

## GPS Response to MTR Recommendations

Recommendation	GPS Response
<p>1. The GPS donors should convene stakeholders who will need to be involved in the scaling of GPS to address the needs for NCA to 2030 required by the GBF. This should consider the expanded role GPS can effectively play and the partnerships and funding required to deliver at scale.</p>	<p>Agreed. We look forward to working with the GPS donors to convene a partnership meeting to bring new donors. This will be reflected in the development of the Business Plan (BP) for GPS to 2030.</p>
<p>2. GPS should develop a short sustainability strategy for all major activities (to include expected sources of funding and capacity building).</p>	<p>Agreed. However, mainstreaming nature into economic planning and decision-making in developing countries is a stepwise process that will take time for governments to source additional funds or allocate their own funds to NCA. Given such sustained effort through WAVES and GPS, countries like Zambia and Uganda have now reached a stage where governments are institutionalizing NCA. Under the current phase, all the CICs and several of the TTAs are linked to Bank lending investments and stakeholders benefit from training and capacity building which contributes to sustainability of activities. GPS will also consider this for the new CIC grants (after the MTR). Development of a more integrated sustainability strategy for GPS activities would require additional funding and extended time and cannot be achieved fully under the current phase; this will be fully considered in the design of the next phase.</p>
<p>3. Within the current program, GPS should consider the scope for partnerships to strengthen relevant national NGO capacity to engage in national and sector NCA debates. Going forward, partnerships should play a key role in an expanded GPS program running to 2030.</p>	<p>Agreed. However, this cannot be implemented comprehensively under the current phase and timeline. We note that GPS is already collaborating (mainly through contracted activities) with several specialized agencies including UNSD, Universities (e.g. Yale, Duke, Minnesota). UNSD collaboration will also continue despite their staffing and funding challenges. GPS will consider such value-adding strategic collaboration during the next phase.</p>
<p>4. GPS should continue to work with PROGREEN and PROBLUE to identify opportunities for joint programming and co-finance.</p>	<p>Agreed. This is already happening in several countries. The joint technical meetings will be the mechanism to enhance this collaboration.</p>

5. GPS donors should look for opportunities to realize synergies between GPS and their other programs on biodiversity and nature. This is likely to be most relevant for CIC countries.	Agreed. While value-adding collaboration is always welcome and knowledge will continue to be shared widely, GPS agrees that opportunities for creating synergies may be greater in the CIC countries where the size of the effort is larger. Such collaboration should also contribute to strengthening national capacity and sustainability of the effort.
<b>Technical recommendations for program management</b>	
1. The GPS PMT should share a calendar of key events and reporting dates in advance with implementing country teams to facilitate coordinated reporting and strengthen communications.	Agreed. The intention is to reduce transaction costs and keep reporting needs to a minimum.
2. The GPS PMT should consider holding annual meetings between CIC implementing teams, donors and GPS PMT to provide opportunities for greater information and engagement. Building these around scheduled regional or global GPS events is likely to add value.	Agreed. GPS has started implementing this under the current phase; a CIC workshop took place at the back of the FY24 Global Forum in March 2024 (Kigali, Rwanda). In addition, the CIC countries in Africa also participate in the Africa CoP Forum which provides the platform for sharing of experiences and learning. GPS will fully implement this recommendation during the next phase.
3. GPS should consider how to reduce administration, coordination and reporting time spent by implementing country teams as part of TTA and CIC grants and look at options (such as Recipient Executed Trust Funds) that increase funding for these activities.	GPS is striving to further reduce coordination and reporting costs. Online events and co-financing arrangements with other collaborators including Progreen/Problue have helped manage these costs. The average costs per grant would decline further if the overall grant size increased. While progress reporting is important to ensure that grants provided produce desired impacts, GPS will continue to make efforts to rationalize and manage this within the agreed results framework.
4. The WBG should seek to ensure that ESG Data downloaded from alternative WBG sites contain up to date data.	Agreed. GPS team is working closely with DEC research team who manage WB databases (including WDI which ESG Sovereign Data Portal draws from) - working on modeling/ proxy techniques to fill data (gaps and additional sources including satellite data).
<b>Technical recommendations on monitoring, evaluation and learning</b>	

1. Where RF indicator targets for 2025 have already been significantly exceeded, GPS should propose revised targets.	Agreed. This will be done selectively for key indicators with overachieved targets. However, we note that CIC activities are still at initial stages in several cases, thus it will not be feasible to significantly overachieve the FY25 targets.
2. Looking forward to a potential subsequent phase of GPS work, GPS will need to revise their ToC to explicitly capture the role that mainstreaming NC into WBG macroeconomic models and subsequent Country Office engagement will have. Within this, GPS should consider adding WGB NCA mainstreaming as an additional outcome.	Agreed to implement this recommendation as part of the next phase of the program. GPS has recently started developing prototype models that integrate nature into CGE models. As the review notes, mainstreaming this into Bank systems would require significant learning based on ongoing pilots. Mainstreaming nature into WBG will be considered for GPS to 2030.
3. GPS CIC grant TTLs and implementing teams should consider revisiting and, if required, revising their ToC developed at concept note stage. This would provide opportunities for CIC grants to identify whether initial assumptions still hold and make course corrections based on changes in context and progress to date.	Agreed and GPS has started implementing this partially under the current phase. Where there is evidence suggesting that CIC initial assumptions have changed, adjustments are being made through continuing engagements. For example, limited changes were introduced in Ethiopia to align GPS activities with restructured Bank investments in landscape management. In the recent CIC workshop, no country reported a need to overhaul the ToC.
4. When reporting on the “Value of WBG investments informed (bn \$)”, RF indicator IM.4, GPS should provide a paragraph of text for each investment that shows how GPS evidence or analysis has substantively influenced the loan. This draws on analysis that would inform the subsequent Annual Review.	Agreed. GPS is already providing this information as part of the Annual Report. The GPS PEIA data is monitored annually using an agreed protocol (Annex 3 of the Updated M&E Plan) and the results are included in the Annual Report. This tool collects information on whether and how each GPS activity contributed to Bank investment projects or to informing policy processes. To reduce costs, this shall be implemented without double reporting and costly redundancies.
5. GPS should continue to develop a strategy to communicate CWON in events for specific target audiences (e.g., WBG annual meetings, WBG staff involved in country dialogues, governments, international agencies, academic and financial markets) and look for high profile opportunities to disseminate program outputs that leverage the higher profile for nature in the WBG (e.g., presenting at the WBG/IMF Spring international meetings, or contributing to a	Agreed. In addition to the Policy Forums, GPS will continue to tap any emerging high profile and visibility opportunities to disseminate CWON and other program outputs that leverage the higher profile for nature in the World Bank.

World Development Report with a biodiversity focus).	
6. GPS should intensify collaboration with country offices to promote practical targeted applications of the ESG Data Portal (e.g., to develop nature-related financial risks assessments with Central Banks and developing sustainable financial instruments with governments).	Agreed. This will be further enhanced as part of the next phase of GPS to 2030.
7. GPS should strengthen targeted dissemination of the ESG Data Portal to governments and academia (to bring dissemination in these areas up to that of the private sector).	Agreed
8. GPS should identify opportunities to reduce the delay in annual reporting (AR) to donors and send GPS Steering Committee agenda items out sooner to allow donors more time to respond.	Agreed in principle and GPS will continue to strive for making the AR available earlier. We also note that annual reporting follows the Bank's Fiscal Year (July – June), hence collecting M&E data using the expanded framework at the end of the Fiscal Year can only start from July 1. Completing this process and the subsequent data analysis, report writing, and internal review and clearance often takes additional time.