



Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Program

The Challenge

According to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, holding the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels will require 45 percent CO₂ emissions reductions by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, and reaching net-zero emission globally by 2050.

Countries need to roll out coherent strategies and operationalize investment pipelines that pursue deep decarbonization pathways. This will require holistic and cross-sectoral approaches, which are often hindered by fragmented or incoherent decision-making structures and slowed down by mis-aligned incentives and subsidies. Such integrated approach needs to be built upon the growing evidence showing that the twin threats of global biodiversity loss and climate change are inextricably linked. There is considerable scope and opportunity for harnessing synergies, and a strong need to minimize tradeoffs. With the urgency to tackle both threats toward achieving carbon neutral, nature-positive, and reduced pollution economies, we need to act now to support countries making informed decisions on how to the embark swiftly towards decarbonized economies, while protecting nature at the same time.

The Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator Integrated Program

The Net-Zero Nature-Positive (NZNP) Accelerator Integrated Program aims to accelerate the implementation nature-positive and net-zero pathways by investing in nature and new technologies. The program aims to push the ambition of national climate plans beyond the current levels and contribute to closing the gap between the expected combined impacts of adopted national policies and the well-below 2°C path enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

Supporting a whole-of-government approach, the program will help countries to prepare and implement long-term strategies that are consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, translate them into short- and medium-term targets and with coherent and enforceable policies. It will then invest in pipeline of projects focusing on innovative climate technologies and nature-based solutions, to move swiftly from planning to implementation.

The program is one of the 11 Integrated Programs under GEF-8. It is expected to start implementation in the second half of 2023.

The Program Delivery Framework

Depending on the country context and readiness, specific objectives to be supported by the NZNP Accelerator Integrated Program will include the following:

- Support the adoption of net-zero strategies and policies that are coordinated with national biodiversity conservation and land degradation strategies and objectives.
- Contribute to the effective integration of the climate and biodiversity agendas at the national and global level.



- Invest in NZNP-aligned pipelines of projects that generate multiple global environmental benefits.
- Support the development of robust data systems to monitor progress towards NZNP targets.

The program will require integration at three levels:

i) across sectors: requires a system approach and the participation of relevant line ministries; ii) across value chains; and iii) across governance: integrations across national and local governments, civil society as well as across the public and private sectors.

The NZNP Accelerator Integrated Program will prioritize countries with the highest level of political commitment to net-zero targets. It will also work closely with private sector coalitions to galvanize its engagement and increase likelihood of adoption of private sector commitments to NZNP targets.

Expected Impacts

Decarbonization of economies while protecting nature and reducing pollution offer significant opportunities for shaping healthy environments and can contribute substantially to the post-pandemic economic recovery, including by supporting the alignment of domestic stimulus packages and international climate finance flows to the principles of the build back greener agenda.

By advancing the integrated approach, the NZNP Accelerator Integrated Program will complement the bottom-up processes to develop and implement Nationally Determined Contributions, with top-down actions that fully integrate biodiversity and land degradation neutrality in climate mitigation policies and investments. As a result, the program will contribute to generate multiple global environmental benefits and practical lessons beyond those created by programming solely within the GEF Focal Areas.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. Its grants, blended financing, and policy support helps developing countries address their biggest environmental priorities and adhere to international environmental conventions. Over the past three decades, the GEF has provided more than \$22 billion and mobilized \$120 billion in co-financing for more than 5,000 national and regional projects.

Contact for Net-Zero Nature-Positive Accelerator IP:

Filippo Berardi
fberardi@thegef.org