Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme

Last Update 12th August 2025

The Endangered Landscapes & Seascapes Programme Results Framework Guidance

Introduction – Why collect KPI data?

In 2015, countries around the world signed up to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), a transformative plan to end poverty, protect the planet and to ensure all people live in peace and prosperity by 2030. The UN reviews progress every four years through the High-level Political Forum. The full list of SDGs and their definitions can be found here.

At the end of 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted by countries during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15) following a four-year consultation and negotiation process. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the GBF aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by enabling transformative action across governments and all of society. The GBF is working towards 4 goals by 2050 and 23 measurable targets for 2030.

In 2024, the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) came into force which has legally binding targets to restore at least 30% of the EU's land and seas by 2030, increasing to all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050. It requires EU member states to submit and monitor the implementation of national nature restoration plans.

The ELSP supports landscape and seascape restoration projects across Europe to restore natural ecosystem processes that deliver for nature, climate and people so measuring the impact on these outcomes is vital. By aligning the ELSP's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to the global frameworks (Convention on Biological Diversity, the SDGs and the NRL), we can show the collective contribution of projects and the programme to achieving nationally and globally agreed targets. This means we can provide the evidence to donors, decision makers and other stakeholders to support the development of policies to promote and to increase investment in large-scale restoration. We also use the data every year to report progress to Arcadia.

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Which data to collect?

We are all dependent on nature, and landscape restoration, as evidenced by the UNEP 2019 report[1] and recognized by the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, is a catalyst for achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The ELSP Programme Results Framework focuses on 16 KPIs which measure the programme's contribution to 7 of the 23 Global Biodiversity Framework targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and which underpin the achievement of all the SDGs particularly SDGs 13, 14 and 15. They comprise:

- A. The area of land and sea under restoration (Target 2)
- B. The area of land and sea newly protected (Target 3)
- C. The recovery of globally threatened species (Target 4)
- D. The mobilization of additional finance for conservation (Target 19)
- E. The combatting of climate change through mitigation (Target 8)
- F. The number of communities benefitting from the ecosystem functions and services provided (Target 11)
- G. Fostering the enabling environment (Target 20)

Annex 1 provides a table showing the link between the SDGs, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework Targets and the ELSP KPIs.

Who is responsible for collecting the data?

The **key performance indicators** for the programme will be monitored **annually** by project grantees through the annual reports which are submitted at the end of October.

Guidance notes for each KPI

The following notes should assist the data collection process. Note that we are cumulatively collecting the data so only record additional results, that build on those recorded in previous years. For some KPIs, care will need to be taken to avoid double counting.

[1] IRP (2019). Land Restoration for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: An International Resource Panel Think Piece.

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A – Restoration

Global Biodiversity Framework Target 2: Area under restoration

Target 2 aims to restore 30% of degraded land, waters and seas to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity. To meet this target governments are required to undertake an assessment of degraded areas within a country and report on the type of restoration that is being undertaken. As restoration is a long-term process, the target captures restoration activities that are underway rather than completed.

ELSP Definition: The area of degraded land or sea where key barriers to ecosystem recovery have been removed, and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem processes is underway or achieved. Restoration actions could include but are not limited to:

- Seagrass restoration
- Surveillance/patrols
- Natural regeneration
- Natural grazing by large herbivores
- Land acquisition for the restoration of nature
- Deer management that benefits restoration
- Bog/mire restoration
- Non-native conifer removal
- Invasive species removal
- Native woodland planting
- Clear cut restoration
- Riverine forest restoration

Unit of Measurement: The total area of land/sea (hectares) under restoration annually.

Measurement Methods: Retrieve information from GIS maps and/or project delivery/annual reports.

Evidence: GIS maps, before and after photos, management plans, management agreements, project delivery monitoring reports.

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B – Protection

Sustainable Development Goal 14 and 15

Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3: Coverage of protected areas and OECMS

Target 3 aims to conserve 30% of land, waters and seas. To meet this target countries are required to 'Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures…'

ELSP Definition: This KPI records the area of land or sea within the project landscape or seascape that has been given long-term protection, through a legal designation or recognition, as a direct or indirect result of project activities. This includes global, regional and national designations, including UN designations where they aim to protect nature (e.g. World Heritage Sites, Biospheres). It also includes private, non-governmental organisation or community-owned land, that is put under some form of covenant and/or agreement which restricts environmentally damaging activities (Other Effective Conservation Measures OECMs).

The Unit of Measurement: The total area of land/sea (hectares) that it is under some form of long-term legal protection. At the start of the project, grantees must provide the area of existing protected areas within the landscape.

Measurement Methods: Retrieve information from GIS maps and/or government decrees (legislation).

Evidence: GIS maps, Government Decree (legislation)

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C - Species Recovery

Sustainable Development Goal 15

Global Biodiversity Framework Target 4: Red List Index

Target 4 of the Global Biodiversity Framework aims to recover threatened species, maintain genetic diversity and manage human-wildlife conflict. The convention urges countries to 'Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, … including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices…'

ELSP Definition: The IUCN Red List species (CR, EN, VU) for which actions are taken that will improve their conservation status.

Unit of Measurement: The total number of IUCN Red List species (CR, EN, VU) for which project actions (direct, indirectly) are improving their conservation status annually.

Measurement Methods: For each ELSP-funded restoration landscape, a list of Red List species known or very likely to be present is compiled through consultation with the project team. For each Red List species, the project team assess in Column H whether project actions are likely to benefit that species using one of the categories below.

Present in landscape	Description
Yes	Species recorded as present in landscape
Likely	Anecdotal or occasional observations suggest species may pass through the landscape / occasionally be present / have been present in recent past
Maybe	Site and habitat are suitable for species, but status is unknown
Potentially	Thought not to be present, but site and habitat are potentially suitable for the species
No	Not present and not likely to ever be present e.g. marine species in terrestrial site
Unknown	No information about the species is available

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Depending on the year, for the IUCN red list species that are present in the landscape, in columns I to N, indicate whether they are directly or indirectly (secondary) benefitting from project actions.

Action being taken to restore	**Description**
Direct	In the past 12 months, restoration actions directly benefitting the species have taken place e.g. provision of food or structures for breeding, predator control, population supplementation, habitat restoration specifically targeted at this species
Secondary (Indirect)	In the past 12 months, restoration actions indirectly benefitting the species have taken place e.g. enhancement of habitat (to benefit other species as well as target), removal of invasive species (to benefit other species as well as target), reduction in other general threats such as hunting or pollution
Maybe	In the past 12 months, restoration actions which may benefit the species have taken place e.g. exact habitat preference is not known but some habitat enhancement has taken place
Unknown	Not enough known about the species to assess whether it is likely to benefit from any actions
No	Not aware of any action that might have benefited the species over the past 12 months
N/A	Not applicable, species not present

In columns Q to N, depending on the year of the project, include a couple of sentences to explain the action that is being undertaken.

Evidence: Photos, project delivery/annual reports.

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D – FINANCE

Sustainable Development Goal 15

Global Biodiversity Framework Target 19: Mobilising financial resources

Target 19 aims to mobilise US$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources including US$30 billion from international finance. The impact that ELSP projects are delivering, and the quality assurance provided by the programme assists them to raise additional funding. Sources are diverse, including trusts and foundations, multi-lateral funding agencies such as the European Union and the private sector.

ELSP Definition: A list of all the donors and the amount of additional funding they are providing to the landscape or seascape.

Unit of Measurement: The number of new donors giving funds to the project and the amount of additional funding raised by projects (US$)

Measurement Methods: The information to be retrieved from grant agreements and/or annual financial reports.

Evidence: Grant agreements, Annual Financial Reports.

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E – CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustainable Development Goal 13

Global Biodiversity Framework Target 8: Mitigating the impacts of climate change

Target 8 aims to minimise the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem approaches while minimising negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity. The EU target for net carbon removals by natural sinks is 310 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalents by 2030 so ELSP supported projects are making an important contribution to this total.

ELSP Definition: Using EX-ACT (EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool), a free online resource developed by FAO, this KPI provides an estimate of the amount of carbon that could be sequestered and/or emissions avoided (tCO_2e) due to project actions by 2043. It will always be a conservative estimate as the ELSP will only measure carbon mitigation where there is land-use change which is likely to be only part of the total land/seascape area. This will be used to estimate the GHG balance (storage/avoided emissions and sequestration) delivered by the project.

Unit of Measurement: Amount of carbon sequestered and/or emissions avoided (tCO_2e) over the next 20 years (until 2043).

Measurement Methods: The ELSP will support projects to undertake an assessment of the carbon mitigation potential at the start of implementation.

Evidence: GIS maps, before and after photos, project delivery monitoring reports.

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F – COMMUNITIES

Global Biodiversity Framework Target 11: Nature's contribution to people including ecosystem function and services

Target 11 aims to restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water, climate, soil health and pollination as well as protection from natural disasters, for example flooding and storm-surges, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.

ELSP Definition: The ELSP defines a community as a group of people living in a discreet area such as a village or town that is within or in close proximity to the landscape or seascape. To be included the community must be benefitting from an ecosystem service which is supported or maintained by project interventions. Using the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA), there are three broad categories of ecosystem service: provisioning services (non-timber forest products etc.); regulating and maintenance services (flood reduction, carbon storage, pollinators etc.); and cultural services (tourism, volunteering, recreation, spiritual). Please see the SEEA ecosystem services reference spreadsheet for a full list.

Unit of Measure: The number of communities within or in close proximity to the landscape benefitting from the ecosystem services supported or maintained by project interventions. Please provide the name of the community and the population number. In the spreadsheet identify from the dropdown list the main ecosystem service they are benefitting from (provisioning, regulating and maintaining, cultural). Please provide a description of this service in the notes column.

Measurement Methods: Projects should keep a record of the communities and the ecosystem functions and/or services they are benefitting from.

Evidence: Surveys, News stories, Meeting notes, Photos

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G – Fostering the enabling environment for landscape and seascape restoration

Global Biodiversity Framework Target 20:

Target 20 aims to ensure that relevant organisations and individuals have the necessary enabling conditions, know-how, technologies and other tools to successfully deliver the goals and targets of the GBF.

ELSP Definition: The ELSP has clustered 9 KPIs together under Target 20 as they are measuring the progress towards providing the enabling conditions for successful restoration. They are either contributing to:

> Improving the knowledge, skills, competencies and attitudes of organisations and/or individuals (including policymakers, planners, practitioners, and the public)
>
> Enhancing biodiversity governance, cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration, multistakeholder engagement.

Unit of Measurement:

1.4 Number of institutions (including local government, NGO, private sector, community-based organisations) participating in the project

2.1 Number of detailed, open-access case studies published on the project (e.g. describing approaches taken, lessons learned, and tools developed)

2.2 Number of published studies in peer review literature

2.3 Number of new tools, guidelines etc. supporting landscape and/or seascape conservation initiatives

2.4 Number of contributions made to knowledge fairs, conferences, workshops, databases, publications etc.

2.5 Number of people communicated with ***directly*** about the project and landscape restoration (e.g. at conferences, workshops, talks and events, organised walks, festivals etc.)

2.6 Number of people communicated with ***indirectly*** about the project and landscape restoration (e.g. via TV and radio programmes where projects are mentioned; Twitter; visits to stories on websites etc.)

3.1 Number of people who have received training that builds capacity for enhancing biodiversity & ecosystem processes

3.4 Number of people participating in exchange visits, study tours, mentoring programmes, site visits etc.

Measurement Methods: Projects should keep a record of all the above.

Evidence: Agreements with organisations/institutions that are directly involved in the delivery of the project; links to open access case studies, tools, guidelines and peer reviewed publications; contributions/presentations made to conferences, workshops etc.; the number of people communicated with directly; the number of people reached indirectly through social media; list of training events and the number of people participating in knowledge exchange visits.

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Annex 1: Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicators - Impact

	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Biodiversity Framework Targets	ELSP KPI
A.	SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss	Target 2: Ensure that at least 30 per cent of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are under restoration, ensuring connectivity among them and focusing on priority ecosystems.	Area of degraded land or sea (hectares) where key barriers to ecosystem recovery have been removed, and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem processes is underway or achieved.
	SDG 14: LIFE UNDER WATER - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development		
B.	SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss	Target 3: Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas ...	Area of newly designated protected areas (hectares).
	SDG 14: LIFE UNDER WATER - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development		
C.	SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss	Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species...	Number of IUCN Red List species for which actions are taken that will improve their conservation status
D.	SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND - Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss	Target 19. Increase financial resources from all sources to at least US$ 200 billion per	Amount of additional funding raised by projects (US$) and number of new donors giving funds to projects.

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	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Biodiversity Framework Targets	ELSP KPI
	15 a) Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	year, including new, additional and effective financial resources...	
E.	SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO2e per year to global mitigation efforts...	Potential amount of carbon sequestered and/or emissions avoided (tCO2e) by 2043.
F.	SDG 1: NO POVERTY - End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Target 9. Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species ...	Number of communities within or closely associated with the landscape that are benefitting from ecosystem function and/or services.
G.		Target 20. Relevant organisations and individuals have the necessary enabling conditions, know-how, technologies and other tools to successfully deliver the goals and targets of the GBF	Number of institutions (including local government, NGO, private sector, community-based organisations) participating in projects supported through the programme Number of detailed, open-access case studies published on the project (e.g. describing approaches taken, lessons learned, and tools developed) Number of published studies in peer review literature

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	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Biodiversity Framework Targets	ELSP KPI
			Number of new tools, guidelines etc. supporting landscape and/or seascape conservation initiatives Number of contributions made to knowledge fairs, conferences, workshops, databases, publications etc. Number of people communicated with directly about the project and landscape restoration (e.g. at conferences, workshops, talks and events, organised walks, festivals etc.) Number of people communicated with ***indirectly*** about the project and landscape restoration (e.g. via TV and radio programmes where projects are mentioned; Twitter; visits to stories on websites etc.) Number of people who have received training that builds capacity for enhancing biodiversity & ecosystem processes Number of people participating in exchange visits, study tours, mentoring programmes, site visits etc.