



Implementing the Guide on Nature Results Metrics Across Real Operations

Selected Case Studies from participating Multilateral Development Banks

MDB NATURE GROUP
OCTOBER 2026

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This companion document forms part of the MDB High-Level Report, Investing in Nature: Status Update on Operationalizing the Common Principles, Taxonomy, and Guide on Results Metrics for Nature.

Context

The Guide on Nature Results Metrics, published in 2025 by the IDB and EIB on behalf of the MDB Nature Group, provides practical guidance to help practitioners select and apply nature-related metrics across their operations.

During 2026, participating MDBs piloted the Guide across real operations covering different ecosystem contexts, financial instruments, and stages of project implementation. The exercise explored how the Pressure-State-Response approach can strengthen project design, support the measurement of nature-related results and impacts, and inform investment and decision-making.

The MDB High-Level Report presents the collective lessons and experiences emerging from this pilot, while this companion document features selected cases illustrating how participating MDBs applied the Guide in practice.

Find more information on the development and publication of the Guide on **Nature Results Metrics**: [IDB | From Complexity to Clarity: A Practitioner's Guide to Results Metrics for Nature Investments.](#)

Structure of the Case Studies

Each case study follows a common structure:

- A brief **overview of the operation** focused on its nature-related objectives and metrics.
- An **Impact Pathway** summarizing:
 - The financial instrument
 - The area of interest and ecosystem context
 - **The most relevant driver of nature loss:** land and sea use change, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution, or invasive alien species
 - **The main response type:** Protect, Manage, Reduce, or Restore
- A set of selected metrics organized according to the Pressure-State-Response approach:
 - **Response:** What is the program doing?
 - **Pressure:** Are threats to the ecosystem being reduced?
 - **State:** Is biodiversity improving?

Case Studies on MDB Implementation of the Guide on Nature Results Metrics

1. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Group
2. IDB
3. IDB Invest
4. IDB Lab
5. Asian Development Bank (ADB)
6. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
7. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

The Urabá Approach to Outcome-Based Nature Finance

Connecting infrastructure compensation to verified biodiversity outcomes through a Colombian Habitat Bank and Nature Credits

Overview

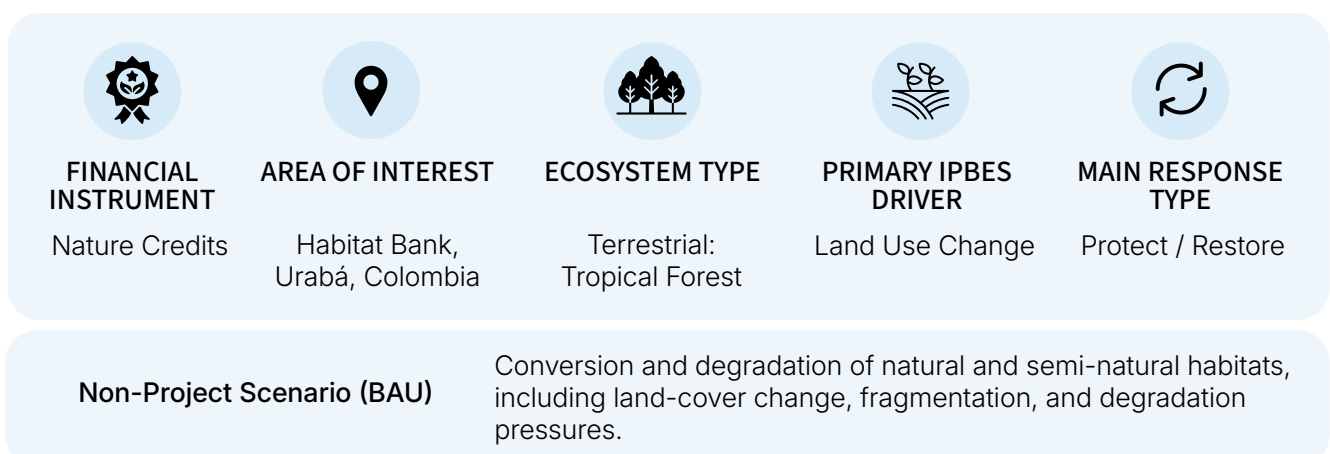
The IDB Group operation, “The Urabá Approach to Outcome-Based Nature Finance,” illustrates how nature metrics can be used to link financing directly to verified nature results. The transaction is structured around a Colombian Habitat Bank lasting 30 years (2026–2056), where Terrasos will progressively generate nature credits over 10 years (2026–2036), based on management and ecological milestones verified by a third party. Rather than paying for activities, the structure rewards verified outcomes, with selected nature metrics serving as triggers for credit issuance. Puerto Antioquia has committed to purchasing 100% of the nature credits generated by the Habitat Bank, creating secured demand for the credits and demonstrating how nature-based financial instruments can mobilize private investment for ecosystem restoration, habitat protection, and measurable biodiversity outcomes.

The nature-related metrics in the operation’s Results Matrix integrate the response-pressure-state approach proposed by the Guide on Nature Results Metrics, with land-use change identified as the primary driver of nature loss. Three metrics track progress:

- **Response:** Total Area Under Ecological Management, with a target of at least 600 hectares under preservation and restoration management;
- **Pressure:** Absence of Non-native Species with Invasive Impacts, with a target of zero grazing buffalo detected within the managed area; and
- **State:** Endangered Species Relative Abundance, measured against baseline levels to demonstrate population stability or increase.

Together, these metrics establish a clear results chain linking project implementation, pressure reduction, and measurable improvements in the state of nature. Their verified achievement serves as the basis for the progressive issuance of nature credits and links investor payments to actual biodiversity outcomes, strengthening the environmental integrity of the transaction.

Impact Pathway



Metrics Selection: Response-Pressure-State Approach

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline	Target		Verification
			2026	2036 Nature credits	2056 Habitat Bank	



RESPONSE: What is the program doing?

Total area under ecological management

1A Hectares under preservation Areas under presentation management to maintain ecological values and conservation outcomes	Hectares	Biennial (first 10 years), triennial (following 10 years), quinquennial (last 10 years)	272 out of 600 ha	→	393 out of 600 ha	Periodic monitoring and re-sampling of permanent vegetation plots
1B Hectares under restoration Areas under restoration where direct interventions help accelerate ecosystem recovery.	Hectares	Biennial (first 10 years), triennial (following 10 years), quinquennial (last 10 years)	150 out of 600 ha	→	207 out of 600 ha	Nursery logs, planting reports, and survival-rate monitoring plots



PRESSURE: Are threats to the ecosystem being reduced?

Absence of Non-native Species with Invasive Impacts

Tracks where a key ecological pressure is being controlled, especially grazing buffalo.

2 Absence of invasive non-native species	Hectares	Annual	Presence of buffalo individuals → Absence of buffalo individuals	Camera traps and ranger tracks
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STATE: Is biodiversity improving?

3A Endangered species relative abundance Measures changes in the relative abundance of selected flagship endangered species against baseline levels	Relative abundance of each target species	Biennial (first 10 years), triennial (following 10 years), quinquennial (last 10 years)	Selected flagship endangered species monitored in the program area	At least 10% increase vs. baseline	Species-specific, non-invasive monitoring in the program area
3B Program area species richness change Tracks change in the number of species recorded in the program area.	Species richness (total number of different species recorded)	Biennial (first 10 years), triennial (following 10 years), quinquennial (last 10 years)	Mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants	At least 15% increase vs. baseline	Periodic monitoring of permanent vegetation plots and fauna transects



The São Paulo Sustainable Coast Program, an investment loan for financing nature-positive development

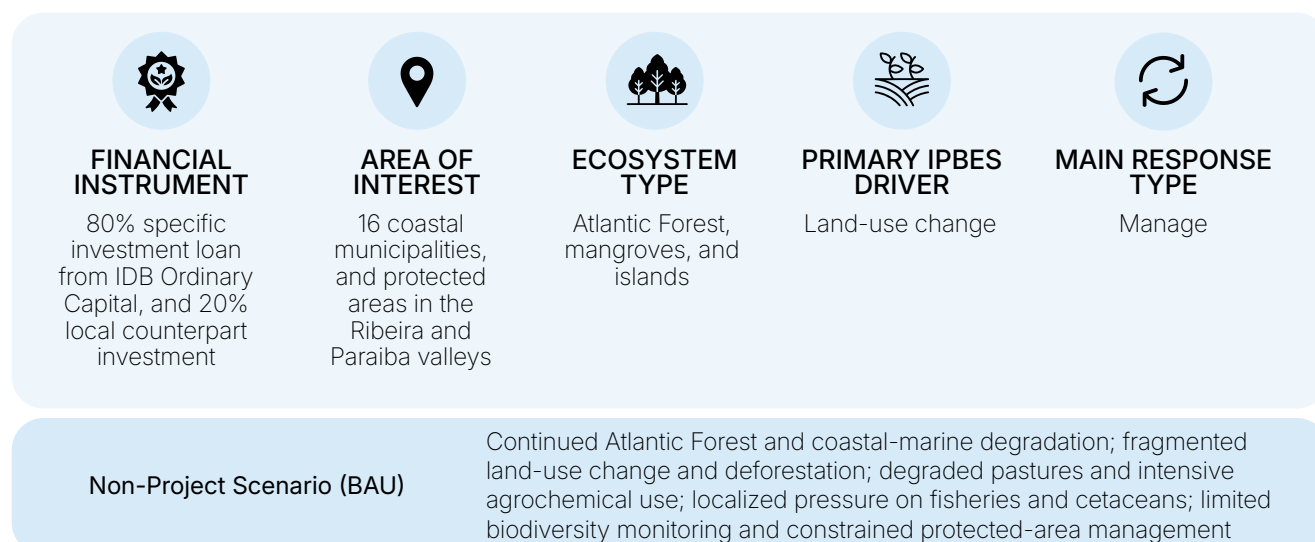
Integrating biodiversity conservation, sustainable landscapes, coastal management, and disaster resilience in the São Paulo state coastal region

Overview

The Sustainable Development of the São Paulo State Coast project addresses environmental degradation in the Atlantic Forest and the coastal and marine zone, alongside high disaster risk in the São Paulo coastal region. The operation covers the 16 coastal municipalities and includes activities in buffer zones of protected areas in the Ribeira and Paraíba valleys. Its general objective is to improve biodiversity conservation and reduce disaster risk. Its specific objectives are to improve environmental management and enforcement efficiency, increase adoption of sustainable and inclusive agro-environmental practices, and expand coverage of disaster-risk monitoring and early-warning systems.

The project combines environmental monitoring and enforcement, territorial information systems, payments for environmental services (PES), technical assistance for sustainable production and restoration, biodiversity monitoring in conservation units, sustainable bioeconomy business models, and wildlife reintroduction plans. The Guide on Nature Results Metrics provides a pressure-state-response lens for organizing the project's existing results indicators and clarifying how management actions are expected to reduce pressures and improve ecosystem condition and biodiversity. **Response and State metrics** have been included, as sufficient information is available. By 2031, the project targets 2,700 hectares converted to sustainable uses and an increase in the richness of medium and large mammals from 25 to 30 species. However, for deforestation as the main **Pressure metric**, data are currently only available at the Region level, limiting further disaggregation or integration in the metrics analysis. In the state of São Paulo, the Atlantic Forest currently occupies only 13.7% of its original. Although forest cover accounted for 72% of the project area in 2024, an active process of gross deforestation was observed between 2014 and 2024, with an annual average loss of 1,788 ha.

Impact Pathway



Metrics Selection: Response-Pressure-State Approach



RESPONSE: What is the program doing?

Total area under ecological management

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline 2025	→ Target 2031	Verification
Degraded or ecologically threatened areas converted to sustainable uses	Hectares	Project monitoring; final measurement in 2031	0 ha	→ 2,700 out of 600 ha	PES program records and verification of areas converted to sustainable production and/or native vegetation restoration



STATE: Is biodiversity improving?

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline 2025	→ Target 2031	Verification
Species richness in the Atlantic Forest of the southern coast	Mammal species	Annual	25 medium and large mammal species	30 medium and large mammal species	Annual median of distinct medium and large terrestrial mammal species recorded by camera traps across monitored sites, adapting the TEAM Network Wildlife Monitoring Solution



Central America Sanitation & Wastewater Infrastructure Loan

Improving Urban Sanitation to Enhance Freshwater and Coastal Ecosystem Health

Overview

This transaction supports the construction and operation of a comprehensive urban sanitation system in a city in Central America. The project includes wastewater collection networks and a modern treatment plant designed to serve approximately 250,000 residents. The financing is intended to provide the flexibility required to execute the project on schedule and maintain operational continuity. By replacing septic tanks with a centralized sanitation system and supporting the safe discharge of treated water into natural water bodies, the project is expected to improve wastewater management, reduce environmental pollution, enhance public health, and contribute to the region's sustainable development.

The application of the Guide on Nature Metrics structures the project's results pathway around pollution as the primary driver of nature loss and reduction as the main response. The selected metrics connect the implementation and operation of wastewater infrastructure with reduced pollutant loads and concentrations, and with changes in the ecological condition of the receiving river and associated riparian habitats. Together, the response, pressure, and state metrics provide a practical basis for monitoring the project's contribution to improved environmental quality and ecosystem health.

Impact Pathway



Non-Project Scenario (BAU)

Without the project intervention, wastewater treatment coverage would likely remain insufficient, resulting in continued discharge of untreated or inadequately treated wastewater into the environment. Water pollution and degradation of nearby aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems would persist, alongside increased public-health risks for a growing urban population. Aging infrastructure, operational inefficiencies, and persistent investment gaps would continue to hinder improvements in environmental quality and service delivery.

Metrics Selection: Response-Pressure-State Approach

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline 2017	→	Target 2048	Verification
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RESPONSE: What is the program doing?

Quantity of reduction in use of pollutant per unit of production (Directional)	% reduction	Daily	0%	→	98% daily	Wastewater Treatment Plant performance data; wastewater flow and treatment records.
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PRESSURE: Are threats to the ecosystem being reduced?

Pollutant concentration	kg/m ³ water	Annual	Above the limits established in the technical regulation	→	Follow the technical regulation*	Above the limits established in the technical regulation
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STATE: Is biodiversity improving?

Change in condition of ecosystems (site and landscape)	Water quality index	Every 3-5 years	0	→	Follow the technical regulation*	Simple field protocol on a representative sample, prioritizing variables already recorded by CL where available (e.g., native woody species richness and/or vegetation structural attributes)
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* Regulatory references provided by IDB Invest: Resolution No. 351 of July 26, 2000, approving DGNTI-COPANIT 35-2000 for discharges of liquid effluents into surface and groundwater bodies; Draft Primary Environmental Quality Standards for Natural Waters; and Executive Decree No. 75 of 2008 on environmental quality and water-quality levels for inland recreational waters.

Courageous Land: Empowering Communities Through Smart Agroforestry for Conservation and Restoration

Scaling the Agroforestry Intelligence Platform to Advance Sustainable Land Use and Economic Inclusion in Southern Roraima

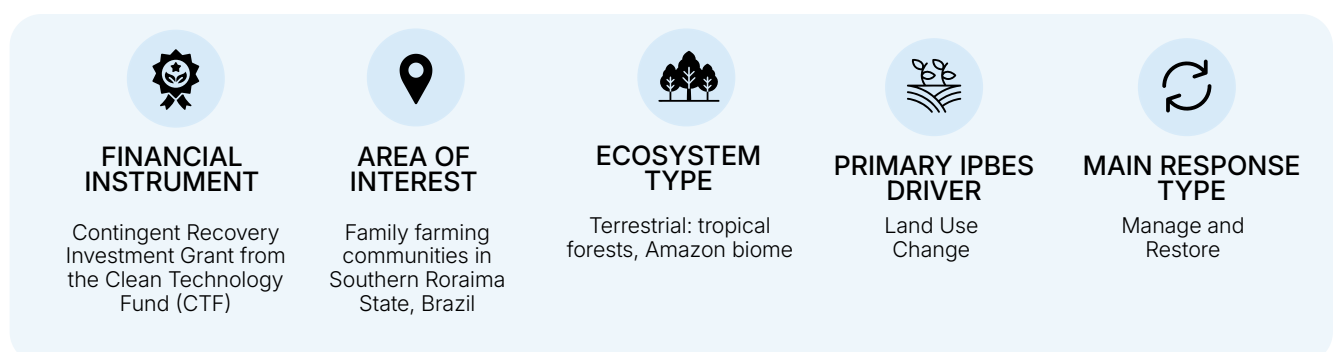
Overview

In southern Roraima, Brazil, family farmers face significant barriers to adopting sustainable agroforestry systems, including gaps in technical knowledge, access to finance, farm management capacity, and market access. Courageous Land addresses these barriers through its Agroforestry Intelligence Platform, a hybrid digital-and-field model integrating farm diagnostics and agroforestry planning, technical assistance through trained Field Technical Agents (FTAs), financing facilitation, and market linkages.

Over 36 months, the project aims to engage at least 55 family farmers, convert 800 hectares of degraded or underutilized land to sustainable agroforestry systems, train and certify 40 FTAs, and create 200 formal jobs, including targets for women and Venezuelan migrants and refugees. The project also commits to a 0% average deforestation rate on supported farms.

The Guide on Nature Results Metrics is applied to connect these financed activities to measurable nature outcomes. The proposed monitoring logic focuses on: **Response** – establishing and actively managing agroforestry on previously degraded or underutilized land; **Pressure** – avoiding conversion of remaining natural or semi-natural habitat within supported farms; and **State** – assessing changes in ecosystem condition in supported agroforestry areas.

Impact Pathway



Non-Project Scenario (BAU)

Without the project, targeted degraded or underutilized areas are expected to remain under degraded pasture, monoculture or other low-diversity productive uses, while remaining native vegetation within participating farms continues to face regional land-conversion and degradation pressures. Regional deforestation rate: ~1.2%/year (2024). Degraded pastureland provides limited ecosystem services and livelihood resilience.

Metrics Selection: Response-Pressure-State Approach

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline → Target	Verification
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RESPONSE: What is the program doing?

Area under sustainable agroforestry management

Area of previously degraded or underutilized land established and actively managed under qualifying agroforestry systems	Hectares	Annual	0 ha → ≥ 800 ha by project end	Platform/farm records supported by georeferenced farm polygons and remote sensing; targeted field verification where needed.
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PRESSURE: Is habitat conversion being avoided?

Avoided conversion of natural and semi-natural habitat

Annual area of natural or semi-natural habitat converted within supported farms	Hectares	Annual	Establish from pre-project remote-sensing baseline → 0 ha/year	Remote sensing using confirmed farm polygons; investigate detected changes through field/record validation.
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STATE: Is ecosystem condition improving?

Vegetation-based ecosystem condition

Change in vegetation-based ecosystem condition in a representative sample of supported agroforestry plots	TBD after baseline	Annual	To be established in Year 1	Improvement from baseline by project end; numeric threshold to be set after baseline	Simple field protocol on a representative sample, prioritizing variables already recorded by CL where available (e.g., native woody species richness and/or vegetation structural attributes)
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Fujian Coastal Cities Climate-Resilient Development and Biodiversity Conservation Project, People's Republic of China

Resilience against climate change risks and hazards, and conservation of coastal wetlands and mangroves addressing biodiversity loss challenges for two coastal cities in Fujian Province

Overview

The project was finalized before the Guide on Nature Results Metrics was released, so this case study applies the Guide retrospectively. From a nature perspective, the project includes several measurable elements, most significantly area-based interventions. It will conserve and restore more than 221 hectares of coastal wetlands and mangroves across two priority sites along the East Asian–Australasian Flyway: the Minjiangkou wetland reserve in Fuzhou and the Zhangjiangkou mangrove reserve in Yunxiao. These sites provide critical stopover, wintering and breeding habitat for migratory waterbirds, including endangered species such as the Chinese Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bernsteini*), of which fewer than 200 individuals remain.

The project will also transition 630 hectares of aquaculture and adjacent farmland to more ecologically sensitive, bird-friendly practices through an innovative eco-compensation mechanism for ecosystem services. Additional activities include low-impact ecotourism, research and education facilities, improved wetland and mangrove management, and biodiversity monitoring using ICT platforms, IoT-connected cameras and AI-enabled bird identification. In urban areas, the project supports nature-based resilience through blue-green infrastructure, including a wetland park and stormwater retention lake that also enhance urban biodiversity and the broader wetland ecosystem.

The project's Design and Monitoring Framework (DMF) includes indicators for these area-based outcomes. Its nature-related metrics align well with the Guide's pressure-state-response approach, with land-use change identified as the primary driver of nature loss. The metrics are designed to track progress over the project's six-year implementation period, using clearly defined units of measurement to support:

Impact Pathway



FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT

Loan



AREA OF INTEREST

Two project areas in Fujian Province, People's Republic of China: Fuzhou and Yunxiao



ECOSYSTEM TYPE

Coastal: Estuaries, wetlands, and mangroves



PRIMARY IPBES DRIVER

Land/Sea Use Change



MAIN RESPONSE TYPE

Restore and Manage

Non-Project Scenario (BAU)

Without the project, coastal habitats would continue to degrade, causing impacts to migratory waterbirds

Metrics Selection: Response-Pressure-State Approach



RESPONSE: What is the program doing?

Total area under ecological management

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline 2025	→	Target 2032	Verification
Area of natural ecosystems undergoing restoration or rehabilitation since project start	Hectares	Annual	0 ha	→	221 ha	Mixed
Area of working land/water with sustainability measures improved since project start	Hectares	Biennial	0 ha	→	630 ha	Mixed

Project Location



Project locations in Fujian Province: Fuzhou and Yunxiao. Source: project RRP.

Integrating biodiversity gains into Chisinau Urban Enhancement

A sub-sovereign loan to promote sustainable mobility that will regenerate adjacent degraded urban ecosystems

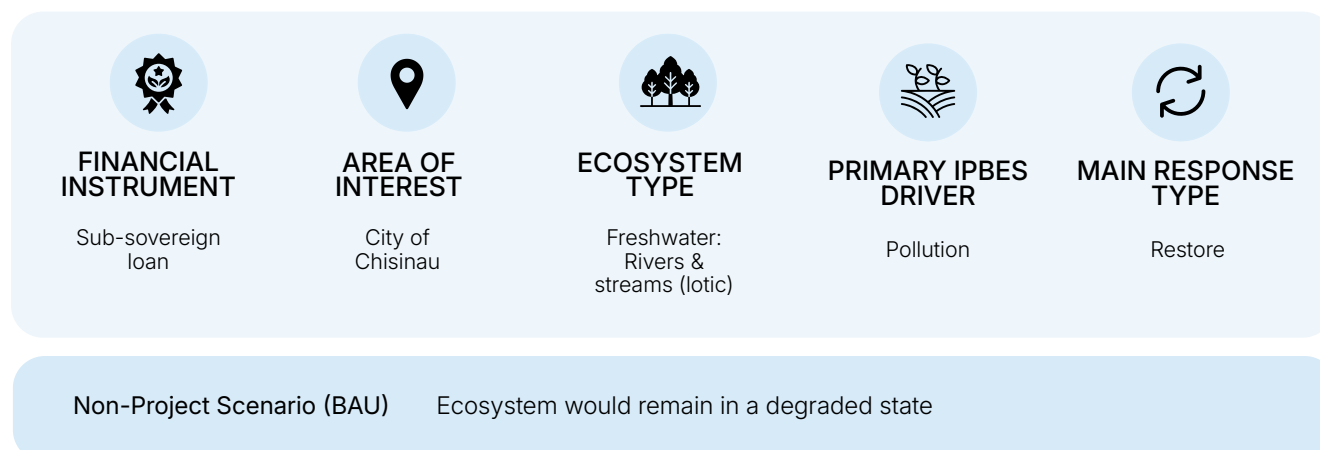
Overview

The EBRD Chisinau Urban Enhancement project shows how urban development projects can be leveraged to bring about nature restoration in an urban environment. The project involves the extension and upgrade of three urban road links, one of which runs parallel to a highly degraded green space. EBRD has worked with the city to identify opportunities to restore this green space and provide benefits to the local population.

The project will involve:

- Green Corridor: Reduced pressure from access to the restored 22 hectares of degraded land and improvement of structural connectivity with other nearby lakes and rivers
- Nature Restoration Zone: Depolluting, replanting and natural rewilding to create bird and wildlife habitat measured through quality hectares
- Woodland area: Improving the baseline via native planting to raise the quality of existing habitat and support functional connectivity with the lake area.
- Observation huts: Managed access to both increase societal awareness and reduce disturbance of sensitive areas.

Impact Pathway



Metrics Selection: Response-Pressure-State Approach

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline 2026 → Target TBC	Verification
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RESPONSE: What is the program doing?

Polluted area subject to improved remediation since the start of implementation	Hectares	One-Off	0 → 22 Hectares	Project monitoring (EBRD and a third-party)
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STATE: Is biodiversity improving?

Change in Extent of Ecosystem	Hectares	One-Off	0 → 22 Hectares	Project monitoring (EBRD and a third-party)
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Freetown WASH & Aquatic Environment Revamping Project (FWAERP), Sierra Leone

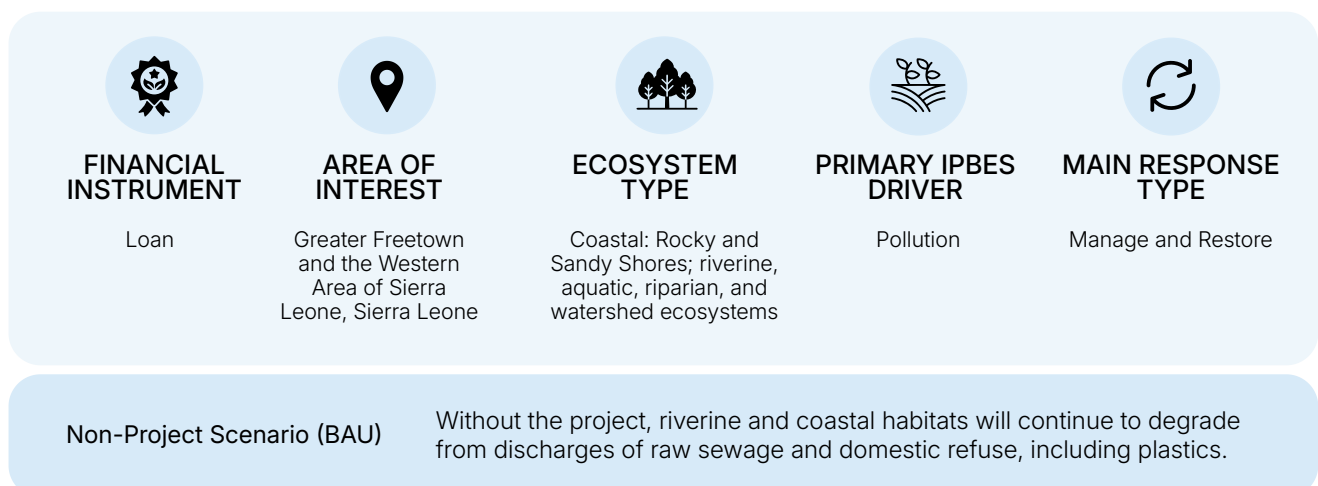
Applying nature metrics to pollution reduction, waste management, and the recovery of riverine, coastal, and watershed ecosystems

Overview

The Freetown WASH & Aquatic Environment Revamping Project (FWAERP) aims to improve climate-resilient water, sanitation, and waste-management services for approximately 1.2 million people in Greater Freetown, while strengthening utility performance and expanding access in underserved communities. The project also supports watershed protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, integrated water resources management, and dumpsite remediation.

The Islamic Development Bank used the project to pilot the MDB Common Principles for Tracking Nature Finance and the associated taxonomy in sovereign lending. For the Guide on Nature Results Metrics, pollution is the primary driver and Manage / Restore is the main response type. The project already includes a **Response** metric for waste diverted from the environment. Potential pressure and state metrics are retained as proposed metrics because their baseline values, targets, and verification methods still require confirmation. While additional types of metrics could potentially be tracked for this project, this exercise includes only existing project indicators, as these were established before the Guide was published. Potential examples of additional metrics include: i) **Pressure**: Pollutant concentration in water or soil and/or pollutant discharge per unit area per year; and ii) **State**: Change in the condition of aquatic, riparian, and watershed ecosystems.

Impact Pathway



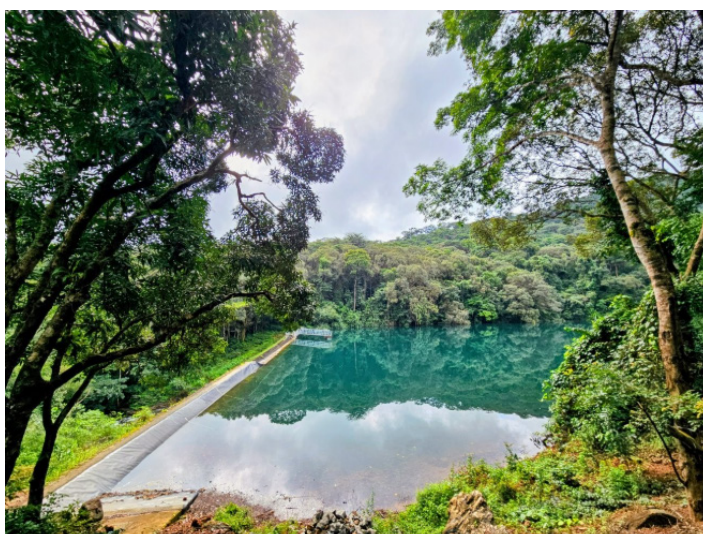
Metrics Selection: Response-Pressure-State Approach

Metric	Unit	Frequency	Baseline 2025	→	Target 2030
 RESPONSE: What is the program doing?					
Volume of solid and liquid waste diverted from the environment	m ³	Annual	0 m ³	→	27,000 m ³

Project photos



Informal settlement and waste management challenges



Upstream catchment management for water source protection

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