reflects the ToC and key aims of the programme. We have incorporated two ICF KPIs into the CP logframe; at the impact level we have added in ICF KPI 15 (Extent to which the ICF intervention is likely to lead to Transformational Change) and at the outcome level we have added in TA KPI 1 (Number of Countries Supported by ICF Technical Assistance).

Through our revision of the programme’s logframe we are seeking to integrate a further three KPIs to help us to better capture the FLN focus of our support. At the outcome level ICF KPI 17 (Area under Sustainable Management Practices as a result of International Climate Finance) and, TA KPI 3 (Number of climate policies informed by ICF TA). At the output level Defra International (DI) KPI 8 (People with improved tenure or access rights (land and sea)).

To facilitate their integration into the most relevant areas of our logframe, we have introduced an additional outcome in the new programme draft ToC, which looks more specifically at the FLN area, and the people supported elements of our contribution. This fifth outcome is:

5. Nature and ecosystems are protected, restored, and sustainably managed, and support people’s livelihoods.

As a new outcome with newly identified contributing indicators at both outcome and output levels, clear methodologies focusing on nature (e.g. land area) and people (e.g. communities) will need to be fully developed for these ahead of reporting next year. **[RECOMMENDATION 1]**

This will enable us to strengthen our monitoring of nature and people outcomes, and we plan to report against the identified indicators on an annual basis in the future.

A broad range of activities is envisaged to achieve these outcomes. The activities we are funding through our contribution directly link to the programme’s output indicators which are detailed in the ToC. These indicators monitor the implementation of the programme’s outputs and subsequently the outcomes. Therefore, through the logframe and the ToC it is possible to link our funding to the outputs, outcomes, and impact of the programme. We will continue to develop the programme’s draft ToC to enhance its clarity over the coming year. A copy of the most recent version of the TOC can be found in Annex 2.

Describe where the programme is on/off track to contribute to the expected outcomes and impact. What action is planned in the year ahead?

During our logframe revision, UNDP advised that the original outcome indicators they provided to underpin the outcome headings, are no longer being used. In order for us to ensure that we have outcome indicators that underpin the outcomes, we reviewed each output indicator and have selected the most appropriate indicator, that best reflects the overall outcome objective, and repurposed this as the outcome indicator in our logframe.

Under each outcome indicator we have scored every reporting country, either an ‘A’ (met expectations) indicating that the work under this indicator has been completed, or almost completed, or a ‘B’ (moderately did not meet expectations), indicating that the work under this indicator is still in progress. In grading results, ‘almost completed’ activities have been rated with an ‘A’, as the terminology used by UNDP identifies work packages that have been completed by UNDP, but where internal administrative processes, either on the UNDP or partner government side, are still ongoing to validate or close down the activity.

Outcome Title	Countries have effectively strengthened inclusive and gender-responsive forests/land-use/nature-related governance and financing mechanisms to enable delivery and tracking towards the achievement of NDC targets across sectors.		
Outcome number:	1	Outcome Score:	B
Impact weighting (%):	20%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
1.1	Number of Countries with inclusive policies and measures (including legislation and regulations) developed and/or implemented to support NDC implementation, including those that are gender responsive.	4	5	<u>Côte d'Ivoire</u> - work under this indicator almost completed. <u>Ecuador</u> - work under this indicator almost completed. <u>Kenya</u> - work under this indicator completed. <u>Liberia</u> - work under this indicator almost completed. <u>Cambodia</u> – work under this indicator is in progress.

Outcome Indicator 1.1

Côte d'Ivoire - A

- Enabled the Government to develop a comprehensive Carbon Market Regulatory Framework. The Regulatory Framework has been technically validated, and the related decrees are awaiting political validation in 2024.

Ecuador - A

- Enabled the government to strengthen the Ecuador Zero Carbon Programme (PECC) and the Compensation Mechanism Regulation (NTC), which could allow the use of private sector resources to fund Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) activities that contribute to the NDC target. This includes the development of the first National Compensation Portfolio, through an 'Acceleration' and an 'Incubation' programme. UNDP also contributed to the design of an incentive scheme enabling local authorities to integrate climate change management into the planning and development of programmes and projects.

Kenya - A

- Enabled the Government to develop and launch the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) in September 2023, which sets out options for a low-carbon climate resilient development pathway for the country. Work also included facilitating sectoral consultations to define forest sector priority actions for the next five years.

Liberia - A

- Three regional consultation events, with a wide range of stakeholders, co-organised by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to engage and gather inputs which led to the update of the National Forest Policy. Additionally, Liberia conducted a barrier analysis to determine how the "Green corridor" targets of the NDC can be achieved within urban settlements, which led to the drafting of guidelines for municipalities to embark on "green corridor" and piloted an initiative in one of its municipalities.

Cambodia - B

- Supporting Cambodia's efforts to refine GHG estimates for the Forests and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector in the NDC and determine options to address those gaps as well as supporting the implementation and development of capacities for an operable REDD+ nesting system, which would enable to embed projects within a jurisdictional approach. To this end, support was provided to government representatives to participate in three capacity-building and learning opportunities in Bangkok, Hue City, and Seoul. Furthermore, a training on the Paris Agreement LULUCF Assessment & NDC Tool (PLANT) to staff of the Ministry of Environment was also carried out by UNDP.

Outcome Title	Countries have established long-term net-zero and climate resilient development pathways aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement.		
Outcome number:	2	Outcome Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	20%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
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2.1	Number of countries with revised NDCs that are of higher quality, including alignment with LT/LEDS or NAP (a) aligned with criteria in the UNDP quality review checklist.	1	1	Viet Nam - work under this indicator almost completed.
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Outcome Indicator 2.1

Viet Nam - A

- Vietnam improved its carbon accounting by developing a national methodology to measure carbon stocks of mangrove forests suitable for each ecological region, and compiled carbon measurement data of mangrove forests for 28 coastal provinces, which would support the country's efforts to meet its NDC commitments. As part of this process, Viet Nam hosted an international workshop on leveraging the value of mangroves for climate change goals, including technical and financial constraints related to their protection, where the capacities of five additional countries in the Asia Pacific region were also enhanced.

Outcome Title	Key actors within society are systematically engaged and empowered to contribute to accelerated NDC implementation and long-term net-zero and climate-resilient development pathways.		
Outcome number:	3	Outcome Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	20%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
3.1	Number of countries where women, girls, youth, Indigenous people, and/or vulnerable groups are represented in decision-making mechanisms and processes to support climate action.	2	2	Colombia - work under this indicator almost completed. Dominica - work under this indicator almost completed.

Outcome Indicator 3.1

Colombia - A

- The first draft of a gender action plan to strengthen NDC implementation has been finalised. This was based on lessons learned from pilot initiatives funded by the Low-value grants for Indigenous people on nature-based solutions, forest conservation and sustainable projects, and supported by a capacity building workshop.

Dominica - A

- Supporting the Indigenous Kalinago community in Dominica by involving the 'Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment' in an economic symposium on livelihood opportunities through the sustainable use of the community's lands, and identifying people who could participate in capacity building initiatives. This included the development of a concept paper on sustainable ecosystems practices used by individuals who benefit from the ecosystem's services of the forests, endorsed by the Ministry's Permanent Secretary.

Outcome Title	Regional and global awareness, advocacy, and partnerships are strengthened to contribute to enhanced NDC and LTS ambition and delivery capacity.		
Outcome number:	4	Outcome Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	20%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
4.1	Number of regional or global high-profile events or meetings to which the Programme contributed through experiences and key messages, including key milestones of the UNFCCC processes.	1	1	Good progress made under this global indicator.

Outcome Indicator 4.1 - A

- One global side-event was held at the Bonn Climate Conference, facilitating dialogue between Governments and Indigenous people on: “How best to meet short (i.e. NDC) and long-term climate goals in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector.”

Outcome Title	Nature and ecosystems are protected, restored, and sustainably managed, and support people's livelihoods.		
Outcome number:	5	Outcome Score:	n/a
Impact weighting (%):	20%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
5.1	Area under Sustainable Management Practices.	0	0	New indicator, programme not due to begin reporting against this until next year.

All but one indicator achieved an ‘A’ (met expectations), and all outputs have made good progress, in line with expected targets. In the year ahead we will continue to provide support to the ten countries we have so far supported through our voluntary contributions. Our second and third voluntary contributions made in 2023 reflect our confidence in the programme, and the results delivered support this.

In November 2023, we went on mission to Viet Nam and Cambodia to support and monitor the programming work undertaken by the Climate Promise programme as a result of Defra support. The mission proved an extremely informative and valuable experience, bringing to life the importance of preserving mangroves, and the key role that these can play in tackling multiple challenges on climate/nature/development.

It also showed the complexities that a country like Cambodia faces in setting up the institutional framework required to put in place a carbon market/REDD+ structure, which would be capable of integrating existing domestic financial resources and provide vital funding to protect forests in the country. The grants funded through the Climate Promise highlight the real, tangible impacts that the programme is having on the ground, supporting the role of Indigenous communities, women, and youth.

This mission enabled us to see the positive work carried out in the countries we support, and the on the ground impacts of these initiatives.

UNDP have also provided four case studies, showing the impact and engagement of the work supported in Kenya, Dominica, Viet Nam, and Colombia, reinforcing the evidence that the programme is delivering on its targets.

In Kenya, there have been two rounds of grants awarded to Indigenous peoples and local communities. The first cohort of grants have provided valuable financing to scale up the impact of the work carried out by these groups to support local livelihoods and protect nature. One grantee from the first cohort, the Paran Women Group, held three key dialogue meetings bringing together 15 villages to discuss tree planting and raise awareness of community objectives. To date, five tree nurseries have been established with the target of raising 45,000 seedlings, and a further 7,550 seedlings from the wildlings have been transplanted into growing tubes.

In Dominica, the Kalinago are the Indigenous Peoples of Dominica, inhabiting a reserve in the eastern portion of Dominica. Dominica’s NDC recognises that their way of life is under threat as a result of climate change. UNDP has been working with the Government of Dominica to pilot community monitoring in the Kalinago territory, with specific reference to net carbon removals which are a key NDC indicator. UNDP has also initiated dialogue with the Kalinago community to introduce them to the NDC targets and indicators, so they can better understand these targets so they can ensure that their work and efforts are complementary.

More than 80 countries, including Viet Nam, have included mangrove forests in their NDCs, UNDP is collaborating with MARD to develop a consistent and robust carbon stock as assessments of

mangrove forests in 28 coastal provinces of Viet Nam; and enhance the database on mangroves across all coastal provinces. This technical work aids Viet Nam in clarifying and potentially enhancing the contribution of mangroves to its NDC as well as identifying sustainable financing pathways and the potential for high-integrity carbon markets. This partnership is also supporting expansion of protected mangrove areas for biodiversity and livelihoods benefit. As part of the mission to Viet Nam we were joined a workshop and field visit to learn about this work, and its benefits.

In Colombia, a first call for proposals was launched in 2023 for grants to support Indigenous and local community-led projects. Eight grantees were awarded approximately USD 20,000 each in four priority regions. During the launch event for the grants, Maria Tereza Becerra, Director of International Affairs for the Ministry of Environment (MinAmbiente), explained that this initiative is aligned with the government’s agenda to position Colombia as a “world power for life” prioritising nature conservation. In one region, the grantees are building a seed bank to preserve the land, promote ethno-education and empower Huitoto Indigenous women as stewards of the forests and biodiversity.

C. DETAILED OUTPUT SCORING

Defra’s logframe for the Climate Promise programme has recently been revised, working alongside UNDP, and using the Climate Promise Global Results Framework (GRF) to create a document that accurately reflects Defra’s contribution to the programme and the subsequent results. Using results provided by UNDP, all programme baselines are set at ‘0’, and UNDP have determined programme targets that are specific to Defra’s contribution, based on supported activities. The indicator progress updates have been provided by UNDP and were also shared with Post, to gather their high-level feedback on the activities in-country, a summary of which has been included in the country one-pagers in Annex 3.

Additionally, due to the distinct approach taken to collate the logframe results in last year’s annual review, we are working with UNDP to revise the 2022 results to ensure they have been reported correctly in line with the results UNDP have linked to Defra’s contribution to the programme.

The targets provided by UNDP for activities supported by Defra’s contribution, have to date only been provided a year ahead of time, up to 2024. To help us to understand the long-term outcomes of expected results, we request that, where possible, targets are provided for the entire length of programme funding, which will end with targets for 2025. **[RECOMMENDATION 2]**

Under each output indicator we have scored each reporting country, with an ‘A+’ (moderately exceeded expectations) indicating that the work under this indicator has completed and exceeds the target; ‘A’ (met expectations) indicating that the work under this indicator has been completed, or almost completed; or a ‘B’ (moderately did not meet expectations), indicating that the work under this indicator is still in progress. In grading results, ‘almost completed’ activities have been rated with an ‘A,’ as the terminology used by UNDP identifies work that has been completed by UNDP, but where internal processes are still ongoing to validate or close the activity.

In the future having an outline of activities expected to take place shared at the start of each year would enable us to more accurately measure progress. **[RECOMMENDATION 3]**

Output Title	Institutional capacities and whole-of government coordination mechanisms are strengthened to support effective, gender-responsive and inclusive NDC implementation processes.		
Output number:	1.1	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	33.3%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
1.1.1	Number of countries with horizontal and vertical coordination mechanisms established or strengthened to support whole-of government climate action, including those that are gender responsive.	2	2	Côte d’Ivoire – work under this indicator almost completed. Republic of Congo – work under this indicator completed.

1.1.2	Number of countries, where institutional capacities for NDC implementation have been strengthened.	1	1	Kenya - work under this indicator completed.
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Output Indicator 1.1.1

Côte d'Ivoire - A

- The government has been supported in establishing a multi-stakeholder platform to define the institutional framework for Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which sets out the principles for carbon markets and country cooperation to achieve NDC emissions reductions targets, and carbon finance initiative implementation in a socially inclusive and gender-responsive manner. The institutional framework has been technically validated and is due to be politically validated in 2024.

Republic of Congo – A

- Supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder committee, consisting of sectoral ministries with land use planning mandates, the private sector, and civil society (including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)). This committee aims to significantly improve the coordination of land use planning in the country (guided by the principles of inclusivity and equity with strong consideration of marginalised people including women and IPs), with the aim of supporting NDC targets. The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held in 2023, and three land use conflicts were discussed and addressed.

Output Indicator 1.1.2

Kenya - A

- A South-South exchange with Ghana and Senegal in January 2023 was conducted in partnership with Climate Focus on operationalising Article 6 and Voluntary Carbon Markets. Over 40 participants attended the meeting. As a result of this exchange, Kenya was able to successfully draft a briefing note for the operationalisation of Article 6 in Kenya.

Output Title	Inclusive and gender responsive forests/land-use/nature-related financing strategies, plans or investment frameworks are developed to define and mobilise diverse sources of finance to support implementation of NDC actions and drive green recovery across key sectors.		
Output number:	1.2	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
1.2.1	Number of countries which have developed finance strategies/ plans for their climate agenda, including those linked to Integrated National Financing Framework, development plans and/or green recovery strategies, and those that are gender responsive.	1	1	Viet Nam - work under this indicator almost completed.
1.2.2	Number of countries that have developed or strengthened policy or measures that are conducive to the mobilisation of private capital for NDC implementation.	1	1	Ecuador - work under this indicator almost completed.
1.2.3	Number of countries that have established or strengthened financing mechanisms or instruments for climate finance mobilisation.	1	1	Cambodia - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 1.2.1

Viet Nam - A

- Supported the Government to develop a consolidated report on LULUCF in the Global Carbon Market including its carbon standards/mechanisms. Additionally, this report identified gaps in the existing national legal framework and enabling policies, from a socially inclusive and gender responsive approach, and how the LULUCF sector is covered in international emissions trading schemes.

Output Indicator 1.2.2

Ecuador - A

Supported the Government to design the methodology for the validation of GHG certification programmes which is key to implementation of carbon-neutral value chains. Supporting the design and implementation of further regulations and mechanisms required for the implementation of the emissions compensations scheme, to help promote more private finance.

Output Indicator 1.2.3

Cambodia - A

- An international consultant was hired, and an inception report for Carbon Market Readiness for Cambodia's FOLU sector was completed. Initial consultations with national and international stakeholders have been conducted, and key policy and financing strategies associated with the carbon market readiness workplan presented and discussed. The next step is to complete in-country consultations with key national stakeholders and finalise the carbon market readiness workplan in the first half of 2024.

Output Title	Data and transparency systems and processes for the Enhanced Transparency Framework established or strengthened to measure the achievement of NDC Target (2023).		
Output number:	1.3	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	16.7%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
1.3.1	Number of countries with strengthened or established MRV/M&E institutional capacities, processes, or systems (for mitigation, adaptation, or finance) to track NDC progress, including those that are gender responsive.	2	2	Liberia - work under this indicator almost completed. Dominica - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 1.3.1

Liberia - A

- Government officials within the Forest Development Authority have had a series of sessions led by experts focused on introducing a tailored, digital information management system to their Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) structure that will help to improve reporting on forest degradation, reforestation, and conservation across the forest landscapes. This means ranged can input data from various locations to a centralised location, training sessions have provided guidance on how to accurately do this.

Dominica - A

- Supporting Dominica to strengthen MRV for the NDC with a specific focus on the AFOLU related targets through the identification of suitable indicators and verification measures, through consultative sessions with Indigenous people, local communities, and key Government officials. The project has also supported training sessions with Government and key representatives from the Kalinago community on transparency-related requirements under the Paris Agreement.

Output Title	Countries are enabled to enhance their NDC as part of the next revision cycle and global/regional stocktaking, aligned to long-term mitigation and adaptation pathways.		
Output number:	2.1	Output Score:	
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
2.1.1	Number of countries with revised NDCs of higher ambition, (b) mitigation, adaptation, and finance in line with the criteria in the UNDP quality review checklist.	0	0	Results not expected until next year.

Output Title	Forests/land-use/nature-related strategies, resources and political will for long-term net-zero, climate resilient pathways are established or strengthened, including those with just transition measures.
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Output number:	2.2	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
2.2.1	Number of countries supported to develop or update long-term strategies or goals aligned with NDC Target (2023), including considerations of just transition.	1	1	<u>Dominica</u> - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 2.2.1

Dominica - A

- Supported efforts that will enable the government to include the LULUCF sector in long term planning that aligns with zero nature loss based on up-to-date data and includes consideration of a just transition. These efforts include: assessing the carbon uptake by forest/agriculture lands and marine areas and protection of new and additional carbon; developing capacities on Greenhouse gas projections, data collection and monitoring for the Kalinago Territory; and developing capacities on forest and agriculture inventories including monitoring technologies, viability assessment for protection of additional forest/agriculture land and marine areas, and data collection.

Output Title	National stakeholder engagement processes established or strengthened to empower key actors (e.g. Indigenous people, women, youth, and vulnerable groups), in participating in and leading NDC implementation processes and long-term climate action.		
Output number:	3.1	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	33.3%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
3.1.1	Number of countries where private sector is represented in decision-making mechanisms and processes to support climate action.	1	1	<u>Ecuador</u> - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 3.1.1

Ecuador - A

- Enabled the government to design and implement an acceleration and an incubation program to develop the structure of the national voluntary compensation portfolio. The two initiatives considered the most emblematic GHG mitigation initiatives deployed throughout the country by the private sector, Indigenous people, local governments, and universities.

Output Title	Innovative engagement mechanisms and initiatives are leveraged, developed, and/or scaled up to promote social mobilisation for climate action.		
Output number:	3.2	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	33.3%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
3.2.1	Number of countries where engagement mechanisms and initiatives have been leveraged, developed, and/or scaled up to promote social mobilisation for climate action.	1	1	<u>Ecuador</u> - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 3.2.1

Ecuador - A

- Strengthened Ecuador's REDD+ roundtable, which is the main stakeholder mechanism to implement Ecuador's NDC in the LULUCF sector. Three projects implemented by participating IP organisations have been funded, and capacity building and organisational support provided. This

highlights the potential impact of REDD+ initiatives on advancing the goals outlined in NDCs and fostering sustainable development at the local level.

Output Title	National/sub-national knowledge sharing, and awareness-raising mechanisms established or strengthened to build capacity of broader society and inform NDC implementation and long-term pathways.		
Output number:	3.3	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	33.3%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
3.3.1	Number of countries where knowledge sharing or awareness raising to build the capacity of broader society on NDC implementation or long-term pathways has been undertaken or strengthened, including on gender responsive approaches.	4	4	<u>Colombia</u> - work under this indicator almost completed. <u>Côte d'Ivoire</u> - work under this indicator completed. <u>Ecuador</u> - work under this indicator completed. <u>Liberia</u> - work under this indicator completed.

Output Indicator 3.3.1

Colombia - A

- UNDP developed guidelines for the comprehensive inclusion of the rights of ethnic people/Indigenous organisations in Territorial Development Plans which will inform NDC goals related to the LULUCF sector. Ahead of COP28, the results from dialogues between IPLCs, NGOs, government institutions, members of the Academy and private sector, regarding Colombian priorities for COP-28 were collected and systematised. Indigenous people were supported to participate in the COP, and they presented their priorities regarding deforestation, climate change and nature.

Côte d'Ivoire - A

- UNDP has supported Government in developing a “frequently asked questions” document for key national stakeholders to raise basic awareness on Article 6 ahead of concrete carbon readiness activities that will be taking place next year.

Ecuador - A

- During Q3 and Q4 2023, there were several South-South technical cooperation workshops: The first one was conducted in August 2023 during the "First Carbon Ecosystem Forum", this workshop included participation from the LAC UNDP office. In addition, there were three panels conducted by UNDP during Climate Week and COP28 regarding carbon footprint.

Liberia - A

- The National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL) has completed a regional dialogue to strengthen key actors within Civil Society to systematically engage, contribute, and accelerate NDC implementation and long-term net-zero and climate-resilient development pathway in Liberia. As a result of these consultations, civil society actors have agreed to set up a specialised platform (under the coordination of NCSCCL), focused purely on the engagement of civil society actors on NDC implementation and processes.

Output Title	Enhanced forests/land-use/nature-related knowledge exchange and partnerships through global and regional forums/mechanisms.		
Output number:	4.1	Output Score:	A+
Impact weighting (%):	66.6%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
4.1.1	Number of peer-to-peer exchanges carried out at regional and global level.	5	3	Good progress made under this global indicator.

4.1.2	Number of knowledge products generated and disseminated.	9	8	Good progress made under this global indicator.
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Output Indicator 4.1.1 - A+

- Exchanges included a “Capacity Building Training on the UNFCCC for Indigenous Peoples” held at COP 28, an "Informal Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples: NDCs and COP 28" and a "Rights, Participation and Benefits for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Forest Climate Finance" event held at New York Climate Week, a "Knowledge exchange on Climate Finance, Carbon Markets and Loss and Damage for Indigenous Peoples" event held at Asia Climate Week, and a “From ambitions to actions: Indigenous Peoples and NDC” event in Malaysia.

Output Indicator 4.1.2 - A+

- Developed and published a guidance document on ‘Aligning short-term land sector actions with long-term climate goals’ (449 downloads), with a formal launch event held in New York during New York Climate Week. Also produced PLANT assessment reports for eight countries: Liberia, Indonesia, Zambia, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Kenya, Ghana, and Suriname.

Output Title	Engagement in UNFCCC processes is enhanced, and international partnerships and advocacy are strengthened to promote ambition and full implementation of the Paris Agreement.		
Output number:	4.2	Output Score:	A+
Impact weighting (%):	33.4%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
4.2.1	Number of strategic partnerships developed and/or strengthened to advance activities under the Programme, including with UN sister agencies and other international partners, public and private.	3	1	Good progress made under this global indicator.

Output Indicator 4.2.1 - A+

- The Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) was strengthened through a combination of joint advocacy on Indigenous people engagement in climate finance through an event at New York Climate Week, a number of FCLP COP 28 events, such as, the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) Leader’s level event and two Ministerial-level events in partnership with the COP28 Presidency, and by supporting FCLP in efforts to advance ambitions and commitments related to sustainable/deforestation-free trade. Furthermore, a new partnership was formed with Confluence Philanthropy to convene woman impact investors and Indigenous women leaders to engage in a dialogue on creating an economy that accounts for nature’s values, while another one was formed with three organisations to co-organise a series of events at Asia Climate Week, focused on engaging Indigenous people in matters related to climate finance, carbon markets and NDC implementation.

Output Title	Countries are supported to introduce nature-related policies.		
Output number:	5.1	Output Score:	B
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
5.1.1	Number of countries supported by International Climate Finance technical assistance.	9	10	Good progress made under this global indicator.

Output Indicator 5.1.1 - B

- Technical Assistance (TA) work is underway in nine of the ten countries supported by Defra’s voluntary contribution. TA progress has also been rolled out in Indonesia (the tenth Defra-supported

country), but this has not yet reached the threshold to be considered achieved under this indicator. This is expected to be included in next year's reporting.

Output Title	Enhanced rights and sustainable livelihoods for people.		
Output number:	5.2	Output Score:	
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Milestone(s) for this review	Target (2023)	Progress
5.2.1	Number of people with improved land tenure or access rights.	0	0	New indicator, programme not due to begin reporting against this until next year.

Assess the VfM of the outputs compared to the proposition in the Business Case, based on performance over the past year.

A full value for money assessment is detailed in Section E.

Describe any changes to the outputs during the past year, and any planned changes as a result of this review.

There have not been any substantial changes to the programme outputs in the past year. However, we have revised the Defra logframe, removing some of the indicators we were reporting against and introducing others. We anticipate this revised logframe with updated indicators to remain the same for future reporting years, with no cuts to those we report against. There may however be future additions to the logframe as we further establish outcome 5 and more specific nature and people indicators.

Progress on recommendations from the previous AR (if completed), lessons learned this year and recommendations for the year ahead.

Last year's recommendations have been detailed in Annex 1. The two recommendations relating to the programme's outputs in the last annual review, specifically recommendation 1: improving understanding of methodologies, and recommendation 2: amending the programme's logframe to align baselines, milestones, and targets with the GRF; have been addressed. This has enabled us to measure the progress of the programme more accurately and to create a logframe which aligns baselines, milestones, and targets.

Recommendations for this year have been detailed in the relevant discussion points above and will help to continue to improve and build upon our current reporting approach. We will continue to work with UNDP on the implementation of these.

A comprehensive list of this year's programme recommendations is detailed in Table 1.

D: RISK

Overview of risk management

Following last year's programme and risk management recommendations (recommendations 3 and 4, regular quarterly calls have been established with UNDP. A standing agenda item has been set to cover programme management updates from UNDP. This also includes regular risk checks, with UNDP providing updates on potential risks at a programmatic and a country-specific level. This close oversight has enabled the programme team to maintain an effective understanding of progress of activities, and associated delivery risks.

The programme's risk register has been updated and revised to incorporate outcomes and recommendations from this review. The risk register will continue to be reviewed at regular intervals,

to ensure that risks and mitigations are accurately reflected, strengthening our risk management approach.

The updated risk register presents a number of risks which are currently being monitored, most of which are ongoing risks which will be monitored throughout the entire duration of the programme. None of the risks are rated higher than 'Amber,' with the programme holding an overall acceptable level of risk.

A number of key risks that had been previously identified as requiring urgent attention have now been satisfactorily addressed and mitigated through ongoing management actions. These included identifying clear and quantifiable baselines, milestones, and targets for the programme, and getting more visibility of UNDP's own risk assessment/management and financial reporting.

As part of our ongoing discussions with UNDP, we reiterate our suggestion of further additions to the dashboard to improve its usefulness, including by incorporating country-specific risk analysis and monitoring, in order for us to be able to have independent access to relevant information as and when required. **[RECOMMENDATION 4]**

At present, the key programme risks include potential changes of government sector policies in partner countries, and the risk of fraud and corruption jeopardising the intended use of Defra's contribution. Both these risks are inherent in operating in partner countries and are regularly monitored as part of our engagement with UNDP.

The other key risk is the visibility of programme financial information. Good progress has been made in this regard, with the completion of a full delivery chain map (DCM), including related financial flows, which has enabled us to clearly identify funding allocations to partner countries and first-tier delivery partners. This understanding could potentially be deepened further, by exploring UNDP's commercial arrangements in each of the partner countries. However, these arrangements are quite complex, and differ in each of the countries. Considering the nature of our contribution to the programme (voluntary contribution to a multilateral initiative on behalf of a minority donor), and the resources required on UNDP's side to articulate and present those, which would distract key resources from programme delivery, the current level of understanding of financial flows has been deemed appropriate (and in line with agreements with UNDP at the time the contributions were made).

As for the other general risk categories, Defra's due diligence assessment did not highlight any concerns with UNDP's approach and safeguards, including on safeguarding against sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH) and fraud, with clear policies in place to address these issues. A SEAH Risk Assessment was also undertaken in June 2024, comprising a range of indicators relating to key SEAH risk categories that include approach, governance, risk management, code of conduct, recruitment, complaint, and whistleblowing, and which identified the overall SEAH risk for the programme as low. It is worth highlighting that within our second voluntary contribution letter to UNDP, communicating our funding extension, we included an extensive annex with detailed safeguarding requirements, clearly setting out the standards that frame the way in which we operate. The letter also included language on UNDP's risk management approach, and our expectations in that regard.

We will continue to monitor safeguarding risks through our risk register and regular discussions with UNDP and strive to gather further insights by means of country visits, seeking first-hand information on progress of activities. In November 2023 we conducted our second in-country visit to Viet Nam and Cambodia, where the programme team joined workshops hosted by UNDP, and field visits to the Cau Hai Lagoon in Viet Nam, and the Sala Chhdau Community Forest in Cambodia. Opportunities for further visits are currently being discussed with UNDP.

The UNDP Annual Progress Report details the risks and challenges that had an impact on project activities during the reporting period, or which were newly identified during the reporting period. This provides further reassurance and insight into the work UNDP are carrying out across the programme to identify and mitigate risks and issues.

E: PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT: DELIVERY, COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Summarise performance, notably on commercial and financial issues, and including consideration of VfM measures of economy and efficiency.

As set out above, following last year's programme management recommendation (Recommendation 3) to establish regular quarterly calls, these have been established with UNDP and held over the course of the past year. They include programme management updates, where UNDP present updates on work being undertaken in Defra supported countries.

These programme updates have also provided further information on the donor dashboard, the Climate Promise information portal created by UNDP to provide overall programme and country specific information. This has been a useful tool to review the progress of outcome and outputs in our supported countries, and it will continue to be updated quarterly, providing consistent and reliable reporting.

In May 2023, Defra made a third voluntary contribution to the programme taking our total funding contribution to £9m. Our support continues to contribute to the Forests, Land and Nature work area, and is entirely ICF eligible; it will continue to prioritise livelihoods, poverty alleviation and climate.

As set out above, to help us to understand and monitor the flow of our financial contribution through the programme we have developed a Delivery Chain Map. This demonstrates how our support is split between direct country support, the programme's global initiatives and platforms, and programme management. This illustrates that the majority of our contribution is providing direct country support, including direct grants to Indigenous people in four of our supported countries. This has increased our awareness of the programme structure and transparency of the distribution of our funding.

Defra continues to have a strong participatory role in the CP governance process as part of the UNDP Climate Promise Steering Committee, which meets annually. This provides us, other donors, partner governments and civil society representatives with an opportunity to provide feedback on the work undertaken by UNDP, and to discuss future actions.

To strengthen the feedback we provide to UNDP, we have been proactively engaging with Post colleagues in country to gather their feedback on how the work is being received by the recipient countries, the impact it is having and their suggestions on any improvements the programme could make as well as any other reflections.

The responses we have received about the work of the programme, and the impact it is making, have been very positive. These also highlighted how well the programme, and UNDP's work more broadly, are perceived in country. One suggestion, limited to one specific country context, was to ensure that UK Government support is highlighted by UNDP when undertaking activities in-country as a result of Defra contributions to the programme. We are conscious that this feedback has not been from all countries and for some the visibility of UK funding is clear, therefore ensuring that is highlighted consistently is key. **[RECOMMENDATION 5]**

Annex 3 of this annual report provides detailed one-page summaries on the programme's work in each of our ten supported countries, and includes feedback received from Post.

Value for Money

Assessment of whether the programme continues to represent value for money.

Economy

The initial Business Case for Climate Promise noted that the UK's total voluntary contribution to the programme was £3 million to be made in one instalment in February 2022. A Business Case Addendum was approved in 2023 for an additional voluntary contribution of £6 million for the programme with a flexible spending profile over the 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25 financial years.

Budget tracking demonstrates that Defra's voluntary contributions to the Climate Promise are equal to the £9m budgeted following the Business Case Addendum, with no further contributions expected from the UK before the end of the programme. UK contributions have enabled Climate Promise to support ten countries (Cambodia, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Republic of Congo, and Vietnam).

The fundamentals of the programme remain unvaried. UNDP continues to be a trusted delivery partner with significant economies of scale, and thanks to its reach, tools and evidence developed by Defra funds will be used and taken up by a greater number of countries compared to a hypothetical, standalone bilateral initiative. UNDP's Procurement Ethics, Fraud and Corrupt Practices also remain in place, and continue to strive towards achieving best value for money.

Efficiency

As Climate Promise is funded by multiple donors, UK Government accounting rules mean that an investment into a multi-donor pooled fund may be spent by the delivery partner beyond the financial year of the contribution. This has enabled Defra funding to be spent on a more effective range of activities that more closely align with Defra's priorities, rather than limiting activities to those that can be delivered by the end of FY21/22 when Defra's initial voluntary contribution was made.

To identify recipient countries that have high appetite in stepping up efforts to tackle climate change through nature, and willingness to turn commitments into tangible results, the following criteria was applied to determine where Defra funding should be deployed:

- ODA eligibility
- Inclusion of the LULUCF sector in the NDC – Prioritisation was given to “top tier” countries that indicate a quantitative sectoral target and/or specific reference to forest measures, including explicit inclusion of REDD+
- Countries that have endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use
- Active membership of the NDC Partnership (NDCP)
- For current Climate Promise countries, demonstration of good overall track record in delivering against the Climate Promise workplan (or interest to join the next phase of initiative)
- Complementarity with other Defra programme and partnership activity

The programme has demonstrated efficient conversion of inputs into outputs with 10 Output Indicators achieving target, 3 exceeding targets (Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.3.2), and only 1 indicator narrowly underperforming against target. Indicator 5.1.1 measures the Number of countries supported by International Climate Finance technical assistance (ICF TA KPI 1), with 9 countries supported compared to the target of 10 countries. Technical Assistance in Indonesia is due to commence in the coming year therefore the milestone for this indicator is expected to be achieved by next year's Annual Review.

Effectiveness

Defra's contribution to the next phase of the Climate Promise programme was designed to support countries to advance and implement their net zero commitments and climate resilient development, in line with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. As highlighted already in Section B, there are five measured outcomes in the Climate Promise Theory of Change, which programme activities and outputs contribute to, to achieve desired impact. These are: Scale and Speed, Amplifying Ambition, Lasting Inclusivity, International Engagement, and Nature and ecosystems are protected, restored, and sustainably managed, and support people's livelihoods.

To date, the programme has made good progress against its Outcome Indicators, with 3 Indicators achieving target (Outcome Indicators 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1), and 1 indicator narrowly underachieving target. The Number of Countries reported with inclusive forests/land-use/nature policies and measures developed and/or implemented to support NDC implementation (GRF 1.1.1, ICF TA KPI 3,

Outcome Indicator 1.1) was 4, when the target was 5 countries. Cambodia failed to achieve this milestone as they are yet to implement the necessary inclusive policies to support NDC implementation. This is despite Climate Promise providing support to government representatives to participate in three capacity-building and learning opportunities as well as follow-up training on Paris Agreement LULUCF Assessment & NDC Tool (PLANT). The training contributed to enhanced capacity and understanding on the country GHG emission profile, the summary of the NDC, and an assessment of carbon markets potential.

Equity

The equity of the Climate Promise programme is likely to be high given 'Lasting Inclusivity' is one of five key outcomes measured within the programme's log frame. This outcome measures how key actors within society are systematically engaged and empowered to contribute to accelerated NDC implementation, long-term net-zero, and climate resilient development pathways. Indicators measured under this outcome therefore provide good evidence of how the needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are incorporated into the programme. Outcome Indicator 3.1 measures the number of countries where women, girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples and/or vulnerable groups are represented in decision-making mechanisms and processes to support climate action. Good progress has been made against this Outcome with the Milestone being achieved (2 Countries, Colombia and Dominica). All three Output Indicators under this Outcome Indicator also achieved target. The progress made against these respective indicators demonstrates promising evidence of good equity from the programme. Evidence displaying the considerations of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) for the whole programme will be outlined further in the Climate Promise Annual Progress Report.

An internal review of GESI mainstreaming across the Climate Promise programme suggests it has the potential to be 'GESI transformative.' To deliver on this ambition, the programme team have developed a GESI Action Plan, which includes key actions such as engaging with UNDP to disaggregate the data they provide by sex and indicate when engaging with Indigenous Peoples to help us to better assess GESI impact. Further actions include continuing to discuss UNDPs approach to safeguarding and monitoring safeguarding risks through our risk register; reviewing the mainstreaming of gender equality throughout the programme; and engaging with the Defra GESI experts to make sure we continue to monitor GESI in the most effective way to improve the inclusion of GESI within the programme. Going forward, further detail should be provided in deliverables progress updates on how indicators have been met in an inclusive and gender responsive way.

[RECOMMENDATION 8]

Assessment of the programme's value for money:

Climate Promise has demonstrated good overall progress against Output and Outcome milestones at this stage, therefore reflecting good Value for Money against efficiency and effectiveness criteria. Defra's voluntary contribution to the programme remains on target, whilst the programme itself ensures input costs are minimised through several practices summarised in the Economy section. This suggests the programme represents good Value for Money against Economy criteria, with no change in Value for Money relative to the Original and Addendum Business Cases. Finally, initial evidence represents good equity in the programme. Overall, there has been no change in the Value for Money arguments made within the Business Cases, with Defra's voluntary contributions to the Climate Promise programme continuing to represent good Value for Money.

Annex 1. Previous annual review recommendations

No.	Description	Owner	Deadline	Status
1	Improve understanding of the methodologies used by UNDP to measure in-country progress, to help monitor programme progress and ambition.	UNDP	January 2024.	In progress
2	Amend the programme's log frame to align baselines, milestones, and targets with the initiative's finalised Global Results Framework.	UNDP	November 2023, 6 months before our next annual review.	Delivered
3	Enhance communication by setting up regular calls with UNDP, with a standing agenda on programme management.	UNDP and Defra	October 2023.	Delivered
4	Improve access to UNDP risk assessment, including through the addition of country level risks in the donor dashboard.	UNDP	October 2023.	In progress
5	Seek more detailed financial information on the programme, to strengthen oversight of the deployment of funds. Specifically, a financial annual report and an annual audited statement.	UNDP and Defra	September 2023.	Delivered

Annex 2. Theory of Change

Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact
Review, and analyse key information and legal/data gaps to provide technical inputs, recommendations and priorities of action.	Output 1.1: Institutional capacities and whole-of government coordination mechanisms are strengthened to support effective, gender-responsive and inclusive NDC implementation processes	Outcome 1 – Scale and Speed Countries have effectively strengthened inclusive and gender-responsive governance and financing mechanisms to enable delivery and tracking towards the achievement of NDC targets across sectors	Countries advance net zero emission and climate resilient development, in line with the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda, including by protecting, restoring and sustainably managing nature and ecosystems, while supporting people’s livelihoods
Assess, develop and validate strategies, frameworks, plans and technical documents, and support their implementation and operationalisation.	Output 1.2: Inclusive and gender responsive financing strategies, plans or investment frameworks are developed to define and mobilize diverse sources of finance to support implementation of NDC actions and drive green recovery across key sectors		
Hold training sessions, events and workshops with government partners/stakeholders, to build capacities and strengthen technical skills.	Output 1.3: Data and transparency systems and processes for the Enhanced Transparency Framework established or strengthened to measure the achievement of NDC targets		
Identify successful practices and lessons learned, develop communication materials/knowledge products, and carry out dissemination activities.	Output 2.1: Countries are enabled to enhance their NDC as part of the next revision cycle and global/regional stocktaking, aligned to long-term mitigation and adaptation pathways	Outcome 2 – Amplifying Ambition Countries have established long-term net-zero and climate resilient development pathways aligned with the goals of the	
Engage key stakeholders and actors such as women, indigenous people and youth through dialogues, forums and consultation sessions, to enhance gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach to delivery of NDCs targets in the LULUCF sector	Output 2.2: Strategies, resources and political will for long-term net-zero, climate resilient pathways are established or strengthened, including those with just transition measures		
Provide low value grants to IPLC to strengthen NDC implementation through the LULUCF sector.	Output 3.1: National stakeholder engagement processes established or strengthened to empower key actors (e.g. indigenous people, women, youth, and vulnerable groups), in participating in and leading NDC implementation processes and long-term climate action	Outcome 3 – Lasting Inclusivity Key actors within society are systematically engaged and empowered to contribute to accelerated NDC implementation and long-term net-zero and climate-resilient development pathways	
	Output 3.2: Innovative engagement mechanisms and initiatives are leveraged, developed and/or scaled up to promote social mobilisation for climate action		
	Output 3.3: National/sub-national knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising mechanisms established or strengthened to build capacity of broader society and inform NDC implementation and long-term pathways	Outcome 4 – International Engagement Regional and global awareness, advocacy, and partnerships are strengthened to contribute to enhanced NDC and LTS ambition	
	Output 4.1: Enhanced knowledge exchange and partnerships through global and regional forums/mechanisms		
	Output 4.2: Engagement in UNFCCC processes is enhanced, and international partnerships and advocacy are strengthened to promote ambition and full implementation of the Paris Agreement		
	Output 5.1: Countries are supported to introduce nature-related policies	Outcome 5 – Nature and People Nature and ecosystems are protected, restored and sustainably managed, and support people’s livelihoods	
	Output 5.2: Enhanced rights and sustainable livelihoods for people		

Annex 3. Country one-page summaries

Cambodia

Background

Cambodia has submitted an updated first NDC which includes a target for the FOLU sector of 50% reduction of GHG emissions below BAU by 2030. Cambodia also set a target in the FOLU to halve the deforestation rate by 2030, in line with national REDD+ strategy. These targets align with the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) which Cambodia endorsed in 2022. To this end, Cambodia is taking key actions to move from REDD+ Readiness to the implementation stage. The country aims to enhance the work on transparency, such as improvements to the Emissions Trading System (ETS)/monitoring systems, and mechanisms to track NDC's progress in the FOLU Sector and improve the FOLU sector's contribution to the country's long-term strategy (LTS). Additionally, Cambodia identified a need to expand the national-level safeguards information system and compliance for carbon markets and to build capacities in the government to engage in carbon markets for the FOLU sector. UNDP Cambodia has a Small Grants Programme, offering grants to local communities, with the potential to expand the reach and types of grants offered to support IPLC's contribution to NDC implementation.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Defra's contribution is supporting to address information gaps and refine estimates in the NDC related to the FOLU sector, as well as improve monitoring and reporting mechanisms specifically related to forest degradation and supporting capacity building to engage in forest carbon markets and results-based financing. To this end, support was provided to government representatives to participate in three capacity building and learning opportunities in Bangkok, Hue, and Seoul. National and International consultants have been hired under the guidance and support of the Cambodia REDD+ Secretariat and UNDP, and an inception report for Carbon Market Readiness for the AFOLU sector was completed. Looking ahead, inception work is being finalised for work on a Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for REDD+ implementation, before submitting the second milestone on a new deforestation mapping and monitoring system under cloud computing and a local server environment.

Outcome 2 - Defra's contribution supported a consultation workshop in November 2023 to discuss the integration of the LULUCF sector in the LTS and climate resilient pathways, as part of the work to develop a set of recommendations to facilitate the integration of the LULUCF sector into long term goals. This work will continue in 2024, to facilitate the proper integration of the REDD+ programme and to ensure an eventual increase in ambition in the NDCs forest targets.

Outcome 3 - In response to calls from IPLCs to deliver funds directly to their communities and organisations to demonstrate contributions and leadership on climate and nature action, UNDP is providing funding to seven IPLCs grantees which are working on forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable management, and contributing to NDC implementation at the local level. The work supported under the grants will continue in 2024. An assessment report of Cambodia's Safeguard Information System (SIS) and a draft roadmap for the operationalisation of Cambodia's REDD+ safeguards started in 2023 and will continue in 2024.

Feedback from Post

The progress that the UNDP Climate Promise delivers in Cambodia is important in contributing to strengthening governance and policy which will improve the whole practice in the country. Defra's funding aligns closely with Cambodia's ambitions in the FOLU sector, aiming to halve the deforestation rate by 2030, as outlined in the national REDD+ strategy. UNDP has been particularly effective in their engagement with the government, being long-term partners and demonstrating an ever-strengthening relationship. UNDP is providing comprehensive support to the Cambodian Government, including technical capacity building to improve government officials' skills and knowledge, which is vital for achieving the country's climate goals.

Colombia

Background

The change of government in Colombia in 2022 brought new challenges and opportunities related to implementing its updated NDC. Colombia's Long-term Climate Strategy and the National Climate Finance Strategy were identified as the key instruments for NDC implementation by the new government, and reducing deforestation was included amongst its top strategies to achieve and improve climate goals. Colombia also endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD). The participation of Indigenous people, Afro-Colombian and vulnerable local communities (campesino) in general is a priority of the current government under the framework of the "total peace plan," a plan to broker simultaneous ceasefire with various armed and criminal groups. The AFOLU sector contributions to these processes require capacities and resources for social dialogue and territorial climate action to meet the NDC goals for this sector. UNDP had an existing portfolio of low value grants in Colombia, but additional grants were needed to strategically deploy funding to priority areas for deforestation, peace, and biodiversity conservation. In addition, a key entry point for including Indigenous people and local communities in NDC implementation is the Territorial Development Plans (mechanism to implement and update the NDC at local level), but there were no guidelines on how to do so.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Defra's contribution provided support for dialogues with the local communities to document the lessons learned and recommendations from community-based initiatives on climate change and biodiversity conservation which will be released in 2024. It supports an effort to take stock of the progress and achievements to date on the implementation of the NDCs in the forest sector, including a projection to assess whether the goal will be met by 2030, what resources are available, and what is the existing financial gap. The role of Indigenous people in meeting the goals will also be identified. These recommendations will inform the government on the continuation and improvement of actions for the achievement of the LULUCF goals in Colombia's NDC.

Outcome 3 - Low value grants for eight Indigenous organisations were approved in July 2023 and are currently in implementation. The grants are supporting alternatives to deforestation for IPLCs affected by violence. The activities include restoration and conservation strategies, supporting women and youth in biodiversity conservation, and strengthening community governance, contributing to restore 37 hectares of forests and establishing 73 family gardens. The grants have been accompanied by a capacity-building process that reached 260 women, 205 Indigenous youth, and 100 eco-guardians, and promoted the leadership of 42 Indigenous women. A second call for proposals recently closed received 400 applications, showing the great demand for these grants. The first draft of a gender action plan based on lessons learned from pilot initiatives funded by the low-value grants for Indigenous people on nature-based solutions, forest conservation and sustainable projects to strengthen NDC implementation has been finalised, and a capacity building workshop was also organised. In December 2023 UNDP also developed a document with guidelines for Indigenous Peoples to provide inputs to local government plans that serve as mechanisms for NDC implementation, and which will be consulted for the NDC update.

Feedback from Post

The quality and importance of the work have both been high. It taps into the important area of work of supporting grassroots organizations, IPLCs and strengthen the efforts to adapt and reverse climate change, with the added value of providing funding directly to beneficiaries while also building their administrative capacity. This experience can act as a launchpad/training for the organizations to access more funding. External stakeholders (including OPIAC) shared positive and broad opinions of the work that has been carried out and agree on the importance of the programme and reach in the Colombian Amazon. The main additional area that should be targeted is an expanded focus to include other organizations that are not strictly Indigenous Peoples organizations, which should be covered by the grants' second phase.

Côte d'Ivoire

Background

Côte D'Ivoire submitted its revised NDC to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2022, which, for the first time, included targets for the LULUCF sector. This inclusion enabled the country to raise its ambition from 28.5% in the first NDC to 30.41% in the updated NDC. It also offers the opportunity to reduce emissions by 98% in the conditional scenario. Côte d'Ivoire also endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) in 2022. Côte d'Ivoire has had a REDD+ Strategy since 2018 and is committed to limiting deforestation caused by cacao production. Measures included in the NDC that could be considered for support include forest governance, restoration of degraded land while engaging local communities and improving management of protected areas. There is also an opportunity to support government in its efforts to engage in global carbon markets by further supporting REDD+ efforts and exploring additional avenues for engagement in carbon markets (with a strong focus on the Forest sector). Côte d'Ivoire has had strong delivery under the NDC Support Programme and the Climate Promise.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Defra's support has enabled the Government to develop a comprehensive Carbon Market Regulatory Framework. Additionally, the government has been supported in establishing a multi-stakeholder platform to define the institutional framework for Article 6 and a carbon finance initiative, implemented in a socially inclusive and gender-responsive manner. These have been technically validated, and the related decrees are awaiting political validation in 2024. Looking ahead, a number of workstreams are due to produce results by the end of 2024, including comprehensive training and workshop reports on carbon finance for government, a national strategy and action plan on carbon finance aligned with NDC objectives, a carbon finance readiness assessment report, and a national registry for carbon activities/projects and transactions.

Outcome 3 - Support was provided to the government to develop a "frequently asked questions" document for key national stakeholders to raise basic awareness on Article 6 ahead of concrete carbon readiness activities that will be taking place next year. Work is due to continue or commence on a number of activities, including a national registry for carbon activities/projects and transactions which has now recruited a consultant, training reports and training modules for capacity building of Ivorian lawyers, and workshops and forum reports documenting knowledge acquired during south-south knowledge exchanges, and how it will be applied.

Dominica

Background

Dominica's updated NDC was communicated to the UNFCCC in July 2022. It was selected as a Climate Promise country partially to ensure inclusion of a small island country in the Forest, Land, and Nature work area of the Climate Promise and because Dominica identified key gaps in technical capacity on NDC implementation, with a focus on the AFOLU sector. Following a devastating and destructive hurricane in 2017, which destroyed 90% of the country's forest, the government identified key areas where Climate Promise assistance could help accelerate NDC implementation in the AFOLU sector, including improving the LULUCF sector plans in the national long-term planning, and updating their monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system to improve and align with the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). Finally, Dominica recognizes both the role that Indigenous people play in achieving their NDC, as well as the need to enhance capacities and opportunities for Kalinago people's engagement and work to preserve sustainable ecosystems. The government and UNDP identified a need to develop recommendations and data that will enable Dominica to include the LULUCF sector into long-term planning, aligning with plans for zero nature loss. The support will also focus on strengthening weak capacities related to MRV for the AFOLU sector, particularly the knowledge of the relevant rules, modalities, and procedures under the Paris Agreement's ETF. This includes identifying data needs to update long-term strategies or goals to align with the NDC target and building capacity in the Kalinago communities to lead and implement sustainable ecosystem management practices and community monitoring.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Defra funding is supporting Dominica to strengthen MRV for their NDC with a specific focus on the AFOLU related targets through the identification of suitable indicators and verification measures. These indicators and verification measures have been drafted after consultative sessions with IPLCs and key Government officials. The project has also supported training sessions with Government and key representatives from the Kalinago community on transparency-related requirements under the Paris Agreement (including the Enhanced Transparency Framework). Funding has also supported a land suitability and capability mapping for agriculture and reforestation to support Government in identifying and implementing key AFOLU activities that will help to achieve the AFOLU targets of the NDCs.

Outcome 2 - Support provided to efforts will enable the government to include the LULUCF sector into long term planning that aligns with zero nature loss based on up-to-date data.

Outcome 3 - Support was provided to the Indigenous Kalinago community in Dominica through collaboration with the Ministry of Kalinago Upliftment. The Ministry and the Kalinago Council participated in an economic symposium on livelihood opportunities, hosted by the Kalinago 120 initiative committee, for the Kalinago community through the use of their lands and identified people who could participate in capacity building initiatives.

Ecuador

Background

Ecuador submitted its first NDC to the UNFCCC in 2019 and it is in the process of updating it. Ecuador also endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) in 2022. The Government has identified the national REDD+ Action Plan as the primary foundation for the LULUCF component of the NDC. The National REDD+ Action Plan includes a high degree of participatory involvement from Indigenous people and local communities- not only in formal deliberation and stakeholder engagement spaces such as the REDD+ National Round Table -but also in formal proposals such as the CONFENIAE REDD+ Implementation Plan and the territorial life plans which have been drafted in the Amazon Region. Developing the NDC 2026-2035 and supporting the connection between the Carbon Zero Ecuador Program, a cornerstone program to achieve emission reductions in all sectors, including AFOLU, requires support to expand the scope, integrate progress and good practices from the REDD+ process for the broader AFOLU sector, and increase the private sector participation. Lastly, Ecuador needs to strengthen mechanisms for better measurement, reporting and verification of the implementation of the NDC in the 2020-2025 period, to meet the requirements under the Paris Agreement Enhanced Transparency Framework.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Defra support has enabled the government to strengthen the Ecuador Zero Carbon Programme (PECC), and the Compensation Mechanism Regulation (NTC). UNDP contributed to the design of an incentive scheme enabling the cantonal and provincial Decentralised Autonomous Governments (GAD) to integrate climate change management into the planning and development of programmes and projects, aligning with the PECC. The capacities of Ecuador Accreditation System (SAE) and Country Assessment Bodies (OECs) were strengthened through three workshops which resulted in improving norms and legal instruments, confirming the role of OEC in verifying the carbon footprint compensation process and other steps to ensure the proper implementation of the PECC. UNDP supported the Government to design the methodology for the validation of GHG certification programmes which is key to implementation of carbon-neutral value chains. The programme will allow the development of all GHG mitigation initiatives to be deployed in the Ecuadorian territory.

Outcome 2 - Defra supported the first phase of the multi-stakeholder participatory process to update the country's second NDC (2026-2035). This multi-stakeholder, multilevel participatory process involved over 250 stakeholders representing 150 institutions, 48.6% of whom were women.

Outcome 3 - With Defra's support and building upon the PROAmazonia programme, eight grantees from five Indigenous Nations are implementing their Life Plans through small grants which were approved in July 2023. Initial results include more than 5000 hectares under community-based monitoring for forests and biodiversity conservation, over 30 hectares being reforested with native species, governance systems strengthened including land rights, training workshops with the communities, six park rangers from the communities trained and equipped (50% women) to monitor more than 500 hectares of forests, 11 tree nurseries established, non-timber forest products supported, more than 30 safe water systems are being built, and 11 bylaws being updated with climate change and gender criteria. A second round of grants is planned, and progress will be reported in 2024. Defra's support also enabled the government to design and implement two programmes to develop the structure of the national voluntary compensation portfolio, as well as strengthening Ecuador's REDD+ roundtable, which is the main stakeholder mechanism to implement Ecuador's NDC in the LULUCF sector.

Feedback from Post

UNDP's implementation of the Climate Promise is widely recognised by several relevant stakeholders, and UNDP has been recognised as a strategic partner by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE). The work UNDP has done through the Climate Promise is aligned with national line with policy and strategic frameworks, and has supported Ecuador in fulfilling its climate commitments, and to create and promote relevant frameworks of public policy.

Indonesia

Background

Indonesia submitted its enhanced NDC in September 2022 and in early 2023, launched the FOLU Net Sink 2030 agenda, to reduce emissions in the FOLU sector by 2030. Indonesia also endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) in 2022. In addition to this national priority, Indonesia was identified as a Defra priority country, in the case of the second contribution. Further, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry had requested support for the FOLU Net Sink 2023 agenda, particularly to improve the monitoring and evaluation system. The government aimed to strengthen preparatory capacity for effectively operationalizing carbon markets in the forestry sector including, a roadmap for carbon trading in the forestry sector; a monitoring and reporting mechanism or consultation process for the FOLU Net Sink target; and additional resources for the Climate Corner Task Force, which promotes stakeholder engagement and dissemination of climate-related information to the public.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Following the development of a carbon trading roadmap for the forestry sector, supported by the Japan Supplementary Budget (JSB), Defra funds are supporting a follow-up intervention to develop a cap-setting policy as part of the carbon trading roadmap. Looking ahead, the FOLU net sink monitoring and reporting at the national level, synchronised with the national registry system has been deferred to 2024, when the design of the mechanism will be ready for further consultation. During the Q4-2023, the MoEF reviewed the architectural design of the FOLU Net Sink monitoring and reporting mechanism which was developed by the Ministry through the state budget. In this regard, the project's support has been deferred to Q1-2024 when the design is expected to be ready for further consultation.

Outcome 3 - Defra funds have helped procure necessary IT equipment in 2023 to strengthen the capacities and support the daily work of the Climate Corner Task Team which promotes stakeholder engagement and dissemination of climate-related information to the public. In 2024, Defra funds will support offline and online climate-related stakeholder engagement which are gender-sensitive and socially inclusive and designed for targeted groups like youth, local communities, government stakeholders and private sector. The capacity building activities will be designed and implemented in Q1 2024. The funds will also support the participation of the Climate Corner Task Team at COP29.

Feedback from Post

UNDP's support through the Climate Promise programme is responding to Indonesia's specific country priorities, particularly on the development of the carbon trading roadmap in the forestry sector. Government officials in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry have reached out several times to UNDP requesting for various support on their sectoral policies – Climate Promise being one of the programmes that provides this kind of support at the national and at sub-national levels. This shows the importance that the Government of Indonesia places upon UNDP's work through the Climate Promise.

Kenya

Background

Kenya has submitted an updated first NDC to the UNFCCC in 2020, which includes a target of increasing tree cover to at least 10% of the land area in the country. This is linked to Kenya's National Forest Programme 2010-2029 and the Forest Law of 2002. Kenya also endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) at COP26 in 2022. Additionally, Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP), which is the main policy instrument for NDC implementation, does not include a strong social inclusion element in the AFOLU sector plan. Kenya also has an existing national Small Grants Programme which could benefit from additional finance, strengthened processes and an expanded grants offering to Indigenous people and local communities, creating an opportunity to expand the reach to more communities further supporting Indigenous people's efforts in meeting NDC targets in Kenya. Additionally, the Kenyan government's strong interest to engage in both voluntary and regulated carbon markets is combined with the needs for both expanded capacity -especially on voluntary carbon markets (VCM) – as well as for strengthened coordination within the government to operationalize Article 6 and VCMs and to improve the national carbon markets regulatory framework.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Support from Defra enabled the Government to develop and launch the NCCAP in September 2023. UNDP facilitated sectoral consultations with the Nature-based working group to define the Forest sector's priority actions for the next five years. The Forest sector was identified as having the largest potential for mitigation for the period 2023- 2027 with a projection of 37.3 million tonnes of CO₂e through scaled effort to restore Kenya's forest cover which is a priority of Kenya's Government. In 2024, UNDP will engage in further work to analyse the proposed actions and identify the gaps and required resources needed to attain the ambitions set by the Forest sector. A financial analysis will also be undertaken that will propose the financing needs for the sector over the next five years. A South-South exchange with Ghana and Senegal in January 2023 was conducted in partnership with Climate Focus on operationalizing Article 6 and Voluntary Carbon Markets. Over 40 participants attended the meeting. As a result of this exchange, Kenya was able to successfully draft a briefing note for the operationalization of Article 6 in the country. The Government of Kenya has amended the 2016 Climate Change Act to make provisions for engagement in the carbon markets and the new Climate Change Act was passed as law in September 2023. UNDP will also support the Government on the Forest Conservation and Management Act review and update. This work is expected to be completed in 2024.

Outcome 3 - Five grants for IPLCs supported with Defra funds were launched in July 2023 and are under implementation. These submitted progress reports and were subjected to field visits by UNDP CO team. Five additional grants were selected under Round 2 in December 2023 and are starting implementation. Grants are supporting forest restoration activities with a strong focus on gender equality. Some of the results from Round 1 include: a) Paran Women Group: trained a total of 393 people (161 of which below 35 years), community dialogue meetings with 645 members trained (321 of which youth), and five tree nurseries established/constructed with management on track. The group was recognized with the Gender and Women Constituency Award at COP-28. b) Pastoral Community Empowerment Programme: 20 groups established comprising youth groups, women groups and special needs groups involved in tree growing. Developed and trained beneficiaries on 3 appropriate technologies for tree growing.

Feedback from Post

The UNDP's Climate Promise aligns well with Kenya's priorities, particularly in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development. The initiative has already made considerable progress in addressing critical climate challenges and supporting sustainable development. Continuing this support can further strengthen Kenya's resilience to climate change and enhance its sustainable development efforts. Furthermore, UNDP's support in capacity building, policy development, and mobilization of climate finance aligns with Kenya's Vision 2030 and other national development plans.

Liberia

Background

Liberia submitted its first NDC to the UNFCCC secretariat in 2021. The NDC includes mitigation targets related to Forests that commit to reducing deforestation and forest conversion, reforestation, enhancing carbon stocks and planting trees in urban green corridors. Liberia also endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) at COP26 in 2022. UNDP supported Liberia on several national-level dialogues and consultations for enhanced action and finance in the FOLU sector to increase NDC implementation and ambition, including the Stockholm +50 dialogues and a national "Forest Lab", both which convened diverse stakeholders to outline the key priority areas for improving forest conservation and sustainable land management. UNDP has also provided technical support to the government on REDD+ with additional support required before Liberia is able to access results-based payments. There were several opportunities to further advance efforts being made within the FOLU sector in Liberia which makes them eligible for Climate Promise support. The government plans to update its National Forestry Policy and Implementation strategy and analyze opportunities to expand their Urban Green Corridor and prioritize restoration in cities which is a key component of their NDCs. On financing the FOLU sector, the government requested support on carbon markets readiness, with there being an opportunity to build on the work already started on REDD+. The government has also identified the need for additional support to enhance stakeholder consultation and engagement in decision-making processes and NDC implementation in the FOLU sector.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Support from Defra resulted in 3 regional consultation events co-organized by the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to engage and gather inputs on the update of the National Forest Policy. The consultations engaged a wide range of stakeholders including community representatives, the private sector, political actors, civil society, women's groups, forest sector working groups across the 15 counties, and bilateral partners. As a result of these consultations, a draft of the updated National Forest Policy is now available. The next step is to have the updated policy validated by the new government that was recently inaugurated in January of 2024. Looking ahead, the carbon market readiness roadmap, which was delayed due to the election period, should be resumed in 2024 with the recruitment of a national consultant, who will also produce an analysis on barriers to accessing results-based payments linked to REDD+.

Outcome 3 - The National Civil Society Council of Liberia (NCSCCL) has completed a regional dialogue to strengthen key actors within Civil Society to systematically engage, contribute, and accelerate NDC implementation and long-term net-zero and climate-resilient development pathway in Liberia. As a result of these consultations, civil society actors have agreed to set up a specialized platform (under the coordination of NCSCCL), focused purely on the engagement of civil society actors on NDC implementation and processes.

Feedback from Post

The UNDP Climate Promise initiatives align well with the Embassy priorities and the national priorities at large, supporting two of our top priorities, improving forest governance and accountability for prosperity. The quality of UNDP's work is strategically contributing to the implementation of Liberia's NDC and is critical to enabling Liberia to deliver on its NDC commitments. Through their interventions, they have mobilised a rich diversity of civil society, development, and policy actors for dialogues on the NDC implementation. The knowledge obtained, and policy products have been positively received by local authorities and key institutions, including the Forestry Development Authority and Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, the partnership and collaboration mobilised by UNDP has secured collaboration and additional funding streams that are helping to scale up some of the interventions initiated under the Climate Promise, including the carbon readiness work and forestry policy. UNDP's work under the Climate Promise initiative is critical to enabling Liberia to implement its NDC commitment, including promoting national and cross-sectoral coordination.

Republic of Congo

Background

The Republic of Congo submitted its first NDC to the UNFCCC secretariat in 2021. The Republic of Congo has demonstrated its commitment to addressing climate change through its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement. The NDC includes ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with a particular emphasis on the Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) sector. The Republic of Congo is also party to the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use. In addition to being selected based on consultations with UK DEFRA, the Congo basin (which the Republic of Congo is a part of) is of immense ecological significance and plays a crucial role in global climate change mitigation, preserving biodiversity, and sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people, including Indigenous communities. Support from the Climate Promise can assist the government in taking practical actions to achieve their LULUCF goals and targets. Support could enhance much needed awareness raising with various national stakeholders on the content of the NDC, to generate social engagement in NDC implementation. Climate Promise support could also go a long way in establishing multi-stakeholder mechanisms to steer and coordinate climate actions, particularly those related to the LULUCF sector which involves a wide range of stakeholders. Given that the country has also identified weaknesses in its national Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems for the LULUCF sector and NDC overall, Climate Promise support can help build technical national capacities on MRV and provide needed equipment and software to facilitate data collection and centralization.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Defra funds have supported the establishment of a multi-stakeholder committee, consisting of sectoral ministries with land use planning mandates, the private sector, and civil society (including IPLCs). This committee aims to significantly improve the coordination of land use planning in the country (guided by the principles of inclusivity and equity with strong consideration of marginalized people including women and IPs). Three land use conflicts were discussed and addressed in the inaugural meeting of the Committee in 2023. In 2023 the government assessed its technology needs for improving its monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) system and collecting and analysing biostatistics data for the LULUCF. Equipment was purchased in 2023 to assist the National Centre for Inventories and Forest Management (CNIAF) with improved data collection and MRV processes, the activity will conclude in 2024.

Outcome 3 - The government is preparing a communications campaign and workshops to raise awareness of the NDC and key topics in the FOLU sector to different national stakeholders. The campaign was developed in 2023, and workshops and dissemination of materials will be completed in 2024.

Viet Nam

Background

Vietnam submitted its updated NDC to the UNFCCC Secretariat in 2022. The updated NDC includes targets for LULUCF and places importance on the protection of existing natural forests, reducing forest degradation and deforestation, protecting “coastal forests,” restoration and protection of special-use forests, and improving the quality of forest carbon sinks. However, the government aims to expand the LULUCF sector targets to strengthen mangrove inclusion in subsequent NDCs. In addition to this, Viet Nam also endorsed the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) during COP26 in 2022. Vietnam has ongoing activities under the Climate Promise and has requested for additional support to build on this ongoing work. Vietnam has a national legal framework for carbon markets which includes implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and plans to set up a domestic carbon market by 2025 and a fully operational system by 2027. However, the LULUCF sector is not well-incorporated into this framework. Additional support to the Climate Promise will be used to provide needed support to the government to successfully include the LULUCF sector into the national legal framework. The government has also identified the need to build capacities to accurately quantify GHG emissions and emission reductions, as well as measure carbon stocks for mangroves specifically.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Defra funds supported the Government to develop a consolidated report on LULUCF in the Global Carbon Market including its carbon standards/mechanisms, the procedure for the transition of existing carbon projects and registration of new carbon projects under the Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement, and its national potential for carbon emission reduction. Defra funds are supporting the preparation of a carbon market access strategy that will identify available emission reductions (ERs) including LULUCF ERs for sale and carbon market options (including compliance & voluntary). The project is also developing a list of approved methodologies and national criteria to identify programmes including LULUCF projects that will be eligible to participate in the national domestic carbon market programme to contribute to the NDC. A draft report of recommendations was prepared in 2023, and work will continue in 2024. Further work to be continued in 2024 includes developing a proposal for a payment procedure to LULUCF projects with carbon credits that contribute to NDC instead of trading in ETS as well as stakeholder consultations with relevant Ministries (MONRE, MARD, MOF, etc.), VNForest, forest owners and other related stakeholders. Looking ahead work is due to commence on an assessment report on GHG abatement costs for different types of LULUCF projects, and a review for MARD/MOF on the finance resources and proposal for mobilisation for LULUCF.

Outcome 2 - Defra funds supported the enhancement of the capacities of six countries in Asia Pacific (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam) through an international workshop on "Leveraging the plural values of mangroves for climate change mitigation and adaptation goals" in November 2023, hosted by Viet Nam. The workshop was chaired by Vice Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the UNDP Viet Nam Resident Representative, and a representative from the Defra. Additionally, Viet Nam has developed a national methodology to measure carbon stocks of mangrove forests suitable for each ecological region (North East, Red River Delta, North Central, South Central, Southeast, Southwest) and compiled carbon measurement data of mangrove forests for 28 coastal provinces. An expert team recruited for this methodology has acquired the satellite imagery to build models to determine carbon stocks. The Department of Forestry is yet to approve the national methodology developed by UNDP in the first phase of Defra funding.

Feedback from Post

The work of the Climate Promise responds to Viet Nam’s priorities of advancing the sustainability of, and data relating to, the LULUCF sector, improving the GHG inventory in the LULUCF sector and capitalising upon Viet Nam’s natural carbon reserves and potential in the carbon market. There was some initial confusion and low awareness about what UK funding to UNDP was actually funding/enabling in Viet Nam, but the situation has now improved. Going forward, evidence of clear government demands and an analysis of how Climate Promise work aligns with other work in the area would be beneficial.