



WBG SCORECARD FY24-FY30 METHODOLOGY NOTE

WBG Results Indicator

The purpose of this note is to ensure the rigor, transparency, and reproducibility of the WBG results indicators included in the new WBG Scorecard FY24-FY30, as well as their alignment with the WBG’s vision. Technical teams were asked to provide a sufficiently detailed methodology so that anyone who reads this note can understand its rationale, theory of change, data sources, and method of calculation.

Definitions included in this template are aligned to the WBG Scorecard paper endorsed by the Board on Dec 19, 2023. The methods notes are living documents and will be subject to updating and revision pending operational inputs and implementation lessons over time.

OVERVIEW			
INDICATOR NAME	Millions of hectares of terrestrial and aquatic areas under enhanced conservation / management		
SUB-INDICATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes under enhanced conservation and/or sustainable management (terrestrial and inland water areas)¹ Seascapes under enhanced conservation and/or sustainable management (coastal zones and oceans)¹ 		
OUTCOME AREA	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> Protection for the Poorest <input type="checkbox"/> Healthier Lives <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green and blue planet and resilient populations <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable food systems <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for all <input type="checkbox"/> Digital services <input type="checkbox"/> More and Better Jobs </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> No Learning Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Effective Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and equitable water and sanitation services <input type="checkbox"/> Connected Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Digital connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality and youth inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Better Lives for People in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence <input type="checkbox"/> More private investments </td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Protection for the Poorest <input type="checkbox"/> Healthier Lives <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green and blue planet and resilient populations <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable food systems <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for all <input type="checkbox"/> Digital services <input type="checkbox"/> More and Better Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/> No Learning Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> Effective Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive and equitable water and sanitation services <input type="checkbox"/> Connected Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Digital connectivity <input type="checkbox"/> Gender equality and youth inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Better Lives for People in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence <input type="checkbox"/> More private investments
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SDG ALIGNMENT	<p>See https://sdgs.un.org/ for further details on SDGs:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Zero Hunger <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Good Health and Well-being <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Quality Education <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Gender Equality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Clean Water and Sanitation <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Affordable and Clean Energy <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Industry Innovation and Infrastructure </td> <td> <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Reduced Inequalities <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Responsible Consumption and Production <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Climate Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14. Life Below Water <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15. Life on Land <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Partnerships for the Goals </td> </tr> </table> <p>List of specific UN targets (if applicable):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 6.3: Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping, and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally. SDG 6.6: Protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes. SDG 14.1: Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. SDG 14.2: Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans. 	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Poverty <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Zero Hunger <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Good Health and Well-being <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Quality Education <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Gender Equality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Clean Water and Sanitation <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Affordable and Clean Energy <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Industry Innovation and Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Reduced Inequalities <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Responsible Consumption and Production <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Climate Action <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 14. Life Below Water <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15. Life on Land <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Partnerships for the Goals
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¹ The indicator data can be integrated across various inter-convertible area units (e.g., m2, hectares, acres, km2, etc.).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 14.5: Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information. • SDG 15.1: Ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements. • SDG 15.2: Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation. • SDG 15.3: Combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world. • SDG 15.4: Ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development. • SDG 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species. • SDG 15.8: Introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species. • SDG 15.9: Integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts.
DISAGGREGATION	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Disability-inclusive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FCS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS, SIDS and LDCs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IDA, IBRD, IFC and MIGA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Country income groups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WBG Joint Programming
ENGAGEMENT TYPE	<p>WORLD BANK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IBRD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust Fund (TF) <input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treasury Products (including technical assistance)</p> <p>IFC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IFC Investment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IFC Upstream and Advisory Services</p> <p>MIGA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MIGA Guarantee</p>
ENGAGEMENT INSTRUMENT	<p>WORLD BANK <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IPFs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DPFs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PforR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guarantees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TF: IDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TF: IBRD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TF: RETF² <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TF: GEF³ <input type="checkbox"/> TF: MONT⁴ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TF: SPF⁵ <input type="checkbox"/> ASA: BB⁶ <input type="checkbox"/> ASA: BETFs/EFOs⁷ <input type="checkbox"/> ASA: RAS⁸</p> <p>IFC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blended Finance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Syndications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asset Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advisory Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade and Commodity Finance <input type="checkbox"/> Treasury Client Solutions</p> <p>MIGA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political Risk Insurance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit Enhancement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade Finance Guarantees</p>
LEGACY INDICATOR NAME	<input type="checkbox"/> WB Old Scorecard indicator: <input type="checkbox"/> WBG Old Scorecard indicator: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
RATIONALE	

² RETF: Recipient Executed Trust Fund

³ GEF: Global Environment Facility

⁴ MONT: Montreal Protocol

⁵ SPF: Special financing

⁶ Bank's own administrative budget (BB).

⁷ Donors (via Bank-executed Trust Funds (BETFs) or Externally Financed Outputs (EFOs).

⁸ Clients (via Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS).

DEFINITION	The indicator measures the terrestrial and inland/marine aquatic areas (in millions of hectares) that are under enhanced protection, conservation, restoration, and/or sustainable management through operations supported by IBRD, IDA, IFC, and MIGA. This will include the results of work on diverse Landscapes (e.g., forests, grass/shrub lands, woodlands, wetlands, water bodies, watersheds, oases, and urban green and blue spaces) and Seascapes (e.g., ocean and coastal zones, including wetlands, deltas, mangroves, and reefs) that have been improved from a nature perspective. These are expected to improve the extent or condition of these areas relating to biodiversity or other ecosystem services and address drivers of nature loss. ⁹ Relevant activities may reduce and reverse natural resource degradation, protect and enhance natural habitats and their ecosystem services, and thus provide nature benefits to dependent communities. This indicator does not include terrestrial or aquatic areas managed as offsets for project-related biodiversity impacts (public or private sector). Production landscapes or seascapes (e.g., plantations, agriculture, and aquaculture areas) may be included where practices are applied that result in demonstratable benefits to nature, while not involving conversation of natural habitats.
REPORTING TIMELINE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results achieved ¹⁰ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results expected ¹¹
DIRECT/INDIRECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct ¹² <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indirect ¹³
ACTUALS/ MODEL-BASED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actuals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Model-based
UNIT OF MEASURE	<input type="checkbox"/> Number of people <input type="checkbox"/> Number of countries <input type="checkbox"/> USD <input type="checkbox"/> GW <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hectares <input type="checkbox"/> tCO2eq/year <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ [Please specify]
THEORY OF CHANGE	Please see Annex 1 for a visualization of the theory of change.
OUTCOME TYPE/ SUBTYPE	Outcome type/subtypes from the IEG taxonomies developed in Results and Performance of the World Bank Group Annual Review (RAP) 2021 mapped to the outcome(s) measured by the indicator.¹⁴ WORLD BANK L. Natural Capital Sustained IFC 6.1. Enhanced E&S standards of the client 6.3. Efficient use of resources MIGA 6.1. Enhanced E&S standards of the client 6.3. Efficient use of resources
INCLUSION CRITERIA	Delivering on this indicator will include work on directly improving the natural extent/condition of targeted ecosystems and contribute to address the drivers of nature loss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscapes (forests, grass/shrub lands, woodlands, wetlands, water bodies, watersheds, oases, urban green and blue spaces)¹⁵

⁹ Drivers of nature loss have been defined by UN CBD and IPBES and include land/sea-use changes, resource extraction, pollution, invasive alien species, and climate change.

¹⁰ New WBG Scorecard paper (Section G): it refers to *results that have occurred* at a given moment of the projects' results horizon. *Results achieved* can be based on actuals at the project level or can use model-based estimations at the portfolio level relying always on available project level data inputs.

¹¹ New WBG Scorecard paper (Section G): it refers to the *anticipated results* over the projects' results horizon. *Expected results* is based on the latest available estimations of future results, including model-based or other informed estimations.

¹² New WBG Scorecard paper (Annex I, Technical Criteria): it refers to outcomes with sufficient causal proximity to WBG interventions to allow for attribution of results.

¹³ New WBG Scorecard paper (Annex I, Technical Criteria): it refers to outcomes where attribution is located further down the causal chain, relative to WBG interventions, and may be contingent on other exogenous factors. Indirect results to be reported as methodologies are developed.

¹⁴ Independent Evaluation Group: [RAP 2021](#).

¹⁵ [2030 Action Target 12 - Increase access to green and blue spaces | Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

- **Seascapes** (ocean and coastal zones, including wetlands, deltas, mangroves, and reefs)

An important consideration for the inclusion of spatial areas for this indicator is the need to ensure that systems exist to document that the area included has indeed improved from a nature perspective or that the key drivers of biodiversity/nature degradation have been reduced. For this indicator, nature represents all life on Earth (biodiversity) together with landscapes and seascapes, and the key ecosystem services they provide. These could include evidence (from analysis of earth observation or in situ monitoring data or surveys) for improvement in vegetation cover (e.g., NDVI), water quality, erosion, sedimentation, soil health, fish stocks, biodiversity, etc. for the targeted areas. Such analyses would require appropriate baselines and implementation monitoring to illustrate that the improvement is directly attributable to WBG support. Given that generating some measurable nature benefits from interventions (e.g., measurable impact on downstream sedimentation) typically takes multiple years, in some cases proxies may need to be used in the shorter term to assess progress.

In cases when the evidence of nature impact may not be possible to obtain in a timely or cost-effective fashion, proxies (e.g., hectare-related estimates based on measurements for reducing the key drivers of biodiversity/nature loss in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework targets and the WBG Nature Finance Tracking Methodology) in the form of meaningful activity tracking for nature impact could be documented in the interim. The documentation required to determine nature benefits for inclusion of activities is expected to be introduced and strengthened in future years.

Recent approaches¹⁶ developed to track nature finance have resulted in identifying the following activity groups that contribute to addressing nature loss:

- a) Restoration and conservation of biodiversity or ecosystem services
- b) Reduction of the direct drivers of biodiversity or ecosystem services loss
- c) Integration of nature-based solutions across economic sectors
- d) Design and implementation of policy, tools, or other sectoral instruments enabling (a) to (c).

Such approaches have been developed to estimate financial flows directed to nature with the overall goal of increasing WBG support for nature-related projects. The nature-related impacts of such projects can be expressed through many types of indicators (e.g., areas targeted, biodiversity improvement, erosion/sedimentation reduction, fish stocks, land and water pollution reduction, groundwater sustainability, institutional capacity, etc.). A subset of these activities (i.e., those that can be expressed in terms of specific spatial areas that have demonstrated nature-related benefits in terms of improvement or reduction in key drivers of biodiversity/nature loss) will be captured by this scorecard indicator. This can include (but is not limited to) the following illustrative activities on landscapes and seascapes for which results can be meaningfully measured in hectares (ha):

Protection and conservation:

New or enhanced Protected Areas and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in terrestrial (including inland waters) or marine areas – with Protected Areas as defined by the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#) as “clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated, and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”¹⁷

¹⁶ [International Development Association’s Twentieth Replenishment Mid-Term Review: Note on Nature Finance Tracking Methodology](#)

¹⁷ They may also include OECMs defined by the [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) as ‘a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in-situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values. These areas are a focus of the Convention on Biological Diversity to enhance the protection of biodiversity hotspots.

Other Biodiversity Conservation measures on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) or other biodiversity hotspots, and on improving biodiversity conservation by improving buffer areas or connectivity (e.g., ecological corridors), should be included. This should help reduce extinction risk and maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between species populations. The indicator will also capture areas benefiting from eco-tourism that helps improve habitats in protected areas, and buffer zones to enhance biodiversity protection, reduce biodiversity threats, and decrease illegal fishing, logging, poaching, and mining.

Restoration and sustainable management:

Reduced drivers of land and water degradation and restored or improved associated natural systems: this can include afforestation, reforestation, agroforestry, silvopasture, natural or assisted regeneration, wildlife corridors, buffer strips, other erosion and soil and water management in a watershed context, managed aquifer recharge, green-gray infrastructure, other nature-based solutions, floodplain and wetland enhancement, rehabilitating degraded lands with native, naturalized, or threatened species, slowing and reversing desertification, restoring natural habitats, restoring mining areas, sustainable energy systems reducing pressure on catchments (e.g., for fuelwood or charcoal), or other watershed management activities to reduce the drivers of degradation. For Seascapes, this would also include reduced degradation of marine and coastal ecosystems (e.g., mangrove and reef restoration, reducing coastal erosion, reduction of pollution). In cases where habitat degradation is not too severe, improved management to address key pressures may entail permitting natural regeneration to occur. Also included will be:

- **Improved native biodiversity** (flora, fauna, and fungi) and reduced invasive/exotic species.
- **Reduced pollution** (improving soil quality and water quality of water bodies (including stream and river floodplains, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and aquifers), reducing marine litter, and recovering contaminated land through green/gray solutions.
- **Sustainably managed production landscapes or seascapes**¹⁸ (e.g., agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry areas) may be included where practices are applied that result in demonstrable benefits to nature, restoration of degraded lands or benefits to the larger landscape (on erosion, biodiversity, downstream environmental flow regime, other environmental quality, or addressing fires or other ecosystem degradation). Areas that result in the conversion of natural habitat or other areas of tangible biodiversity value will be excluded. Special management zones to manage over-exploitation (e.g., for sustainable fisheries) can also be included.
- **Reduced wildlife crime and human-wildlife conflicts in targeted areas** (e.g., related to protected areas/OECMs or in their buffer areas).
- **Green and blue spaces in urban areas.**¹⁹
- **Special financial instruments, both debt and non-debt, that facilitate nature-related improvement in targeted landscapes and seascapes** (for areas where demonstrable nature results can be meaningfully expressed in hectares or equivalent). Some illustrative examples could include wildlife conservation bonds, biodiversity certificates, debt-for-nature swaps, and sustainability bonds.

These will be achieved through:

- **Natural Resources Management Frameworks:** enhanced monitoring, data/analytics, planning, knowledge and outreach, institutional modernization, and enabling policy frameworks and incentives for natural resources (including land, water, ecosystems) management.
- **On-the-ground Investments:** interventions in targeted spatial areas directly financed or guaranteed by the WBG for protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable management.

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/10>

¹⁹ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/502101636360985715/pdf/A-Catalogue-of-Nature-based-Solutions-for-Urban-Resilience.pdf>

The indicator **will include** the spatial dimensions (e.g., in hectares) of activities conducted on landscapes (including terrestrial and inland water systems) and seascapes that deliver measurable, positive outcomes for nature (see *Calculation* for typologies). Activities (e.g., agricultural yield improvement, irrigation, higher-density urbanization, water supply efficiency improvement, etc.) to improve resource efficiency, productivity, or resource footprint (e.g., reducing expansion into other ecosystems and additional pressure on natural resources) will be included if they have documented benefits to nature.

There are also many activities that will **not be included** to contribute to this indicator. Enabling environment activities (e.g., related to information/knowledge base, analytical tools, planning, and policies) without contributing to improving a spatial area in the lifetime of the activity will not be included. Areas that involve conversion of natural habitats and areas that are enhanced as offsets for project impacts will also not be considered.

ADVANTAGES

This new results indicator aggregates the results of WBG-financed work on protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable management practices on spatially targeted landscapes and seascapes to enhance natural habitats, enhance ecosystem services, and support community resilience in these areas. It partially reflects efforts to improve nature in targeted spatial areas. It helps provide a synoptic WBG perspective on work that can benefit landscapes and seascapes that are improved to help reduce and reverse ecosystems degradation. This indicator also relates to the Corporate Scorecard Vision indicator on key ecosystems. As habitats are threatened in these ecosystems, there is a stronger need for protection, conservation, restoration, and sustainable management.

Compared to many complex nature-related outcome indicators that are not consistently measured in projects, this simpler area indicator can draw directly from several existing indicators of areas that are traditionally part of IBRD/IDA project results frameworks. For example, projects currently reporting on “Terrestrial protected area under improved management for conservation and sustainable use” or “Areas restored or reforested/afforested” may already contribute to results reported under this indicator. Projects with an indicator such as “Shoreline with targeted coastal erosion control measures (km),” however, would require additional analysis for unit conversion from kilometers (km) to hectares. Indicators like “Land area under sustainable landscape management practices” may need a case-by-case analysis to consider if the area may be counted under this indicator.

The indicator directly contributes to achieving the ambition of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which is to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 (including 2030 targets to achieve 30 percent conservation of land, waters, and seas, and 30 percent restoration of degraded ecosystem areas; as well as to reduce biodiversity loss of high biodiversity importance, halve introduction of invasive alien species, reduce pollution to levels not harmful to biodiversity, enhance green spaces, and targets to halt species extinction, protect genetic diversity, and manage human-wildlife conflicts). It also helps achieve the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development,” SDG 15 to “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss,” and SDG 6 to “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.” Additionally, this indicator is aligned with the objectives of the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#), aiming to prevent, halt, and reverse the degradation of ecosystems in all continents and oceans by 2030. Lastly, it also contributes to delivering on the commitments/missions of the UN convention to Combat Desertification ([UNCCD](#)), the [Ramsar Convention on Wetlands](#), and the [Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals](#).

LIMITATIONS

This indicator relies on the assumption that included activities (e.g., protection and conservation, restoration, and sustainable management) result in a beneficial outcome for

nature (e.g., biodiversity or other ecosystem services). There are many ways to measure nature-related outcomes,²⁰ including changes in quantity/quality of vegetation, corals, or biodiversity, changes in erosion or sedimentation, water or land pollution levels, or other ecosystem health measures. These metrics are not easily combined into one outcome metric. The spatial indicator chosen here is a simplification of the extent of targeted landscapes and seascapes to reflect the impact of a wide range of nature-related interventions. However, the inclusion of targeted spatial areas will require demonstration of some of their natural benefits using other metrics. The indicator may overestimate benefits, as it does not account for the quality of nature benefits or significance of the area conversely, it may underestimate benefits if activities have nature benefits that cannot be readily monitored or expressed in hectares.

The indicator measures “direct” impacts of the activities but, as suitable robust methodologies are developed, allows for inclusion of “indirect” impacts (that can be expressed in hectares with nature benefits) through suitable ex-ante estimation and ex-post evidence. These could then help develop a more comprehensive approach to address the drivers of land/nature degradation.

Given the expansive nature of nature-related activities that can help improve ecosystems both directly and indirectly, there is difficulty in making this indicator capture relevant activities more comprehensively while still keeping it practical to operationalize. A balance has been proposed to focus on the more obvious targeted landscape and seascape spatial areas that have direct benefits from an ecosystem perspective. Many of the activities included (e.g., agroforestry, regenerative approaches, etc.) may not follow a strict, scientifically established definition and tend to draw on evolving paradigms of diverse techniques, technologies, and approaches. The indicator combines types of areas not often reported on together, which should give a more holistic, if necessarily constrained, perspective on the benefits that can be directly attributed to WBG-financed activities. Therefore, the indicator may put activities with very different effort or impact levels (e.g., protection, restoration) at the same level. Additionally, this single quantitative spatial metric does not directly reflect the other qualitative improvements made to the ecosystems or institutions strengthened.

The indicator considers an area eligible if the activities deliver tangible improvement in nature outcomes. It does not, however, reflect the level of effort (“how hard was it to do?”) or level of impact (“how much did it improve?”) of these activities, or the diversity of nature outcomes (“how many aspects of nature did it improve?”). Additional investments for additional impact in the same area under the same or other active projects will not add to this net area.

It may be difficult in some cases to represent this results indicator in area terms. For example, efforts to improve aquifer recharge or quality or waterbody/seascape areas may sometimes be better expressed in volume terms, whereas streamflow water quality improvement can sometimes be indicated as length. In the *Calculation* section, an effort has been made to indicate how an area equivalent could be used to make this as meaningful as possible with the current area units. Efforts will be made to provide spatial perspectives of the areas targeted (see *Double Counting* section below), but this may be more effective for past results than future targets given that exact locations for some proposed interventions may not be known *a priori*. It may also be difficult to get timely access to the data for reporting from the various Calculation types with supporting information from counterpart institutions. In addition, it will be challenging to identify and collect information on contribution of financial sector related interventions given that it will be difficult to collect information ex-ante and ex-post from financial institution clients on the area under enhanced conservation/management in their relevant portfolio.²¹

²⁰ <https://gbf-indicators.org/>

²¹ Although it would be useful to disaggregate the indicator in many ways (type of spatial area/ecosystem, type of activity, level of threat or opportunity, etc.), it would be difficult to source this level of detail in WBG financed activities. In addition, work in some contexts (e.g., sustainable watershed management) may require a combination of many approaches that will be difficult to disaggregate. Therefore, a simplified approach is proposed for sub-indicators.

Given the nature of this indicator, an area will be counted as qualifying at any time during the lifetime of an activity financed by the WBG, but sustainability after that will not be assessed. In addition, many of the interventions require several years to demonstrate some of their impacts (e.g., on mangrove rejuvenation, river sedimentation) and are difficult to measure meaningfully in the lifetime of a project.

DATA AND CALCULATION

INTERNAL DATA SOURCE(S)

- World Bank's Operations Workspace (PADs, PDs, ISRs, and ICRs)
- World Bank's Operations Workspace (Lending and Portfolio)
- IFC Operational Portal (iDesk/iPortal)
- IFC AIMM System
- MIGA E&S Portal Records (ESRS, Underwriting Paper, Clearance Memo, AMRs)
- MIGA DEIS
- MIGA Portfolio Records
- Other

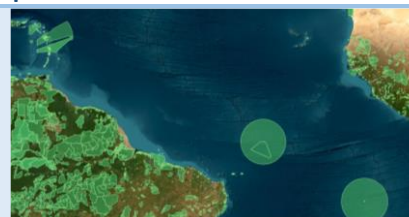
METHOD OF CALCULATION (CORE)

This indicator will be calculated by aggregating the values compiled from all eligible indicators. All these values are expected to be 100 percent included, without any “pro-rata” filter. In some cases, simple area conversions will be used if an eligible indicator is measured in some other spatial area metric (e.g., ha, m² or km²). In some cases, if a spatial area is provided as a shapefile or equivalent, these will be converted into “hectares.” Teams will use best judgement to classify the spatial areas as Landscapes or Seascapes.

There will be a need for processing in some cases to convert the relevant areas to “hectares” – some common cases are illustrated below.

Illustrative examples

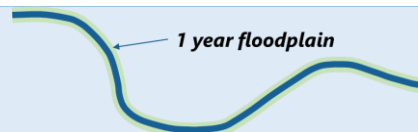
Protected Areas/OECMs: Area of designated new or enhanced terrestrial (including inland water) and marine protected areas and OECMs (Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures). For new protection, officially designated areas would be included. For existing areas, demonstrated improvement in management (e.g., using METT or other such relevant tools) will be required for inclusion.



Watersheds: The targeted small watersheds (e.g., [level 12 Hydrosheds](#)) that have been improved through WBG-financed or guaranteed interventions through improved sustainable land and watershed management practices, and green/gray infrastructure, including nature-based solutions. These will also include improved catchments upstream of water supply system sources. Measures such as improved NDVI (controlling for climate), estimation of erosion changes, or downstream benefits on water quality or environmental flow regime could be used to determine inclusion of these areas.



Rivers and Streams: To convert the relevant areas of improved rivers and streams (e.g., with improved water quality or biodiversity) due to WBG financed interventions, these will be conservative and use the area of the one-year floodplains or approximations thereof. These could also be adapted to determine the areas of other specific water bodies targeted (e.g., ponds, wetlands, marine area).



Improvement in appropriate water quality indicators (e.g., dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, Fecal Coliforms, heavy metals, etc.) would be used to determine inclusion of these areas.

Production Landscapes/Seascapes: These areas (e.g., plantations, agriculture, and aquaculture areas) may be included where practices are applied that result in demonstrable benefits to nature, primarily restoration of degraded lands or benefits the larger landscape (on erosion, biodiversity, downstream environmental flow regime, other environmental quality, or addressing other ecosystem degradation).

Demonstrable impact to benefit degraded lands or the large landscape will be required for these areas to be included.

Nature-based Solutions: These include actions to protect, conserve, restore, and sustainably manage **natural** and modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges and benefit both people and nature, and can be expressed in hectares.

Documented improvement estimating natural benefits of these solutions is required for the inclusion of the targeted areas.

Oases: Improved oases areas with improved vegetation cover, soil protection, water conservation, managed aquifer recharge, and improved biodiversity.

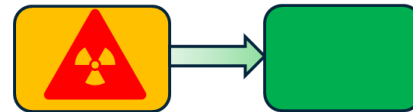
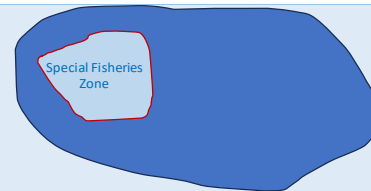
Documented measurable improvement in these aspects for the oasis areas will be required for these areas to be included.

Fisheries Management Areas: Area covered by fisheries management plans for fisheries management (e.g., minimum catch size, no-take zones, enforcement area where fishing is banned or controlled, gear restrictions) to promote sustainable fisheries.

Documented implementation of the nature impact of these plans in targeted areas will be required for their inclusion.

Other Polluted Area Rehabilitation: Polluted landscape (including terrestrial or aquatic systems) or seascape area rehabilitated under WBG financing with nature benefits.

Documented improvement of these areas for the pollutants targeted will be required for inclusion of these areas.



METHOD OF CALCULATION (DISAGGREGATION)

- **FCS:** Results are aggregated according to the most recent FCS list.²²

²² WB: [Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#)

- **Small States (SS), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and Least Developed Countries (LDCs):** Results are aggregated according to the most recent list of SS,²³ SIDS,²⁴ and LDCs.²⁵
- **IDA/IBRD/IFC/MIGA:** Project data are used to aggregate results by institution.
- **Region:** Project data are used to aggregate results by WBG region.²⁶
- **Country income group:** Results are aggregated according to the income level list.²⁷
- **WBG joint programming:** The standardized approach specified in the Corporate Scorecard Results Calculation Handbook is followed.

For more information, please refer to the Common Principles to Limit Double Counting.

PRINCIPLES TO AVOID DOUBLE COUNTING

This indicator has a significant risk of double counting as several different WBG-supported activities (in the same or different operations) may be active in the same spatial area. These are proposed to be mitigated by collecting spatial boundaries for areas (as indicated above in the *Calculation* section) and then merging them in Geographic Information System (GIS) analytics to avoid multiple counting of the same areas under different interventions. These spatial data will be more available for monitoring past results (where activities have been already undertaken in specific areas) but will be difficult for targets (mostly derived from the Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and other documents such as the Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS) without known exact locations for interventions), given the framework nature of many of these operations. Tools such as the World Bank Operations Workspace (with Geospatial workspace), IFC iDesk/iPortal and Anticipated Impact Measurement and Monitoring (AIMM) Navigator System, and MIGA E&S Portal will be leveraged to facilitate this data collection and integration.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS

Indicators and results measurement strategies are agreed upon between the project team and the client during project design. For IBRD/IDA, these agreements are part of the monitoring and evaluation system design, which includes the results frameworks that are reviewed at various instances during the Quality Enhancement Review (QER) and Decision Meeting stages prior to project appraisal and final approval. In addition, for some projects, separate monitoring and evaluation firms are hired to provide additional capacity and assistance to the client when needed. For IFC, input data will rely on the inclusion of the indicators at Board Approval stage. Data input is reported on by clients during AIMM monitoring process, with final results data collected during the terminal year of the project. For MIGA, input data will rely on the inclusion of the indicators at Board Approval stage and results will be collected as part of MIGA's results management system. Many of the activities may need to be reviewed by the respective institutions on a case-by-case basis to be included for reporting on this indicator.

In addition, with the roll-out of the new corporate scorecard indicator, efforts will need to be made to strengthen both staff and client capacity to effectively capture results in line with the definition included in this note. Upon completion of the annual reporting cycle, the reporting protocols will be reviewed and updated based on the feedback and experience of the focal points responsible for reporting to ensure data consistency and comparability across IBRD, IDA, IFC, and MIGA. Certain concepts may be deepened and clarified over time, while other aspects are added or dropped in response to new developments in technologies, policies, and practices. For example, the documentation required for determining nature benefits for inclusion is expected to be introduced and strengthened in future years. This methodology note will also be reviewed and updated periodically to capture lessons learned and to align with evolving definitions, concepts, and tools.

VERSION

Version 1. Revised May 22, 2024.

²³ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/smallstates/overview>.

²⁴ UN List of SIDS: [List of SIDS](#)

²⁵ UN List of LDCs: [List of LDCs](#)

²⁶ WBG regions are Africa West, Africa East, East Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, Latin America & the Caribbean, Middle East & North Africa, and South Asia.

²⁷ WB Data: [WB Country and Lending Groups](#)

THEORY OF CHANGE FOR IMPROVED LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

