

GCF Monitoring Framework

The Global Conservation Fund (GCF) invests in the creation and expansion of protected areas, and their long term viability.

Purpose of GCF: to ensure **effective management of protected areas** for biodiversity conservation, and ensure **adequate funds** to cover recurrent management costs.

Purpose of GCF monitoring framework: i) to allow GCF to manage its portfolio of investments efficiently; and, ii) to supply grantees with information that can be used for adaptive management to meet site level conservation outcomes.

At the portfolio level, the GCF monitoring system measures stated objectives (Outcomes) directly and measures the underlying structures assumed to achieve these stated objectives.

Table 1: Rationale of GCF monitoring methodology

| | Biodiversity | | Financial Sustainability | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | Goal | Measured by | Goal | Measured by |
| Underlying structure | Protected area management effectiveness | Management effectiveness indicators | Effective fund management | Fund management indicators |
| Outcome | Successful biodiversity conservation | Biodiversity state indicator | Adequate financing | Financial return on investment and flow of funds to protected areas |

The portfolio level GCF monitoring framework is unique in that both assumed conditions (underlying structures) and outcomes are measured at the site scale. This helps to validate assumptions about effective protected area and conservation fund management by linking these with the delivery of stated objectives. Outcome indicators for biodiversity relate to globally threatened species that occur in protected areas (the reason for initial GCF investment). Financial outcome indicators relate to return on investment to cover protected area management costs and delivery of those funds to the protected area (to ensure that each protected area has sufficient funds to cover management costs). Indicators for underlying structures can be found in the [GCF Monitoring Report](#).

At the individual investment level, GCF provides technical assistance and guidance for the design of management tools that help protected areas define and achieve objectives. Where the portfolio level monitoring assumes a variety of structures to be in place, it does not occupy itself with the quality of these structures. Individual project-level support in the development of management plans, monitoring plans, causal models and results chains helps protected area managers answer specific questions related to achieving conservation results. It also provides clear articulation of assumed links between actions and results, and offers a template for sound adaptive management that supports delivering outcomes. A variety of tools and guidance documents are available to help with the management process at the site scale.

Contact Hari Balasubramanian (h.balasubramanian@conservation.org) for additional information.

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