Sowing the Seeds for Scaled Up Ambition and Impact
Contents

Foreword 1

The FOLUR Impact Program: Mission and Design 3
- Our Value-Adds: Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts 3
- Where We Work 4
- Program Design 5

Key Achievements 7
- Pillar A: Program and Capacity Strengthening 7
- Pillar B: Policy and Value Chain Engagement 10
- Pillar C: Strategic Knowledge Management and Communications 14

Progress on CY22 Themes 17
- Gender and Women’s Empowerment 17
- Private Sector Engagement 19

Country Projects 21
- Contributions of Country Projects 25
- Country Spotlights 26

Vision for 2023 and Beyond 30
- Continue to Influence Global Engagement and Dialogue 31
- Kickstart Country Projects and Share Lessons Learned 31
- Build Coalitions Around Key Commodities 32

Annex: Impact Program Financial Summary 33

Foreword

Momentum is growing to drive food system transformation at all levels. At the UN General Assembly in September, we saw heads of state and institutions make the case for strengthening our food systems and ensuring they are resilient against future shocks and crises. At a recent G20 meeting, the chairperson’s statement called for sustainable food systems that use less of the world’s resources to feed its people. At the World Bank’s recent Annual Meetings, we consistently heard about the need for resilient agriculture and food systems investments.

After energy, food systems generate the most emissions of any sector. Yet food systems transformation is lagging behind the energy transition—and it is now clear we must change how we produce and consume food to meet the climate goals. We are now getting close to the climate tipping points, instilling more urgency than ever into this agenda. As the World Bank (WB) Chief Economist pointed out, “we are totally off course.”

The human impacts of large-scale landscape degradation are already severe and increasing, with population pressure and the growing demand for food. Intact ecosystems are critically important in ensuring resilient and sustainable food systems because they provide environmental services. The private sector contributes to deforestation and unsustainable food production systems but also has the potential to transform practices and bring in new investments. Meanwhile, women are seldom adequately recognized and must be fully empowered to shift towards more sustainable practices. Business-as-usual approaches cannot continue.

Two key priorities for responding to these multiple crises are supporting food producers and strengthening food systems to make them more resilient to rising risks. The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program advances both of these priorities while taking a whole of landscape and value chain approach. Indeed, the program seeks to promote sustainable, integrated landscapes and efficient food value and supply chains at scale—recognizing that food production systems and land use need to improve for the planet’s health.

This mandate is now more critical than ever. Over the past year, the FOLUR Impact Program has sown the seeds of change. Core partners have delivered key actions of the annual work plan, endorsed by the steering committee in March, advancing particularly on the gender and private sector agendas. Work has begun to assess the needs of countries for implementation over the seven-year project cycle, providing inputs into tailored capacity and technical assistance plans.
Meanwhile, implementing agencies are working with country focal points, conducting multi-stakeholder consultations, and setting up implementation units on the ground. While the 27 country projects are at different stages of implementation, they are all plotting a clear course forward. For example, in Ghana, project teams are laying the groundwork to strengthen natural and financial capital for smallholder farmers through improved soil fertility. Women working in groundnut, shea, and palm oil processing will earn savings and gain financial independence through village savings and loan associations. In Paraguay, in the Chaco and Alto Paraná Atlantic Forest regions, diverse stakeholders, including cooperatives, municipal and government authorities, and representatives of Indigenous communities, have come together to review implementation plans and collect data on key priorities. In China, the project has expanded to include Heilongjiang Province, with core indicators increasing around land restoration and emissions mitigation. Provincial and country-level management teams are working alongside local provincial experts to meet goals and targets.

As we move forward into 2023 and beyond, more country projects will become fully operational, with the ability to share lessons learned around key commodities, identify challenges and pathways forward, and establish what sustainable value chains look like in practice. The World Bank looks forward to leading this program toward scaled-up ambition and impact, with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the core partners, and the country projects.

Martien van Nieuwkoop
Global Director, Agriculture and Food Global Practice
World Bank
The FOLUR Impact Program: Mission and Design

The Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) is a $345 million, seven-year initiative supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and led by the World Bank. The program focuses on accelerating sustainability across the value chains of eight major commodities and food staples including cocoa, coffee, livestock, maize, palm oil, rice, soy, and wheat, seeking to transform agriculture’s environmental footprint. The FOLUR Impact Program consists of landscape-level interventions in 27 country projects; and a global platform, which communicates lessons learned across the country projects and global value chains.

OUR VALUE-ADDS: GREATER THAN THE SUM OF OUR PARTS

In addition to translating knowledge into action, the FOLUR Global Platform also utilizes the expertise, networks, and investments of the World Bank and five partners: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU), Global Landscapes Forum (GLF), Good Growth Partnership (GGP), and International Finance Corporation (IFC). Coordinating program delivery across these organizations allows the FOLUR Global Platform to identify new opportunities for collaboration and enhance key products and services. Financing from the GEF also mobilizes significant resources from donor agencies, recipient governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

Above: Shade agroforestry coffee production in Chiapas, Mexico.

Photo by Marx Torrens del Sordo/Forum for Sustainable Development, A.C.
WHERE WE WORK

The FOLUR Impact Program works across landscapes in 27 countries in Africa, North, Central, and South America, Eastern Europe, and Central, East, and Southeast Asia. The projects are distributed across globally important geographies for commercial agricultural commodities and food staples. Project interventions also target areas of high environmental value where improved management and restoration could yield global environmental benefits and improve the sustainability and resilience of local communities.
PROGRAM DESIGN

The FOLUR Impact Program is designed to transform our food systems based on sustainable land use and productive, healthy landscapes that contribute a range of environmental benefits. To achieve this vision, the Global Platform and country projects promote an integrated approach that emphasizes collaboration across private sectors, governments, financial institutions, land managers, research institutions, and civil society.

As the lead agency, the World Bank supports and coordinates implementing agencies, participating countries, and core partners to achieve transformational impact. The World Bank convenes the annual work planning process, facilitating collaboration on planned activities.

The platform focuses on activities and services related to program and capacity strengthening; public and private sector engagement; and knowledge sharing and communications. FOLUR also promotes a consistent approach at the country level with 27 country projects emphasizing the development of integrated landscape management systems, the promotion of sustainable food production practices, responsible commodity value chains, restoration of natural habitats, collaborations, and capacity building.

This Annual Progress Report, covering the period from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, aims to update the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other interested parties about the Impact Program’s progress and achievements. Each section begins with a summary of achievements and then provides more detail on the partners’ contributions. In future years, it will report on Global Environment Benefits achieved and broader impact, and provide more detailed reporting on country projects. The report is provided annually to GEF the December council meeting and is made available to partners, countries, and interested stakeholders through the FOLUR website.
Open terrain in Kazakhstan.

Photo by Mariusz Kluzniak
Key Achievements

PILLAR A: PROGRAM AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING

As the lead agency of the Impact Program, the World Bank initiated a process to establish and deepen connections with the country projects, beginning with the project kick-off inception workshops. The World Bank developed introductory material and worked with the Implementing Agencies (IA) to participate in the inception meetings to demonstrate the added value, opportunities, and knowledge resources that the Global Platform partners can offer in the country context, especially to countries in geographic or commodity-oriented groups.

Key achievements included GGP and FAO’s work to assess the capacity needs of country projects and synthesizing the results to inform tailored capacity building and technical assistance plans. This work will help to match knowledge and learning resources with the country-specific demand for capacity building on key themes. With the World Bank and other core partners, further efforts are underway to align global knowledge products and trainings with country project programmatic components.

In addition to this strategic planning, FAO is leading a learning platform for promoting efficient and sustainable production and management practices in FOLUR Impact Program country projects, called the Sustainable Production Landscape Toolkit (SPLT). FAO will produce tools and approaches to support integrated landscape management processes. GGP is leading several capacity-strengthening initiatives, including developing and expanding the GGP Community of Practice and its online platform and offering a series of Farmers’ Support System Strengthening sessions that improve systemic and multi-stakeholder collaborative approaches.

Above: Members of the Samburu Indigenous community attending a capacity building training session.
Photo by Acacia EPZ Ltd
FOLU is laying the groundwork for a FOLUR Policy Accelerator program in early 2023 to advance incentives for restoration in Guatemala, Mexico, Ghana, Kenya, and India. The team is socializing the program with key stakeholders in the countries, identifying people to serve as mentors during the Policy Accelerator Workshop, and taking stock of existing incentives and relevant public policies on low carbon and regenerative agriculture in each of the five countries.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

FAO will support FOLUR country projects with the Sustainable Production Landscape Toolkit (SPLT). When fully developed, SPLT will be a practical, demand-driven learning platform, including a “toolbox” of relevant and practical approaches to support the Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) processes. SPLT is an umbrella for harmonization and integration across FOLUR capacity and knowledge offerings. The SPLT will support a core component of all FOLUR country projects to advance “participatory and integrated landscape management and planning,” focusing on sustainable production and ecosystem restoration. The tool provides a framework and process through which country project teams can reconcile land management, production, biodiversity, and natural resource conservation in the FOLUR landscapes and beyond. FAO has advanced development of the SPLT toolkit through stocktaking and categorizing existing ILM tools, defining steps for further refining and “FOLURizing” these tools, surveying partners, preparing a country piloting approach, and organizing a technical working group that brought together expertise from across FAO. Through this development process, SPLT evolved from the idea of a toolkit to a broader, more integrated, guided process for informed decision-making and for supporting country project targeting.

FAO also linked FOLUR activities to a larger institutional effort on the true cost of food with the FAO Agri-food Economics Division (ESA) State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA), an annual flagship publication. Over the next two years, FAO, with FOLUR support, will expand the analysis to include FOLUR commodities and countries—a substantial opportunity to leverage global knowledge and engagement.

**Good Growth Partnership**

GGP—led by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)—is providing country project teams with advisory support, capacity building, and knowledge-sharing opportunities. GGP studied 15 country projects to understand more about key needs and specific areas requiring support, which led to a “Learning through Sharing” report with individual country project reports. In collaboration, FAO is analyzing the additional country projects, which have received funder endorsement.

GGP provided learning and training opportunities to country projects on accelerating food systems transformation through collaborative and systemic approaches. This builds on the Effective Collaborative Action (ECA) Methodology, a guidebook released in 2021. The guidebook shares lessons learned from more than 10 years of UNDP experience supporting multi-stakeholder collaboration for food systems transformation. In
2023, GGP will offer additional sessions that build on another strong GGP knowledge product and toolkit for strengthening farmer support systems. UNDP developed these innovative problem-solving workshops in partnership with Conservation International and built on a regional analysis of key extension services challenges and the assessments of country project capacities.

The Food and Agricultural Commodity Systems Community (FACS), the GGP community of practice, connecting more than 300 members, organized 18 learning events relevant to the Impact Program. Membership expanded to include FOLUR global and country colleagues, including 25 new regional and country colleagues engaged in supporting FOLUR Indonesia, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, and Thailand country projects. Effective Collaborative Action (ECA) discovery sessions were hosted through FACS with a first learning cycle on Facilitating Trust for Collaboration, which included masterclasses on systems mapping, dealing with difficult behaviors in real-world collaboration, and facilitating trust. These events reached 352 practitioners, including 34 practitioners involved under FOLUR at the global and country level.
PILLAR B: POLICY AND VALUE CHAIN ENGAGEMENT

Introducing the FOLUR approach into policy and private sector dialogues was a key achievement under Pillar B. Building on existing engagement with the World Bank and IFC, as well as GGP, World Resources Institute (WRI), and other partners, the Global Platform developed contacts and working relationships with several private sector commodity working groups. Several FOLUR partners are working to strengthen and sustain these relationships and identify practical opportunities to add value through contributions to standards, traceability, transparency and dissemination of knowledge products or policy briefs. For example, FOLUR supports work by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and FAO on the Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative, and GGP and Conservation International on technical working groups in the International Coffee Organization (ICO).

FAO integrated FOLUR concepts into relevant governing bodies and UN processes through products like background papers on the linkage between agricultural production and forest sectors. FAO also launched a scoping study to assess the contribution of global sustainability standards to agri-food systems. In addition, WRI, under the FOLU Coalition, is developing theories of change for deforestation-free value chains across beef, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, and soy. Rice value chains will benefit under the FOLU Coalition, with WBCSD leading the development of a Rice Resilient Landscapes Financing Facility.

GGP is introducing a global training program targeting the private sector that will focus on managing deforestation risk and investing in nature-based solutions. WRI and its partners are linking land restoration projects under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) to the 10 FOLUR country projects in Africa. IFC is working with FOLUR IAs in West Africa to promote investments in agricultural lime to reduce soil acidity and restore degraded lands.

Momentum is growing to drive change in coffee value chains: with Nestlé Nespresso in Uganda, IFC is working to sustainably improve farmers’ coffee yields. GGP is also offering training to FOLUR country projects and supporting resilient coffee landscapes through ICO landscape pilots and support for commitments to the Sustainable Coffee Challenge (SCC).

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO leveraged its role as UN system partner to “FOLURize” several key policy processes, resulting in discussions on issues and possible solutions related to FOLUR with FAO members and regional and national decision processes. The FAO-FOLUR team integrated key themes into a joint technical background paper on agriculture and forestry linkages for FAO’s Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and Committee on Forestry (COFO). For the first time, the two committees focused on FAO’s mandate to link agriculture production and the forest sectors more closely together. This is a potentially groundbreaking step in addressing the issue of deforestation by
promoting forest-positive agriculture and deforestation-free value chains. Building on this innovation, FAO will feature FOLUR topics in four additional background papers for COFO on investment, climate change and implementation of outcomes from the UN Food Systems Summit.

Under FOLUR and in coordination with WWF, FAO is conducting scoping work to explore the need for initiatives such as Codex Planetarius, a global system of minimum environmental and social sustainability standards for food produced and traded internationally. This effort incorporates lessons learned from the Codex Alimentarius and other models of global coordination for action on sustainability and trade. The Codex Alimentarius is a compendium of internationally recognized standards, codes of practice, guidelines, and other recommendations published by the FAO relating to food, food production, food labeling, and food safety. Ultimately, the aim will be to monitor the status of renewable environmental resources affected by food production and to provide incentives to farmers and countries to enter global markets. In 2023, a scoping study will assess the potential need and options for strengthening the contribution of global sustainability standards to sustainable agri-food systems.

**Food and Land Use Coalition**

Under the FOLU Coalition, the WBCSD is engaging the private sector in the development of a Rice Resilient Landscapes Financing Facility and is preparing to develop a sustainable rice nature-based solutions accelerator. The accelerator will be developed through extensive consultations with such businesses as Bayer AG, Corteva Agriscience, Shell plc, DBS Bank Ltd, climate finance specialist South Pole, and other key partners, including the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP).

The World Resources Institute (WRI) has identified community organizations and small- and medium-sized enterprises that are restoring degraded forests and agricultural land in Africa. A full list of the “Top 100” champion organizations can be found on the ARF100 website; 47 of these organizations have proposed projects in the 10 African FOLUR countries. WRI will work with AFR100 to provide technical assistance and resources to these projects and make connections with FOLUR country project leads. In the next year, selected organizations will use the WRI TerraMatch platform to access training materials and report their progress. WRI will use cutting-edge satellite monitoring techniques to independently validate self-reported data. It is also designing and tailoring tools to support FOLUR in monitoring progress on restoration and improved land management practices.

WRI is leading a process to assess and refine theories of change for key commodities. The coalition will convene key stakeholders across five FOLUR commodities—beef, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, and soy—to address deforestation-free supply chains; assess gaps in existing theories of change regarding deforestation-free supply chains; and consult with other leading experts (for example, Tropical Forest Alliance, GGP, FAO) to improve theories of change for each commodity. In late 2022, the team will conduct expert interviews to assess gaps in understanding and begin drafting global theories of change for each of the five key commodities.
Good Growth Partnership

In Indonesia, GGP delivered four training sessions to a network of banks, known as the Indonesia Sustainable Finance Initiative, attracting over 160 participants from more than 50 financial institutions. Increasing opportunities for uptake and institutionalization, the workshops were organized with the banking sector regulator, the Financial Services Authority of Indonesia (Otoritas Jasa Keuangan, OJK).

In Paraguay, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) offered training sessions to the Central Bank of Paraguay and the Paraguayan Roundtable for Sustainable Finance. Training was related to technical information on climate scenario analysis and financial Institutions’ investment/lending activities that consider land use, commodity production, and related deforestation and the implementation of the national financial law that makes environmental, social and governance reporting mandatory. More training and capacity building will take place in 2023, including a focus on agri-producers and cooperatives.

Conservation International is engaging with FOLUR coffee-producing country projects, including Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, and Peru to support the development of large-scale, innovative and transformative public-private partnerships that enhance the resilience of coffee communities at the landscape level. FOLUR country projects working on coffee will engage also with Conservation International to enhance transparency around sustainability commitments and investments.

International Finance Corporation

To reduce acidic soils, the norm in most West African countries, crushed limestone—known as agricultural lime or ag lime—can be applied to farmland. This practice, known in Europe since Roman times, is starting to emerge in Africa. In East Africa, countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, and Rwanda have established programs to popularize the use of agricultural lime. In West Africa, however, smallholder farmers, agricultural technicians, and policy makers typically have little knowledge of agricultural lime since it has not traditionally been produced in the region.

In Mali, leveraging IFC’s investment and advisory operation, the team is engaging with implementing agencies to support farmer uptake of agricultural lime to enhance productivity and hasten the restoration of degraded lands in acidic soils. This is also relevant for Guinea, Liberia, and Cote d’Ivoire among others. IFC teams are already engaged in preparation of training materials for farmers and field technicians in key crops like cocoa and rice. Once the materials are available, IFC will work with the local implementing partner on how to best use the manuals and incorporate them into larger scale country-project land management practices.

In Uganda, IFC is working on an advisory program with Nestlé Nespresso to revive coffee supply chains that have suffered from low productivity and quality due to social issues and the challenges of climate change. The project concentrates on reviving the
high-quality natural Arabica (Druga) coffee traditionally grown on the slopes of the Rwenzori Mountain range. The coffee sector has significant potential to improve farmers’ wellbeing and address a range of climate issues, including deforestation. A holistic approach is required to support farmers in improving yields sustainably to achieve significant development impacts. The project will improve productivity and build resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change through good agronomic practices (GAPs), enriched knowledge of agri-farm inputs and tools, enhanced nutrition through purposeful intercropping, and a tailored approach that aims at increasing participation of women in the value chain. IFC will track the land area under improved agricultural practices of the farmers that participate in the program. The project also aims to strengthen farmers’ business management capabilities and supporting them in becoming more entrepreneurial and financially literate.

Finally, in livestock, IFC publicly presented its *Practices for Sustainable Investment in Private Sector Livestock Operations* at the 12th Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Meeting. The practices can help livestock companies and investors understand what underpins sustainable investing in livestock operations.
PILLAR C: STRATEGIC KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

In partnership with GGP, the World Bank is building a hub for knowledge exchange across the FOLUR Impact Program, using the existing Food and Agriculture Commodity Systems website. The FACS platform is a space where practitioners can connect and learn. The World Bank and GGP are now discussing the creation of thematic groups based on the knowledge demands from the country projects.

The World Bank and core partners are mapping current learning products. The goal is to identify, categorize, and disseminate this vast store of readily available training and knowledge products from partners and align these opportunities with the needs of FOLUR stakeholders both in country programs and in the private and public sectors.

In addition, the World Bank team is refining a “learning track framework” for thematic (technical) tracks, covering introductory level, advanced level, and deep dives (master classes) as a way of organizing and prioritizing training. The framework is a simple matrix that combines technical (sectoral) themes with levels of mastery into a consistent set of offerings (curriculum) that practitioners and other audiences can access based on their depth of engagement.

Strategic Communications

In 2022, the World Bank, with the support of core partners, focused on telling stories around key themes such as gender equity and private sector engagement in sustainable value chains. FOLUR also engaged in global forums relevant to sustainable landscapes, including COP26 in Glasgow, the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, World Forestry Congress, and GLF Africa. The World Bank built communications assets for owned channels and put “brilliant basics” in place by agreeing messaging as a first step and then deploying this across FOLUR’s website, feature stories, and Twitter account.

In this initial communications phase, the World Bank focused on the primary stakeholder group of implementing agencies managing country projects, FOLUR core partners, and private sector stakeholders focused on FOLUR commodities. FOLUR’s core narrative and messaging, “building sustainable landscapes for people and the planet,” was established across communications channels and across relevant global engagements and dialogues. In partnership with GLF, the communications function of the global platform drove increased visibility for the FOLUR Impact Program and increasingly associated the program with key words on social media: sustainable, food systems, and value chains.

At COP26, the FOLUR Impact Program was formally launched at GLF Climate in a session entitled “FOLUR Impact Program Launch: Driving Climate Action through Food Systems Transformation,” with 4,300 online participants from 144 countries. The launch spotlighted the program’s achievements in Ghana, China, and Indonesia, while a recording of the launch was viewed over 60,000 times on GLF’s website and social media channels.
Tying in with AFR100’s partnership meeting in Blantyre, Malawi, and with GLF Africa, the World Bank team focused on the theme of building a restoration movement for Africa and scaling up forest and landscape restoration across communications channels from June to September 2022. Communications products included a GLF Live on gender equality in value chains and the FOLUR plenary “Achieving sustainable commodity value chains in Africa: Lessons and perspectives from cocoa” at GLF Africa.

Global Landscapes Forum

GLF has presented the FOLUR program and its integrated approach to a diverse audience, including Indigenous communities, farmers, youth activists, women, individuals based in the Global South, and people with limited internet accessibility. The voices of women are centered and uplifted in these dialogues, aligning with the key FOLUR theme of gender inclusion. GLF events have increased the global visibility of FOLUR. Figure 1 shows peaks for FOLUR mentions on Twitter, with GLF Climate in November 2021 and GLF Africa in September 2022 driving Twitter mentions. GLF events and social media campaigns draw connections between the FOLUR Impact Program and sustainable value chains more generally, with FOLUR often associated with key words sustainable, food systems and value chains on Twitter.

**FIGURE 1.** FOLUR Impact Keyword Mentions on Twitter, October 2021–September 2022

Volume, by month

![Graph showing mentions of FOLUR on Twitter from October 2021 to September 2022. Peaks are observed in November 2021 and September 2022.](image)

Source: SproutSocial

Note: Number of tweets per month; mentions through September 17, 2022

Cocoa grows in Ghana.

Photo by Ahtziri Gonzalez/CIFOR
Global Landscape Forum Climate

In November 2021, on the sidelines of COP 26 in Glasgow, the FOLUR Impact Program was launched at GLF Climate. FOLUR launch-related social media posts reached more than 28,000 people. This GLF campaign included multiple posts across all platforms, live tweeting during the launch, support from GLF social media ambassadors from all over the world, a GLF Live video news interview with GEF Senior Climate Change Specialist Pascal Martinez, a summary news article, and a press release issued to coincide with the event.

FIGURE 2. Overview of GLF Climate 2021 Participation

Participation

- 35% men
- 23% other
- 43% women

4,386 registered participants (481 registered in-person)

Geographical distribution of attendees

- 866 Didn’t say
- 647 Asia-Pacific
- 729 Africa
- 597 Latin America and Caribbean
- 451 North America

Ghana-community consultation-Jewia community-Sissala West.

Photo by Gayatri Kanungo/FOLUR
Progress on CY22 Themes

GENDER AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT

The FOLUR global platform program on Catalyzing Gender-Forest Landscape and Sustainable Food System Actions aims to ensure that each of FOLUR country projects identifies and implements clear, gender-related objectives and actions. An interactive guide to key gender-FOLUR resources for country projects implementing teams has been developed jointly with FOLUR partners. Under the gender working group, GGP is leading an assessment of gender activities in the country projects. It has so far demonstrated that all country projects ensure gender equitable participation in local natural resource management consultations and decision-making bodies; country projects must also provide an assessment of gender roles and opportunities for vulnerable peoples. Several country projects will be taking further innovative steps, such as behavioral change campaigns focused on influencing gender norms, gender-dialogues and social learning, and setting targets or quotas to ensure more inclusive community natural resource management groups. Lessons and successes from these efforts can be picked up and disseminated more widely across country projects.

GGP is working to develop a gender brief building on existing guidelines and examples of gender responsive interventions already produced by FOLUR core partners and other organizations. The aim is to provide Country Projects and relevant stakeholders with guidance on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) across key thematic areas. Through the gender working group, a gender expert is coordinating with the global partners to gather existing knowledge products related to gender and sustainable food, land use, and natural resource management. These will enrich the gender brief, together with a conceptual framework that includes key aspects of gender mainstreaming and standards on gender equality relevant to FOLUR thematic areas.

Above: Ghana-multicrop produce for market-Gudayiri community Wa east District.
Photo by Gayatri Kanungo/ FOLUR
All projects have planned or are involved in work with local partners prioritizing inclusiveness and gender and vulnerability-focused actions. Capacity and training efforts targeting women’s needs have begun. These include leadership, financial and technical training in landscape planning, agroforestry, forest management, and women’s extension services.

Measuring performance by including various gender-disaggregated performance indicators is another strategy country projects are taking, in some cases also introducing gender-sensitive grievance redress mechanisms. In Ghana, the FOLUR-supported and World Bank-led Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project has focused on key gender actions. Since May, key gender-related results include 56% female participation in the development of community watershed plans and 40 women serving as members of district management and planning committees.

In 2023, WRI will tailor the report On Equal Ground: Promising Practices for Realizing Women’s Rights in Collectively Held Lands to the FOLUR context by creating a diagnostic of key enabling conditions needed to foster women’s agency in FOLUR countries, with implementation guidance behind each condition.

“Measuring performance by including various gender-disaggregated performance indicators is another strategy country projects are taking, in some cases also introducing gender-sensitive grievance redress mechanisms.”
IFC is leveraging its client base and investment capacity to pilot or scale FOLUR technologies and approaches on the ground. They have prioritized livestock, coffee, soy, palm oil, and rice sectors given its investment and advisory footprint, with IFC clients in Vietnam, India, Indonesia, Uganda, Paraguay, Brazil, and Mexico. A major line of work has started around sustainable rice, which will progress further in the next reporting period in collaboration with other FOLUR partners.

Additionally, IFC organized a FOLUR-branded event in April on “Leveraging Private Sector Capabilities to Decarbonize Agriculture and Food Systems in Vietnam.” This private sector-focused event provided input to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Vietnam program “Spearheading Vietnam’s Green Agricultural Transformation: Moving to Low-Carbon Rice” and informed IFC’s planning for agri-decarbonization in Vietnam. Rice farming is responsible for 48% of Vietnam’s agri-sector GHG emissions. The event was organized in response to a request from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

GGP’s country project assessment identifies and categorizes private sector engagement activities foreseen by those projects and potential support needs. GGP also prepared an inventory of existing private sector-focused tools that can be deployed as soon as the country projects start implementation and the assessment yields guidance on needs. In addition, the Partnership has shared inputs to the World Bank initial mapping of relationships with roundtables and maintaining active engagement through the FOLUR Private Sector Working Group. GGP launched the Value Beyond Value Chains (VBV): Guidance Note for the Private Sector (version 2.0), with a focus on how the different national and subnational levels interrelate, and why and how companies can consider embarking on initiatives at those different scales. Through this product, which includes short case studies, GGP provides a concise set of practical, user-friendly guidelines for companies and the finance sector to understand why and how to engage with governments across geographies.
A cow in the State of Jalisco stands by a river of the Ameca-Mascota Watershed.

Photo by Cristina Nieto/Northwest Fund FONNOR A.C.
Country Projects

As the lead agency of the impact program, the World Bank initiated a process to establish and deepen connections with all 27 country projects, beginning with the inception workshops. The World Bank held a series of country check-ins to introduce the platform offerings and discuss areas of need and interest from the country programs, along with efforts to speed up movement toward full implementation. Establishing this introductory dialogue with each country project and implementing agency team is a key milestone as the FOLUR Impact Program moves to implementation.

**TABLE 1. Country Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Implementation Status</th>
<th>GEF Grant (US $ million)</th>
<th>Co-Finance (US $ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>Sustainable Multiple Use Landscape Consortia-Vertentes Project</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Not in execution: The project is being approved by the World Bank in November. Execution is expected for early 2023.</td>
<td>24,577,982</td>
<td>172,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project</td>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>Under execution.</td>
<td>6,000,000</td>
<td>31,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO/WB</td>
<td>Innovative Transformation of China’s Food Production Systems and Agroecological Landscapes</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>Under execution.</td>
<td>13,461,468</td>
<td>402,190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Preventing Forest Loss, Promoting Restoration and Integrating Sustainability into Ethiopia’s Coffee Supply Chains and Food Systems</td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected by end of 2022.</td>
<td>20,342,202</td>
<td>208,478,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Implementation Status</td>
<td>GEF Grant (US $ million)</td>
<td>Co-Finance (US $ million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>Landscape Restoration and Ecosystem Management for Sustainable Food Systems</td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>Under execution.</td>
<td>12,756,881</td>
<td>129,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Promoting Sustainable Landscapes in the Motagua River Watershed</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected by the first quarter of 2023.</td>
<td>11,162,802</td>
<td>60,017,006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Integrated Management of Degraded Landscapes for Sustainable Food Systems and Livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea</td>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>Not in execution: Project Management Unit is being established.</td>
<td>9,498,165</td>
<td>43,395,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Transforming Rice-Wheat Systems in India</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>Not in execution: The project is currently under review by the GEF Secretariat.</td>
<td>20,366,973</td>
<td>342,427,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP/FAO</td>
<td>Strengthening Sustainability in Commodity and Food-Crop Value Chains, Land Restoration and Land Use Governance through Integrated Landscape Management for Multiple Benefits in Indonesia</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Under execution: Inception workshop held late August, execution starting.</td>
<td>16,213,762</td>
<td>132,510,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Promotion of Sustainable Food Systems and Improved Ecosystems Services in Northern Kazakhstan Landscape</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Not in execution: Estimated PMU recruitment dates are late 2022–early 2023.</td>
<td>10,467,000</td>
<td>132,307,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Implementation Status</td>
<td>GEF Grant (US $ million)</td>
<td>Co-Finance (US $ million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Reducing Deforestation from Palm Oil and Cocoa Value Chains</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>Under execution.</td>
<td>7,139,450</td>
<td>66,999,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Integrated Landscape Management for a Zero-Deforestation Coffee Value Chain in the Central South and Eastern coast of Madagascar</td>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>CEO endorsed in December 2022.</td>
<td>10,980,788</td>
<td>28,884,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Integrated Landscape Management of Heart of Borneo Landscapes in Sabah and Sarawak</td>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>Not in execution: Project is under preparation for GEF approval.</td>
<td>7,368,807</td>
<td>90,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WB</td>
<td>Connecting Watershed Health with Beef Production (CONECTA)</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Under execution.</td>
<td>13,761,468</td>
<td>99,013,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Transforming Food Systems and Reducing Deforestation in the Protected Areas and Biological Corridors Landscapes from the Southern Caribbean Coast and San Juan River Autonomous Region</td>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected for November 2022.</td>
<td>5,354,587</td>
<td>48,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
<td>Project Name</td>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Implementation Status</td>
<td>GEF Grant (US $ million)</td>
<td>Co-Finance (US $ million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Promote Landscape Integrity and Sustainable Beef and Soy Value Chains in Two Key Biomes in Paraguay.</td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Not in execution: The country is working on the PMU establishment; no defined date for inception workshop.</td>
<td>8,189,450</td>
<td>47,568,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP/FAO/IFAD</td>
<td>Deforestation Free Commodity Supply Chains in the Peruvian Amazon</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected in Q1 2023.</td>
<td>13,561,467</td>
<td>112,149,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Wildlife Fund/US</td>
<td>Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration in Tanzania's Forest Landscapes</td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected by April 2023.</td>
<td>7,368,808</td>
<td>72,686,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Inclusive Sustainable Rice Landscapes in Thailand</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected by April 2023.</td>
<td>5,535,963</td>
<td>67,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>Promoting Integrated Landscape Management Approach for Conservation of the Mount Elgon Ecosystem in Eastern Uganda</td>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected by January 2023.</td>
<td>9,433,027</td>
<td>82,014,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>Promoting Sustainable Livestock Management and Ecosystem Conservation in Northern Ukraine</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop postponed TBD date as per new negotiations with Gov partner.</td>
<td>6,756,000</td>
<td>67,385,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food System, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program in Uzbekistan</td>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>Not in execution: Inception workshop expected in December 2022.</td>
<td>5,992,661</td>
<td>72,754,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food System, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program in Vietnam</td>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>Not in execution: The country is working on the PMU establishment; not a defined date for the inception workshop.</td>
<td>5,354,587</td>
<td>77,950,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTRIBUTIONS OF COUNTRY PROJECTS

The international FOLUR infrastructure is growing into an inclusive environment that engages all public and private sector stakeholders, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth.

In China and other project countries, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) frameworks maintain the standards of FAO and GEF environmental, social and Indigenous Peoples’ rights. The framework recognized under the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the basis upon which consent can be given or withheld for a project that may impact their livelihoods or territories. As part of this overall effort, training at the inception workshop in China’s province of Guizhou addressed women’s empowerment and engagement of ethnic minorities.

In Ethiopia, where Indigenous communities will be involved in participatory forest management practices and the development of integrated land use plans, Indigenous folk media forms will be used for education and awareness raising on sustainable production, conservation, and restoration.

In Guatemala, a manual on mainstreaming gender in sustainable food production systems is under development. At the same time, Guinea has subscribed to numerous international treaties that protect women’s rights and has updated several public policies.

In Kazakhstan, the project will work closely with the Agrarian Union of Women (AUW) of Kazakhstan, the lead national organization focusing on supporting rural women. Union members will be engaged in the task force group, in land use planning processes, and in promoting rural women’s education and sharing of learning through the National Experience Exchange Network.

In Liberia, the team saw a high degree of participation by women, with a showing of 44% at meetings about the project through concentrated outreach efforts.

In Nicaragua, an Indigenous and Afro-descendant Peoples Plan is preparing for implementation during the FOLUR project. Indigenous and Afro-descendant territorial governments sought the involvement of FPIC.

In Papua New Guinea, the project emphasizes the inclusive participation of female stakeholders, especially in commodity platforms. Therefore, a gender specialist will facilitate stakeholder consultation arrangements and required FPIC consultations to include women and conduct participatory explorations of how best to improve project benefits for women specifically and proactively.

The Peru project aims to identify and involve key organizations and community leaders in platforms linked to the sustainable management of territory and deforestation-free commodities, especially concerning land use planning, restoration, production, and smallholder support.

An analysis of the participation challenges facing Indigenous Peoples engaged in commodity production in Peru led to the preparation of an aligned Indigenous Peoples’ Plan, which will be revised and updated during the first year of implementation. Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) and an enforcement capacity-building strategy will be implemented, including the potential role and extent to which local communities—both settlers and Indigenous—could support enforcement in their territories—also for deforestation monitoring and forest management.
COUNTRY SPOTLIGHTS

Spotlight on Ghana

Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project in Ghana’s cocoa forest and savannah landscapes has been underway since March 2022. The project features gender equity as a key component of integrated forest landscape management and is starting to forge change in local communities involved in farming and tree crop production, including cocoa, shea, and cashew.

Women in the eastern Pra River Basin—known for forested cocoa growing areas, fertile farmland and gold mines—face challenges due to limitations on rights to land ownership, control of assets and jobs, exacerbated by low earning power and financial literacy skills, which together often restrict their ability to participate in decision making.

Designed to improve both financial independence and give women a bigger voice by empowering them with more resources to bolster food security, the project is already sensitizing communities on diversification of women-led livelihood options as part of the watershed and land-use planning in Ghana’s cocoa districts.

Village Savings Loans Associations (VSLA), one project activity, are a transformational tool providing farmers ease of access to funds. VLSAs promote income-generating options, including dry season gardening, making and selling bamboo handicrafts, producing honey from beekeeping, and making shea nut-based soap. Benefiting from savings earned under VSLAs, women can independently invest in women-led industries and basic household needs, including education fees for their children. Removing the critical cocoa supply chain focuses on improvements in storage and post-storage processing, which is also integral to transforming community investments to become more sustainable.

Generating local and global benefits for an estimated 24,800 women and 37,230 men beneficiaries in target cocoa districts through improved land management practices in the Ghanaian landscape goes a long way to ensuring the FOLUR project will meet the country’s development priorities.

Spotlight on Paraguay

The Paraguay FOLUR project is underway. Government goals include improving and implementing environmental sustainability practices across soybean and beef value chains.

After CEO endorsement, the implementing agency, UNEP, and the executing agency, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), signed the agreement in January 2022.

Currently, the project is in its inception phase, accomplishing a list of initial preparatory tasks, including staffing, workshops with partners and stakeholders, and an official launch event. A coordinator has been hired, and the selection process for key staff is underway.

Meetings with local stakeholders in the field and partnering institutions have continued the momentum created during the development phase to fine-tune coordination and start activities on the ground. The formal project launch event date was held on Sept. 28, 2022, in the capital Asunción, with a broad range of partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries, and both national and local authorities participating.

Since the approval of the project, the executing agency and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADES) have maintained contact with local stakeholders in the intervention areas to generate synergies and establish lines of work with each sector of the soy and beef supply chains.

In the case of Chaco (Western Region), located in the northern part of Paraguay, the project has been shared with cooperatives, municipal and government
authorities, and representatives of Indigenous communities to present the intervention proposal. In addition, data collection on the priorities of each sector helped bring beneficiaries to the project. In the same way, the project was presented in the Alto Paraná Atlantic Forest region (BAAPA) to the different public and private actors in the soybean and beef value chains.

**Spotlight on China**

Projects in China kicked off in December 2021 with a hybrid online and onsite inception workshop. The projects are designed to aid in transforming food production systems through an integrated landscape and value chain approach.

With a focus on several provincial rice, wheat, and maize-growing agroecological regions, goals include generating policies and standards that will create sustainable value chains at a national scale. Sustainable agricultural transformation is strategically significant for rural revitalization in China.

Provincial and county-level management teams and project management offices, including the Chief Technical Advisor, Landscape and Ecology Consultant, Sustainable Agriculture Consultant, and Climate Smart Agriculture Consultant, will work alongside local provincial experts to meet goals and targets.

An additional project demonstration area in Heilongjiang Province was agreed upon in 2022, and core indicators on land restoration, an area of landscape under improved practices, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and the overall number of direct beneficiaries measured by gender increased accordingly.
Spotlight on Liberia

Reducing Deforestation from Palm Oil and Cocoa Value Chains in Liberia

A vital and robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) plan for the Reducing Deforestation from Palm Oil and Cocoa Value Chains in Liberia project is underway, engaging partners and stakeholders. Designed to ensure inclusiveness and participation of key stakeholders and partners, MEAL supports activities and clarifies roles and responsibilities. A dedicated manager to drive and spearhead the stakeholder engagement processes in the MEAL plan development is an essential part of the strategy.

An inception workshop to raise awareness about the project was held. Participants provided valuable feedback, including updating project stakeholders and other ongoing initiatives—instrumental for establishing collaborations and synergies. It attracted participants from the government, local and international nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia, and local communities.

Overall, seven engagement meetings with stakeholders identifying their specific roles and responsibilities and the benefits the FOLUR Liberia project will offer were held. A total of 201 people—112 men and 89 women—participated. To achieve a high number of women attendees, the team made them feel welcome, sending them invitations and encouraging them to join. In addition, the FOLUR Liberia team has a gender officer who ensures that gender issues are considered and mainstreamed throughout the project.

Spotlight on Mexico

Connecting Watershed Health with Sustainable Livestock and Agroforestry Production in Mexico

Cattle ranching in Mexico leads to overgrazing and land degradation, which includes deforestation and depletion of water resources. The Connecting Watershed Health with Sustainable Livestock and Agroforestry Production Project (CONECTA) works to help 10,000 targeted farmers shift to sustainable and climate-smart livestock and agroforestry practices and promotes integrated landscape management (ILM) through inter-sectoral collaboration.

CONECTA was launched in October 2021 through a virtual event as part of a Week for Knowledge Exchange for Conservation hosted by the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (Fondo Mexicano...
para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, AC [FMCN]), the executing agency. The launch was attended by 526 people—at 51%, women just slightly edged out men. Participants included 13 Indigenous members identifying as Na’huatl, Tsotsil, Tseltal, Popoloca, Maya, Zoque, Mixteca, Chinanteca, and Otomí. Calls for proposals for project financing closed in April 2022. Three-day inception workshops with the selected local organizations supported the beneficiary producer groups in the four targeted states, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Jalisco, and Veracruz, in July and August 2022.

Now, joint efforts are underway by FMCN and the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), supported by the World Bank and FOLUR, to restore 10,500 hectares of land currently under assessment. Also supported is the promotion of ILM through different means to extend improved climate-smart practices on a targeted 450,000 hectares of land in 15 prioritized watersheds across a range of agroecosystems.

Promoting landscape restoration, conserving biodiversity, and enhancing the ecosystem services required to keep the livestock sector productive will shore up the sustainability of rural livelihoods and promote interest among youth to follow in the footsteps of their producer parents. CONECTA is also working on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 1.2 percent of Mexico’s Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change linked to land-based sectors.

The project should provide sustained benefits for 20 years and constitute a net carbon sink of 1.64 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e), 1.2 percent of the Nationally Determined Contributions mitigation target for the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector by 2030.
Vision for 2023 and Beyond

In 2023 and beyond, the FOLUR Impact Program anticipates that most country projects will reach the implementation stage, establishing a new dynamic for adding value and benefit from deepening global-local collaboration. Global Platform partners will accelerate support to Country Projects through knowledge exchanges, training, and technical assistance. GGP’s Food and Agriculture Commodity Systems Community of Practice will fully establish and function as the platform for deepening global-CP interactions and responding to needs. Global Platform partners will host the first in-person FOLUR Annual Partner Meeting to build understanding and practical working relationships among core partners, implementing agencies, and country project teams. The FOLUR global platform will continue to prioritize engagement with country projects, working through IAs, beginning with inception workshops to demonstrate how the Global Platform can help country teams kickstart implementation on the ground and provide resources.

As in FY22, the FY23 work planning process started in November, beginning with a consultation process with core partners to map and cluster expected activities, actions, and deliverables for the coming year. The World Bank will convene and coordinate the process, integrating input from core partners and needs defined by the country projects into the forward-looking work plan. The process will include collaborative working sessions and GLF events, where partners can build related activities and maximize synergies. The work plan will feed into the first annual partner meeting and a steering committee endorsement of the work plan by the first quarter of 2023.

The Global Platform will also be building out its capacity-strengthening activities for country projects, including various training and learning workshops, guidance on licensing and traceability in commodities, and gender-related knowledge products. The Global Platform
will also further develop a system to capture country project needs and disseminate useful, successful lessons and approaches across countries and commodities, developing best practice knowledge products (briefs, case studies) to meet the needs and gaps prioritized by country projects. These knowledge products and lessons from the field will continue to deepen and enrich the content offerings on the FOLUR.org website. Outreach activities will continue to ensure that these materials are widely recognized and available to practitioners and policymakers beyond the core FOLUR stakeholders.

In the next financial year and beyond, FOLUR will:

**CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND DIALOGUE**

FOLUR and partners will continue engagement with global dialogues at major international summits, including the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 in December and the Global Forum for Food and Agriculture in January 2023. Other key milestones may include the UN General Assembly, additional GLF events, the Borlaug Dialogue and others. FOLUR will continue to engage and deepen opportunities for dialogue and collaboration with the private sector through key commodity roundtables, such as the International Wheat Congress, the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and the Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.

**KICKSTART COUNTRY PROJECTS AND SHARE LESSONS LEARNED**

The FOLUR Impact Program will help to set up the building blocks for the 27 country projects and begin sharing lessons across geographies and around the key commodities of livestock, cocoa, coffee, maize, palm oil, rice, soy, and wheat. In a positive feedback loop approach, challenges, opportunities and lessons learned will be shared by the country projects to the Global Platform and vice-versa.

Led by UNDP in collaboration with the FOLUR Gender Working Group, the assessment of gender activities and resources provides a solid basis for a demand-led gender training plan targeted to countries’ needs – which will be rolled out in full in 2023. Several FOLUR Country Projects, including Mexico and Madagascar, are looking to build in-country capacity to apply an innovative new Women’s Empowerment Standard (W+ certification, in collaboration with PROGREEN) to their projects, and W+ training materials that will be shared with all CPs are under development.
BUILD COALITIONS AROUND KEY COMMODITIES

Sustainability issues are increasingly taking center stage in the global food and agriculture industry, where private sector collaboration to address these systemic challenges is now emerging. This model is known as pre-competitive collaboration, where companies work together to address issues that are limiting the industry’s overall health and growth. These traditional competitors share resources, expertise, knowledge, and reach to stakeholders and development partners to develop solutions to address common concerns. In FOLUR value chains, pre-competitive partnerships are nurtured through commodity roundtables and private sector convening organizations.

FOLUR intends to support the pre-competitive model and assist companies across key value chains to translate commitments into action, focusing on areas where partnerships can move the needle faster. On commodity focused and private sector engagements, FOLUR will continue to define and advance strategic opportunities to add value, recognizing the dynamics and challenges of each value chain. Some key areas where FOLUR may help to reduce risk and remove barriers for private sector investment and impact include: supporting standards alignment and consolidation; developing guidance on operationalizing standards; advising on design of communications campaigns to raise awareness and change behaviors; producing knowledge products to address key industry gaps; and facilitating public-private dialogues in countries and landscapes.

Moving into 2023 and beyond, the World Bank looks forward to working with our core partners, country projects, GEF and all actors across the food value chain to bring transformational change and sustainability.
FOLUR Impact Program comprises a Global Knowledge Platform project and 27 country projects. The table below summarizes the total budget allocation across the program.

**TABLE A.1.** FOLUR Global Impact Program Resource Allocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Allocation Category</th>
<th>GEF Grant Amount* (US$ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FOLUR IP Overall</td>
<td>307.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Country Projects</td>
<td>278.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Platform Project</td>
<td>29.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Does not include agency fees.

Implementation of the 27 country projects has recently begun with a view to achieving expected outcomes until 2027. As the activities and work planning advance, the country projects are expected to report disbursement progress in calendar year 2023.

As a result of the FOLUR Global Platform’s annual strategic planning process, the steering committee approved activities to support the effective delivery of commitments. The core partner activities are a significant component, covering all three strategic pillars of the Global Platform. The FOLUR Global Platform has made notable progress towards advancing core partner activities, as reflected in the current disbursements and commitments, as shown in Table 2. Core partner and World Bank activities continued to advance with significant progress towards private sector engagements, convening, and representation of FOLUR in global and regional events.

**TABLE A.2.** FOLUR Global Platform Budget Utilization (as of November 2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget/Spending Category</th>
<th>US$ million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEF Approved FOLUR Global Platform Project Budget</td>
<td>29.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Total allocation/commitment amount to core partners*</td>
<td>18.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1a. Payments to core partners</td>
<td>5.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. World Bank allocation amount</td>
<td>10.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a. World Bank commitments and disbursements</td>
<td>1.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Uncommitted balance</td>
<td>9.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Allocation/grant commitment amount is the amount allocated/signed in contracts with core partner agencies (IFC, CIFOR, FAO, UNDP and WRI).