*Click on page numbers above to navigate directly to specific sections

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The UK government has committed to provide at least £5.8 billion of International Climate Finance between 2016 and 2020 to help developing countries respond to the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

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Acronyms

BAU	Business as Usual
EPL	End of Programme Lifetime
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ha	Hectares
HMG	Her Majesty's Government
ICF	International Climate Finance
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
TPB	Total Programme Benefits
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
WOCAT	World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies

Hectares of land that have received sustainable land management practices as a result of ICF

Rationale

The purpose of Key Performance Indicator (KPI) 17 is to monitor the total area of land that has received sustainable land management (SLM) practices as a result of UK International Climate Finance (ICF) interventions. Land degradation is a global challenge that threatens the benefits people receive from natural resources, including contributions to their livelihoods, health and wellbeing, as well as other benefits provided by biodiversity and ecosystem services. The challenge is exacerbated by climate change and human activities, including changes in land use and land cover that are known to drive biodiversity loss.

SLM aims to support, maintain and/or enhance the functions and services provided by a healthy ecosystem, both now and into the future (see **Technical Definition**). This indicator, KPI 17, measures the area (hectares) of land receiving SLM practices as a result of UK ICF. As an output indicator, KPI 17 is used to report SLM practices which are both spatially explicit and directly delivered by an ICF programme.

This indicator does not capture the long-term benefits received from implementing SLM practices, nor the quality of implementation for SLM practices in terms of meeting sustainable standards. SLM practices are place-specific, meaning a practice that is determined to be the 'most' sustainable practice in one area may not be the 'most' sustainable in another area as a result of varying biophysical and socio-economic characteristics[1]. Thus, reporting the quality aspects of SLM practices cannot be aggregated at the portfolio level.

KPI 17 is related to KPI 8 (Hectares of deforestation and degradation avoided through ICF support), which monitors reduced deforestation and forest degradation at the outcome level. The implementation of a SLM practice may result in reduced deforestation and/or reduced forest degradation within an ICF programme's area of interest. While KPI 17 would not report the resulting change in forest cover, KPI 8 would report such change in forest cover at the outcome-level. Therefore, there is a potential for the same hectares being counted for both indicators when an ICF programme reports both the area that is receiving SLM practices (KPI 17) and the area of reduced deforestation and degradation (KPI 8). For further detail on the relationship between KPI 17 reporting and KPI 8 reporting, see the **Summary Table** and **Annex 3**.

Summary Table

Table 1: KPI 17 Summary Table

Units	Number of hectares (ha)
Disaggregation Summary	N/A
Headline data to be reported	Annual Increase and Cumulative Net Increase of hectares receiving SLM practices, including the SLM practice groups, Lead SLM practice group (optional), and SLM practice sub-groups (optional if applicable).
Latest Revision	June 2020
Timing issues	*When to report*: ICF programmes are required to report ICF results annually. Please bear in mind how much time is needed to collect data required to report ICF results and plan accordingly.

[1] UN (2017). Sustainable Land Management Contribution to Successful Land-based Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. Available at: https://www.unccd.int/publications/sustainable-land-management-contribution-successful-land-based-climate-change

	Reporting lags: In some cases, data required for producing results estimates will be available after the results were achieved – if because of this, results estimates are only available more than a year away from when results are delivered, this should be noted in the results return.
Links to KPI Portfolio	SLM practices may result in reduced deforestation and/or forest degradation, and so hectares receiving SLM practices may also be reported as hectares of reduced deforestation under KPI 8. There are three possible relationships between KPI 17 and KPI 8 reporting: • The SLM practice does not plant, retain, or restore trees within the programme's area of interest and does not affect forest cover elsewhere (KPI 17 only); • The SLM practice does plant, retain, or restore trees within the programme's area of interest and therefore affects forest cover (both KPI 17 and KPI 8); • The SLM practice does not plant, retain, or restore trees within the programme's area of interest but does affect forest cover elsewhere (KPI 8 only). For further detail on the links between KPI 17 and other KPIs for ICF monitoring, including a description of where KPI 17 is located in the wider ICF results levels (i.e. output, outcome and impact) see **Annex 3**.

Technical Definition

The ICF definition of SLM is aligned with the UN definition as: "the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions"[2].

SLM consists of practices which aim to protect and conserve land resources to prevent degradation or return degraded resources to a productive state in which they can continue to provide ecosystem services. SLM practices can be categorised into overarching SLM practice groups, which consist of similar activities that look to manage a common resource. All KPI 17 reporting must be assigned to at least one of the SLM practice groups shown in Figure 1. Further detail on the SLM practice groups, including the definition for each group, is presented in Table 2 located in **Annex 1**.

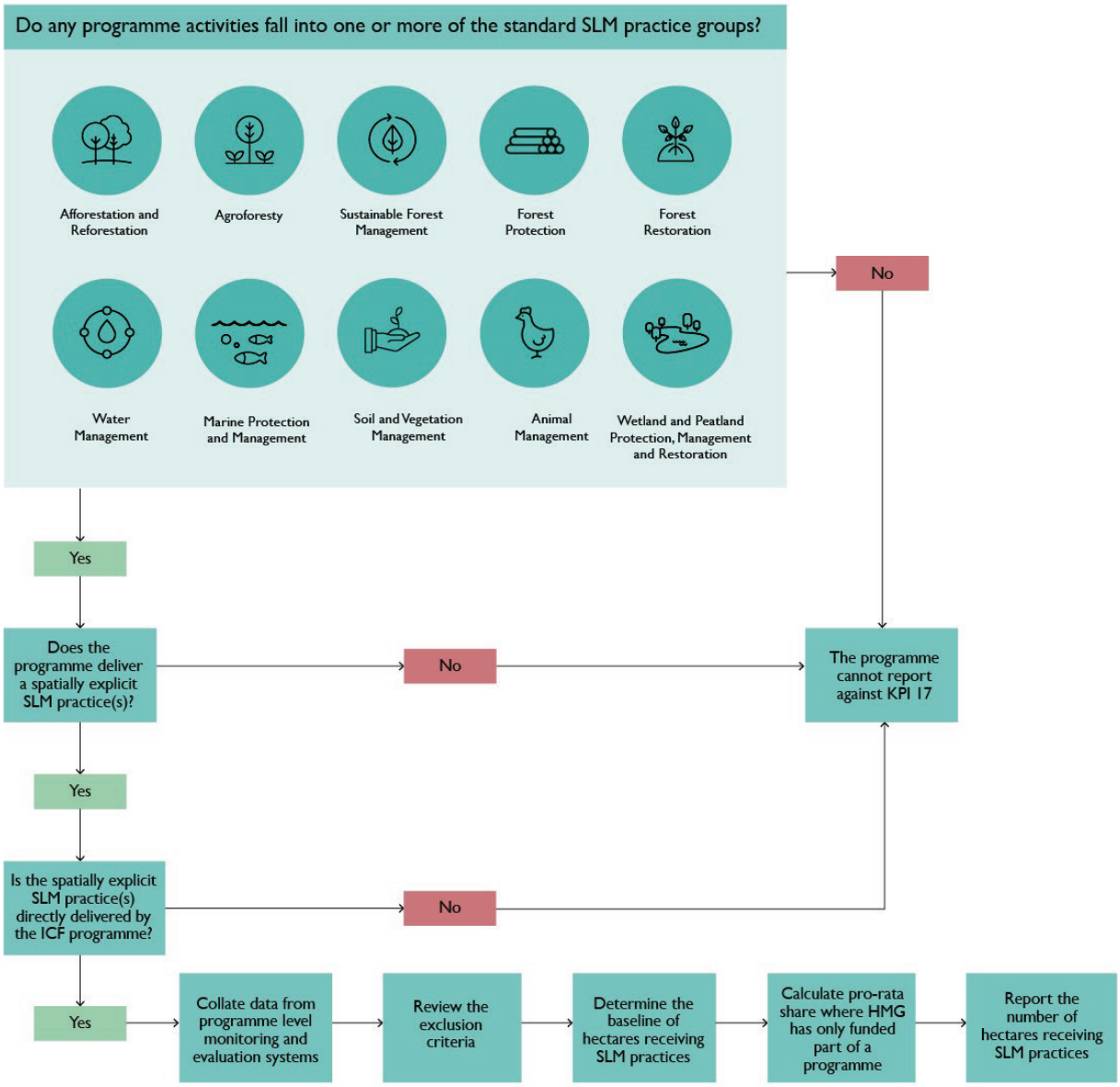
[2] UN 1992 Rio Earth Summit as outlined here: https://knowledge.unccd.int/topics/sustainable-land-management-slm

Figure 1: SLM Practice Groups

Methodological Summary

KPI 17 reports the number of hectares that are receiving SLM practices according to the steps and criteria presented in full in the **Methodology** section below. The main methodological steps are summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2: ICF KPI 17 Methodological Steps



Methodology

1. **Determine whether any programme activities fall into one or more of the SLM practice groups identified in Annex 1 of this Methodology Note.**

Check that the programme has activities which fall into one or more of the SLM practice groups as shown in *Figure 1*. Further detail on the SLM practice groups is presented in **Annex 1**.

See example.

2. **Identify if the programme delivers a spatially explicit SLM practice(s).**

Identify if the programme intervention has a spatially explicit component (i.e. a component that can be measured in hectares). The term 'spatially explicit' means that a SLM practice is being, or has been, actively implemented on-the-ground, covering a number of hectares.

See example.

3. **Determine if the spatially explicit SLM practice(s) is directly delivered by the ICF programme.**

An output indicator is defined as a measurement of results which are delivered directly by an ICF programme (whether delivered through bilateral country programmes, or through contributions to multi-lateral organisations).

KPI 17 is an output indicator that measures the area (hectares) of land receiving SLM practices as a result of ICF intervention, and therefore the SLM practice must be directly delivered by the programme. If an ICF programme is delivering an activity that may, in turn, lead to the implementation of SLM practices over a number of hectares, then these hectares would constitute a result reported at the outcome-level and not be reported under KPI 17.

An example of a SLM practice directly delivered by the ICF would include an ICF programme planting trees across *X* number of hectares. The SLM practice (afforestation in this example) is directly delivered by the programme as it is implementing a physical intervention directly on the ground (see Worked Example 1).

The SLM practice can also be directly delivered by an ICF programme where the programme finances a third-party body (e.g. a fund) which implements a spatially explicit SLM practice. For example, if ICF resources are provided to support a regional fund that is directly delivering soil erosion control practices, then the hectares delivered by that fund can be included.

However, where there are more institutional or capacity building interventions as a result of an ICF programme, which then result in SLM, the SLM practice is not considered to be directly delivered by the ICF for KPI 17. For example, if a farmer receives training or technical assistance which could potentially lead to the incorporation of SLM practices on a farm of *X* number of hectares, then the resulting SLM practice has not been directly delivered by the programme and therefore should not be included. This example demonstrates a result at the outcome level, rather than at the output level, as other non-ICF factors may contribute to the likelihood of the farmer utilising, or only partially utilising the learning from the training / assistance provided (see Worked Example 3 in **Annex 2**).

See example.

4. **Collate data from programme level monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems.**

The collated data must identify the total area that, at the time of reporting, has received a SLM practice. This is reported as an achieved result. Areas for which the ICF intend or plan to implement SLM practices should be reported as an expected result. Programmes are requested to provide an estimate of what they will achieve by the end of the programme's lifetime (EPL) and the total programme benefits

(TPB). These figures should be updated in the annual ICF results return if they have changed since last reporting.

See example.

5. **Review the exclusion criteria to determine if some or all of the hectares should be reported under KPI 17.**

When determining if *X* number of hectares should be included, programme managers must consider the spatial overlap of multiple SLM practices being delivered within the area of interest. The permanence of hectares being delivered over the programme lifetime should also be considered; however, it is not the responsibility of the ICF programme manager to actively monitor the permanence of hectares being delivered. Both criteria are discussed in turn.

Multiple SLM Practices

Areas of land receiving a SLM practice can be validly counted and reported once. Where there are multiple SLM practices occurring on the same area of land, only the overall number of hectares should be reported. No weights or multipliers are applied for hectares of land receiving more than one SLM practice.

See Worked Example 2 in **Annex 2**.

Permanence

There is no requirement for ICF programme managers to actively monitor the persistence of hectares between reporting years. However, if a programme becomes aware that any hectares of SLM practice have not persisted between reporting years, the ICF programme manager should advise the central ICF analyst team and adjust the reported number of hectares accordingly. Where hectares previously receiving SLM practice may have been lost, the ICF programme manager will provide commentary via the KPI 17 Reporting Template (**Annex 6**) to the central analyst team who will subsequently adjust or amend hectares reporting in previous years.

See example.

6. **Determine the baseline of hectares receiving SLM practices in the absence of the ICF programme.**

The ICF programme must establish a counterfactual baseline to determine whether the SLM practice groups being delivered by the programme would have been undertaken in the absence of ICF support. The counterfactual baseline is based on a qualitative assessment to determine the additionality of hectares receiving SLM practices. The counterfactual baseline should use available evidence to inform the qualitative judgement as to whether SLM practices being delivered by the ICF programme are already being practiced prior to ICF implementation. Areas of land already receiving the targeted SLM practices prior to the implementation of the ICF programme cannot be reported under KPI 17. For further guidance on establishing a counterfactual baseline, please see 'Most recent baseline' under **Data Management**.

See example.

7. **Calculate pro-rata share where HMG has only funded part of a programme (attribution).**

If HMG is the sole investor in a project or programme, it should assume all responsibility for any results where the results are assessed to be additional and where HMG has a causal role.

In many instances HMG may be acting alongside one or more other development partners or multilateral bodies that also provide funding or support for projects or programmes – and where each partner has

played a role towards the results. In these cases, HMG should only claim responsibility for the portion of results that can be attributed to its support.

If HMG is only funding part of a project/programme, reporters should calculate results as a pro-rata attributable share based on the value of all public co-financing towards the project.

In instances where ICF programmes leverage (public or private) finance that helps to deliver programme results, please contact the Departmental ICF advisors on how to address attribution of results delivered. See methodology notes for KPI 11 and KPI 12 for definitions (of public, private, and leveraged finance and co-finance).

If HMG is contributing to a fund

'First best' approach: use project/programme level attribution (as above)

In this approach, reporters calculate results attributable to the UK for each project/programme implemented by the fund using the project/programme level attribution approach, and then sum results across all projects/programmes in the fund to reach total UK attributable results. This approach allows for recognition of other co-finance contributions at the project/programme level. However, this approach may be complicated or not always possible in practice as it relies on: (i) full information about project/programme level inputs; and (ii) additional work to calculate results at the project/programme level.

'Second best' approach: use fund-level attribution

Reporters apply fund-level attribution (i.e. at point of UK investment) for reporting results. I.e. results should be shared across all donors that contribute to a fund. All results are attributable to the relevant fund (e.g. Climate Investment Funds, Climate Public Private Partnership Programme) regardless of whether these funds blend with other sources of finance in implementing projects at levels below the point of UK investment. This approach assumes that any further finance towards the project is counted as leveraged. Where this is known to not be the case, a more conservative approach to attribution may be appropriate, please contact the Departmental ICF advisors on further guidance. While this is not the preferred approach, as it does not recognise additional contributions at the project/programme level, it may be more practical to implement where full data on project/programme level inputs is not available.

Note: The distinction between attribution at the project/programme level and at the fund level (or at point of UK investment) is only an issue where the UK is investing in funds where there are multiple investment levels.

See Worked Example 2 in **Annex 2**.

8. **Report the number of hectares receiving SLM practices.**

KPI 17 requires ICF programmes to report hectares as an Annual Increase and Cumulative Net Increase.

Annual Increase: the additional hectares that have received SLM practices as a result of the ICF programme within the reporting year.

Cumulative Net Increase: the total number of hectares that have received SLM practices as a result of the ICF programme since the programme implementation.

The SLM practice group(s) being delivered as part of the ICF intervention must also be reported. There is no requirement to disaggregate the total number of hectares by SLM practice group. Where there are multiple SLM practices occurring as a result of the programme, either on the same area of land or separate areas of land, the SLM practice groups should be listed in the 'SLM Practice Groups' field of the Reporting Template provided in **Annex 6**. The ICF programme manager can provide further details on

which practices gained or lost hectares within the 'Reporting Commentary' field within the Reporting Template.

The lead SLM practice group can also be reported using the Reporting Template provided in **Annex 6**, only if the lead SLM practice group can be easily identified by referring to the ICF programme's strategic objectives and programme design documentation, for example by referring to the ICF programme's business case document. The lead SLM practice group is the main SLM practice group the ICF programme is delivering and should be aligned to the programme's strategic objectives. There is no requirement to report the lead SLM practice group and no requirement to disaggregate the total number of hectares by SLM practice group to determine the lead SLM practice group.

There is no requirement for programmes to report the SLM practice sub-group being implemented. However, where this is applicable, the ICF programme manager can report the sub-group to provide added value to the results. The sub-group can be reported under the 'SLM Practice Sub-group' field in the Reporting Template. (For example, 'Integrated Soil Fertility Management' is a sub-group identified under the SLM practice group 'Soil and Vegetation Management' as shown in **Annex 1**)

A reporting template is provided in **Annex 6** outlining how hectares should be reported.

See example.

Worked Example

Worked Example 1

A fictitious programme, currently reporting results in Year 3, aiming to provide humanitarian assistance to a local community by improving access to clean water, sanitation, nutrition, and health.

1. **Determine whether any programme activities fall into one or more of the SLM practice groups identified in Annex 1 of this Methodology Note.**

In order to avoid the impact of climate change on the local community, the programme focused on delivering environmental interventions. The environmental interventions included reforestation and soil erosion control, both of which are considered to fall under the SLM practice groups Afforestation and Reforestation and Soil and Vegetation Management, respectively.

2. **Identify if the programme delivers a spatially explicit SLM practice(s).**

One of the outputs for the programme was establishing 150 hectares (ha) of green corridor in the local community's region over the programme lifetime. The intended delivery of the green corridor within the programme's area of interest represents a spatially explicit practice, as it was a physical intervention implemented on-the-ground. The intended delivery of the green corridor was reflected in programme design documentation, including the programme's logical framework.

3. **Determine if the spatially explicit SLM practice(s) is directly delivered by the ICF programme.**

The newly established green corridor of 150 ha is a direct result of the ICF programme. Reforestation (planting new trees across a number of hectares) and soil erosion control practices (building terraces to prevent and control water erosion runoff velocities across a number of hectares) are considered to be directly delivered by the programme, as they were explicit output activities of the programme.

4. **Collate data from programme level M&E systems.**

In Year 1, the programme planted trees covering a total area of 100ha therefore both the annual increase and cumulative net increase number of hectares receiving SLM practice was 100ha in the first year of reporting.

In Year 2, the programme installed terracing to control soil erosion across a new and separate area of 25ha. Thus, in Year 2 the annual increase of additional hectares receiving SLM practices was 25ha, and the cumulative net increase was 125ha.

In the current year of reporting (i.e. Year 3), terracing and contour strips were installed across an additional area of 75ha. Therefore, in Year 3, the annual increase of hectares receiving SLM practice was 75 ha, and the cumulative net increase is 200ha.

Number of Hectares receiving SLM Practices:

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Annual Increase: 100ha	Annual Increase: 25ha	Annual Increase: 75ha
Cumulative Net Increase: 100ha	Cumulative Net Increase: 125ha	Cumulative Net Increase: 200ha

5. Review the exclusion criteria to determine if some or all of the hectares should be reported under KPI 17.

There were zero (0) hectares of reforestation delivered in Year 3. Therefore, the ICF programme manager determines that there was no spatial overlap between hectares of reforestation and the hectares of soil erosion delivered in Year 3. Given that there was no overlap in the implementation of the SLM practices, the total number of hectares gained can be counted.

Since the previous reporting year, that is Year 2, the ICF programme manager discovers that there were fifty (50) hectares of reforestation lost as a result of urban sprawl. The ICF programme manager reports the loss to the central ICF analyst team, who subsequently revise the results from the previous year.

6. Determine the baseline of hectares receiving SLM practices in the absence of the ICF programme.

The ICF programme design documentation has outlined the area of interest for implementing SLM practices. Informal discussions with stakeholders have been used to determine that no other programmes operating in the ICF area of interest are currently implementing reforestation or soil erosion control practices.

7. Calculate pro-rata share where HMG has only funded part of a programme (attribution).

All hectares resulted directly from the ICF programme and no other programme or intervention. ICF was fully funding the programme, and therefore, the total number of hectares can be attributed to ICF.

8. Report the number of hectares receiving SLM practices.

In the current year of reporting (i.e. Year 3), the programme manager identified that 50ha of the reforestation from Year 1 was lost to urban sprawl. As outlined in Step 5 above, the ICF programme manager informed the central ICF analysts via the reporting commentary field in the Reporting Template that Year 1 results required revision.

Total Number of Hectares

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
Annual Increase: ~~100ha~~ 50ha	Annual Increase: 25ha	Annual Increase: 75ha
(Adjusted) Cumulative Net Increase: ~~100ha~~ 50ha	(Adjusted) Cumulative Net Increase: 75ha	(Adjusted) Cumulative Net Increase: 150ha

Please note that the above tables and text for Steps 4 and 8 of this worked example show the progression of hectares since ICF programme implementation to illustrate how the data should be reported against Annual Increase and Cumulative Net Increase for Year 3. The SLM practice groups have also been referred in the text for illustrative purposes, but there is no requirement to disaggregate the number of hectares by SLM practice group. The data needs to be reported in the KPI 17 Reporting

Template format (see **Annex 6**), as shown below. Data from the current reporting year (i.e. Year 3) was used to populate the template.

The programme manager identified from the programme's strategic objectives that Soil and Vegetation Management was the lead SLM practice group and populated the Reporting Template accordingly.

KPI 17 Reporting Template Format

Annual increase of hectares receiving SLM practice as a result of the programme	75ha
Cumulative net increase of hectares receiving SLM practice as a result of the programme	150ha
SLM Practice Group(s)	Soil and Vegetation Management; Afforestation and Reforestation
Lead SLM Practice Group (optional)	Soil and Vegetation Management
SLM Practice Sub-group(s) (if applicable)	Soil Erosion Control (sub-group for Soil and Vegetation Management)

Reporting Commentary	In Year 1, the programme planted trees covering a total area of 100ha therefore both the annual increase and cumulative net increase was 100ha. In Year 2, the programme installed terracing to control soil erosion across a new area of 25ha. Thus, in Year 2 the annual increase of additional hectares receiving SLM practices was 25ha, and the cumulative net increase was 125ha. Terracing and contour strips were installed across an additional area of 75ha. Therefore, in Year 3, the annual increase of hectares receiving SLM practice was 75 ha and the cumulative net increase was 200ha. It was identified that 50ha of reforestation reported in Year 1 has been lost to urban sprawl. Central ICF analysts to amend the 100ha reported in year 1 to 50ha. Considering the loss of hectares, the cumulative net increase for Year 2 has been adjusted to 75ha and the cumulative net increase for Year 3 has been adjusted to 150ha.
Quality Assurance	ICF programme staff have directly observed installation for a limited number of hectares of terracing for Year 3. ICF programme staff have confirmed the installation of the remaining (majority) of hectares with local extension officers. Records kept by the local extension officers are regularly updated and the estimated number of hectares is considered to be accurate.

Data Management

Data sources

Data collated as part of the ICF programme's M&E may originate from a variety of sources, including but not limited to, empirical and open source datasets. Examples of open source datasets include Copernicus Global Land Services of the European Commission[3] and Global Surface Water Explorer[4], amongst others. Data should be referenced, as far as possible, spatially on a map.

Most recent baseline

The ICF programme must establish a counterfactual baseline to determine whether the SLM practice groups being delivered by the programme would be undertaken in the absence of ICF support. The counterfactual baseline is based on a qualitative judgement assessment to determine the additionality of hectares receiving SLM practices. Establishing the counterfactual baseline may be challenging and will likely involve identifying the ICF programme's area of interest (if not already identified through programme

[3] Available at: https://land.copernicus.eu/global/products/lc
[4] Available at: https://global-surface-water.appspot.com/

design documentation), reviewing available documentation for programmes operating within the ICF area of interest, and undertaking discussions with involved parties and stakeholders to determine if the ICF programme's SLM practices are already occurring. The baseline should consider those specific SLM practices that will be delivered by the ICF programme. Areas of land currently receiving the proposed SLM practices prior to the implementation of the ICF programme cannot be reported under KPI 17, unless there is evidence indicating that these practices would cease in the absence of ICF support.

The ICF programme must provide a qualitative description of the KPI 17 geographical area-of-interest to assist fund and programme managers in identifying potential overlap with other ICF programmes or programmes being implemented by other organisations. The KPI 17 Reporting Template, provided in **Annex 6**, includes a field for providing the ICF programme's area of interest.

If the ICF programme is unable to estimate what the counterfactual is, it is suggested to use an 'adjustment factor', which should be high (e.g. 95%) if the programme is confident that results are additional, and the data quality is good. A lower 'adjustment factor' (e.g. 50%) should be used if the programme has a lot of uncertainty and there are other partners in the area undertaking similar activities. This 'adjustment factor' should be applied after all other steps in the calculation process are completed. For further advice on applying an 'adjustment factor' approach, please discuss with Departmental ICF advisers.

Data issues, risks and challenges

Doubling-counting could occur where different donors are claiming the same hectares. It could also occur between ICF programmes and/or within an ICF programme. Where ICF are acting alongside one or more other development partners or multilateral bodies, the formal process for calculating attribution must be applied, as outlined in Step 7 of the **Methodology**.

It is also important to check that two (or more) different ICF programmes are not claiming to have impacted the same hectares via SLM practices. If in doubt about this, programme teams should let ICF analysts know during the results commission. Where there is geographic overlap between multiple SLM practices, hectares can only be validly reported and counted once. Please see Step 5 of the **Methodology** for more information.

For forest programmes, the high cost of monitoring can pose a constraint on data collection. Satellites and remote sensing technologies are not always available, and forest surveying is highly labour intensive. As a result, detailed data may be unavailable for programmes covering large or hard-to-access areas.

Quality assurance

All results estimates must be quality assured at each stage data is received or manipulated before they are submitted during the annual ICF results return. For example, if data is provided by partners, this data should be interrogated by the ICF programme team for accuracy. When converting any provided data into KPI results data, quality assurance should be undertaken by someone suitable and not directly involved in the reporting programme. Suitable persons vary by department; this could be an analyst, a results/statistics/climate and environment adviser/economist. A description of the quality assurance process should be provided in the corresponding field provided in the KPI 17 Reporting Template (see **Annex 6**). Central ICF analysts will quality assure results that are submitted, and this may lead to follow up requests during this stage.

Any concerns about data quality or other concerns should be raised with your departmental ICF analysts and recorded in documentation related to your results return.

Data Disaggregation

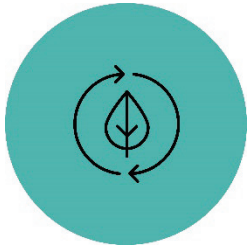
N/A

Annex 1: SLM practice groups

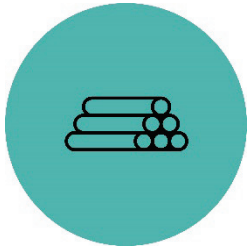
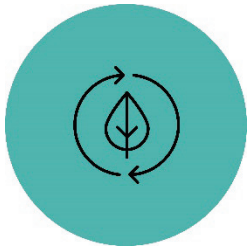
Further detail on the SLM Practice Groups, as shown in *Figure **1***, is presented in Table 2 below. There are 10 SLM Practice Groups of which three (Soil and Vegetation Management; Animal Management; and Wetland and Peatland Protection, Management and Restoration) contain sub-groups.

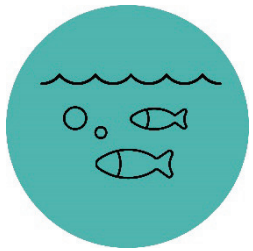
SLM is place specific and therefore the appropriateness of the technique being applied under the SLM groups will need to be considered to ensure the sustainability of the practice. For example, when reforesting an area, it will be important to consider the appropriateness of the type of species being implemented.

Table 2: SLM Practice Groups

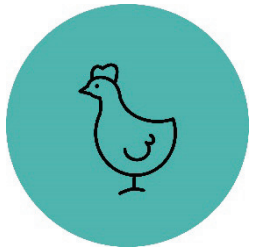
SLM Practice Group and Sub-Practice Group	Land Type	Definition
 **Afforestation and Reforestation**	Forest / woodlands Wetlands / peatlands	• Afforestation is delivered when trees are planted on areas of land which historically did not have forest cover. • Reforestation is the planting of trees on areas of land which previously contained forest but were converted to another land use and may have become degraded, including conversion to agriculture and poor agricultural practice, and timber abstraction amongst others. • Afforestation / reforestation practices have the potential to increase biomass accumulation (both above ground and below ground), soil organic carbon accumulation, and the related increase in soil biological activity, ecosystem biodiversity (including soil biodiversity) and derived ecosystem services, such as soil and water conservation, carbon sequestration potential, and often aesthetic and cultural values.
 **Agroforestry**	Mixed	• According to the World Agroforestry Centre, agroforestry is defined as land-use systems and practices where woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals within the same land management unit. • Depending on the combinations of trees, animals and crops, they are often classified into: Agri-silviculture (crops, including shrubs/vines alongside trees); silvo-pastoral (pasture/animals and trees); and agro-silvo-pastoral (crops and pasture/ animals and trees)[5]. • Agroforestry has the potential to reduce soil erosion and maintain soil fertility and productivity whilst also ensuring subsistence and/or providing market products. There is potential for it to maintain or increase soil organic matter, improve water retention as well as intercepting, absorbing and recycling nutrients in the soil which would otherwise be lost.
 **Sustainable Forest Management**	Forest / woodlands Wetlands / peatlands	• Sustainable forest management includes policies and technical standards for the responsible management of natural and planted forests. • Principles of forest management combine both forest productivity and forest conservation. • There is potential for sustainable forest management to reduce the vulnerability of forests and can therefore enhance carbon sequestration, biodiversity and water conservation. Sustainable forest management can also maintain forest productivity, providing socio-economic goods and services for forest dependent communities.

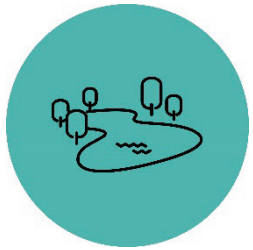
[5] Nair, P.K.R. (1985) Classification of agroforestry systems. Available at: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF00122638

SLM Practice Group and Sub-Practice Group	Land Type	Definition
 **Forest Protection**	Forest / woodlands Wetlands / peatlands	• Practices to reduce the conversion of forested areas to other land use, such as agriculture or the extraction of timber amongst others. • SLM practices aiming to reduce deforestation may have the greatest potential to mitigate climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs), but also by protecting soils, preserving biodiversity, providing food security and making forest-dependent communities more resilient.
 **Forest Restoration**	Forest / woodlands Wetlands / peatlands	• Forest restoration is the practice of bringing a degraded forest back to its natural or historical condition. • There are a variety of approaches which can be classified as: Restoration (bringing an ecosystem back to its original state as close as possible, including original flora and fauna and productivity); Rehabilitation (bringing the environmental services of an ecosystem back to its original state, particularly in relation to the provisioning services for goods or services but not all the original biodiversity); and Reclamation (where productivity or structure is regained but biodiversity is not).
 **Water Management**	Croplands	• Soil moisture management by improving soil's capacity to accept, retain, release and transmit water. • Improved water efficiency through reducing water requirements and evaporation. • Water storage and flood moderation to manage excessive or insufficient water supply. • Improved water quality via improving land and animal management practices. • Water management can result in increased productivity whilst also potentially reducing soil erosion. There is also a climate resilience aspect to water management, particularly in response to droughts, whilst also potentially mitigating contribution to climate change by decreasing soil carbon emissions. Economic benefits could also result from increased water efficiency and water savings.

SLM Practice Group and Sub-Practice Group		Land Type	Definition
 **Marine Protection and Management**		Coastal	• For this methodology, the marine environment is defined as the intertidal zone to cover the area between the extreme low and high tides which can then be classed as land. • Preventing and reducing the leakage of pollutants (including nitrates) from land into the marine environment. • Establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPA) as an effective way of managing the marine environment for the long-term conservation of nature alongside protecting ecosystem services and cultural values[6].
 **Soil and Vegetation Management**	Soil Erosion Control	Forest / woodlands Croplands	• Preventing or controlling wind or water erosion runoff velocities. • The approaches can be generally categorised into structural, vegetative, or combined/integrated technologies. • Soil erosion control involves the retention of soil which can lead to reduced carbon losses, promotes water recharge and increases productivity, but can also lead to increased soil organic content, carbon sequestration and enhanced biodiversity depending on the type of SLM technology implemented.
	Vegetation Management	Croplands	• Management of vegetation to improve its quality, quantity and diversity. • Management of invasive species to ensure that native diversity and overall function continues. • Vegetation management has the potential to improve soil structure, reduce soil erosion, and increase soil carbon.
	Integrated Soil Fertility Management	Croplands Grazing	• Combines different methods for managing nutrients and water, based on three principles of maximising organic fertiliser, minimising nutrient loss and using inorganic fertilisers sensibly based on needs and economic availability. • Integrated soil fertility management can lead to improvements in overall soil quality, reduce soil erosion, retain water and increase soil organic carbon. There is also potential for a reduction in nitrogen leakage into the environment and reduction in GHG emissions.
	Minimum Soil Disturbance	Croplands	• Reducing the level of soil manipulation and disturbance. • Minimum soil disturbance can increase the quality and fertility of soil as well as providing co-benefits such as controlling soil erosion and compaction and improving the availability and retention of water.

[6] Available at: https://www.iucn.org/content/when-a-marine-protected-area-really-a-marine-protected-area

SLM Practice Group and Sub-Practice Group		Land Type	Definition
	Agropastoralism	Mixed	• Diversified form of pastoralism that integrates crop production and livestock production and is a complex set of practices and knowledge which maintains a sustainable balance between pastures, livestock and people. • Agropastoralism has the potential to improve productivity of the landscape, prevent soil erosion and improve nutrient and water use efficiency. There is also potential for it to mitigate and increase resilience to climate change by reducing grazing pressures elsewhere.
	Integrated Pest and Diseases Control Fire, Pest and Diseases Control	Forest / woodlands Croplands Grazing	• Fire, pest and disease control are measures which prevent and manage the spread of fire, diseases and pathogens to avoid negative effects on soil, vegetation and ecosystems. • Integrated pest management includes a combination of measures being implemented simultaneously to control weeds and pathogens to avoid negative impacts on soil, vegetation and ecosystems. • Effectively controlling weeds and pathogens can protect crop yields whilst potentially having a synergistic effect on improving soil quality and preventing erosion, improving the soil organic pool, reducing GHG emissions and enhancing soil biodiversity. • Wildfires can result in significant damage to ecosystems. However, they can also be an essential part of forest structure and function maintenance, therefore the management of wildfires and sustainable use of controlled fires can reduce forest degradation.
 **Animal Management**	Grazing Pressure Management	Grazing	• Grazing pressure management determines the carrying capacity of the habitat or ecosystem and manages the timing and severity of grazing to ensure that the carrying capacity is not exceeded. Carrying capacity is the maximum livestock or wildlife population an ecosystem or habitat can efficiently support in terms of foraging and animal performance whilst maintaining the health and productivity of that particular area. • There is potential for the management of grazing pressures to prevent the erosion and deterioration of soil, and depending of the practice being implemented, it may also improve the carbon content of soil.
	Animal Waste Management	Grazing	• Animal Waste Management systems aim to recycle animal wastes as much as possible and are designed to effectively manage the handling, storage, and utilisation of waste. • Effectively managing animal waste increases the potential for improved soil fertility and productivity, reduced nutrient loss, improved water quality and can also mitigate climate change by preventing GHG emissions. The mobilisation of anti-biotics into water systems may also be reduced which may have positive effects on reducing anti-microbial resistance.

SLM Practice Group and Sub-Practice Group	Land Type	Definition
 **Wetland and Peatland Protection, Management, and Restoration**	Wetland Protection, Management, Restoration	Wetlands	• Wetland management typically involves manipulating water levels and vegetation in the wetland environment and/or providing an upland buffer[7]. • Restoration of wetland systems to their natural function through manipulation of physical, chemical or biological conditions.
	Peatland Protection, Management, Restoration	Peatlands	• Managing water levels to maintain water quality and ecological function and prevent GHG emissions. • Conserving the functional ecosystem units as the building blocks for habitat networks. • Preventing damage from development and conflicting land management. • Restoring peatlands to their natural function through manipulation of physical, chemical or biological conditions.

Source: Adapted from the definitions within the 'Sustainable Land Management contribution to successful land-based climate change adaptation and mitigation' (UN, 2017)[8]

[7] Available at: https://www.wocat.net/en/glossary/
[8] UN (2017). Sustainable Land Management Contribution to Successful Land-based Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation. Available at: https://www.unccd.int/publications/sustainable-land-management-contribution-successful-land-based-climate-change

Annex 2: Further worked examples

Worked Example 2

Worked example 2 represents a fictitious programme that demonstrates how to report against KPI 17 when the ICF is co-financing a programme. It also demonstrates how to report against KPI 17 when multiple SLM practices are being implemented within an ICF programme, two of which have a geographic overlap.

A fictitious programme where the ICF programme aims to reduce soil erosion across 40,000 ha, plant mangroves across 13,000 ha and convert 2,000 ha of the marine environment to a marine protected area (MPA) over the programme's lifetime. The programme has 25% co-financing from the national government, ICF contribute the remaining 75%.

1. **Determine whether any programme activities fall into one or more of the SLM practice groups identified in Annex 1 of this Methodology Note.**

The activities that the ICF programme is implementing are reviewed by the ICF programme manager and compared against the SLM practice groups in Annex I. The ICF programme manager determines that the activities fall under three SLM practice groups: Soil and Vegetation Management, Afforestation and Reforestation, and Marine Protection and Management.

2. **Identify if the programme delivers a spatially explicit SLM practice(s).**

The ICF programme has outlined its aim to implement the SLM practices across a total of 55,000 hectares over the lifetime of the programme. The ICF programme manager determines that the delivery of the SLM practices over a discrete number of hectares is determined to constitute a spatially explicit result.

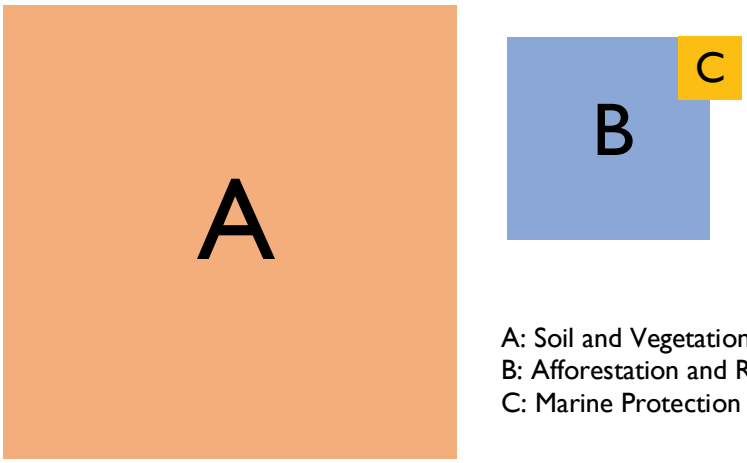
3. **Determine if the spatially explicit SLM practice(s) is directly delivered by the ICF programme.**

The ICF programme manager determines that the SLM practices are being directly delivered by the ICF programme, as the 55,000 ha are a direct result of the ICF programme intervention to be achieved over the programme's lifetime.

4. **Collate data from programme level M&E systems.**

After year 1 the programme has implemented SLM technologies to control soil erosion over 10,000 ha, planted mangroves across 2,000 ha and it also resulted in 200 ha being converted to MPA.

5. **Review the exclusion criteria to determine if some or all the hectares should be reported under KPI 17.**



A: Soil and Vegetation Management – 10,000ha
B: Afforestation and Reforestation– 2,000ha
C: Marine Protection and Management – 200ha

There are multiple SLM practices occurring as a result of the ICF programme. The Soil and Vegetation Management SLM practice is occurring on a separate area of land therefore the total number of hectares associated with this practice can be included within the reporting.

However, for the first year of reporting (i.e. Year 1 results) the Afforestation and Reforestation, and Marine Protection and Management SLM practice groups have an overlap of 100 ha of the same area of land which therefore should not be counted twice.

6. **Determine the baseline of hectares receiving SLM practices in the absence of the ICF programme.**

There are no other programmes operating in the area of interest for this ICF programme.

7. **Calculate pro-rata share where HMG has only funded part of a programme (attribution).**

As the national government is providing 25% of the finance towards the programme, only 75% of the number of hectares can be attributed to ICF. Thus, the total number of hectares is multiplied by 0.75 to yield the portion of results that can be attributed to UK support.

8. **Report the number of hectares receiving SLM practices.**

The programme manager identified from the programme's strategic objectives that Soil and Vegetation Management was the lead SLM practice group and populated the Reporting Template accordingly.

The annual increase of hectares receiving SLM practices as a result of the ICF programme in Year 1 is 9,075 ha. It is reported in the following format:

Annual increase of hectares receiving SLM practice as a result of the programme	9,075
Cumulative net increase of hectares receiving SLM practice as a result of the programme	9,075
SLM Practice Group(s)	Soil and Vegetation Management Afforestation and Reforestation Marine Protection and Management
Lead SLM Practice Group (optional)	Soil and Vegetation Management
SLM Practice Sub-group(s) (if applicable)	Soil Erosion Control (sub-group for Soil and Vegetation Management)

Reporting Commentary	The annual increase of hectares receiving SLM practices in Year 1 is 9,075. There was 10,000 ha reported for the Soil and Vegetation SLM practice group under the Soil Erosion control sub-group. There was 2,000 ha of mangroves reforested (Afforestation and Reforestation) and 200 ha was converted to MPA (Marine Protection and Management). However, the Afforestation and Reforestation and Martine Protection and Management practices overlapped the same area of land by 100 hectares. Therefore, 100 ha was deducted from the total annual increase reporting figure, resulting in 12,100 ha. As the ICF are providing 75% of the finance for this programme, the 12,100 ha was multiplied by 0.75 to result in an annual increase of 9,075 ha.
Quality Assurance	ICF programme staff have collated available field reports and corroborated the results with records kept by the national government's Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The number of hectares estimated is considered to be accurate.

Worked Example 3

Worked example 3 represents a fictitious programme that demonstrates when an ICF programme cannot report against KPI 17.

A fictitious programme where the ICF aims to revert degraded forests back to their natural state across an area of 50,000 ha by facilitating research, planning and analysis, as well as delivering capacity-building measures for the relevant stakeholders.

1. **Determine whether any programme activities fall into one or more of the SLM practice groups identified in Annex 1 of this Methodology Note.**

Activities associated with the programme are related to the Forest Restoration SLM Practice Group.

2. **Identify if the programme delivers a spatially explicit SLM practice(s).**

The programme is implementing research, analysis and tools to allow decision makers to be better informed and providing landowners with training to ensure better outcomes for forests. As this ICF programme is focussed on capacity building, it is not considered to be spatially explicit and therefore cannot report under KPI 17.

Annex 3: Comparability and synergies with other ICF KPIs

KPI 17 Reporting and KPI 8 Reporting

KPI 17 is related to KPI 8: Hectares of deforestation and degradation avoided through ICF support. KPI 8 monitors reduced deforestation and forest degradation at the outcome level. As briefly discussed in the **Rationale** and **Summary Table**, the implementation of a SLM practice may result in reduced deforestation and/or reduced forest degradation within the ICF programme's area of interest. Similarly, the implementation of SLM activities may result in reduced deforestation and degradation outside the ICF programme's area of interest. In both scenarios, KPI 8 would report the change in forest cover at the outcome level, as a result of the programme's output activities. If SLM practices are resulting in changes in deforestation and degradation both within and outside the ICF programme area of interest, then the number of KPI 17 hectares (limited to reporting within the ICF programme area) would only constitute a portion of the total area of reduced deforestation. Conversely, if SLM practices are being implemented that do not affect the forest cover, then these hectares would exclusively be reported under KPI 17 and not reported under KPI 8.

The potential relationships between KPI 17 reporting and KPI 8 reporting are presented with indicative examples in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Relationship between KPI 17 and KPI 8 reporting

Relationship between SLM practice and forest cover	**Examples of SLM practices affecting forest cover**	**Reporting hectares as a result of ICF intervention**
SLM practice does not plant / retain / restore trees within the programme's area of interest and does not affect forest cover elsewhere	• **Soil and Vegetation Management**: Application of organic fertilisers for increased soil fertility • **Water Management**: Cascading rock irrigation channel • **Animal Management:** Rotational grazing	Hectares are reported under KPI 17
SLM practice that does plant / retain / restore trees within the programme's area of interest and therefore affects forest cover	• **Afforestation / Reforestation**: Afforestation with species mix at different scales • **Forest Protection**: Establishment of protected forested area • **Forest Protection**: Reducing slash and burn agriculture	Hectares are reported under both KPI 17 and KPI 8
SLM practice does not plant / retain / restore trees within the programme's area of interest but does affect forest cover elsewhere	• Application of organic fertilisers leads to successful growth of alternative fuel source, resulting in reduced demand for fuelwood extraction in nearby forest • Establishment of a protected area reduces access to more remote non-protected areas, leading to a reduced rate of deforestation in nearby non-protected areas	Hectares are reported under KPI 8

KPI 17 Reporting and KPI 10 Reporting

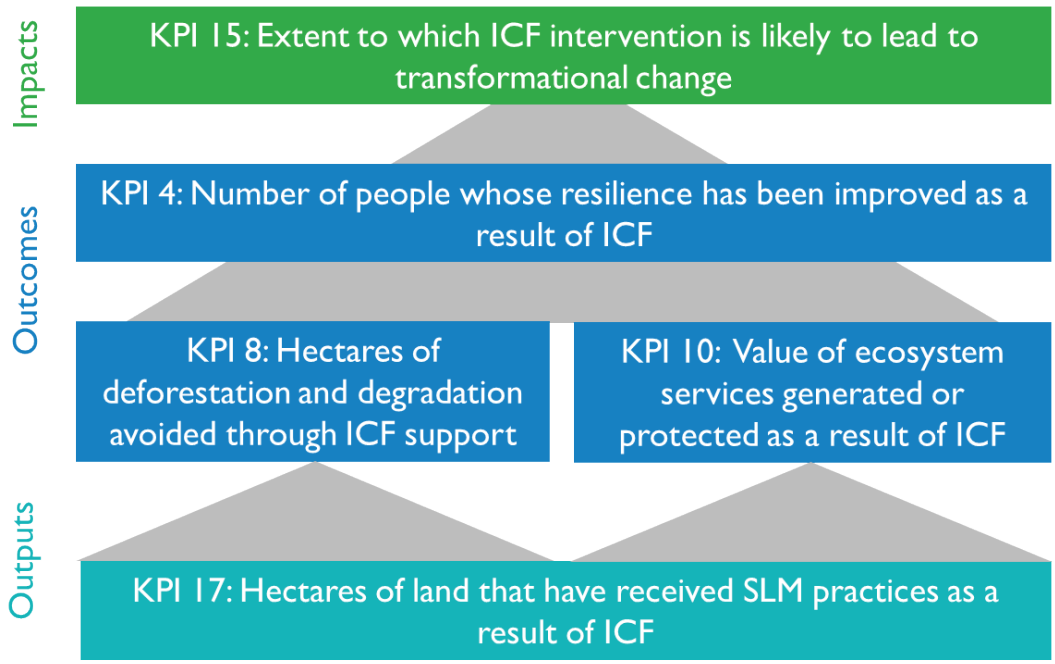
Reporting areas that are receiving SLM practices is linked to reporting against KPI 10: Value of Ecosystem Services generated and/or protected as a result of ICF support. The KPI 10 reporting methodology will directly benefit from increased reporting on areas receiving SLM practices, as it will inform data collection efforts and proxy data development.

KPI 17 does not report on the quality of implementation, however like KPI 8, the successful implementation of SLM practices will likely result in an increased value of ecosystem services at the outcome-level of reporting. KPI 10 reporting is not based on hectares, but instead reports in estimated monetary (and non-monetary) values and so there is no risk of double counting. In this way, KPI 17 reporting can be used to directly inform KPI 10 reporting but will not require reporting adjustments when both KPIs are being reported for a given ICF programme.

KPI 17 and the levels of ICF Results

KPI 17 provides an ability for the ICF portfolio to monitor spatially explicit results across a range of interventions that address agriculture, forestry and other land uses. Results reported against KPI 17 at the output level can then be used to better understand results being reported by outcome and impact KPIs further up the results chain. For example, KPI 17 reporting can be used to better inform results reported for increased resilience of social-ecological systems (KPI 4), which in turn can be used to better inform results reported for wider transformational change (KPI 15). An illustration of where KPI 17 is placed in the levels of ICF results is presented in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: KPI 17 and the ICF Results Levels[9]



[9] Figure adapted from *ICF MEL Inception Report, May 2016*.

Annex 4: Comparability and synergies with other external indicators

KPI 17 directly relates to UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6, 12, 14, and 15, as presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Links between KPI 17 and Sustainable Development Goals

SDG	SDG Target
SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.1 Implement the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution 14. 2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans 14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics 14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable manage forests, combat	15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

Source: UN SDG Goals[10]

Reporting on SLM practices can directly contribute to the identified targets for these SDGs, however there is only partial overlap with the associated SDG indicators. For example, while SLM practices can directly contribute to SDG Target 12.2, the associated indicators (12.2.1 and 12.2.2) track consumption per capita and per economic productivity. The area-based results reported for KPI 17 therefore do not reflect these metrics but could be used to support further calculations to deduce 'per capita' calculations.

A sample of SLM indicators used by other external agencies is presented in Table 5 below. This snapshot confirms that the KPI 17 indicator is consistent with approaches taken by other development partners and multi-lateral bodies.

Table 5: External Indicators

Organisation	**Indicator**
World Bank	Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (hectares)
Global Environment Facility	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (hectares)
Green Climate Fund	• Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) • Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) • Area of land restored (hectares) • Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Open source databases have been developed to capture the many different activities that comprise SLM practices. While these databases do not present indicators, they do offer further insight as to the types of activities that development partners and multi-lateral bodies consider falling within a SLM practice. Two examples of these open source databases include the Global Database on SLM of WOCAT (the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies)[11] and the U.N. Knowledge Hub on SLM Practices[12].

[10] Available at: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300
[11] Available at: https://qcat.wocat.net/en/wocat/
[12] Available at: https://knowledge.unccd.int/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Abest_practice

Annex 5: Definitions of key methodological terms used across ICF KPIs

As different HMG departments may use the same terminology to refer to different concepts, this section sets out definitions for key terms used across Methodology Notes for ICF KPIs. The terms used in these notes refer to the concepts as defined below, rather than to alternative, department-specific usages of these terms.

Counterfactual: The situation one might expect to have prevailed at the point in time in which a programme is providing results, under different conditions. Commonly, this is used to refer to a 'business as usual' (BAU) counterfactual case that would have been observed if the ICF-supported intervention had not taken place.

Additionality: Impacts or results are additional if they are beyond the results that would have occurred in the absence of the ICF-supported intervention. That is, results are additional if they go beyond what would have been expected under a BAU counterfactual.

Causality: Causality refers to the assessment that one or more actors bear responsibility for additional results or impacts, because of funding provided though the ICF or actions taken under an ICF programme. Multiple development partners may be assessed to have played a causal role in delivering results.

Attribution: Attribution refers to allocating responsibility for impacts or results among all actors that have played a causal role in programmes that deliver additional results. Results are commonly attributed to causal actors based on their financial contributions to programmes (though there may be cases where greater nuance is needed, as with KPI 11 and KPI 12).

Annex 6: ICF KPI 17 Reporting Template

Programme / Name

Programme Summary	[insert one to two paragraphs describing the ICF programme]
HMG Department	[insert HMG department / office]
Implementation Period	[insert programme years]
Year of Reporting	[insert year of reporting for results]
Implementing Partners	[insert implementing partners]
Total Budget	[insert financial size]
Area of Interest	[insert qualitative description of programme boundaries]

Annual Increase of hectares receiving SLM practice as a result of the programme	[insert number of new hectares receiving SLM practice(s) within the reporting year]
Cumulative Net Increase of hectares receiving SLM practice as a result of the programme	[insert total number of hectares receiving SLM practice(s) since programme implementation]
SLM Practice Group(s)	[insert name of SLM practice group(s)]
Lead SLM Practice Group (optional)	[insert the lead SLM practice group of the programme, only if easily identifiable by referring to the programme's strategic objectives and programme design documentation]
SLM Practice Sub-group(s) (if applicable)	[insert name of SLM practice sub-group(s), optional only if applicable to the programme]

Reporting Commentary	[provide a brief narrative on the quantitative hectares calculation]
Quality Assurance	[provide details on the quality assurance process undertaken and a qualitative judgement on the strength of evidence]