Annual Review Template

Title: United Nations Development Programme: Climate Promise		
Programme Value £ (full life): Defra funding £9m (100% ICF, 100% RDEL) Total Programme funding: $152.98m		**Review date:** May 2025
Programme Code: GB-GOV-7-ICFUNDPCP	**Start date:** February 2022	**End date:** September 2025

Summary of Programme Performance

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

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

A1. Description of programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Climate Promise (CP) programme has supported over 120 countries since its launch in 2019 to enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is the world's largest provider of support to developing countries on NDC enhancement and implementation.

The programme has now fully transitioned from its initiation phase in 2022, to full-scale implementation. In this 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.

In 2024, 105 countries and territories had been selected for targeted support, representing nearly 29 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This includes 28 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), 21 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and 14 high-emitters. 79 of the countries were under implementation in 2024, with the remaining 13 countries being supported to define priority work areas and finalise national workplans in preparation to commence implementation in 2025.

In April 2024, UNDP launched their "Below 1.5 By 2025" plan, stressing the 2-year deadline for ratcheting up NDCs and the narrowing window of opportunity to keep 1.5 alive. Achieving this objective will be dependent on ambitious NDCs from all and underpinned by strong international cooperation and financial support.

In addition, in 2024 the programme secured strong resource mobilisation from donors, demonstrating continued confidence from partners and directly responding to the increasing demand from countries on support for the NDC 3.0 preparation due in 2025. A strength of UNDP is its ability to mobilise the entire UN System, coordinating with over 30 UN Agencies for joint support ahead of COP30. 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 Viet Nam.

In the testakeholders and 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). It should be noted that Defra is not the sole funder of Climate Promise activities in these countries.

A2. Summary supporting narrative for the overall score in this review

In this annual review for the programme, covering the period January – December 2024, the Climate Promise has scored an ‘A’.

The programme has continued to make good progress over the review period, the details of which are set out in Section B on outcome progress, and in Section C on output progress. Based on the progress set out in Section C, we have scored each of the programme’s outputs, which has provided a scoring range between A+ - B. The table below shows the breakdown of the number of outputs scoring each grade.

Total Output Scoring	A+	A	B
	1	4	6

Based solely on the output scoring, the programme would score a ‘B’ reflecting the fact the programme continues to make good progress, but that some targets were missed. However, these delays were due to factors beyond the programme’s control, including changes in country governments, and delays to the implementation of grants. These delays were due to the highly participatory and inclusive governance structure and proposals assessment process, resulting in some activities not being completed as originally expected, which has led to a no-cost extension being awarded for the programme to allow these to fully complete. Whilst this caused a slower start in implementation, once the funds were released the majority of grants were rolled out in the envisaged timeframes, and delivered impactful results. UNDP advised us of these delays in advance of the annual review but did not explicitly state which indicators would be delayed and therefore the logframe milestone targets were not revised to reflect any timeline changes.

Therefore, our judgment is that the output figures alone do not accurately reflect the good progress made against the milestone targets or the overall programme progress made in the past year. The narrative description provided under each output details the activity carried out under each indicator and consequently demonstrates the progress made, and we think it is important to consider these updates as part of the overall scoring. In addition, due to the no-cost extension, we would not have expected the activities included under this to be completed by the end of this year, and subsequently we want to include this framing context within the overall scoring consideration.

Factoring in all these elements, and as further set out in section ‘E’ of this annual review, we consider an ‘A’ to be a fair scoring of the programme over the past year.

A3. Major lessons and recommendations for the year ahead

Six recommendations were included in last year’s annual review, detailed in Annex 1. Progress has been made against all of these, with three recommendations addressed and implemented, and the remaining three underway with further recommendations included in this annual review to build on the progress made and ensure they can be 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.

Table 1. Programme recommendations.

No.	Description	Owner	Deadline
1	When logframe targets are adjusted, notifying Defra in advance of any changes, and, where possible, at least six months before the annual review so we can amend the logframe in line with our internal timelines.	UNDP	September 2025
2	Detail should be provided in the deliverables progress updates, on how indicators have been met in an inclusive and gender responsive way.	Defra and UNDP	September 2025
3	Further expand information contained on the programme Donor Dashboard, to include details on the country-specific risks, analysis and monitoring.	UNDP	September 2025

4	An update should be provided on the independent evaluation including how this review will be used, what feedback it is intended to generate, how it will influence the remainder of the programme, and how the parallel NDC Support Programme independent review findings will be integrated into the programme.	UNDP	September 2025

B: THEORY OF CHANGE AND PROGRESS TOWARDS OUTCOMES

B1. 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 five 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.
5. Nature and People - Nature and ecosystems are protected, restored, and sustainably managed, and support people's livelihoods.

The programme's full Theory of Change can be found in Annex 2 of this annual review.

All International Climate Finance (ICF) programmes are required to report against at least one Official Development Assistance (ODA) Key Performance Indicator (KPI) that reflects the ToC and key aims of the programme. In addition to this, Defra programmes must report against at least one Defra international (DI) KPI, which focus specifically on biodiversity and poverty reduction.

Following the ToC and logframe changes set out in last year's annual review, the programme now reports against five KPIs: at the impact level ICF KPI 15 (Extent to which the ICF intervention is likely to lead to Transformational Change), at the outcome level Technical Assistance (TA) KPI 1 (Number of Countries Supported by ICF Technical Assistance), 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), and at the output level Defra International (DI) KPI 8 (People with improved tenure or access rights (land and sea)[1].

Through the activities set out under the outcome and output indicators, we have embedded the KPIs into the logframe to facilitate our reporting. As well as working with UNDP to understand the methodologies used for the data collection against the KPIs and ensuring we are following the reporting guidelines.

B2. Describe where the programme is on/off track to contribute to the expected outcomes and impact. What action is planned in the year ahead?

[1] In 2024 the programme reported against three KPIs, at the impact level ICF KPI 15 (Extent to which the ICF intervention is likely to lead to Transformational Change), at the outcome level TA KPI 1 (Number of Countries Supported by ICF Technical Assistance), and TA KPI 3 (Number of climate policies informed by ICF TA).

Under each outcome indicator we have scored every reporting country, either an 'A+'(moderately exceeded expectation) indicating that the work under this indicator has been completed and exceeded the target; 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; or a 'C' (substantially did not meet expectation), indicating that work under this indicator is either not in place, cancelled or altered.

In grading results, 'almost completed' activities have been scored 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 the activity. Activities assessed as 'work under this indicator is in progress' have been scored a 'B' reflecting the fact that the main substance of the work is still ongoing, and those activities that are 'not in place' or 'cancelled' have been scored a 'C' evidencing the fact that changes are being made to implement or alter the work due to take place under this indicator.

This also reflects under milestone progress as activities that have 'almost completed' and scoring an 'A' being considered as meeting the milestone target, and those 'in progress' and scoring a 'B' along with any activities that score below this, not being considered as meeting the milestone target in this annual review. The outcome milestones are also amber and green rated to illustrate visually where milestone targets are met or missed.

There are no progress updates for Outcome 2 in this annual review. This is due to the fact that outcomes and outputs have targets against them only when there are activities that are due to complete in the given year. This therefore means that some outcomes and outputs will not have any results to report in a given year as activities have either already finished under that indicator or are not yet due to complete, as each year has its own targets rather than a cumulative target. The cumulative result will only be included in the programme's final report as the end of programme target.

In Annex 3, there is further detail on the progress made in each country.

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)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	2	3	Ecuador - work under this indicator completed. Indonesia – work under this indicator is in progress. Liberia - work under this indicator almost completed.

Outcome Indicator 1.1

Ecuador – A

- Produced a report titled "Incentive Scheme Aimed to Encourage Cantonal and Provincial Decentralised Autonomous Governments (GADs) to Incorporate Climate Change Management into their Territorial Planning, Considering Adaptation, Mitigation, Sustainable consumption and Production Aligned with the PECC," which includes recommendations for a technical standard scheme and a ministerial agreement for the Ecuador Zero Carbon Program (PECC) targeting decentralised autonomous governments. These recommendations have been integrated during the revision of the technical regulations of the PECC.

Indonesia – B

- Due to the change of government in Indonesia, work was unavoidably delayed in 2024, but efforts were made to engage the new Government and jointly readapt the planned activities to meet emerging priorities. Implementation of the two planned interventions under this indicator will take place in 2025. Namely, an assessment of a potential cap setting policy in Indonesia and sensitisation efforts with key national stakeholders and awareness raising on net Forestry and

Other Land Use (FOLU) which is strongly linked to the current NDC and will feature in the new NDC.

Liberia – A
- Reviewed and internally validated the Forestry Policy & Implementation Plan, and the Carbon readiness gap assessment report was finalised, validated and submitted to the government.

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:	B
Impact weighting (%):	20%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	0	3	Cambodia - work under this indicator is in progress. Cote d'Ivoire – not in place. Ecuador - work under this indicator is in progress.

Outcome Indicator 3.1
Cambodia – B
- Progress made to implement and promote the Safeguards Information System (SIS), which ensures that the Cancun Safeguards (e.g. respecting knowledge and rights of IPLCs, participation of stakeholders, etc) are addressed and respected. Work commenced to undertake an assessment and consultation to gather information on how the safeguards are being addressed, as well as the launch of the stakeholder engagement process for reviewing and operationalising the SIS. All five IP grantees' have made steady progress against planned activities, including restoration efforts, improving the management of Community Forest and Community Protected Areas, demarcation of indigenous land areas, and formalisation of land tenure.

Cote d'Ivoire – C
- This work was delayed in 2024 as the trainings planned under this deliverable linked to the National Strategy on Carbon Markets, which is yet to be developed. The trainings have consequently been pushed back to 2025.

Ecuador – B
- All 16 IP grants have implemented activities, including the improvement of two kilometres of trail for tourism activities designed to cultivate cultural richness and protect resources, advancing on the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), implementing land-use planning instruments and bylaws to prevent encroachment, and restoration of degraded land. A total of 5,283 hectares of forest are also now under conservation in the Guacamayos organisation territory thanks to a joint intervention between Socio Bosque Project and Climate Promise.

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)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	5	1	Good progress made under this global indicator.

Outcome Indicator 4.1

- Events at The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in April 2024 including:
  a) hosting a training for Indigenous Peoples to advocate effectively at the UNPFII
  b) a side event on Respecting Indigenous Peoples' rights in Carbon Markets
  c) a meeting between member states and private sector actors and Indigenous organisations to present the Indigenous Peoples and the Just Transition Declaration

- New York Climate Week meetings in September 2024:
  a) a convening between Private Sector actors and Indigenous Peoples to discuss joint sustainability initiatives
  b) a knowledge exchange convening of executive women from the financial sector and impact investment industry, and Indigenous women, to learn from each other to prepare to partner on climate and nature action.

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

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	Progress
5.1	Area under Sustainable Management Practices.	13,126.86 ha		Good progress made under this indicator.

Outcome Indicator 5.1

Cambodia – A

- 7005.86 ha tropical-subtropical forests under protection and restoration
- The hectares under sustainable management practices improved Indigenous livelihoods by providing communities long-term resource security and alternative income opportunities. For example:
  - In Antres, Mondulkiri, clear demarcation of 2,933 hectares—established with 120 concrete poles—secured Indigenous land and spiritual forests, preventing encroachment and supporting biodiversity. This security allowed the community to launch low-interest Indigenous savings groups, reducing dependence on high-interest loans and illegal forest extraction as emergency coping strategies.
  - In Stung Treng's Anlong Phe area, 682 sustainably managed hectares—including 232 hectares of spiritual forest—enabled community honey and handicraft groups to flourish, generating new income streams through participatory market activities.
  - Similarly, in Kratie, sustainable management across spiritual, burial, and CPA forests protected access to wild foods, promoted climate resilience, and supported communal enterprises like enhanced water systems and sustainable cattle rotation.
- Across sites, sustainable management not only preserved culture and environment but directly enhanced household economic resilience and ensured food security.

Colombia - A

- 61 ha tropical-subtropical forests under restoration
- Integrating women's traditional knowledge into agroecology, communities reinforced culturally rooted and climate-adapted farming systems. Communities established and expanded nurseries producing thousands of seedlings, supporting both restoration and income generation.
- Livelihood diversification included apiaries for honey production, processing of medicinal and aromatic plants (using solar dryers and grinders), and the development of green enterprises. These activities have created tangible income streams, enhanced household resilience, and linked traditional knowledge with market opportunities.
- Hundreds of people—especially women and youth—received training in agroecology, sustainable resource management, financial skills, environmental governance, and entrepreneurship. Women led many trainings and field activities, gaining leadership roles and greater visibility in resource governance.

Ecuador - A

- 5518 ha tropical-subtropical forests under protection, restoration and management
- Collectively, the implementation of these sustainable practices has contributed to:

- Maintaining forest conservation and ecosystem services.
- Enhancing agricultural productivity through the integration of ancestral models (ajas).
- Diversifying crops and strengthening food security.
- Creating income stability and resilience for families and communities participating in these initiatives.

Kenya - A

- 537 ha desert and semi desert, and 5 ha brackish tidal biome under protection, restoration and management
- Improved access to rangeland and grazing resources due to land reseeding and restoration. Access to grazing resources comes with a host of linked positive implications such as reduction of soil erosion as grazing animals do not contribute to degradation of land resources and deforestation across the landscape in Baringo South Constituency. This also has a positive impact on water resources where soil does not get washed into rivers and springs due to erosion.
- A total of 139,030 indigenous and fruit trees were raised by the indigenous women and planted both in the farms and in Mau Forest. These provide changes in microclimate and provide alternative livelihoods for communities associated with the groups. Mau Forest is important for watershed management in Kenya and is considered one of the five water towers, important for ecosystem services at the national level.

B3. Justify whether the programme should continue, based on its own merits and in the context of the wider portfolio

Our contribution to the programme is due to end in September 2025 upon completion of all funded activities. The programme continues to make good progress towards meeting its outcomes, with indicator scores ranging between a ‘B’ and an ‘A+’. We're particularly pleased to note that Outcome 4 has been scored an A+, and Outcome 5 has been scored an A. The narrative provided under each outcome sets out the key progress made and illustrates the importance of the work carried out under each output, and consequently why it should continue.

For the remainder of 2025 the strategic vision for the programme is that the portfolio will focus on supporting countries in finalising their third round of NDCs and continuing to scale up implementation. Teams are working closely with the NDC Partnership Support Unit and the UNFCCC to track countries’ plans for NDC submissions and analysing lessons to date to identify critical areas to unlock accelerated implementation.

Following recommendation two in last year’s annual review, future programme targets have now been set. However, for this annual review, some of the future targets were not shared in advance of this deadline, and changes to other targets were made, for which we did not have any advanced notice. Therefore, we would like to build on our previous recommendation to include that when targets are adjusted, notification should be provided in advance of any changes, and at least six months before the annual review so we can reflect them in our planning and assessment of programme delivery. **[Recommendation 1]**.

Although there was insufficient notice of delays to amend the logframe in 2024, which may give the perception of impaired programme delivery, our assessment is that good progress has been made, with a flexible and pragmatic approach shown by the Climate Promise programme team. Therefore, we believe Defra funding should continue for the remainder of our contribution, to September 2025.

C. DETAILED OUTPUT SCORING

The same scoring approach that was used to measure the progress of the programme’s outcomes has been used to measure the progress of Outputs.

There are a number of outputs that have no progress updates in this annual review and are therefore not listed, this is due to the fact that outcomes and outputs have targets against them only when there are activities that are due to complete in the given year. This therefore means that some outcomes and outputs will not have any results to report in a given year as activities have either already finished under that indicator or are not yet due to complete, as each year has its own targets rather than a cumulative target. The cumulative result will only be included in the programme’s final report as the end of programme target.

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:	B
Impact weighting (%):	33.3%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	0	1	Cambodia – scope of work changed.
1.1.2	Number of countries, where institutional capacities for NDC implementation have been strengthened.	2	4	Cambodia – work under this indicator completed. Colombia – work under this indicator completed. Cote d'Ivoire – not in place. Ecuador - work under this indicator is in progress.

Output Indicator 1.1.1
Cambodia – B

- Work in Cambodia in 2024 had to pivot due to a change in government. Efforts were redirected to strengthening government's internal consultation processes and institutional arrangements. This support led to the establishment of a Carbon Crediting Secretariat, the support to Government in this area helped to advance greater transparency and accountability in REDD+ implementation.

Output Indicator 1.1.2
Cambodia – A

- Evaluation of safeguard compliance for the 'Architecture for REDD+ Standards – The REDD+ Environmental Excellency Standard' (ART-TREE) and jurisdictional approaches, complementing the Safeguards Information System (SIS) work, and work to operationalise the Nesting System, which allows to integrate projects into a jurisdictional approach. National capacities on performance and results-based payments were strengthened through webinars and briefings, including through a South-South Exchange focused on their implementation in Green Climate Fund (GCF) REDD+ projects was held in Indonesia in September and October, resulting in Cambodia planning to submit a results-based payment funding proposal to the GCF in 2025, with UNDP selected as the Accredited Entity.

Colombia – A

- Development of a document for the "Interpretation of the Cancun Safeguards and Their Adaptation in Colombia within the REDD+ Framework from an Indigenous Peoples' Perspective", presenting an approach to interpreting the Cancun safeguards and adapting them in Colombia within the REDD+ framework, specifically from the perspective of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, which can serve as a guide for consultation processes where needed, including consultations for Colombia's upcoming NDC update.

Cote d'Ivoire – C

- In 2025, Cote D'Ivoire aims to build the capacity of selected stakeholders on carbon markets. This training will be directly linked to the national carbon markets strategy and thus will take place once the strategy has been drafted.

Ecuador – B

- Supported the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition (MAATE) to identify potential incentives to facilitate Decentralised Autonomous Government (GAD) implementing local climate action (by aligning with national climate policies). In 2025, Ecuador plans to further build on this support and operationalise Ecuador's Zero Carbon Program (PECC) into GADs.

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:	B
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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	2	Cote d'Ivoire – not in place. Liberia - work under this indicator completed.
1.2.3	Number of countries that have established or strengthened financing mechanisms or instruments for climate finance mobilisation.	2	2	Kenya - work under this indicator completed. Viet Nam - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 1.2.1
Cote d'Ivoire – C
- Established a Carbon Markets Bureau this year as a direct result of work DEFRA supported last year on strengthening institutional arrangements for Carbon Market engagement. Under this indicator, there are also plans to develop a national Carbon Markets Strategy. UNDP is now working closely with the newly established Carbon Markets Bureau to initiate work on this strategy (as it falls under their purview), however, they have been experiencing delays. Further discussions will take place with the Bureau in early 2025 on the objective of the Strategy.

Liberia - A
- An analysis assessing the barriers for accessing result-based payments from REDD+ was successfully conducted and can now be used by stakeholders in decision making processes.

Output Indicator 1.2.3
Kenya – A
- Technical inputs to support the Government in finalising the Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulation which went on to conduct a regulatory Impact Assessment. This assessment concluded that Kenya should adopt the regulations as they provide regulatory clarity and increase investor confidence consequently raising business revenues. Due to the existence of carbon project checks and balances in the regulation, there will be an increase in environmental and social integrity of carbon credits emanating from Kenya in the global market, thus increasing their attractiveness to buyers.

Viet Nam - A
- Conducted work to assess the role of Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF), in Viet Nam's carbon markets and finalised a report identifying legal gaps to regulate LULUCF carbon projects (such as Payments for Ecosystem Services), and to manage carbon revenues. Carried out an assessment on the applicability of carbon projects under the requirements of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and Viet Nam's NDC, which led to the drafting of a circular detailing procedures for the transition of CDM projects to the Article 6 mechanism, and registration of new projects under the Article 6.4 mechanism.
- Carried out a study that assessed the potential of emission reduction and removal activities in LULUCF in Viet Nam. The report proposed the criteria for incorporating LULUCF mitigation activities into Article 6.2 and as well as institutional arrangements for Article 6.2 implementation for LULUCF leading to the development of the Forest Carbon Question and Answer Handbook to raise awareness and build capacity among national stakeholders on forest carbon in Viet Nam.

Output Title	Data and transparency systems and processes for the Enhanced Transparency Framework established or strengthened to measure the achievement of NDC Target (2024).

Output number:	1.3	Output Score:	B
Impact weighting (%):	16.7%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	4	5	Cambodia - work under this indicator completed. Cote d'Ivoire - work under this indicator almost completed. Indonesia - work under this indicator is in progress. Republic of Congo - work under this indicator completed. Viet Nam - work under this indicator completed.

Output Indicator 1.3.1

Cambodia – A

- The final draft of a new system for deforestation mapping, estimation, and change monitoring including a new method to map and estimate forest degradation following IPCC, UNFCCC, and good practice guidelines was developed.
- Training conducted for national stakeholders (Ministry of Environment (MoE), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC), Development Partners, and Conservation NGOs supporting REDD+ project implementation) on Machine Learning and Cloud Computing for National-scale Forest Change Monitoring using 10-m Spatial Resolution Sentinel 2 data. The training has equipped representative technical officials in Cambodia with knowledge and skills required to implement advanced modelling techniques for deforestation monitoring.

Cote d'Ivoire – A

- Developed a National Carbon Registry, the Government is now working to have the Register hosted on a public website.

Indonesia – B

- Technical discussions were organised with stakeholders to maintain momentum and prepare for the integration of additional features to the monitoring system.

Republic of Congo – A

- Equipment was procured and handed over to the Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement Forestier (CNIAF), the country's National Centre for Inventory and Valuation of Forest and Wildlife Resources to strengthen the MRV systems of the centre.

Viet Nam – A

- Developed a guideline/methodology document for mangrove carbon measurement to enable the implementation of a Circular on GHG Inventory and Measurement, Reporting and Verification of GHG reduction in the forestry sector. The Government formally endorsed the final version of the document after publicly publishing it on the Department of Forestry website to seek expert opinions and conducting a consultative meeting.

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:	A
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	1	1	Ecuador - work under this indicator completed.

Output Indicator 2.1.1
Ecuador – A

- Approval of the second NDC by the Ministry of Environment in November with the Interinstitutional Climate Change Committee in Ecuador. In the lead up to the technical validation, scenarios and models of the mitigation and adaptation components supported by UNDP were approved by the Interinstitutional Climate Change Committee. A specific workshop with IPLCs was also conducted in Cayambe to continue the intercultural methodology approach for the second (2025) NDC, resulting in the analysis of opportunities and risks for IPLCs.

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.		
Output number:	2.2	Output Score:	A
Impact weighting (%):	50%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	Progress
2.2.1	Number of countries supported to develop or update long-term strategies or goals aligned with NDC Target (2024), including considerations of just transition.	1	1	Cambodia - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 2.2.1
Cambodia – A

- Completion of an extensive report on carbon market opportunities linked to Article 5 and 6 of the Paris Agreement, focusing on resource mobilisation for Long-term Strategies (LTS) and NDCs under the LULUCF sector. This Carbon Market Readiness Workplan aligned with UNDP's High-Integrity Carbon Markets Initiative, aiming to identify measures that mobilise resources to support the achievement of LULUCF targets. The report and its proposed implementation roadmap will serve as a foundation for defining and facilitating future actions to enhance capacity within the Ministry of Environment and engage the private sector in achieving LULUCF NDC and LTS targets.

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:	B
Impact weighting (%):	33.3%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	2	4	Cambodia - work under this indicator completed. Colombia - work under this indicator is in progress. Indonesia - work under this indicator has started. Kenya - work under this indicator almost completed.

Output Indicator 3.2.1
Cambodia – A

- Conducted an assessment report and roadmap for the operationalisation of Cambodia's REDD+ safeguards. This served a crucial foundation for upcoming progress on the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and ongoing development of the second Summary of Information (SOI).

Colombia – B
- There were several notable achievements for the IP grant projects, six of the 20 grants have closed upon completion of key activities, with the remaining 14 due to complete in 2025. The most notable achievements from grantee projects include over 10 hectares of land restored, sustainable cultivation techniques combined with biodiversity conservation promoted, and 100s of women and youth trained in environmental governance and ecosystems management.

Indonesia – B
- Engagement with youth on climate action and Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink was initiated and will continue into 2025. A FOLU Net Sink Awareness and Essay competition targeting youth was conducted and over 200 young people took part in a national event titled: "Forest Ecosystem Conservation for Achieving FOLU Net Sink Targets Through a Cultural Approach". The event emphasised the role of regenerative tourism in advancing forest conservation and empowering local communities. Bali's Karangasem Regency was spotlighted as a model for integrating cultural preservation and sustainable tourism to support FOLU Net Sink goals.

Kenya – A
- A majority of the second cohort of IP and Local Community grant projects closed having successfully met their targets as specified in their respective workplans. Grantee projects introduced a number of communities-led governance structures to improve forest management. Projects also successfully restored over 500 hectares of forest and trained over 1000 people in Climate Smart Agriculture.

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:	B
Impact weighting (%):	33.3%	Weighting revised since last AR?	n/a

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	0	1	Republic of Congo - work under this indicator is in progress.

Output Indicator 3.3.1
Republic of Congo – B
- Development of communication materials, such as kakemonos and leaflets with important messages to encourage and challenge the public perception of climate and the environment. Due to insufficient funding the materials are yet to be widely distributed. There are plans to use other partner funding to distribute the materials in 2025.

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

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	Progress
4.1.1	Number of peer-to-peer exchanges carried out at regional and global level.	1	4	Some progress made under this global indicator.

4.1.2	Number of knowledge products generated and disseminated.	3	2	Good progress made under this global indicator.

Output Indicator 4.1.1 - C

- Asia Indigenous Peoples Knowledge Exchange on Carbon Markets, September 2024, Malaysia - Objective of the event was:
  a) to implement training on carbon markets together with Indigenous partner organisations including by providing general facilitation, speakers/training, and coordination,
  b) build and strengthen partnerships with IP organisations and CSOs in the region.

Output Indicator 4.1.2 – A+

- Interactive feature published on UNDP Climate & Forests website showcasing early results from enhanced NDC implementation through Forests, Land and Nature (FLN), highlighting the critical role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women in advancing locally led solutions benefiting the climate, nature and sustainable livelihoods. "Enhancing NDC implementation through Forests, Land and Nature: Case Studies from Colombia, Dominica, Kenya, and Viet Nam". Enhancing NDC implementation through Forests, Land and Nature
- Photo story on grantee from Kenya: Paran Women's Group, "Beads and trees: Indigenous women cultivating tradition and forest guardianship in Kenya". Beads and trees: Indigenous women cultivating tradition and forest guardianship in Kenya
- Explainer piece published on programme website featuring grants supporting IPLCs in Cambodia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Kenya, "Indigenous knowledge is crucial in the fight against climate change – here's why". Indigenous knowledge is crucial in the fight against climate change – here's why | UNDP Climate Promise

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)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	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.	4	1	Good progress made under this global indicator.

Output Indicator 4.2.1 – A+

- Established partnership with Sacred Forests, a foundation and private sector entity with the mission to protect forests forever, and reward Indigenous Peoples for the conservation of forests by matching them with sustainable brands. The objective of the partnership is to establish an advisory body to the Initiative that includes Indigenous leaders, as well as to advise on criteria to select territories to protect and match to brands.
- Strengthened relationship with Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership (FCLP) through the provision of technical support to the expert group defining the objectives of IP and LC and Government platforms.
- Strengthened partnership with Confluence Philanthropy through co-organising of events.
- Strengthened the relationship with the Global Alliance for Territorial Communities, the largest network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Community organisations in the largest intact forests across the world through active participation in each other's high-level events.

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

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	Progress

5.1.1	Number of countries supported by International Climate Finance technical assistance.	9	9	Some progress made under this indicator.

Output Indicator 5.1.1

- Technical Assistance (TA) work is underway in all of the countries currently supported by Defra's voluntary contribution.
- The TA carried out under this indicator includes:
    - In-country missions to follow up on design, implementation and monitoring of UK-supported Climate Promise activities.
    - Providing technical inputs and quality assurance to technical reports, policy documents, and social and environmental safeguards related to NDCs in the AFOLU sector, carbon markets and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
    - Delivering capacity building events.
    - Participating on selection committees for direct grants for Indigenous Peoples and local communities and monitor their implementation.'

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

No.	Indicator(s)	Achieved (2024)	Milestone (2024)	Progress
5.2.1	Number of people with improved land tenure or access rights.	3,083		Good progress made under this indicator.

Output Indicator 5.2.1

Cambodia - A

- 1,841 IP community members (Paor IP, Kuy IP, and Bunorng) (1,167 Women, 218 youths, 3
- people with disability). From customary tenure to registered freehold ownership.
- Cambodia advanced the communal land titling (CLT) process for Indigenous communities, through the identification and preparation of documentation on customary rules and practices and the completion of all required procedural steps for CLT submission. These submissions were forwarded to the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction for approval, leading toward the issuance of official certificates.
- A separate achievement was the identity registration of 10 Kuy communities with the Ministry of Rural Development, covering 2,114.86 hectares of forest land (community forests and community protected areas). This formal recognition strengthened the legal and access rights of more than 6,000 Indigenous people.
- Indigenous leaders and community members were trained in land law, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), forest governance, dispute resolution, and enforcement (SMART patrols). This strengthened community governance systems and the ability of IPs to exercise and defend their tenure rights.
- Barriers to women's tenure were overcome through intentional training, group formation, and gender-sensitive engagement in all stages of land and resource management. Projects prioritised women's active participation in capacity-building—such as leadership training, savings group formation, and forest patrols. In Antres, women made up 65% of the savings group, became central to decision-making, and regularly led or co-led community meetings—empowering them to advocate for land rights and to resolve disputes publicly. Trainings were designed to be inclusive, delivered in both Khmer and Indigenous languages, and often scheduled around women's availability. In Stung Treng and Kratie, women were directly elected to community and resource management committees, participated in spiritual ceremonies, and had targeted support to lead livelihood initiatives such as honey production and cow banks. These strategies not only built confidence and technical skills for women but also fostered new social norms that recognised women as legitimate landholders and resource stewards.

Ecuador - A

- 1,242 IP community members (San Francisco de Chicta community) (851 men 391 women). From customary tenure to registered freehold ownership.

- In Ecuador at least 80 families received land tenure certifications by their community helping formalise land use arrangements, reduce internal disputes, and strengthen community governance structures.
- The Shuar El Pangui Association formalised its legal status with the Secretariat of Peoples and Nationalities, enhancing its juridical standing and authority over its territories. This recognition consolidates their ability to defend land rights and negotiate external partnerships.
- The project integrated gender mainstreaming and UNDP safeguard standards from the outset, ensuring inclusivity and interculturality as guiding principles throughout design and implementation. During the design phase, criteria on inclusivity, gender, and intercultural approaches were incorporated in collaboration with Indigenous organisations, guaranteeing that women and youth were meaningfully involved from the start. The continuous presence of technically skilled project staff, combined with constant dialogue with Indigenous organisations, their leaders, and their members, ensured these principles were translated into practice and had measurable impact.

C2. Describe any changes to these 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, as detailed in the narrative section for the relevant indicators, due to the political situation in the supported countries some activities have been cancelled and re-designed to suit new priorities and therefore will not be carried out until next year. This does not alter the output itself but does alter the milestone and targets to achieve the output, by extending the time to achieve by a year.

As set out in recommendation 1 above, for future changes that will also impact the logframe, ensure that Defra are notified in advance of any changes, and at least six months before the annual review which would help us to ensure that we are seeking to monitor the correct activities (noting that this may not always be possible due to sudden and unpredictable shifts in country circumstances).

C3. 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 outcomes and outputs in the last annual review (specifically recommendation two: Set future targets for Defra-funded activities, to provide a long-term outline of expected results, and recommendation three: 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) have been addressed. This has provided us with the targets for the final year of Defra support, and to understand in advance of the UNDP annual report and subsequent results, which activities will be achieved over the coming year.

Similarly, in last year's annual review recommendation six referred to Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and reviewing the mainstreaming of gender equality throughout the programme, specifically by providing detail in the progress updates of the deliverables, to show how indicators have been met in an inclusive and gender responsive way. Whilst this has not currently been reflected in the narrative updates, through the KPI reporting for the programme UNDP have provided disaggregated data by sex, age, geography and disability to help us to better assess the GESI impact of the programme. We aim to continue to work with UNDP to further expand the GESI reporting, though not to have additional GESI reporting, rather to ensure it is reported against for those indicators that detail it, and consequently we retain this recommendation in this year's annual review **[Recommendation 2]**.

Additional 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

As part of this annual review process, we have reviewed the programme's risk register including the overall risk status and risk appetite of the programme. The risk appetite remains 'Open', reflecting the stage the programme is at in its delivery and the inherent risk level that occurs in a multilateral programme. This is within the ODA risk appetite and is broken down by risk category which matches the ODA risk appetite as detailed below.

Risk Category	NTSP Risk Appetite	ODA Risk Appetite
Strategic and context	Open	Open
Delivery and Operational	Cautious	Cautious
Financial and fiduciary	Cautious	Cautious
Project / Programme	Open	Open
Reputational	Cautious	Cautious
Safeguarding	Cautious	Cautious

The overall risk status for the programme is 'Medium'. The risk register will continue to be reviewed at regular intervals throughout the year, to ensure that risks and mitigations are accurately reflected, strengthening our risk management approach.

The key programme risks in the Defra risk register focus on changes of government policies resulting in delayed or cancelled implementation, programme implementation delays and a lack of clarity on UNDPs reporting requirements. All of these programme risks have mitigation measures in place, including additional recommendations in this annual review. Additionally, despite these risks we still expect the activities to be completed by the end of the programme and therefore the objectives of our contribution will be met. Based on the mitigations, the overall risk assessment of 'Medium' best reflects the programme's risk profile.

Last year's risk management recommendation, recommendation four (expand information contained on the programme Donor Dashboard, to include country-specific risk analysis and monitoring), has partially been implemented with a risk section integrated into the dashboard, displaying an impact and likelihood rating as well as the risk type and significance. However, by providing only thematic headings to detail the risk, it is missing narrative on what the actual risk that is being described is, which is crucial for understanding the specific country risks and their monitoring. Therefore, we retain a recommendation to further develop the risk section of the donor dashboard to include the narrative of the risk **[Recommendation 3]**.

All risks in the programme's risk register are actively managed, and the mitigating actions are being implemented in conjunction with UNDP, to ensure that we are reducing the likelihood and impact of these risks as well as identifying any other risks that may arise. UNDP have risk management processes in place at the organisational level as well as the programme level, including through the UNDP Enterprise Risk Management System. For the Climate Promise programme there is a two-tiered risk management approach, firstly at the portfolio management unit level, and secondly the steering committee level.

The portfolio management unit as part of its day-to-day responsibilities, carries out monitoring of the risk log and issues early warning advice based on the changing circumstances. Risk monitoring actions by the unit are recorded in UNDP's corporate system as part of management of business processes, project management, preparation for transparency. Additionally, one of the key roles of the steering committee is to review on an annual basis, identified project risks and provide guidance on risk mitigation.

Furthermore, through our quarterly calls with UNDP any emerging risks, including on fraud and safeguarding; are flagged which demonstrates that the risk management systems that are in place are working effectively, and that they are communicating these with us. UNDP have not so far highlighted any risks regarding fraud and safeguarding, and we have reiterated our reporting standards to ensure that they are aware of these.

Ahead of making previous financial contributions to the programme due diligence was carried out which demonstrated that UNDP has policies and mechanisms in place to report and address these issues should they arise. There are also annual UNDP audits carried out by the UN Board of Auditors and the Audit and Evaluation Advisory Committee (AEAC) which have not highlighted any concerns to note. We have also produced a delivery chain map for our contribution which provides transparency over how our funding has been disbursed. Based on this approach, we are confident that UNDP have a robust risk management process in place for the programme.

As with the other risk categories, Defra's due diligence assessment did not highlight any concerns with UNDP's approach to safeguarding against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH), with clear policies in place to address these issues. A SEAH Risk Assessment was undertaken in June 2024, which reviewed the approach, governance, risk management, code of conduct, recruitment, complaints, and whistleblowing, and identified the overall SEAH risk for the programme as low. We will continue to monitor safeguarding risks through our risk register and regular discussions with UNDP.

E: PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT: DELIVERY, COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Summarise the performance of partners and Defra, notably on commercial and financial issues.

No further financial contributions were made to the programme during this reporting period, but our existing contribution continues to prioritise livelihoods, poverty alleviation and climate. The programme is entirely ICF eligible, as set out earlier in this annual review, and reports against four ICF KPIs and one DI KPI.

Defra continues to have a participatory role in the programme's 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. The Steering Committee meeting follows a relatively formal structure, and although the scope to use this platform to influence the programme is limited, it provides an opportunity to raise the visibility on donor's priorities and concerns. The bilateral quarterly programme management calls between Defra and the UNDP programme team, on the other hand, serve as the platform to hold more substantive discussions about programme progress, risks, issues, and finances. These have proved to be an excellent engagement opportunity with UNDP and have enabled a regular and fruitful dialogue with the delivery partner on these areas.

The Paris Agreement aims to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. As this is a multilateral programme, we expect UNDP to manage the Paris Agreement alignment of the programme on our behalf. The Climate Promise aligns with these goals, it does this by treating climate as a cross-cutting theme, and the programme's logframe includes indicators aligned to International Climate Finance (ICF) methodologies.

An independent mid-term evaluation of the programme was due to commence this year. However, timelines for this exercise were pushed back due to the final evaluation of the complementary NDC Support Programme taking place in October 2024, and it was considered that the lessons from this evaluation could also be considered by the programme. The NDC Support Programme final evaluation was ultimately concluded in June 2025 and many of the recommendations will be addressed under Climate Promise programme. The expectation was that terms of reference (ToR) for the evaluation would be shared by the end of 2024, however this has now been pushed back into the 2025 calendar year.

The Climate Promise ('From Pledge to Impact') independent evaluation will now be launched in Q3 of 2025 and conducted in Q4 of 2025 and Q1 of 2026, with recommendations to be incorporated to improve programme efficiencies and implementation of the programme which will be continuing to 2030. We see this evaluation as a useful opportunity to gauge the effectiveness of the wider initiative and to understand what changes could be made to improve this further. We would be interested to understand how the independent evaluation will be used, what feedback it is intended to generate, and how it will influence the remainder of the programme, as well as how the NDC Support Programme findings will be integrated into the programme. **[Recommendation 4]**.

As demonstrated through this annual review the programme's performance remains consistently good, with strong communication continuing with UNDP. However, there are a few programme management concerns to note.

Firstly, as outlined earlier in this annual review, a number of the activities due to be completed in 2024 were delayed, for a number of reasons, and will now complete in 2025. UNDP notified us of elements of the delays as they were emerging, but no explicit request to amend logframe targets accordingly was lodged. The full picture of the extent of the delays was only fully visible when the annual results reporting was shared, within six months of the annual review expected timeline. This meant that, in accordance with internal guidelines, logframe milestone targets could not be amended to reflect timeline changes. This in turn resulted in difficulties in measuring and scoring the programme, with recommendation 1 in this annual review specifically aimed at avoiding future similar circumstances.

Secondly, as detailed in recommendation 4 of this annual review, the timelines for the independent mid-term evaluation have been shifted without a clear explanation, meaning it will take place past the mid-term point of this phase of the initiative, and potentially beyond the completion of Defra supported activities. As a result, Defra-funded activities likely won't benefit from recommendations and learning from this exercise. We do however still hope that these can be incorporated into next year's programme completion review and serve as a useful complement to the analysis on the programme effectiveness that will be undertaken on the results of Defra funded activities.

Finally, a number of the recommendations included in this year's annual review are a reiteration or continuation of last year's recommendations which have not been fully implemented. As detailed under each recommendation, we acknowledge that steps have been taken towards many of these, but that in some instances they have not been fully addressed and should therefore be retained in this annual review.

While acknowledging the above, it is important to highlight that the reasons for most of the delays to planned in-country work was adequately communicated by UNDP, even though the specific activities affected were not. In Colombia, Ecuador and Kenya, the delays are due to the time taken to begin implementation of the grants awarded to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). These delays are due to the fact the grants have fixed one-year cycles, and additional time was taken to select the winning grantees due to the number of applications received, and due to the fixed cycle, the delays can't be recovered by accelerating work. If anything, this should be recognised as a clear symptom of UNDP's willingness to carry out this process in the most fair and inclusive way in what are often very complex development contexts, rather than a planning and delivery shortcoming.

The same is true for Cambodia, were IPLC grant implementation difficulties were compounded changes in government which led to shifting priorities and associated delays in the delivery of activities. Similar circumstances (i.e. elections and/or change of government machinery), which are outside of UDP's control, also account for the delays to activities in Indonesia and Viet Nam. Again, we believe these should be seen as an example of UNDP's adaptability and flexibility, and their desire to align support to the countries' needs and priorities, as opposed to a lack on reliability on their part. In the Republic of Congo, delays are due to insufficient funding to distribute the product created with Defra support, meaning these can't be shared which renders this deliverable incomplete.

Ultimately, the dynamics describe above will only result in a slight delay in implementation, rather than a missed target, and are expected to be made up during the remainder of the programme, with no additional costs. As such, we believe these should be interpreted as normal programme milestones adjustments, which should however not have a bearing on the marking of UNDP's performance, with final targets still expected to be fully met. This judgement is compounded by Defra's direct experience of UNDP's work, where field visits undertaken in Ecuador in 2022, and in Viet Nam and Cambodia in 2023, clearly showed the quality of their work and the extremely positive reception of the interventions, both by stakeholders and the partner governments.

Taking into account all of the above elements, we are confident of the strong delivery and programme management undertaken by UNDP and recommend a score of an 'A' to reflect the work undertaken to date, and efforts to keep this on track to ultimately deliver the programme's objective.

No-cost extension

In September 2024 Defra commenced the process to grant a six month no-cost extension to the Climate Promise programme, to take it to an end date of September 2025, instead of the original date of March 25. The programme funds are broadly on track to be used as originally scheduled, by March

25, but some of the Defra supported countries will need additional time to implement the grants to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) which have been awarded in four countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya and Cambodia.

These grants are structured around fixed one-year cycles, with a portion of the payments tied to completion of work at the end of the cycle. The grant award process is lengthy, with hundreds of bids received by the review committees, which has to adapt timetables to allow full participation of all members which includes indigenous representatives from remote communities. As a result of this, delays have been experienced in completing delivery of some of the 51 grants to IPLCs in the original timeline, specifically the second round of grants in Ecuador and Colombia. This is due to requests from IPLC representatives participating in the selection committees for more time to review the proposals.

Additionally, political and administrative changes in several Defra supported countries caused delays in Cambodia, Ecuador, and Liberia, as well as delays in Viet Nam with the rollout of an anti-corruption initiative that paused all international interventions in the country for review.

UNDP developed a combined work programme to implement activities funded by Defra's second and third voluntary contributions totalling £6 million, budgeting and implementing these as a single tranche of funding. This means that delays on activities have a knock-on effect and can't be made up by accelerating work in light of the fixed nature of grant cycles. No further Defra contributions are expected to the Climate Promise, although it is worth noting that the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has now also started to fund the initiative, currently with a different focus on contributing to the 'Increasing ambition' pillar of work.

E2. Assess the VfM of this output compared to the proposition in the Business Case, based on performance over the past year

A value for money assessment identifies whether the costs of the programme are proportional to the benefits achieved in terms of reaching the programme's desired outcomes and objectives derived from the business case. The assessment uses the 4Es approach. These are economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity, and are described below:

- *Economy* - Are we (or our agents) buying inputs of the appropriate quality at the right price?
- *Efficiency* - How well are we (or our agents) converting inputs into outputs? ('Spending well')
- *Effectiveness* - How well are the outputs produced by an intervention having the intended effect? ('Spending wisely')
- *Equity* - How fairly are the benefits distributed? To what extent will we reach marginalised groups? ("spending fairly")

Assessment of the programme's Value for Money:

At present there is no evidence that the economic arguments for funding Climate Promise have changed significantly since Business Case approval with current results indicating that Defra's funding represents value for money. 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. Inclusivity and gender responsiveness were identified as key strengths in the original design of Climate Promise. However, there are emerging concerns around how well this has translated into practice.

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. Of the £9m contributed, £1,677,000 is allocated to programme management (£927,000) and General management and UN levy (£750,000).

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 good value for money.

Efficiency:

43% of Output indicators from the logframe have either met or exceeded their target, with this year's progress indicating that efficiency has fallen compared to the assessment in the business case. To caveat, this figure slightly underestimates progress by the programme as Output Indicators 1.2.2 and 3.1.1 achieved their final milestones in 2023 and therefore aren't included in the above statistic. It is possible that efficiency may be on target with the original business case assessment if final output indicators can be achieved by the end of the programme.

Effectiveness:

To date, 50% of Outcome indicators in the logframe have been met or exceeded, indicating that progress by the programme has stalled over the last year. Given a similar proportion of Outcome and Output indicators have been achieved, this suggests effectiveness is in line with estimations in the business case. Outcome indicator 5.1 (ICF KPI 17) indicates that Defra funding of Climate Promise has resulted in 13,126 hectares being under sustainable management practices. Recent estimates drawn from the Ecosystem Services Valuation Database suggest the global average value of ecosystem services provided by a hectare of land is £17,586[2]. Restoration and protection of ecosystems can improve their functioning and ensure they provide ecosystem services closer to their full value. If we assume that the sustainable land management practices have resulted in the ecosystem's condition improving from providing 50% of ecosystem service value to 75%, for Defra's £9 million contribution to Climate Promise to break-even only 2,047 hectares need to be under sustainable management practices. Although we do not have data from Climate Promise supporting the suggested improvement in ecosystem service value used in this analysis, considering the estimated break-even figure of 2,047 hectares is considerably less than the 13,126 hectares achieved, this provides confidence that Defra funding represents value-for money.

Equity:

Inclusivity and gender responsiveness were identified as key strengths in the original design of the Climate Promise programme, with *'Lasting Inclusivity'* established as one of the five core outcomes in the programme's logframe. 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.

Despite the strong design of the programme, progress has slowed against outcome indicator 3.1 this reporting year, with zero of the three expected countries achieving the targets. This indicator 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. It is important to recognise that gender parity was considered as a key element of the decision-making process for the grant selection committees, as well as for the grants themselves, prioritising women-led initiatives with strong gender results particularly in Colombia and Kenya. In Colombia, contributions to inclusive gender focused climate action was even featured in a publication. This rigorous approach has meant the roll out of the grants has been slightly delayed compared to the originally envisaged timeframes, which has resulted in neither of the two output indicators related to this outcome being achieved this year.

It is, however, essential that recommendations from the mid-term review and previous annual review are actioned, and future reporting directly address gaps in implementation and monitoring. This includes data disaggregation of beneficiaries and land tenure, as well as evidencing how Climate Promise delivers changes in institutional and policy processes around climate change to make them more inclusive and gender responsive. Strengthening how equity-related outcomes are delivered, measured, and reported will be critical to maintaining the integrity of the programme's inclusive design and ensuring meaningful participation of marginalised groups moving forward.

[2] Ecosystem Services Valuation Database (ESVD) figures are adjusted to 2025/26 GBP prices using HMG GDP deflators and World Bank purchasing power parity conversion factors. This excludes ecosystem services linked to climate regulation (as HMG values carbon savings differently to the ESVD) and also excludes the following biomes: intensive land use, anthropogenic systems, urban green and blue infrastructure

Annex 1: Previous annual review recommendations

No.	Description	Owner	Deadline	Status
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	In progress – further recommendation included in this annual review.
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	Delivered
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	Delivered
4	Expand information contained on the programme Donor Dashboard, to include country-specific risk analysis and monitoring.	UNDP	December 2024	In progress – further recommendation included in this annual review.
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	Delivered
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	In progress – further recommendation included in this annual review.

Annex 2: Theory of Change

Activities

- Review, and analyse key information and legal/data gaps to provide technical inputs, recommendations and priorities of action.
- Assess, develop and validate strategies, frameworks, plans and technical documents, and support their implementation and operationalisation.
- Hold training sessions, events and workshops with government partners/stakeholders, to build capacities and strengthen technical skills.
- Identify successful practices and lessons learned, develop communication materials/knowledge products, and carry out dissemination activities.
- 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
- Provide low value grants to IPLC to strengthen NDC implementation through the LULUCF sector.

Outputs

- Output 1.1: Institutional capacities and whole-of government coordination mechanisms are strengthened to support effective, gender-responsive and inclusive NDC implementation processes
- 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
- Output 1.3: Data and transparency systems and processes for the Enhanced Transparency Framework established or strengthened to measure the achievement of NDC targets
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Output 5.2: Enhanced rights and sustainable livelihoods for people

Outcomes

- **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
- **Outcome 2 - Amplifying Ambition** Countries have established long-term net-zero and climate resilient development pathways aligned with the goals of the Paris Agreement
- **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
- **Outcome 4 – International Engagement** Regional and global awareness, advocacy, and partnerships are strengthened to contribute to enhanced NDC and LTS ambition
- **Outcome 5 – Nature and People** Nature and ecosystems are protected, restored and sustainably managed, and support people's livelihoods

Impact

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

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 – There was an evaluation of safeguard compliance for the ART-TREE and JNR Jurisdictional Approaches, complementing the SIS work and work to operationalise the Nesting System. In 2024, national capacities on UNDP's Performance-Based Payments (PBP) and GCF's Result-Based Payment (RBP) Policy were strengthened through webinars and briefings by the engaged REDD+ Secretariat and the GCF National Designated Authority of Cambodia.

These sessions covered updates from the GCF Board meetings on RBP-related decisions, including the RBP Policy negotiations. Additionally, a South-South Exchange focused on PBP and RBP implementation in GCF REDD+ RBP projects was held in Indonesia in September and October, following a request from the Cambodian REDD+ Secretariat. These efforts resulted in Cambodia planning to submit a RBP funding proposal to the GCF in 2025, with UNDP selected as the Accredited Entity.

Changes in Government led to a change in the focus of this activity. Instead of strengthening the REDD+ taskforce only, efforts were focused on strengthening government's internal consultation processes and institutional arrangements. This support led to the establishment of a Carbon Crediting Secretariat, alongside the REDD+ Secretariat, as well as an inter-ministerial Ad Hoc Working Group for Carbon Markets. Both entities have a strong presence of the FOLU sector component. The support to Government in this area also helped to advance greater transparency and accountability in REDD+ implementation.

Outcome 3 - Work is in progress to implement and promote the SIS operational process of the REDD+ Safeguards. This work is anticipated to be completed by mid-2025 and will serve as a crucial component of Cambodia's RBP funding proposal to the GCF. On IP grants, all five grantees' have made steady progress against planned activities, including restoration efforts, improving the management of Community Forest and Community Protected Areas, demarcation of indigenous land areas, and formalisation of land tenure.

There were a number of notable achievements for the IP grant projects in 2024. Six of the 20 grants have closed upon completion of key activities. Most notable achievements from grantee projects in 2024 include over 10 hectares of land restored, sustainable cultivation techniques combined with biodiversity conservation promoted, and 100s of women and youth trained in environmental governance and ecosystems management.

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. Development of a document for the "Interpretation of the Cancun Safeguards and Their Adaptation in Colombia within the REDD+ Framework from an Indigenous Peoples' Perspective", presenting an approach to interpreting the Cancun safeguards and adapting them in Colombia within the REDD+ framework, specifically from the perspective of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, which can serve as a guide for consultation processes where needed, including consultations for Colombia's upcoming NDC update.

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 – As a direct result of Defra support, a Carbon Markets Bureau was established strengthening institutional arrangements for Carbon Market engagement. There are also plans to develop a national Carbon Markets Strategy. UNDP is now working closely with the newly established Carbon Markets Bureau to initiate work on this strategy (as it falls under their purview), however, they have been experiencing delays. Further discussions will take place with the Bureau in early 2025 on the objective of the Strategy.

In 2025, Cote D'Ivoire aims to build the capacity of selected stakeholders on carbon markets. This training will be directly linked to the national carbon markets strategy and thus will take place once the strategy has been drafted.

Outcome 3 - Developed a National Carbon Registry, the Government is now working to have the Register hosted on a public website.

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 Cero 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). This product includes recommendations for a technical standard scheme and a ministerial agreement for the Ecuador Zero Carbon Program (PECC) targeting decentralised autonomous governments. These recommendations have been integrated during the revision of the technical regulations of the PECC, which are linked to the implementation of Transitory Disposition No. 2, as outlined in Ministerial Agreement 053 titled "Technical Regulations for the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Compensation Scheme of Ecuador.

The Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition (MAATE) has been supported to identify potential incentives to facilitate Decentralised Autonomous Government (GAD) implementing local climate action (by aligning with national climate policies). In 2025, Ecuador plans to further build on this support and operationalise PECC into GADs by; 1. Encouraging GAD to adopt organisational scope at levels 1 and 2 of the PECC as a strategic line, 2. Standardising processes between GADs and MAATE in accordance with the proposed methodology, 3) Providing specific technical assistance to GADs through the dissemination of tools for integrating climate change criteria into PDOT and the results of the "Incentive Scheme Design."

Outcome 2 - The Ministry of Environment technically approved the second NDC in November with the Interinstitutional Climate Change Committee in Ecuador. This technical validation includes mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation, lost and damage components and REDD+. In lead up to this, the scenarios and models of the mitigation and adaptation components supported by UNDP have been approved by the Interinstitutional Climate Change Committee in November. A specific workshop with IPLC was also conducted in Cayambe to continue the intercultural methodology approach for the second (2025) NDC, resulting in the analysis of opportunities and risks for IPLCs.

Outcome 3 - All IP grants have implemented a number of activities in 2024, including the improvement of 2 kilometres of trail for tourism activities designed to cultivate cultural richness and protect resources, advancing on the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), implementing land-use planning instruments and bylaws to prevent encroachment, and restoration of degraded land. A total of 5,283 hectares of forest are also now under conservation in the Guacamayos organisation territory thanks to a joint intervention between Socio Bosque Project and Climate Promise.

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 operationalising 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 - With plans to strengthen the system monitoring the FoLU Net Sink 2030 target in 2025, In 2024, a series of technical discussions were organised with stakeholders to maintain momentum and prepare for the integration of the additional features to the monitoring system.

With the new Government now in place, implementation of the two planned interventions under this indicator will take place in 2025. Namely, a study/assessment of a potential cap setting policy in Indonesia and sensitisation efforts with key national stakeholders on the newly formulated NDC.

Outcome 3 - Engagement with youth on climate action and FOLU Net Sink was initiated and will continue into 2025. A Folu Net Sink Awareness and Essay competition targeting youth was conducted and over 200 youth took part in a national event titled: ""Forest Ecosystem Conservation for Achieving FoLU Net Sink Targets Through a Cultural Approach". The event emphasised the role of regenerative tourism in advancing forest conservation and empowering local communities. Bali's Karangasem Regency was spotlighted as a model for integrating cultural preservation and sustainable tourism to support FoLU Net Sink goals

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 operationalise Article 6 and VCMs and to improve the national carbon markets regulatory framework.

Activities

Outcome 1 - UNDP provided technical inputs to support the Government in finalising the Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulation. UNDP with DEFRA support then went on to conduct a regulatory Impact Assessment. The assessment concluded that Kenya should adopt the regulations as they provide regulatory clarity and increased investor confidence in the business environment for carbon project development in Kenya. Thus, the regulation would raise business revenues from enhanced participation in the carbon markets. In addition, it argues that due to the existence of carbon project checks and balances in the regulation, there will be an increase in environmental and social integrity of carbon credits emanating from Kenya in the global market, thus increasing their attractiveness to buyers.

Outcome 3 - A majority of the second cohort of IP and Local Community grant projects ended in 2024, having successfully met their targets as specified in their respective workplans. Only 2 grantee projects extended to 2025. Grantee projects in 2024 introduced a number of community led governance structures to improve forest management. Projects also successfully restored over 500 hectares of forest and trained over 1000 people in Climate Smart Agriculture.

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 analyse opportunities to expand their Urban Green Corridor and prioritise restoration in cities which are key components of their NDC. 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 - The Forestry Policy & Implementation Plan has been reviewed and validated internally by the Forest Development Authority's technical team. Carbon readiness gap assessment report was finalised, validated and submitted to the government.

An analysis assessing the barriers for accessing result-based payments from REDD+ was successfully conducted and can now be used by stakeholders in decision making processes.

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 centralisation.

Activities

Outcome 1 - Equipment was procured and handed over to CNIAF (Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement Forestier) to strengthen the MRV systems of the centre.

Outcome 3 - Communication materials, such as kakemonos and leaflets with important messages to encourage and challenge the public perception of climate and the environment were developed. Due to insufficient funding the materials are yet to be widely distributed. There are plans to use other partner funding to distribute the materials in 2025.

Viet Nam

Background

Viet Nam 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. Viet Nam has ongoing activities under the Climate Promise and has requested for additional support to build on this ongoing work. Viet Nam 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 - Extensive work was conducted in 2024 to assess the role of LULUCF in Viet Nam's carbon markets. A report identifying legal gaps to regulate LULUCF carbon projects (such as Payments for Ecosystem Services), and to manage carbon revenues was finalised. There was also an assessment on the applicability of carbon projects under the requirements of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and Viet Nam's NDC. The assessment led to the drafting of a circular detailing procedures for the transition of CDM projects to the Article 6 mechanism, and registration of new projects under the Article 6.4 mechanism. A separate study also assessed the potential of emission reduction and removal activities in LULUCF in Viet Nam, linking them to the potential carbon market activities and application standards. The report proposed the criteria for incorporating LULUCF mitigation activities into Article 6.2 and as well as institutional arrangement for Article 6.2 implementation for LULUCF. The Forest Carbon Question and Answer Handbook was also developed and will help to raise awareness and build capacity among national stakeholders on forest carbon in Viet Nam.

A guideline/methodology document for mangrove carbon measurement was developed (to enable the implementation of Circular on GHG Inventory and Measurement, Reporting and Verification of GHG reduction in the forestry sector). The Government formally endorsed the final version of the document after publicly publishing it on the Department of Forestry website to seek expert opinions and conducting a consultative meeting.