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ANNEX VIII

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the Multiannual action plan for the NDICI-Global Europe thematic programme Global Challenges (Planet) for 2022-2025

Action Document for Improving global environmental governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes

MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multi-annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Improving global environmental governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes OPSYS/CRIS number: N/A Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out globally
4. Programming document	NDICI-Global Europe 'Global Challenges' thematic programme Multi-annual indicative programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority 4.2. Planet: Relevant to the Specific objective 2: Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and in the ocean, the action is relevant to these expected results 1. strengthened international environmental governance and implementation of key multilateral environment agreements, notably the conventions on biodiversity, desertification, oceans, chemicals, waste and water; 2. improved global environmental metrics, monitoring, research, knowledge, networks, capacities and international standards for evidence-based policies, programmes and investment decisions; 7. enhanced international action to tackle pollution, ensure a healthy environment and the sound management of chemicals, plastic and waste.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Environmental sustainability / Climate change (DAC sector: General Environment Protection – 410)

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): 15 Life on land (targets 6, 9) Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: 2 Sustainable agriculture (Target 4), 3 on good health (Target 9), 5 (targets 5 and b), 6 Clean water and sanitation (target 3), 8 decent work for all (Targets 5, 8), 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure (target 4), 12 sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 1, 2, 4, 5, 8), 13 Climate action (targets), 14 Life below water (target 1), 17 Partnerships for the goals (targets 7, 9)			
8 a) DAC code(s)	410 – General Environment Protection 41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management 41020 - Biosphere protection 41030 - biodiversity 41081 - Education and environmental training 41082 – Environmental research 15130 - Legal and judicial development 998 Strategic cooperation with global and multilateral organisations and processes 99820 - Promotion of Development Awareness 31130 – Agricultural land resources 31181 – Agricultural education/training 31110 – Agricultural policy and administrative management 331 Trade (Trade Policies & Regulations)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	40000 – Multilateral Organisations 41116 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 41301 - Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)			
9. Targets	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>

	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <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"/>	
	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	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020241</p> <p>Total estimated cost for 2022: EUR 16 357 800</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution for 2022: EUR 14 300 000</p> <p>This action is co-financed in joint co-financing by: EUR 2 057 800</p> <p>Component 1: FAO for an amount of EUR 500 000;</p> <p>Component 2: OECD for an amount of EUR 60 000;</p> <p>Component 3: OECD for an amount of EUR 125 000;</p> <p>Component 4: no co-financing;</p> <p>Component 5: UNEP for an amount of EUR 1 372 800.</p>			

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2. with the exception of component 4: direct management.
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1.2 Summary of the Action

The five components included in the proposed action aims to act at the global level to achieve better environmental governance for sound policymaking on various topics (biodiversity, circular economy, chemicals, etc.), promoting the international dimension of the European Green Deal. This action will provide voluntary support to international organizations and to Secretariats of environmental conventions. The components aim also to get developing and middle-income countries be better prepared for and involved in multilateral negotiations, and be provided with suitable tools and guidelines to support implementation.

Component 1: Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership.

This action aims to contribute to sustainable agriculture and environmental and human well-being through the sustainable management of soil resources in the framework of an action to extend globally the principles and goals of the European Green Deal, the Soil Strategy for 2030 and the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe, to advance country efforts towards healthy soils. In this context, the action will contribute to strengthening global soil governance, improving global, regional and national capacities in sustainable soil management and strengthening the resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems. To this end, the intervention will focus on three main areas:

1. Develop capacities on sustainable soil management for agricultural extension service technicians and farmers as part of and the implementation of the Global Soil Doctors Programme¹ to increase soil health and the production of and access to more nutritious and safer food.
2. Promote a more sustainable and inclusive management of soils through awareness-raising actions and implementation of the RECISOIL Initiative², empowering farmers as essential agents of change.
3. Strengthen effective and inclusive environmental governance mechanisms and international cooperation through multidisciplinary networks that contribute to the advancement of soil knowledge aimed at supporting informed decision making.

Component 2: Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity

This action aims to contribute to the effective implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular proposed Target 18, so as to increase the use and ambition of policy instruments that incentivise the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The effective implementation of these instruments is critical to ensure the transformational changes needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. To this end, the action will develop reports, policy highlights document and organise an international conference to enable governments to scale up the use, and/or strengthen the ambition of, economic instruments (positive incentives) for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

Component 3: Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment

The action aims to support OECD Member countries and non-member countries including emerging economies, middle income and developing countries on their transformative actions and growing efforts to secure policy coherence between trade and environment measures. It will help governments strengthen mutual supportiveness of trade and environmental policies and will further contribute to the public acceptability of trade, trade policies and the associated regional and multilateral processes.

This will be done by supporting the work of the OECD's Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE) by conducting analytical work and organising workshops and outreach programmes (including in developing countries/non-OECD member countries, as applicable) on key issues related to trade and environment including: (i) Trade and Circular Economy; and (ii) Trade and Environmental Sustainability (e.g. Global Access to Environmental Goods and Services; Trade and Biodiversity).

¹ <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/pillars-action/2-awareness-raising/soil-doctor/en/>

² <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/areas-of-work/recarbonization-of-global-soils/en/>

Component 4: Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20

The action aims to enhance the engagement of the EU in the G7/G20 on key EU priorities in the field of environment, in particular on resource efficiency and circular economy, marine litter, and green finance. It will strengthen the EU's voice in the G7/G20 processes by delivering concrete results backing up initiatives within these fora.

In particular, the action will facilitate EU's engagement in relevant environment diplomacy activities in G7/G20, including in the context of the G7 Alliance on Resource Efficiency, the G7 Berlin Roadmap, the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter, the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue Roadmap, the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter, and the G20 Water Dialogue. The activity will also support environmental diplomacy actions in G7/G20 related for example to biodiversity and nature-based solutions; sustainable finance, in particular in support of resource mobilisation for biodiversity; green taxation and phasing out of environmentally harmful subsidies; deforestation and sustainable supply chains. It will also contribute to furthering environmental diplomacy in G7/G20 by supporting discussions and events related to e.g. the management of natural resources, sustainable consumption and production, as well as the circular economy transition (including in relation to plastics, textiles and other circular economy aspects of particular EU interest) at bilateral level in G7/G20 countries and in multilateral fora.

This action, which focuses on the G7/G20 presidencies' agendas and processes, will complement and work in synergy with another EU action on the environmental diplomacy of the European Green Deal targeting bilateral actions in high and to the extent possible middle income countries.

The focus of this action is on G7/G20 as these two groups have a leverage power for catalysing global action and are in the position to lead global developments. The action will thus support uptake of the European Green Deal policies and approaches in the G7/G20 member countries and, through them and indirectly, to other countries, including middle and low income.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation agreement with the UN Environment Programme

This component aims to improve international environmental governance by adding new funding to the new cooperation agreement concluded in 2022 between the Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It directly contributes to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving international environment governance, and focusing on the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the Green Deal and jointly shared with UNEP. It will enable further EU voluntary support to the implementation of the programme of work of both UNEP and related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in the areas of the protection of biodiversity and the sustainable management of ecosystems, the just transition to more circular economies, the sound management of chemicals and waste, the making and enforcement of environmental laws and policies, and the generation and management of knowledge for policymaking. It will ensure that these processes effectively engage and benefit developing and emerging economies, while contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The action is a central element of the **external dimension of the European Green Deal and its various components** (i.e. circular economy action plan, biodiversity strategy, Farm-to-Fork, Chemical Strategy, Zero-Pollution Action Plan etc...). It also directly contributes to a Stronger Europe in the World by promoting effective multilateralism on global environmental and climate issues, contributing to the Planet component of the European Consensus, but also to People and Prosperity. By strengthening international governance and global knowledge, innovation and action, it will support achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other Multilateral Environment Agreements, global organisations and platforms or networks. It is essential to enable the EU to promote its interests and values, influence global processes and present itself as a credible and strong global leader. It is an opportunity to link the intervention with the new recognized right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, recognize by the UN Human Rights Council.

The action delivers on commitments taken by EU (and its Member States) as a Party to key Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), as well as political commitments taken in the UN context, to provide

technical and financial assistance to developing countries and support their participation and compliance in these processes.

Further support to the multilateral agreements on environment is considered all along their process, from the high-quality information production, the implementation, to the global progress monitoring and reporting, with a large range of stakeholders.

The **European Green Deal**, detailed in a Communication³, aims at transforming the European economy and society to put it on a more sustainable path. It resets the Commission's commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges that is this generation's defining task. The atmosphere is warming and the climate is changing with each passing year. One million of the eight million species on the planet are at risk of being lost. Forests and oceans are being polluted and destroyed. This situation has a direct impact to the planet and to the global population especially people living in vulnerable situations. The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right and is integral to the full enjoyment other human rights, including the right to life, the right to health, the right to food and the right to water and sanitation.

The European Green Deal is a response to these challenges. It is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and **where economic growth is decoupled from resource use**.

It also aims to protect, conserve and enhance the EU's natural capital, and protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. At the same time, this transition must be just and inclusive. It must put people first, and pay attention to the regions, industries, groups living in vulnerable situations and workers who will face the greatest challenges.

The EU has the collective ability to transform its economy and society **to put it on a more sustainable path**. It can build on its strengths as a global leader on climate and environmental measures, consumer protection, and workers' rights.

The environmental ambition of the Green Deal will not be achieved by Europe acting alone. The drivers of climate change and biodiversity loss are global and are not limited by national borders. The EU intends to use its expertise and financial resources to mobilise its neighbours and partners to join it on a sustainable path. The EU will continue to lead international efforts and wants to build alliances with partner countries and organisations.

The EU was a strong supporter of the process that led to the **2030 Agenda and the SDGs** and is committed to implement it in the EU and with partner countries. The EU Council Conclusions of 20 June 2017 "A sustainable European future: The EU response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development " and "The New European Consensus on Development – Our World, our Dignity, our Future"⁴ both fully recognize the societal challenges posed by climate change, pollution, growing pressure on all natural resources and unsustainable economic growth patterns. Within the "Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy"⁵, the EU international action integrates the fact that environmental sustainability, including a stable climate, is indispensable to poverty eradication and sustainable development, particularly for the people living in vulnerable situations.

The EU is also a party to a number of MEAs (mostly United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) or United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) related) alongside its member states and other parties, including developing countries. The Conferences/Meetings of the Parties (COP/MOP), governing bodies of these agreements, meet regularly and are responsible for negotiating and adopting programmes of work and budgets, including for voluntary contributions from donors.

The EU also participates in a number of multilateral environmental processes piloted by or involving partner international organisations such as UNEP (e.g. the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production / One Planet Network⁶, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership⁷) and supports MEAs through specific interventions such as the Intra- ACP MEA III programme.

³ COM(2019) 640 final of 11.12.2019

⁴ COM(2016) 740 final of 22.11.2016, adopted by the Council of the EU on 19 May 2017

⁵ *Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe – A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy*, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, June 2016; See Council conclusions on the Global Strategy on the European Union's foreign and security policy, Council of the European Union, 17 October 2016 (13202/16)

⁶ <http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/>

⁷ <https://www.bipindicators.net/>

The **circular economy package**⁸, adopted by the Commission on 2 December 2015, has created an important momentum to support the transition towards a more circular economy in the EU. The overall goal of the circular economy action plan is to boost competitiveness, create jobs, reduce GHG emissions as well as reduce pressure on the environment. The transition to the circular economy also has a strong global dimension and the plan includes a provision for externalisation of the actions.

In the context of the **European Green Deal**⁹ the new **Circular Economy Action Plan**¹⁰ (the ‘Action Plan’) adopted by the European Commission on 11 March 2020 notes that half of total greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of biodiversity loss and water stress come from resource extraction and processing. The Action Plan launched a concerted strategy for a climate-neutral, resource-efficient and competitive economy, requiring scaling up the circular economy from front-runners to the mainstream economic players to make a decisive contribution to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and decoupling economic growth from resource use.

The circular economy transformation worldwide is about going from linear, highly resource depleting systems with high emissions, waste creation and high impacts on ecosystems and natural capital, towards circular, less wasteful systems that make a more optimal and sustainable use of resources, while providing high quality of life, up-skilling/re-skilling and decent work opportunities for women and men in all their diversity. This is a key contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and other commonly agreed international targets under e.g. the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

In 2021, the EU has also adopted the Forest Strategy¹¹ and adopted a proposal for a Regulation on deforestation-free products linked to EU’s consumption, and a proposal for a new regulation on waste shipments. In 2022, the EU adopted a Proposal for Eco-design for Sustainable Products. The EU also adopted a strategy for sustainable and circular textiles which addresses the production and consumption of textiles, whilst recognising the importance of the textiles sector.

In the area of **biodiversity**, the EU is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (15th CBD COP took place in remote format, between 11 and 15 October 2021). The CoP14 endorsed a review of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; the process for the preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and for the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*; enhancing integration under the Convention and its Protocols and the Convention. The EU adopted the **Biodiversity Strategy 2030**¹², the **Farm-to-Fork strategy**¹³ as well as the **8th Environment Action Programme**¹⁴, that will help us keep track of our joint environmental and climate objectives.

In the area of **pollution**, and more particularly the sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste, the EU is an active supporter of SAICM, and a Party to the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata Conventions. The EU adopted the **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability**¹⁵ and the **Batteries Strategy**. On 12 May 2021, the European Commission adopted the EU Action Plan: “**Towards a Zero Pollution for Air, Water and Soil**¹⁶”, Pathway to a Healthy Planet for All - a key deliverable of the European Green Deal.

The European Union has been instrumental in recognising the role of healthy soils for human health and well-being, food, environment and climate in international political fora, supporting the establishment and consolidation of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) as per its common principles and actions on the sustainable development agenda and the main related rights (right to health, right to food, right to safe drinking water and sanitation, etc.) presented in the international Human Rights framework. Furthermore, the support from EU for the GSP implementation¹⁷ has been fundamental in the following activities: functioning of the Intergovernmental Technical

⁸ COM(2015)593, COM(2015)594, COM(2015)595, and COM(2015)596 of 02.12.2015

⁹ COM(2019) 640 – The European Green Deal.

¹⁰ COM(2020) 98 – A new Circular Economy Action Plan. For a cleaner and more competitive Europe

¹¹ COM(2021) 572 final

¹² COM(2020) 380 final

¹³ COM(2020) 381 final

¹⁴ COM(2020) 652 final

¹⁵ COM(2020) 667 final

¹⁶ COM(2021) 400 final

¹⁷ In particular through the contribution agreements 21.0401/2013/665481/SUB/ENV.B1 "Support to the implementation of the Global Soil Partnership" (FAO ref. GCP/GLO/499/EC), covering the period 2014-2015 and accounting for EUR 861,040, 21.0120701/2015/720668/SUB/ENV.B1 "Support to the implementation of the Global Soil Partnership – Phase II" (FAO ref. GCP/GLO/663/EC), from 2016-2018 and accounting for EUR 1.5 million, and 21.020701/2019/810630/SUB/ENV.D1 "Support

Panel on Soils and especially in the production of the seminal Status of the World Soil Resources Report, and the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management; support to the development of Implementation Plans by various Regional Soil Partnerships and Pillars of action; and capacity development on digital soil mapping worldwide. The previous periods of implementation has been very successful and fundamental, as they set the ground for further work. Nevertheless, there is much more to be done in order to provide adequate response and technical assistance to the needs of countries.

The European Union is taking the global lead in tackling the major environmental challenges through the clear commitment set out in the European Green Deal and the European Soil Strategy for 2030. Through a new paradigm based on sustainable production, consumption, and growth, the European Green Deal aims to become a major development and ambitious action plan towards a circular economy where all human activities and natural resources are connected. The specific policy areas of interest in this deal are “From Farm to Fork”, “Climate action”, “Zero pollution”, and “Biodiversity Strategy”. All these areas of action aim to address the global challenges facing humanity, whose fundamental connector is the soil. Soils play a fundamental role in food production, in the regulation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, in global pollution cycles, and in the maintenance and conservation of biodiversity above and belowground, and therefore must be considered as part of the core activities if these strategies are to be successful. In addition, it is fundamental to consider the soils not only as a transversal axis in each one of the strategies, but it is necessary to design activities of soil management, protection and conservation in a coordinated way, to avoid that actions that are positive from a point of view, have negative repercussions from another one.

Through the United Nation's Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)¹⁸, countries committed to achieve by 2030 the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle, so that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimisation of adverse effects on human health and the environment.

The EU is an active driver and supporter of the process for implementing SAICM and for setting up its successor and has a well-developed acquis of chemical legislation in place to achieve the objectives of those agreements, based on scientific tools and assessments to achieve a high level of protection for humans and the environment. The European Green Deal sets a goal to protect better human health and the environment as part of an ambitious approach to tackle pollution from all sources and move towards a toxic-free environment. The **Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** developed to this end includes the commitment that the EU steps up its international advocacy to meet the 2030 Agenda's goals and targets for the sound management of chemicals, in particular by having a leading role and promoting the implementation of existing international instruments as well as EU standards globally.

In November 2016, the European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union adopted a Joint Communication entitled *International Ocean Governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans*¹⁹. The EU adopted it, as a part of its response to ocean-related Agenda 2030 and SDG 14 and, in the ‘European seas’, the **EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive** gives a strong mandate for regional ocean governance based on ecosystem approach and with the aim of reaching Good Environmental Status, based on the regional cooperation and interactions with the relevant Regional Seas Conventions (RSCs).

As the world is currently dealing with the impacts of the **Covid-19 pandemic**, the EU has made a strong statement as regards its leadership role in the response at the global level. As outlined in the recent communication on the subject²⁰, EU's global response will integrate the strategic objectives the EU has set itself as regards the environment and climate, as set out in the European Green Deal. SDGs should form the backbone of the post Covid-19 recovery due to the origin of the pandemic and its multifaceted impact. The crisis is a reminder that the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remain crucial to help better equip the world for future systemic shocks. The action will reinforce the multilateral efforts to enhance resilience of people and ecosystems and address the short and long-term challenges linked to the pandemic.

to FAO for the implementation of the Global Soil Partnership - Phase III” (FAO ref. GCP/GLO/993/EC) covering the period 2019-2020 and accounting for EUR 1 million.

¹⁸ www.saicm.org

¹⁹ JOIN(2016) 49 final

²⁰ JOIN(2020) 11 final

Participation of women among decision-making bodies is also important for the credibility. On average, female members of constituted bodies occupy 33 % of all the positions in a body in 2020²¹. Groups in vulnerable situations are most at risk from climate change, including many women. For them, the impacts are already a daily reality. They can offer valuable insights into better managing the climate and its risks. Adopting a gender sensitive approach, this action will also contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025), notably its thematic area of engagement “Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition”, as well as the gender strategies developed by UNEP and MEAs. It will notably aim at ensuring that “Women in all their diversity influence decision-making processes on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions”.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The world is facing **numerous interrelated global challenges**; foremost are the eradication of poverty and achievement of sustainable development in all its three dimensions. The challenges are of such magnitude and complexity that they require a global political commitment and coordinated and coherent action by all countries, at every level and across different policy areas. Around 1.3 billion people still live in extreme income poverty and the human development needs of many more are still not met. In the meantime, nature is under severe pressure and biodiversity is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history -- the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely (IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, 2019). Groups in vulnerable situation and specifically women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the decline of ecosystem services. Global goals for conserving and sustainably using nature and achieving sustainability cannot be met by current trajectories, and goals for 2030 and beyond may only be achieved through transformative changes across economic, social, political and technological factors. As an example, the production, use and trade of chemicals are growing in all regions, driven by global megatrends (Global Chemicals Outlook II, 2019). Under a business as usual scenario, the rate of growth of chemical production is projected to exceed that of population growth at least until 2030. This means per capita consumption of chemicals is increasing steadily – highlighting the need to achieve sustainable consumption and production. Similarly, the sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) points to the need of improving waste management as the most urgent short-term solution to reducing input of litter to the ocean, and to circular economy as one of the key approaches to achieving sustainable development through reducing, reusing, remanufacturing and refurbishing products. To address existing gaps, a global framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 needs to be developed, that is aspirational and comprehensive and creates incentives to foster commitment and engagement by all relevant actors in the value chain. In these contexts, specific attention is to be given to the gender disparities and the varied roles of women and men in society shaping their exposure to chemicals. Moreover, attention for groups living in vulnerable situations is crucial, given that exposure to chemicals also depends on geographical location, behavioral patterns, age, nutritional status, and other biological factors.²²

Global environment policies have intensified in the last few years to respond to the world’s evolving challenges and recognize healthy environment as a basic human right. These include, at international level, the adoption of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and its SDGs, the Paris Agreement (December 2015), the developments in international biodiversity policies, the entry into force of the Minamata convention on mercury.

The flagship UNEP “Synthesis Report” (Making Peace with Nature)²³, co-financed by the EU, was launched right before UNEA5 by the UN Secretary-General. This report states that the well-being of today’s youth and future generations depends on an urgent and clear break with current trends of environmental decline. Earth’s environmental emergencies and human well-being need to be addressed together to achieve sustainability. The development of the goals, targets, commitments, and mechanisms under the key environmental conventions and their implementation need to be aligned to become more synergistic and effective.

At the last UNEA5, in his opening remarks, the Secretary-General of the United Nations noted that the Environment Assembly was meeting at a time of global crisis and fragility as the Covid-19 pandemic continued to cause turmoil worldwide, with millions of people being pushed into poverty, and with women bearing the heaviest burden. Inequalities among people and countries continued to grow in the face of a triple environmental

²¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2020_03_adv.pdf

²² Policy Brief SAICM - Gender and the sound management of chemicals and waste [2018]
http://www.saicm.org/Portals/12/Documents/SDGs/SAICM_Gender_Policy_Brief.pdf

²³ <https://www.unep.org/resources/making-peace-nature>

emergency - climate disruption, appalling biodiversity decline and a pollution epidemic that was cutting short some 9 million lives a year. Emphasizing the importance of a healthy planet for sustainable development and of nature-based solutions for improving human well-being and prosperity.

The EU, together with UNEP, UNIDO and several partner countries (eleven have already joined) launched successfully the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE). More, however, remains to be done to effectively tackle the alarming environmental trends that we are currently witnessing. Within this context, UNEP remains committed to serving as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, including through strengthening the relevant global governance agenda.

Plastics are one of the most commonplace materials on the planet. In 2015, global plastics production reached 407 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa).²⁴ If growth persists at similar rates, plastics production is expected to reach 1 600 Mtpa in 2050.²⁵ The extraction of materials required for plastics production, as well as the use and disposal, is creating significant environmental pressures, with serious consequences for ecosystem health, economic growth, and human well-being. The most apparent environmental impact is plastic pollution: plastics are now present in all the world's ocean basins, including around remote islands, the poles and in the deep seas.²⁶

The OECD's Global Material Resources Outlook to 2060 (OECD, 2019^[2]) projects that global materials use will rise from 89 Gt in 2017 to 167 Gt in 2060. Among these, construction materials represent half of material use today and most of the doubling of material use to 2060 is due to construction materials.

In this context, while research to date has largely focused on recycling construction and demolition waste, there is large scope for investigating how optimising resource efficiency in design and in manufacturing techniques and implementing circular economy business models could contribute to slowing down or narrowing material loops²⁷ in the construction and building sector.

Similarly, the current system for the production, distribution, use, and disposal of textile products bears severe environmental and climate impacts. Upstream in the value chain, textile manufacturing requires approximately 93 billion cubic metres of water and 98 million tonnes of non-renewable resources, mainly to produce synthetic fibres, fertilisers to produce cotton, and chemicals to manufacture and treat fabrics²⁸.

In 2019, the Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA) adopted the resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and waste and requested, among others, the international community to step up technical and capacity-building assistance to Member States to meet the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as soon as possible; to strengthen cooperation and avoid duplication of actions undertaken by member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals; and to provide technical advice, policy support and capacity-building assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. At its 5th session in 2021, the UNEA encouraged all countries and relevant stakeholders to continue implementing green and sustainable chemistry, and engage in more ambitious worldwide action towards the sound management of chemicals, including on heavy metals.

The Global Chemicals Outlook²⁹ predicts that global chemicals production will substantially increase in the next 10 years and notes that consumption and production are rapidly increasing in emerging economies. Due to this relocation of production, global supply chains, and the trade of chemicals and products, are becoming increasingly

²⁴ USGS (2016), *Aluminum Legislation and Government Programs*, <https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/aluminum/myb1-2015-alumi.pdf> (accessed on 28 March 2018).

²⁵ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), *Rethinking the future of plastics and catalysing action*, https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf.

²⁶ Jambeck, J. et al. (2015), "Marine pollution. Plastic waste inputs from land into the ocean.", *Science* (New York, N.Y.), Vol. 347/6223, pp. 768-71, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.1260352>.

²⁷ Previous OECD work has conceptualised the circular economy along these three elements, see (McCarthy, Dellink and Bibas, 2018^[4])

²⁸ Ellen MacArthur Foundation (2017), *Rethinking the future of plastics and catalysing action*, https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/publications/NPEC-Hybrid_English_22-11-17_Digital.pdf.

²⁹ UNEP (2019) <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/chemicals-waste/what-we-do/policy-and-governance/global-chemicals-outlook>

complex. Therefore, the outlook recommends developing and implementing comprehensive, multi-stakeholder and prevention oriented chemical management strategies tailored to the economic and development needs of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition in order to enable those countries to cope with current and future challenges in chemicals management.

Whilst the burden of disease and environmental damage caused by exposure to hazardous chemicals is significant worldwide, it is more severe in developing countries and countries with economies in transition where chemical safety measures are still insufficient. Issued in 2019, the evaluation of SAICM (2006 – 2015) demonstrated that the gap between countries in achieving the sound management of chemicals is widening with the poorest countries and communities left behind if no further investments are made in these countries. Yet, over the coming years, those countries are projected to greatly increased chemicals production and use, which is expected to result in increasing problems caused by hazardous chemicals.

The need for strengthened international environmental governance and an enhanced role for UNEP have also been reaffirmed on the multilateral stage together with the recognition of the significant contributions from Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) to sustainable development. The outcomes of the COPs of CBD and Minamata, as well as decisions from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions COP, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), as well as the adoption of the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will also frame the cooperation between the EU and those MEAs in 2021 and beyond. However, delegates from developing countries face serious limitations as to their participation in multilateral environmental negotiations. In addition, partner countries, in particular developing countries need encouragement to introduce measures to protect the environment, enhance co-benefits, and to implement sustainable development patterns. Furthermore, representation of women in decision-making processes and implementation of gender action plans are still insufficient. Therefore, gender equality in decision-making and support for gender-responsive environmental negotiations and implementation of the process is a cross-cutting issue in the project.

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

- Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its Science-Policy Interface (SPI), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
- UN agencies (such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), etc.), the European Environment Agency (EEA), as well as the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and other regional development banks, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and bilateral aid agencies;
- Private Sector, including smallholder, medium and large farmers, business associations and the financial sector;
- Major Groups and Stakeholders, civil society organisations including women's organisations and organisations representing rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities, trade unions, NGOs, academics.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **overall objective** is to contribute to improved international environmental governance, thereby enhancing the delivery of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development while simultaneously advancing environmental sustainability and better health with economic development.

Component 1: Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership.

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to global sustainable agriculture and environmental and human well-being through the sustainable management of soil resources in the framework of an action to extend globally the principles and goals of the European Green Deal, the Soil Strategy for 2030 and the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe, to advance global efforts towards healthy soils.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are:

SO 1.1: Increased sustainable production and productivity of agriculture through capacity building of key stakeholders with a specific attention for groups in vulnerable situation.

SO 1.2: More sustainable and inclusive natural resource management with a more equitable and gender-balanced involvement of all stakeholders

SO 1.3: Improved food and nutrition security and soil governance

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

Outcome 1.1:

Output 1.1.1: Strengthened extension and technical services for improved production of and access to more nutritious and safer food through the EduSOILS platform and the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN).

Output 1.1.2 contributing to Outcome 1. Enhanced capacities of smallholder, women and men, medium and large farmers for sustainable soil management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and pollution prevention through the Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP).

Outcome 1.2:

Output 1.2.1: Increased awareness of groups in vulnerable situations of the role of soil for nutrition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and pollution prevention through the celebration of World Soil Day, the organisation of thematic Global Symposia and other global awareness-raising events.

Output 2.2 contributing to Outcome 2. Enhanced resilience of agricultural systems and adoption of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, inclusive and gender sensitive, focused on soil organic carbon sequestration, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and protection of carbon-rich soils, especially black soils, implemented through the RECSOIL initiative.

Outcome 1.3:

Output 1.3.1: Strengthened international cooperation for the advancement of soil knowledge and the development of indicators and models, harmonized analysis methodologies, and science-based sustainable management practices overseen by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).

Output 1.3.2: Up-to-date soil information, data and statistics available at national and regional level to improve information at global level, through the development and consolidation of national soil information systems (NSIS) that are a federated part of the Global Soil Information System (GloSIS) and SOILSTAT.

Output 1.3.3: Soil governance enhanced to advance towards healthy soils according to the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM).

Component 2: Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to contribute to the effective implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular proposed Target 18, so as to increase the use and ambition of policy instruments that incentivise the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The effective implementation of these instruments is critical to ensure the transformational changes needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

The overall objective of this action is consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals (notably Goals 15, 14 and 12). The action facilitates participation of all duty bearers (governments and institutions) as well as rights holders (civil society organisations, including women's organisations and organisations representing rights of indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities) and strengthening women participation in policy-making process. The effective implementation of these positive incentives will ultimately reduce the pressures on biodiversity, resulting in an improved state of biodiversity.

The Specific Objective (Outcome) of this action is that:

SO 2.1: Governments scale up the use, and/or strengthen the ambition of, economic instruments (positive incentives) for biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use.

The Outputs to be developed under this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

Outcome 2:

Output 2.1: An OECD report on Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity – in order to support countries in effectively implementing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Target 18), including a Roadmap for Action or implementation guide;

Output 2.2: An international workshop/conference to provide a platform for exchange of experiences, opportunities, challenges and lessons learned (which would be used to inform the final report)

Output 2.3: A Policy Highlights documents (i.e. Summary for Policy Makers) highlighting key messages and insights for good practice (participation of groups in vulnerable situations and particularly women).

Component 3: Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE)

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this Action is to support OECD Member countries and non- member countries including emerging economies, middle income and developing countries on their and transformative actions and growing efforts to secure greater policy coherence between trade and environment measures that are essential for inclusive green growth and sustainable development.

The Specific Objective of this Action is:

SO 3.1: to support the OECD's work under the auspices of the OECD's *Joint Working Party of Trade and Environment (JWPTE)* to develop three analytical reports with policy relevant findings in the interface of trade and the environment, to organise two *workshops* to engage with OECD Member countries and non-member countries, and to establish an outreach programme to disseminate the analytical findings in the view of achieving the overall objective. The analytical insights gained in this Action will support OECD Member countries in their discussions and negotiations on trade and environment linkages, as well as support broader policy dialogues in both OECD Member countries and non-member countries on how trade can support environmental action and how trade and environment can be mutually supportive in the transition to a low-carbon and nature-positive circular economy. Aspects related to gender and groups in vulnerable situations should be considered, as appropriate. This includes multilateral discussions such as those at the WTO, including the Committee on Trade and Environment, and the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD) and Informal Dialogue on Plastics (IDP) initiatives.

The Outputs that the OECD will produce as a result of this Action contributing to the Specific Objective are:

Output 3.1.1: Contributing to Specific Objective 1 by developing analytical work in the form of 3 analytical reports discussed by the JWPTE on thematic areas of: (i) *Trade and Circular Economy (1 report)*; and (ii) *Trade and Environmental Sustainability (2 reports)*.

Output 3.1.2: Contributing to Specific Objective 1 by delivering 2 workshops ideally in two different regions, possibly including one of a neighbourhood region (Eastern Europe, MENA countries or Western Balkans and Turkey) to engage with OECD Member countries and non-member countries in order to establish dialogue and disseminate analytical findings. These workshops will be prepared in close consultation with the European Commission and provide opportunities to reflect priority topics of interest; one workshop will focus on Trade and Biodiversity.

Output 3.1.3: Contributing to Specific Objective 1 by developing an outreach programme focused on policy dialogues with OECD Member countries, non-member countries and civil society to disseminate the analytical findings of the Action. The EU will be actively engaged in these activities

Component 4: Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20

The overall objective (impact) of the action is to contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by supporting and fostering the environmental agenda in the G7 and G20 discussions and by strengthening the EU's voice and position in these multilateral fora as key interlocutor on environmental matters at global level.

The specific objective of the action (outcome) is:

SO 4.1: to support an enhanced engagement of the EU in the G7 and the G20 concerning priority aspects of EU interest related to environment topics that G7/G20 presidencies will want to put on the agenda in the period covered by the action.

The outputs to be developed under this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

Output 4.1.1: Strengthened capacities on key environmental matters by drafting policy working documents on environmental topics of G7/G20 interest.

Output 4.1.2: Raised awareness on environmental matters by delivering policies' recommendations in environment-related events organised by G7/G20 members.

Output 4.1.3: Strengthened multilateral G7/G20 cooperation on key environmental topics.

Output 4.1.4: Strengthened international cooperation on key environmental topics in multilateral fora, e.g. Nairobi (United Nations Environment Assembly), New York (High-Level Political Forum and United Nations General Assembly), Geneva (World Trade Organisation, United Nations Office at Geneva).

Component 5: Programme Cooperation agreement with the UN Environment Programme

The overall objective is to contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving international environment governance, and also the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the Green Deal.

This includes halting biodiversity achieving a greener growth, protecting human health and the environment from hazardous substances, and ensuring the transparency and efficiency of natural resources management thereby enhancing the delivery of the UN 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

While contributing and more specifically to improving international environment governance, the PCA III pursues the following two specific objectives:

SO 5.1. International agreements, partnerships and alliances on environmental governance and issues are strengthened and promoted through targeted supports in areas linked to, inter alia, halting biodiversity loss, transitioning to greener and more circular economies, protecting human health from pollution, sound management of chemicals and waste, and ensuring the transparent and sustainable management of natural resources.

SO 5.2: Capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the MEAs is strengthened through the provision of advisory services, information and knowledge products, tools, methodologies and guidelines. This includes supporting efforts aimed at supporting a gender equal international governance allowing women in all their diversity to influence decision making process on environmental conservation and climate change policies and actions, in line with the Gender Action plan.

The outputs are:

- Output 5.1.1: Strengthened capacities of countries to effectively engage in regional and global international processes addressing issues of international relevance, to strengthen the environmental dimension of the SDGs and to promote the progressive development on international environmental law, including MEAs;
- Output 5.1.2: Strengthened institutional capacities, policies and legal frameworks to implement action to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and those of relevant MEAs;
- Output 5.1.3: Development and implementation of gender and inclusive policies, strategies and mechanisms for maintaining the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting the transition to greener and more circular economies and promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, including plastics, within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)
- Output 5.1.4: National emissions sources identified, policies and legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air, soil and water quality and quality assessments.

- Output 5.2.1: Strengthened institutional capacities for development and implementation of education and monitoring programmes and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels targeting health and productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.
- Output 5.2.2: Enhanced capacity of policymakers in the public and private sectors to consider the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making (human rights, gender and inclusive approach to health and environment).
- Output 5.2.3: Strengthened capacities of countries to adopt science-based approaches that enable them to transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including an inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels.
- Output 5.2.4: Developed guidelines, methodologies and provision of technical support for public, private and financial sectors to foster the adoption and implementation of sustainable management frameworks and practices, including on the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- Output 5.2.5: Awareness raised among public and private sectors and increased support for the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns.
- Output 5.2.6: Governments and other stakeholders use quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.
- Output 5.2.7: Governments are aware of the importance of adopting gender sensitive environmental approaches. They are able to design gender responsive environmental policies and or specific gender action plan in the environment field, based on notably availability of sex-disaggregated data. More women participate in international environment processes (both in official Delegations and from the civil society)

3.2 Indicative Activities

Component 1: Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership.

Activities related to Output 1.1. Strengthened extension and technical services for improved production of and access to more nutritious and safer food through the EduSOILS platform and the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) with a specific attention for groups in vulnerable situation.

Activity 1.1.1. Develop and consolidate the EduSOILS platform, the GSP global soil e-learning platform, to strengthen the capacity of extension services, technicians and farmers in all their diversity in the identification and implementation of improved soil management practices adapted to the types of soils and bioclimatic conditions of each region.

Activity 1.1.2. Develop internationally harmonised soil sampling and standard operating procedures for soil macro- and micronutrient analysis within the framework of the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) and disseminate them through training to support informed soil management decisions.

Activity 1.1.3. Develop harmonised standard operating procedures for the analysis of soil contaminants and the quality of synthetic and organic fertilizers and deliver training on their application under the framework of GLOSOLAN, its International Network on Fertilizer Analysis (INFA) and its initiative on soil spectroscopy (GLOSOLAN-Spec).

Activity 1.1.4. Develop harmonised standard operating procedures for the analysis of soil biodiversity parameters to support the development of integrated ecological assessments of soil biota and provide training on their application under the framework of GLOSOLAN and the International Network on Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB).

Activities related to Output 1.2. Enhanced capacities of smallholder, medium and large farmers, women and men for sustainable soil management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and pollution prevention through the Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP).

Activity 1.2.1. Strengthen the GSDP by developing specific modules to prevent and manage various soil threats, adapt materials to local languages, inclusive and gender sensitive and develop and provide soil kits adapted to local needs.

Activity 1.2.2. Build capacities of national or regional technicians who will provide training to farmers (supporting the participation of women) and support Soil Doctors to train other farmers in their communities.

Activity 1.2.3. Support the organisation of workshops and the establishment of a global community of practice for the dissemination and exchange of experiences among GSDP participants, supporting participation of women, indigenous groups and also groups in vulnerable situations.

Activities related to Output 2.1. Increased awareness of groups in vulnerable situations of the role of soil for nutrition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and pollution prevention through the celebration of World Soil Day, the organisation of thematic Global Symposia and other awareness-raising events.

Activity 2.1.1. Support the preparation and dissemination of knowledge and communication materials to raise awareness at all levels through several platforms including social media and websites managed by the Global Soil Partnership and among multiple target groups (groups in vulnerable situations, women, youth etc.) on the importance of soil health for food security and nutrition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and pollution prevention.

Activity 2.1.2. Support the celebration of annual global and satellite World Soil Day events and the preparation and dissemination of associated campaign material (supports of youth and female champions).

Activity 2.1.3. Support the implementation of the outcome documents of the Global Symposia on Soil Pollution, Soil Biodiversity, Salt-affected Soils and Soils for Nutrition, and support the organization of the Global Symposium on Soil and Water in 2023 and Urban Soils and Soil Sealing in 2024 as well as other similar events and strengthen the dissemination and balanced participation mechanisms of these events to ensure mass multi-stakeholder participation.

Activities related to Output 2.2. Enhanced resilience of agricultural systems and adoption of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, inclusive and gender sensitive, focused on soil organic carbon sequestration, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, protection of carbon-rich soils, especially black soils, and judicious use of fertilisers implemented through the RECSOIL initiative.

Activity 2.2.1. Implement the RECSOIL Programme and its toolkit in pilot countries to assess and verify the multiple co-benefits associated to the increase of SOC stocks and promotion of soil health and test the effectiveness of incentives to farmers, especially women for their contribution to the provision of ecosystems services.

Activity 2.2.2. Develop and establish the Global Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) Monitoring System, including carbon stocks and fluxes, according to the GSP SOC Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Protocol (SOC MRV protocol) with a focus on croplands and grasslands in representative and priority regions, which will help countries report on progress towards the SDG target 15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality.

Activities related to Output 3.1. Strengthened international cooperation for the advancement of soil knowledge and the development of indicators and models, harmonised analysis methodologies, and science-based sustainable management practices overseen by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).

Activity 3.1.1. Strengthen international and multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance soil knowledge and information and data availability through the International Network of Soil Information Institutions (INSII).

Activity 3.1.2. Strengthen international and multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance knowledge on sustainable management of salt-affected soils through the International Network of Salt-affected Soils (INSAS).

Activity 3.1.3. Strengthen international and multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance knowledge and information and data availability on the sustainable use and management of black soils through the International Network of Black Soils (INBS).

Activity 3.1.4. Strengthen international and multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance knowledge on the full soil pollution cycle: from the assessment of human and environmental risks, to the identification of pollution hotspots through the GSP International Network on Soil Pollution (INSOP).

Activity 3.1.5. Strengthen international and multi-stakeholder cooperation to advance soil knowledge and information and data availability on the impacts of environmental stressors (e.g., fires, droughts, floods, land use changes): impacts on rural communities based on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analyses (power relations between men and women, between youth and adults, between people with and without disabilities on environment management, environmental stressors reaction and decisions), impacts on soil biodiversity and soil

functions (e.g. decomposition of organic matter, soil aggregation, bioturbation, root penetration, nutrient cycling) through the International Network of Soil Biodiversity (NETSOB).

Activities related to Output 3.2. Up-to-date soil information, data and statistics available at national and regional level to improve soil information at global level, through the development and consolidation of national soil information systems (NSIS) that are a federated part of the Global Soil Information System (GloSIS) and SOILSTAT.

Activity 3.2.1. Support the development and consolidation of GloSIS, GloSIS Data Hub and SOILSTAT under the framework of the GSP.

Activity 3.2.2. Provide technical assistance to countries to generate soil data and information on soil properties and soil health indicators to be included in new or strengthened national soil information systems and form a federated part of GloSIS.

Activity 3.2.3. Develop the Global Observatory of Soil Biodiversity (GLOSOB) by supporting the collection of data and information on soil biodiversity, focused on the less studied groups, at the national level.

Activities related to Output 3.3. Soil governance enhanced to advance towards healthy soils according to the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM).

Activity 3.3.1. Provide technical assistance to countries on policy development to integrate the VGSSM principles into national legal frameworks, based on national priorities identified under the framework of SoILEX.

Component 2: Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity

Activities related to Output 2.1.1

Desk-research and literature review and collection of evidence and case studies to:

- develop a framework on aligning and scaling up economic incentives for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and restoration and designing effective policy mixes,
- identify key design features, challenges to their implementation and opportunities for scaling up their use and ambition.
- preparation of a Roadmap for Action or implementation guide.

Activities related to Output 2.1.2:

Convene international conference or workshop bringing together OECD and other countries from around the world (including participation of civil society organisations representing rights of indigenous peoples, peoples with disabilities, youth and women) to share experience on the use of economic instruments for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and restoration, challenges encountered in scaling these up and good practices for overcoming these challenges, the advantages and disadvantages compared with other types of policy instruments, and how to embed economic instruments into effective policy mixes.

Activities related to Output 2.1.3:

Develop a Policy Highlights document summarising the key messages and insights for good practice and disseminate the outputs in various fora via development of an OECD website, social media, presentations at other international conferences and workshops, including meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The project will be announced at the ENVIRONET network and results of the project will be presented in order to outreach to all the OECD members. A presentation could also be done at the working group on water and biodiversity.

Component 3: Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE)

Activities related to Output 3.1.1: **Analytical work**

The OECD will develop three analytical reports to be discussed by the JWPTE on thematic areas of: (i) Trade and Circular Economy (1 report); (ii) Trade and Environmental Sustainability (2 reports). In line with the priorities

expressed by the Commission at EPOC and JWPTE meetings, and considering the priorities expressed by other Member countries, the work on Trade and Circular Economy could focus on the role of product policies in the transition to a circular economy, or on regional cooperation to combat plastics leakage. The reports on Trade and Environmental Sustainability could focus on securing global access to environmental goods and services, trade and biodiversity or securing sustainable supply chains. Aspects related to gender, groups in vulnerable situations and Indigenous Peoples should be considered, as appropriate. Details of these activities will be further determined under the guidance of the JWPTE and more broadly by EPOC of the OECD as well as the priorities set in the Program of Work and Budget to be decided by OECD's Council.

Activities related to Output 3.1.2: **Workshops**

The OECD will deliver 2 workshops ideally in two different regions to engage with OECD Member countries and non-member countries in order to establish dialogue and disseminate analytical findings. The proposed workshops will aim to: (i) facilitate mutual learning between government officials, trade negotiators and environmental policy makers through dedicated thematic discussions where participants come together to discuss and exchange among each other on specific topics, (ii) to disseminate the work under the auspices of the JWPTE, and (iii) to establish a stakeholder dialogue on trade and environment issues. The workshops will bring together relevant stakeholders including trade negotiators and environmental policy makers, local authorities, academia, private sector, civil society, and international and local experts. These workshops will be prepared in close consultation with the European Commission and organised to reflect priority topics of interest one workshop will focus on Trade and Biodiversity. Such workshops can draw on past experience of the JWPTE in organising similar events in OECD Member countries and non-member countries. These workshops will provide a venue for government officials and experts from both OECD Member countries and non-OECD member countries to exchange views and share best practices on pressing issues related to trade and environment, and ultimately help trigger transformative action for governments to better secure the mutual supportiveness of trade and environmental policies. Summaries of the workshops will be made publicly available on the OECD website.

Activities related to Output 3.1.3: **Outreach programme**

The OECD will further engage in outreach of the findings of the Action through several channels. Dissemination of the findings will primarily take place through JWPTE meetings, which occur 3 times per biennium and involve, subject to the OECD's rules and policies on participation in OECD bodies, 38 OECD Member countries, 5 Participants (Brazil, Bulgaria, Hong Kong (China), Kazakhstan, and South Africa), 6 Invitees (Argentina, China, Croatia, India, Indonesia, and Peru), and Regular Observers (WTO, UN Environment, UN Conference for Trade and Development, International Organization of Standardization, and Business at OECD). Other stakeholders are also integrated in this process, not least through Business at OECD (BIAC), the trade union federation (TUAC) and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB). Policy dialogues will also take place in the form of the OECD workshops mentioned under activity 1.2, which can offer broader participation and engagement with relevant stakeholders and experts from governments, inter-governmental organisations, business, academia and civil society. In addition, subject to declassification for public use by the JWPTE, dissemination of analytical findings from developed reports through this Action will be conducted through JWPTE meetings, established OECD communication channels such as Green Talks Live events,³⁰ and external fora such as the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment,³¹ WTO Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD),³² WTO Informal Dialogue on Plastics (IDP),³³ and the WTO Public Forum,³⁴ the World Customs Organization, the World Circular Economy Forum (WCEF),³⁵ EU Trade and Sustainable Development Expert Group, and the ENVIRONET network meetings as appropriate. The wide-spread dissemination of these analytical findings through the JWPTE and external fora, accompanied by workshops to help spur discussion on these topics, will contribute to the Overall Objective to help governments trigger transformative action to secure greater policy coherence between trade and environment measures

Component 4: Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20

³⁰ www.oecd.org/env/green-talks-live.htm.

³¹ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/wrk_committee_e.htm.

³² www.wto.org/english/news_e/archive_e/tessd_arc_e.htm.

³³ www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/ppesp_e/ppesp_e.htm.

³⁴ www.wto.org/english/forums_e/public_forum_e/public_forum_e.htm.

³⁵ www.sitra.fi/en/projects/wcef/.

Activities related to Output 4.1.1:

- i. Prepare up to 20 working documents with a size between 2-10 pages to stimulate the debate on environmental topics.
- ii. Identify and sponsor as requested potential speakers, including from EU businesses, NGOs (including, as appropriate, NGOs representing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, peoples with disabilities, youth and women) and EU Member States, as well as G7/G20 countries.
- iii. Draft detailed meeting reports with a clear and concise summary (of around 3-4 pages), conclusions and operational recommendations.
- iv. Propose appropriate follow-up actions to the EU

These maximum 20 working documents will be commented and approved by the Contracting Authority, finalised by the contractor, and then used as background documents for the events under Logistics. When so needed, some working documents could be used by the EU for internal information or tabled in working groups/meetings in the G7/G20 contexts.

Activities related to Output 4.1.2:

Upon request of the EU, the Contractor will attend maximum 12 environment-related events organised by G7/G20 members during the action, report back on results, and recommend appropriate follow-up. The contractor will draft up to 12 international events reports, within a week from the end of the event.

Activities related to Output 4.1.3

The Contractor will organise the logistical arrangements for a total of 12 events (e.g. workshops, conferences) to take place in Brussels, in the countries holding the G7/G20 presidency in the period covered by this action or online:

- a. 4 events x 2 days (Brussels) x 10 speakers x 100 participants (total of 440 participants)
- b. 6 events x 2 days (overseas) x 10 speakers x 100 participants (total of 660 participants)
- c. 2 events x 2 days (approx.. 4 hours per day) online x 10 online speakers x 500 online participants (total of 1,020 participants)

The above is a tentative indication of the number of events to be organised during the period of this contract, which will have to be adapted in the course of the action in line with the G7 and G20 agendas and the needs of the EU, while staying within the overall budget of the action. The logistical arrangements are: drafting and sending invitation letters to invitees/speakers and following-up registrations; drafting agendas of the events; venue; sponsoring travel for speakers ; providing and organising accommodation for speakers ; catering during the event; payment of per diems; registration desk; moderators; equipment at venue (i.e. microphones, video projectors, nameplate, visuals, interpretation in English and the local language...).

Activities related to Output 4.1.4

The Contractor will organise the logistical arrangements for a total of four events (e.g. workshops, conferences) to take place in relevant locations where multilateral processes can be advanced: 4 events x 2 days (overseas) x 10 speakers x 100 participants. (total of 440 participants)

The above is a tentative indication of the number of events to be organised during the period of this contract, which will have to be adapted in the course of the action in line with the needs of the EU, while staying within the overall budget of the action. The logistical arrangements are: drafting and sending invitation letters to invitees/speakers and following-up registrations; drafting agendas of the events; venue; sponsoring travel for speakers ; providing and organising accommodation for speakers; catering during the event; payment of per diems; registration desk; moderators; equipment at venue (i.e. microphones, video projectors, nameplate, visuals, interpretation in English and the local language...). Potential locations include Nairobi (United Nations Environment Assembly), New York (High-Level Political Forum and United Nations General Assembly), Geneva (World Trade Organisation, United Nations Office at Geneva).

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

The action consists primarily of a multi-annual EU contribution to a multi-donor trust fund dedicated to the provision of voluntary contributions to the work of UNEP and Secretariats of MEAs.

The approach should provide a more predictable EU financial voluntary support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes involving UNEP (when/if UNEP has a true comparative advantage to implement the activities).

The activities/projects from UNEP/MEAs' programmes of work to be supported with the EU contribution will be selected by a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) co-chaired by the European Commission and UNEP. The PSC will also provide strategic guidance and supervise the management of the cooperation.

A Programme Management Unit (PMU) will coordinate the implementation of the cooperation in accordance with the decisions taken by the PSC. It will support the coordination between and within respective organizations. A PMU Coordinator recruited by UNEP will head the Programme Management Unit embedded under Corporate Services Division. In addition, the Programme Management Unit and its Coordinator will work in close cooperation with Commission services, Secretariats of MEAs, and UNEP Divisions to ensure smooth implementation of the cooperation including on the financial management side.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Component 1: Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership.

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. This implies that gender equality will be integrated during the implementation of this action, given that men and women are affected differently by natural resource degradation and have different roles and attitudes towards soil management. The matter of soil management refers to rights to own, use, make decisions and use land as collateral on equal terms with men. Their specific needs and priorities for achieving food and nutrition security and for building resilient and sustainable livelihoods and agrifood systems as well as impacts of environmental stressors will be assessed and taken into account using gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) analyses throughout the action to ensure that the principle of equal opportunities and participation is systematically integrated. Hence and at the extent possible, gender-sensitive analytical tools will be duly applied in all the components of this action. The action will involve gender experts and representatives of community in planning, decision-making, identifying barriers, communicating information for soil management. The action contributes to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III, 2021-2025), more specifically objective 1 "Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues" and objective 2 "Strategies and agreements on climate mitigation, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity are more gender-responsive, at local, national, regional and international level".

Human rights

One of the specific objectives of this action is precisely to strengthen soil governance mechanisms at global and national level, with particular emphasis on the participation of the poorest and most vulnerable populations in consultation and decision-making processes, with a specific attention to women and youth. The projects financed through this action should prioritise this aspect and contribute to strengthen the capacity of these groups in the adoption of sustainable soil management and in the participation in the definition of policies and strategies with the authorities and other actors at local and regional level. In case this target group consists of native populations (rural communities and Indigenous Peoples), the concept of free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples in relation to the development of their lands and resources shall be taken into account and, to the extent possible, promoted.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. Analyses on impacts of environmental stressors are using GESI analyses to understand power relations also between persons with and without disabilities and supports them in specific capacity-building activities. This implies that persons with disabilities who are part of the target groups of beneficiaries (e.g. smallholder farmers) will be considered as a preferential group for capacity development actions within the Global Soil Doctors Programme and inclusion in the beneficiary groups of incentive initiatives for the adoption of sustainable soil management such as RECSOIL.

Democracy

The GSP is an open and consensual partnership formed by members and partners who make decisions in an open and consensual manner at the Plenary Assembly which meets annually.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Degraded soils have reduced water infiltration capacity and soil cohesion, leading to increased runoff generation and soil loss as a result of erosion processes. Excessive runoff may be source of disasters. Together with the heavy weather events due to climate change disaster frequency and its impact increase. Soil degradation endangers livelihoods and contributes to an increased frequency and impact of disasters, as floods and mudflows through excessive runoff.

In order to reduce disaster risk and to guarantee soils' productivity, a sustainable use of soil resources is crucial. Healthy soils that are sustainably managed have higher levels of organic carbon and improved structure and stability, which increases their water holding capacity and reduces their erodibility, reducing the risk of flooding, landslides and mudflows. In addition, carbon sequestration in soils, sustainable management of carbon-rich soils, and judicious use of fertilisers - all strategies included in sustainable soil management - contribute to climate change mitigation.

Component 2: Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

The main focus of the work is biodiversity. However, given the multiple interlinkages between measures to address biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation and adaptation respectively, the outcomes will also benefit the latter. For example, positive incentives to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services, including ecosystems such as forests and marine ecosystems, will enhance carbon storage and thus also contribute to climate change mitigation. The same applies for incentives to ensure sustainable production and consumption and eradicating unsustainable consumption patterns and unsustainable production methods.

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. This implies that the action will also contribute to the implementation of Gender Action Plan III, especially its key thematic priority area "addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition".

Human rights

Human rights based approach and its key principles (participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency) will be integrated throughout the component. Particular focus will be given to inclusive policies targeting women and persons living in vulnerable situations such as indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. Participation of civil society organisations in all their diversity (representing rights of indigenous peoples, peoples with disabilities, women and youth) will be supported to share experiences and participate in decision-making discussions.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Biodiversity measures generally contribute to conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience, but there are no direct links foreseen under this action.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster risk is closely linked to the health of ecosystems. The degradation of forests, grasslands, wetlands and marine ecosystems is a driver of disaster risk and an important factor in disaster vulnerability. The role of ecosystem-based approaches to Disaster Risk Reduction has been recognised in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention among others. By promoting the use of incentives to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, this project aims to reduce ecosystem degradation and will thereby contribute indirectly to Disaster Risk Reduction.

Component 3: Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE)

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Environment and climate change are well integrated in this Action as the activities seek to evaluate and to improve the interlinkages between trade and environmental policies, as well as the consequences of trade on environmental

impacts such as circularity of economic activities, plastic leakage, GHG emissions and provision and access to environmental goods and services.

Human Rights

Human rights, gender, resilience and conflict sensitivity will be taken into account in all activities. These cross-cutting issues are particularly relevant for the work on access to environmental goods and services as such access may affect the long-term resilience of people living in emerging economies, middle income and developing countries by improving their right to life (Article 3 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights) as well as their right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being (Article 25 of the UDHR). The potential work on Trade and Biodiversity creates clear links with conflict sensitivity, gender and human rights through the reliance of vulnerable populations on ecosystem services. Trade and environment interactions can also have heterogeneous effect according to gender, and where relevant, these will be included in the analytical assessments.

Component 4: Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

It is widely recognised that the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution can only be addressed if synergic, effective and coherent measures are taken at all levels of governance, from local to global. The rise of the middle class in emerging economies, middle income and developing countries, together with rapid urbanisation, is having a strong negative impact on the environment, exacerbate climate change, increase the exposure to climate change and disaster risks, and intensify competition for certain raw materials. By enhancing environmental diplomacy in G7/G20, in particular targeting biodiversity loss, pollution, unsustainable consumption and production and by supporting the shift to a climate-neutral, resource efficient and circular economy, this action will indirectly support climate mitigation and adaptation.

Gender

The action contributes to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III, 2021-2025), more specifically objective 1 “Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues”

Human Rights

While not an objective in itself, this action will contribute to upholding human rights in the field of environment. Human rights-based approach and its key principles (participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency) will be integrated throughout the component.

Disaster Risk Reduction

By addressing environmental aspects in G7/G20, the action will indirectly contribute to disaster risk reduction and prevention in G7/G20 members and globally, notably by supporting ambitious outcomes concerning the protection of ecosystems and their services.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

Environment and climate change:

Considerations on environment issues are at the core of the action, which will automatically support environmental sustainability issues and address the impact of climate change. Projects are developed in areas of common concern such as sustainable consumption and production, climate change, water, sound chemicals and waste management. Activities support middle income and developing countries in improving environmental protection and combating climate change while contributing to poverty alleviation.

By supporting work on resource efficiency, green/circular economy, biodiversity targets, combatting pollution, and sustainable management on natural resources, the action will also contribute to help middle income and developing countries move towards a climate resilient and pollution free economy.

More generally by supporting tools for international environmental governance the action will benefit environment and climate processes equally.

Gender equality

UN Agencies are all committed to integrate gender equality and equity in all their activities, and to pay attention to the role of women in policy-making. All of the components are about good governance and, by supporting the participation of numerous stakeholders, contribute to effective democracy. In addition, the EU continuously advocates for enhancing gender mainstreaming in international environmental processes and agreements.

Activities include selection of sectors which have the highest potential for poverty alleviation, which goes hand in hand with gender inclusiveness. In addition, the project ensures gender equality in the project structures (i.e. the steering committee has gender balance) and in the deliverables (i.e. producing reports on gender equality opportunities). The Action will also pay attention to gender disparities in chemical and waste management and support specific gender action plan. Additionally, it addresses the fight against child labour (in particular the fight against the worst forms of child labour) and decent work, especially regarding groups living in vulnerable situations, due to their regional location, their age or their disability according with the guiding principles on Business and Human rights and ILO Conventions.

The action contributes to the Gender Action Plan III (GAP III, 2021-2025), more specifically objective 1 “Increased participation of women and girls in all their diversity in decision-making processes on environment and climate change issues”

Good Governance and Human Rights

Good governance in the context of environment means integrated, inclusive, transparent, responsive, and participatory policy making. It also involves effectiveness, accountability and respect for the rule of law. This action will promote the understanding of the role of environment at large (i.e. biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production, etc.) in the context of resilience and SDGs by promoting the sharing of information with national, subnational authorities, private sector and other Non-State entities. The strengthening of environmental governance at the global, regional and national levels, including also the support to the implementation of MEAs, promotes good governance. Participation and supports from civil society organisations will contribute to promote rights to live in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and influence decision making process on environmental chemical and waste management policies and actions from the perspective of the groups living in vulnerable situations. Where applicable, the Action will apply the five working principles of the human rights-based approach, throughout its implementation.

Conflict Sensitivity, Security and stability

Increased pressure on resources and unsustainable and exclusionary management of the same opens the avenue towards conflict and instability, which reinforce each other in a vicious circle. Consequently, there is an increased need for cooperation between stakeholders at all levels and types of resources governance from local to transboundary and global. Increased cooperation is dependent on and can only be sustained through good, inclusive, participatory and transparent governance frameworks to address, and ultimately prevent, conflicts. Enhancing information, such frameworks and the variety of instruments that constitute them, as well as providing appropriate tools for prevention and peaceful conflict resolution, are key to achieving these goals. At a minimum, from a conflict sensitivity perspective, do no harm risks should be taken into account, and conflict sensitivity requirements and analyses promoted with implementing partners (including UN agencies) and in synergy with other cross-cutting issues.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Component 1: Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership				
2- Planning, processes and systems	Limited political commitment and institutional support in target States to achieve action objectives	L	H	Take actions to promote the active participation of all GSP members in the decision-making process during the Plenary Assembly (e.g. virtual assembly in a globally feasible time slot, publication of documents in a timely manner, regular communication with national focal points to keep them abreast of GSP activities of national interest).
3- People and the organisation	Lack of willingness, commitment and support from relevant global, regional and national stakeholders and partners to ensure active participation in action activities and capacity development opportunities	L	H	Maintain an active awareness-raising campaign throughout the implementation period of the action to sensitise all actors to its importance and ensure their participation. Impacts analyses with a GESI approach will facilitate the understanding of power relations and support specific awareness raising activities.
5- Communication and information	Lack of funding mechanisms and strategies to actively engage small-scale farmers, national experts and other stakeholders	M	M	Involve relevant FAO divisions with extensive experience in funding mechanisms and interaction with smallholder farmers and rural communities in the design of actions taking into account the characteristics of each State. Include rewarding mechanisms for key publications developed by voluntary contributions, such as publication in scientific journals.
Component 2: Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity				
3- People and the organisation	Unexpected departure of key OECD Programme staff	L	L	The OECD will develop management and staffing plan, recruit and assign staff and external consultants/experts carefully with

				consideration to personal circumstances and motivations.
1-External environment	Evolution of Covid-19 and possible restrictions on travel	M	L	Depending on the evolution of Covid-19, if needed, the international conference/workshop could be conducted in a hybrid or virtual format
3-People and the organisation	Opposition from OECD member countries in relevant OECD bodies to declassify and publish reports developed as part of the Project.	L	H	The OECD will closely keep informed its relevant OECD bodies (i.e. the Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems, and the Environment Policy Committee) in order to address possible issues and comments early enough throughout the different phases of the action for the relevant outputs, in order to anticipate concerns before the end of the action. The issues to be covered are not politically sensitive however and the likelihood of this risk is extremely low.
3-People and the organisation	Unexpected departure of key OECD Programme staff	L	L	The OECD will develop management and staffing plan, recruit and assign staff and external consultants/experts carefully with consideration to personal circumstances and motivations.
Component 3: Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE)				
1 – External environment	Declined interest and support to secure coherence between trade and environment policies among OECD Member and non-member countries.	L	H	The Action will draw upon the OECD Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC)'s strategic guidance on the implementation of the OECD Programme of Work 2023-24 ³⁶ , the parent committee of the JWPTE, in order to correctly reflect the policy priorities of OECD Members and partners, and to mitigate any potential risks arising from discontinued interest or support.
Component 4: Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20				
1 – External environment	Agendas of G7/G20 are tabled by rotating presidencies, normally with short notice, which renders it difficult to know about priorities in advance. A risk	L	H	<p>Since 2016 and with the notable exception of 2020 when US President was Donald Trump, all G7 presidencies have organised G7 Environment ministerial meetings. It is expected the G7 presidencies in the period covered by this action will continue to do so.</p> <p>Concerning the G20, the tradition of organising Environment ministerial</p>

³⁶ ENV/EPOC/M(2017)3/FINAL

	exists that due to this rotation mechanism, environmental matters may receive less attention over time.			<p>meetings is more recent (it started in 2019) but since then all presidencies have held one. It is expected the G7 presidencies in the period covered by this action will continue to do so.</p> <p>The action in itself does constitute a mitigating measure for this risk as it aims to keep environment related matters at the core of the agendas of these two fora.</p>
3 – People and the organisation	Availability of relevant EU Delegations to get involved in the action.	L	M	This risk will be mitigated by carefully presenting the advantages provided by cooperating with the Contractor and the positive fallout that an active engagement in G7/G20 matters by the EU Delegations would have on their bilateral work in the country concerned.
5 – Communication and information	Lack of capacity by the project to reach out for dissemination at the level of each of the non-EU countries involved.	M	M	This will be mitigated by the requirement that the project should develop a detailed communication strategy, the key elements of which should be reflected in the offer of the Contractor.
Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance				
2- Planning, processes and systems	Action at global level from EU thematic funding on environment is not enough to reverse the current trends of global environmental degradation. The risk is that developing/middle-income countries fail to mobilize own resources and resources from EU geographic programmes to properly address the environmental dimension of their economic development.	M	M	The difficulties of mainstreaming environmental considerations are well known, and both the EU and its partners start realizing that earmarked thematic funding for environment can leverage substantial additional amounts at country/regional level and can achieve a noticeable impact on reversing environmental degradation. The Agenda 2030 now demonstrates that achieving a sustainable development is impossible without properly integrating the environment dimension.

3- People and the organisation	UNEP Corporate Services fail at ensuring effective coordination of the action with UNEP Divisions and Secretariats of MEAs. This coordination includes a strong backstopping from UNEP Corporate Services in terms of management of the trust fund, and financial and narrative reporting.	L	L	<p>The experience gained from implementing the SCA, PCA I, PCA II and the recent restructuring of UNEP, including the UN-wide system centralizing management and accountability (Umoja) should mitigate that risk.</p> <p>In terms of financial management and compliance with the deliveries foreseen under the cooperation, the PMU monitors and reports on basis of a portfolio of projects that is gradually developed throughout the entire life-cycle of the agreement.</p>
2- Planning, processes and systems	The very wide range of possibilities for cooperation with UNEP could lead to dispersed efforts and ineffective impact of EU investment.	M	L	<p>This is expected to be mitigated by better-defined policy priorities to be elaborated by the Commission-UNEP High Level Meeting and regular thematic dialogues.</p> <p>It is also mitigated with the Framework Agreement modality of cooperation, which was also designed to address the fragmented programmatic approach and improve the implementation of the projects on the side of the operations though the establishment of the PMU as coordination mechanism. The link between the policy and the programmatic is effective if operationalized in practice.</p>

Lessons Learnt:

Component 1: Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership

The proposed action builds on the outcomes and lessons learned during three previously highly successful projects funded by the EU and implemented by the Global Soil Partnership. The GSP has proven to be a [transparent, neutral mechanism](#) that offers equal opportunities for all countries to develop their capacities, even with very limited financial support. The GSP is in a privileged position compared to other emerging initiatives because it allows direct access to farmers, who are and must always be considered as the real agents of change and the ultimate beneficiaries of awareness-raising actions, socialisation of scientific information and soil data, and improvement of soil governance.

One of the key dimensions of the GSP is the implementation of concrete activities at regional and country levels. There are established Regional Soil Partnerships³⁷ across the world. Many lessons were learned during regional/national consultation processes that were summarized through Communiqués, Statements and also included in global assessments (e.g. Status of the World's Soil Resources³⁸, Global Assessment of Soil Pollution³⁹, State of knowledge of soil biodiversity - Status, challenges and potentialities⁴⁰). The main lesson learned from these

³⁷ <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/regional-partnerships/en/>

³⁸ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/c6814873-efc3-41db-b7d3-2081a10ede50/>

³⁹ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb4894en/>

⁴⁰ <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb1928en/>

consultation processes is that the status of soil resources and ongoing soil activities are very diverse in terms of priorities and levels of investment at regional and national levels. There is currently heightened attention given to soils due to many advocacy actions undertaken by the Global Soil Partnership and its partners, such as the International Year of Soils 2015, the annual celebration of World Soil Day and others. However, actual investment in promoting sustainable soil management through actions such as awareness raising, soil management, conservation and restoration is still very low compared with the identified needs⁴¹.

The growing influence of the [World Soil Day campaigns](#), with an increasing number of events around the world, followers on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Flickr](#) visits to the [World Soil Day website](#) each year, demonstrates the success of the awareness campaigns. In addition, aspects directly related to soil management are increasingly included in international discussions, through the recognition of the key role of soil in the different international conventions and other UN organizations ([United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity](#) [CBD], [United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification](#) [UNCCD], [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) [UNFCCC] and [United Nations Environment Programme](#) [UNEP]).

Since the publication of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)⁴², the FAO's Global Soil Partnership (GSP) has been working on their advocacy and implementation through the development of supporting tools, initiatives and programs. FAO recently adopted the International Code of Conduct on the Sustainable Use and Management of Fertilizers ([Fertilizer Code](#)) which provides for actions at all levels (industry, policy and users) to control the quality of fertilizers and promote their judicious use. The [SoiLEX](#) platform contributes to the improved governance and management of soils by facilitating access to national regulations and policies related to soil.

One of the most successful initiatives under the GSP is the Global Soil Laboratory Network ([GLOSOLAN](#)) that currently counts over 700 soil laboratories around the world. GLOSOLAN works on building and strengthening the capacity of laboratories in soil analysis by organizing trainings, procuring laboratory equipment and facilitating the sharing of experiences between its members. Most importantly, GLOSOLAN works on the harmonization of laboratory methods (through the publishing of standard operating procedures and the organization of trainings) and data (through the organization of trainings and inter-laboratory comparison exercises), which are critical in decision making at all level. The Global Soil Information System ([GLOSIS](#)) makes key soil information available to any user to enable informed decision-making and the establishment of national, regional and global priorities in soil management, restoration and protection.

To support the adoption of sustainable management practices at the field level, the GSP has launched two programs that will bring about a change in trends. The [Global Soil Doctors](#) Programme will improve capacities of farmers, especially from developing countries, on assessing the status of their soil and on selecting the best practices to ensure food production while maintaining soil health. The [RECSOIL](#) programme was launched in December 2019 to scale up the adoption of good practices for sequestering SOC and providing multiple benefits, such as key ecosystem services, enhancing food security and farm income, reducing poverty and malnutrition, contributing to the achievement of the SDGs and offsetting emissions. In RECSOIL, farmers (especial attention is given to smallholder farmers) constitute the main agents of change. Through technical support and financial incentives, farmers will be capable to implement good practices on the ground. Investment on SOC sequestration is needed, and here an opportunity for private sector investment on climate financing is important. The RECSOIL programme is supported by a toolkit that includes a robust [MRV Protocol at farm scale](#), a Protocol for the assessment of the impact of SSM practices (SSM Protocol), and a technical manual of best management practices for re-carbonizing global soils.

The various publications, networks initiatives and data products supported by previous phases and developed collaboratively by hundreds of experts from all over the world highlight the important role of the GSP in coordinating all soil stakeholders and disseminating soil knowledge and data.

Component 2: Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity

Previous biodiversity-related projects carried out by the OECD demonstrated the usefulness of the outcomes for the underpinning of policy making in the CBD process and at national levels, as well as of the approach taken in these projects, i.e. collecting input, undertaking research and analysis, organising a workshop, discussing preliminary

⁴¹ https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/GSP/eighth_PA/GSPPA_VIII_2020_2.pdf

⁴² FAO, 2017. Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy. 26 pp. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl813e.pdf>

outcomes and producing a final report for wide distribution, all with close involvement of the OECD Working Party on Biodiversity, Water and Ecosystems (WPBWE) under the oversight of the Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC).

Component 3: Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE)

Since the creation of the JWPTE in 1991, the OECD has published over 120 reports as OECD Trade and Environment Working Papers or made publicly available in other forms. These analytical reports have informed multilateral, regional and unilateral developments in the interface of trade and environment. For example, analytical finding from these reports have successfully informed recent WTO initiatives on trade, environment, and sustainable development, including the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD), and the Informal Dialogue on Plastics (IDP).⁴³

Since 2006, the OECD has also organised 9 international workshops on trade and the environment in different regions including: Paris, France (2006, 2010, 2016, 2020); Tokyo, Japan (2007); Santiago, Chile (2008, 2018); Hanoi, Vietnam (2014); and in virtual format (2021). These workshops have shown that such outreach programmes are useful to establish dialogue and facilitate mutual learning between government officials and experts from both OECD member countries and non-member countries, including developing countries.⁴⁴ The proposed Action can draw on these past experiences in engaging with various stakeholders from different regions and backgrounds.

Component 4: Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20

Experience shows that G7/G20 declarations may not be properly implemented unless follow-up activities are identified, developed and carried out. The present action supports the identification, development and implementation by the EU of follow-up G7/G20 activities in the field of environment.

The present action profits from the lesson learnt in the implementation of the Partnership Instrument project ‘Environmental Diplomacy in G7/G20’ that has been carried out from June 2018 until February 2023⁴⁵. In particular, the budget of the present action takes into account that the “absorption capacity” for specific events by G7/G20 officials both in G7/G20 members and in the Commission services is limited, so incidentals should be reduced accordingly. It also profits from the positive experience of the flexibility offered by the use of non-key experts, while limiting the size of the permanent project team

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

Builds on the lessons related to the implementation of the 2011-2013 strategic cooperation agreement and on the 2014-2017 and 2018-2020 programme cooperation agreements with UNEP and the Secretariats of the MEAs.

Starting with the ENRTP SCA, the framework agreement modality of cooperation was designed to rationalise, simplify and increase the programmatic coherence of the cooperation between EC DG ENV, UNEP and MEA secretariats. The EU-UNEP Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) marked a shift in the way the cooperation between the EU and UNEP on international environmental governance was executed; a shift from multiple project agreements to a single framework agreement.

In 2018, an assessment of the performance of the management of this form of cooperation with UNEP and MEAs has been conducted in parallel. Among the recommendations, a strategic one is to enhance the strategic and programmatic orientation of the different actions under EU-UNEP framework agreements. To that aim, the selection of projects will continue to be prioritized by the annual Steering Committee on the basis of the EU-UNEP High Level dialogue.

Amongst others, the Assessment highlighted:

1. Important procedural benefits compared to the situation before the agreements include streamlined administration at the individual project level and increased flexibility in allocation of funding (re-allocation of savings to the project level instead of returning unspent balances to the EC, realizing one of the key benefits of the agreements);

⁴³ For example, findings from OECD work on trade and circular economy were shared in WTO TESSD meetings in 2021.

⁴⁴ www.oecd.org/env/environment-and-regional-trade-agreements.htm

⁴⁵ EuropeAid/139124/DH/SER/MULTI

2. Procedures have been steadily improved under the guidance of a Commission-UN Environment Corporate Services Division Programme Steering Committee and the Commission-UN Environment Corporate Services Division Programme Management Unit;

3. There is further potential to strengthen the partnership and dialogue on policy and programme linkages.

In the 2019 Final evaluation of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement, it is mentioned that projects provided a) improved access to knowledge, information and data, tools and guidelines, and b) capacity development vis-à-vis implementing and meeting the commitments made under MEAs, and vis-à-vis strengthening international environmental governance processes under MEAs. The conclusion of the Minamata Convention is a clear example of how the EU contribution could contribute to international environmental governance.

In the operationalisation of individual projects, the Project Management Unit introduced a four-monthly monitoring exercise, known as the 'Traffic Light System' (TLS) which continues to serve as a communication tool at the technical level between UNEP /MEAs and Commission task managers. It provides an alert system for project teams to raise issues including those that may affect project timing or expenditure and an opportunity for discussion with the Project Management Unit on possible solutions and risk mitigation.

This component will build on the lessons related to the implementation of the programme cooperation agreement with UNEP and the Secretariats of MEAs, and other EU-funded projects such as the EDF-funded project on Multilateral Environmental Agreements implemented by UNEP and FAO.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

Component 1: Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership

The underlying intervention logic for this action responds to the need to strengthen the awareness of policy makers, extension service technicians, farmers and consumers in all their diversity on the role of healthy soils in the production of healthy, safe and nutritious food and in climate change mitigation and adaptation. It also addresses the need to develop capacities of all stakeholders especially the groups in vulnerable situations (women, indigenous people, youth, etc.) to ensure sustainable soil management at national, regional and global levels with a view to increasing soil health, protection of soil biodiversity, prevention and reduction of pollution and ultimately resilience and sustainability of agri-food systems and improvement of local livelihoods. The international cooperation aimed at developing, strengthening and implementing national policies, strategies and regulations in line with existing international agreements promoting sustainable soil management and measures to ensure a balanced participation of key stakeholders, equal access to knowledge and technical tools, inclusive an gender sensitive through soil information systems, open and accessible reports and manuals, and training programmes, improved technological and analytical solutions, and the sustainable and rational use of agrochemicals are the main results expected to impact the overall objective of this action.

Improved awareness, and the availability of knowledge and technical tools for policy makers, extension service technicians, farmers and consumers aimed at increased soil appreciation and the widespread adoption of sustainable soil management at national, regional and global levels, and supported by the development and adoption of policies and strategies based on harmonised and robust soil information and knowledge transfer, will then lead to progress towards healthy soils for all capable of performing their functions and providing ecosystem services. Active and balanced participation of key stakeholders in the development and implementation of Global Soil Partnership activities and decision-making, equal access to knowledge and tools and technical assistance, and access to funding and reward mechanisms have proven to be successful mechanisms in the past to put soils at the centre of the international policy agenda, foster international cooperation to advance soil knowledge, and engage actors who previously were unaware of and unconcerned with soils.

Advocacy for widespread adoption of sustainable soil management, which ultimate goal is to guarantee the production of sufficient food to meet global needs, ensuring its nutritious and safe status, while maintaining the health of the soil for future generations. Access to a nutritious, varied and healthy diet is a basic requirement to reduce the vulnerability of the less favoured populations, guarantee their development options, and reduce the differences between rich and poor. SOC-centred SSM practices can effectively store more carbon in the soil over the short to

medium term, enhance soil biodiversity, and reduce dependence on external inputs, thereby improving food production and livelihoods, and contributing to the global actions to mitigate climate change. Soil biodiversity plays a vital role in the soil ecosystem as soil organisms are responsible for nutrient cycling, regulating the dynamics of soil organic matter, soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions, allowing soils to function properly. Soil biodiversity plays a central role in preserving human health through a range of pathways including water purification, climate stabilization, nutrient and food security, and immune regulation. Plants surrounded by biodiverse soils have a greater resilience against pests and diseases. Therefore, if all stakeholders join forces within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership to advance the implementation of sustainable soil management and global scaling up of the goals set by the European Union aimed at improving nutrition, combating climate change, and protecting and restoring ecosystems from biodiversity loss and pollution, progress towards healthy soils will ultimately lead to environmental and human well-being.

Component 2: Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

The planned Outputs (i.e., the analytical report - including the roadmap for action, the conference and the policy highlights document) will provide a clear rationale on the distinct advantages of using economic instruments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, explaining the underlying economic theory and rationale in a clear and concise manner intended for a wide audience. It will aim to clarify the underlying reasons regarding why these instruments are still under-utilised, and identify options to overcome challenges in their design and implementation. By helping to increase understanding and awareness on the potential role of these incentives in fostering biodiversity protection, including as key policy instruments to mainstream biodiversity across a range of sectors, and by providing governments with an implementation guide or Roadmap for Action, the planned outputs will facilitate the uptake of these policy instruments at national (and local) level, including how they can be integrated with other more traditional regulatory (command-and-control) policy instruments, so as to facilitate effective policy mixes for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

In the longer term, the expected Outcomes (i.e. the scaling up and/or increase in the ambition of economic instruments) will ensure that the values of biodiversity are integrated in policy making and mainstreamed across a variety of sectors. The application of these economic instruments (e.g. biodiversity-relevant taxes, fees and charges, biodiversity-motivated subsidies, tradable permits, payments for ecosystem services) can be used to address the pressures on biodiversity loss stemming from a range of sectors including agriculture (e.g. pesticide pollution), fisheries (e.g. over-exploitation of fish stocks), forestry, mining (e.g. pollution), infrastructure (e.g. land use change and pollution). As such, these instruments will help to reflect the true values of biodiversity in decision-making, thus providing incentives for more sustainable consumption and production. By reducing the pressures on biodiversity, the state of biodiversity will improve.

Component 3: Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE)

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is that the proposed outputs of three analytical reports, and the two workshops and outreach programmes under the Action, will contribute to the outcome to support the OECD to produce policy relevant findings, with the aim of triggering transformative actions to securing greater policy coherence between trade and environment measures in OECD Member countries and non-member countries. This outcome will be achieved through: (i) papers presented to and/or discussed among OECD Delegates; (ii) organised OECD workshops with a summary published on the OECD website, and (iii) analytical findings disseminated through different fora. This outcome will contribute to the overall objective to support OECD Member countries and non-member countries in their growing efforts to promote the mutual compatibility of trade and environment policies, with the goal of contributing to inclusive green growth and sustainable development. The indicators of the overall goal would be to assess the signs of increased policy coherence between trade and environment measures, such as the increase in international dialogues on trade and the environment and the increase in the number of global applications of environmental provisions in RTAs.

The key assumptions of the Action to produce the relevant outputs as well as to achieve the outcome and overall objective are continued international efforts to further liberalise global trade in a way that contributes to addressing global environmental concerns. A potential key risk is declined interest and support to secure coherence between

trade and environment policies among OECD Members and non- members. This risk associated with the Action, will be mitigated by drawing upon the OECD Environmental Policy Committee (EPOC)'s strategic guidance on the implementation of the OECD Programme of Work 2023-24 in order to correctly reflect the policy priorities of OECD Members and partners.⁴⁶

Component 4: Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the EU seeks to advance the prosperity of its people by promoting growth, jobs, equality, and a safe and healthy environment. With most world growth in the near future expected to take place outside the EU, trade and investment will increasingly underpin our prosperity. In fact, the EU is a leading exporter and importer of goods and services and is deeply embedded in global value chains. While a prosperous EU is the basis for a stronger Europe in the world, prosperity must be shared and fulfil the future envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including those that relate to the environment. Issues such as environmental degradation and resource scarcity know no borders and the EU is taking steps both internally and externally to address environmental sustainability.

The EU has an interest in shaping global economic and environmental rules in such a manner as to complement its internal ambition by engaging with our key partners countries. The G7 and especially the G20 are two multilateral and authoritative fora well-suited for this environmental diplomacy on the basis of informal processes, whereby leaders of the seven (G7) and nineteen (G20) arguably most influential countries and of the EU can determine not only national decisions but also exert their influence in guiding more formally institutionalised deliberations, such as at the level of the United Nations.

As such, the EU aims to strengthen its contribution to G7 and G20 relevant initiatives in the field of the environment with the double aim to a) encourage other countries' leaders towards more sustainable development and b) support EU endeavours in achieving the SDGs, both domestically and globally.

Component 5: Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance

Through the provision of EU voluntary contributions to the secretariats of international environmental processes and agreements in a selected number of priorities (e.g. on biodiversity and ecosystems including forests and soils, on circular pollution-free economies including linkages to other policies such as trade) the Commission action is expected to trigger:

- the strengthened involvement of developing/middle-income countries in international environmental agreements and processes;
- the greater availability of environmental tools, guidelines and training opportunities for middle income/developing countries; and
- the more effective generation, management and sharing of environmental knowledge, including SMART targets and indicators.

This will all ultimately contribute to enhancing the delivery of the environmental pillar of the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

⁴⁶ ENV/EPOC/M(2017)3/FINAL

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
Impact component 1	1. To contribute to sustainable agriculture and environmental and human well-being through the sustainable management of soil resources in the framework of an action to extend globally the principles and goals of the European Green Deal, the Soil Strategy for 2030 and the EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe, to advance country efforts towards healthy soils	1. Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2.4.1)	0%	5% in 3 years	Land use data from FAO Sustainable agriculture Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics Global Soil Information System and SoilSTAT	<i>Not applicable</i>
Impact component 2	2. To contribute to the effective implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular proposed Target 18, so as to increase the use and ambition of policy instruments that incentivise the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	2.1 Pollution (of various kinds, e.g. pesticide use per hectare) 2. 2 Rate of natural resource use	2.1 TBD in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework 2.2 TBD in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	2.1 A decrease in pollutants that the economic instruments apply to (at national level) 2.2 A decrease in rate of natural resource use that the economic instruments apply to (at national level)	2.1 Global Biodiversity Outlooks 2.2 Future assessments of the IPBES 2.3 National level data	<i>Not applicable</i>

Impact component 3	3.To support OECD Member countries and non- member countries including emerging economies and developing and middle income countries on their growing efforts and transformative actions to secure greater policy coherence between trade and environment measures that are essential for inclusive green growth and sustainable development.	3. The number of international dialogues on key issues related to trade and environment including trade and climate change, trade and circular economy, and trade and environmental sustainability (% of which are gender sensitive) .2 - The number of global application of environmental provisions in RTAs by OECD member countries and non-member countries.	3. Average annual number of international dialogues organised between 2016- 2021	3. Increased number of international dialogues from 2022 - Increased application of environmental provisions in RTAs from 2022	3. Meetings and workshops on trade and environment. (e.g. OECD, World Trade Organization (WTO), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)).	
Impact component 4	4.To contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by supporting and fostering the environmental agenda in the G7 and G20 discussions and by strengthening the EU's environmental diplomacy in these multilateral fora as key interlocutor on environmental matters at global level	4. Number of collective approaches and/or practices to challenges of global concern which have been developed / embraced / implemented in the G7/G20	2022: 4	2026 : 8	Relevant G7/G20 documents, including strategy documents, underlining relevant timelines and processes. Documentation of relevant environmental data on G7/G20 countries.	
Impact component 5	5. To contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving	5. Status of the implementation of relevant SDGs jointly selected by the Commission and UNEP.	To be determined by UNEP in consultation	To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	5. UN Reports on sustainable development, including in the	

	international environment governance, and also the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the Green Deal.	It is still to be determined with UNEP which goals and targets will be monitored in the area of human health and chemicals; sustainable consumption and production; the marine environment; biodiversity; knowledge development and transfer, and the creation of partnerships	with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application		framework of the High Level Political Forum ; UNEP annual report Year Book MEAs COP/MOPs decisions and reports.	
Outcomes component 1	1.1 Increased sustainable production and productivity of agriculture through capacity building of key stakeholders 1.2 More sustainable and inclusive natural resource management 1.3 Improved FNS & SA governance	1.1 Number (and %) of smallholders practising sustainable agriculture (disaggregated at least by sex) (Absolute number and percentage) 1.2 Number of hectares of arable land changing practices or implementing improved sustainable soil management structures and practices (Hectares (Ha)) 1.3 Evidence of use of relevant and credible information in FNS&SA policies, strategies and regulations (Number of)	1.1 0 1.2 0 1.3 0	1.1 At least 500 individuals/year 1.2 At least 100 Ha 1.3 At least 3 national monitoring/information system with capacity to produce and deliver relevant and credible information	1.1 RECSOIL toolkit; OCAT 1.2 Project-commissioned studies (at the beginning and end of the Action) 1.3 Project commissioned studies on soil governance and national information systems	1.1 Technical assistance meet the needs of the stakeholders 1.2 National governments and partners have a sense of ownership of the Action and wish to implement sustainable soil management and ensure the continuity of Action 1.3 National governments and partners develop and take into consideration soil information and data developed within the

						Action for informed decisions
Outcomes component 2	2.1 Increased use and ambition of economic instruments for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use	<p>2.1.1 Number of biodiversity-relevant taxes</p> <p>2.1.2 % of revenue from biodiversity-relevant taxes relative to all environmentally-relevant taxes</p> <p>2.1.3 Revenue generated by biodiversity-relevant taxes</p> <p>2.1.4 Number of biodiversity-relevant fees and charges</p> <p>2.1.5 Number of biodiversity-relevant tradable permits</p> <p>2.1.6 Number of biodiversity-relevant environmentally-motivated subsidies</p> <p>(and potentially more, on payments for ecosystem services and on biodiversity offsets)</p>	1.1 Could be 2020, 2021, 2023 (as most appropriate). See OECD (2021)	<p>2.1.1 A min 5% increase in # of instruments to 2030 compared to 2020.</p> <p>2.1.2s An increase in % of revenue from biodiversity-relevant taxes relative to all environmentally-relevant taxes in 2030 compared to 2020</p> <p>2.1.3 A min 5% increase in revenue generated by biodiversity-relevant taxes</p> <p>2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.6 A min 5% increase in # of instruments to 2030 compared to 2020</p>	For all: OECD Policy Instruments for the Environment (PINE) database	
Outcomes component 3	3.1 Securing better policy coherence between trade and environment measures in OECD Member countries and non-member countries through support to the JWPTE	<p>3.1.1 Number of papers presented to OECD Delegates, and subsequently discussed in JWPTE meetings.</p> <p>3.1.2 Number of workshops delivered by the OECD.</p> <p>3.1.3 Number of outreach activities to disseminate analytical findings</p>	<p>3.1.1 - New reports presented to Delegates between 2019 and 2022.</p> <p>3.1.2 - New OECD workshops organised</p>	<p>3.1.1 - 3 reports presented and/or disseminated through different fora by 2025.</p> <p>3.1.2 - 2 OECD workshops hosted to disseminate analytical findings by 2025</p> <p>3.1.3 – Outreach activities, including presentations at external fora by 2025</p>	<p>3.1.1 – OECD iLibrary</p> <p>3.1.2 - JWPTE meetings and summary records, OECD website.</p> <p>3.1.3 - OECD website, and relevant sources of IGOs including WTO and UNCTAD.</p> <p>3.1.4 References to the findings in policy</p>	Continued interest and support to secure coherence between trade and environment policies among OECD and

			between 2019 and 2022. 3.1.3 – Outreach activities, including presentations at external fora, between 2019 and 2022		evaluations, draft laws and reports of member and non-member countries by 2026.	non-OECD members.
Outcomes component 4	4. Enhanced engagement of the EU in the G7 and the G20 concerning priority aspects of EU interest related to environment topics that G7/G20 presidencies will want to put on the agenda. .	4. Number of processes related to the positions partner countries take in the run-up to or during G7/G20 fora which have been influenced.	4. zero	4. 8	4. G7/G20 official reports, communiqués, press releases etc.	G7/G20 stakeholders and partners are willing and committed to support the Action and to actively participate
Outcomes component 5	5.1 Strengthened International agreements, partnerships and alliances on environmental governance and issues promoted through targeted supports in areas linked to, inter alia, halting biodiversity loss, transitioning to	5.1 Outcome indicators to be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application (depending the adoption of individual projects)	To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application	MEAs COP/MOPs decisions and reports UNEP annual report Year Book	Middle income and developing countries translate policies and laws into practice No major crisis affects global efforts towards sustainable development

	<p>greener and more circular economies, protecting human health from pollution, sound management of chemicals and waste, and ensuring the transparent and sustainable management of natural resources.</p> <p>5.2 Enhanced capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the MEAs is strengthened through the provision of advisory services, information and knowledge products, tools, methodologies and guidelines.</p>					
Outputs related to component 1	1.1.1 Strengthened agricultural and rural services for improved production of and access to more nutritious and safer food through the	<p>1.1.1.1 Number of extension workers certified/trained by the Action, disaggregated by sex and topic (Number of individuals)</p> <p>1.1.1.2 Number of soil laboratory technicians certified/trained by the</p>	<p>1.1.1 0</p> <p>1.1.2 0</p> <p>1.2.1 0</p> <p>1.2.2 0</p>	<p>1.1.1 At least 500 individuals/year</p> <p>1.1.2 At least 500 individuals/year</p> <p>1.2.1.1. At least 5,000 individuals/year</p>	<p>1.1.1 Project monitoring systems</p> <p>1.1.2 Project monitoring systems</p> <p>1.2.1 Project monitoring system</p>	1.1.1 Global, regional and national stakeholders and partners are willing and committed to

	<p>EduSOILS platform and the Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN).</p> <p>1.1.2 Enhanced capacities of smallholder, medium and large farmers for sustainable soil management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and pollution prevention through the Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP).</p> <p>1.2.1 Increased awareness of the role of soil for nutrition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection and pollution prevention through the celebration of World Soil Day, the organisation of thematic Global Symposia and other</p>	<p>Action, disaggregated by sex and topic (Number of individuals)</p> <p>1.1.2.1 Number of people trained by the Action on sustainable agricultural practices/technologies under the GSDP, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity when relevant (Number of individuals)</p> <p>1.2.1.1. Number of people with increased soil awareness, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity when relevant (Number of individuals)</p> <p>1.2.1.2. Number of people participating on World Soil Day celebrations, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity when relevant (Number of individuals)</p> <p>1.2.1.3. Number of people participating on thematic Global Symposia and other similar events, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity when relevant (Number of individuals)</p> <p>1.2.2.1. National and local climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies developed under the RECSOIL initiative (Number of strategies)</p> <p>1.2.2.2. Number of countries collecting data on soil organic carbon (SOC) useful to report progress towards the SDG target</p>	<p>1.3.1 0</p> <p>1.3.2 0</p>	<p>1.2.1.2. At least 8,000 individuals/year</p> <p>1.2.1.3. At least 1,000 individuals/event</p> <p>1.2.2.1. At least 3 strategies</p> <p>1.2.2.2. At least 5 countries</p> <p>1.3.1.1. At least 1,000 individuals participating in INSII activities</p> <p>1.3.1.2. At least 600 individuals participating in INSAS activities</p> <p>1.3.1.3. At least 100 individuals participating in INBS activities</p> <p>3.1.4. At least 600 individuals participating in NETSOB activities</p> <p>1.3.2.1. At least 3 NSIS</p> <p>1.3.2.2. At least 2 global data products</p> <p>1.3.3.1 At least 2 policies/strategies/laws/regulations including sustainable soil management principles</p>	<p>1.2.2 Project monitoring system</p> <p>1.3.1 Project monitoring system and network reports</p> <p>1.3.2 Project monitoring system;</p> <p>NSIS availability;</p> <p>Global products reports</p> <p>1.3.3 Project commissioned studies on soil governance;</p> <p>SoiLEX database</p>	<p>support the Action and to actively participate in capacity building opportunities</p> <p>1.1.2 Smallholder, medium and large farmers are willing and committed to support the Action and to actively participate in capacity building opportunities</p> <p>1.2.1 Society is interested in soils and wants to learn more and make others aware of their importance</p> <p>1.2.2 Effective commitment of global, regional and national stakeholders and partners to provide information;</p>
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	<p>awareness-raising events</p> <p>1.2.2 Enhanced resilience of agricultural systems and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies implemented at national level focused on soil organic carbon sequestration, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, protection of carbon-rich soils, especially black soils, and judicious use of fertilisers under the RECSOIL initiative</p> <p>1.3.1 Strengthened international cooperation for the advancement of soil knowledge and the development of indicators and models, harmonized analysis methodologies, and science-based sustainable management practices overseen by the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).</p>	<p>15.3 on Land Degradation Neutrality</p> <p>1.3.2.1. Status of NSIS (Yes/ No)</p> <p>1.3.2.2. Status of global data products</p> <p>1.3.3.1 Number of policies/strategies/laws/regulations revised/elaborated including sustainable soil management principles with support of the Action (Number of policies/strategies/laws/regulations</p>				<p>Sufficient availability of technical and scientific information.</p> <p>1.3.1 National experts are willing and committed to support the international networks activities and to actively participate in capacity building opportunities;</p> <p>Receipt of timeous and appropriate nominations of candidates per country to participate in capacity building opportunities and technical meetings and activities</p> <p>1.3.2 Commitment from national stakeholders to contribute</p>
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	<p>1.3.2 Up-to-date soil information, data and statistics available at national, regional and global levels through the development and consolidation of national soil information systems (NSIS) and form a federated part of the Global Soil Information System (GloSIS) and SOILSTAT</p> <p>1.3.3 Soil governance enhanced to advance towards healthy soils according to the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)</p>					<p>relevant legacy data;</p> <p>Willingness of national partners to develop web services and share relevant data and information</p> <p>1.3.3 Willingness of national governments to develop or review national policies to include SSM principles</p> <p>Effective commitment of national stakeholders and partners to dialogue and cooperation</p>
Outputs related to Component 2	<p>2.1 Report published and disseminated</p> <p>2.2 International conference/workshop convened and summary record published</p> <p>2.3 Policy Highlights (summary for</p>	<p>2.1. Published OECD report</p> <p>2.2. Published summary record of the workshop findings</p> <p>2.3 Published policy highlights document</p>	<p>2.1. NA</p> <p>2.2. zero</p> <p>2.3 zero</p>	<p>2.1. One report (and one workshop, one Policy Highlights document) – all made available on a public website</p> <p>2.2. One conference/workshop</p> <p>2.3 One Policy Highlights document</p>	<p>2.1. NA</p> <p>2.2.1 Report of the conference/workshop</p> <p>2.2.1 Press releases/media</p> <p>2.3 OECD website</p>	

	<p>policy-makers document) published</p>					
<p>Outputs related to Component 3</p>	<p>3.1.1 Analytical work developed in the form of 3 analytical reports on two broad thematic areas: (i) Trade and Circular Economy; and (ii) Trade and Environmental Sustainability.</p> <p>3.1.2 Two workshops delivered ideally in two different regions to engage with OECD Member countries and non-member countries.</p> <p>3.1.3 Outreach programme to disseminate analytical findings</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of reports prepared and discussed by the JWPTE.</p> <p>3.1.2 Number of workshops organised.</p> <p>3.1.3 Number of outreach events where findings are presented.</p>	<p>3.1.1 - New reports developed between 2019 and 2022.</p> <p>3.1.2 - New workshops organised between 2019 and 2022.</p> <p>3.1.3 – Number of presentations of related work between 2019 and 2022.</p>	<p>3.1.1 - At least 3 reports developed by 2025.</p> <p>3.1.2 - 2 OECD workshops delivered by 2025</p> <p>3.1.3 – Number of presentations delivered in internal and external fora by 2025.</p>	<p>3.1.1 - JWPTE meetings and summary records, OECD website.</p> <p>3.1.2 - OECD website, Workshop agenda, list of participants, and workshop summaries.</p> <p>3.1.3.1 - OECD and external websites, agendas, lists of participants, and summaries.</p> <p>3.1.3.2 References to the findings in policy evaluations, draft laws and reports of Member and non-member countries by 2026</p>	<p>Continued international efforts to further liberalise global trade.</p> <p>Continued international efforts to further liberalise global trade.</p> <p>Continued international efforts to address global environmental concerns.</p> <p>Declassification of the analytical findings at the JWPTE.</p>
<p>Outputs related to Component 4</p>	<p>4.1 Strengthened capacities on key environmental matters on environmental topics of G7/G20 interest.</p> <p>4.2 Raised awareness on environmental</p>	<p>4.1 Number of working documents drafted with a size between 2-10 pages.</p> <p>4.2. Number of environment-related events organised by G7/G20 members attended</p> <p>4.3.1 Number of events (workshops and conferences)</p>	<p>4.1 zero</p> <p>4.2.10</p> <p>4.3.1. zero</p>	<p>4.1 20</p>	<p>4.1 G7/G20 communiqués, press releases, workshop reports etc.</p> <p>4.2 Reports by the project team</p>	<p>G7/G20 stakeholders and partners are willing and committed to support the Action and to</p>

	<p>matters by delivering policies' recommendations.</p> <p>4.3 Strengthened multilateral G7/G20 cooperation on key environmental topics.</p> <p>4.4 Strengthened international cooperation on key environmental topics in multilateral fora' (e.g. Nairobi (United Nations Environment Assembly), New York (High-Level Political Forum and United Nations General Assembly), Geneva (World Trade Organisation, United Nations Office at Geneva)).</p>	<p>organised in Brussels and in countries holding G7/G20 presidency</p> <p>4.3.2 Number of participants/speakers (disaggregated at least by sex)</p> <p>4.4.1 Number of events organised</p> <p>4.4.2 Number of participants/speakers (disaggregated at least by sex)</p>	<p>4.3.2 zero</p> <p>4.4.1 zero</p> <p>4.4.2 zero</p>	<p>4.2 12</p> <p>4.3.1 12</p> <p>4.3.2 At least 2,120</p> <p>4.4.1 4</p> <p>4.4.2 At least 440</p>	<p>4.3 1. Reports by the project team</p> <p>4.3.2 Reports by the project team</p> <p>4.4 1. Reports by the project team</p> <p>4.4.2 Reports by the project team</p>	<p>actively participate</p>
<p>Outputs related to Component 5</p>	<p>5.1 Strengthened capacities of countries to effectively engage in regional and global international processes addressing issues of international relevance, to</p>	<p>To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application (depending on the individual projects selected)</p> <p>To reflect the gender dimension, one of the future indicators to be</p>	<p>To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing</p>	<p>To be determined by UNEP in consultation with Secretariats of MEAs when preparing their application</p>	<p>Annual reports from individual projects and from UNEP</p>	

	<p>strengthen the environmental dimension of the SDGs and to promote the progressive development on international environmental law, including MEAs.</p> <p>5.2: Strengthened institutional capacities, policies and legal frameworks to implement action to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals and those of relevant MEAs</p> <p>5.3: Developed and implemented policies, strategies and mechanisms for maintaining the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, supporting the transition to greener and more circular economies and promoting the sound management of</p>	<p>considered, in line with the GAPIII, will be:</p> <p>Extent to which declarations and policy documents on climate change and environment at multilateral level contain specific actions to include women in the decision-making processes</p>	their application			
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	<p>chemicals and waste, including plastics, within the framework of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)</p> <p>5.4 Identified National emissions sources, policies and legal, regulatory, fiscal and institutional frameworks and mechanisms for the reduction of pollution developed, institutional capacity built for improved air, soil and water quality and quality assessments.</p> <p>5.5 Strengthened institutional capacities for development and implementation of education and monitoring programmes and cross-sector and transboundary collaboration frameworks at the national and international levels targeting health and</p>					
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	<p>productivity of marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems.</p> <p>5.6 Enhanced capacity of policymakers in the public and private sectors to consider the health and productivity of ecosystems in economic decision-making</p> <p>5.7 Strengthened capacities of countries to adopt science-based approaches that enable them to transition to sustainable development through multiple pathways, including an inclusive green economy and sustainable trade, and adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns at all levels</p> <p>5.8 Developed guidelines, methodologies and provision of technical support for public, private and financial sectors to foster the adoption and implementation of sustainable</p>					
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	<p>management frameworks and practices, including on the sound management of chemicals and waste.</p> <p>5.9 Raised awareness among public and private sectors and increased support for the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable consumption patterns.</p> <p>5.10 Governments and other stakeholders used quality open environmental data, analyses and participatory processes that strengthen the science-policy interface to generate evidence-based environmental assessments, identify emerging issues and foster policy action.</p>					
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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with 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 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 measures⁴⁷.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

For the Component 4: The action shall be implemented under direct management and relates to the objective 4 of this action: to support an enhanced engagement of the EU in the G7 and the G20 concerning priority aspects of EU interest related to environment topics that G7/G20 presidencies will want to put on the agenda in the period covered by the action.

4.3.2 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with **the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**. This implementation entails to contribute to the externalisation of the European Green Deal by improving international environment governance, and also the promotion of EU Strategies adopted in the context of the European Green Deal.

Component 1: The envisaged entity (FAO) has been selected using the following criteria:

1) its work plan is fully aligned with the Commission's goals and objectives set out in the Soil Thematic Strategy for 2030, 2) it has the technical capacity to coordinate and implement the actions of this agreement, 3) it has a global outreach, 4) it has the capacity to produce relevant and credible information.

The envisaged entity has long experience in advising countries about soils issues in relation to food and agriculture and it also has close links with funding institutions that could be willing to support projects in this area.

FAO is thus very well placed to bring together various stakeholders (researchers, policy makers, field practitioners) from across disciplines (soils, plant nutrition, human nutrition and also agricultural extension). The Organisation can also draw from its own range of expertise related to food systems, from soil nutrient balance over plant nutrition to human nutrition. FAO is also able to ground its normative work and policy advice in solid field experience and capacity development. FAO's extensive work on soil management and soil data analysis is a key asset for this project.

Since 2012, FAO's members have established the Global Soil Partnership and its associated Regional Soil Partnerships (RSPs). Both country and regional FAO offices will be expected to interact closely with and support the RSPs in both technical and operational ways. Through these partnerships, FAO is closely engaged with a large

⁴⁷ 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

network of national and regional soil institutions and experts. These networks are playing a central role in raising the visibility and importance of soils-related work at national and regional level. FAO is responsible for the implementation of the UN World Soil Day. A number of technical manuals and global knowledge products have been published and various projects implemented, where the aim was to build and strengthen national capacities for sustainable soil management. FAO has implemented more than 150 soil-related projects throughout the world over the last 30 years. These projects were funded both by FAO Regular Programme and extra budgetary (voluntary contributions) resources.

Component 2: This action may be implemented in indirect management with OECD. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: being a multi-disciplinary intergovernmental organisation with a long-standing expertise on the economics and policy of the environment.

Component 3: This action may be implemented in indirect management with OECD. The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria: being a multi-disciplinary intergovernmental organisation with a long-standing expertise on the economics and policy of the environment.

Component 5: The envisaged entity (UNEP) has been selected using the following criteria: UN Environment Programme has a monopoly and technical capacity by hosting the secretariats for many critical multilateral environmental agreements and research bodies, bringing together nations and the environmental community to tackle the environmental and global challenges. In addition to its technical competence on environment, UNEP has the administrative power to prepare the meetings of the UN Environment Assembly, regularly reviews the implementation of its decisions and therefore to have direct official channels of communication for projects 'implementation with national Authorities. The implementation by this entity entails matters related to the development of international and national environmental tools. This entity benefits from an internationally recognized mandate as leading global environmental authority.

At the time of the drafting of this action document, UNEP is undertaking a pillar-assessment procedure. In case it is not yet successful at the contracting phase, supervisory measures should apply until completion of the separate pillar assessment of the entity covering all pillars. No contribution agreements are to be signed without such Supervisory measures.

With this component, UN Environment Programme will contribute to strengthen International agreements, partnerships and alliances on environmental governance and to enhance capacities of countries to develop evidence-based policies and decisions, ownership and implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs and the MEAs.

In case the envisaged entity 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 (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If the foreseen implementation modality under indirect management above cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, part of the action may be implemented through a direct grant awarded without a call for proposal, according to the conditions set out in article 195 of the Financial Regulation. The selection criteria are spelled out under section 4.3.1.

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 realisation 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
Component 1 - Support the implementation of a Global Soil Deal through the Global Soil Partnership	1,500,000	500,000
Indirect management with FAO - cf. section 4.3.1		
Component 2 - Scaling up positive incentives and designing effective policy mixes for biodiversity	240,000	60,000
Indirect management with OECD - cf. section 4.3.1		
Component 3 - Support to the work of the OECD Joint Working Party on Trade and Environment (JWPTE)	500,000	125,000
Indirect management with OECD - cf. section 4.3.1		
Component 4 - Environmental Diplomacy in G7 and G20	1,500,000	0
Direct management - cf. section 4.3.1		
Component 5 - Programme Cooperation Agreement with UNEP to improve international environmental governance	10,560,000	1,372,800
Indirect management with UNEP – section 4.3.1		
Evaluation and Audit For all components the budget for the evaluation will be part of the total costs and contracted by the Beneficiaries.		
Contingencies	N.A.	N.A.
Totals	14,300,000	2,057,800

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

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.

For all components, the projects will use, wherever possible, existing management structures of the participating institutions. In all cases, a Steering Committee is co-chaired between the European Commission and the relevant entities implementing the components and will meet on a yearly basis.

When activities are organised locally, the implementing entity will liaise with the respective EU Delegations.

Component 1:

This project includes a diverse range of outputs and activities at global, regional and national level, hence different pathways will be followed to implement these through the diverse range of stakeholders.

It is expected that national governments/institutions will be providing national staff that will collaborate with the project implementation, as well as making the necessary facilities available when appropriate. In most cases, GSP

focal points are hosted by national ministries of agriculture or similar ministries. In this capacity, most national governments will provide inputs into project implementation by nominating participants for relevant activities.

The Lead Technical Officer (LTO) will be accountable and responsible for the overall technical quality of the project. Typically, the LTO is the GSP Secretary based at the Land and Water Division (NSL) at FAO headquarters since this is a global project. The GSP Secretary will also be responsible for coordination with other FAO technical units as needed, as well as relevant external networks and initiatives for technical support. In effect, specific inputs from other divisions (e.g. statistics, partnerships, capacity development) may be sought depending on specific issues arising during implementation. The project will ensure technical support at all levels of project implementation through backstopping missions, teleconferences, phone calls, email exchange, verification of reports, and more in collaboration with relevant decentralized FAO offices in all implementation regions.

In the case of capacity development activities on soil information and data, soil monitoring and digital soil mapping, the harmonization of soil data collection and analysis, as well as on sustainable soil management practices, the call for nomination of participants will be communicated through the GSP focal points, representatives of the international technical networks, and through open calls on the GSP website and social media, when appropriate, to identify the most suitable participants. Arrangements for the implementation of these training events will be made in collaboration with the regional and relevant national FAO offices where available.

When appropriate, inputs will be provided through other funding (whenever co-financing arrangements are envisaged with other resource partner(s) involved) as available under the umbrella of the *Healthy Soils Facility*.

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.

Components 2 and 3: A Project Advisory Group co-chaired between the European Commission and OECD will meet on a yearly basis. 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 indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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).

Component 4: A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) chaired by the European Commission will meet at least on a yearly basis. EU Delegations will be informed in advance of any national activities taking place locally. A strong policy steering and monitoring of the action will be ensured by DG ENV in coordination with other Commission services. The EU delegations in G7/G20 countries will also ensure direct contacts with the implementing partner and monitoring of the activities, as appropriate.

Component 5:

The action will be organised around a governance structure and rules of procedure established by the Commission and UNEP, with due consideration of the provisions of their financial and administrative framework agreement (FAFA, as revised in December 2018).

A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) co-chaired between the European Commission and UNEP Corporate Services Division will meet on a yearly basis. All UNEP Divisions and sub-programme coordinators and Secretariats of MEAs also attend the meetings of the PSC. The Commission is taking the final decision on the projects to be funded from the EU contribution, among projects proposals submitted by UNEP and Secretariats of MEAs.

UNEP Corporate Services Division (hosting the Programme Management Unit headed by the Coordinator of the programme) will work closely with Commission services and liaise regularly with UNEP Divisions and with the secretariats of MEAs.

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.

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 taking into account gender equality and human rights dimension (examples: the right-holders/groups living in vulnerable situations have the capacities to benefit the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, rights to adequate food and the rights to health and capacity building of duty-bearers).. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action from a gender and human rights-based approach, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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).

Component 1:

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Project monitoring will be under the overall responsibility of the Budget Holder and the technical supervision and guidance of the LTO. The Project Coordinator and Program Officer will coordinate the monitoring and reporting process through the following means:

- **Content Reporting:** Short reports on activities and achievements are needed for each annual GSP Plenary Assembly. In addition, all international technical networks (GLOSOLAN, INSII, INSAS, INBS, and NETSOB) must report to their members on progress done on an annual basis. The ITPS meets twice per year and provide detailed reports of the activities it has been involved on. Moreover, comprehensive progress reports will be compiled every twelve months, including a final report to be submitted by end of 2024.
- **Financial Monitoring and Reporting:** The project will operate based on annual budgets, defined in Appendix II. Financial reporting will be done to the donor according to formats and periodicity, as agreed between project donor and FAO.

The assumptions and risk will be duly monitored and addressed through the Project Task Force (PTF) while project monitoring will be based on the project outcome indicators as well as the output indicators and performed by the LTO.

Specific activities implemented through Letter of Agreements (LoAs) or contracts will be monitored according to the monitoring and reporting specifications elaborated within the individual LoAs.

Information on targets established in the Logical Framework Matrix will be collected by the PTF through a reporting mechanism that will be established by the GSP Secretariat to track the indicators included in the logical framework, disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity when relevant.

The statistical and monitoring systems as well as the quality of official data in the policy field covered have been assessed. This assessment has fed into the design of the action as follows: The State of the World's Soil Resources report launched in 2015 established the baseline of the state of soil threats affecting all regions of the world.

Country-based thematic global data products such as the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map (GSOCmap), the Global Soil Organic Carbon Sequestration Potential Map (GSOCseq) and the Global Salt Affected Soils Map (GSASmap) and all the layers they include have enabled the assessment of available soil data and information at the national level and have enabled the identification of hotspots and priority areas for interventions. In addition, the Global Assessment of Soil Pollution Report and the State of Knowledge of Soil Biodiversity - Status, Challenges and Potentialities report contribute key national and regional data and information on the status of these soil threats and the main knowledge gaps that will be addressed by this action. Similarly, the Global Assessment of Soil Laboratories identified the potentials and shortcomings of the technicians. Preliminary information analysis and country surveys carried out during the development of the implementation plans of the Global Soil Doctors Programme and the RECSOIL initiative have allowed the establishment of a set of criteria for participation that indicate the minimum requirements and gaps that can be addressed by both programs.

5.2 Evaluation

Component 1: Having regard to the nature of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants by the implementing partner. All evaluations will be carried out under a gender and Human Rights sensitive approach in line with the Gap III guidelines.

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 measures need to be included to ensure continuity of action developed through the project.

The evaluation of this action may be performed individually or through a joint strategic evaluation of budget support operations carried out with the partner country, other budget support providers and relevant stakeholders.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. 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.

Components 2 and 3: Having regard to the nature of the action, an evaluation will not be carried out for this action or its components.

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.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. 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.

Component 4: Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants by the implementing partner. A final evaluation will be carried out under a gender and Human Rights sensitive approach in line with the Gap III guidelines.

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partners/contractors at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partners/contractors 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.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

Component 5: Having regard to the importance of the action, a final evaluation will be carried out by UNEP Evaluation Office (the implementing partner). The evaluation will be carried out under a gender and Human Rights sensitive approach in line with the Gap III guidelines.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. 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.

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 has adopted a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

Action documents for specific sector programmes are no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned.

However, in line with Article 46 and subject to Article 47 of the NDICI Regulation, all entities implementing EU-funded external actions shall take all reasonable measures to publicize the European Union support. 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.