

Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification

Annual Report 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	3
INTRODUCTION	4
PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS: GLOBAL POLICY CENTRE PROJECT	5
I. Natural Capital	5
II. Ecosystems and Livelihoods Resilience	12
III. Knowledge Management and Networking	13
PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS: BES-NET PROJECT	15
I. Improvement of Policy-Relevant National BES Evidence Base	15
II. Strengthening of Science-Policy-Practice Interaction and Networking	18
III. Coordinated Implementation of Priority BES Solutions	19
IV. Enhancement of Global BES Knowledge Sharing Platform	22
UNDP CO-MANAGEMENT OF JOINT UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS	23
FINANCIAL SUMMARY	28
KEY PUBLICATIONS	30
WAY FORWARD	31



ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank	LDR	Land Degradation and Restoration
BES	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	MA	Managing Agent
BES-Net	Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network	MEP	Multidisciplinary Expert Panel
BPPS	Bureau for Policy and Programme Support	NCE	Nature, Climate and Energy
COP	Conference of the Parties	NEA	National Ecosystem Assessment
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	PEA	Poverty-Environment Action for the Sustainable Development Goals
DDD	Desertification and Drought Day	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ECC	Environment and Climate Change	SDS	Sand and Dust Storms
EU	European Union	SPM	Summary for Policymakers
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	SSP	Shared Socioeconomic Pathways
GC-RED	Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification	TA	Technical Assistance
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
GGW	Great Green Wall	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH	UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
GLF	Global Landscapes Forum	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GLO	Global Land Outlook	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
HLD-DLDD	High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought	UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
IMDP	Integrated Drought Management Programme	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
IKI	International Climate Initiative	WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
ILK	Indigenous and Local Knowledge	WG	Working Group
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	WMO	World Meteorological Organization
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality		

INTRODUCTION

Overall, the 2021 workplan of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification Centre (GC-RED) was implemented successfully. Certain activities were however delayed or rescheduled to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff members continued to work remotely, with a partial return to the office in the second half of the year.

Under the GC-RED project, the Centre pursued its activities on promoting Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) among member states. It published the landmark report, [“Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa – Pilot Study Focusing on Ethiopia and Kenya”](#), in partnership with the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, and Wageningen University. It contributed to the preparation of the second edition of the Global Land Outlook (GLO), led by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and supported UNDP’s engagement in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Coalition to Combat Sand and Dust Storms (SDS). The Centre provided substantive inputs for the development of UNDP’s service offers on Sustainable Land Management and Restoration and the Great Green Wall (GGW) Initiative, in addition to supporting the Administrator’s participation in the High-Level Dialogue on Desertification (HLD-DLDD), Land Degradation and Drought and 2021 Desertification and Drought Day (DDD).

Following the donor approval of the no-cost extension of the first phase of the [Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network \(BES-Net\)](#) up to 30 June 2022, the Centre kept facilitating the parallel and coordinated implementation of BES-Net I and II, in contribution to the work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). In close collaboration with the consortium partners, i.e. the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), efforts were made to wrap up the remaining activities and consolidate/disseminate the lessons learned under BES-Net I and roll out the new and the follow-up activities under BES-Net II. With the project’s support, Colombia launched its very first issue of a comprehensive national ecosystem assessment (NEA), bringing together science, policy and practice sectors in the country. Furthermore, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BES) Solution Fund, a catalytic seed fund to support local biodiversity conservation efforts in line with the IPBES assessments, was also kickstarted in four countries.

The Centre continued to play the managing agent (MA) role to the joint UNEP and UNDP [Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals \(PEA\) project](#) that focuses on shifting finance and investment towards environmental sustainability, climate objectives for poverty eradication and improving the environmental sustainability of current investments. This has contributed to strengthening the integration of poverty-environment-climate objectives into policies, plans, regulations, and investments of partner countries to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda, in line with UNDP’s integrator role.

In 2021, the Centre implemented a total portfolio of about US\$ 10 million through the GC-RED, BES-Net and PEA projects. The total annual delivery increased by over 30% compared with 2020, to about US\$ 7,500,000, highlighting the Centre’s solid financial performance.

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS: GLOBAL POLICY CENTRE PROJECT

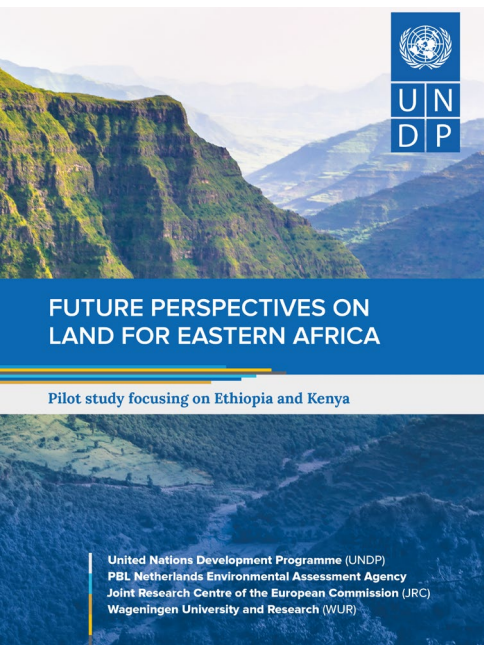
This section highlights the main results achieved under the GC-RED project, as part of the Global Policy Network in the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS)/Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Team in terms of advancing global thinking and knowledge sharing on sustainable development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems. It outlines the progress made and achievements generated in the areas of: I) natural capital; II) resilience building; and III) knowledge management and networking.

I. NATURAL CAPITAL



The Centre contributed to the implementation of the following initiatives during this reporting period: Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa; GLO; and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. It supported UNDP's engagement in the GGW Initiative and various processes of UNCCD. In addition, the Centre provided substantive input for the development of UNDP's Offer on Sustainable Land Management and Restoration.

• Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa



The final report of the study, “Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa – Pilot Study Focusing on Ethiopia and Kenya” was published in May following an extensive peer-review process. The study zoomed in on the multiple land-use-related challenges faced by Ethiopia and Kenya. This included sharing and discussing data on economic and population growth, land use and land cover changes. The study addressed the issues of land degradation and drought and looked at changes in crop and livestock productivity and production, food availability and agricultural trade.

The authors developed scenarios on land use change and degradation up to 2050 and based these on internationally developed reference scenarios. They complemented these projections with analyses of current trends. They then compared these projections with policy plans and ambitions developed in both Ethiopia and Kenya. Government representatives and stakeholders from both countries participated in a series of online meetings in which the data were discussed and analysed.

The active engagement of scientists and government officials from both Ethiopia and Kenya strengthened ownership of this study. The data that have been put forward could play an important role in devising ways to mitigate trade-offs or could form a basis for difficult policy choices. Further, many recent trends are in line with the more pessimistic forward-looking scenario, with high population growth and low growth of agricultural productivity, despite clear national policy aspirations aligned with the more optimistic scenario. In addition, the study revealed a gap between policy ambitions and actual trends. While goals may be in place, policy implementation is still key.

Even in the optimistic scenario, some conversion of natural areas to agriculture occurs to meet future food demand, although such conversion is at odds with policy ambitions.

There are several promising avenues to expand in this pilot. The scenarios in this exercise can be deepened or further developed in a participative and interactive manner. This can be done by widening the coverage to themes that were not or only partially addressed in the current pilot. In addition, a follow-up to this study may further look at other countries in East and West Africa. A side event will be organized at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to UNCCD next year to share the findings of the study and explore options for expanding it based on expressed demands. A Summary for Policymakers (SPM) will be prepared for the side event.

● Global Land Outlook

As a member of the Steering Committee of the second edition of GLO, or [GLO2](#), the Centre contributed to the peer review of the first order draft of the publication prior to the approval of the final draft by the UNCCD Science-Policy Interface. The official launch of GLO2 is planned for May 2022 during UNCCD COP15.

GLO2 aims to support the vision of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration with an evidence-based appraisal of where current land degradation levels and restoration efforts stand and inspirational examples of restorative pathways from around the world. The draft report is structured into three parts:

- Part One presents the multiple challenges to land systems, from the underlying biophysical processes to socio-economic demands. Land governance issues feature prominently, given their importance for the uptake and sustainability of restoration activities. Forward-looking scenarios quantify the potential effects of land restoration at global and regional levels.
- Part Two features case studies and good practices to illustrate how different stakeholders can create new social and governance norms, economic opportunities, and meaningful livelihoods through land restoration activities. Examples include green job creation, regenerative agriculture, and community-based solutions applied at different scales and in diverse contexts.
- Part Three synthesizes the lessons learned and showcases different restoration pathways within a new land agenda – one that leverages global synergies to restore balance with nature by engaging and empowering diverse stakeholders to act where they live and work.



Case Study for GLO2 - “Ethiopia and Kenya: Scenarios for Policymaking”

A case study of the initiative, Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa, was included in the Land Use Planning section of GLO2. The study, titled “Ethiopia and Kenya: Scenarios for Policymaking”, illustrates the use of scenario analyses to inform sustainable land management and restoration policymaking at the national level. It highlights recent land degradation trends over the past 10-15 years, as well as the impacts of projected changes in land use and management up to 2050. The study shows how to better manage trade-offs and identify priorities to achieve development goals. Using the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP) model, three scenarios were projected forward up to 2050: SSP1 (Sustainability or the Green Road), SSP2 (Middle of the Road), and SSP3 (Fragmentation or the Rocky Road).

• UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The Centre supported the engagement of UNDP, as an official collaborating agency, in the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#). It contributed to the technical brief prepared for the participation of the Director of the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa in the 2021 Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) Digital Conference. The forum, organized at the onset of the Decade under the theme “Restoring Africa’s Drylands”, explored the challenges and opportunities for scaling up the restoration of dryland landscapes across the continent.



By convening this global dialogue, GLF seized the opportunity to leverage evidence, build partnerships and generate support to help make the Decade a success in Africa. During the conference, GLF and its partners addressed the need for an integrative approach to landscape restoration to achieve productive, prosperous and resilient landscapes across Africa’s drylands. The objective is to restore at least 100 million hectares of land by 2030 (<https://afr100.org/>). This target contributes towards the African Union Agenda 2063, the Bonn Challenge and the UNCCD LDN targets.

The Centre is supporting country-led efforts on land restoration through policy advocacy, capacity building and catalytic funding. It is providing technical support to Cameroon, Malawi and Kazakhstan to achieve their LDN targets by promoting sustainable land management and restoration practices. Details regarding this support are described in the subsequent chapter on BES-Net.

• UNDP Offer on Sustainable Land Management and Restoration

The Centre contributed to the development of the UNDP Offer on Sustainable Land Management and Restoration. In consultation with the NCE/Global Environment Facility (GEF) Team, it prepared a comprehensive technical note to inform the elaboration of the Offer, including substantive inputs on:

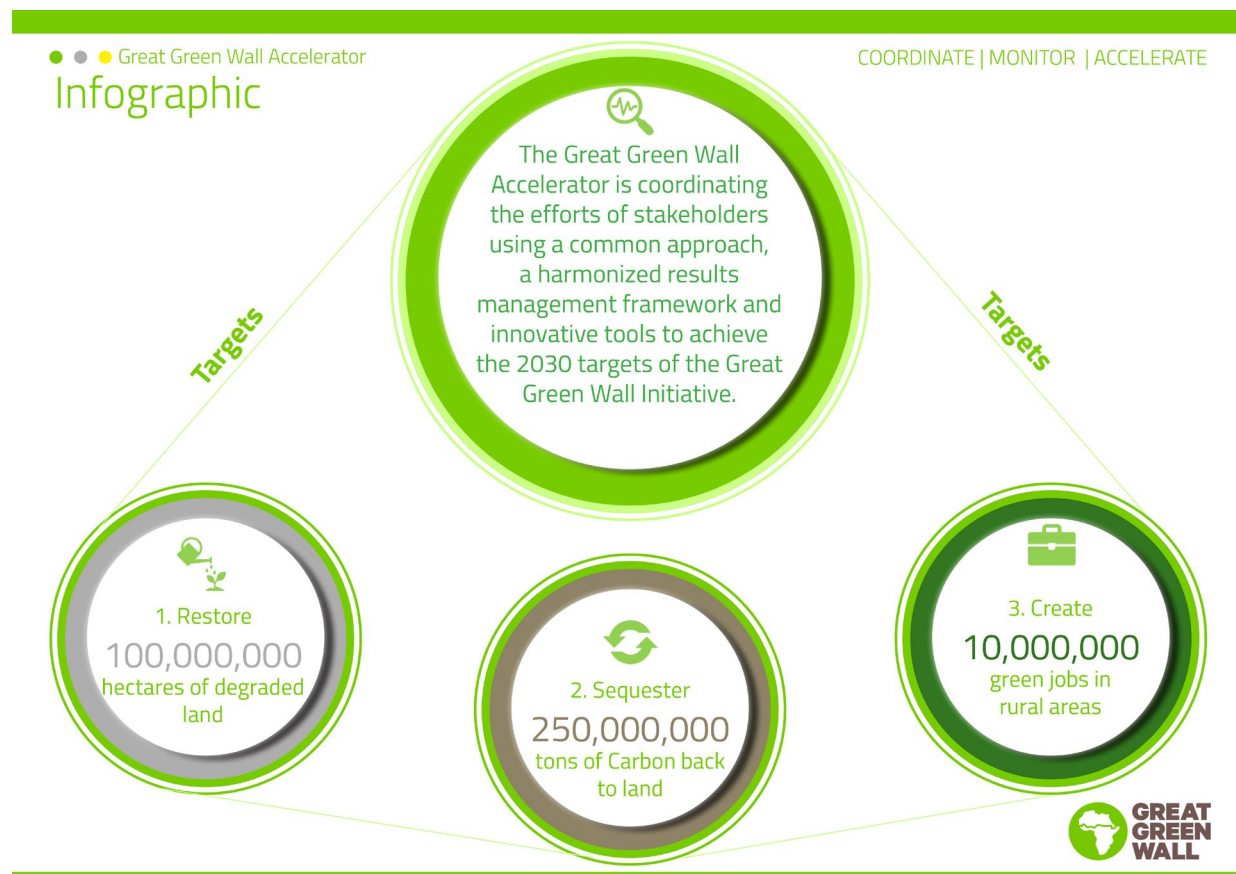
- The global challenge of land degradation with an overview of the status, trend and extent of direct drivers across sub-regions globally;
- The international response, including “Land and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”, the “Land Degradation Neutrality Framework”, the “United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration” and “Global and Regional Initiatives to Combat Land Degradation”
- UNDP’s response to this challenge, including its three-pronged approach to avoid and reduce land degradation and restore degraded lands: capacity building support, policy analysis and advocacy, and facilitating access to environmental finance; and
- The possible focus areas of the Offer, including: ① Sustainable land management to secure ecosystem goods and services; ② Restoration of degraded landscapes to reverse land degradation; ③ Strengthening land rights of poor and vulnerable groups; ④ Integrated landscape management and land use planning; and ⑤ Building capacities for LDN implementation.



The technical note will serve as the initial draft to develop the offer taking into account the vision, solutions and focus areas of the UNDP Nature Strategy and the land-related initiatives implemented and planned by UNDP (i.e. Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems Programme, Ecosystem Restoration Promise, GGW, etc.).

Great Green Wall

The Centre is part of the UNDP task force on [GGW](#). It participated in technical meetings, including with the African Union and UNCCD, to elaborate UNDP's offer on GGW. This work complements wider UNDP efforts in the Sahel and contributes to the implementation of the Action Plan for a Concerted UN System Effort for GGW.



UNDP's support will be channeled through an integrated project benefitting GGW countries in the Western Sahel. Overall, the project will support the GGW Initiative by focusing on the restoration of degraded land, the development of agroforestry initiatives, the improvement of basic socio-economic infrastructures and the creation of wealth through the development of income-generating activities that contribute to stable food security and the revival of sustainable economic growth. More specifically, the project will focus on two strategic impact areas: ① sustainable livelihoods regeneration and landscape restoration; and ② accelerating derisking policies and institutions' leadership to achieve this. The project will build on ongoing UNDP initiatives in the Sahel, namely: 10-Cubed Initiative¹ and Energy4Sahel².

The proposed outputs of the project are as follows:

Strategic Impact Area 1: Sustainable Livelihoods Regeneration and Landscape Restoration

- Output 1.1: Increased tree cover through sustainable and inclusive management of natural resources and ecosystem services;
- Output 1.2: Resilient livelihoods through the productive and diversified value chain and improved youth employability (includes renewable energy activities).

Strategic Impact Area 2: Accelerating Derisking Policies and Institutions' Leadership

- Output 2.1: Effective collaboration for the implementation of the GGW initiative under the leadership of local institutions;
- Output 2.2: Enhanced derisking instruments and policies.

UNDP is currently finalizing the implementation arrangements and funding modalities of its GGW project to initiate support on the ground by mid-2022.

UNCCD Processes

UNCCD COP15 was postponed and rescheduled for May 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, the Centre supported UNDP's engagement in UNCCD-related processes and activities including: the nineteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC); HLD-DLDD; DDD2021; Dialogue on UNCCD-UNDP Collaboration; and Preparations for COP15.

¹ The overarching goal of the 10-Cubed initiative is to plant 10 billion trees and empower 10 million youth in the 10 Sahel countries in 10 years.

² Energy4Sahel is a 5-year initiative (2021-2025) expected to provide clean energy services to 5.5 million people and 1,500 public health centers and schools, while creating 42,000 permanent green jobs.





Committee for the Review of the Implementation of UNCCD

The Centre represented UNDP in CRIC-19, organized virtually this year on 15-19 March. The deliberations revealed that countries had laid critical foundations for reaching the long-term objective of achieving LDN. Over 100 countries have adopted LDN targets and associated measures to achieve them, leading to a global commitment to restore 450 million hectares of degraded lands under UNCCD.

Now that countries have established their LDN targets, significant efforts are needed to support the development and financing of transformative projects and programmes to support implementation on the ground. Progress was made with the

operationalization of the LDN Fund managed by MIROVA (private asset manager). The LDN Fund has mobilized capital from both public and private investors, and concrete projects have started implementation on the ground.

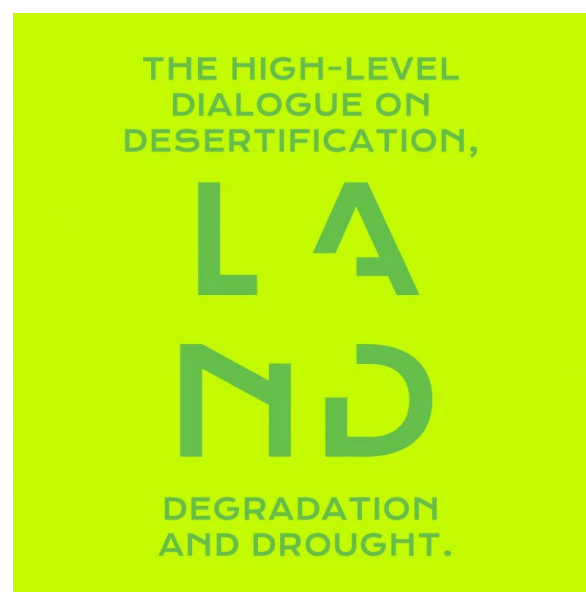
Although countries are committed to the Gender Action Plan of the Convention, experience shows that they need support to develop and implement gender-responsive and transformative actions. This is because gender-relevant tools (gender analysis, gender impact assessment, etc.) are not applied systematically, indicating gender mainstreaming capacity gaps. As such, it is crucial that UNCCD and its partners continue their hands-on support on gender mainstreaming.

CRIC19 encouraged countries to continue with the implementation of the COP14 decision on land tenure, particularly by following the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure in the implementation of activities to combat land degradation. The committee recommended that the GEF ensures the mainstreaming of land tenure in decisions related to investment in land and in the implementation of projects aiming at achieving LDN.

High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought

The Centre contributed to HLD-DLDD through the preparation of the briefing package and talking points for the Administrator's participation in the panel on "Urgent Global Cooperation on Land to Deliver the Future We Want". The panel brought together key actors to discuss the vital role of protecting and restoring land resources that protecting and restoring land resources can play in: ① Tackling climate change; ② Conserving biodiversity; ③ Maintaining crucial ecosystem services; and ④ Ensuring shared prosperity and well-being.

The Administrator stated that investing in avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation is a smart economic decision – not just in terms of creating jobs and rebuilding livelihoods, but in terms of safeguarding economies from future crises caused by climate change and biodiversity loss and accelerating progress on SDGs. He stressed that the benefits of restoration are estimated to exceed the costs by an average margin of 10 to 1. Restoring degraded lands can generate up to USD 1.4 trillion per year of economic benefits. "Over 100 countries have committed to restore close to one billion hectares over the next decade. This is significant, considering the current land use of 4.7 billion hectares of cropland and grazing land," he concluded.



2021 Desertification and Drought Day

The Centre supported UNDP's participation in [DDD2021](#), organized this year under the theme "Restoration. Land. Recovery. We build back better with healthy land". The aim of DDD2021 was to promote actions to restore degraded lands as the world recovers from COVID-19.

In collaboration with UNCCD, the UNDP Administrator released a [video message](#) for the Global Observance conveying, among others, that: "At the United Nations Development Programme, we are proud to support the vital work of UNCCD. For instance -- together, we supported 58 countries as they worked to develop LDN targets -- a crucial framework to help tackle desertification and restore degraded land and soil. Over the coming decade, we will support countries to integrate these targets into national planning and budgeting frameworks and ensure these are turned into action on the ground through implementation. UNDP has committed to supporting at least 30 countries to implement their LDN targets and restore 10 million hectares over the next decade, and I am confident that we will exceed this target. We are calling this the Ecosystem Restoration Promise".



Restoration. Land. Recovery.
We build back better with healthy land



Dialogue on UNCCD/UNDP Collaboration

The Centre contributed to the dialogue on UNCCD/UNDP collaboration in 2021-2023, led by the Director of UNDP BPPS and the UNCCD Executive Secretary.

Building on the long-standing partnership between the two organizations, it was agreed to organize this collaboration into the following areas:

1. **Advocacy** on LDN, land restoration, land tenure and drought;
2. **Implementation of large-scale projects** to advance the achievement of the LDN targets set by countries (including through opportunities presented by GGW); and
3. **Mobilization of finance** and use of financial instruments to support action on LDN and restoration with a focus on crowding in the private sector and bilateral and non-traditional funding.

More specifically, concrete activities will include:

1. Joint advocacy to strengthen synergies among the Rio Conventions, particularly around nature- and land-based solutions.
2. Project preparation facility: Together, UNDP and UNCCD, could build a project pipeline to leverage more financing, not only from traditional donors (i.e. GEF and the Green Climate Fund), but from private sector, bilateral and non-traditional donors as well.
3. Innovative financing framework for countries (for and through initiatives such as GGW, large-scale restoration programmes, etc.), through instruments such as performance bonds, to crowd-in bigger investments.

Preparation for COP15

The Centre is a member of the team preparing for UNDP's participation in COP15, now scheduled in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in May 2022. The team is led by UNDP's Resident Representative in the Ivory Coast and includes colleagues from the Country Office and the NCE Team. Building on its long-standing engagement in the Convention, the Centre is backstopping the Resident Representative in supporting government preparations for COP15.

II. ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS RESILIENCE



The Centre pursued its support to the UN Coalition to Combat SDS and Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) during this reporting period.

UN Coalition to Combat Sand and Dust Storms

On behalf of UNDP, the Centre pursued its support to the [UN Coalition to Combat Sand and Dust Storms](#) (SDS). It co-led Working Group (WG) 1 on “Mitigation and Adaptation” with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).



The Centre participated in the fifth and sixth meetings of the Coalition and contributed to the preparation of the Annual Report of the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly on SDS. The report outlines relevant developments in terms of international efforts, cooperation and collaboration in the area of SDS, including the activities of the Coalition. It is structured under the following themes: ① monitoring, prediction and early warning; ② impact mitigation, vulnerability and resilience; ③ source mitigation; and ④ cross-cutting developments.

- 1. SDS Toolbox:** This initiative aims to analyze the SDS responsiveness of the sustainable land management technologies and approaches stored in the WOCAT³ Database and to make the relevant sustainable land management practices available to the global users of the SDS Toolbox. The methodology and scope of work were defined with UNCCD and WOCAT, and funding was secured with the objective to officially launch the Toolbox at UNCCD COP15. The agreements between the key partners (UNCCD, WOCAT and UNDP) were signed and work will be initiated in January 2022.
- 2. SDS Programme:** A draft concept note titled “Sand and Dust Storms and Land Degradation Neutrality – Interlinkages” was developed by FAO in consultation with UNCCD and UNDP. The note articulates the elements of a proposed SDS mitigation and adaptation programme focusing on the agriculture sector. The main objective of the programme is to strengthen the resilience of agriculture-dependent communities affected by increasing exposure to climate change enhanced risks and impacts of SDS while reducing and/or reversing land degradation. It will implement SDS source and impact risk management technologies, improve the capacity of agricultural populations to adapt to SDS hazards and promote regional transboundary cooperation on SDS. The concept note will be developed into a proposal for discussion with stakeholders and potential donors at UNCCD COP15.

According to the Governance Guidelines of the Coalition, the United Nations agencies should provide the necessary resources, both human and financial, to support the implementation of the Coalition’s activities. GC-RED secured funding (US\$12,000) from UNDP to support the development and launch of the toolbox in 2022.

³ WOCAT: World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

● Integrated Drought Management Programme

The Centre participated in the 2021 [IDMP](#) advisory committee meeting organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in October. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress achieved in implementing the Programme and discuss its proposed 3-year Strategy for 2022-2024. The meeting was attended by the main partners of the Programme including WMO, the Global Water Partnership, FAO, UNCCD and UNDP as well as representatives from regional and national institutions.

The Advisory Committee commended IDMP for its effective support to international processes on drought risk management, including the technical backstopping of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought and the substantive contribution to the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Special Report on Drought (2021). Over 50 requests for technical assistance (TA) were received by the IDMP Help Desk during this reporting period. Through this Desk, IDMP provides countries with access to tailor-made support on integrated drought management (i.e. monitoring and early warning; vulnerability and impact assessment; mitigation and adaptation). Over US\$ 10 million was mobilized for IDMP over the past year. Several projects are under development for submission to the GEF and the Green Climate Fund in 2022. The Advisory Committee recommended scaling-up resource mobilization efforts to increase technical and capacity building support to countries.

In addition, materials developed by the Centre contributed to the e-Learning Course on Drought Risk Management/Reduction organized by IDMP in the first quarter of 2022. These include:

- [Mainstreaming Drought Risk Management: A Primer](#)
- [Community Based Resilience Analysis \(CoBRA\) Implementation Guidelines](#)
- [Understanding Community Resilience: Findings from CoBRA Assessments](#)

III. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND NETWORKING



The Centre's knowledge management and networking activities were continuously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Planned events were mostly held virtually and meetings requiring international travel remained on hold. Accordingly, the Centre continued its effort in scaling up its online engagement to deliver planned activities.

The fifth and sixth meetings of the UN Coalition to Combat SDS were organized online on 17 February and 13 October respectively. This included plenary and working group sessions organized jointly by FAO, UNCCD and the Centre. The Centre supported UNDP's participation in GLF, which was organized as a digital conference under the theme "Restoring Africa's Drylands". Moreover, it supported the global observance of DDD2021 by contributing to the video address of the UNDP Administrator for this occasion. In addition, the Centre participated in the High-Level Political Forum 2021 side event entitled "Leaving No One behind: Building Resilience in Communities" as a panel to present the experiences of the CoBRA assessments from Africa.

The Centre also maintained its role as the UNDP focal point to IPBES. As a rotating chair among the four UN collaborative partners to IPBES, UNDP delivered a joint remark and made a consolidated presentation on the latest update of the UN partners' work relevant to IPBES at the 8th session of the Plenary on 14 June 2021. In coordination with the BES-Net project team, the Centre also represented



UNDP at the biannual IPBES Bureau and Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) meetings and the regular IPBES capacity building task force meetings throughout the year (Please see the following “Progress & Achievements: BES-Net Project” section for further detail).

Please see below the list of the strategic events where the Centre team represented UNDP as part of BPPS, in 2021:

- 16th IPBES Bureau and MEP Meeting on 16 and 22-23 February;
- CRIC-19 on 15-19 March;
- 5th meeting of the UN Coalition to Combat SDS on 17 February;
- IPBES-8 Stakeholder Days on 3-9 June;
- IPBES-8 on 14-24 June;
- High-Level Political Forum 2021 on 6 July;
- 3rd meeting of the IPBES Task Force on Capacity Building on 22-23 September;
- IDDP Advisory Committee Meeting on 5 October;
- 6th meeting of the UN Coalition to Combat SDS on 13-14 October; and
- 17th IPBES Bureau and MEP Meeting on 13-14 October

Dedicated efforts were made to improve the visibility of the Centre and its activities among targeted internal and external audiences. The [Centre’s website](#) was the main channel used to disseminate progress on its policy and programme support initiatives.

Moreover, the Centre activities and achievements were disseminated regularly through social media networks. As of December 2021, the [GC-RED Twitter account](#) had more than 2,400 followers.

PROGRESS & ACHIEVEMENTS: BES-NET PROJECT

The BES-Net project has been implemented since 2016 with the aim to promote dialogue and collaboration between science, policy and practice sectors in line with the IPBES Capacity-building Rolling Plan for effective BES management, which, in turn, contributes to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. The project is implemented under a consortium partnership with the UNEP-WCMC and UNESCO with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety's [International Climate Initiative \(IKI\)](#) and [SwedBio](#) at the Stockholm Resilience Centre. BES-Net also collaborates closely with over 120 BES-focused organizations and initiatives all over the world to maximize the complementary impacts on the ground.

Due to the continued global COVID-19 crisis and related restrictions, the project activities in 2021 were largely conducted in a virtual format, except for some smaller-scale national-level meetings. In accordance with the IKI approval on the no-cost extension of BES-Net I up to 30 June 2022, the project team continuously worked on the parallel implementation of its first and the second phases, including the wrapping up of the remaining activities and consolidating/disseminating the lessons learned under BES-Net I and the rolling out of the new and the follow-up activities under BES-Net II.

The status and the progress of BES-Net I and II were reported biannually to the Advisory Committee, which consists of the project donors, IPBES and its UN collaborative partner organizations and other key partner institutions to solicit guidance on the short-term objectives and long-term directions of the project. The experiences and the achievements of the overall BES-Net initiative were also shared regularly with IPBES through IPBES-8, biannual Bureau and MEP meetings and the respective task forces/technical support units in which the BES-Net consortium member organizations are represented.⁴

The following section provides an overview of the progress of the BES-Net I and II, focusing on their four interlinked components: ① improvement of a policy-relevant national evidence base on BES through NEAs; ② strengthening of science-policy-practice interaction and networking around emerging BES expertise and information with the Trialogue methodology; ③ coordinated implementation of priority BES actions with the BES Solution Fund support; and ④ enhancement of global BES communication and knowledge sharing through the BES-Net online platforms.

I. IMPROVEMENT OF POLICY-RELEVANT NATIONAL BES EVIDENCE BASE



- Under the global coordination by UNEP-WCMC, BES-Net supports capacity building in selected countries to conduct NEAs, complementing the global assessment being undertaken by IPBES. NEAs provide countries with a credible, legitimate and relevant evaluation of the current knowledge on BES framed around key policy questions. Referring closely to the [IPBES Guide on the Production of Assessment](#) and leveraging the expertise of the [Sub-Global Assessment Network](#), the assessment process encompasses not only the production of the assessment reports but also the development of policy support tools to integrate assessment findings into decision-making.

NEA Tranche I Countries

Within the framework of BES-Net I, NEA support is provided to four “Tranche I” countries, namely Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia and Vietnam.

In Cameroon, the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development established an ad-hoc committee chaired by the IPBES National Focal Point and composed of the relevant sectoral representatives to guide the NEA finalization process. A series of committee meetings and associated working sessions were organized during the course of 2021, which helped the authors consolidate the assessment further and calibrate SPM. The final NEA technical report and SPM are scheduled to be validated at the last ad-hoc committee meeting at the beginning of 2022 and launched subsequently.

In Colombia, the NEA was [launched virtually](#) on 30 June 2021. Global and national communication efforts have been made to widely disseminate the laid out versions of the [technical report](#) and [SPM](#), including through national events, social media, web stories and media placements. UNEP-WCMC and the Alexander von Humboldt Biological Research Institute jointly organized a side event on 11 November at the Colombia Pavilion of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland. The event provided the participants with an overview of the NEA process and its link to the climate change goals, highlighting the experiences of the Colombia assessment as a practical case. A related [policy brief](#) was developed and circulated widely, which outlines the role of NEAs in strengthening the synergies between climate change and biodiversity agendas with up-to-date and credible information.



In Ethiopia, a national multi-stakeholder dialogue event was organized in September 2021, applying the BES-Net Triologue methodology and engaging over 60 participants, including the NEA authors and the representatives from policy, science and practice communities in the country. Ethnic community elders also delivered their individual stories on localized biodiversity conservation practices and actively engaged in the thematic group discussion, enhancing the awareness of the depth of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) available in the country and providing an insight into its contributions to the knowledge co-creation process. Following the Triologue event and subsequent smaller-scale stakeholder consultation, the author team developed the full-fledged assessment report in the format of a composite book and initiated the copy-editing and translation of the document. The validation of the final NEA technical report and SPM is scheduled by early 2022.



In Viet Nam, the technical report and SPM were finalized by the end of the year, incorporating the pending comments from the National Scientific Advisory Council and UNEP-WCMC. Preparatory works are ongoing for the launch and dissemination of the documents in the first quarter of 2022. In this connection, the team also refined the communication strategy in consultation with the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Agency of the Viet Nam Environment Administration under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

At the global level, a number of notable activities were carried out, and products were generated throughout the year, building on the achievements and the lessons learned by the Tranche I countries to date:

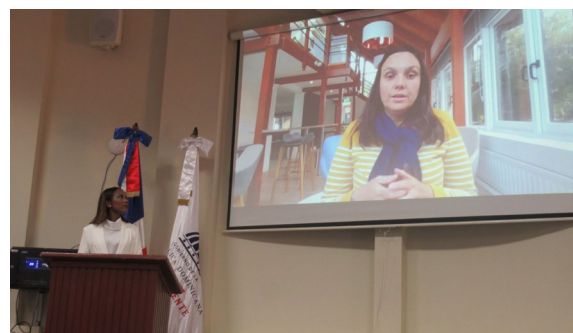
- A guidance note, “National Ecosystem Assessment in Support of the Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Outlining Initial Impact”, was published at the twenty fourth meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as an [Information Document](#);
- [Global lessons learned workshop](#) was convened virtually in July 2021, organizing six thematic sessions over three weeks. The draft NEA lessons learned report has since been under development in three volumes, detailing key lessons captured by the country teams across different stages of the assessment process and in relation to key cross-cutting elements; and
- The Sub-Global Assessment Network [reconvened its members](#) with the aim to strengthen the activities of the network, along with the launch of a brand-new [NEA Initiative website](#) in September 2021. The network has since organized a series of [open webinars](#) together with the NEA Tranche I country representatives, focusing on the assessment process, its impacts and other opportunities.

• NEA Tranche III Countries

Under BES-Net II, NEA support is extended to four additional countries as “Tranche III” countries. Among them, the representatives from the Dominican Republic, Malawi and Thailand participated in the virtual multi-session [inception workshop](#) in January-February 2021 and formally launched the assessment process. The project teams have since been set up in the respective countries, with a clear governance structure and preliminary internal/external communication and coordination mechanisms, and the activities at the scoping stage commenced.

In the Dominican Republic, following the approval of the project by the National Biodiversity Committee, the official national launch of the NEA process took place in September 2021. The team identified the priority ecosystems to be focused on, as well as the initial list of policy questions to be validated through the assessment. An exercise is currently ongoing to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders to gather feedback on these initially identified priorities. The activities have been closely monitored and guided by the government-led steering committee.

In Malawi, the assessment will seek to cover the country’s terrestrial, aquatic and wetland ecosystems comprehensively. Accordingly, multiple working groups were created to bring the dynamic sets of opportunities and resources into a consolidated conceptual framework for the assessment. An independent task force was also formed to further refine the priority themes and ecosystems. As part of the intensive stakeholder consultation exercise, the team conducted a series of framing workshops with the local government representatives and over 50 ILK holders across the eight districts. The information gathered in these workshops will be fed into the scoping report, which is expected to be finalized in 2022.



In Thailand, the assessment will focus on marine and coastal ecosystems as per the government priority to strengthen the knowledge base. The lead authors accordingly agreed on an assessment concept, rationale, and the key policy questions to be focused on and prepared the draft outline of the NEA scoping report. A comprehensive stakeholder map has been under development, and related brainstorming sessions were held to deliberate on the activities to support the consideration of ILK contribution to the assessment.

To guide the Tranche III countries effectively during the scoping stage, the global BES-Net team, led by UNEP-WCMC, implemented a broad set of capacity building measures in different formats across 2021. They encompass the organization of the virtual workshop/webinar sessions and the development of associated guidance materials on a wide range of thematic issues, such as multiple evidence based approach, identifying and using data, stakeholder engagement, working with indigenous peoples and local communities, communications etc.



II. STRENGTHENING OF SCIENCE-POLICY-PRACTICE INTERACTION AND NETWORKING



The “Triologue” is BES-Net’s multi-stakeholder engagement methodology with a special focus on the science-policy-practice triangular communication, networking and capacity building. The tool has been applied to support the uptake of IPBES’ global thematic assessments into the regional/national/local policy and decision-making, scientific research and on-the-ground programmes and projects.

Francophone Africa Regional Triologue

In 2021, due to the continuous COVID-19 associated travel and meeting restrictions, despite the local interest, it remained impossible to organize the fifth Regional Triologue on Francophone Africa for seven targeted countries, namely Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo and Senegal. Meanwhile, the experiences of the virtual dialogue sessions, which were held in 2020 in a run up to the main face-to-face Triologue, were compiled and circulated as a [compendium](#), showcasing the key perspectives and insights of the local practitioners in this region on pollinator-friendly land rehabilitation and sustainable land management. Based on the desk study and the key informant interviews, an analytical report was also produced on the regional and national contexts of pollinators and land degradation and restoration (LDR) as a background document for the FA Regional Triologue.

Exercice interactif en ligne (www.menti.com) : veuillez partager vos réponses aux questions en ligne sur les changements nécessaires aux décisions politiques et à la pratique ci-dessous.

Question 1 : Quelles sont les mesures politiques et pratiques qui menacent les pollinisateurs, la qualité des sols et les systèmes alimentaires locaux ?

BÉNIN

- L'utilisation abusive des engrais chimiques, les pratiques agricoles actuelles par endroits et la rareté des terres agricoles ;
- La promotion des cultures de rente (coton) avec l'utilisation abusive des intrants chimiques de synthèse, la faible vulgarisation de la gestion durable des terres, la faible sensibilisation des populations et l'absence d'environnement réceptif ;
- L'utilisation excessive des pesticides ;
- La production au-delà des besoins réels ;
- La concurrence.

CAMEROUN

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

- L'utilisation de substances chimiques et de pesticides et leur déperdition dans l'environnement, la promotion d'une agriculture intensive qui réduit la biodiversité, l'effet désastreux des monocultures, les conditions favorables aux parasites ;
- L'exploitation des énergies fossiles, l'agriculture productiviste, l'utilisation des pesticides non homologués ;
- L'appauvrissement des sols, l'utilisation intensive des pesticides, l'exploitation du pétrole, l'agriculture moderne.

III. COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITY BES SOLUTIONS



The key outputs of BES-Net I are the comprehensive NEAs, including SPM, and the Regional Dialogue action documents with the concrete plan of action for the IPBES thematic assessment uptake. Under BES-Net II, the seed funding, referred to as 'BES Solution Fund', is allocated to support the collective effort by policy, science and practice sectors in the selected countries to apply the key messages and recommendations of NEAs and the Regional Dialogue action documents. In 2021, a total of four countries joined the BES Solution Fund in pursuit of the uptake of the IPBES thematic assessments on pollinators, pollination and food production and LDR.

In Kazakhstan, a science-policy-practice steering council was formed to implement wide-ranging activities. Some of the ongoing works include to:

- Develop the national BES forward strategy and the law on conservation of plant societies under the auspice of the National Committee of Forestry and Wildlife;
- Maintain and strengthen the regional BES partnership building on the Central Asia Regional Dialogue with Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In this regard, a Memorandum of Understanding on Information Sharing and Access to Information through National Genetic Resources Databases was signed among the five countries;
- Synthesize document good practices on the application of traditional local knowledge for land rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation;
- Establish demonstration sites to study insect multiplication and showcase the process to restore degraded land through insect multiplication and organic farming practices - around 7,700 farmers (3,800 women and 3,900 men) in the Almaty and Kostanay regions received online and on-the-ground training on the use of melliferous plants and the year-round crop rotation for improved honey production; and
- Develop a gender equality compendium to provide BES practitioners with various concrete gender equality model cases and a step-by-step approach to gender mainstreaming in agricultural practices.



As an integral part of the Kazakhstan team's commitment to gender-responsive actions, a national campaign was organized on 11 February 2021 in celebration of the International Day for Women and Girls in Science. Targeted promotional (social) media activities were conducted to empower (young) female scientists working in the fields of biodiversity conservation and biotechnology and improve awareness of their roles. With the project team's backstopping support, the Kazakh government has also been in consultation with the IPBES Secretariat, pursuing the process to join the Platform as a formal member in 2022.

In Kenya, while being challenged by the COVID-19 related restrictions, the team managed to organize a series of multi-stakeholder consultation meetings in 2021, including the first virtual science-policy-practice [national Dialogue](#) in April and the second Dialogue in August, to collect a diverse set of ideas and inputs into the BES Solution Fund workplan. The plan is currently under the final review by the core project team and is expected to be ready for implementation in early 2022, with a special focus on complementing the government's effort to achieve LDN by 2030 in line with the SDG Target 15.3.

Meanwhile, the project assisted the Kenyan government's LDN awareness-raising campaign on the occasion of DDD2021. Under the slogan, "Restoration. Land. Recovery.", the campaign aimed at improving the understanding of the general public on the importance of land rehabilitation and restoration as an integral part of post-COVID-19 green recovery. The project's support through the production of various promotional resources contributed to the successful organization of the national commemoration event at the Chalbi Desert in Marsabit County.



In Nigeria, a policy-science-practice BES working group was formed to spearhead a wide range of pro-pollinator actions, as the "pollinator champions", individually and jointly with other stakeholders throughout the work planning and the initial implementation stages in 2021. Some of the notable activities completed/ongoing include, among others:



Awareness-raising and sensitization

- Supported the government in the [national commemoration of the 2021 World Bee Day](#) on 20 May 2021 by organizing a youth art exhibition/competition in collaboration with the Youths for Apiculture Initiative that was presided over by H.E Sharon Ikeazor, Minister of State for the Environment;
- Organized five radio interview series on the importance of pollinators and the impacts of chemicals on the species, their services and food production; and
- Established school pollinator clubs in partnership with the St. Catherine's Group of Schools for the institutionalized environmental education on pollinators and pollination services.

Policy Support

- Developing a national pollinator strategy; and an integrated pest management manual/strategy.

Scientific research

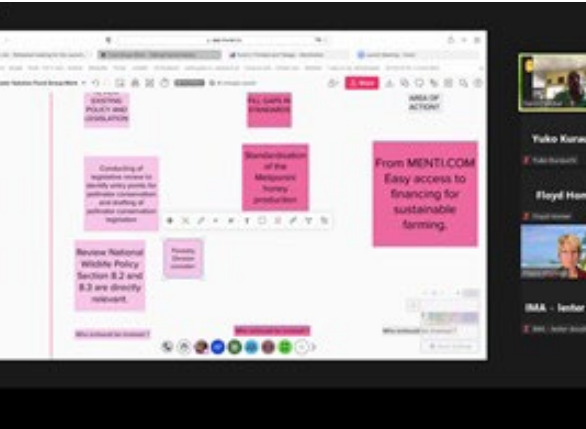
- Establishing the DNA barcoding and associated QR coding system for the known pollinator species in the country; and
- Conducting studies on the bee population, including the species diversity and distribution, and the plant pollens within and around the Ngel Nyaki Forest Reserve to inform the neighbouring communities' forest ecosystem conservation efforts.

On-the-ground actions

- Creating the pilot beekeeping demonstration plots in the Federal Capital Territory, Kwara State and Taraba State; and
- Developing the sustainable pollinators management and conservation guide, particularly targeting the agricultural extension agents, farmers, gardeners and other land users.

In Trinidad and Tobago, comprehensive stakeholder identification and mapping exercise was undertaken as part of the work planning. The virtual BES Solution Fund media launch held in

December 2021 brought together over 100 stakeholders from government agencies, research and scientific institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. A technical workshop, subsequent to the launch, was held focussing on key stakeholders exchanging ideas and expertise on how to increase knowledge on pollinators, strengthen policy for pollinators and improve practice and education to protect pollinators.



Along with the stakeholder engagement process, the project team formed a partnership and co-funding agreement with Trinidad Cement Limited towards the development of pollinator gardens and education centres. The initiative, to be rolled out in 2022, seeks to regenerate degraded land and increase native plant and pollinator diversity. The team also contributed to the development of the [online beekeeping course modules](#) for the Caribbean. The modules were created in collaboration with the GEF Small Grants Programme to supplement traditional in-person training, which became difficult with the rise of COVID-19 risks. The online course provides beekeepers in the region with a wide range of theoretical and practical information.

In order to ensure the smooth and effective planning and implementation of the BES Solution Fund, dedicated technical backstopping, coordination and facilitation support was provided by the BES0Net team at the:

- One-on-one level to each country in the fields of results-based management and multi-stakeholder engagement (e.g. science-policy-practice Dialogues in Kenya and Trinidad and Tobago) and communication;
- Cross-country collaboration level to connect the national teams sharing common goals, interests and/or carrying out similar activities to foster knowledge exchange and transfer bilaterally or multilaterally; and
- Global level to create a community of practice by organizing virtual workshops, through which to update each other on the project status/progress, leverage internal capacity, and foster peer-to-peer learning and networking. The first introductory workshop was held in October 2021, bringing together some 30 representatives from the respective BES Solution Fund recipient countries.



IV. ENHANCEMENT OF GLOBAL BES KNOWLEDGE SHARING PLATFORM



BES-Net seeks to expand and strengthen networking and knowledge sharing among like-minded institutions and individuals beyond national and regional borders. To this end, the project adopts a broad range of online tools and applications to disseminate the key highlights of the BES-Net activities and their results and the latest updates of over 120 BES-Net partners widely. These online tools were considered key to maximizing the engagement of the partners and the beneficiaries with the project amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the BES-Net web portal, users can access the latest BES related event and vacancy announcements from all over the world. Furthermore, the portal hosts a comprehensive knowledge library with over 4,000 resources, spanning academic articles, journal pieces, publications, etc. in line with the IPBES's target thematic areas. It also uploaded a total of 26 news articles, covering a range of themes, such as pollinator conservation, food security, climate change, innovation, ILK, etc., shedding light on BES-Net's various workstreams and collaborations. This includes the newly commenced "Partner of the Month" initiative, the web portal blog article series to feature the activities, achievements and the latest updates of the BES-Net partners each month.

In order to better reflect the broadened project scope and the expanded consortium partnership within BES-Net, a new and upgraded BES-Net web portal was launched in December 2021, revamping the content management system, design and visuals. By the end of 2021, the portal had over 1,600 registered users (24% increase from 2020), from across the sectors of science (35%), policy (21%) and practice (44%), including ILK holders, and received nearly 3,200 visits monthly.

Key highlights and updates by BES-Net and its partners were also compiled into an e-newsletter format and disseminated to some 4,000 subscribers on a bimonthly basis. As of December 2021, BES-Net's [Facebook account](#) is followed by more than 5,460 people (about a 1.8% increase from December 2020 with an annual reach to over 76,000 people). The network's [Twitter account](#) is followed by approximately 2,600 followers (about a 65% increase from December 2020) and collect roughly 78,000 impressions per month, sharing native stories, campaigns and multimedia content from the project and engaging online with partners, donors and key thought leaders in the BES space.



UNDP CO-MANAGEMENT OF JOINT UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT MAINSTREAMING EFFORTS

The PEA project is a joint initiative between UNEP and UNDP which aims at mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication into development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems into public and private finance and investment. Eight full-fledged countries are being supported through the initiative with four in Africa (Rwanda, Mauritania, Malawi, Mozambique) and four in Asia (Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Nepal). In addition, Tanzania and Indonesia are being supported with TA at the country level. Three additional TAs are also being supported at the regional level, i.e. Green Bonds with South Africa, Blue Economy with Asia Development Bank (ADB) and the UN Women on Climate Smart Agriculture.

In 2021, the Centre continued to play the MA role in the PEA project. This has contributed to strengthening the integration of poverty-environment-climate objectives into policies, plans, regulations, and investments of partner countries to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda, in line with UNDP's integrator role.

Notable achievements in 2021 include:

- Support to capacity development to align private finance to the SDGs in countries enhanced i.e.:
 - **Lao PDR:** The project supported the development of the corporate social responsibility guidelines for the tourism Sector and included these on the Ministry of Planning and Investment's external Investment Promotion website; and established the joint PEA-UNESCO initiative for impact assessment and investment reviews affecting heritage sites.
 - **Myanmar:** A capacity needs assessment of the private sector and civil society actors related to compliance with environmental impact assessment procedures was undertaken through the project. In addition, two capacity assistance packages to promote green business development were completed i.e., 1) enabling access to off-grid renewable energy and energy efficient solutions and entrepreneurial skills development in Magway Region; and 2) enhancing waste-as-resource and circular economy solutions in the textile and garment industry in Hlaing Thar Yar Region.
 - **Nepal:** PEA supported the report on private sectors contribution to SDGs, including recommendations on how the private sector can integrate SDGs into investment plans. The project used the second national multidimensional poverty index report as a building block for capacity development support on key poverty and data issues, leading to increased knowledge to address key poverty issues. The project also contributed to the National SDG 16 Plus (Peace, Justice, Institutions) Report that was shared with OHCHR as a good example.
- Capacity development support for budget processes to ensure inclusion of poverty-environment nexus i.e.:
 - **Rwanda:** Environment and natural resource indicators were included in the 2021-22 budgets for 40 sectors and 30 district plans submitted to the Ministry of Finance in preparation for the new budget (2021-22). The environment and climate change budget statement for the fiscal year 2022-23, supported by PEA and applied by all sectors and districts, was also approved.



- The project has extended support to United Nations Resident Coordinator processes in the context of ongoing UN reform in Mozambique. Through PEA's technical support, UNEP co-led the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Strategic Priority area on climate resilience and sustainable use of natural resources resulting in a new UNSDCF with a strong focus on the environment, natural resources, and climate.
- PEA also implemented the TA initiatives on gender in partnership with UN Women, as well as capacity building, green bonds and blue economy. The green bonds and blue economy TAs are closely linked and contribute immensely to PEA's work on sustainable financing in the public and private sectors. Both TAs also incorporate strategies to address climate mitigation and adaptation and focus on sustainable investments that ensure the maintenance of biodiversity and its values (in land and water). More specifically, the TAs have resulted in the following:
 - **Blue Economy:** The PEA project developed a report in partnership with ADB on "Opportunities and Challenges for Investment in the Sustainable Blue Economy of Asia and the Pacific". Following the report, the Small and Medium Enterprises BlueInvestAsia financing mechanism based on the European Union's (EU) BlueInvest mechanism is currently being developed jointly by ADB, UNEP, UNEP for launch in 2022. This financing mechanism will continue the poverty-environment focus on the blue economy in the work by the partnership organizations beyond the life of PEA.
 - **Green Bonds:** Developed a technical tool i.e., Handbook on Issuing Municipal Sustainable Bonds in South Africa, training materials and training for targeted municipalities. Knowledge has been shared with other countries such as Indonesia and Argentina through a series of virtual south-south knowledge exchanges. There is a growing interest in green bonds with Indonesia setting examples of sustainable sovereign bonds and South Africa on municipal bonds.

- **Gender:** A draft report on the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Zimbabwe has been produced that puts the gender gap at 18.6 percent, which is important for Zimbabwe being a country that has been hit hard by climate change effects, political instability and the recent COVID-19 impact. The report indicates that closing the gender gap would: a) increase annual GDP by a total of US\$79 million in Zimbabwe; b) lift more than 704,000 people out of poverty; c) lead to environmental sustainability in the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe; and d) increase the overall agricultural productivity. This work, together with the previous work done on gender in agricultural productivity, are contributing to the UN Women Climate Smart Agriculture Programme Guide that will be used to build capacities of both UN and government institutions on developing sustainable climate smart agriculture programmes.
- **Capacity Building Platform:** A Help Desk has been established, which is a one-stop point of contact on the Poverty-Environment Action website (<https://www.pea4sdgs.org>) that provides stakeholders with a centralized information service on the mainstreaming of poverty-environment objectives into policy, budgeting, programming and investments, in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In addition, the development of a capacity building platform will commence in 2022 in partnership with UNITAR which will develop the training modules.
- Partnerships were established and strengthened for knowledge sharing through a [Webinar series](#), comprising six webinars. Policy briefs were reproduced focusing on green financing in private investment, eliminating poverty and enhancing environmental sustainability through



Poverty-Environment
Action Stories of Change
(09/2021) Indonesia
Combats Climate Change
through Gender-Sensitive
Budgeting



Poverty-Environment
Action Stories of Change
(08/2021) Rwanda Green
Village demonstrates how
to significantly reduce
poverty



Poverty-Environment
Action Stories of Change
(07/2021) Waste Not, Want
Not! Peru Tackles Waste
Management from a Social
Perspective



Poverty-Environment
Action Stories of Change
(06/2021) Strengthening
Indonesia's Climate
Finance Governance
through Climate Budget
Tagging and Green Sukuk

PEA's integrated approach to implementing the SDGs, greening budget and greening public finance management: supporting national partners in prioritizing environment and climate change objectives. The policy briefs will inform the revision of the 2015 Mainstreaming Handbook on Poverty Environment to be completed in 2022. The Handbook will also inform the creation of a massive open online course using UN CC Learn (UN Institute for Training and Research [UNITAR] methodology).



Six Webinar Series. The Greening Budget and Public Finance Management were organized in collaboration with the EU.

In addition, €2 million was mobilized from Belgium as part of resource mobilization efforts in support of the PEA project. The resources will support initiatives in Indonesia, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Tanzania, as well as regional actions in Africa, Asia-Pacific and global knowledge management, and dissemination. Notably, the funds will catalyze the BlueInvest financial facility under development with ADB, support a task force on climate budget tagging with UNDRR, and the development of a massive open online course with UNITAR.



Synergies among programs and with various partners were ensured through a partnership meeting held on 24 June 2021 that had 28 participants: 5 representatives from the project's donor agencies and 14 participants from implementing partners such as GIZ, Green Growth Knowledge Platform, IIED, OECD, UN-PAGE, UNDRR and UNRISD. The meeting aimed to engage partners in joint capacity-building, present the first draft of the Capacity-Building Platform to be launched in 2022 and ensure continuity of poverty-environment-climate mainstreaming. Furthermore, synergies among initiatives were enhanced through close collaboration with UNDP's GPN, including the Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Finance teams, on ongoing initiatives within the area of green financing, blue economy & private sector engagement. A series of meetings were held to streamline work to be undertaken by PEA consultants on Financial Crises, Poverty and Environmental Sustainability in the Context of the SDGs and COVID-19; Eliminating Poverty and Enhancing Environmental Sustainability through Poverty-Environment Action's Integrated Approach; and Green Financing in Public and private finance and investment. The collaboration led to a proposal to use the materials produced under PEA, i.e., Handbook on Green Bonds, in an upcoming training organized by the Sustainable Finance team in HQ.

The COVID 19 pandemic continued to affect project implementation through travel bans, restrictions on in-person meetings/workshops and shutdown of government offices working at limited capacity in some instances. Activities that required training, workshops, data collection, and international consultants were either postponed or cancelled in some cases. The Project continued with adaptive management to mitigate the impact of the pandemic through a series of follow up calls with the countries and TAs to provide support. Furthermore, a series of activities were reprogrammed to 2022 or put on hold. At the global level, adaptation to the ongoing COVID-19 reality continued as Project Board, Executive and staff meetings were held virtually throughout 2021. Despite the challenges, PEA achieved 75 per cent financial delivery on its donor-funded portfolio worth US\$ 5.4 million.

PEA's project implementation will be completed by December 2022 as approved by the PEA Project Board in May 2021. The focus will therefore be on preparing for project closure by commissioning the final evaluation and lessons learnt reports to inform the final project report to be completed in 2023.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Table 1: 2021 Delivery (as of 15th Feb 2022)

Project Name	ATLAS Project/ Output No.	2021 Budget (USD)	2021 Expenditure* (USD) (excl. commitments)	Source of funds
Global Policy Centre	94431	139,560	73,617	UNDP (UNSO Trust Fund)
	70926	100,000	72,542	BPPS
	93764	276,717	276,717	UNDP core allocation for Centre staff post
BES-Net Phase I	97675	640,467	559,456	Non-core
BES-Net Phase II	119833	1,677,049	1,330,774	Non-core
PEA	111963**	5,427,477	3,280,376	Non-core
		2,338,802	1,937,649	TRAC
Total		10,600,072	7,531,131	

* The figures are provisional until the 2021 Certified Financial Statements are issued by UNDP's Office of Finance Resources and Management

** PEA country level and TA outputs under delegated authority can be found under different ATLAS Project IDs

Table 2: Non-core resources received in 2021 (as of 15th Feb 2022)

Project Name	Amount (USD)	Donor
Global Policy Centre	0	-
BES-Net Phase I	0	-
BES-Net Phase II	264,088	SwedBio
Sub-Total	264,088	
PEA	2,147,500	EU
	1,626,100	UNEP/Sweden
Sub-Total	3,773,600	
Grand Total	4,037,688	

Table 3: Non-core resources for utilization in 2022-2028 (as of 15 February 2022)

Project Name	Available Amount* (USD)	Pledged Amount (USD)	Donor
Global Policy Centre	234,644	139,560	UNDP (UNSO Trust Fund)
Sub-Total	234,644	0	
BES-Net Phase I**	183,942	0	Germany (IKI)
Sub-Total	183,942	0	
BES-Net Phase II	62,989	201,098	SwedBio
	20,267,174	0	Germany (IKI)
Sub-Total	20,330,164	201,098	
PEA***	0	0	Austria (ADA)****
	2,083,439	2,338,802	EU
	1,545,375	0	UNEP/Sweden
Sub-Total	3,628,814	2,901,677	
Total	24,377,563	3,102,775	
Grand Total		27,480,339	

* Global Policy Centre and BES-Net phase I projects to be completed by 30th June 2022

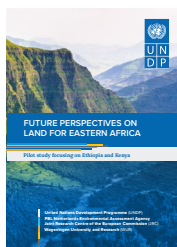
** Available amount is inclusive of 2021 commitments (this also applies to PEA)

*** PEA project runs from 1st Sep 2018 to 31st Dec 2022

**** New agreement for EUR 200,000 in process

KEY PUBLICATIONS

Key publications and reports produced by GC-RED in 2021



[Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa – Pilot Study Focusing on Ethiopia and Kenya](#)



[Francophone Africa Regional Dialogue on Land Degradation, Pollinators and Food Security: Background Document](#)

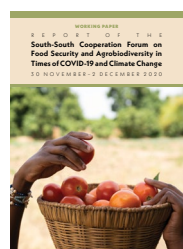
Key publications and reports GC-RED contributed to in 2021



[Evaluación Nacional de Biodiversidad Ecosistémicos y Servicios de Colombia](#)



[Evaluación Nacional de Biodiversidad Ecosistémicos y Servicios de Colombia: Resumen para Tomadores de Decisión](#)



[Working Paper: Report of the South-South Cooperation Forum on Food Security and Agrobiodiversity in Times of COVID-19 and Climate Change](#)

WAY FORWARD

2022 is the final year of implementation of the Global Policy Centre project. The Centre will wrap up pending activities on LDN and SDS, with the objective of closing the project by the end of September. The final report will include a synthesis of the results achieved, lessons learnt and recommendations for pursuing UNDP support on LDN and UNCCD implementation.

BES-Net II will move into high gear, complementing and contributing to the implementation of the IPBES Rolling Work Programme (2019-2030), including its Capacity Building Rolling Plan. In close coordination with the key UN partners, BES-Net will upscale its efforts to enhance the science-policy-practice interface at national, regional and global levels for more effective conservation of biodiversity and sustainable maintenance of ecosystem services in alignment with the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework development process.

The Centre will support the implementation of UNDP's new [Strategic Plan](#) (SP) for 2022-2025. It will contribute to the SP's Signature Solution 4 on Environment, specifically Result 4.1 - Natural resources protected and managed to enhance sustainable productivity and livelihoods. Through BES-Net, it will provide policy and capacity building and technical backstopping support, advocacy and knowledge management services to UNDP and its partners to facilitate the achievement of the agreed targets for this result. The Centre's interventions will be closely coordinated with the broader NCE Team and support the delivery of UNDP's Nature Offer.





We focus on

poverty eradication and environmental sustainability in fragile ecosystems.



We support

sustainable and resilient development in drylands and other fragile ecosystems, aiming to reduce vulnerability and ensure better living standards.



We contribute to

the implementation of the SDGs, which will result in improved livelihoods and socio-economic wellbeing, and ultimately lead to pro poor growth.



We mainstream

poverty-environment objectives into national/local development and budgetary frameworks to promote poverty eradication, while advancing sustainable management of natural capital.

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