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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX V**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Annual Action Plan for Planet (Global Challenges) for 2021

**Action Document for Global information on forests and biodiversity for better implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework**

**ANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1. SYNOPSIS

### 1.1. Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title</b> <b>CRIS/OPSYS</b> <b>business reference</b> <b>Basic Act</b>	Global information on forests and biodiversity for better implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework CRIS number: 2021/043-400 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action is global.
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multiannual Indicative Programme for Global Challenges 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results</b>	This action contributes to the MIP Global Challenges 2021-2027 priority area 2 (Planet), specific objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management), expected results 1, 2 and 3.
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Priority Area 2 (Planet): 410 – General environment protection 312 – Forestry
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: SDG 15 (Life on Land) Other significant SDGs: SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate change), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 5 (Gender), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 16 (Peace and justice)

<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	31210 - Forestry policy and administrative management, 36% 41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management, 36% 41082 - Environmental research, 28%			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	Donor Government (project via EAC, JRC, ...) - 11000 Third Country Government (Delegated co-operation) – 13000 United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN) - 41000			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line: BGUE-B2021-14.020241-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 11,000,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 11,000,000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management - administrative arrangement with JRC (EUR 3 M) Indirect management with an international organization and/or member state agency (EUR 4 M) and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (EUR 4 M )			

## 1.2. Summary of the Action

The action will support the European Green Deal<sup>1</sup>, in particular the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030<sup>2</sup>, the EU Forest Strategy for 2030<sup>3</sup> and legislative measures to curb commodity-driven deforestation and forest degradation linked to EU consumption. At international level, it supports the implementation of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that will be endorsed at the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15). It contributes to SDG goals 15, 14, 13, 12, 5, 8 and 16 and the Planet, Peace and Prosperity components of the new European Consensus on Development. Sectors of intervention include general environment protection (DAC Code 410) and forestry (DAC Code 312). More specifically, it contributes to implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Forest Partnerships, and the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking<sup>4</sup>.

This action contributes to the MIP Global Challenges 2021-2027 priority area 2 (Planet), specific objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management), expected results 1, 2 and 3. The overall objective of the action is to enhance the conservation, sustainable management and use of forests and natural ecosystems and their contribution to poverty alleviation, security and stability. The action is built on two pillars corresponding to the following specific objectives:

1. More effective implementation of CBD COP-15 decisions. The specific activity area will be capacity-building to support transposing of GBF targets in national strategies.

2. Improved knowledge on the state, management, use, pressures and responses of forest resources, ecosystem services and biodiversity. The specific activity areas are: 2a) support to the Global Forest Resources Assessment, as a global reference database on forest resources, their management and use, 2b) support to the global component of the EU Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity.

<sup>1</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:b828d165-1c22-11ea-8c1f-01aa75ed71a1.0002.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<sup>2</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<sup>3</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:0d918e07-e610-11eb-a1a5-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC\\_1&format=PDF](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:0d918e07-e610-11eb-a1a5-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF)

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/WAP\\_EN\\_WEB.PDF](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/cites/pdf/WAP_EN_WEB.PDF)

#### Indicative results:

- 1) Improved capacities for implementing the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
- 2) Enhanced capacity and awareness of decision-makers and practitioners on effective management of forests, natural resources and biodiversity.

The geographic focus of the action is global by nature. All actions contribute to “localise the global agenda of biodiversity and forests”. Key stakeholders include public institutions in charge of natural resource management, conservation, civil society and humanitarian aid organisations, scientific community, private sector, EU and MS. The ultimate beneficiaries are the local communities living from forest and biodiversity resources.

Component 1 and 2a will be implemented via indirect management with International Organisations and/or member state agencies. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) will implement action 2b under an administrative arrangement.

## 2. RATIONALE

### 2.1. Context

The action will support the European Green Deal, in particular the EU Biodiversity strategy for 2030, the EU Forest Strategy and legislative measures to curb commodity-driven deforestation and forest degradation linked to EU consumption. At international level, it supports the implementation of the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that will be endorsed at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15). It contributes to SDG goals 15, 14, 13, 12, 5, 8 and 16 and the Planet, Peace and Prosperity components of the new European Consensus on Development. More specifically, it contributes to implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Forest Partnerships, the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking and the priorities identified in the reference documents “Larger than elephants”, “Larger than tigers” and “Larger than Jaguars”.

This action is particularly in line with the flagship initiative of the European Union Biodiversity for Life (B4Life), which contributes to halt the loss of biodiversity and reduce poverty by advocating a transversal and innovative approach that integrates the biodiversity and ecosystem conservation for socio-economic development and poverty eradication.

The action is also linked to the EU Gender Action Plan III (GAP III) and more particularly to its thematic policy area “Advancing equal participation and leadership”, in particular its specific objective 1 “Enabling conditions created for equal participation of women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, in decision-making”. The Action also aligns with the overall thematic objective “Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions”, under the thematic policy area “Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation”.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) have been developed by most partner countries as the main instrument for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Conference of the Parties also urges countries to develop regional biodiversity strategies and action plans to complement and support national actions. The Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework in Kunming, which will serve as a springboard towards the 2050 vision of “Living in harmony with nature”. Furthermore, Nature-Based Solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation are increasingly being included in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) submitted by partner countries to the UNFCCC. These instruments are accompanied by gender strategies, action plans and guidelines (e.g. NDC Partnership Gender Strategy September 2019<sup>5</sup>, the UNFCCC enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan<sup>6</sup>, the renewed CBD Gender Action Plan<sup>7</sup> and the guidelines on “Integrating Gender Considerations in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans”) and orient the initiatives and efforts taken in this field.

<sup>5</sup> <https://ndcpartnership.org/sites/default/files/NDC%20Partnership%20Gender%20Strategy%202019.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/gender/the-big-picture/introduction-to-gender-and-climate-change/the-gender-action-plan-1>

<sup>7</sup> [https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CBD.SBI\\_3.4.Add\\_2-%E2%80%93-Draft-outline-of-a-post-2020-gender-plan-of-action.pdf](https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CBD.SBI_3.4.Add_2-%E2%80%93-Draft-outline-of-a-post-2020-gender-plan-of-action.pdf)

## 2.2. Problem Analysis

### *Short problem analysis:*

Despite global efforts and progress, the world's forests and biodiversity remain in immediate and increasing danger. The global population of wild species has fallen by 68% in the last 40 years and 1 million species are currently at risk of extinction. Over 60% of major marine ecosystems are degraded, suffering from over-exploitation, habitat destruction and pollution. The annual rate of deforestation was estimated at 10 million ha over the 5-year period from 2015 to 2020 (driven mainly by agricultural expansion), leading to significant loss of biodiversity, increased CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and decreased ecosystem resilience. At the same time, the demand for forest and agricultural products as well as ecosystem services is growing, with increased pressure on natural resources and increasingly powerful criminal networks involved in trafficking and illegal trade, in particular from China. It is estimated that the global demand for wood-based products will further increase from 2 billion m<sup>3</sup> in 2019 (roundwood equivalent) to 2.5 billion m<sup>3</sup> by 2030. This demand is already largely sourced from plantations. It is critical to monitor deforestation as well as remaining natural forest resources and new restoration and plantation development. There is also a need to establish linkages between the data on production of timber and non-timber products and their source areas.

During its fifteenth meeting (COP 15, split between October 2021 and April 2022), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is set to adopt an ambitious and far-reaching post-2020 global biodiversity framework in view of making our economies and societies “nature-positive” by 2030 and achieve the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”. Taking stock of 10 years of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 of the CBD, the fifth Global Biodiversity Outlook (UNEP, 2020) concluded that none of the 20 Aichi targets had been fully achieved, with only six targets partially achieved. Global efforts under the Convention have been largely insufficient so far, especially regarding monitoring and implementation at country level, but also in terms of integration of biodiversity within all spheres of society and our economies as part of sustainable development models. The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, a pillar of the European Green Deal and a very ambitious internal and external roadmap, proposes to “lead all efforts” at CBD and to support governments and stakeholders across the globe to significantly step up their ambition and their action. The urgency of reaching an ambitious global agreement at COP-15, backed up by strong monitoring and review mechanisms and means of implementation, is part of the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature (LPN) endorsed by 89 heads of state and government so far (including the EU and most of its member states). The LPN puts particular emphasis on linking the different strands of action to address nature degradation, including better synergies between climate and biodiversity tracking and financing. In particular, the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-5) pointed, inter alia, the need for more cross-sectorial approaches to biodiversity governance, need for targets more aligned to “SMART” principles, and the need to promote future national biodiversity commitments more aligned with the goals and targets of the global framework and of policies with direct impact on nature (cf NDCs for climate). Significant additional support is needed to complement existing actions in order to help materialize a much needed strengthened monitoring and review mechanism for the implementation of the post-2020 GBF.

Concern over the increasing burden on countries to report to international and regional bodies and instruments and, consequently, the need for harmonizing and streamlining reporting has been expressed throughout the UN system and in many regional and international fora. Forest-related reporting is not exempt from this problem, with the vast majority of countries having specific reporting requirements to Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the UNFCCC, the CBD and the UNFF. However, most developing countries have limited capacity to monitor and report on their forest resources. This lack of information limits the effectiveness of national policies and operational actions that should be information-based and directed toward enhancing future forest values. A lack of global data restricts the understanding of global forest trends that can and should be addressed by the international community. Finally, a lack of reliable global data on forest resources beyond merely forest area masks important changes that are often ignored – yet are vitally important (management plan status, ownership...). There is a persistent urgent need for increasing capacities in developing countries for forest assessment, monitoring and reporting following a common framework and internationally agreed reporting methodology.

The need for transparent, scientifically validated, global reference information on biodiversity and ecosystem services has never been so urgent to support global policies (Convention on Biological Diversity, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) as well as EU services with global activities (DGs INTPA, EEAS, TRADE, ...). There is currently a proliferation of independent initiatives bringing together a large variety of global datasets to address the challenges linked to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This proliferation

is largely due to the increased access to earth observations and to the need of bringing together many datasets considering the transversal nature of the issues driving biodiversity loss.

Gender issues in relation to biodiversity relate to gender roles and gender relations on the use, management and conservation of biodiversity. Gender roles of women and men include different labour responsibilities, priorities, decision-making power, and knowledge, which affect how women and men use and manage biological resources. The revised draft outline of a CBD Gender Plan of Action for the post-2020 period takes into account the challenges, in particular: a) women's and girls equal access to, ownership and control over biodiversity and ecosystem services and associated economic resources and services; b) ensuring that women and girls benefit equally from nature and biodiversity; c) taking into account the perspectives, interests and needs of women and girls in biodiversity policies, planning and programming. The outline further addresses the need to share and manage knowledge of the gender dimensions of biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use.<sup>8</sup>

*Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:*

Support to the implementation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework and improved knowledge on global forests and biodiversity will benefit a wide range of people and institutions in targeted countries and regions. The results of the action will particularly benefit the following groups of people and institutions:

- The heads of national institutions in charge of the sustainable management of natural resources and the sustainable development of populations (as duty-bearers with the obligation to respect, protect and realise the human rights of the rights-holders). This includes the institutions responsible for reporting information to the Rio conventions and other international science policy initiatives;
- International organizations (including multilateral environmental conventions) and communities of financial partners.
  - Universities, research centres and individual scientists responsible for collecting and analysing information on tropical ecosystems. This includes other international initiatives that integrate the information available on these ecosystems;
  - Civil society actors, including civil society organizations defending the rights of indigenous peoples, forest communities, smallholders and land users, women's rights, gender equality, professional organizations;
- The ultimate beneficiaries (rights holders) are the inhabitants of regions where forests and high value ecosystems are found, with specific attention given to populations in vulnerable situations and to certain categories of society (women, indigenous populations, etc.).

During project formulation by implementing partners, the range of stakeholders and beneficiaries will be further refined, particularly at the level of beneficiary countries. Where appropriate, multi-stakeholder platforms will be promoted, as well as the use of inclusive, participatory and gender-sensitive processes. Particular attention will be paid to the integration of women, in particular in order to achieve their real participation throughout the process of change planned for the sustainable management of natural resources.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to enhance the conservation, sustainable management and use of forests and natural ecosystems and their contribution to poverty alleviation, security and stability.

The **Specific Objectives** of this action are:

**SO 1:** More effective implementation of CBD COP-15 decisions

<sup>8</sup> [https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CBD.SBI\\_3.4.Add\\_2-%E2%80%93-Draft-outline-of-a-post-2020-gender-plan-of-action.pdf](https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/CBD.SBI_3.4.Add_2-%E2%80%93-Draft-outline-of-a-post-2020-gender-plan-of-action.pdf)

**SO 2:** Improved knowledge on the state, management, use, pressures and responses of forest resources, ecosystem services and biodiversity.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are

- **Output 1.1:** Improved capacities for implementing the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,
- **Output 2.1:** Enhanced capacity and awareness of decision-makers and practitioners on effective management of forests, natural resources and biodiversity.

### 3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

- Indicative activities to be confirmed for Component 1 will identify, complement, build on and when relevant scale up existing programs, projects and actions by EU, EU MS and other donors in order to maximise added value, and could include the following:
  - Provide capacity-building for implementing the GBF and reporting to the CBD;
  - To analyse consistency between national/local legislations and the targets of the GBF;
  - Identify the barriers to implementation and/or enforcement of laws;
  - Provide recommendations for legal/regulatory reforms;
  - Enhance consistency with other national strategies such as NDCs.

Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Component 2a (FAO Forest Resource Assessment):
  - Ensure enhanced country participation and reporting to FRA and transparent dissemination of results
  - Harmonisation and streamlining of country reporting
  - Further improvement of digital tools for reporting and dissemination
  - Multidimensional, tailored capacity-building activities for the different FRA stakeholders, with focus on countries with weak Forest Resource Information systems, and particular emphasis on gender equality with regard to access to training
  - Remote sensing capacity development and studies in partner countries with weak forest resource information systems
  - National networking and partnerships among different government agencies, NGOs, private sector, aimed at delivering higher quality data for national and international use
- Component 2b (Global Biodiversity Knowledge Platform):
  - Identification and selection of main products, indicators and services required as well as their providers
  - Design and development of a governance model of the reference platform that will involve a number of major actors (UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, UNSTAT, IUCN, Birdlife, GEO-BON, GBIF, JRC, ...)
  - Development and deployment of services underpinning the automatic production, update and distribution of the key products.
  - Identification of alternative products and services in absence of international agreements
  - Establish and/or strengthen collaboration and exchanges between the global platform and regional centres and institutions.
  - Where required, capacity building activities for the use of the products and services that are affordable, accessible, adapted and of quality for all.

### 3.3. Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required. The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment). The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

The main objective of the action focuses on biodiversity (Rio Marker 1) and aid to environment (DAC Marker). Although climate mitigation and adaptation are not the primary objective of the action, it will provide information on

nature-based solutions and support the global reference assessment on the state of global forests, including links with the UNFCCC (Rio Marker 1).

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### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. Women are generally key players in the exploitation of natural resources and are considered to be one of the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The full integration of women as actors and beneficiaries and the promotion of gender mainstreaming will be reflected in the procedures and practices of implementing agencies, including those of partner international organizations. Gender awareness will be enhanced by promoting gender balance issues among target groups and beneficiaries responsible for the implementation of the project.

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### **Human Rights**

Human rights-based approach and its key principles (a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data) will be integrated throughout the action. Particular focus will be given to inclusive policies targeting women and persons living in vulnerable situations such as indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. A specific attention should be given to the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for indigenous peoples and their involvement in the protection of forests and biodiversity, which are often related to the territories where they live or that they traditionally occupy and use; while biodiversity would be integral part of their culture and livelihoods.

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### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that the action is not considered relevant for the inclusion of people with disabilities.

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### **Democracy**

The action is expected to support the provision of reference and transparent information on forests and biodiversity, necessary for the development of evidence-based policy-making. Support to CBD implementation will contribute to the development of participatory governance. As such, it will promote stronger and more accountable democratic processes in the targeted areas.

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### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

The action intends to monitor and promote sustainable and inclusive natural resources management, an important underlying factor for peace and stability. Do No Harm implications, in particular regarding natural resource management, should be considered in line with other cross-cutting issues such as inter-communal conflicts, human rights, environmental and social impacts as well as repercussions on illicit and/or conflict economies. Biodiversity has a direct link with peace and security, notably through the wildlife-security nexus, as highlighted by a recent EU study (<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/53ed0515-de76-11e9-9c4e-01aa75ed71a1>).

The further development of individual components may include a specific focus on links with peace and security issues and related Do-No-Harm risks.

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### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

The action intends to monitor and promote the implementation of sustainable forest management and nature-based solutions. This contributes to efforts for climate mitigation and adaptation and reduction of natural disasters that may arise in consequence.

## **3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>



1 – External environment	The political instability, or factors such as COVID-19, in some countries do not allow the conduct of face-to-face capacity development, data collection campaigns or field studies, for the themes identified.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	National experts from the countries concerned can be trained through virtual modalities and the Action is based on collaboration with organizations with proven experience in the regions concerned. Alternative measures to field campaigns will be used when they are not possible, such as support with remote sensing studies.
2 – Planning, processes and systems	Scientific data generated, collected and disseminated suffers from a lack of compatibility and consistency which prevents their exchange and use in decision-making processes	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>	Emphasis will be placed on data exchange, consistency and interoperability, which has been a major focus of environmental research for the past ten years and has shown remarkable progress. A consistent methodology is applied, including capacity-building activities for the use of the methodology.
2 – Planning, processes and systems	Inaccurate or incomplete reporting leads to misleading conclusions on forest cover assessments or fail to explain convincingly e.g. significant differences between various information sources on forest cover and forest land.	<b>High</b>	<b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The capacity development on and use of free and open-source tools and software will provide equal opportunities for forest resources assessment, enhance completeness and quality of reported data and facilitate collection of data using standard definitions. This includes extensive use of the Open Foris Collect Earth on-line tool for simple forest area sampling and analysis.</li> <li>- Collaboration with JRC will improve the extent of remote sensing analysis and forest information products and capacity building through continuation of collaborative activities.</li> </ul>
3 – People and the organization	Countries do not have the capacity to measure, track over time and report forest cover and/or forestland and lack gender disaggregated data	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This proposal seeks to assist countries build capacity in order to undertake improved reporting, with focus on promoting gender-disaggregated data when possible. Easy-to-use geospatial tools will be developed and made available to support countries to report on forests area its changes and other forest characteristics.</li> <li>- Countries could at least acknowledge and validate the data that they are provided with.</li> </ul>
4 – Legality and regularity aspects	The main challenge of the global biodiversity knowledge platform is to ensure it will operate with a UN mandate	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	In any case, JRC will be maintaining and enhancing its capacity to provide the required scientific and technical support on global biodiversity. The mandate regarding monitoring of the EU Biodiversity Strategy is already ensured at EU level.

#### **Lessons Learnt:**

The component on support to CBD COP-15 decisions will identify, complement, build on and when relevant scale up existing programs, projects and actions by EU, EU MS and other donors in order to maximise added value. It will also build on the lessons learnt over the last decade of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and in the implementation of the Convention more generally. In particular, the Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 (UNEP, 2020) pointed out, *inter alia*, the following lessons learned: (i) need for holistic approaches to planning and implementation, and greater interaction among government ministries, economic sectors and society generally; (ii) need to strengthen further the integration of gender, the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and the level of stakeholder

engagement; (iii) need to strengthen national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and associated planning processes, including their adoption as whole-of-government policy instruments; (iv) need to reduce time lags in planning and implementation of biodiversity strategies and action plans, and to account for unavoidable time lags in implementation; (v) need for increased ambition of national commitments, and for the regular and effective review of national activities; (vi) need for learning and adaptive management, including through greater efforts to facilitate technical and scientific cooperation, and to understand the reasons for the effectiveness or otherwise of policy measures; (vii) need for greater attention to implementation, and sustained and targeted support to countries.

The component to be implemented by FAO (FRA) will build on analysis and recommendations from the most recent external evaluations of previous phases of support from the EU. Earlier evaluations have concluded on high relevance of the programme and crucial role of the EU support. Previous phases have been well managed in terms of planning, implementation and reporting and have had an effective use of partnerships. The last evaluation report (2019) included, *inter alia*, the following recommendations:

- Continue the important work on integrating remote sensing into the FRA with primary focus on strengthening the use of remote sensing in countries with weak forest resource information (including by continuing close collaboration with the JRC)
- Adopt a more strategic approach to FRA- and National Forest Monitoring (NFM)-related capacity development jointly with the NFM team and move towards closer integration between these two teams to enhance both the quality and efficiency of information generation.
- Secure that gender disaggregated data is always collected in conducted training and workshops and reported for internal management as well as project annual reporting purposes.
- Improve data reliability through a two-pronged approach building on action to improve data accuracy and clarity on what FRA is actually reporting about and possible related data reliability issues.
- Start quickly strategic planning to reform, package and finance the entire FRA product and service towards a web-based portal in the coming years, based on the already initiated work.

The Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity is the eighth European Commission Knowledge Centre and the seventh to be launched under the leadership of the JRC. It adds to those on Bioeconomy, Global Food and Nutrition Security, Territorial Policies, Migration and Demography, Disaster Risk Management, Food Fraud and Quality, and Interpretation (led by the Directorate-General for Interpretation). JRC has been developing among the most cost effective platforms on global biodiversity and received formal recognition from the CBD secretariat for the excellence of its work. The Knowledge Centre intends to implement a whole-of-commission approach (multiple DGs involved, support from Copernicus services). Formal partnerships (NGOs are owning many key datasets) and joint developments with other organisations, in particular with UN bodies, are key for producing reference products and indicators.

### 3.5. The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that improved knowledge on the state of global forests and ecosystems, developed in synergy with the specificities and requirements of multilateral environmental agreements, is a precondition for adequate monitoring of their implementation and therefore of their success. Under the assumption of continued engagement of the international community in the CBD process and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, achievement of SO 1 (more effective implementation of COP-15 decisions) and SO2 (Improved knowledge on the state, use, pressures and responses of forests and biodiversity) is therefore expected to contribute in the long-term to the overall objective of the action to *enhance the conservation of forests and natural ecosystems and their contribution to poverty alleviation, security and stability*.

The indicative activities above-mentioned for component 1 (support to CBD COP-15 decisions) respond to the lack of alignment of national biodiversity commitments with the global CBD framework (which include the capacity to adapt tools and support in response of expressed developing country needs with regards to implementation of the future GBF) and insufficient cross-sectoral approach to biodiversity governance. The action proposes to support more consistency between national legislations and the GBF, more consistency between sectoral legislations and enhanced capacities to report to the CBD. Under the assumption of continued commitment of selected parties to the CBD, the achievement of activities to be developed in line with section 3.2 is therefore expected to contribute to output 1 (*Improved capacities for implementing the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework*).

The indicative activities above-mentioned for component 2a (FRA) respond to the problems highlighted in terms of increased reporting burden on countries, lack of monitoring capacities and need for data harmonization and streamlining. The Global Forest Resource Assessment of the FAO meets different needs of the diverse global forest data users: governments, non-governmental organizations, the media, intergovernmental agencies, academia, research institutions and the private sector. It helps shape policy; informs and encourages forest-related investment decisions by a wide range of actors, including governments, private companies, NGOs and donor organizations; and supports countries in reporting to the main forest-related processes, including the CBD, the UNFCCC, UNFF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the assumption of continued engagement of countries in the FRA process, the achievement of activities mentioned in section 3.2 is therefore expected to contribute to output 2.1 (*Enhanced capacity and awareness of decision-makers and practitioners on effective management of forests, natural resources and biodiversity*).

The indicative activities above-mentioned for component 2b (Global Biodiversity Knowledge Platform) respond to the problems highlighted in terms of proliferation of biodiversity datasets and need for scientifically validated, transparent, global reference to support global policies. The latest MoU signed between the EC and UNEP explicitly proposes JRC and UNEP-WCMC to jointly explore the possibility of setting up a global biodiversity knowledge platform (GBKP) which would be mandated to support global policies and deliver global products. It will be the core activity of the global biodiversity knowledge platform to identify, coordinate and orchestrate the production of the main information used by the conventions and countries to report on the progress to the targets set. Given the nature of these products (maps of protected areas, threatened species, carbon stocks, water surfaces, degraded land, but also conservation actions, agricultural pressures, ...), these will also be key for international agreements. Under the assumption of effective use of the evidence provided by the GBKP, the related activities mentioned in section 3.2 are therefore expected to contribute to output 2.1 (*Enhanced capacity and awareness of decision-makers and practitioners on effective management of forests, natural resources and biodiversity*).

### 3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

At action level, the indicative logframe should have a maximum of 10 expected results (Impact/Outcome(s)/Output(s)). It constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action. The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

## Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	<b>OO.</b> Enhance the conservation, sustainable management and use of forests and natural ecosystems and their contribution to poverty alleviation, security and stability.	1. Rate of net forest loss (ha) 2. Proportion of forest area under long-term management plan (ha) 3. Area of natural ecosystems reported in protected area or other effective conservation measures (%)	1. Net loss of 4,7 million ha per year (average 2010-2020) 2. 2,05 million ha in under management plans in 2020 3. 17% of terrestrial and 8% of marine areas (2021)	1. In line with SDG target 15.2, decrease towards zero net loss ("halt deforestation by 2020") 2. In line with SDG Target 15.2, increase by 2030 3. In line with COP-15 decision (tbc)	1. FRA 2. FRA 3. World Database on Protected Areas	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>SO 1.</b> More effective implementation of CBD COP-15 decisions.	1.1 Number of national policies reflecting GBF targets	0 (2021)	Tbd at contract stage	National reports to CBD Secretariat	Continued commitment of parties to the CBD
	<b>SO 2.</b> Improved knowledge on the state, use, pressures and responses of forests and biodiversity.	2.1 Proportion of forest area trend by quality Tiers (% of forest area) 2.2 Number of users accessing the global biodiversity knowledge platform	2.1 Tier 3 data available for 86% for forest area trend 2.2 0 (not yet established)	2.1 Increase of the proportion of data in higher Tiers 2.2 Tbd at contract stage	2.1 FRA 2.2 GBKP user analytics	Continued engagement of countries in the FRA and effective use of the GBKP
<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Output 1.1.</b> Improved capacities for implementing the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.	1.1.1 Number of persons trained for increased GBF implementation, incl. sex-disaggregation.	0 (2021)	Tbd at contract stage	Progress reports	Continued commitment of parties to the CBD
	<b>Output 2.1.</b> Enhanced capacity and awareness of decision-makers and practitioners on effective management of forests, natural resources and biodiversity.	2.1.1 Number of beneficiaries trained with increased knowledge and skills in forest monitoring and reporting, incl. sex-disaggregation 2.1.2 Proportion of targets of the global biodiversity framework with related open access and up-to-date indicators on the GBKP (%)	2.1.1 Ten countries received direct support for strengthening of FRA national networks/remote sensing in FRA 2020, sex-ratio tbd at inception 2.1.2 0 (post-2020 GBF to be adopted early 2022)	2.1.1 Ten additional countries received direct support for strengthening of FRA national networks and remote sensing, more balanced sex-ratio 2.1.2 Tbd after adoption of the GBF	2.1.1 Surveys with national correspondents, FAO regional forestry officers, CFRQ partners 2.1.2 GBKP open access data	Continued engagement of countries in the FRA and effective use of the GBKP

## 4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1. Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries.

### 4.2. Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3. Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>9</sup>.

#### 4.3.1. Direct Management

##### *4.3.1.1. Direct management by administrative arrangement with the JRC*

The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) will take the lead for implementation of component 2b, relating to the global component of the Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity (KBC).

As the European Commission's in house science service, the JRC has experience of managing several Knowledge Centres and has received the EU mandate to host and chair the KBC.

An administrative arrangement in direct management will enable the JRC to deploy the necessary administrative and technical staff at ISPRA to support the development and functioning of the global component of the KBC.

#### 4.3.2. Indirect Management with Member State organisations and/or international organisations

##### *4.3.2.1. Indirect management with an International Organisation and/or a Member State agency*

Due to the very particular nature of the GBF negotiations and priorities for implementation which will directly result from the final draft, particularly on reporting and monitoring, a part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (i) experience in supporting the CBD process; and (ii) technical competence to deliver on the activities detailed in section 3.2. Specific mandates related to the CBD monitoring and reporting process will be taken into account.

This implementation entails component 1 detailed in section 3, relating to support to the implementation of CBD COP-15 decisions.

The Commission may recognise costs incurred by the entrusted entity eligible as of 1 January 2022, provided there is a prior request for contribution by the entity, in order for the project to be fully operational ahead of CBD COP 15 (April 2021)

<sup>9</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

#### 4.3.2.2. *Indirect management with FAO*

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). This implementation entails component 2a detailed in section 3 (FRA), to contribute to well-informed and better decision-making related to forests and forestry based on comprehensive, timely and accurate information at a national and international level. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: FAO is the only body mandated to undertake such an assessment, with the technical competence and administrative power necessary for the implementation of this specific action. FAO has unique official access to virtually all countries and territories and works on the FRA under the umbrella of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) composed of the world's heads of forestry. FAO have the legitimate mandate on behalf of 194 member nations and COFO for undertaking an assessment of this nature. Whilst there are other public (e.g. <https://www.planet.com/nicfi/>), NGO and private (e.g. those based on Google Earth Engine technology) monitoring systems for global forest cover, official country data on forest area (among many other variables) are those reported to and published by the FAO Forestry Division's Global Forest Resources Assessment – including for reporting to the main forest-related processes, such as the CBD, the UNFCCC, UNFF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 15).

The FRA is part of the FAO forestry normative and core business and has been since 1946. Core resources have funded key staff and operational costs but there has always been a dependency on extra budgetary funding. FAO regularly seeks resource partners to assist-particularly in the areas of innovation and quality improvement. FAO investment in the FRA is approximately €4.5 million per cycle, primarily in the form of long term staff and limited operational support. The FRA long-term strategy notes the need to continue increasing core budget support from FAO, while improving efficiency to reduce the overall extent of external funding required. However, it is clear that FAO core resources are not increasing in real terms and that despite efficiency improvements and in-kind contributions by key partners, substantial improvements in national capacity building and innovation will require external funding for the foreseeable future.

In case the envisaged entities would need to be replaced, the Commission's services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified.

#### 4.3.3. Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

In the case that an agreement cannot be met with an international organisation or member state agency for the implementation of component 1 (implementation mode 4.3.2.1 above), or under any other circumstance outside of the Commission's control, the Commission may resort to direct management (grants or procurement) for the achievement of corresponding activities. In the case of a grant, the Commission will select an implementing partner based on its technical competence to deliver on the activities detailed in section 3.2.

#### 4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realization of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
<b>Support to implementation of COP-15 decisions</b> composed of	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>N.A.</b>
Indirect management - cf. section 4.3.2.1	4,000,000	N.A.
<b>Knowledge improvement and dissemination</b> composed of	<b>7,000,000</b>	<b>tbd</b>
Indirect management with FAO - cf. section 4.3.2.2	4,000,000	tbd
Direct management with the JRC – cf. section 4.3.1.1	3,000,000	
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	Included in the components	N.A.
<b>Contingencies</b> <sup>10</sup>	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	11,000,000	tbd

#### 4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Under each component, a Steering Committee will be established and will be responsible for the general oversight, policy guidance and monitoring of the programme. The Commission and the selected implementing partners are members of the Steering Committee. The main responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to: i) Provide strategic direction on the operations of the programmes; ii) Receive information and give feedback on monitoring and evaluation exercises with regard to progress in meeting the objectives; iii) Review and approve the annual progress and financial reports; iv) Review and approve forecast budgets and work plans; v) Provide guidance on operations.

For the component to be implemented by the FAO, the governance will build upon the framework of the FRA process and benefit from pre-existing management structures. The FRA has a Secretariat hosted at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The regular staff consist of a Senior Forestry Officer, three Forestry Officers and two support staff at HQ with a similar number of staff supported through extra-budgetary sources, including secondments. The FRA Secretariat also utilizes the assistance of the FAO network of regional and sub-regional officers and related staff at HQ. Three Project Officers as well as on short and long-term consultants will be hired for carrying out project activities. The Senior Forestry Officer is responsible for delivering all FRA-related products in accordance with the Long-Term Strategy. He reports to the Director of the FAO Forestry Division. The FRA draws upon expertise from across the FAO Forestry Division. In the context of the current FAO Strategic Framework there is also active cooperation across FAO, including Land and Water Division, Statistics Division and offices of Chief Statistician, Climate Change Biodiversity and Environment, Communication and Innovation.

Governance arrangements for the Global Biodiversity Knowledge Platform (GBKP) would include (1) a Steering Group, which must ensure the overall coherence of the work, support intergovernmental processes and respond to user needs to deliver the agenda. Convened by UNEP-WCMC, comprising of CBD Secretariat, IPBES Secretariat, UN Statistics Division, UNEP, FAO, UNDP and the European Commission. (2) A GBPK Infrastructure Committee would focus on how the platform is delivered. Terms of Reference to include the design, architecture and implementation of the digital infrastructure required to deliver the Knowledge Platform. Co-ordination of interoperability between the GBKP and SDG-related reporting, as well as global, national and non-state platforms following open data standards (FAIR principles). (3) A GBPK Data Investment Committee, in charge of addressing data gaps. Terms of Reference to include translating information from the GBF Monitoring Framework, the BIP, IPBES and other key groups that are assessing data gaps into actionable plans on how it could be addressed. (4) A GBPK Capacity Development Committee, in charge of supporting the development of institutional capacity to use biodiversity data in planning and implementation, and supporting strengthened reporting. Terms of Reference to include translating user feedback and capacity challenges into targeted capacity development initiatives for state and non-state actors. It might include articulation of open algorithms and methodologies to create ‘decision-ready’ tools, with the input of other research and partner organisations.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

<sup>10</sup> Consider that contracts where no financing agreement is concluded, contingencies have to be covered by individual and hubments by 31 December of N+1.

#### 4.7. Pre-conditions

No pre-conditions are envisaged for this action.

### 5. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

#### 5.1. Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding gender-sensitive indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring are to be established in the individual contracts to be financed under this action document.

Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality results and implementation of human rights-based approach working principles (participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency) in terms of implementation of the project and project outcomes. Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex and age when applicable. Key stakeholders will be involved in the monitoring process.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

#### 5.2. Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the Action, evaluations will be carried out for each component of the Action individually. The evaluation methods will be adapted to the specific situation of each component. Where needed, gender and human rights expertise will be included during evaluation missions.

If a mid-term evaluation is envisaged, it will be carried out for problem-solving and learning purposes, in particular with the aim of sharing lessons learned from experience with other components of the action and assess the need for a potential second phase of the Action. If a final or ex post evaluation is envisaged, it will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that parts of the activities are of a recurrent nature.

In case an evaluation is not planned, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

Where an evaluation is planned and has to be contracted by the Commission, the latter shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities. In this case, the financing of the evaluation shall be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>11</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

<sup>11</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)



### 5.3. Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

## 6. STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

## APPENDIX REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention is defined in the related Action Document and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

Tick in the left side column one of the three possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.

In the case of 'Group of actions' level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.

In the case of 'Contract level', add the reference to the corresponding budgetary items in point 4.6, Indicative Budget.

<b>Option 1: Action level</b>		
<b>Option 2: Group of actions level</b>		
<b>Option 3: Contract level</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	EUR 4,000,000 (CBD COP-15 decisions implementation)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	EUR 4,000,000 (FAO FRA)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	EUR 3,000,000 (GBKP)