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ANNEX IX

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 Green Deal Knowledge Hub (Part II)

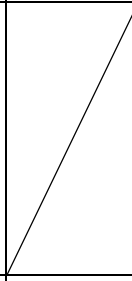
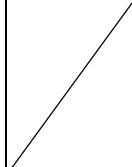
MULTI-ANNUAL PLAN

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	Green Deal Knowledge Hub - Part II OPSYS operational reference: ACT-61247 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Global
4. Programming document	Multiannual Indicative Programme for Global Challenges thematic programme 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Priority 4.2 Planet, Specific objective 2 (Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and the ocean) and 3 (Supporting the green transition in key areas) Priority 4.3 Prosperity, Specific objective 6 (resilient and sustainable agri-food systems)
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Areas 2 (Planet) and 3 (Prosperity)
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<u>Main SDGs:</u> SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG15 (Life on Land) <u>Other significant SDGs:</u> SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender equality),
8 a) DAC code(s)	31110 Agricultural policy and administrative management (29%) 41010 Environmental policy and administrative management (14%) 41030 Biodiversity (57%)
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	61000 Private sector in provider country

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective
Digitalisation @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Connectivity @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity energy transport		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

	health education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020241 Total estimated cost: EUR 10 400 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 10 400 000. The contribution is for an amount of EUR 8 400 000 from the general budget of the European Union (EU) for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 2 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through: Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The action concerns the development and implementation of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub - Part II (GDKH II), crucial to support the implementation and monitoring of the European Green Deal's international dimension. This dimension aims to achieve a global transition to climate neutrality, nature positivity, circularity, resilience, equitability, inclusiveness and sustainable development.

The Green Deal Knowledge Hub constitutes a central element in strengthening the quality and impact of EU cooperation in support of the implementation of the external dimension of the European Green Deal. The knowledge hub will provide on-demand technical assistance and knowledge support to partner countries, EU Delegations and EU services in Headquarters. It will promote knowledge development and sharing of best practices to address common challenges and support the European international partnerships on green transition. The support will include short term technical assistance missions, help desk services, information and communication, knowledge and capacity development, policy support, methodological work, technical backstopping and quality support, which will be coordinated by thematic services of the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), in close coordination with EU Delegations and geographic and thematic services of the Commission. This should also translate into stronger coordination between Global Knowledge Hubs and national/regional pooled/mechanisms of expertise and facilitate the effective overall coordination with relevant partners and EU Member State actors.

The Green Deal Knowledge Hub – Part I covered the following areas: water, circular economy, and urban development. **This Action establishes the second set of components of the Hub, covering a) biodiversity and ecosystems, b) sustainable agriculture and food systems, and c) environment, biodiversity, climate and disaster risk reduction mainstreaming (EBCD).** The parts covering sustainable agriculture and food systems and environment, climate and disaster risk reduction mainstreaming will build on existing technical assistance facilities.

It will provide thematic support to design and implementation of EU financed programmes and actions, and policy engagement in support of the Green Deal at the global, regional and national level.

The Knowledge Hub will also contribute to the implementation of the Gender Action Plan III¹, notably its specific part on “Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition” by integrating gender considerations in its activities.

The Action mainly contributes to Specific objective 2 “Environment and sustainable natural resources management on land and the ocean” and Specific objective 3 “ Supporting the green transition in key areas” of the Priority Planet, and Specific objective 3 of the Priority Prosperity “Transition towards resilient and sustainable agri-food systems” of the MIP Global Challenges 2021-27. The Action will also contribute to the achievement of SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG15 (Life on Land).

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The success of the **European Green Deal**² will depend on EU success in mainstreaming sustainability coherently across all its policies, as highlighted by the Green Deal Communication. It will also depend on close international cooperation with partners with the objective to support their efforts to ‘Build Back Better’ and increase global ambition to achieve progress on the climate action, and the environmental protection and restoration agenda.

The European Green Deal and its components have a strong international dimension that commits the EU to lead international negotiations and action on climate, land and biodiversity and to use its green diplomacy, multilateral engagements, trade policy, external investments and international cooperation to shape and support the global sustainability transition. The EU has committed to use the European Green Deal as its “compass” for the post-Covid-19 recovery and to help partner countries to build back better.

The world is not on track to meet most of the international commitments on climate change and environmental degradation, notably the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 13, 14 and 15 and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. On the contrary, recent reports, notably by the International Panels on Climate Change³, highlight an acceleration of the climate and biodiversity crises and the risk of irreversible damage and tipping points. They also highlight that the climate and environmental crises are deeply interconnected and require transformative action in key areas. Efforts to meet SDG 2 (food), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 11 (cities) and SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production) must be stepped up in a context where the Covid-19 pandemic risks delaying or reversing progress in these areas.

Approximately 70% of the world’s poor depend on natural resources for all or part of their livelihoods⁴. Women and girls, as well as other marginalised groups, are particularly at risk to these pressures, yet have fewer opportunities to influence local decision-making. During the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25 to the UNFCCC), an enhanced five-year Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan was adopted. The enhanced gender action aims to “advance knowledge and understanding of gender-responsive climate action and its coherent mainstreaming in the implementation of the UNFCCC and the work of Parties, the secretariat, United Nations entities and all stakeholders at all levels, as well as women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in the UNFCCC process”. Moreover, it was agreed that an intermediate review of the progress of implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan, will be conducted during the 26th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (in June 2022).

¹ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

³ <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

⁴ The Green Economy Pocketbook: The case for action. Green Economy Coalition. 2012.

Ecosystem services and other non-market goods make up between 50% and 90% of the total source of livelihoods among poor rural and forest-dwelling households worldwide – the so-called “GDP of the poor”⁵. The five main direct drivers of **biodiversity loss** – changes in land and sea use, overexploitation, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species – are making nature disappear quickly. In the last four decades, global wildlife populations fell by 60% as a result of human activities. And almost three quarters of the Earth’s surface have been altered, squeezing nature into an ever-smaller corner of the planet. The world lost an estimated EUR 3.5-18.5 trillion per year in ecosystem services from 1997 to 2011 owing to land-cover change, and an estimated EUR 5.5-10.5 trillion per year from land degradation⁶. Specifically, biodiversity loss results in reduced crop yields and fish catches, increased economic losses from flooding and other disasters, and the loss of potential new sources of medicine. The EU committed to double its external financing in support to biodiversity preservation, for most vulnerable countries in particular, and it is necessary to fully integrate biodiversity and ecosystem conservation with socio-economic development and poverty eradication interventions.

Current food systems are contributing significantly to biodiversity loss and climate change and are driving global trends towards poor diet and related diseases. At the same time, food systems do not provide sufficient scope for decent livelihoods, particularly for young people. Global indicators for malnutrition and food insecurity have remained stubbornly high in the past decade and today, the world is facing three additional crises: the persistent and increasingly negative impacts of climate change, the legacy of two years of Covid-19 disruptions, and a ramping up of conflicts around the world, most visibly in Ukraine. These shocks have profound implications for food systems and ultimately, the people served by these food systems. But the current performance of our food systems has also made these shocks more likely to occur and their impact more severe. These crises also represent an opportunity to transform food systems. The 2021 United Nations’ Food Systems Summit (FSS) and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit stressed the need to transform food systems and make them sustainable, while delivering healthy, nutritious and affordable food. The two major accomplishments of these summits were (1) widespread agreement on the need for food system transformation to accelerate progress towards the SDGs, and (2) new prospects for transformation with the establishment of over 100 country food system pathways. The stage is set for much needed transformation, working at a practical level country by country. The most pressing challenge now is the further development and refinement of the country food system pathways, and ultimately their implementation.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

The external dimension of the Green Deal entails a range of complex and multidimensional concepts where effective actions by EU Delegations (and Headquarters) would require structured access to and engagement with a wider field of technical expertise and methodological approaches. Being of a cross-cutting nature, they encompass policy, legal, social, economic, environmental, cultural and financial aspects in addition to their technical aspects.

Several EU Member State agencies, development partners (International Financial Institutions (IFIs), development finance institutions (DFIs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and International Organisations are active at various levels in these fields. Nonetheless, the potential of their multiple instruments and programmes is not fully exploited, due to the multi-sectoral nature of the challenges and the difficulty to coordinate approaches between partners.

Achieving **biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources** also entails innovation in policies, regulatory frameworks, finance and investment and business models and practices: the generation and dissemination of knowledge, the development of capacities and the provision of high-level technical assistance is required to support public and private actors in this transition in partner countries. Delivering an ambitious global

⁵ Mainstreaming the Economics of Nature. A Synthesis of the Approach, Conclusions and Recommendations of TEEB. TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity), 2010.

⁶ <https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf>

biodiversity framework will require greater cooperation with partners, increased support and financing and phasing out of subsidies harmful to biodiversity. There are many opportunities to leverage EU expertise in these areas and promote partnerships.

Globally, aquatic and agri-food systems face sustainability challenges related to climate change, resource use, livelihoods, access to decent work and nutritional outcomes. Over the years, development models based on high levels of inputs and resource-intensive farming/aquaculture have, on the one hand, contributed to increased food availability and lower food prices to feed a growing population, but on the other hand, neglected the impact of over-exploitation of resources, and environmental damage. Whereas multiple studies have demonstrated the potential that agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture can offer for poverty reduction, inclusive growth and climate change mitigation, unsustainable agricultural, fisheries and aquaculture practices continue to be responsible for deforestation, biodiversity loss, fish and aquatic resource depletion and land and soil degradation. It is estimated that current food production and consumption patterns account for up to 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions⁷, use 70% of global freshwater resources⁸, and are responsible for a large share of air pollution. Climate change has intensified the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, which have consequences on crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and forestry, as well as adverse human, social, economic and environmental impacts. Small-scale farmers/fishers, who produce more than 80% of the world's food in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, are disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change and variability. At the same time, although enough food is produced to feed the world's population, hunger and malnutrition are on the rise. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), overexploited fish stocks have risen from 10% in 1974 to 35.5% in 2019⁹. Global indicators for malnutrition and food insecurity have remained stubbornly high in the past decade and are now subject to the legacy of two years of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine.

Environmental degradation and climate change are undermining – and in some cases have started to reverse – progress in the implementation of the SDGs. Tackling these challenges requires transformative policies and actions in key sectors, systematically **mainstreaming** environmental sustainability and climate action objectives and considerations in policies, plans, programmes and investments.

As primary users and managers of natural resources, women play an essential role for climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental protection. However, they are prevented from participating equally in related governance processes for multiple reasons, including harmful gender norms, inadequate legal frameworks, low access to education and land ownership. The EU is determined to act on the gender dimension of environmental degradation and climate change also with regard to fragile situations, and mindful of the specific needs and roles of indigenous women directly relying on natural resources.

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

The Green Deal Knowledge Hub - Part II will work with a number of stakeholders, who will be direct beneficiaries of technical assistance such as partner countries, EU delegations and EU services in Headquarters or counterparts in the dialogue with EU actors such as partner governments and CSOs in all their diversity (women organisations, human rights defenders and organisation representing those living in the most vulnerable situations).

Partner governments, EU Delegations and the Commission services will be able to request technical assistance for specific biodiversity and natural resources, agri-food systems, and environment and climate mainstreaming related initiatives.

EU Member States' development agencies, CSOs, notably women and youth organisations, and International Organisations will interact with the Knowledge Hub at various levels both for the exchange of best practices and information and, in specific cases, for provision of expertise.

⁷ IPCC special report on Climate Change and Land: <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/chapter-5/>

⁸ World Development Indicators (World Bank): <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/chart-globally-70-freshwater-used-agriculture>

⁹ The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (FAO): <https://www.fao.org/3/cc0461en/cc0461en.pdf>

The final beneficiaries of the Action will be the duty bearers: governments and local authorities together with the right holders (people) and private sector of the partner countries, for whom the relevant cooperation programmes are designed and implemented, with the support of the Knowledge Hub.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

In line with the Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 of the NDICI Global Challenges programme (Planet area), the Overall Objective of this action is “to support the global transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development pathways”.

While the Green Deal Knowledge Hub Part I established the first set of components of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub: Component 1: Circular Economy and Water and Component 2: Urban Development, this Action concerns the development of the second set of components¹⁰ of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub: Component 3: Biodiversity and ecosystems, Component 4: Agri-food Systems and Component 5: Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming.

Each of the components of the Action has **specific objectives, outputs and activities** that are coherent with this broader objective, as follows:

Component 3: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Specific objective 1: Improve the quality, impact and sustainability of European Commission’s external actions in support of biodiversity and natural resources at a national, regional and global level in line with the EU Green Deal.

- Output 1.1: Improved identification, formulation and delivery of EU biodiversity and natural resources related actions which will also be gender responsive;
- Output 1.2 Enhanced dialogue, coordination and exchange of experiences and innovation on biodiversity and natural resources cooperation between the EU and development partners including with increased women participation;
- Output 1.3: Knowledge creation, communication and capacity development on biodiversity and natural resources issues;
- Output 1.4: Under the supervision and in collaboration with the Greening facility, financial contributions to biodiversity objectives are systematically tracked in all operations financed by the EU, and the contribution of EU development operations to biodiversity-related objectives is adequately monitored, analysed and reported on.

Component 4: Agri-food Systems

Specific objective 2: Improve the quality, impact and sustainability of European Commission’s external actions in support of agri-food systems at national, regional and global level in line with the EU Green Deal.

- Output 2.1: Improved identification, formulation and delivery of EU actions related to sustainable and resilient agri-food systems
- Output 2.2 Increased knowledge and understanding of sustainable and resilient agri-food systems, including, including on agro-ecological agricultural and aquatic innovations;
- Output 2.3: Enhanced dialogue, coordination and exchange of experiences and innovation on cooperation between the EU and partners/stakeholders on sustainable and resilient agri-food systems;
- Output 2.4: Improved information and communication on EU cooperation on sustainable and resilient agri-food systems.

Component 5: Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming

Specific objective 3: Improve the quality, impact and sustainability of European Commission’s international partnerships, through effective integration of environment, biodiversity, climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (EBCD) in EU supported policies, programmes and investments in line with the EU Green Deal.

- Output 3.1: increased awareness and understanding among EU staff and partner countries of the

¹⁰ Considering that this Action establishes the second set of components of the GDKH, the component numbering will continue from the Action adopted in 2021 that established the first set of components.

importance of effectively and systematically integrating environment, biodiversity, climate change and DRR (EBCD) in policies, programmes, investments and budget support operations, as well increased awareness and understanding among EU staff of the importance to adopt a gender sensitive approach in these areas;

- Output 3.2: strengthened technical capacities and knowledge of all stakeholders, including of EU staff, through training, sharing of knowledge and expertise and other capacity development activities;
- Output 3.3: EU services and partner institutions receive support services at the various stages of the cycle of operations;
- Output 3.4: all programmes, actions, blending/investments and budget support operations with significance to EBCD are screened, reviewed and commented, where appropriate to enhance their quality regarding the integration of EBCD;
- Output 3.5: financial contributions to EBCD objectives are systematically tracked in all operations financed by the EU, in compliance with applicable guidelines, and the contribution of EU development operations to EBCD-related objectives is adequately monitored, analysed and reported on;
- Output 3.6: adequate procedures, guidelines and tools for greening EU cooperation are developed, updated/revised, disseminated and implemented.

This component will build on the existent support to mainstreaming, strengthening it and extending it to countries and programmes supported by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

3.2 Indicative Activities

Component 3: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Activities relating to Output 1.1 will include

- Review of any type of programme document presenting cooperation priorities and individual projects to be funded by the EU for quality support and to support mainstreaming;
- Mobilisation of short term expertise for identification / formulation missions, or other project related Technical Assistance missions;
- Support to policy dialogue and policy work at global, regional, national or landscape level (e.g. field missions, field or desk analysis, gender sectoral analysis policy or normative text revision, sharing of good practices, good governance support, etc.);
- Analytical work in support of EU cooperation (e.g. geographic or thematic assessments and mappings of stakeholders and EU expertise, needs analysis, projects data quality and analysis including sex-disaggregated data, analysis of the social, cultural and political contexts of projects, case studies, documentation of lessons and best practices);
- Development and update of tools such as guidance on indicators disaggregated by sex, projects mapping, mainstreaming guidance;
- Development of cartographic support taking profit of existing datasets provided by entities like the Joint Research Centre (JRC) or the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Activities relating to Output 1.2 will include

- Prepare inputs, events or material to support the institution work on communication in relation with biodiversity and natural resources;
- Support and/or participate in partners' communication and visibility activities including side events and conferences.

Activities relating to Output 1.3 will include

- Methodological support and development and dissemination of knowledge products and tools on biodiversity and natural resources;
- Development and delivery of trainings and other capacity development activities for EU staff and development partners;
- Develop knowledge sharing and communication activities for practitioners, including on research and innovation and exchange of data (EU Delegations and technical partners).

Activities relating to Output 1.4 will include

- In support to the Greening facility, supporting Commission services (DG INTPA and DG NEAR) to improve the Rio biodiversity marking methodology, in concertation with like-minded agencies;
- Providing support to Commission services (DG INTPA and DG NEAR) staff in the actual implementation of the EBCD (for biodiversity only) marking, particularly at the formulation stage;
- Supporting the analysis and reporting on financial flows and achievements on biodiversity;
- Support implementation of the Gender Action Plan of the Convention on Biological Biodiversity¹¹.

Component 4: Agri-food Systems

Activities relating to Output 2.1 will include

- Mobilisation of short term expertise for identification / formulation missions, or other project, programme or policy related Technical Assistance missions
- Review and/or development of project, programme and policy documents in relation to agri-food systems.

Activities relating to Output 2.2 will include

- Methodological support and development and dissemination of knowledge products and tools on agrifood systems
- Analytical work in support of EU cooperation on agri-food systems;
- Development and update of tools, such as guidance on indicators and specific themes;
- Development and delivery of trainings and other capacity development activities for EU staff and development partners

Activities relating to Output 2.3 will include

- Support to policy dialogue and policy work at global, regional, and national levels;
- Organisation of events in support of EU development policy implementation on agri-food systems and capacity building to support this.

Activities relating to Output 2.4 will include

- Development of information and communication products for EU Delegations and stakeholders/partners
- Maintaining, updating, analysing and reporting on the database of EU cooperation projects on agri-food systems in developing countries.

Component 5: Environment, Biodiversity, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming

This component will build on the existent support to mainstreaming, strengthening and extending its activities to DG NEAR supported countries and programmes.

Activities relating to Output 3.1 will include:

- Developing, information and awareness-raising proposals (gender sensitive);
- Developing information materials on relevant subjects in close collaboration with EU staff;
- Managing and animating information and knowledge-sharing networks and communities of practice on EBCD mainstreaming on Capacity4Dev or similar.

Activities relating to Output 3.2 will include:

- Developing a knowledge sharing strategy;
- Managing and animating knowledge sharing networks/community of practice on EBCD mainstreaming on Capacity4Dev or similar;
- Supporting EU services in the organization of meetings, workshops, or other events to share knowledge and develop capacities.

Activities relating to Output 3.3 will include:

- Actively promoting the existing offer of services;
- Establishing an operational helpdesk, which swiftly provides quality on-demand services in support of EBCD mainstreaming;

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/gender>)

- Proactively identifying needs, screening pipelines of programmes, actions and investments, and proposing support services.

Activities relating to Output 3.4 will include:

- Monitoring and screening the pipeline of operations with significance to EBCD integration;
- Reviewing documentation related to all operations with significance to EBCD integration and providing comments, suggestions and recommendations to enhance EBCD integration;
- Maintaining a robust information database to keep track of this process and its outcomes.

Activities relating to Output 3.5 will include:

- Supporting Commission services (DG INTPA and DG NEAR) to improve the Rio environmental and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) marking methodology, in concertation with like-minded agencies;
- Providing support to Commission services (DG INTPA and DG NEAR) staff in the actual implementation of the EBCD marking, particularly at the formulation stage;
- Supporting the analysis and reporting on financial flows and achievements, as regards EBCD.

Activities relating to Output 3.6 will include:

- Development of guidance material (concept notes, reference and guidance documents, revised mainstreaming guidelines), and the implementation of analytical work on a wide range of topics in support of EBCD mainstreaming (gender sensitive);
- Technical assistance to support preparation of policy dialogues and to answer specific queries from delegations on a wide range of topics.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Strengthening environmental protection and climate action is a central objective of this action, with a particular focus on biodiversity conservation, sustainable agri-food systems and environmental mainstreaming. Climate change accelerates the destruction of the natural world through droughts, flooding and wildfires, while the loss and unsustainable use of nature are in turn key drivers of climate change. At the same time, food systems remain one of the key drivers of climate change and environmental degradation, but a shift to a sustainable food system can bring environmental, health and social benefits, offer economic gains and ensure that the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis puts us onto a sustainable path. For its part, environmental mainstreaming focuses on the linkages between development, the environment and climate change, both in terms of opportunities to promote sustainable development and enhance the quality, sustainability and performance of policies and investments, of addressing environmental and climate change challenges and their impacts and of minimising environmental and climatic risks.

The European Green Deal mainstreams this broader approach aimed at supporting the transition to sustainable, green and inclusive practices. The action will support environmental sustainability issues and address the impact of climate change on biodiversity dynamics, agri-food systems and environmental mainstreaming.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that special attention will be paid to gender aspects in the implementation of the action. The inclusion of women and girls will be sought in all components. This action provides an opportunity to support areas (a) where women should be provided better access to resources and decision-making, (b) where girls and women could be specifically encouraged to develop new skills. This action will contribute to the EU's new Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in External Action 2021–2025 (GAP III) which aims to accelerate progress on empowering women and girls, and safeguard gains made on gender equality. The Action contributes to the realisation of the “Thematic area of engagement – Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation”, more specifically to the specific thematic objective “Women, men, girls and boys, in all their

diversity, addressing climate change in their daily lives and preserving the natural environment are supported”.

Human Rights

The action will support human-rights based approach. Specific attention will be paid to access to basic urban services such as clean water and sanitation, sustainable transport and waste management etc. The Action will promote and support the implementation of the EU Human Rights Guidelines, and the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. The Action will be implemented while applying the five working principles of the human rights-based approach: a) applying all human rights for all; b) meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; c) non-discrimination and equality; d) accountability and rule of law for all; and e) transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data. Rights Based Approaches will be thought in all activities, from support to policy dialogue to action design and communication. Multi-stakeholder involvement and benefits for local populations will be a key criterion for project selection. The private sector actions and interventions will abide to the UN guiding principles on Human Rights and business.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that disabilities has not been identified as a significant objective, the action will seek to be inclusive in its communication and participation to people with disabilities and related provisions of the Human Rights guidelines for safe drinking water and sanitation will be implemented.

Democracy

The action will indirectly contribute to supporting the development of a more democratic systems by improving governance, at local, national, and regional levels. The action will support a culture of social inclusion, institutional dialogue, data sharing and knowledge dissemination as well as participation of civil society and other partners in decision-making processes.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

To avoid unintended negative impacts of the selection of specific partners and beneficiaries (possible tensions and divisions between groups of interest), the action is designed with a participatory approach. Activities will be developed in an inclusive manner with a strong attention to facilitating dialogue, promoting peace, and mitigation and management conflicts. In the natural resources sector, a conflict sensitive and sustainable management is a recognised mean to support and promote a peaceful development. In this regard, conflict sensitive approaches will be promoted whenever required and related support will be offered.

The link between climate change impacts on conflict and fragilities is well known, although it is certainly not a linear link. Energy production, for example, even if clean, has social and environmental implications (land, gender implications), as well human rights impacts (on communities, indigenous peoples, environmental defenders, etc.). Therefore, conflict sensitivity issues (e.g. risks of doing harm, exacerbating tensions, conflicts, divisions and/or dimensions of fragility) and resilience, as well as all other related cross cutting issues should be taken into account systematically.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Integration of DRR has particular importance in the case of biodiversity conservation and environmental mainstreaming since well-managed ecosystems act as natural infrastructure reducing physical exposure to many hazards exacerbated by climate change, and contribute to climate change mitigation.

The Sendai Framework has substantially expanded the scope of DRR to include natural hazards as well as human-made and all related environmental, technological and biological hazards and risks. The action will enhance resilience in this extended context.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Risk related to people and organizations	Risk 1: Finding quality expertise in relation to this innovative agenda	H	H	Elaborating clear Terms of References, putting clear requirements and guidance, and closely steering and monitoring the contract once implementation starts.
Risk related to people and organizations	Risk 2: Weak institutional management capacity and skills of national counterparts	H	H	Training needs are carefully assessed and targeted skills development is provided
Risk related to people and organizations	Risk 3: Lack of “buy in” from Delegations, government and national stakeholders	L	M	Provide demand driven support, promote high level political commitment and build alliances; implement outreach, advocacy and awareness activities to mobilize stakeholders
Risk related to people and organizations	Risk 4: Political instability at country level, change of government and/or senior officials with whom relationships have been established	M	M	Ensure that engagement is diversified and prioritize action in countries with sufficient stability
Risk related to people and organizations	Risk 5: Limited interest to integrate gender equality and human rights due to social and cultural barriers	M	M	Application of DG INTPA’s gender mainstreaming guidelines and involvement of concerned services through the different phases of the project cycle
Lessons Learnt: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Commission provides technical assistance in all the fields of development cooperation, however, the knowledge, best practices and lessons learnt in the multiple dispersed interventions by external experts are often insufficiently collected and organised for real knowledge building. A Knowledge hub would provide tools for collecting and managing the precious experience of the vast EU cooperation in 				

relevant fields.

- Due consideration of cross-regional and cross-country aspects: in a world of global trade and environmental challenges, breaking out of the geographical and sectors silos is imperative to make best use of the huge potential for synergies across and to address challenges that require transcending administrative boundaries. The creation of a pool of on-demand non-key experts of high calibre, covering a wide range of expertise, geographical experience and language skill is fundamental and proved to be successful in providing high quality support to our partners and EU Delegations, as demonstrated by the implementation of the Switch to Green facility.
- Shared ownership of coordination activities with EU partner organisations from an early stage of planning enhances the feeling of ownership to all those involved, positively influencing their commitment and contribution to such actions.
- Mainstreaming environment and climate change is essential to achieving the SDGs. The SDGs integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Goals 13, 14 and 15 focus specifically on climate change and environment, but environmental considerations are integrated throughout all 17 goals; their realization will require successful mainstreaming.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

Considering the complexity to support the sound implementation of the external dimension of the Green Deal, the generation of robust knowledge, innovation and technical assistance, together with harmonisation, coordination and dissemination will be required.

The Green Deal Knowledge Hub will support international policy and normative work and provide expertise, knowledge development and sharing, and capacity development to partner countries, EU Delegations and EU services in Headquarters. It will mobilise the best available international expertise in required areas and project EU know-how in a cost-effective way, realizing economies of scale.

The components of the Action will intervene at a different level, supporting the identification of needs and of possible future areas of intervention, delivering technical assistance in a flexible way and on a short-term basis, disseminating lessons and best practices, as well as supporting coordination and visibility. As such, it will help to improve the effectiveness of EU and partner countries cooperation on biodiversity and natural resources, agri-food systems and environmental mainstreaming.

In particular, the Action will support actors managing or implementing EU cooperation programmes at global, regional and country level (in particular partner countries and EU Delegations) to assess, design, monitor, implement and evaluate biodiversity and natural resources, agri-food systems, to promote environmental mainstreaming interventions and to support policy work on these matters with a gender and human rights based approach.

By doing so, the Action seeks to improve the quality and visibility of Green Deal related operations and policy dialogue in EU external action, that will enable the EU to better play its role and promote its political priorities and interest at all levels.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

The matrix below will be updated and refined during the inception phase of the action.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results	Indicators (@):	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To support the global transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development pathways	1 - Number of approved legal frameworks/ agreements promoting inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development supported by the Action 2 - Number of approved plans and/or projects promoting inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development – supported by the Action 3 - Number of Countries covered by Green Deal related initiatives supported by the Action	To be further refined during inception phase	1- 20 approved legal frameworks/agreements by 2026 2- 60 plans/projects by 2026 3- 50 countries by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Monitoring and reports from TA and official sources	<i>Not applicable</i>
Component 3: Biodiversity and Ecosystems						
Outcome 1	The quality, impact and sustainability of European Commission's external actions in support of biodiversity and ecosystems at a national, regional and global level is improved.	Number of delegations / institutions supported by the Biodiversity and Ecosystems window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub	To be further refined during inception phase	30 delegations/ institutions with comprehensive biodiversity and/ or natural resources interventions by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Biodiversity and Ecosystems window monitoring reports	EU delegations are aware of the biodiversity and natural resources window of the Green Deal knowledge Hub and the support services it provide. Support will be provided on a demand driven basis, promote high level political commitment and build alliances; Outreach, advocacy and awareness activities to mobilize stakeholders are implemented.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Improved identification, formulation and delivery of EU biodiversity and ecosystems related actions.	1.1.1 Number of project documents designed or improved with support from the facility (At least 85 % are G1 or G2) 1.1.2 Number of TA missions carried/supported 1.1.3 Number of assessments, analysis and tools developed	To be further refined during inception phase	1.1.1 200 project documents by 2026 1.1.2 20 TA missions by 2026 1.1.3 40 assessments and tools by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Biodiversity and Ecosystems window monitoring reports	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Enhanced dialogue, coordination and exchange of experiences and innovation on biodiversity and ecosystem cooperation between the EU and development partners	1.2.1 Number of biodiversity and natural resources related events organised 1.2.2 Number of officials and professionals/researchers participating in project events for sharing experiences (disaggregated by sex)	To be further refined during inception phase	1.2.1 12 by 2026 1.2.2 1000 by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Biodiversity and Ecosystems window monitoring reports	

Output 3 relating to Outcome 1	1.3 Knowledge creation, communication and capacity development on biodiversity and ecosystems issues.	1.3.1 Number of staff trained (disaggregated by sex) 1.3.2 Number of experts mobilised (disaggregated by sex) 1.3.3 Number of communication support developed	To be further refined during inception phase	1.3.1 100 by 2026 1.3.2 20 by 2026 1.3.3 50 by 2026 To be further refined during inception phase	Biodiversity and Ecosystems window monitoring reports	Opportunities for synergies and complementarities with other relevant interventions in the sectors are properly seized.
Output 4 relating to Outcome 1	1.4 Under the supervision and in collaboration with the Greening facility, financial contributions to biodiversity and ecosystems objectives are systematically tracked in all operations financed by the EU, and the contribution of EU development operations to biodiversity and ecosystems-related objectives are adequately monitored, analysed and reported on.	1.4.1 Amount of tracked financial contributions and objectives, as regards to biodiversity and ecosystems	To be further refined during inception phase	For NDICI: Biodiversity: 7.5% (2024) 10% (2026)	Biodiversity and Ecosystems window monitoring reports	
Component 4: Agri-food Systems						
Outcome 2	The quality, impact and sustainability of European Commission's external actions in support of agri-food systems at a national, regional and global level is improved.	Number of Delegations / Partner Governments and other key stakeholders supported by Agri-Food Systems Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub	To be further refined during inception phase		Agri-Food Systems Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Improved identification, formulation and delivery of EU actions related to sustainable and resilient agri-food systems	2.1.1 1.1.1 Number of project documents designed or improved with support from the facility 2.1.2 Number of TA missions carried/supported	To be further refined during inception phase	2.1.1 20 project documents by 2026 2.1.2 25 TA missions by 2026	Agri-Food Systems Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system /User surveys	
Output 2 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Increased knowledge and understanding of sustainable and resilient agri-food systems, including on agro-ecological agricultural and aquatic innovations	2.2.1 Number of knowledge products developed, including on agro-ecological agricultural and aquatic innovations, and made available 2.2.2. Number of staff trained	To be further refined during inception phase	2.2.1. 10 knowledge products developed and made available by 2026 2.2..2. 150 staff trained by 2026	Agri-Food Systems Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	

Output 3 relating to Outcome 2	2.3 Enhanced dialogue, coordination and exchange of experiences and innovation on cooperation between the EU and partners/stakeholders on sustainable and resilient agri-food systems	2.3.1 Number of events organised on agri-food systems involving EU and partners/stakeholder 2.3.2 Number of partner/stakeholder participants in the events	To be further refined during inception phase	2.3.1. 10 events organised by 2026 2.3.2. at least 750 persons having participated in the events	Agri-Food Systems Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	
Output 4 relating to Outcome 2	2.4 Improved information and communication on EU cooperation on sustainable and resilient agri-food systems	2.4.1 Number of newsletters produced 2.4.2. number of updates on the EU cooperation database on agri-food systems 2.4.3. number of reports based on the EU cooperation database on agri-food systems	To be further refined during inception phase	2.4.1. 10 newsletters produced by 2026 2.4.2. 4 database updates by 2026 2.4.3 8 reports produced based on the EU cooperation database on agri-food systems	Surveys of coalition members	
Component 5: Environment, Biodiversity, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming						
Outcome 3	The quality, impact and sustainability of European Commission's international partnerships, through effective integration of environment, biodiversity, climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (EBCD) in EU supported policies, programmes and investments in line with the EU Green Deal is improved.	Quality of EBCD integration in projects and programmes (average score) Financial contributions to environment, DRR, biodiversity, combating desertification and climate change from EU external cooperation commitments (NDICI and IPA)	To be further refined during inception phase	For NDICI: - Biodiversity: 7.5% (2024) 10% (2026) - Climate change: 35% For IPA: CC.: 18% and 20% (2027) To be further refined during inception phase	Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	
Output 1 relating to Outcome 3	3.1 increased awareness and understanding among EU staff and partner countries of the importance of effectively and systematically integrating EBCD in policies, programmes, investments and budget support operations	3.1.1 No of communication and awareness raising documents prepared (e.g. strategy, case studies, articles, social media posts, videos)	To be further refined during inception phase	10 per year To be further refined during inception phase	Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	

Output 2 relating to Outcome 3	3.2 strengthened technical capacities and knowledge of all stakeholders, in particular of EU staff, through training, sharing of knowledge and expertise and other capacity development activities	3.2.1 Number of training courses delivered 3.2.2 Number of trainees disaggregated by sex and organization	To be further refined during inception phase	3.2.1: 10 per year 3.2.2: 380 per year To be further refined during inception phase	Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	
Output 3 relating to Outcome 3	3.3 EU services and partner institutions actually request and receive support services at the various stages of the cycle of operations	3.3.1 Number of requests for support received (disaggregated by organization and type of request)	To be further refined during inception phase	150 per year To be further refined during inception phase	Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	
Output 4 relating to Outcome 3	3.4 all programmes, actions, blending/investments and budget support operations with significance to EBCD are screened, reviewed and commented	3.4.1 Number of SSC/AAPs screened and reviewed (INTPA/NEAR) 3.4.2 Number of Action Documents screened and reviewed (NDICI/IPA3) 3.4.3 Number of Action Documents not reviewed 3.4.4 Number of blending/guarantee applications screened and reviewed (INTPA/NEAR) 3.4.5 Number of 'quality of integration in implementation' missions (INTPA/NEAR)	To be further refined during inception phase	3.4.1 N/A 3.4.2 N/A 3.4.3 0 3.4.4 N/A 3.4.5 8 per year (excepting Y1) To be further refined during inception phase	Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	
Output 5 relating to Outcome 3	3.5 financial contributions to EBCD objectives are systematically tracked in all operations financed by the EU, in compliance with applicable guidelines	3.5.1 Amount of tracked financial flows and achievements, as regards EBCD	To be further refined during inception phase	Biodiversity - 7.5% (to 2024) - 10% (to 2026) Climate change - 35% (NDICI) - 18% (IPA3) 20% (IPA3 by 2027)	Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	
Output 6 relating to Outcome 3	3.6 adequate procedures, guidelines and tools for greening EU cooperation are developed, updated/revised, disseminated and implemented	3.6.1 Number of developed guidelines and procedures	To be further refined during inception phase		Environment, Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming Window of the Green Deal Knowledge Hub monitoring system	

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 Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹².

4.3.1 Direct Management ()

The full set of objectives/results listed in section 3 will be supported through service contracts managed directly by the European Commission.

The call for tenders for the service contract(s) implementing the component 3 of the action will be launched under a suspensive clause on the last trimester 2022 prior to the adoption of this Decision. This is justified given the late adoption of the Multi-Indicative Programme, to allow the signature of the service contract before the N+1 deadline and a smooth transition with the current B4Life Facility, which is due to end during the first semester 2023.

4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If the procurement of services under direct management cannot be used as modality due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, part of the objectives/results listed in section 3 may be implemented with a Member States Organisation and/or international organisation(s) under indirect management. The key criteria for selecting such organisation(s) are: extensive specialist knowledge and experience in the field of operation relevant to the targeted objectives/results.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

¹² www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components ¹³	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	
	2022	2023
Component 3: Biodiversity and Ecosystems window		
Outcome 1 – Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	5 400 000	500 000
Component 4: Agri-food Systems window		
Outcome 2 – Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	3 000 000	
Component 5: Environmental Mainstreaming window		
Outcome 3 – Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1		1 500 000
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.4.3	8 400 000	2 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	may be covered by another Decision	may be covered by another Decision
Audit – cf. section 5.3		
Communication and visibility – cf. section 6	(included in the service contracts)	(included in the service contracts)
Totals	8 400 000	2 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Activities of the technical assistance facilities set up under the framework of the Action will be implemented by the concerned Contractors under the supervision of the relevant Commission services. Each component will have its own Steering Committee, involving DG INTPA and DG NEAR concerned services and possibly representatives from EU Delegation according to needs.

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. 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). Indicators shall be disaggregated by sex, where relevant and feasible.

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

¹³ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- It will be the responsibility of the Contractors to collect and record data in order to monitor the performances of the Action according to the Logical Framework;
- Additionally, the Contractors will propose, at the inception phase, any additional relevant performance indicator to monitor the Action's achievements and the satisfaction of the final beneficiaries.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and/or a final evaluation may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

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.

All evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment.

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

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 publicise 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.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

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

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

The present Action identifies as:

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	TA contract for Component 3 - Biodiversity and natural resources – EUR 5 900 000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	TA contract for Component 4 - Agri-food systems – EUR 3 000 000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	TA contract for Component 5 - Environmental mainstreaming – EUR 1 500 000