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Project Identification Form (PIF) entry – Full Sized Project – GEF - 7

## GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services

### Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10374

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, Through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services

Countries

Global

Agency(ies)

UNDP, UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing Partner Type

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

Others

**GEF Focal Area**

International Waters

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Influencing models, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, International Waters, Learning, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Private Sector, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Civil Society, Gender Mainstreaming, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Duration**

48 In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

567,976

**Submission Date**

10/10/2019

## A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IW-1-1	GET	5,978,700	12,206,540
Total Project Cost (\$)		5,978,700	12,206,540

**B. Indicative Project description summary****Project Objective**

Towards a more impactful GEF portfolio: facilitating replication of good practice across GEF International Waters projects, including projects across all focal areas in Small Island Developing States, working in collaboration with development partners, supporting the delivery of training information management, providing programmatic guidance and facilitating partnership building.

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
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1. Provide Targeted Knowledge Sharing and Results Showcasing Across Projects and Development Partners (Through Face-to-Face Dialogue and Training) to Advance Transboundary Water Management in All IW Focal Area Ecosystems	Technical Assistance	Enhanced portfolio & development partner capacity at the national, regional & global levels, and improved portfolio-wide project performance  Increased global awareness of GEF results and increased GEF partnerships beyond the portfolio	1.1 GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences 10 and 11 for GEF wide portfolio of IW projects and other relevant partners, (700K) (UNDP)  1.2 Regional training workshops for GEF IW projects & development partners on cross-cutting themes and key outputs from selected GEF portfolio methodology projects, delivered by partner learning network (300K) (UNDP)  1.3 Structured and iterative twinning exchange program between projects and institutions with demonstrated excellence in water and ocean management (300K) (UNDP)  1.4 Participation in key global and regional dialogue processes to showcase GEF IW results, build partnerships and facilitate cooperation (294K) (UNDP)	GET	1,694,000	3,461,425
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2. Support the Communication and Replication of Portfolio Results and Experiences	Technical Assistance	Increased experience sharing and replication of successes within and across the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced understanding of GEF IW project interventions beyond the portfolio	2.1 GEF IW:LEARN website supporting improved GEF IW project snapshots and a searchable knowledge bank of project experience (350K) (UNDP)	GET	700,000	1,430,341
			2.2 Support to the use of information technology platforms to establish project websites and for improved management of information by GEF projects (175K) [UNDP]			
			2.3 Hands-on communications and project visualization training to both projects & journalists, including support to the production of Experience Notes, for improved project storytelling, data packaging and focal area thematic review publications (175K) [UNDP]			

3. Deliver Intra and Inter-Regional Coordination and Knowledge Management Across Focal Areas in Small Island Developing States to Improve Portfolio Performance	Technical Assistance	Enhanced global collaboration and communication among Small Island Developing States on integrated water, coastal and ocean resource management	3.1 Twinning and dialogue activities in support of regional collaboration among Small Island Developing States via cooperation among all focal area projects and participating countries (500K) [UNEP]	GET	1,200,000	2,452,013
		Improved coordination of GEF projects & participating country counterparts in Small Island Developing States across all GEF focal areas and increased achievement of relevant environmental performance targets by project participating countries	3.2 Strengthened web portal and resource catalogue to facilitate information-sharing and learning across the SIDS project portfolio in support of the Samoa Pathway areas and beyond (150K) [UNDP]			
			3.3 Training courses and other capacity-strengthening guidance developed on cross-cutting topics of relevance to SIDS (200K) [UNDP]			
			3.4 Intra and inter-regional training delivered in and among SIDS regions through regional partners (350K) [UNEP]			
4. Deliver Support to Surface Freshwater, Groundwater and Large Marine Ecosystem	Technical Assistance	Improved management of transboundary	4.1. Knowledge exchanges on Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security in	GET	1,500,000	3,065,016

Subsets in Support of  
Portfolio Strategic  
Priorities

freshwater and marine  
ecosystems

transboundary basins  
(250K) [UNDP]

4.2 Exchanges to promote  
conjunctive management  
through governance of  
freshwater in GEF projects,  
both groundwater and  
surface water, as well as  
with coastal and ocean  
projects (250K) [UNDP]

4.3 Training and capacity  
building activities in support  
of marine spatial planning in  
LME SAP implementation  
projects (250K) [UNDP]

4.4 Training and capacity  
building for marine and  
coastal projects and  
strategic planning  
methodologies on  
strengthening blue economy  
opportunities (250K) [UNEP]

4.5 Global and regional  
dialogue activities to  
promote collaboration  
among LMEs, Regional Seas  
bodies and Regional  
Fisheries Management  
Organizations (RFMOs),  
Areas Beyond National  
Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and  
River Basin Organizations



(RBOs), especially via the  
Annual LME Consultation  
(500K) [UNDP]

5. Mobilize Public and Private Partnership to Enhance Long-term Sustainability of Project Interventions	Technical Assistance	Enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio	5.1 Support for increased mobilization of public and private financial partnerships via global IW partnerships advisory panel (250K) [UNDP]	GET	600,000	1,226,006
			5.2 Facilitation of partnerships with projects and the business community via regional-level networking (200K) [UNDP]			
			5.3. Training support to portfolio on attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment priorities (150K) [UNDP]			
Sub Total (\$)					5,694,000	11,634,801
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET					284,700	571,739
Sub Total(\$)					284,700	571,739
Total Project Cost(\$)					5,978,700	12,206,540

**C. Indicative sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	United Nations Development Programme	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	8,900,000
GEF Agency	UN Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,300,000
Others	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,006,540
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>				<b>12,206,540</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

All co-finance mobilized has been identified in consultation with the agencies and organizations indicating support to the project over the PIF preparation period. The first consultation on this project took place on 8 May 2019 on the premises of UNECE in Geneva following a steering committee meeting of the previous project. All co-finance has been indicated following a consultation process on developing the project framework. It is expected that further co-finance will be realized from additional partners, some of them indicated here, during the project preparation phase.

## D. Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Global	International Waters	NA	4,878,700	463,476	5,342,176
UNEP	GET	Global	International Waters	NA	1,100,000	104,500	1,204,500
Total GEF Resources(\$)					5,978,700	567,976	6,546,676

**E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Amount (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Global	International Waters	NA	150,000	14,250	<b>164,250</b>
Total Project Costs(\$)					<b>150,000</b>	<b>14,250</b>	<b>164,250</b>

## Core Indicators

Indicator 7 Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem				
Count	0	0	0	0

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis and Strategic Action Program (TDA/SAP) formulation and implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7.2 Level of Regional Legal Agreements and Regional management institution(s) (RMI) to support its implementation (scale of 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 7.3 Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees (IMC; scale 1 to 4; See Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
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## Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN through participation and delivery of key products(scale 1 to 4; see Guidance)

Shared Water Ecosystem	Rating (Expected at PIF)	Rating (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Rating (Achieved at MTR)	Rating (Achieved at TE)
	4			

## Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,000			
Male	1,000			
Total	2000	0	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description);

After 27 years of GEF investment, significant progress and results have been delivered by the IW focal area. Focusing on transboundary freshwater, the GEF, together with its implementing and executing partners, has made investments in at least 47 river basins, 15 lakes, and 13 aquifers. It has also invested in 23 large marine ecosystems. From those, at least 37 produced transboundary diagnostic analyses and at least 33 ministerially endorsed strategic action programs resulted, many now under implementation. In at least 24 basins, GEF supported existing or catalyzed creation of new joint management bodies (or transboundary commissions). Likewise, at least 15 new basin-wide frameworks resulted. This represents just a fraction of results from GEF investments, which also include significant reductions in agricultural, industrial and municipal wastewater, reduced stress on aquifers, marine protected areas, reduced fishing pressure, reduced invasive species risk, and other types of stress reduction. Most critically, the GEF has been catalytic and transforming water and ocean-related sectors, and the growth of numerous organizations at various scales active in transboundary water management.

Over the last twenty years, IW:LEARN has grown from an informal network of a few projects and agency staff focused on IW projects to a community of individuals from a few hundred public and private sector organizations, including local, national, and international government and non-government organizations. IW:LEARN has produced a number of noteworthy results across multiple service lines that foster this community—from coordinating information management through the IW:LEARN website ([www.iwlearn.net](http://www.iwlearn.net)) and its applications to face-to-face events, including: 37 project twinnings involving 287 beneficiaries from 64 GEF IW projects; 31 training workshops on water management issues and 15 training workshops for building capacity on information and technology issues, with 956 participants representing 151 IW projects; ten regional transboundary dialogues in the Mediterranean and Central American regions; and nine Biennial International Waters Conferences, the signature learning event of the portfolio, bringing together over 1800 stakeholders over the years, averaging about 70 GEF IW projects from 80 countries at each conference. IW:LEARN portfolio programmatic support also includes guidance, publications and other knowledge products and media. IW:LEARN has produced a number of practical manuals and methodologies that have been utilized by IW practitioners (TDA/SAP Methodology; Public Private Partnerships Guidebook; Project Management Manual; Mainstreaming Climate Change Guidance; a series of seven Marine Toolkits). The IW practitioners have responded positively to this effort by participating in large numbers to several respective training courses and using them in developing water management strategies and plans, as well as marine spatial plans. Very often, these manuals have been used in an integrated manner. IW:LEARN also contributes significantly to raising awareness among experts and policy-makers about the GEF IW projects and their outcomes, thus indirectly also contributing to new investments. In addition, it serves as a linkage to other global processes, frameworks and initiatives on water management as well as transboundary water cooperation. Although IW:LEARN has been providing crucial input that has helped bridge knowledge management and learning gaps in IW investments, particularly at regional level, which sometimes made role of the respective governments less direct, there is still a need to continue towards such bridging.

There are still barriers to making the above actions more effective. They include: inadequate level of scientific knowledge as well as unsatisfactory degree of dissemination of scientific results; ineffective integration of scientific knowledge into decision-making and actions (inadequate science-to-policy integration); missing appropriate institutional arrangements; lack of adequate stakeholder participation; unsustainable financing, in particular because of lack of adequate participation of the business community in solving freshwater and marine resource management problems; and, finally, inadequate strategic planning and SIDS policy development at the global, regional, national and local levels. It is also worth mentioning that the “GEF 2020: Strategy for the GEF” (in further text: GEF 2020 Strategy) states that GEF’s engagement with the private sector will be further strengthened. For compelling reasons, the private sector is a high priority in addressing global environmental challenges. The private sector dominates the socioeconomic sphere, and therefore limited public sector resources need to be used most effectively to redirect private sector activities toward environmentally sustainable approaches. Private enterprises, which are the dominant source of economic activity, must be encouraged to pursue commercially viable activities that also generate global environmental benefits.”

### **the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects,**

With investments over the past nearly 27 years come many invaluable experiences, lessons learned, and recommendations for future GEF IW projects. However, unlike most GEF focal areas that are tied to global conventions with permanent secretariats that can house and/or assist the GEF with knowledge management (e.g., the BD and UNFCCC for the BD and CC-M focal areas, respectively), the IW focal area has handled knowledge management and focal area coordination with the help of a series of phases of the “International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network”, or IW:LEARN. As the GEF7 Programmatic Directions states, IW:LEARN is the GEF funded cross-agency and multi-actor platform of knowledge exchange and capacity building, supporting facilitating partnerships between a range of actors to stimulate conversation and capacity between, and beyond, GEF funded activities.”

The IW:LEARN impact survey found that 70% of respondents indicated that IW:LEARN had provided IW project staff and partners with the necessary knowledge to engage with the private sector; and 67% of respondents noted that IW:LEARN has been influential in creating new partnerships with other projects and institutions. Since its inception, four and a half phases of IW:LEARN as well as the closely related project, LME:LEARN, have successfully delivered services to more than 225 GEF funded projects and connected almost 1800 people with its services.

Although the proposed project aims to work with a suite of development partners, such as transboundary commissions and civil society organizations in the water sector, there is an immediate set of partners, whose work programs during the life of IW:LEARN form an extensive baseline of capacity-development or information management activities to support GEF IW:LEARN services. This solid baseline of programs and initiatives supports transboundary water and ocean management. Some of these include: UNDP’s Global Water and Ocean Governance Support Programme, Cap-Net, Water Governance Facility, Ocean Innovation Facility and Shared Water Partnership programs, UN Environment’s Regional Seas Programme, the Global Programme of Action (GPA) with its three thematic partnerships on nutrient management (GPNM), marine litter (GPML), and wastewater (GW2I), and its Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative, IOC-UNESCO’s United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and Global Marine Spatial Planning Programme, SPINCAM project as well as the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) of IASS, EU and UN Environment, to name just a very few. Regarding the SIDS Component, the project will build upon the programs and work of the Fisheries Agency, Secretariat for the Pacific Community and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been a strong partner and supporter of sustainable development for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) since it was founded over 27 years ago. In recent years, growing recognition of the vital importance of the oceans to economies and livelihoods in SIDS has increased calls for integrated blue economy approaches. In total, the GEF has provided SIDS with more than US\$578 million in country allocated finance across all focal areas. In addition,



DS participated in a significant number of regional and global projects and programs that overall totaled an additional US\$ 810 million. GEF finance has leveraged several times that amount in additional resources for sustainable development. The current GEF 7 funding cycle (2018 – 2022) continues to provide strong support and an emphasis on the needs of SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

In 2015, UN Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda, setting universal and transformative goals and targets. Two SDGs are particularly relevant for IW:LEARN: SDG6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all) and SDG14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). In the years since the adoption, progress has been achieved in reaching the relevant SDGs' targets, but still many challenges remain. For SDG6, billions of people still lack proper safe water and sanitation facilities, while data suggests that achieving universal access to even basic sanitation service by 2030 would require doubling the current annual rate of progress. More efficient use and management of freshwater are critical to addressing the growing demand for water, threats to water security and the increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods resulting from climate change. For SDG14, the expansion of protected areas for marine biodiversity and existing policies and treaties that encourage responsible use of ocean resources are still insufficient to combat the adverse effects of overfishing, growing ocean acidification due to climate change and worsening coastal eutrophication. Increased efforts and interventions are still needed to conserve and sustainably use ocean resources at all levels.

Besides these "core" IW SDGs, three other SDGs provide context where IW:LEARN will operate. Within SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), focus will be on giving women equal rights to economic resources. In SDG13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts), in particular by strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, and promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and SIDS, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities. Finally, all components of SDG17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) will be relevant for IW:LEARN. IW:LEARN has on a number of occasions already contributed to implementation of these SDGs, in particular by organizing a number of side events to raise awareness on the need to reach the stated targets. The IW:LEARN will continue supporting efforts of all relevant stakeholders in reaching these targets.

#### **the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;**

Over GEF IW:LEARN approaches but also a suite of new and innovative activities are proposed to facilitate the GEF International Waters Focal Area to prepare for and implement the GEF7 International Waters Strategy (and prepare for the 8<sup>th</sup> GEF Replenishment). IW:LEARN will refine approaches to its traditional "service line" covering a suite of face-to-face training, twinning and partnership building activities, as well as continued focus on information management in the portfolio. It will be additionally extended to cater for the need of SIDS, in particular the priorities adopted by GEF: The Blue Economy, Integrated Resource Management from Ridge-to-Reef, Protected Areas, and Climate Resilience. As a lateral result, the activities will contribute towards the achievement of the two outcomes of the Samoa Pathway: Climate Action and Blue Economy, as well as other areas such as water security, sustainable food and nutrition; sustainable tourism and sustainable energy.

GEF IW:LEARN will engage with current and additional partners both in the public sector and business community, building partnerships that can lead to new and innovative ways to manage the wealth of transboundary water management knowledge for the benefit of the IW community (composed of IW project managers and staff, government officials, local communities, transboundary commissions, non-governmental organizations, the GEF agencies and the business sector) and deliver on the requirements of the focal area strategy in the GEF7 Programmatic Directions as well as support the implementation of GEF8 (starting in 2022)..

particular, the new IW:LEARN project will continue supporting the core mandate of the GEF International Waters Focal Area to support transboundary cooperation in areed marine and freshwater ecosystems and assist the project portfolio in achieving long term benefits. The project's proposed activities will help the portfolio to implement regionally endorsed SAP priorities, mainstream gender considerations, and stimulate private sector investment. IW:LEARN's outcome will contribute in particular to two of the three GEF7 IW objectives: (1) Strengthening Blue Economy opportunities, (2) Improve management in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and (3) Enhance water security in freshwater ecosystems. The proposed project will also assist the IW portfolio with contributing to the preparation of the 8<sup>th</sup> GEF replenishment.

Specifically, the project will retain focus on its core objective, towards a more impactful GEF portfolio: facilitating replication of good practice across GEF International Waters projects, as well as projects across all focal areas in Small Island Developing States, working in collaboration with development partners, supporting the delivery of trainings, information management, providing programmatic guidance and facilitating partnership building.. It will leverage outcomes across the focal area, between focal areas especially in SIDS, and in focal area projects from source-to-sea which help the portfolio improve its performance, build partnerships, replicate its success, improve coordination and ultimately improve the management of transboundary ecosystems. The project will seek to increase visibility and impacts of GEF interventions and move towards robust integrated management in a source to sea continuum, sharing of portfolio planning and management tools, best practices and solutions; enhancing networking and data sharing; continuing commitment to capacity building and expanding the partnership with the private sector.

The proposed project includes five interrelated and mutually supportive components: 1) Provide targeted knowledge sharing and results showcasing across projects and development partners (through face-to-face dialogue and training) to advance transboundary water management in all IW focal area ecosystems 2) Support the communication and replication of portfolio results and experiences 3) Deliver inter- and intra-regional coordination and knowledge management across focal areas in Small Island Developing States to improve portfolio performance 4) Deliver support to surface freshwater, groundwater and large marine ecosystem subsets in support of portfolio strategic priorities 5) Mobilize public and private partnership to enhance long-term sustainability of project interventions

#### **Component 1: Provide Targeted Knowledge Sharing and Results Showcasing Across Projects and Development Partners (Through Face-to-Face Dialogue and Training) to Advance Transboundary Water Management in All IW Focal Area Ecosystems (global/regional, with UNDP and Partners)**

International waters focal area surveys continue to confirm that the vast majority of projects value face-to-face learning supported by the project. This face-to-face learning takes place through the conduct of workshops, trainings and conferences and facilitating dialogue and twinnings. The project proposes to enhance portfolio capacity building at the regional and global levels and establish effective portfolio-wide dialogue opportunities for south-to-south learning through a similar but proven suite of programs and events. First, the component will feature the 10th and 11th GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences (IWC) in 2020 and 2022 respectively, which convene on average 300 participants from about 70 projects, 80 countries and the GEF agencies to share practical experience, apply evolving policies and procedures, address emerging priorities and improve overall project performance covering all water systems. Second, the component will include regional and global training, through workshops, on specific topics such as, inter alia, climatic change and variability, ocean governance, science-to-management, financing the implementation of Strategic Action Programs, transboundary water conflict management and attracting investment, all of which a majority of the portfolio expressed major interest. The workshops would also address strategic priorities such as gender mainstreaming, economic valuation and source-to-sea action management as well as support mainstreaming of tools developed by selected GEF IW portfolio methodology or learning projects (Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services, Floods and Droughts, Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme, Nutrient Management, Blue Forests and many others). All training would be delivered to current and future IW:LEARN partners. The audience for these workshops will include all types of GEF IW projects but also importantly, national level partners in

IF project implementation, as well as members of relevant regional bodies and basin-level joint management bodies. Third, the Component will include facilitating object-project twinning exchanges on a more programmatic and long-term basis, between projects linked by hydrology, newer projects needing technical experience from more experienced projects, or projects needing access to expertise from centers of excellence. Finally, Component One will continue activities in support of global and regional transboundary dialogue. At the regional level, the Component will facilitate the replication and expansion of proven trust- and consensus-building regional dialogue approaches, to promote transboundary cooperation in various regions, where nascent success was realized in the previous iteration of the project. At the global level, the component will focus especially on supporting participation in key global dialogue processes as an organizing partner, mostly of side events—and supporting GEF IW project participation—at large international IW events to promote the IW portfolio, build partnerships and obtain tools and ideas to enhance its knowledge management activities. The activities in this Component will enhance portfolio & development partner capacity at the regional & global levels and improve portfolio-wide project performance. Moreover, the Component should leverage increased global awareness of GEF results and increased GEF partnerships beyond the portfolio.

### **Component 2: Support the Communication and Replication of Portfolio Results and Experiences (global, with UNDP and Partners)**

Information management, backed by a robust content or knowledge management platform, forms a key GEF IW:LEARN service that backstops the experience-sharing and capacity-development activities the project conducts. The portfolio's management of data and information has improved since the start of IW:LEARN, however, key stories and achievements, with their ability to influence policymakers and engage communities, remain difficult to discover. The project will build on past achievements but increase focus on improving the portfolio's capacity to harvest, codify, communicate and replicate its results. First, the Component will see new functionality added to the portfolio's content management system, iwlearn.net, to vastly improve the content of project snapshots, providing clearer information and prospective material on replicable lessons. The website will be enhanced to include a searchable knowledge bank of project experience. Second, the Component will feature various types of support to the use of various information technology platforms (including the IW:LEARN Website Toolkit, utilized by many portfolio projects) to improve projects' capacity to manage and communicate information about themselves, including through the establishment of project specific sites. Finally, the Component will feature training activities, led by the project coordination unit and partners, on data and information management, but particularly on hands-on communication and project visualization to result in more comprehensive output of portfolio IW Experience Notes covering all projects, results dissemination, data packaging and innovative focal area communication products. The last sub-component will also include focal area thematic review publications covering portfolio experience and results across different topics. The activities in this Component will lead to increased experience sharing and replication of successes within and across the IW portfolio, as well as enhanced understanding of GEF IW project interventions beyond the portfolio.

### **Component 3: Deliver Intra and Inter-Regional Coordination and Knowledge Management Across Focal Areas in Small Island Developing States to Improve Portfolio Performance (global, inter-regional and regional, with UNDP & UNEP and Partners)**

This component will be based on generic tools developed through IW:LEARN but will be thematically be close to issues that are relevant for SIDS, in particular those outlined within the SAMOA Pathway: Blue Economy, Climate Resilience and, to a lesser degree, Digital Transformation (related to Disaster Risk Reduction). The Component will also address other areas of the SAMOA Pathway, including for example water security, sustainable food and nutrition; sustainable tourism and sustainable energy.

The project will try to improve the portfolio performance in SIDS. First, the Component Three will aim at supporting the collaboration among SIDS through regional and inter-regional twinning and dialogue activities among all focal area projects and participating country counterparts, focusing on the subjects that are emanating from the SAMOA Pathway, as well as on water security, sustainable food and nutrition, sustainable tourism and sustainable energy. The component will support the existing dialogues and share IW portfolio freshwater and large marine ecosystem experience through GEF projects. Information will be exchanged, among other, on new management tools related to: improving climate resilience and SIDS actions on adaptation to climate change; Blue Economy, first by assisting countries to address a suite of environmental stressors that may affect the local economies and, then, by creating opportunities for Blue Economy investments; and, where possible, improving countries response to natural risks, as well as information on water security, sustainable food and nutrition, sustainable tourism and sustainable energy. The component will also cooperate with other focal area projects related to freshwater and marine matters of interest to SIDS. Partnerships will be formed with the applicable Regional Seas or other regional intergovernmental environment bodies as appropriate. The Component will also seek synergies with the GEF7 Islands Program's knowledge management component. Second, a new section at [iwlearn.net](http://iwlearn.net) or another established web portal will be developed cataloguing available sources and opportunities to facilitate information-sharing and learning across the SIDS project portfolio in support of the SAMOA Pathway and SIDS Action Platform. The portal will strengthen, not duplicate the existing resources. Third, the training course modules and other capacity-strengthening guidance documents will be developed on cross-cutting topics of relevance to SIDS. These topics will focus on the SAMOA Pathway themes: Climate Resilience, Digital transformation, and the Blue Economy, but also include other areas mentioned earlier. Finally, an intra and inter-regional training will be delivered in and among SIDS regions delivered through regional partners, utilizing the resources developed within this component. A link will be established with the SIDS Global Business Network. The activities in this component will lead to enhanced global collaboration among Small Island Developing States on integrated water, coastal and ocean resource management, biodiversity conservation, reducing land degradation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and Source-to-Sea management, and improved coordination of GEF projects and participating country counterparts in Small Island Developing States across all GEF focal areas and increased achievement of relevant environmental performance targets by project participating countries.

#### **Component 4: Deliver Support to Surface Freshwater, Groundwater and Large Marine Ecosystem Subsets in Support of Portfolio Strategic Priorities (global, with UNDP UN-Environment and Partners)**

The GEF7 Programmatic Directions highlight several strategic priorities for the 2018-2022 GEF IW portfolio to address regarding specific ecosystem types in the international waters focal area. The proposed project will, in Component 4, organize activities to directly address some of these strategic priorities in support of investments in groundwater, surface freshwater and marine/coastal ecosystems. The proposed project will also support Objective 3, Enhance Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems and in particular Strategic Action 3.3. Investments in Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security but also Strategic Action 3.2 to help projects improve policy formulation processes and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources, as well as information management. The project will also address Strategic Action 3.1, advancing information exchange and early warning.

The component will feature first, knowledge exchanges, training on new tools and approaches in key regions and sub-regions on Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security, to help guide transboundary regional projects in supporting their participating countries to address these tradeoffs and incorporate them into the TDA-SAP Process. Second, the component will feature exchanges and programmatic guidance on managing the conjunctive management of linked groundwater and surface freshwater ecosystems through better governance, as well as with coastal and ocean projects. Third, the component will build and expand on works in the previous project on marine spatial planning, by conducting further training events for all marine and coastal projects, building on the course and manual already developed. Fourth, the project will develop a training package, synthesis materials and guidance to provide training and capacity building assistance to marine and coastal projects and strategic planning methodologies in addressing development and implementation of blue economy opportunities. Finally, Component will feature annual meetings and dialogue to strengthen collaboration among LME projects, Regional Seas, Regional Fisheries Management bodies, Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction and River Basin Organizations (RBOs), particularly through the Annual Marine Consultation process, originally established under the auspices of IOC-

WESCO, ICES, IUCN and U.S. NOAA, but working closely in coordination with FAO and UN Environment. Where possible, the Annual LME Consultation will be back to back with a portfolio meeting such as the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference. The activities in this Component are expected to lead to improved management of transboundary freshwater and marine ecosystems and enhanced transboundary cooperation in those ecosystems.

#### **Component 5: Mobilize Public and Private Partnership to Enhance Long-term Sustainability of Project Interventions (global, with UNDP & UN-Environment and partners)**

The GEF7 International Water Strategy states that GEF International Waters investments will stimulate private sector investment through all of its three objectives. This engagement will occur through two different entry points, namely: 1) Stimulating engagement along the different supply chains towards reducing impacts on the freshwater and marine ecosystem environments and 2) de-risking innovative investments within the freshwater and marine sectors, through support to testing of innovative approaches and technologies. The IW portfolio has repeatedly expressed interest in greater support and guidance with private sector engagement. This interest was most clearly expressed during the 8<sup>th</sup> GEF Biennial International Waters Conference, where a follow-on workshop on Financing Sustainable Management Transboundary Basins outlined a clear set of actionable recommendations that a future GEF IW:LEARN project could address. These included inter alia, strengthening GEF IW capacity, establishment of a global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel to provide advice and support partnership building, further IW dialogue awareness, communication and training. Given the significant number of GEF IW projects supporting the implementation of Strategic Action Programs and the portfolio's stated interest in attracting investment towards those SAPs priorities, this Component will help guide and support the portfolio with private and public partnerships.

The Component will feature first, the establishment and operation of a global IW Partnerships Advisory Panel to help match-make GEF IW projects and development partners with the business community, focusing on identifying SAP priorities in given ecosystems and reducing the transaction costs for both entities to identify opportunities for partnership and investment. The sub-component will also guide partner institutions and projects on different public-private modalities including GEF's on-Grant Instrument (NGI). Second, the Component will support further facilitation of partnerships via regional-level networking and dialogue events, convening public and private sector entities together with GEF IW projects and development partners with a specific focus on interactive networking. Finally, the component will support the development of training materials and programmatic guidance on attracting sustainable financing to address SAP investment priorities. The activities in the Component are expected to leverage an enhanced number of partnerships and resources mobilized for the portfolio.

#### **Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;**

The proposed project aligns directly with the GEF focal area strategy for International Waters. Most directly, the proposed project responds to the calls for a new phase IW:LEARN in both Strategic Objective One and Three, which mention "Engagement with national, regional and global stakeholders to increase collaboration and cross support to investments and processes, through IW:LEARN." Besides this however, the project includes components and sub-components directly addressing significant elements in the IW strategy. This includes a focus on Objective 1 Strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities, specifically the portfolio's ability to address the development and implementation of environmentally sustainable blue economy opportunities, foster collaboration among LMEs, Regional Seas conventions, and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and mainstream marine area management and spatial tools. The proposed project will also support Objective 3, Enhance Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems and in particular Strategic Action 3.3. Investments in Water, Food, Energy and Environmental Security, Strategic Action 3.2 to help projects improve policy formulation processes and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater resources as well as Strategic Action 3.1, Advancing information exchange and early warning. And although the GEF 2020 Strategy is older now, the project remains in line with its focus on knowledge generation and sharing that will complement enhanced results management and help remove the above-mentioned barriers to better management of freshwater and

marine resources. It also states that "...the potential audience for GEF knowledge products extends well beyond the GEF partnership. Lessons learned through GEF-funded interventions can guide other investments by bilateral funds, major foundations, the private sector, and national financial institutions, as well as the work of civil society." Consequently, the knowledge sharing, and lessons learned exchange through IW:LEARN will be the primary tool in this effort.

#### **incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;**

IF IW:LEARN is the flagship portfolio learning initiative of the GEF IW focal area and sets the cross-project and cross-agency experience and learning agenda. The IF increment will fund a set of activities that leverage cost-savings and improve project performance for all projects in the IW focal area. By its nature, the project needs a grant to generate the positive externalities that regular project processes would not otherwise provide. Moreover, while many GEF IW:LEARN services are mainstreamed, there are still significant components of the project that transcend the GEF Agencies ability to serve the entire GEF IW portfolio, the GEF IW Conference for example. In the absence of GEF investment, these portfolio-wide tools will not be produced, and existing services will be only partially continued with part of the IF IW portfolio.

This project represents a modest incremental cost which aims to leverage increased project effectiveness and results for GEF IW investments across the GEF portfolio. Through regional, thematic and portfolio learning and experience-sharing the project integrates GEF-supported transboundary experiences into global efforts to improve freshwater and marine resources management in the context of achieving SDGs. As GEF Council documentation has emphasized, facilitating transfer of lessons and experiences between projects is an important investment: potential yields are large in terms of improvements in replication efficiency and scaling up successful approaches. This project focuses on this as it adds an increment to agency activities included in their sustainability plans and fosters new partnerships for building IW project capacity with new partners to address the new global issues being faced by transboundary water systems. The proposed project will leverage contributions from and also build upon the following elements of the baseline.

UNDP's Water and Ocean Governance Programme includes a number of programs on which, the proposed project will leverage and build incremental activities to leverage greater benefits. Cap-Net UNDP works together with over 40 international partners and 23 affiliated networks, reaching over 1.000 member institutions in developing regions, and in joint strategic efforts with the Water and Ocean Governance Programme (WOGP) to deliver capacity development on key topics such as water governance, water integrity, IWRM, science and technology, and policy making. Partnerships with UN Environment, UNEP-DHI Centre, GWP, and Cap-Net UNDP are supporting and monitoring progress with the SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme (SDG6- SP). The UNDP GoAL-Waters (Governance, Accountability and Learning for Water Sustainability) programme supports equitable, efficient and environmentally sustainable use and protection of freshwater and marine resources. It helps identifying priorities and opportunities and addressing gaps and constraints in water and ocean governance by developing policy reform plans and action at national and local levels. Shared Waters Partnership (SWP) promotes cooperative approaches to shared waters to advance peace, security, regional economic development and protect the environment. SWP also aims to open new opportunities for riparian states to sustainably develop their water resources. It works to strengthen multi-stakeholder platforms, improve efforts to align diplomatic and development work, and build capacity to create robust, responsive institutions for cooperative shared water management. Finally, UNDP will address current global ocean challenges, the Ocean Innovation Facility (OIF) will identify and facilitate finance to a suite of pilot initiatives that demonstrate highly innovative approaches to ocean sustainability, cutting across most of the SDG14 targets with a potential for scaling up.

UN Environment's comparative advantage lies in knowledge management, science-to-policy linkages, ecosystems management and capacity building. It is part of several key processes in the ocean realm (e.g. Friends of Ocean Action, Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy, Secretariat for the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy) and also has access to a worldwide consortium of data partners such as the Environmental Situation Room and REV Ocean. The Regional Seas Programmes could be engaged with respect to their work on SDG 14, as outlined in their contribution to the SDG 14 Outlook Report. The UNEP-DHI Centre for Water and Environment could be leveraged for monitoring and advancing IWRM approaches, but also for accessing the real-time Flood and Drought Portal. Many online courses including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) relevant to several thematic areas are available through the organization, including those related to Marine Litter and Nutrient and Wastewater Management. The UN Environment SIDS Programme could also be leveraged as it is implementing several activities as a contribution to the SAMOA pathway. Other UN Environment led initiatives such as the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) through its 10 Year Framework Programme (10 YFP) assist SIDS in developing models and addressing issues along the value chain with a special focus on sustainable tourism. In addition, a cascade of protocols, toolboxes and partnerships may be accessed in support of SIDs such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring (GCRMN) reporting protocol, Green Fins Toolbox and the Global Coral Reef Partnership.

UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) is a body with functional autonomy within UNESCO, and is the only competent organization for marine science within the UN system, promoting international cooperation and coordinating programmes in research, services and capacity-building, in order to learn more about the nature and resources of the ocean and coastal areas and to apply that knowledge for the improvement of management, sustainable development, the protection of the marine environment, and the decision-making processes of its Member States. UNESCO-IOC is engaged with a number of activities on which this project will leverage opportunities. MSPglobal is a joint initiative by UNESCO-IOC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE) to develop new international guidelines on Maritime Spatial Planning. The SPINCAM project "Southeast Pacific data and information network in support to integrated coastal area management" supports integrated coastal area management at national and regional levels to provide information on sustainability of practices and development of existing and future coastal management.

#### **global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and**

The GEF increment will support the proposed project to deliver on these global environmental benefits by fostering conditions for improved GEF IW project delivery and impact for transboundary water systems. It will build directly on the foundations of the GEF IW portfolio of river-and-lake-basin, groundwater-systems, and large-marine-ecosystem (LME) projects, as well as the last five phases of GEF IW:LEARN (a 1998 pilot and full-sized projects dating from 2000 to 2020 inclusive) as well as the GEF LME:LEARN project. The project will utilize existing mechanisms and establish new ones for learning in the four key GEF regions to improve the management of international waters and combat the threats to ocean ecosystems (climate change, acidification, habitat loss, pollution, fishing, shipping, and seabed mining) and freshwater ecosystems (climate change, urbanization and increasing food demand). The proposed project will aim to catalyze action and enhance the effectiveness of the GEF IW portfolio through the provision of knowledge and the application of innovative techniques.

#### **innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.**

With regard to innovation, the GEF IW:LEARN previous phases have been repeatedly upheld as an innovative model, including by the GEF itself. The project continues to innovate itself, both in the design phases and during the implementation. This proposed new phase will incorporate feedback from the portfolio obtained through portfolio surveys and event evaluation forms of GEF Biennial International Waters Conferences and regional workshops. The proposed project will contain innovative approaches as well as tried and tested methods.

With regard to scaling up potential, the 5<sup>th</sup> GEF Operational Performance study notably calls IW:LEARN, the GEF's "one highly effective learning mechanism". The most recent independent evaluation of IW:LEARN (2018) noted that existing phase of the project moved from a demonstration phase where successful knowledge management services to GEF IW projects were piloted, tested and replicated, towards a scaled up project which became a hub for global learning on transboundary waters, working both inside and outside the GEF-financed portfolio. The 2018 evaluation states further that this "enhanced role as a global knowledge hub will support the scale up of GEF IW investments globally, as the project will harness experience from more than 27 years of GEF portfolio and partner activities to improve the current and future portfolios and impacts of investments. GEF IW:LEARN will also help GEF IW projects in improving their project outcome sustainably by linking them to the global processes and framework, as well as partners at the regional and basin levels." Based on the experience to date, there remains significant potential to scale up the work of the project, particularly on the latter point of linking the portfolio to global processes and frameworks.

In the absence of the GEF increment, and a fully executed IW:LEARN Sustainability Plan to facilitate knowledge management across the GEF agencies and IW portfolio, learning and information transfer would revert to ad hoc arrangements. Project personnel, agencies and government partners would operate in an experience vacuum, creating project isolation and sacrificing momentum, institutional memory and continuity, which would ultimately constrain the pace and quality of project implementation and delivery and limit the overall performance and impact of the GEF IW portfolio. Furthermore, without the GEF increment, potential synergies among the GEF IW portfolio, the private sector and other global environmental efforts will likely not be realized. Without the GEF increment, there would be no dedicated knowledge management agenda to exert positive pressure on IW projects to interact and share experiences and results, reducing the potential for scaling up successful approaches to management and governance of IW.



**1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.**

The proposed project is a global project, however with the project coordination unit located in Paris, France. 48.8566° N, 2.3522° E. Interventions will take place throughout the globe.

## 2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The current IW:LEARN project already successfully engages with a broad range of stakeholders. The proposed new IW:LEARN project will forge linkages between stakeholder groups at the regional and global level. Members of the network will engage with IW:LEARN project as content (or knowledge) providers, while others will engage as knowledge beneficiaries. Stakeholders and partner organizations (listed below) may alternate roles depending on their particular skillset and training needs. These will naturally be part of the preparation phase for the proposed project. They will be invited to all PPG meetings, and also virtual consultations set to take place during the PPG Phase. All current partners will be invited to stay in the project and the new partners will also be welcome to engage.

STAKEHOLDER	RELEVANT ROLES
GEF IW Project Managers	Project managers (and coordination units) are some of the primary beneficiaries of IW:LEARN capacity building activities. The inputs from PM's through evaluation will be consulted and some PM's will be asked to provide inputs during the PPG phase.
Participating Countries	Countries are also beneficiaries of IW:LEARN, particularly through the International Waters Conference but also other activities. It is envisioned that countries will benefit from other activities in the proposed project, which proposes to scale-up knowledge management. Some country representatives will be consulted during the PPG phase.
Civil Society Organizations	Previous phases of IW:LEARN have partnered with various CSO's and the proposed project includes several CSO's as partners of the proposed project. These will naturally be part of the preparation.
Academic Research Institutes	Previous phases of IW:LEARN have partnered with some universities, the University of Cape Town for example. Some universities are imagined to be involved in the next phase, particularly with any training or course development activity. They will be identified and consulted in the PPG phase.
Bilateral/Multilateral Agencies	The GEF agencies guide the implementation of IW:LEARN via the GEF International Waters Conference. The GEF agencies will be consulted during the PPG phase.

s	aters Task Force. They will be consulted during the PPG phase.
Private Sector	Preliminary discussions with some private sector are already underway, with for example, REV-Ocean. Further private sector partners will be sought during the PPG phase.
Transboundary Commissions	Commissions are also a beneficiary of previous phases as well as the proposed project, particularly as successor joint management bodies evolving out of GEF IW projects or associated with them. It is envisioned that commissions will benefit from many IW:LEARN activities, but particularly those in Components 2 and 3. Select commissions will be consulted during the preparation phase.
Local Communities	Local communities, at least some, are expected to feature as beneficiaries of activities in Component One. Analysis will be made during the PPG phase on who to engage.
Vulnerable Groups (Gender Groups)	Some previous phases of IW:LEARN addressed vulnerable groups, such as women, through activities to promote gender mainstreaming. It is envisioned that the PPG phase will assess how the proposed project can continue to support this. The project will seek during the PPG phase to see how this can be incorporated.

### 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).**

Women play a central role in the provision, management and safeguarding of freshwater and marine ecosystems. How water and marine resources are distributed, who has access and can make decisions on its use, depends on various social factors, including gender norms. While in the majority of societies women and girls are responsible for fetching and carrying water, and for using it for the health and wellbeing of their families, these women and girls rarely have the decision-making power it takes to control and preserve water and marine resources. This is true at the community, national, transboundary and international level. In addition, women are rarely represented in ministries responsible for decision making about water and marine ecosystems, and are generally not found in technical management roles. The proposed project, GEF IW:LEARN, as the portfolio coordination mechanism, has the responsibility to provide programmatic guidance support to the IW portfolio as well as execute other activities to help portfolio projects support gender mainstreaming throughout the portfolio. Making a case for gender mainstreaming activities means to provide a learning example for external partners, governments and institutions on how to improve their own water and marine programs and training tools.

The previous IW:LEARN project worked with the World Wildlife Fund and UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) to introduce systematic consideration of gender equity, women empowerment, and social inclusion in GEF's international waters portfolio approach for the improved management of transboundary waters and for more in general integrated water resources management initiatives. The activity produced a set of training courses at global and regional portfolio meetings, sessions at large global freshwater/marine meetings and a series of webinar trainings. This accelerated the global recognition of this fundamental aspect of water and marine resources management, and improved project performance, scale of social impact and the likelihood of sustainability. WWAP contributed by disseminating its experience with regard to sex-disaggregated indicators in resources assessments, monitoring and reporting. More specifically, WWAP's "Toolkit on Sex-disaggregated Water Data" is recognized as key tool for mainstreaming gender mainstreaming in the GEF international water projects portfolio, and is disseminated to project managers and staff within the GEF/UNDP/IW:LEARN Project. WWF on the other hand, is committed to implementing gender-responsive conservation programmes and engaging the private sector. The joining of forces and specific experiences of UNESCO WWAP and WWF greatly enhanced the effectiveness of this portfolio capacity building effort.

The project will continue to address the gender dimension, in particular through an extension of the training products and webinars developed in the previous phase. The project will capitalize on the materials developed and lessons learned and apply these to maximize uptake by the GEF IW portfolio either via innovative training techniques (online/face to face) or committed targeted support delivered by partners. The aim will continue to be to introduce systematic consideration of gender equity, woman empowerment and social inclusion in GEF's international waters portfolio approach for the improved management of transboundary waters and for more integrated resources management initiatives. The project will accelerate portfolio learning on this key thematic priority for the GEF portfolio. It will provide access to GEF IW partners, IW projects, and recipient countries (scientific institutes, national bodies, basin organizations, non-governmental organizations, universities, students) to relevant training materials, and cutting edge experience on gender-responsive indicators, including but not limited to sex-disaggregated data collection. Finally, the project could facilitate exchanges of experiences and online learning mechanisms on gender integration and the use of gender indicators. These may include ad-hoc trainings and workshops on sex-disaggregated water data collection and analysis, and

on gender sensitive indicators. These twinnings (between projects) or wider trainings could be based on the 5 multi-faceted macro-modules –each composed by one or more sub-modules and exercises already developed in the previous phase, which offer a theoretical, interactive and practical learning experience. The specific content and design of the gender mainstreaming activities will be clarified further in the project preparation grant phase.

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?** Yes

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

**Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

#### 4. Private sector engagement

**Will there be private sector engagement in the project?**

Yes

**Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.**

The proposed project will contain an entire Component designed to support significant engagement with the private sector. The Component will support several activities to build the capacity of the portfolio seek out, design and engage, as well as an advisory panel to help matchmaking between the private sector and the project portfolio. This Component will build on significant experience with partnership building realized in the previous phase of the project, where different forms of engagement were tested, private sector invited to key portfolio meetings and a roundtable conducting on financing sustainable management of transboundary basins. Of particular value were private sector engagement sessions conducted in the regional level, where GEF projects could engage and discuss investment-worthy concepts directly with private sector entities. The project will build on this approach, and improve the ease of engagement for private sector entities with the portfolio. The propose Panel will identify opportunities for investment in the wider portfolio as well as connecting those entities to those opportunities. The project will work with several entities already exposed to the portfolio's work, such as REV Ocean, China Navigation, Thai Union. Wilderness Markets, 1Skip Development and Triciclos.

## 5. Risks

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)



RISK DESCRIPTION	RATING <sup>1</sup>	MITIGATION MEASURE
Not all GEF IW projects are willing to engage in various types of portfolio learning activities or expose weaknesses in project implementation to external scrutiny.	L	Project stakeholders are expressly encouraged to utilize GEF <u>IW:LEARN</u> services at all levels of implementation and execution. The PPG phase will be utilized to seek a critical mass of committed projects that are systematically linked and accessing capacity-building services during implementation.
With a global spread of constituents, the <u>IW:LEARN</u> website and portfolio services (face-to-face capacity-building as well as programmatic tools) cannot be relied upon to automatically “pull” beneficiaries. There may be a need to “push” (as the previous <u>IW:LEARN</u> team did with direct project interaction).	L	The project will make an investment in direct interaction with beneficiaries. Constituents need to be engaged to the extent possible to create a sense of ownership.
An additional risk could be the high potential for overlap and duplication of effort across partners, rather than complementarity/synergy and structured alignment	M	The PPG phase will provide <u>sufficient</u> clarity of roles and areas of contribution

## 6. Coordination

**Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

GEF IW:LEARN will be implemented by UNDP and UN Environment (for sub-components 3.1, 3.4 and 4.4), who will jointly be responsible for ensuring overall project supervision and will ensure consistency with GEF policies and procedures. UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub (IRH) will act as the lead UNDP office for components/sub-components under UNDP oversight, and will be responsible for project supervision and implementation through UN Agency execution modality with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO serving as Implementing Partner/Executing Agency for both UNDP and UN Environment. UNDP will be represented at the Project Steering Committee by IRH Manager delegated to the UNDP/ GEF International Waters Regional Technical Advisor. Project Assurance from IRH will be provided by the Senior Programme Coordinator.

GEF IW:LEARN will be executed for both UNDP and UN Environment through UNESCO-IOC for all Components. The EA will be responsible for, the following activities, required to achieve the project objectives, outputs and outcomes, including:

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring and reporting
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets, as indicated in the Project Document and/or revised by the Project Coordination Unit and approved by the Project Steering Committee

IOC-UNESCO will ensure that all activities including procurement services are carried out in strict compliance with UNDP / UN Environment's respective rules and procedures. IOC/UNESCO will be responsible for the establishment, adequate staffing and uninterrupted functioning, throughout the project's life span, of the global Project Coordination Unit (PCU). The GEF IW:LEARN partnership will involve a large number of GEF Agencies, Executing Agency and other partners (such as NGOs and transboundary organizations). Most of these will be members of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), with the PCU acting as the Secretariat. The PSC will also include GEF IW project managers. An Inter-Agency Forum, comprising of the IAs and the EA, will be created to have close dialogue on the overall project execution. This will further ensure that there is adequate project oversight and consistency with GEF policies and requirements. A PCU will be headquartered at UNESCO-IOC's offices in Paris.

The PCU will be responsible for the overall project co-ordination and will ensure that activities are undertaken in conjunction with partners and are delivered according to the PSC agreed timeline. The PCU will also have extensive responsibilities for monitoring the overall performance of the project against the indicators/targets in the results framework as part of the M&E activities. Much of the monitoring data for this project will come from surveys of workshop follow-up, twinnings, exchanges, etc., to gather as much quantitative data as possible about the outcomes and impacts of the GEF IW:LEARN project, and to report this data to the PSC (based on the baseline established from the last phase of the project).



In terms of regular administrative reporting, the PCU will work with project partners in the preparation of quarterly reports to be submitted to UNDP and UN Environment. The PCU will be responsible to prepare in coordination with UNDP/UN Environment/UNESCO-IOC the annual GEF Project Implementation Review. Finally, there will be a number of management and evaluation activities that will be carried out and supported by the PCU. These will include a midterm and final evaluation together with such other activities as may be requested from time to time by UNESCO IOC and the UNDP-GEF Regional Coordination Unit in Istanbul, as well as United Nations Environment.

During the PPG phase of the proposed project, consultation meetings will be organized with the partnership behind the previous phase of GEF IW:LEARN, which included besides the implementing and executing agencies, the following organizations: Conservation International, Global Water Partnership, GRID Arendal, International Council for the Exploration of the Seas, International Commission for the Protection for the Danube River, International River Foundation, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, The Nature Conservancy, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO, World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Wildlife Fund. All other GEF Agencies and other interested parties will also be invited to partner with the future phase of the project.

#### *GEF-supported Initiatives*

The proposed project will build on experiences of the previous GEF IW:LEARN phases and will specifically build on the sustainability plan and final evaluation of the current phase jointly implemented by UNDP and UN Environment. Special attention will be devoted to disseminating management tools developed by other portfolio learning projects including inter alia, *Development of Tools to Incorporate Impacts of Climatic Variability and Change, in Particular Floods and Drought into Basin Planning Processes*, Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP), Blue Forests Integrated Nutrient Management System and *Capturing Coral Reef and Related Ecosystem Services* projects. The proposed project will liaise with the UNDP implemented GEF Small Grants Programme to harvest SGP experience in the translation of SAPs into local actions and identify community-based management models. Finally, the project will work closely with the GEF Secretariat itself, specifically its Results-Based Management and Knowledge Management staff, on upscaling IW:LEARN-tested approaches to other focal areas.

#### *Non-GEF initiatives*

The proposed project will also coordinate with the following non-GEF funded partner initiatives. The project will liaise with secretariats, coordinating bodies or administrative entities of legal frameworks for transboundary cooperation, such as the UN Water Courses Convention, the UNECE Water Convention, ILC draft articles on transboundary groundwater and UN Law of the Sea Convention. For the work in SIDS, the project will coordinate with the Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme. The project will also collaborate with the secretariats of the Cartagena and Nairobi Conventions.

## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

**Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions**

No

**If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc**

While the project is global in scope, it is designed to support the implementation of regional investments by the GEF. As with all GEF projects, being country-driven is the sine qua non, and all IW projects assisted by IW:LEARN have the country GEF focal point endorsement. GEF IW:LEARN aims to support and improve the management of GEF IW projects and enhance project capacity to address national priorities and plans. The proposed project will support all these various regional, national and local strategies by building networks, creating tools, improving linkages, harvesting best practices and generating knowledge. The proposed project will also have a focus on building capacity at the national level through SAP actions and regional workshops. The project will also contribute indirectly to help countries in achieving SDG6, 14 and related goal targets.

## 8. Knowledge Management

**Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.**

The GEF International Waters Learning and Exchange Resource Network (IW:LEARN) is a global effort that promotes experience, knowledge sharing, learning and dialog among GEF International Waters projects and their stakeholders. The overall goal of GEF IW:LEARN is to strengthen transboundary water management around the world by collecting and sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative solutions to common challenges.

The previous project phase of GEF IW:LEARN produced a Knowledge Management Strategy for the project, the basic contours of which the proposed project will also follow. The strategy document summarized the key priorities that should be reflected in the overall approach to knowledge management within the project and its partners. GEF IW:LEARN has a solid history of developing an increasingly impactful knowledge sharing and management enterprise and has developed and evolved this history through a series of Global Environment Facility-funded projects since the late 1990s. Early architects within the GEF International Waters focal area recognized the vital importance of learning and sharing of knowledge from IW's breadth of experiences; IW:LEARN was a pioneer within the GEF in this regard.

IW:LEARN's goal is to strengthen Transboundary Waters Management by facilitating global portfolio experience sharing and learning, dialogue facilitation, targeted knowledge sharing and replication in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of GEF IW projects to deliver tangible results, and in partnership with other IW initiatives. In working toward this goal, IWL4 had four major pillars on which it built its activities from 2015-2019. These were:

- (1) Assisting projects in acquiring relevant knowledge related to transboundary waters management in order to improve future project design;
- (2) Enhancing the understanding and application of GEF IW experiences across the IW portfolio to produce better quality project results;
- (3) Facilitating the replication and scaling up of good practices in transboundary waters management, resulting in lower costs and improved capacity to address transboundary concerns; and
- (4) Ensuring that insights generated through project interventions are shared and add value to the IW portfolio and beyond.

Each of IW:LEARN's stakeholders has varying contributions and needs to engage with IW:LEARN for information and knowledge pertaining to IW. Moreover, it is this collection and coordination of varying needs that give GEF IW:LEARN a value-added quality in serving this community. IW:LEARN functions as a relay hub of knowledge management by pulling, pushing, and transforming knowledge content; by matching supply with demand, and in providing specific services to and connecting a broadening community of practice. It pursues this through a growing web presence, search and management of content, tools and services, and it helps to connect practitioners across projects, themes and regions through project twinning exercises to share specific know-how and experiences, regional dialogues and through the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference.

**Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).**

**Name****Position****Ministry****Date**

# **ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates**

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place