



## Annual Narrative Progress Report

Reporting Period: 1 January – 31 December 2021

<b>Programme Title &amp; Project Number</b> <b>Programme Title:</b> Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy for the GFCR <b>Programme Number:</b> [Refer to <a href="#">GATEWAY</a> ]	<b>Programme Location</b> <b>Country/ies:</b> Global
<b>Recipient Organisation/s</b> UNEP	<b>Programme Duration</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Start Date<sup>1</sup>: 1 January 2020</li><li>• End Date: 31 December 2030</li></ul>
<b>Total Approved Budget</b> <b>Total GFCR Budget:</b> USD 200,000	<b>Report Submitted by:</b> <b>Name:</b> Gabriel Grimsditch <b>Organisation &amp; Title:</b> Programme Management Officer, United Nations Environment Programme <b>Email address:</b> <a href="mailto:gabriel.grimsditch@un.org">gabriel.grimsditch@un.org</a>

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<sup>1</sup> The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MPTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MPTF Office GATEWAY](#)

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## Executive Summary

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UNEP has made significant progress in developing a Monitoring & Evaluation strategy which will be critical in measuring the successes and challenges of the Global Fund for Coral Reefs. A draft M&E strategy has been produced by two expert consultants hired by UNEP (Dr Simon Harding and Dr Margaux Hein) and is being reviewed to be ready for submission to the Executive Board in Q2 2022.

As part of the M&E strategy, indicators to monitor have been developed, including fund-level indicators, outcome-level indicators, sector-based indicators, and programme-level indicators. Methodologies to develop each indicator will be developed as an important next step.

Furthermore, a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) has been developed comprising of a diverse group of 31 experts (with strong gender and geographic balance) representing expertise from coral reef ecology to socioeconomics to sustainable blue economy. The STAG is providing critical review to the development of the M&E strategy and indicators.

### I. Purpose

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UNEP is responsible for developing and implementing the overall Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the Global Fund for Coral Reefs. Monitoring and Evaluation is critical for understanding the success, challenges and progress being made by the various investments made by the GFCR, as well as for providing learning and feedback to interventions on how they could improve their activities. The overall goal of the monitoring and evaluation strategy is to monitor the impacts, both positive and negative, of funded GFCR interventions on the environment and the livelihoods of coral reef communities.

The main objective and expected outcome of this work stream is a finalized and approved Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, including indicators and methodologies for measuring, as well as a monitoring plan and baseline assessments for each intervention funded by the GFCR.

### II. Results & Implementation

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#### A. Outputs & Activities

UNEP has hired two expert consultants, Dr Simon Harding and Dr Margaux Hein, to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy for the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, as well as the indicators and methodologies for monitoring the various investments made by the GFCR. Dr Harding and Dr Hein have also developed and coordinated the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the GFCR.

The overall goal of the M&E strategy is to monitor the impacts, both positive and negative, of the funded interventions on the environment and on the livelihoods of coral reef communities. A draft M&E strategy has been developed and will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval in Q2 2022. The draft M&E strategy is included as Annex I to this report.

The draft M&E strategy has been designed to be:

**Participatory:** An inclusive approach to actively engage a range of stakeholders, including community members in M&E activities

**Results-based:** Based on the theory of change of the GFCR, making sure that programmes monitor the achievement of clearly stated results, and

Adaptive: Ensure the capacity to facilitate learning opportunities and incorporate adjustments to maximise positive project outcomes.

The main components of the M&E strategy align with the GFCR Core and Sector-based Principles and Safeguards, contribute to agreed programme development plans, monitor both the biophysical and socio-economic conditions at intervention sites, monitor the financial performance of investments and businesses, support building and maintaining capacity, monitor the engagement process through awareness and uptake, and inform the overall management of the fund.

Adaptive management is central to the M&E strategy with an adaptive project cycle that is organised around three main phases: a planning phase, an implementation phase, and an evaluation and learning phase; with 6 key steps across those three phases. This project cycle and steps will form the backbone of the M&E toolkit which is still under development but will provide step-by-step guidance for convening agents to plan and implement their M&E strategy.

The M&E strategy is arranged around 5 categories of indicators. The first two categories, fund and outcome-level indicators are core indicators, also known as GFCR signature indicators. Additionally, there are sector-based indicators, programme-level indicators, and investor-level indicators.

The Fund-level indicators are designed to capture biophysical, socio-economic and financial information to monitor how well the Fund is doing against its overall goal. There are 9 Fund-level indicators measuring ecological impact, reduction of drivers of coral reef degradation, financial variables, contributions to SDGs, success in building resilience of coastal communities, and contributions to global coral reef monitoring impacts of climate change. Fund-level indicators will be compulsory for all programmes supported by the fund.

Outcome-level indicators are also core- compulsory indicators, but only as appropriate for specific outcomes that each programme has selected. There are 4 outcomes for the GFCR. Outcome 1 is to protect priority coral reef sites and climate change refugia. Outcome 2 is to transform the livelihoods of coral reef dependent communities; Outcome 3 is associated with restoration and adaptation technology, and Outcome 4 is linked to the recovery of coral reef-dependent communities to major shocks. Each have three specific indicators developed to measure their success.

Sector-based indicators are currently under development in close collaboration with the Equity Fund, building on the previous collaborative work in September and October 2021.

Programme-level indicators will be developed on a one-on-one basis with convening agents depending on their needs and their programme's specific goals and objectives.

Investor-level indicators are additional indicators that will be required of convening agents if they are funded by specific investors through the equity-fund. The indicators will be developed by the equity fund with technical support from UNEP.

An important next step for UNEP's work will be co-developing methodologies with the convening agents for measuring and reporting the M&E indicators.

A key step to developing the M&E strategy was to develop and appoint a Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for Monitoring and Evaluation (STAG) for the GFCR. A TOR for the STAG was developed and invitations sent to experts in Q4 of 2021. The TOR and STAG list are included as Annex II to this report. The STAG is currently composed of a diverse group of 31 experts with a range of expertise from coral reef ecology to socioeconomics and sustainable blue economy. The experts also represent various backgrounds, from leading academics to government officials and coral reef managers. The group is comprised of 14 women and 17 men, with 6 members from the "global south".

The first orientation session of the STAG was organized in January 2022, and the STAG has already been involved in an in-depth review of Fund- and Outcome level indicators. The next proposed task for the STAG is to review the sector-level indicators by Q2 2022.

Two associated products are currently being developed by UNEP and partners which will assist the implementation of the M&E strategy. Firstly, an M&E toolkit is being developed by UNEP, which is a step-

by-step process document to guide funding recipients and convening agents through the project monitoring and reporting processes required by the M&E strategy for the GFCR. Secondly the GFCR knowledge management system (KORAL<sup>2</sup>) is being developed by UNDP in collaboration with GFCR partners including UNEP. Relevant information collected by the M&E process will be shared to the public via KORAL to facilitate learning and demonstrate successes of the GFCR activities.

## B. Implementation Status

Outputs & Activities	Indicators / Deliverables	Target Completion	Implementation Status & Actual Completion Date
Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy	M&E Strategy approved by the Board	April 2022	In progress
Development of core and outcome-level indicators	List of indicators approved by the Board	April 2022	In progress
Methodologies to monitor indicators co-developed with convening agents	Methodologies for measuring indicators approved by the Board	June 2022	In progress
Science and Technical Advisory Group to the GFCR	Science and Technical Advisory Group to the Fund finalized	December 2021	Complete
Monitoring & Evaluation Toolkit	M&E Toolkit finalized and disseminated to convening agents	June 2022	In progress

<sup>2</sup> Knowledge Community for Reefs and Adaptive Livelihoods'