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Supplementary information

Proposed programme budget for 2025

Part XIII Development Account

Section 35 Development Account

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Annex I

A. Evidence-based climate action through artificial intelligence and data innovation in Caribbean SIDS

Implemented by DESA jointly with UNCTAD and in collaboration with ECLAC, UNEP and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$1,004,400)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 13.2, 14.2, 14.7 and 17.18
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Objective

To enhance the statistical and analytical capacities of selected Caribbean nations in utilizing data science and AI in combination with novel and national sources for the timely monitoring of maritime transport, tourism, trade, fisheries and ecosystem services related to the coastal areas and the analysis of their CO2 emissions, as well as the associated environmental-economic accounts, to formulate and promote evidence-based national and regional climate change and trade policies.

Project plan

Considering the escalating climate change challenges in the Caribbean region, marked by an urgent need for robust data-driven climate policies, the project is designed to enhance capacities in SIDS by delivering training in fundamental data science skills, along with providing technical assistance in making effective use of Accounting Information System (AIS) and related national data as well as the Artificial Intelligence for Environment and Sustainability (ARIES) for System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) application. This initiative empowers four SIDS in the Caribbean with the necessary capabilities to accurately monitor maritime transport, tourism, trade, fishery and ecosystem services, analyse related CO2 emissions and foster the development of SEEA accounts through integration of geospatial information and new data sources.

The project will also provide analytical diagnostic studies on sources and levels of CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions and feed the main findings into a cross-country roadmap listing of most relevant policy options and recommendations for the decarbonisation of the transport sector and fisheries value chains, and for the conservation, management, and restoring of the marine ecosystems.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to enhancing the statistical and analytical capacities in the four selected SIDS in the Caribbean to formulate and implement evidence-based policies, which would be demonstrated by higher availability of data on SEEA ocean accounts coastal ecosystem and the associated ecosystem services and on the carbon footprint of maritime trade and fishery.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	74.0
Consultants	341.5
Travel of staff	148.0
Contractual services	180.8
General operating expenses	40.2
Grants and contributions	219.9
Total	1 004.4

B. Science, technology and innovation (STI) for integrated climate action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Implemented by DESA jointly with ECA and in collaboration with UNEP and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$740,100)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.b, 2.a, 5.b, 7.b, 8.2, 9.b, 12.a, 13.2, 14.a and 17.7
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of government officials and stakeholders in targeted SIDS to utilize STI effectively for advancing climate resilience and nature-based solutions in alignment with the SDGs.

Project plan

The current project responds to the growing momentum generated by international coalitions and initiatives, aiming to bolster STI capacity in SIDS and expedite the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. This initiative is particularly driven by the findings of recent national Technology Needs Assessments, which emphasize the urgent need for climate adaptation measures, including the promotion of coastal revegetation and other nature-based solutions. STI for SDG Roadmaps can be used to map the existing STI ecosystem and develop plans to strengthen and mainstream STI throughout the policymaking landscape. Existing research institutes/think tanks will be strengthened and their capacities will be leveraged at regional level.

The project will support three Lusophone SIDS in Africa to strengthen their capacities in utilizing STI for addressing climate-related challenges and promoting sustainable development. Through this initiative, these countries will be equipped to leverage STI for improved climate adaptation strategies, facilitating the deployment of nature-based technology solutions, and fostering a more resilient and sustainable development trajectory while also mainstreaming gender equality into STI initiatives.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to the development of policies, strategies, roadmaps, and action plans to enhance STI capacity for SDG implementation in three SIDS. It will also help identify STI partnership, investment and access opportunities for accelerated climate-ocean actions and seek to strengthen STI collaboration and knowledge-sharing networks in the sub-region for enhancing coastal resilience and climate adaptation which would be demonstrated by scaling up climate resilience and nature-based technology solutions and gender inclusiveness in targeted areas.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	26.5
Consultants	104.7
Travel of staff	135.3
Contractual services	58.1
General operating expenses	52.9
Grants and contributions	362.6
Total	740.1

C. Promoting climate-resilient agricultural cooperatives for rural small-holder farmers

Implemented by DESA in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$684,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.2, 2.1, 2.4, 5.1, 8.3 and 13.b
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Objective

To enhance the capacity of selected countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop inclusive and sustainable policies and strategies for promoting climate-resilient agricultural cooperatives for rural small-holder farmers.

Project plan

During the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development – 2023 SDG Summit (A/HLPF/2023/L.1), Heads of State and Government committed to accelerate actions to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, and the realization of the right to adequate food, including through the promotion of sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems. General Assembly resolution 76/135 on cooperatives in social development recognizes that cooperatives promote the fullest possible participation in development of local communities and all people, including women, whose inclusion strengthens economic and social development, and contributes to the eradication of poverty and hunger.

This project responds to the above Member States’ commitment and recognition by supporting small-holder farmers in four countries in sub-Saharan Africa, addressing climate change impacts. It will also support these countries in building resilient agriculture practices. Through comprehensive assessments and capacity development initiatives for government officials, farmers, and cooperatives at the national and local levels, the project aims to inform policy formulation and administration. Additionally, the project endeavors to create a comprehensive manual that will have enduring relevance beyond the lifespan of the project. Furthermore, it plans to facilitate the sharing of insights and lessons learned among other countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of the beneficiary countries to design and adopt policies that foster inclusive and sustainable development while promoting agricultural cooperatives that have climate resilient practices, which would be demonstrated by technical reports and operational manuals on climate adaptation and mitigation practices adapted by agricultural cooperatives and legislative and administrative decisions that will support the growth of agricultural cooperatives, in particular, those that include women.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	29.6
Consultants	197.2
Travel of staff	126.9
General operating expenses	78.2
Grants and contributions	252.7
Total	684.6

D. Climate-smart trade facilitation for economic and climate resilience in Africa and Asia-Pacific

Implemented by UNCTAD in collaboration with ESCAP, ECA, UNEP and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$824,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 9.1, 9.2, 9.4,10.3, 11.a, 13.2, 17.10 and 17.18
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of three countries in Africa and Asia-Pacific, particularly LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, to calculate, measure and implement climate-smart trade facilitation reforms to reduce the CO2 emissions and build resilient and greener trade processes.

Project plan

The UNCTAD Bridgetown Covenant (TD/541/Add.2) stresses the role of UNCTAD to support developing countries in identifying relevant trade and investment policies to contribute to the attainment of the climate and environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda. Climate-smart trade facilitation helps reduce emissions by improving trade efficiency, mainly through digitalization and improved coordination at national level. UNCTAD research shows that streamlining cross-border trade-related procedures is an important way through which the impact of trade transactions on the environment and climate change can be reduced. Yet, lack of data and impact assessment of digitalizing cross-border trade procedures on climate leads to the lack of awareness from the border agencies and business community about the benefits of climate-smart trade facilitation and may slow down the implementation and adaptation of green and digital trade facilitation.

This project will provide concrete solutions to demonstrate the positive impact of climate-smart trade facilitation on climate change. It will enhance the capacity of three countries in Africa and Asia-Pacific, representing a mix of SIDS, LLDCs and LDCs facing different local realities, to calculate and assess the impact of climate-smart trade facilitation on CO2 emissions and the efficiency of supply chains; and to implement climate-smart trade facilitation reforms and reduce the CO2 emissions in international trade procedures. The implementation of the project will rely on the National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) for the national coordination and the transfer of knowledge to the national stakeholders.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to build resilient and greener trade processes in three selected countries, which would be demonstrated by climate-smart trade facilitation strategic plans mainstreamed into the national development plans and trade facilitation reforms being implemented to reduce the CO2 emissions generated by the international trade procedures.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	34.9
Consultants	373.2
Travel of staff	123.7
Contractual services	37.0
General operating expenses	105.3
Grants and contributions	150.5
Total	824.6

E. Stronger and greener productive capacities for just transitions in Caribbean Small Island Developing States

Implemented by UNCTAD in collaboration with DESA, ECLAC and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$824,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 9.2, 9.3, 13.b, 17.1, 17.9, 17.14 and 17.19
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Objective

To strengthen and green productive capacities in selected Caribbean SIDS, with the goal of boosting just transitions that align with the unique needs of SIDS and advancing economic transformation.

Project plan

In its resolution 74/217, the General Assembly expressed concern that many SIDS have not achieved sustained high levels of economic growth, owing in part to their vulnerabilities to the ongoing negative impacts of environmental challenges and external economic and financial shocks. It, therefore, called for the integration of economic, social, and environmental aspects and the recognition of their interconnections at all levels to advance sustainable development.

This project responds to this call, by strengthening and greening productive capacities in SIDS through a novel approach to just transition, specifically thought through for SIDS. In addition to fostering new productive capacities, this approach acknowledges the need for reorienting the balance between mitigation and adaptation, expanding adaptation strategies in key service sectors and scaling up to regional and global levels. This project will support, through training and capacity building, four countries in the Caribbean to strengthen their statistical capacity for improving measurement of productive capacities in view of environmental, gender and financial vulnerabilities, identify gaps and challenges to the fostering and greening of productive capacities, and design and implement a holistic programme to address those gaps.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to enhancing the capacity of national government officials and stakeholders in four Caribbean SIDS to formulate and implement policies for strengthening and greening productive capacities, which would be demonstrated by the validation of the proposed holistic programmes for their implementation in the target countries. In the long term, a Centre of Excellence for Productive Capacities Development is expected to be established in the Caribbean.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	48.6
Consultants	255.8
Travel of staff	171.3
Contractual services	43.6
General operating expenses	194.5
Grants and contributions	110.8
Total	824.6

F. Sustainable product export strategies and traceability for a green, sustainable, and inclusive economy in Asia

Implemented by UNCTAD in collaboration with ESCAP, Resident Coordinator Offices (\$824,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.2, 5.a, 8.3, 10.3, 12.2, 13.1, 14.7, 15.2
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Objective

To improve the ability of public and private stakeholders in selected Asian developing countries to build national productive and export capacity in sustainable products while contributing to their achievement of Nationally Determined Contributions targets and the SDGs.

Project plan

The Bridgetown Covenant calls upon UNCTAD to assist developing countries in formulating trade and development policies conducive to achieving sustainable and inclusive development while contributing to the attainment of the climate and environmental goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The project will support three countries in Asia to implement Sustainable Product Export Reviews (SPERs) that lead to national strategies and actions to advance production and export of sustainable products; promote internationally traded goods and services that are sustainably produced; and encourage sustainable consumption. Although the project aims to support beneficiary countries to transition to sustainable development in a broad sense in specific sectors, it focuses on supporting their adoption of lower-emission production methods, including through the reduction of deforestation, that can help them meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The project will also advance climate change adaptation actions included in NDCs to ensure that the productivity of climate-sensitive sectors will be resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures.

This work is expected to contribute to building national productive and export capacity in sustainable products in beneficiary countries, which would be demonstrated by the adoption of a national action plan and the implementation of one priority action in each beneficiary country that increase production and export levels of sustainable products while also generating new inclusive employment opportunities benefiting women, the poor, disadvantaged groups, and youth.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Consultants	417.5
Travel of staff	129.0
Contractual services	31.7
General operating expenses	64.0
Grants and contributions	182.4
Total	824.6

G. Measuring climate change with a gender dimension for better adaptation and mitigation policies

Implemented by UNEP jointly with DESA in collaboration with ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$761,200)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 5.5, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 17.16 and 17.18
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected low, lower-middle and upper-middle income countries to produce climate change and disaster-related statistics, taking into consideration a gender perspective, and enhance analytical capacities to develop policies to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Project plan

Following the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) decisions 47/112 and 49/113, the United Nations Statistics Division developed a Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other partners from the global statistical community, to promote the interface between policy and statistics. The Global Set was adopted by UNSC in 2022 as the framework for climate change statistics and indicators to be used by countries when preparing their own sets of climate change statistics and indicators.

This project will support five selected countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean to develop climate change and disaster-related statistics and indicators using global statistical frameworks and standards. Particular attention will be paid to the gender disaggregation of the indicators and to the identification of data sources for the production of gender-sensitive climate change statistics and indicators. Methodological guidelines will be prepared taking into account best practises and will be aligned with the format of the Global Set.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of five target countries to enhance analytical capacities for policy development on climate change adaptation and mitigation, with a focus on the climate change and gender nexus, which would be demonstrated by improved monitoring and reporting of indicators on climate and gender, and will contribute to the development of environmental policy at country, regional and global levels, incorporating a gender perspective. This work will also support the implementation of multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

Budget summary (United States dollars)

Other staff costs	42.4
Consultants	346.0
Travel of staff	120.5
Contractual services	111.7
General operating expenses	74.5
Grants and contributions	66.1
Total	761.2

H. Safer, healthier, and cleaner transport in Africa

Implemented by UNEP jointly with UN-Habitat and in collaboration with ECA and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$761,200)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 3.6, 3.9, 11.2, 13.2 and 17.9
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Objective

To strengthen national capacities of selected developing countries to accelerate action for resilient, low carbon mobility in Africa that is inclusive, healthy, safe, and comfortable for people that walk and cycle.

Project plan

In 2023, the General Assembly adopted resolution 77/286, emphasizing the contribution of sustainable, low-emission and energy efficient modes of transport to climate change mitigation and adaptation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the importance of long-term strategies and multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivering sustainable modes of transport. A coordinated effort geared towards improving conditions for people that walk and cycle is not just a fundamental component of sustainable mobility but also a core component of ensuring that mitigation and adaptation measures in the transport sector are just and inclusive.

This project responds to the need for a just transition in the transport sector that meets the objectives of climate, air quality, sustainability, and safety. It emphasizes the value of the large number of people in African cities that already rely on walking and cycling but do so in dangerous, uncomfortable, and highly polluted environments. The project will support five countries in Africa to transform their mobility systems. The project will use technical assistance, capacity building, regional advocacy and the development of knowledge products and training to achieve a behavioral shift among decision-makers who often prioritize the movement of private motor vehicles in infrastructure investments.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improving the awareness and capacity of city and national government officials on cross-cutting issues related to active mobility as well as the opportunities related to investing in walking and cycling, which would be demonstrated by five countries introducing new active mobility strategies, policies or action plans, at either national or city level. This will result in enhanced commitment for active mobility prioritisation. It is expected to contribute to an acceleration of action for resilient, low carbon mobility in five selected countries in Africa. The aim is to ensure mobility that is inclusive, healthy, safe, and comfortable for all road users, pedestrians and cyclists in particular.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	38.1
Consultants	167.0
Travel of staff	76.1
Contractual services	364.7
General operating expenses	38.1
Grants and contributions	77.2
Total	761.2

I. Equitable and climate-resilient sanitation services for low-income urban communities in South and Southeast Asia

Implemented by UN-Habitat jointly with ESCAP and in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$729,000)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 3.3, 5.5, 6.2, 6.3, 6.b, 7.2, 11.1, 11.5, 13.1, and 13.3
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Objective

To strengthen the capacities of selected countries in South and Southeast Asia in providing equitable and climate-resilient sanitation services for low-income communities.

Project plan

The human right to sanitation was explicitly acknowledged as a distinct right by the UN General Assembly in 2015 (A/RES/70/169). Adapting to and mitigating climate change is a critical component of Member States' obligations to meet this right in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. While sanitation systems are fundamental for human health, dignity, and sustainable development, limited focus has been placed on their contributions to climate mitigation and adaptation. This has led to a Call for Action to ensure access to climate-resilient sanitation services for 3.6 billion people by 2030 and to guide stakeholders in incorporating climate resilience in sanitation programming.

This project responds to these calls by strengthening the capacities of public and small-scale private sanitation operators utilising a solidarity-based Water Operators' Partnership practice. The project will support three countries in South and Southeast Asia to plan and deliver climate-resilient, inclusive sanitation as a public service. Furthermore, it will strengthen the policy and regulatory environment to improve the implementation and scaling of sanitation operators that are inclusive, climate resilient and sustainable.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to improved climate-resilient sanitation for low-income communities in selected countries in South and Southeast Asia through strengthened sanitation operator capacity and enabling policy environments to fulfil their mandates, which will be demonstrated in concrete steps undertaken towards implementation of three city-wide inclusive, climate-resilient sanitation plans prepared, and acceptance and testing of policy guidance and best practices in advocacy of wider regional uptake within a human rights framework. At the end of the project, it is expected that the target countries will be better prepared to provide equitable, inclusive, and climate-responsive sanitation as a public service.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	15.9
Consultants	187.2
Travel of staff	22.2
Contractual services	290.7
General operating expenses	26.4
Grants and contributions	186.6
Total	729.0

J. Accelerating urban resilience and pro-poor climate action in LLDCS and SIDS in the Caribbean and Africa

Implemented by UN-Habitat jointly with UNEP, in collaboration with ECA, ECLAC and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$793,400)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.5, 10.2, 11.b, 11.c, 11.1, 11.3, 13.b, 13.3, 17.16 and 17.18
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Objective

To improve capacity to accelerate urban resilience and climate action to reduce climate change vulnerability in selected LLDCs and SIDS in the Caribbean and Africa.

Project plan

It is projected that an additional 2.5 billion people will live in the world's urban areas by 2050. There is, therefore, an urgent need to scale the capacity of human capital in national and local governments for urban resilience and climate action to reduce climate change vulnerability, especially in countries experiencing rapid urbanization (ECOSOC 2022).

This project will support three countries and selected pilot cities in Africa and the Caribbean to develop a harmonized interdisciplinary competency framework and user-friendly assessment tools on urban resilience; strengthen cross-sectoral coordination and south-south cooperation through the establishment of learning compacts; and build an integrated portal, embedding assessment tools, that interlink existing Learning Management Systems (LMS) across training providers for widespread access to continuous learning opportunities. The focus during the first phase of the project will be on designing and applying an urban resilience learning toolkit in the three project target countries. In the second phase, the project will work closely with local institutions with a focus on addressing the capacity gaps identified during the first phase through e-learning courses, technical hybrid trainings, webinars, and a city-to-city knowledge exchange programme.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to build individual capacities in local and national governments, and capacities of institutions and networks to effectively assess and address capacity gaps in urban resilience and climate action, which will be demonstrated by improved planning and implementation of resilience strategies, increased engagement of stakeholders in resilience initiatives, and enhanced ability to leverage resources for climate action. At the end of the project, it is expected that the capacity of local governments for pro-poor climate action that reduce vulnerability of vulnerable communities in the three project target countries will have been increased.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	43.1
Consultants	257.4
Travel of staff	70.0
Contractual services	187.7
General operating expenses	65.5
Grants and contributions	169.7
Total	793.4

K. Detection and disruption of illicit financial flows related to illegal logging and trafficking to reduce illegal deforestation

Implemented by UNODC in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$684,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 13.2, 16.4 and 16.5
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected Member States to detect and disrupt illicit financial flows related to illegal logging and trafficking, and to reduce illegal deforestation.

Project plan

Illegal deforestation negatively impacts climate and biodiversity, and undermines sustainable development and legitimate business sectors. Illegal logging and trafficking is also closely linked to other forms of trafficking, including minerals, wildlife, and human trafficking, as well as to conflict financing.

This project will support four countries in Asia Pacific and Central Africa to detect and disrupt illicit financial flows related to illegal logging and trafficking and other associated offences, including via the use of automated data analytics technologies (goAML software). It will include establishment of public-private partnerships involving financial intelligence units, law enforcement, customs, financial sector, NGOs, and analytical companies, development of risk indicators allowing for the detection of financial activity potentially linked to illegal logging and trafficking and other associated offences, installation (where applicable and possible) of goAML software and training on its use for the above-mentioned purposes and promoting international private sector dialogue – in particular, along the supply chains and flow of illicit proceeds between countries affected by illegal deforestation and destination markets.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the detection, reporting, and disruption of financial activity associated with illegal logging and trafficking in four beneficiary countries in Asia Pacific and Central Africa, which would be demonstrated by increased volume of the relevant financial intelligence and increased number of investigations. At a broader level, this project will contribute to reducing illegal deforestation, protecting nature, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the impacts on climate change.

Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)

Other staff costs	38.7
Consultants	114.8
Travel of staff	20.2
Contractual services	260.7
General operating expenses	57.6
Grants and contributions	192.6
Total	684.6

L. Improved climate knowledge and disaster risk governance for mine tailings facilities in Central Asia

Implemented by ECE jointly with ESCAP, in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator Offices (\$565,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 3.9, 6.3, 9.1, 11.b, 12.4, 13.1, 16.7 and 17.6
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Objective

To enhance capacities of national environmental authorities and industry in Central Asia to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on mine tailings management facilities for safer and more resilient societies.

Project plan

The global increase in the demand for minerals and metals will also result in a significant increase of waste which must be safely stored in tailings management facilities (TMFs). Central Asian countries have a rich mineral base but are also prone to natural disasters and need to apply a multi hazards/risk approach to prevent natural hazard-triggered technological disaster (Natech) accidents at TMFs. Central Asian countries have requested assistance from ECE to launch a pilot project on assessing the impacts of climate change on tailings safety in Central Asia and establish sustainable early warning and alert systems to help prepare for hazardous climate-related events and for protection through such a system by 2027, as per the Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All Initiative.

This project will support four countries in Central Asia to increase their disaster risk knowledge on the impacts of climate change on TMFs and to strengthen their capacities to manage Natech risks for TMFs at the national and regional levels in order to become more resilient. The first phase of the project will focus on generating integrated disaster risk knowledge. In the second phase, national environmental authorities and industry representatives in Central Asia will be trained in understanding and using integrated disaster risk knowledge for informed decision-making and increased resilience against climate change impacts and Natech accidents at TMFs.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to the knowledge and capacities of environmental authorities and TMF operators in Central Asia to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on TMFs, which will be demonstrated by the use of integrated disaster risk data/maps for risk-informed decision-making in Central Asia. This will reduce the likelihood of Natech accidents at TMFs due to climate change, prevent accidental water pollution and create safer, more resilient societies in Central Asia.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	26.4
Consultants	218.9
Travel of staff	66.6
Contractual services	42.9
General operating expenses	97.3
Grants and contributions	113.5
Total	565.6

M. Better statistics and data for effective, inclusive and transparent climate action in Europe and Central Asia

Implemented by ECE in collaboration with ESCAP and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$565,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 17.18 and 17.19
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of national statistical systems of selected countries for producing policy-relevant, internationally comparable and accessible statistics and data for effective, inclusive and transparent climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Project plan

At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21) in 2015, 195 countries adopted the Paris Agreement, aiming to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. High-quality data are needed to inform evidence-based policies and enable monitoring of their success and effects on the economy and society, especially the situation of vulnerable and marginalized groups, as well as inform local governments, the private sector, civil society, and the public. The 2021 Conference of European Statisticians recognized the need for climate change-related statistics and data, and in the 2023 ECE survey about practices in climate change-related statistics, all responding countries reported challenges in producing climate change-related statistics.

This project responds to the need for strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems to meet the increasing demands for climate change-related statistics and data needed for the reporting under the Paris Agreement, informing climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, ensuring a just transition and informing the public. It will support selected countries in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe to increase the availability of climate change-related statistics and indicators, improve integration of statistical and geospatial data and mainstream climate change considerations in main statistical domains.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems of selected countries for producing policy-relevant, internationally comparable and accessible statistics and data for effective, inclusive and transparent climate change mitigation and adaptation action, which would be demonstrated by an increased number of national statistical systems producing climate change-related statistics and indicators. At the end of the project, it is expected that the statistical systems in beneficiary countries will be better prepared to meet the increasing climate-related information needs.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	26.4
Consultants	162.8
Travel of staff	76.1
Contractual services	67.7
General operating expenses	42.3
Grants and contributions	190.3
Total	565.6

N. Leveraging trade for a just transition to a low-carbon and circular economy in the Western Balkans, Southern Caucasus and Central Asia

Implemented by ECE in collaboration with UNCTAD, ESCAP and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$565,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 5.A, 7.2, 8.2, 8.4, 13.2, 16.7, 17.10 and 17.11
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Objective

To strengthen national capacities to shape trade policies to address climate change in the Central Asia, Southern Caucasus and Western Balkans sub-regions.

Project plan

The project responds to the calls of ECE member States at the 69th and 70th Commission sessions, mandating the secretariat to mainstream the circular economy transition, as well as the green and digital transformation into existing work streams.

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of trade stakeholders in the ECE region to improve trade capacities in beneficiary countries while addressing climate change challenges, by leveraging the potential of digitalization and circularity. It will do so by piloting Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade (RPBT) studies and surveys on Sustainable and Digital Trade Facilitation (SDTF) in six countries in the target subregions, which will identify cross-border and behind border barriers to trade and action-oriented recommendations to mitigate climate impact; and build capacity of government officials and other trade stakeholders in beneficiary countries on standards and solutions for digital and circular trade. In so doing, activities will focus on gender dimension of trade, including by building on the gender-related elements of the well-established RPBT studies and the UN Global SDTF and on the knowledge base created by the recently established Team of Specialists on Gender Responsive Standards and earlier related work streams.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to identifying regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, digital transformations, and their gender dimension in priority sectors and economic activities that matter for the green, circular and climate transition, which would be demonstrated by targeted and country-specific recommendations to harness trade to address climate change, including through inputs into national strategies and roadmaps; and proposing good practices and solutions.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	31.7
Consultants	152.2
Travel of staff	95.2
Contractual services	101.5
General operating expenses	80.3
Grants and contributions	104.7
Total	565.6

O. Improved mapping and monitoring of solar energy access for enhanced climate policy action and socio-economic resilience in ESCWA member States

Implemented by ESCWA in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$586,800)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 7.1, 7.2, 12.a, 13.2, 17.18, and 17.19
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Objective

To enhance the capacities of selected ESCWA Member States to map and monitor developments in solar energy access to strengthen data-driven analysis and improve evidence-based policymaking for climate action and socio-economic resilience.

Project plan

The Arab region's renewable energy share in the energy mix, which lags other regions, stood at 5.1 per cent in 2020. National data collection processes in the region face difficulties in producing timely, complete, and accurate data on solar energy access, hindering policymakers' ability to monitor progress, track developments to make informed decisions, and implement effective policies based on high-quality data. The ESCWA Committee on Energy in 2023 and 2021 called for supporting member States in assessing progress on SDG 7 and building their capacity in formulating sustainable energy policies.

Responding to these challenges and recommendations, this project will support three ESCWA member States to map and monitor developments in solar energy access using a comprehensive approach that combines Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning, leveraging satellite imagery and remote sensing tools. This project will validate the 2025 baseline data on access to solar photovoltaics (PV) for the member States, facilitate a similar validation process for a 5- to 10-year prior data snapshot in line with SDG monitoring progress, compare it to the 2025 baseline and generate KPIs that assess the effectiveness of related policies, quantify the remaining gap between the 2025 baseline and the national SDG7 targets, and advise on elaborating national solar energy policy options towards enhancing socio-economic resilience.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to enhancing the capacities of- selected ESCWA member States to map and monitor developments in solar energy access to strengthen data-driven analysis and improve evidence-based policymaking for climate action and socio-economic resilience, which would be demonstrated by the estimation of solar energy installed capacity disaggregated by location, size, and potential energy generation, as well as the use of those disaggregated data in the evaluation of adopted policies and in newly proposed, evidence-based renewable energy policies. At the end of the project, it is expected that the target countries will be better informed and prepared to increase the adoption of renewable energy, particularly in regions where bolstering socio-economic resilience is of paramount importance.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	29.4
Consultants	139.1
Travel of staff	52.5
Contractual services	221.6
General operating expenses	9.5
Grants and contributions	134.7
Total	586.8

P. Better Policies for accelerated transition to circular economy and enhanced climate action in Arab States

Implemented by ESCWA in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$544,500)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 2.4, 6.3, 7.3, 8.3, 8.4, 12.2, 12.4, 12.5, 12.a and 13.1
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Objective

To enhance the capacities of selected countries in the Arab region to adopt circular economy practices among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to facilitate accelerated climate action and foster sustainable socio-economic development.

Project plan

In June 2022, during his remarks at the Stockholm +50 meeting, the Secretary-General underscored the urgent need to shift from economic systems that encourage pollution and waste, and advocated for a shift towards a circular and regenerative economy. This project was developed in response to this need and to the increasing requests from Arab States to transition towards resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable economies. It focuses on promoting circular economy practices among Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the Arab region.

The project will support four countries in the Arab region to accelerate the transition to circular economy particularly through green SMEs. It will achieve this by equipping SMEs and policy makers with the essential tools and knowledge to mainstream circular economy in national policies leading to improved climate action in the Arab region. The project will engage in a series of tailored interventions, including the development of technical material and policy frameworks, the implementation of capacity building initiatives, and exchange and knowledge sharing activities.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to enhancing the national capacities of four countries in the Arab region, in supporting SMEs transition to circularity, which would be demonstrated by an increase in the number and the performance of SMEs adopting circular economy principles. At the end of the project, it is expected that the target countries will be better prepared to establish and implement policies fostering the transition to a circular economy.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	27.2
Consultants	178.4
Travel of staff	73.3
Contractual services	109.4
General operating expenses	53.1
Grants and contributions	103.1
Total	544.5

Q. Bridging the climate-food nexus: Coherent climate action and food system transformation for resilient Arab least developed countries

Implemented by ESCWA in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$565,600)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 2.1, 2.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b and 17.14
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of Arab least developed countries (LDCs) to align food system transformation with climate action and integrate climate assessments into policy design for more sustainable and resilient food systems.

Project plan

Climate change and food systems are deeply interconnected. Agriculture accounts for 19-29% of global greenhouse gas emissions and is one of the sectors most vulnerable to climate change. Least developed countries (LDCs), despite contributing the least to greenhouse emissions, are disproportionately affected by both food insecurity and climate change. In the Arab region, LDCs experience over 50% prevalence of food insecurity and over 20% prevalence of undernourishment, and their scarce water and fertile soils are being degraded by unsustainable use and climate change effects. In addition, this has direct socioeconomic consequences for LDCs, as agriculture represents a high share of their GDP and is a big source of employment in rural areas. The recent UN Food Systems Summit+2 highlighted the importance of increasing coordination among national climate action and food systems transformation pathways, ensuring greater collaboration, identifying synergies, and channeling scarce resources towards common goals.

This project will support three LDCs in the Arab region to align their food systems transformation processes with their existing climate change mitigation and adaptation plans, notably their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), and improve capacities to assess the food systems transformation process’ contribution to climate change. Selected countries will be provided with guidelines, capacity building activities, and support to institutional coordination within the framework of the UN Food Systems transformation processes and in coordination with national conveners.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of LDCs to develop coordinated climate action and food system transformation processes, which would be demonstrated by revised food systems transformation pathways and plans that are aligned with climate goals, by the identification of key climate-food system transformation policies, and by incorporating climate change assessments in food system transformation processes. At the end of this project, it is expected that the target countries will be better prepared to incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation mechanisms within food systems, while ensuring rural livelihoods and food security and nutrition for all.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	28.6
Consultants	217.8
Travel of staff	28.5
Contractual services	50.7
Grants and contributions	240.0
Total	565.6

R. Better production and use of statistics for effective climate action in Asia and the Pacific

Implemented by ESCAP in collaboration with ECE and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.5, 2.4, 11.5, 12.8, 13.1, 13.2, 13.b, 14.2, 15.9 and 17.9
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected countries in Asia and the Pacific to produce nationally relevant and multidimensional sets of climate change-related statistics for effective climate action.

Project plan

To be effective, climate action must be underpinned by quality evidence encompassing environmental, social, and economic aspects of climate change drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, adaptation and a just transition to leave no one behind. ESCAP resolution 79/1 thus calls for accelerating climate action for sustainable development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by, among others, taking a whole-of-government approach to strengthening the collection and use of climate change-related statistics.

This project will demonstrate a whole-of-government approach to producing nationally relevant and multidimensional sets of climate change-related statistics in three Asia-Pacific countries, focusing on SIDs, LDCs and LLDCs with low availability of data on SDGs. The project will demonstrate utility of the produced statistics to support issue-driven national climate action and the national reporting to, among others, the SDGs, the UNFCCC's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Capacity development achieved in the three beneficiary countries will benefit broader national statistical systems in the Asia-Pacific region through cross-fertilisation of knowledge and experiences, sensitisation dialogue, and promotion of south-south cooperation to enable initiation of a whole-of-government approach to the production and use of climate change-related statistics in their country contexts.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of three beneficiary countries and enabling other national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific to inform and monitor the development and implementation of short- and long-term effective climate action, which would be demonstrated by the initiation, production and utility of nationally relevant and multidimensional climate change-related statistics, taking into consideration gender and vulnerable groups, towards a just and more sustainable economies and societies.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	47.6
Consultants	222.0
Travel of staff	144.7
Contractual services	10.6
General operating expenses	25.4
Grants and contributions	184.0
Total	634.3

S. Low carbon and resilient transport action plans in Asia and the Pacific

Implemented by ESCAP jointly with ECE and in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 7.3, 11.2, 13.2 and 13.b.
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected countries in Asia and the Pacific to implement low carbon and resilient transport action plans to accelerate climate action through transport.

Project plan

This project responds to the requests of ESCAP Member States by focusing on closing the technical, institutional and financial gaps in the transition to low or zero carbon transport. The project will support four countries in Asia and the Pacific to implement low carbon and resilient transport strategies, policies or roadmaps, while determining their transport targets and implementation timelines for their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

The implementation action plan developed for each beneficiary country will also reflect the nexus of transport, gender and climate change, where gender equality will be considered in policies pertaining to women as transport users, workers and decision makers. The specific scope of the implementation action plan for each beneficiary country will be jointly developed with the countries based on its current NDCs, and low carbon and resilient transport policy priorities.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacity of four countries in Asia and the Pacific to transform their low carbon and resilient transport strategies and roadmaps to action, while determining targets and timelines and raising the ambition of NDCs to accelerate climate action through transport, which would be demonstrated by the implementation of the action plan developed. In addition, policy strategies that will improve transport infrastructure and system climate resilience based on expected future trends will also be determined for the beneficiary countries.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Consultants	230.0
Travel of staff	200.9
Contractual services	68.1
General operating expenses	29.6
Grants and contributions	105.7
Total	634.3

T. Sustainable cooling to address climate change and inequality in small island developing States of the Asia-Pacific region

Implemented by ESCAP jointly with UNEP and in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 7.3, 9.4, 11.5, 11.b, 11.c and 13.2
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected countries in Asia and the Pacific to develop and implement national cooling action plans that integrate passive cooling strategies and increase the efficiency of active cooling to support energy efficiency, climate objectives, and the resilience of populations and energy systems.

Project plan

Cooling has emerged as one of the most pressing issues for the health and well-being of populations in the face of rising temperatures and the increased frequency of heatwaves, as well as for energy systems that are increasingly strained by the rising need for electricity to provide cooling services. On World Ozone Day in 2019, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres released a message calling upon countries to develop National Cooling Action Plans (NCAPs).

This project will support three countries in the Asia-Pacific region to respond to the call for NCAPs by assessing current and future cooling demand, energy consumption, and emissions; and drafting responsive, future-oriented, evidence-based frameworks for action. ESCAP will collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), leveraging the jointly developed National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP) methodology. The expected outcome of the project is the design, preparation, and adoption of NCAPs in the beneficiary countries, positioning them for future implementation support.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of three countries in Asia and the Pacific to deliver sustainable cooling services that enable well-being and productivity, build climate resilience, and support the energy transition, which would be demonstrated by newly gathered data and knowledge on the dynamics of passive cooling and active cooling subsectors; the identification and agreement by key stakeholders on the short- to long-term strategic actions based on the national cooling assessment results; and an identified set of policy gaps to be filled.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Consultants	275.8
Travel of staff	51.8
Contractual services	50.5
General operating expenses	15.9
Grants and contributions	240.3
Total	634.3

U. Better climate change-statistics and indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean

Implemented by ECLAC in collaboration with DESA and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 6.4, 7.3, 12.2 ,12.4, 12.5, 12.a, 13.2, 13.b and 15.1
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Objective

To improve technical capacities in selected Latin American and Caribbean countries for generating statistics and indicators to monitor climate change and the impact of economic activities on climate.

Project plan

In 2022, the UN Statistical Commission endorsed the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators, urged the international statistical community to expand its capacity development efforts with regard to climate change statistics and encouraged national statistical systems to invest in the development of climate change statistics and strengthen environment statistics and accounts.

This project aims to respond to this request by assisting selected countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in identifying relevant climate change indicators and providing support for enhancing the national capacities for their production, disaggregation, georeferencing, dissemination and use for policy design. The support will focus on different aspects of climate change, including drivers, impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation, and will work with a variety of data sources, including economic and social surveys, national accounts administrative records, and geospatial data. The project will also support the visualization and dissemination of results through web-based platforms. Constructing environmental input-output tables based on official national information, will make it possible to understand the supply and use of goods and services within the economy and their environmental consequences to measure the environmental impact of economic activities.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures.

This work is expected to contribute to the improvement of technical capacities in Latin American and Caribbean countries for generating statistics and indicators that contribute to monitor climate change, understanding its economic and social effects, and informing evidence-based policies that foster resilience and green productive transformation, which would demonstrated by the development of a set of climate change and environmental statistics and indicators and the building of capabilities for their use.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	30.7
Consultants	209.3
Travel of staff	107.8
Contractual services	72.4
General operating expenses	22.7
Grants and contributions	191.4
Total	634.3

V. Labour inclusion to address climate change and its impacts on the future of work in Latin America and the Caribbean

Implemented by ECLAC in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.5, 4.4, 4.7, 8.4, 8.5, 9.2, 10.2, 11.b, 13.2 and 13.3
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Objective

To enhance the capacity of selected developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to develop policies and strategies for green labour inclusion to just transition, reducing the social impacts of changes.

Project plan

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the complex economic and social scenario is compounded by a rising frequency of disasters, leading to a prolonged crisis that hinders recovery and SDG progress. The future of work is closely linked to the environment and will be greatly affected by climate change. Rising temperatures and heat waves already pose a threat to working conditions, particularly to the most vulnerable population that works in the worst conditions and lives in poverty. Transitioning to a low-carbon economy offers prospects for future employment, with a just transition mitigating the disproportionate burden on the poor and vulnerable, enabling them to benefit from this opportunity. Consequently, the goals of poverty eradication, inequality reduction, and environmental protection align.

This project will support three countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project proposes regional guidelines to improve the capacities of national government officials and recommends revision and amendments as necessary to: develop policies and strategies for green labour inclusion, the social impacts of the future of work; improve labour market statistics, in particular those that could be most affected by climate change; carry out simulations on the estimation of impacts and resources required for the transition in terms of employment; and, elaborate a policy toolkit addressing institutional arrangements and policy instruments to ensure a better just transition to carbon-neutral economies.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures.

This work is expected to contribute to the enhanced capacity of three countries to produce/amend policies and strategies for green labour inclusion for just transition, which would be demonstrated by policy recommendations having been developed in at least 2 out of the 3 project countries. At the end of the project, the target countries are expected to be better prepared to improve decent labour conditions in the context of a transition to a carbon-neutral economy, including policy recommendations that enable people to cope with changes in the world of work and to ensure a just transition to a greener economy, leaving no one behind.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	31.7
Consultants	228.4
Travel of staff	76.1
Contractual services	63.4
General operating expenses	43.8
Grants and contributions	190.9
Total	634.3

W. Rural agricultural value chains and climate-smart technology policies at the subnational level in Latin America and the Caribbean

Implemented by ECLAC in collaboration with UNEP and the Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.1, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 6.4, 8.3, 12.2, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3
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Objective

To enhance small-scale farmers' response to climate change by strengthening sub-national policies and capacities to scale up climate-smart agriculture technologies and achieve economic and social upgrading along rural value chains.

Project plan

The Food Systems Summit in September 2021 launched a work agenda aimed at transforming food systems as part of the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Food systems play an integral role in the global response to climate change. On the one hand, agriculture is highly impacted by changing climate patterns and extreme events and on the other hand, it is the only productive sector that can serve as a carbon sink.

This project will support selected value chains in four Latin American and Caribbean countries, assisting small-scale farmers in transitioning to climate-smart practices. The project will achieve this by promoting the adoption of digital and other technologies that have a scientific basis and are embedded in local communities, designing innovative strategies to address value-chain bottlenecks, and building capacity and transferring knowledge to farmers, including innovative e-learning material and digital agricultural extension. The project aims to tackle the challenges of economic and social resilience to climate change from a sub-national perspective. Its primary approach is to bolster the capacities of sub-national governments to drive the development and adoption of climate-smart technologies.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

The project is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacity of small-scale farmers in four countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to adapt their production systems to the impacts of climate change through the adoption of climate-smart technologies, which would be demonstrated by the increase of sub-national knowledge transfer policies or programs on climate-smart practices in target countries. The expected result is a positive impact of regional agriculture on global climate action, without compromising productivity levels, and a stronger commitment to sustainable and resilient food systems.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	21.1
Consultants	247.4
Travel of staff	84.6
Contractual services	81.4
General operating expenses	26.4
Grants and contributions	173.4
Total	634.3

X. Empowering African SMEs in the agri-food industry for sustainable transition

Implemented by ECA in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.3, 8.3, 10.4, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 17.9 and 17.17
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected African countries to design and implement policies on SMEs to support the sustainable transition in agri-food industry.

Project plan

At the 2023 Africa Climate Summit, African States committed to leapfrogging traditional industrial development and fostering green production. They are also committed to identifying, prioritizing, and mainstreaming adaptation into their national development policymaking. Moreover, member States are increasingly asking for support to transform the private sector to increase its capacity to adapt to climate change and to play a key role in sustainable transition.

This project aims at supporting selected countries in building capacity to develop an informed vision of sustainable transition in the agri-food industry. The project will assess gaps, vulnerabilities and opportunities for sustainable transition of SMEs in the agri-food industry. To increase resilience to climate change and support transition, the project will enhance member States capacity to design social policies for SMEs to support a sustainable transition in the agri-food industry. The project will support three countries that face a challenge related to climate change in the agri-food industry. The project will develop a just sustainable transition guideline that includes a methodology and tools to understand climate linked sectoral transformation and define sustainable targets, assess transition gaps and define policies for SMEs transformation.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacity of selected African countries to design and implement policies on SMEs for sustainable transition in the agri-food industry, which would be demonstrated by Member States having developed an informed vision of sustainable transition in the agri-food industry and revised their sectoral and social policies to better tailor them to the needed transformation of SMEs to achieve sustainable transition.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	16.4
Consultants	309.8
Travel of staff	31.7
Contractual services	158.6
General operating expenses	69.2
Grants and contributions	48.6
Total	634.3

Y. Accelerating food systems transformation for resilience to climate change in Africa

Implemented by ECA in collaboration with Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.1, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 2.a, 5.a, 8.2, 9.1, and 13.1
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Objective

To strengthen the capacity of selected African countries to improve the resilience of food systems to climate change and variability.

Project plan

At the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021, the Secretary-General highlighted the importance of building long-term resilience of food systems as a pathway towards universal access to food, leaving no one behind and achieving the SDGs.

The project will support three countries in Africa to improve food systems' resilience to climate change and variability by accelerating its transformation, through the implementation of a set of enablers. Firstly, the project will help mitigate the effects of extreme weather events through the provision of technical guidelines to leverage impact investors for capital, and credit enhancement tools for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in food systems. Secondly, it will harness the power of geospatial and climatic data to map investment opportunities in agricultural value chains and to quantify the impact of a warming world. Thirdly, it will improve policymakers' capacity to develop policy, legislative, and institutional frameworks for enhancing land governance with a special target on securing rights for women and Internally Displaced Communities. Finally, it will enhance the technical capacities of beneficiary countries to leverage climate-resilient transport and energy infrastructure for strengthening food value chains.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of targeted countries to design and adopt policies that foster acceleration of food systems transformation while adapting to the new realities of climate change and variability, which will be demonstrated by increases in the share of agriculture and agribusiness in GDP, disaggregated by gender and socioeconomic status. At the end of the project, it is expected that the target countries will be better prepared to adapt to climate-based shocks, resulting in food systems that are more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Other staff costs	31.7
Consultants	211.6
Travel of staff	93.2
Contractual services	133.0
General operating expenses	39.4
Grants and contributions	125.4
Total	634.3

Z. Innovative climate action to accelerate green industrialization in the Southern Africa region

Implemented by ECA in collaboration with UNEP, UNCTAD and Resident Coordinator Offices (\$634,300)	Relationship to Sustainable Development Goals: targets 1.4, 5.b, 7.a, 8.3, 9.3, 9.4, 9.b, 10.2, 12.6, and 13.b
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Objective: To strengthen the capacity of selected countries to develop and implement innovative green economy policies and strategies that foster inclusive and sustainable industrialization in Southern Africa.

Project Plan

The linkage between climate change and industrial development is well articulated in SDGs 8, 9, 12, and 13. Specifically, innovation for industrial sustainability is essential to achieving the SDGs, which calls for the collaboration between the public and private sectors. For a sustainable future for all, sustainable development and the green growth agenda necessitate industrialization centred on green industrial policy.

This project will support six countries in Southern Africa to develop innovative green economy policies and strategies aligned to just energy transition plans that encourage the design and proliferation of green technologies, support the growth of a circular economy, and enhance the awareness and knowledge of green industrial policy and innovative practices. Project interventions will be delivered through high-level policy dialogue, research and analysis to inform policy positions, capacity building for MSMEs and initiatives to develop green value chains.

Expected progress towards the attainment of the objective and performance measures

This work is expected to contribute to strengthening the capacities of beneficiary countries to review and design green economy policies and strategies that foster inclusive and sustainable economies, which would be demonstrated by the number of green policies, strategies, or frameworks reviewed and designed by Member States and their action plans prioritized and aligned to regional industrialization strategies. This initiative will, furthermore, contribute to improved capacity of public and private stakeholders to identify green, innovative technologies to support the development of green value chains, to be evidenced through the number of MSMEs, having access to green technologies and innovative hubs and the number of public sector officials trained in the design of green economy policies. At the end of the project, beneficiary countries will be better positioned to implement their green economy policies and incentivize investments for green growth and more sustainable jobs.

<i>Budget summary (thousands of United States dollars)</i>	
Consultants	165.1
Travel of staff	136.4
General operating expenses	40.7
Grants and contributions	292.1
Total	634.3

Annex II

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of advisory and oversight bodies

<i>Brief description of the recommendation</i>	<i>Action taken to implement the recommendation</i>
<p>Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions A/78/7</p>	<p>The Development Account implementing entities are non-resident agencies and, for the most part, do not have a staff presence on the ground in the project countries. Staff travel to the project countries is therefore necessary for the implementation of projects. Travel is typically required for staff members to provide specialized support to workshops or through advisory services. The mandates and expertise of the Development Account implementing entities fill capacity development gaps in niche areas that fall outside the priorities and expertise that is available in UN Country Teams and UN Resident Coordinator Offices, and therefore, project related activities often cannot be executed and supported by local UN entities. Travel of staff represents an average of 13 per cent of the total resources, a one per cent reduction as compared to the 16th tranche.</p> <p>E-learning, the dissemination of knowledge and engagement with target audiences through digital modalities such as virtual or hybrid workshops, communities of practice and digital self-paced courses, have become an important modality for delivering Development Account projects. However, despite its advantages, e-learning also has several challenges, as found in the evaluations of 11th tranche projects. Digital gaps across geographic areas and population groups constitute a challenge to inclusive participation in e-learning activities. Other challenges include communication difficulties between participants and trainers; keeping participants engaged during online training; financial resources required for the operation of digital courses, and such courses requiring a range of technical abilities, including ICT and thematic specialists; and in some cases, digital courses resulting in a lower completion rate than other forms of training. In general, beneficiaries participating in the evaluations of 11th tranche projects were of the view that in-person delivery was more effective in transferring technical expertise as well as in facilitating the establishment of long-lasting linkages or practical exchanges among participants beyond the project's</p>

completion. Given these limitations, virtual events should be viewed as a complement to and not a complete substitute for in-person events.

The Advisory Committee trusts that more detailed information on contractual services by location of projects and the related costs will be included in future budget proposals (para. XIII.9).

More detailed information on contractual services with regard to the related costs has been included in paragraph 35.23 of the 2025 budget fascicle.

In general, contractual services include institutional contracts with national, regional or international institutions, companies, IGOs or NGOs for preparing publications, conducting studies, carrying out technical work, assisting with the organization of workshops, interpretation costs for Expert Group Meetings, and translating or printing documents. The selection of institutions for contractual services is done in accordance with UN financial rules and regulations and on a competitive basis. National and local contractual services are often for venue rental and workshop-related support work.

With regard to contractual services by location of projects, it should be noted that at the time of the fascicle preparation projects are at a concept stage and have not yet been approved, and the target countries have not yet been confirmed. Once the General Assembly has approved the fascicle and the project concepts have been elaborated upon into full project documents, target countries are confirmed, and more details are available on the contractual services.

The Advisory Committee trusts that lessons learned from the impact assessment of the projects will be consolidated and used in all future projects, as appropriate (para. XIII.10).

Lessons learned from project evaluations have been reviewed and used in developing or updating guidelines to inform the design of new projects and the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of ongoing projects, as reported on in paragraphs 35.13-14 of the 2025 budget fascicle.

The Advisory Committee once again notes with concern that, since the twelfth tranche, the Development Account has been able to select only 50 per cent or less of the total number of projects proposed by the requesting Member States, owing mainly to the limitations imposed by the funds available to the Account, and that no additional resources have been proposed to meet more requests (see also A/77/7, para. XIII.29). The Committee trusts, once again, that the Secretary-General will ensure transparency in the selection of countries and projects and will develop an outreach programme, including the dissemination of information on projects to countries with special needs in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, and including close coordination with,

The short list of projects proposed for funding from the Development Account is prepared in close consultation with the implementing entities, taking into consideration both the availability of funds and countries demands and needs, as well as the criteria reported on under action taken to implement the recommendation XIII.39 below. The short list is endorsed by the Development Account Steering Committee and approved by the Programme Manager prior to the project proposals being included in the budget fascicle that is presented to the General Assembly.

Development Account projects are implemented in areas where the implementing entities have clear mandates, comparative advantages, and demand from member States. Through outreach and

among others, the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the resident coordinator system, to allow for the formulation of demands by the Member States (para. XIII.35).

The Advisory Committee considers that more details on the assessment and its outcomes could have been included in the budget submission and trusts that more comprehensive information will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the present report and that updated information will be contained in the next budget submission (para. XIII.36).

XIII.39 The Advisory Committee notes that there continues to be a lack of clarity regarding the criteria applied in the distribution of resources among the implementing entities of the Development Account and once again trusts that detailed information on the criteria applied to ensure a more equitable sharing of resources, in particular in support of the countries in vulnerable situations, including information on joint initiatives, will be provided in the next budget submission (para. XIII.39).

The Advisory Committee emphasizes the importance of project monitoring and evaluation and its expectation that efforts will continue to be undertaken to further enhance such activities and recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to provide comprehensive information on the status of implementation and impact of projects, including assessments made on the pilot projects, and lessons learned, as well as information on the evaluation guidelines and

interaction with member States the implementing entities are keenly aware of countries demands and needs. As per existing guidance, implementing entities are, moreover, requested to consult with UN-OHRLLS and OSAA and review possible collaboration, if relevant, when preparing the project documents and implementing projects.

Additional information gleaned from the assessment has been included in paragraph 35.10 of the 2025 budget fascicle. In addition, enhanced collaboration continues to be an ongoing area of work for the Development Account.

The funds available under each tranche of the Development Account are allocated to the 10 implementing entities, building on past practice, but also take several criteria into consideration. The implementing entities can broadly be categorized into two different groups: five regional entities and five global entities, with funds equally distributed between these two groups. While the distribution of projects remains relatively stable from tranche to tranche, key aspects – such as the priorities of Member States expressed in the intergovernmental negotiations and in their interaction with the implementing entities, the strength of the individual project proposals put forward, the capacity of the implementing entities to deliver projects and the past performance of projects – are taken into account when deciding which projects to select.

As conveyed in paragraph 35.4 and figure 35.I of the 2025 budget fascicle, over 90 per cent of the proposed 17th tranche projects support countries with special needs, namely, least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). These numbers are likely to increase as implementing entities finalize the target countries of their projects.

Paragraphs 35.13-14 in the 2025 budget fascicle provide more information on evaluation activities undertaken, including how evaluations and lessons learned have been used to enhance guidelines. Additional information will be provided in the Progress Report on the activities of the Development Account.

standards and the progress of the evaluation activities in the next budget submission and future progress report on the activities of the Development Account (para. XIII.49).