



GEF-7 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
 TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Rehabilitation and integrated sustainable development of Algerian cork oak forest production landscapes			
Country(ies):	Algeria	GEF Project ID: ¹	9806
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	GEF Agency Project ID:	642316
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (General Directorate for Forests)	Submission Date:	10 April 2019
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal area	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Parent Program	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	324,106

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
LD-2	Programme 3	GEFTF	852,911	8,565,749
BD-4	Programme 9	GEFTF	2,558,733	15,907,822
Total project costs			3,411,644	24,473,571

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

<p>Project Objective: Conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of unprotected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 4). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target: 18,530 ha Area of protected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target: 4,000 ha Number of small and medium-size enterprises (SMSEs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target: 60 SMSEs (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites) 						
Project Components/Programs	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest	TA	1. Three sites are under renewed participatory sustainable management that includes biodiversity conservation and the perpetuation of ecosystem services as well as socio-	Output 1.1: Local and national diagnostics and census of biodiversity are completed and provide a basis for sustainable management Output 1.2 Sustainable forest management plans for biodiversity	GEFTF	1,150,400	3,378,571

¹ Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on *GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF*.

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p>economic benefits</p> <p>Indicator: Number of sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders and implemented</p> <p>Target: 3 SFM plans</p>	<p>conservation and income generation for local populations are developed and implemented in three sites</p>			
Sustainably creating value from cork oak ecosystem products, goods and services.	Inv	<p>2. Value chains for priority (non-cork) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) strengthened at both local and national level</p> <p>Indicator: Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.</p> <p>Target: 60 small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites⁴)</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes in three sites.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Local operators and enterprises are strengthened and benefit from an enabling environment.</p> <p>Output 2.3: A traceability system for at least two NTFPs, including cork, is operational.</p> <p>Output 2.4: Economic value-adding tools (e.g. labels, certificates) are in place for cork and one other NTFP value chain.</p>	GEFTF	1,501,500	2,795,000
Replication and upscaling of successful approaches	TA	<p>3.Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans are initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria</p> <p>Indicator: Number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.</p> <p>Target: 350,000 ha</p>	<p>Output 3.1: Policy and technical mechanisms for upscaling good practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity</p>	GEFTF	605,050	17,100,000
		<p>4.Project results are captured and lessons learned are widely disseminated by National government</p>	<p>Output 4.1: An upscaling strategy is developed that is informed by project monitoring, evaluation</p>			

⁴ Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered.

		stakeholders. Indicator: Number of good practices identified and upscaled nationally. Target: 3 good practices	and knowledge management				
				Subtotal		3,256,950	23,273,571
				Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁵	GEFTF	154,694	1,200,000
				Total project costs		3,411,644	24,473,571

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries	In-kind	4,200,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries	Grant	19,800,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	473,571
Total Co-financing			24,473,571

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a) (b)²}	Total (c)=a+b
FAO	GEF TF	Algeria	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	863,242	82,008	945,250
FAO	GEF TF	Algeria	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	2,548,402	242,098	2,790,500
Total Grant Resources					3,411,644	324,106	3,735,750

* CC FA resources are shifted to LD using the marginal flexibility mechanism

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

⁵ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GEF 6 CORE INDICATORS

Update the relevant sub-indicator values for this project using the methodologies indicated in the Core Indicator Worksheet (as used in GEF 7 Endorsement template – Annex E) and aggregating them in the table below. Progress in programming against these targets is updated at mid-term evaluation and at terminal evaluation. Achieved targets will be aggregated and reported any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCCf.

Project Core Indicators		Expected at CEO Endorsement
1	Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	4,000 ha
2	Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (Hectares)	
3	Area of land restored (Hectares)	
4	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)	18,530 ha
5	Area of marine habitat under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares)	
6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO ₂ e)	
7	Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	
8	Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)	
9	Reduction, disposal/destruction, phase out, elimination and avoidance of chemicals of global concern and their waste in the environment and in processes, materials and products (metric tons of toxic chemicals reduced)	
10	Reduction, avoidance of emissions of POPs to air from point and non-point sources (grams of toxic equivalent gTEQ)	
11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided.

F. PROJECT TAXONOMY

See the GEF Taxonomy Worksheet in Annex F.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF⁶

A.1. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁷ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1) No significant changes can be observed as compared to the approved PIF. The description of the environmental problems has been further detailed and specified for the 3 selected project sites. Information has been provided in Section 1.1.5 of the project document.

2) The baseline scenario has been updated since PIF design. New investments have been identified with respect to those mentioned in the PIF as they appear to be more relevant to the expected outcomes. In addition, some investment listed under the PIF are now outdated. Section 1.1.2 in the project document clarifies the baseline investments. The table below summarises the change.

Baseline investment in PIF	Comment
Technical Assistance for forest fire management (TCP/ALG/3501- Baby 1)	The project is no longer a baseline investment (initiative completed in March 2017), but its results will inform fire management activities under the project.
Technical Assistance to promote organic olive oil production in Algeria (TCP/ALG/3603)	The project was completed; however, lessons learned from the strengthening of the olive oil sector will be considered when developing COF-associated value chains under the project.
Promoting Decent Agricultural Employment for the Rural Youth Population in the Maghreb (Regional project - TCP/SNE/3502)	The project is no longer a baseline investment (initiative completed in December 2017), but the mainstreaming of rural development in strategies and programmes achieved under this initiative will benefit the present project by generating an enabling environment.
Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas (SIMRA) (global project - GCP /SNE/004/EC)	This project is no longer listed as a baseline project, as other initiatives are better aligned with the proposed outcomes. However, coordination will be sought with activities implemented in Algeria.
Baseline investment in CER	Comment
“Soutenir, améliorer, développer et moderniser des filières d’exportation de plusieurs produits dont le liège.” (Support, improve, develop and modernize export value chains, including cork)	The project will complement the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the sustainable creation of value from the NTFP and ecosystem services derived from COFs (Component 2).

⁶ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF , no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

⁷ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project’s consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

<p>“Améliorer la contribution du secteur forestier à l'économie nationale, au niveau de vie des populations forestières algériennes, à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à la gestion durable des forêts. ”</p> <p>(Strengthen the contribution of forests to the national economy, the livelihoods of Algerian forest populations, the fight against poverty and the sustainable management of forests)</p>	<p>The project complements the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the management, monitoring, restoration and valuation of forest resources at the pilot sites and across Algerian COFs (Component 2).</p>
<p>“Réduire le risque de catastrophe naturelle, renforcer la sécurité alimentaire des populations rurales et renforcer la stabilité sociale. ”</p> <p>(Reduce the risks of natural disasters, strengthen food safety of rural populations and enhance social stability)</p>	<p>The project complements the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the prevention and the monitoring of fires. Therefore, it will be linked to Component 1.</p>
<p>“Amélioration de la transparence et de l'exhaustivité des données sur l'utilisation des terres dans les rapports NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) ”</p> <p>(Strengthening the transparency and the exhaustivity of data on land use in Nationally Determined Contributions)</p>	<p>The project complements the activities under Component 1 (increase of the knowledge base for the establishment of sustainable management plans).</p>

3) No major amendments have been made to the GEF alternative scenario. Adjustments made reflect the alignment of the project to the GEF-7 core indicators, at the objective and outcome levels. Furthermore, two gender-sensitive indicators have been added (at the objective level and under Component 2).

Results matrix in PIF	Results matrix in CER	Comment
<p>Project Objective: Sustainably manage, conserve and sustainably harvest Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems.</p> <p>Indicators: # of ha of cork oak forest production landscapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management and use proven SLM practices. Target: 20,000 (direct) – 350,000 ha (indirect).</p>	<p>Project Objective: Conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area of unprotected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 4). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target: 18,530 ha • Area of protected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target: 4,000 ha • Number of small and medium-size enterprises (SMSEs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target: 60 SMSEs (benefitting 	<p>The objective has not changed, though the indicators of progress have been revisited in order to align them to the GEF-7 core indicators. The target of 350,000 ha under improved practices (indirect) has been moved to Component 3.</p>

	40% women and 60% men, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites)	
Component 1: Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria's globally significant cork oak forests.		
<p>Outcome 1: At three globally significant and diverse sites, sustainable forest management systems developed and implemented that conserve biodiversity and provide sustainable revenue for local populations</p> <p>Indicator: # of sustainable forest management systems developed.</p> <p>Target: 3 (for Taouririt Ighil Forest in Bejaia Wilaya, Beni Idder forest in Jijel Wilaya, and Hafir forest in Tlemcen Wilaya).</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Three sites are under renewed participatory sustainable management that includes biodiversity conservation and the perpetuation of ecosystem services as well as socio-economic benefits</p> <p>Indicator: Number of sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders and implemented</p> <p>Target: 3 SFM plans</p>	<p>Outcome 1 and the indicator remained basically unchanged but have undergone a slight rewording to better reflect the project intervention logic.</p> <p>The outputs have been refined slightly, as there was a certain degree of overlap and to better align the project activities with the baseline situation. The refined outputs are:</p> <p>Output 1.1: Local and national diagnostics and census of biodiversity are completed and provide a basis for sustainable management.</p> <p>Output 1.2: Sustainable conservation-oriented forest management plans are developed and implemented in three sites</p>
Component 2: Sustainably creating value from cork oak ecosystem products, goods and services.		
<p>Outcome 2.1: Value chains strengthened for priority Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in cork oak forests.</p> <p>Indicator: increased value of market for 2 selected NTFFPs.</p> <p>Target: to be determined during PPG</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Value chains for priority (non-cork) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) are strengthened at both local and national levels.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.</p> <p>Target: 60 small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites⁸)</p>	<p>In the PIF, two outcomes were bundled under Component 2. This has been changed to clarify the link between the four outputs under Component 2. These outputs are:</p> <p>Output 2.1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes in three pilot sites.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Local operators and enterprises are strengthened and benefit from an enabling environment.</p> <p>Output 2.3: A traceability system for at least two NTFFPs, including cork, is operational.</p> <p>Output 2.4: Economic value-adding tools (e.g. labels, certificates) are in place for cork and one other NTFP value chain.</p> <p>The indicator has been changed after further discussions during the PPG phase. It appeared that the original indicator under Outcome 2.2 was not "SMART"⁹ enough, since establishing the baseline would prove technically challenging.</p>
<p>Outcome 2.2: A basis for the development and implementation of incentives for forest ecosystem services (IFES).</p> <p>Indicator: increase of value of resources</p>	N/A	Cf. comment above.

⁸ Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered.

⁹ Specific, Measurable, Acceptable, Realistic, Time-bound.

flowing to SFM from IFES		
Target: TBD during PPG		
Component 3: Replication and upscaling of successful approaches.		
<p>Outcome 3.1: Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria.</p> <p>Indicator: # of hectares of cork forest with integrated management plans.</p> <p>Target: 350,000 hectares, of which 229,000 hectares is rich in biodiversity.</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans are initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.</p> <p>Target: 350,000 ha</p>	<p>The indicator has remained unchanged. The mention to biodiversity-rich areas was deleted to avoid any confusion in the monitoring of the indicator. However, the biodiversity value of the areas has been stressed again in the project document (Section 1.1.1).</p> <p>The output structure was changed, with some outputs deemed more appropriate under Component 1. One output was retained under Outcome 3, namely: Output 3.1: Policy and technical mechanisms for upscaling good practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity.</p>
<p>Outcome 3.2: Project monitored and Project results captured and lessons learnt widely disseminated.</p> <p>Indicator: An M&E plan and a communication strategy developed and implemented</p> <p>Target: 1 M&E Plan, 1 Strategy.</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Project results are captured and lessons learned are widely disseminated by National government stakeholders.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of good practices identified and upscaled nationally.</p> <p>Target: 3 good practices</p>	<p>The original outputs were streamlined into one output, namely: Output 4.1: An upscaling strategy is developed that is informed by project monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.</p> <p>The indicator was revised to better align with the new output structure. However, the M&E plan and the communications and public awareness strategy will remain as key deliverables.</p>

It should be noted that adjustments have been made with respect to the GEF grant distribution over the different technical components and PMC. The table summarises these changes, which are the result of a detailed costing of activities (cf. Annex IV of the project document).

Component	GEF Project Financing at PIF stage (USD)	GEF Project Financing at CER stage (USD)
Component 1: Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems – at diverse and representative sites.	1,500,000	1,150,400
Component 2: Sustainably creating value from cork oak ecosystem products, goods and services.	600,000	1,501,500
Component 3: Replication and upscaling of successful approaches	1,149,644	605,050
PMC	162,000	154,694

4) The incremental cost reasoning has remained unchanged. However, amounts have been updated to reflect the baseline situation, exact co-financing plan and revised logical framework. FAO will contribute USD 473,571 in grant co-financing to Components 1 and 2.

Component	Incremental cost-reasoning at PIF stage	Incremental cost-reasoning at CER stage
Component 1	MARDF co-financing: USD 3,000,000	MARDF co-financing: USD 3,200,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in kind: USD 200,000 • in-cash: USD 3,000,000
Component 2	MARDF co-financing: USD 4,174,462	MARDF co-financing: USD 2,500,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in kind: USD 1,200,000 • in-cash: USD 1,300,000
Component 3	MARDF co-financing: USD 1,149,644	MARDF co-financing: USD 17,100,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in kind: USD 1,600,000 • in-cash: USD 15,500,000

5) GEBs have been changed since the PIF to align with GEF-7 Core Indicators (see Annex E). In addition, the main indirect target listed as GEB in the PIF (i.e. 350,000 ha under Corporate Result 2 “Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)”) has been moved to Component 3 (Indicator: number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.)

6) No significant amendment have been made to the innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up reasoning of the project as compared to the PIF.

A.2. *Child Project?* If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.
 N/A

A.3. *Stakeholders.* Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment (see Annex II of the project document). In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Section 1.4.1 of the project document zooms in on stakeholder engagement, with a detailed description of the grievance mechanism, disclosure and partnerships. The project document also refers to the environmental and social screening (medium risk project), and budgeted monitoring plan.

Section 1.4.2 of the project document details the various partners to the project, with a description of their roles. In addition, a Stakeholder Engagement Matrix is presented in Annex II of the project document.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

- Consulted only;
- Member of Advisory Body; contractor;
- Co-financier;
- Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;
- Executor or co-executor;
- Other (Please explain)

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment. (The Socio-Economic Analysis carried out during PPG is attached. This contains a section on gender.)

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment? (yes /no) If yes, please upload gender action plan or equivalent here.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;

improving women's participation and decision making; and or

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? (yes /no)

Aligning itself to the GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy, the project has a do-good approach rather than a do-no-harm approach when it comes to gender mainstreaming into project design, implementation and monitoring. The why and how has been described throughout the project document, and is summarised below.

While national employment statistics are generally sparse and outdated¹⁰, the activity of women is particularly badly known. This is because rural Algerian communities are characterized by a strong informal activity of women, which is therefore not recorded in official statistics and lacks recognition in terms of public policies but also socially (Annex VIII). However, studies^{11,12} have shown that this traditional setting is shifting towards a less patriarchal model, with rural women increasingly gaining access to higher education and formal employment. In this context, the project will accompany and encourage this social transition by promoting selected value chains with a relatively high involvement of women (e.g. verbena, essential oil) and fostering capacity-building for rural women¹³.

As presented in Annexes VII (Boxes 1 & 10) and VIII of the project document, rural women at the three pilot sites are diversely involved in specific value chains. However, these activities have an unexploited potential that can be further harnessed by strengthening the associated value chains, for example through the establishment of women's cooperatives. This will increase the economic profitability of these NTFP-based activities, thereby increasing the income derived by women.

Throughout the project, a gender-positive participatory approach will be sought, whereby women's organizations will be invited to actively contribute to the Local Project Committees. Although the degrees to which women's organizations are structured differs across the pilot sites (), the Social and Gender Assessment (Annex VIII of the project document) conducted during the PPG phase allowed to identify and engage with some associations that expressed a strong willingness to be involved in the projects. Such associations include the "Association femme rurale" of Bejaia-Afad, and the "Association Forêt Modèle" (Tlemcen).

In addition, a co-benefit of the project will be the conservation of cultural practices associated with NTFPs in COFs, and passed by women. An example of such cultural practice is the use of oak acorn to prepare the traditional couscous, a cultural specificity of the region of Jijel, which is being lost because of the degradation of COFs.

A specific indicator has been built in into the results matrix of the project in order to measure the do-good approach: Indicator 3 - Number of beneficiaries benefiting from improved capacity to manage cork oak forest landscapes, disaggregated by gender.

A.5 Risk. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

¹⁰ The last comprehensive national census dates back to 2008.

¹¹ Economic Commission for Africa. 2013. Améliorer l'accès au financement pour renforcer l'autonomisation des femmes rurales en Afrique du Nord, bonnes pratiques et leçons à tirer, cas de l'Algérie.

¹² M-B Tahon. 2014. L'emploi des femmes en Algérie. Canadian Journal of African Studies.

¹³ This transition, and particularly its capacity-building dimension, is promoted through the National Plan for the Integration and Institutionalization of the Gender Approach, adopted in June 2018 by the Government of Algeria.

The risk log has been included as Annex V in the project document.

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination. Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The main features of the project's institutional arrangements are reported below. A full description can be found in Section 2 and relevant annexes of the project document.

The main Executing Partner will be the General Directorate for Forests under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. At the request of the DRC, FAO will provide support services to the project management, including support for procurement, tendering, and enter into agreements with service providers. A National Project Director (NPD) will be designated and hosted by the DGF. The NPD will be responsible for the daily management and decision-making of the project, within the limits of the mandate determined by the Project Steering Committee. In addition, a National Project Coordinator will be tasked to support the NPD in the operational management of the project, according to the project document and agreed processes.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Agency for the proposed project, and as such, will provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. FAO will be responsible for providing oversight, technical backstopping and supervision of project implementation to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements. Technical backstopping will be provided by FAO in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee.

A quadripartite Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established¹⁴. It will be comprised of: i) the Director of the DGF (representing the MARDF); ii) a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (GEF political focal point); iii) the resident representative of FAO in Algeria; and iv) a representative from the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies (GEF operational focal point).

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be created and funded by the GEF. The main function of the PMU, following the guidelines of the Project Steering Committee, is to ensure the coordination and execution of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be comprised of: i) a National Project Director; ii) a National Project Coordinator; iii) a Financial and Administrative Assistant; and iv) an M&E consultant. In addition, Project Focal Points will be determined at each of the three pilot sites. Finally, a Chief Technical Advisor will be recruited.

The anchor of the project at the local level will be the Local Development Committees. These consist of smallholder farmers volunteering to participate in decision-making through planning and monitoring of natural resources management plans. They operate under the supervision of a local leader (elderly farmer, local administrator, ...), and where possible spin off from existing forms of voluntary association of farmers. From the PPG assessments, it seems farmers are only voluntarily associated for the management and maintenance of the water wells, and therefore, particularly in the El Moneera site, this water management associations could grow into a committee that looks into land, agro-biodiversity and other issues as well.

A Consultative National Project Committee (CNPC) will be established. It will be comprised of representatives of all parties relevant to the conservation of COFs and the sustainable use of its products, including representatives of the civil society, private sector and academia (the full list is provided in the project document). The roles of the CNPC will be to advise on project deliverables, identify further capacity gaps to be targeted by capacity-building activities and facilitate the dissemination of communication material and lessons learned. The CNPC will meet bi-annually or as required.

¹⁴ Indicative Terms of References for the Project Steering Committee, the Consultative National Project Committee and the National Project Coordinator are provided in Annex XII of the project document.

The anchor of the project at the local level will be the Local Project Committees (LPC) to be established in each of the three pilot sites. Depending on the specificities of local contexts, the composition of the LPCs may vary. For example, formal village committees are particularly active in Taourirt Ighil – and often collaborate with local forest conservation authorities –, while informal representatives of local social groups are traditional contact persons for public authorities in Beni Idder (cf. Social Assessment, Annex VIII of the project document).

The project will coordinate with a range of ongoing initiatives in Algeria related to sustainable forest management and the development of the value chains for natural resources. The proposed project will coordinate with all these initiatives to ensure that best practices are incorporated into the project (see Section 1.1.2 of the project document).

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7 Benefits. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)?

In 2015, agriculture ranked first and third as the sector with the highest potential of job creations in projects supported by the CNAC¹⁵ and the ANSEJ, respectively¹⁶. The early economic studies conducted during the PPG phase (Annexes VII and IX of the project document) were not in a position to quantify the potential of job creations in the value chains of cork and other NTFPs supported by the project. However, it is anticipated that the development of these activities will foster employment at the local level (communities in the vicinity of COFs) as well as downstream of the value chains (transformation, exportation etc.).

As presented in Annex VIII of the project document, women's employment is relatively low in rural Algeria. Despite gaps in national statistics, studies have shown that the overall rate of employment of women in Algeria (16.5%) is the lowest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region¹⁷. Some of the value chains pre-selected for the implementation of the project are strategic to improve women's employment. In particular, the production and transformation of verbena in Taourirt Ighil holds considerable potential in this respect. Indeed, this product is locally recognized as a "women's sector" (Annex VII of the project document, case study n°10) with strong development perspectives. Such a development will necessitate capacity building for stakeholders involved, thereby contributing to women's upliftment in the area. The results of these pilot interventions will be closely monitored, and the feasibility of their upscaling carefully assessed.

Some of the value chains supported by the project involve traditional know-hows that have been threatened by rural exodus and the decay of cork production (e.g. debarking). The development of selected value chains at the local level will be an opportunity to revive these competencies, as well as train beneficiaries on other skills for which capacity gaps have been identified. ANSEJ, universities and the INRF will partner with the project to harness this potential. A special focus will be placed on the youths, for which the unemployment rate reaches 26.5%.¹⁸

The expected economic benefits associated with the development of selected NTFP value chains will be further increased by the upscaling measures to be adopted under Components 2 and 3. In particular, the feasibility of a certification system for Algerian cork and other products (e.g. verbena) will be assessed. Such a system will have the potential to improve the economic value of the products for which value chains will be strengthened.

The technical assessment on the status of COFs in Algeria conducted during the PPG phase highlighted the health risks for workers in cork transformation sector, because of outdated facilities. Even though GEF funding will not be earmarked for the modernization of transformation facilities, it is expected that the project will demonstrate the

¹⁵ CNAC: Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Chômage.

¹⁶ Source: Ministry of Industry and Mines. May 2016. Bulletin de la PME n°28.

¹⁷ Source: M.C. Belmihoub. 2016. Etude exploratoire sur l'accès des femmes au marché du travail en Algérie.

¹⁸ Source: Office National de la Statistique, 2018.

profitability of enhanced quality of cork products, that will require upgrading investments. This will eventually enhance the working conditions and health safety in cork transformation.

Local development benefits will be measured as follows:

- Indicator: Number of beneficiaries benefiting from improved capacity to manage cork oak forest landscapes, disaggregated by gender.
 - Target: 200 beneficiaries, at least 50% women.
- Indicator: Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.
 - Target: at least 60 households and/or small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites¹⁹).

A.8 Knowledge Management. Elaborate on the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention areas through existing information sharing networks and forums (any venues related to the government, the FAO, and partner institutions). In addition, the project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based, and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned.

Information and knowledge sharing will be an integral part of the project activities and results. Knowledge sharing and dissemination is central to empowering smallholders, NTFP entrepreneurs and rural communities with demonstrations of use and applications of best practices and technologies. Key elements of knowledge generation and sharing, envisaged in the project include the following important tasks:

- mapping biodiversity in the three sites and identifying priority species for conservation;
- analyses of value chains of NTFPs (local and national); and
- characterization and valuation of services in healthy COFs.

The Environment Directorates at the Wilaya level are tasked to promote to raise awareness, share information and educate the population on environmental matters. In addition, they in charge of supporting school projects and experiments in the field of environmental conservation, and to further promote the understanding of ecosystem services. Therefore, any relevant material produced by the project will be shared with the Environment Directorates at the Wilaya level, for it to be disseminated to relevant fora (including schools and local environmental associations).

Lessons learned

For the development of the PIF and during the PPG phase, a number of previous projects and programmes have been studied in order to: i) understand the barriers, threats, baseline situation (cf. Annex XV of the project document) and opportunities; ii) gain insights into risks and success factors of similar technical projects (both GEF and non-GEF); and iii) complete the stakeholder mapping and obtain detailed information on the strength and weaknesses of project partners.

Overall, the project design team learnt that there are institutional challenges when it comes to implementing national-level, integrated, multi-sector, multi-level and multi-stakeholder projects. Therefore, a consensus emerged on the need to test improved management plans of COFs and the strengthening of strategic value chains at selected pilot sites. The Theory of Change of the project (cf. Annex XVI of the project document) was designed in this perspective, with

¹⁹ Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered.

Components 1 and 2 setting an enabling environment and testing pilot interventions, and Component 3 taking up the lessons learned at a pilot level and upscaling them country-wide.

From a technical point of view, a thorough study on international best practices was produced during the PPG phase (Annex IX of the project document). The study was conducted by assessing the current status of Algerian COFs and their utilisation, and drawing from lessons learned in other Mediterranean countries to issue technical recommendations. These recommendations will be followed during the project implementation to inform new sustainable forest management plans.

B. Description of the consistency of the project with:

B.1 *Consistency with National Priorities*. Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.:

The proposed project is fully consistent with the relevant national development programmes and sector plans adopted by the Government of Algeria, as well as with the various programmes and action plans formulated by the Algerian Government under the relevant international Environmental Conventions.

With respect to national strategy and development programmes, the proposed project is in direct conformity with the following national programmes and sector plans:

- The Five-Year Growth Plan (2015-2019) presents the green economy as a fulcrum for development and technological progress in Algeria through strengthened employment, sustainable economic growth, enhanced innovation and reduced poverty.²⁰ The proposed project is fully aligned with the development of the green economy through the promotion of sustainable value chains for selected NTFP associated with COFs.
- The National Strategy for Land-Use Planning 2030 (Schéma National d'Aménagement du Territoire, SNAT) is the main guiding document for land-use planning. It acknowledges the importance of protecting and restoring forests as a means to fight land degradation, erosion and the deterioration of water catchments. As a result, an ambitious objective of 1,050,000 hectares of restored forests is set for 2030. The proposed Project is fully aligned with several "Programmes of action" (Programmes d'Action Territoriale, PAT) of the SNAT, namely:
 - PAT 2: fight against land degradation;
 - PAT 3: protection and sustainable management of ecosystems; and
 - PAT 19: rural renewal (through improved rural livelihoods).
- The Policy of Agricultural and Rural Renewal (Politique de Renouveau Agricole et Rural) is the Algerian national policy in the agriculture sector, launched in 2009 and revised periodically through the Five-Year Agricultural Plans. The second pillar of the current Five-Year Agricultural Plan (2014-2019) focuses on rural development, notably through two programmes of actions: i) the management and extension of forested areas; and ii) the conservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. The mid-term objectives are: i) the protection and sustainable use of natural resources; and ii) the improvement of rural livelihoods through the strengthening of value chains. The proposed Project will directly contribute towards the objectives set forth in the Policy of Agricultural and Rural Renewal.
- The Master Plans for Coastal Development (Plan d'Aménagement Côtier) promote the conservation and recovery of fragile coastal areas. In particular, the use of indigenous cork oaks is recommended to stabilize slopes and prevent erosion²¹.
- The National Reforestation Plan (1998, updated in 2015 through a five-year plan for 2015-2019) guides reforestation objectives and associated resources in Algeria. In particular, it sets objectives of a 50% increase in cork production and 40% increase in the value of cork exports by 2019. The formulation of the proposed Project is the direct result of the targets set in the Reforestation National Plan, and duly includes all the components evoked in

²⁰ United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Office for North Africa. 2015. The Green Economy in Algeria: An Opportunity to Diversify and Stimulate Domestic Production. Available online at: https://www.unece.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/SROs/NA/AHEGM-ISDGE/egm_ge_algeria.pdf

²¹ United Environment Programme, Government of Algeria. 2006. Programme d'Aménagement Côtier (PAC) "Zone côtière algéroise".

the Plan: i) capacity-building for the sustainable management of COFs; ii) enhancement of value chains for selected NTFPs; and iii) dissemination of global best practices for the management of COFs (including fire control measures).

- Forestry policy in Algeria was updated in 2017 the issuance of Forest Strategy Until 2035 (Stratégie des Forêts à l’Horizon 2035). The proposed Project presents an excellent opportunity to turn this Strategy into action, and has been designed to do so. First, this proposed Project is designed to contribute to the Forest Strategy’s vision to “serve the social, economic and environmental needs of the country, creating sustainable employment and income while contributing to improving the resilience of the natural environment to climate change”. In addition, the proposed Project will contribute directly to five of the six Strategic Directions of the Forest Strategy:
 - A1 - Sustainable management of the forest ecosystem and esparto grass (alfa);
 - A2 - Water and soil conservation and combating desertification;
 - B2 - Conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife, development of the practice of hunting and hunting activities;
 - C1 - Economic valuation of forest products; and
 - C2 - Economic valuation of ecosystem services.
- Algeria’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was last updated in 2016. The proposed project contributes directly to objectives 12, 14, 17 and 19 in the NBSAP, as further described in Section 1.2.1 of the project document.
- Algeria is one of 14 countries to have piloted the preparation of a national land degradation neutrality (LDN) report with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 2016). This report can be considered as the national policy on land degradation. The development of the proposed Project has been informed by Algeria’s LDN and especially aligns with two of its objectives:
 - Objective 1: Integrated management of dam watersheds, with the aim of an integrated watershed management programme upstream of the reservoirs, that will contribute to the conservation of soils and waters and the improvement of the living standards of the populations; and
 - Objective 2: National Reforestation Plan (cf. above).

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

Project oversight will be carried out by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and relevant Technical Units in HQ. Oversight will ensure that: i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and iv) agreed project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits are being delivered.

The FAO GEF Unit and HQ Technical Units will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

Project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the FAO budget holder. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception, the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the M&E specialist.

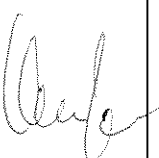
Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Inception Workshop	FAO Country Office	Within two months of project document signature	10,000

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Project Inception Report	Project Manager	Within two weeks of inception workshop	None
Supervision visits	FAO country office	Annually	None
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	Project manager and M&E officer	Annually	None
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	Project manager	Annually (July)	None
Co-financing Reports	FAO Country office	Annually	None
Mid-Term evaluation	FAO Country office	Once, after mid-point of project	30,000
Final evaluation	Office of Evaluation (OED)	At least three months before operational closure	50,000 (coordinated by OED)
Terminal Report	Project Manager	Within two months of project closure	6,800
Total Budget			96,800

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies²² and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-7.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Alexander Jones Director Climate and Environment Division		5 April 2019	Maude Veyret-Picot Natural Resources Officer	+39 0657052362	Maude.veyretpicot@fao.org
Jeffrey Griffin Senior Coordinator FAO-GEF Unit		5 April 2019	Senior Coordinator	+390657055680	FAOGEF@fao.org

²² GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF
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ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
Project objective: To conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems.	1. Area of unprotected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 4)	0 ha	10,000 ha	18,530 ha	GIS maps	The target corresponds to the 22,530 ha of COFs at the three sites, minus 4,000 ha of protected area accounted for under Indicator 2.
	2. Area of protected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1)	0 ha	2,000 ha	4,000 ha within Tlemcen National Park	GIS maps	
	3. Number of small and medium-size enterprises and community-based organizations deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services	0	10 SMSEs	60 SMSEs (with at least 40% women)	Project reports	
Component 1: Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria's globally significant cork oak forests.						
Outcome 1: Three sites are under renewed participatory sustainable management that	4. Number of sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders	0	3	3 SFM plans	SFM documents & project reports documenting the participatory process for the elaboration	A comprehensive management plan for the three pilot sites will be prepared in a participatory fashion.

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includes biodiversity conservation and the perpetuation of ecosystem services as well as socio-economic benefits.	and implemented.				and adoption of SFMs	The engagement of local organizations and communities will be facilitated by the establishment of Local Project Committees, building on the successful Projects of Local Rural Development (Projets de Proximité de Développement Rural, PPDR).
Output 1.1: Local and national diagnostics and census of biodiversity are completed and provide a basis for sustainable management.						
Output 1.2: Sustainable forest management plans for biodiversity conservation and income generation for local populations are developed and implemented in three sites.						
Component 2: Sustainably creating value from cork-oak ecosystem products, goods and services.						
Outcome 2: Value chains for priority (non-cork) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) are strengthened at both local and national levels.	5. Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.	0	10	60 small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites ²³)	Household surveys of beneficiaries	Gender dynamics relative to registered professional activities differ across the three sites (Section 3.4; Annex VIII). Therefore, the target percentage of women will be measured as an average across the three sites.
Output 2.1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes in three pilot sites.						
Output 2.2: Local operators and enterprises are strengthened and benefit from an enabling environment.						
Output 2.3: A traceability system for at least two NTFPs, including cork, is operational.						
Output 2.4: Economic value-adding tools (e.g. labels, certificates) are in place for cork and one other NTFP value chain.						
Component 3: Replication and upscaling of successful approaches.						

²³ Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered. GEF6 CEO Endorsement/Approval Template -- August 29, 2018

<p>Outcome 3: Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans are initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria.</p>	<p>6. Number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10,000 ha</p>	<p>350,000 ha</p>	<p>GIS maps, updated national management plans</p>	<p>The project is designed to facilitate the upscaling of successful approaches tested at the pilot sites from the onset. The DGF will coordinate the organization of field visits and training for all relevant CFs and forestry staff early in the project implementation phase to pave the way for Component 3.</p>
<p>Output 3.1: Policy and technical mechanisms for upscaling good practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity.</p>						
<p>Outcome 4: Project results are captured and lessons learned are widely disseminated by National government stakeholders.</p>	<p>7. Number of good practices identified and upscaled nationally.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>3 good practices</p>	<p>Updated national forest programme (policy and legislative framework)</p>	<p>The DGF is willing to facilitate the upscaling process through the updating of national management plans and guidelines. This will be critical to avoid that lessons learned under Components 1 and 2 do not benefit only the local, pilot level.</p>
<p>Output 4.1: An upscaling strategy is developed that is informed by project monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.</p>						

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

<p>Comments GEFSEC at PIF clearance</p> <p>Component 3: The communication strategy is important to share best practices and lessons learned. In addition to FAO FRA and GFLRM, please consider also using the Silva Mediterranea Committee and relevant research networks for that output in the proposal.</p>	<p>Answer at CEO ER stage</p> <p>Silva Mediterranea has been involved at the PPG phase, as one of the coordinators of the Silva Mediterranea working group on Cork Oak (Maria Carolina Varela) was contracted to produce an "Assessment of cork oak in terms of regeneration, plantation, valuation of cork and associated plants" (Annex IX of the project document). The recommendations from the assessment have directly informed the activity plan.</p> <p>In addition, the use of existing regional fora will be sought to disseminate the information gathered through Component 3, as specified in the project document.</p> <p>Please note that, besides Component 3, partnerships with academic institutions have been strengthened since the PIF stage. These will include the participation of the Royal Kew Gardens (United Kingdom) under Component 1, as well as the Algerian National Institute for Research on Forestry and the universities of Bejaia, Tlemcen and Jijel across Components 1 and 2.</p>
<p>Comments STAP</p> <p>1. STAP notes that Algeria participated in the UNCCD's LDN pilot target setting approach, and is currently participating in the UNCCD's LDN target setting program. Algeria is well-placed to draw from its LDN target setting efforts to pursue integrated approaches on land use planning, as well as to identify land management indicators. Doing so will strengthen the global environmental benefits on land degradation. The "Scientific conceptual framework on LDN" can assist the project developers identify the appropriate land indicators: http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-08/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf</p>	<p>Answer at CEO ER stage</p> <p>The alignment of the project with Algerian efforts towards land degradation neutrality is presented in the project document (Section 1.2.1). In particular, it is understood that the national land degradation neutrality report developed with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 2016 can be considered as the national strategy on land degradation. The proposed project will contribute to two objectives of this strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1: Integrated management of dam watersheds, with the aim of an integrated watershed management programme upstream of the reservoirs, that will contribute to the conservation of soils and waters and the improvement of the living standards of the populations; and Objective 2: National Reforestation Plan. <p>Some of the indicators in the results framework are inspired by the "Scientific conceptual framework on LDN":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcome 1: Indicator: Number of active sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders and implemented; and Outcome 3: Indicator: Number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.
<p>2. STAP appreciates the comprehensive problem and barrier analysis, and the strategies to address them so the outcomes can be achieved. This information is presented in a clear and succinct manner (page 20-21). STAP recommends defining the assumptions associated with the expected results, or citing references that validate the information. For example, it would be valuable to support</p>	<p>The problem and barrier analysis has been further strengthened and presented in the Theory of Change. A problem tree diagram has been added in the project document (Annexes XV and XVI). In particular, the problem tree was jointly refined with a vast diversity of national stakeholders during the validation workshop (see Annex X).</p> <p>Some of the assumptions underlying the logical link between actions and expected results have been specified in the Theory of Change, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at the national level, there is strong willingness to improve the governance of COFs; and

<p>statements in the table that suggest that improved value chains for NTFPs and payment for forest ecosystem services will increase stakeholders' appreciation for forests, and thereby lead to improved forest conservation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at the local scale, populations are ready to engage in the participatory management of resources associated with COFs. <p>Other assumptions are substantiated by the experience of other initiatives implemented in Algeria. These are documented across the project document. For example, the project will be overseen locally by Local Project Committees, which have been proved efficient in eliciting communities' engagement during the Projects of Local Rural Development (Projets de Proximité de Développement Rural, PPDR).</p> <p>Note also that the PPG phase showed that it is unclear whether PES schemes would be effective in the project context. Therefore, the project now recommends further analysis of such schemes before testing them. However, the PPG phase confirmed that including NTFP value chains could help create better value from the forests and that local communities were indeed interested in undertaking legitimate production in the framework of collaborative management plans.</p>
<p>3. STAP also appreciates the intention of the project to undertake stakeholder analysis (Output 2.2.2). It would be best if the analysis traces not only beneficiaries of the cork oak forest but also stakeholders with decision-making and advisory roles, in order to map convincingly the interconnections, power and role of all relevant stakeholders. This may also include gender differentiation and the role of indigenous technical knowledge. One of the objectives of stakeholder analysis should also be to assess the strength of economic incentives – see ODI Forestry Bulletin (May 2003) 'Economic Stakeholder Analysis' for Participatory Forest Management, by Michael Richards, Jonathan Davies and Gil Yaron. See https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/810.pdf</p>	<p>The stakeholder analysis conducted during the PPG phase has been threefold. Firstly, a social and gender assessment was carried out to further characterize the social profile of beneficiaries at the local level (Annex VIII of the project document) and identify the main local authorities and decision-makers that will need to be involved in the governance of the project activities. These findings have been reflected in the structure and composition of the various committees to be established. Secondly, an economic analysis of key NTFP value chains was conducted. This analysis focused on the various stakeholders involved at each step of the NTFP value chains, and identified the traditional knowledge and know-hows, differentiated by gender where relevant (e.g. harvesting and transformation of verbena by women in Jijel; Annex VII of the project document). Thirdly, the validation workshop informed the stakeholder engagement matrix presented in Annex II of the project document, and further determined the composition of the Consultative National Project Committee (see Section 2.1.1 of the project document), so that all relevant stakeholders can be involved in the decision-making processes throughout the project.</p> <p>In addition, the stakeholder analysis showed that there is a need for a deeper, long-term reform of the governance system for cork oak forests, and that project now hopes to initiate that policy discussion at the national level, using lessons and information generated from the three sites.</p>
<p>4. STAP recognizes the project's effort in strengthening the value of forests. STAP proposes that FAO and Algeria consider natural capital accounting, or similar valuation approaches, for documenting the value of forests. This would facilitate methods for valuing forest ecosystems, mainstreaming forest management and planning in Algeria's economic accounts, and the development of policies across ministries to support forests' contributions to the economy and livelihoods. STAP recommends</p>	<p>This approach was assessed and discussed with different stakeholders during the PPG phase, and deemed premature in the case of Algerian COFs. This is because a comprehensive assessment of the biodiversity status of these ecosystems remains to be done, as well as a full study of the economic situation of the income-generating activities associated with COFs. Both these assessments will be carried out during the project implementation phase, and will lay the basis of future natural capital accounting exercises. The project will seek to undertake a characterization and valuation of ecosystem services of the project, but the choice of the method to be used for such an analysis was left to be discussed by the national consultative forum during the project, on the basis of the initial census and baseline study (which will bridge information gaps).</p>

<p>considering efforts made by the UN Statistical Commission of the System for Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA) to develop a methodology for capturing forest values (e.g. NTFPs): https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/default.asp</p> <p>5. STAP also is cognizant of the need to improve the evidence base of the value provided by forests in order to influence policy-making. The following paper on estimating the economic benefits of NTFPs may benefit the design of the project, in particular on how to collect, monitor and assess data so it strengthens the evidence base on NTFP's impacts on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods: Wahlen, C. (2017). "Opportunities for making the invisible visible: Towards an improved understanding of the economic contributions of NTFPs". Forest Policy and Economics 84 (2017) 11–19.</p>	<p>All involved actors agree that mainstreaming the development of NTFP value chains at the national scale will require some advocacy on the economic and social benefits of doing so. This point has been discussed and reasserted during the validation workshop in the presence of representatives of several ministries. Therefore, a strong emphasis will be placed on showcasing the benefits of the NTFP value chains that will be developed at the three pilot sites. Documenting these benefits will greatly facilitate the establishment of a national framework to develop NTFP value chains, and consequently the mainstreaming of good forest conservation practices in national policies</p> <p>As described above, the early economic assessment of NTFP value chains conducted during the PPG phase will be complemented during the project implementation, starting with the Baseline assessment. The indicative Terms of Reference for the Baseline assessment are included in Annex XI of the project document, and include a reference to the suggested paper.</p>
<p>6. In addition to the participatory processes when the project will implement the assessment of the social-ecological context of each site, STAP encourages the project proponents to consider embedding policies and arrangements on governance. Governance will influence management, harvesting, trade and use of NTFPs. Governance is essential for creating win-win outcomes for NTFP production, biodiversity conservation, and improved forest livelihoods. In addition, STAP encourages FAO to monitor the effectiveness of NTFP governance in order to draw lessons and identify learning for the stakeholders involved, as well as for broader application beyond the project. STAP recommends this book as a resource on NTFP governance: Laird, et al. 2010. Finding policies that work for non-timber forest products". Earthscan.</p>	<p>Policies and governance arrangements are embedded within the project design, as they are seen as the tool to institutionalize the good practices that will be tested at the pilot scale. This will be done through several avenues, including the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An informal group of the 25 Forest Conservation Officers (Conservateur des Forêts, CF) of the Wilayas with COFs will be established at the beginning of the project. Managed through the Sub-Directorate of Planning and Inventory (Sous-direction de l'Aménagement et de l'Inventaire) of the DGF, this group will attend the capacity-building events organised at the national level and will participate in field visits of the pilot sites. The purpose of this group will be to build a link between the pilot sites and the national scale from the onset of the project, thereby paving the way for the upscaling of best practices and dissemination of lessons learned through Component 3. • The DGF will spearhead the establishment of a national inter-ministerial technical platform in support of COFs, whose role will be to assess project findings and outcomes and to steer discussions on the broader policy reforms that may be required to sustainably manage cork oak forest landscapes in the long term. This would include considering recommendations stemming from studies and assessments on the governance of forests, the role and responsibilities of various stakeholders such as Forest Wards, DGF, ERGRs, private sector, and the technical options put forward for better management of forests. This platform will be active from the start of the project and will continue to exist after the project under DGF leadership, to manage the upscaling strategy to other sites. To ensure adequate upscaling and replication of good methods, forestry staff in all cork-related Forest Wards across Algeria will be trained on sustainable management of cork oak forests.

	<p>FAO will closely monitor the governance and policy aspects of the project, with a view to document them and inform future initiatives beyond the project – including in other countries. To do so, FAO will be able to rely on its extensive experience in the formulation and implementation of forest policies, programs and projects.</p> <p>The networking capacity of FAO is further described in Section 1.3 of the project document, and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • biennial sessions of the Committee on Forest (COFO) which bring together heads of forest services and senior government officials to identify emerging forest policy and technical issues, seek solutions and advice on appropriate actions; • the Collaborative Partnership on Forests which bring together 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial forest programmes to streamline and align their work, collaborate and share experiences, and develop new solutions; • FAO-European Union (EU)'s Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme, that provides technical support and resources to government, civil society and private sector in nearly 40 countries to support forest Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs) to trade only in legal timber products and participate in the governance of forest resources, large forest enterprises to reduce commodity driven deforestation and variety of stakeholders to engage in forest governance.
<p>Comment from: Germany</p> <p>This proposal can greatly benefit during formulation phase from clearly stating the following: Strengthening the analytical part: Reference to the reasons why earlier attempts to management of cork forests including regeneration have fallen short would be an asset, as well as further explanation in which regard this new approach will be different from earlier attempts and overcome past barriers:</p> <p>The full proposal should be explicit with regard to forest governance aspects vis-à-vis the expected behavioural changes (e.g. limitation of access of cattle, goats, sheep to forests);</p> <p>Furthermore, an explicit and detailed strategy for gender differentiation with regard to future forest use, protection and shared benefits is suggested</p>	<p>Answer at CEO ER stage</p> <p>So far, there has not been significant attempts to improve the management of COFs in Algeria. The proposed project will make use of global practices in terms of COF management, regeneration and sustainable use. A comprehensive technical assessment of current pitfalls and suggested changes in the management of COFs in Algeria has been carried out during the PPG phase by a team of national and international expert (Annex IX of the project document: "Assessment of cork oak in terms of regeneration, plantation, valuation of cork and associated plants" and Annex VIII analyse socio-économique). The current framework and practices are inadequate to conserve and sustainably manage COFs. The baseline situation in terms of governance is further developed in the project document (Section 1.1.1), and can be summarized as follows. The current management of COFs does not involve local communities, and solely focuses on cork, and not on NTFPs. COFs are solely managed by the DGF and through time-bound concessions for debarking. The private sector is not involved in the management of resources upstream of harvesting and transformation stages; therefore, small and medium-size enterprises are not feeling responsible for the forest resources. In this context, the revised management plans to be developed under Component 1 of the project will propose an improved governance of COFs.</p> <p>The expected behavioral changes are described in the project document, and consist mostly in having communities consider COF as a source of valuable NTFPs that needs to be managed sustainably.</p> <p>Examples of behavioral changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adopting adequate debarking practices that do not harm cork oaks;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limiting cattle grazing in forest areas damaged by fires; and • suspending unsustainable harvesting practices of mushrooms and medicinal and aromatic plants. <p>Given the nature of forest governance in Algeria (almost entirely public), other changes will be less behavioral and more in terms of governance and management practices from the Directorate General for Forests' side. A broader discussion on governance of cork oak forests is also expected to be launched during the project.</p> <p>The gender differentiation of benefits to be expected from the sustainable use of NTFPs has been described in the project document and its annexes (Annexes VII and VIII). This will reflect on the governance differentiation, with some professional associations involved in the participatory management of COF being mostly composed of women (see Section 3.4 of the project document). These aspects will be further detailed throughout the project, and monitored specifically by the full-time M&E officer.</p>
<p>Comments from Canada</p> <p>Canada concurs with the STAP analysis that "in the project stakeholder analysis [output], not only beneficiaries of the cork oak forest but also stakeholders with decision-making and advisory roles, in order to map convincingly the interconnections, power and role of all relevant stakeholders. This may also include gender differentiation and the role of indigenous technical knowledge."</p> <p>Canada also concurs with STAP that the proponents and Algeria consider natural capital accounting, or similar valuation approaches, for documenting the value of forests. This approach is also used by Canada for our forests and natural capital.</p> <p>Canada notes that although the project identification form indicates that security risks are low and have been mitigated by choosing three particular sites, the wilayas of Béjaïa and Jijel are located in areas where there are security threats, which could complicate project elements.</p> <p>Question: How does the project propose to further mitigate this risk?</p> <p>The risks also indicated that a possibly decreased ownership and support from government agencies was a risk. Overly burdensome bureaucratic procedures could also cause delays, and would inquire as to what measures would be undertaken to avoid such.</p> <p>Question: What measures will be undertaken to avoid this risk?</p>	<p>Answer at CEO ER stage</p> <p>Please see answer to STAP Comment 3.</p> <p>Please see answer to STAP Comment 4.</p> <p>Since the approval of the PIF, the security situation in the wilayas of Bejaia and Jijel has continued to improve. Therefore, no significant threats to the project implementation are foreseeable at this stage. However, FAO-Algiers will continuously monitor the situation as per current security norms and practices and in close collaboration with the government and local project committees to address any emerging risks.</p> <p>Mitigation measures to this specific risk have been further described in Annex V, Section A as follows: "DGF and other national and local government agencies have been extremely supportive throughout the project identification and preparation grant phases.</p> <p>This involvement will be maintained through a participatory project design (several public agencies and institutions will partner with the project). In addition, the National Project Advisory Committee (NPAC) will include representatives of a wide range of stakeholders, thereby ensuring a continued involvement.</p>

Furthermore, the project design takes into consideration the need of achieving results in the short-term (at pilot sites) in order to demonstrate the relevance of the project objectives, results, and activities to local and national governmental agencies. CFs from all 25 Wilayas with COFs will be invited to visit pilot sites on a regular basis in order to showcase these results and generate momentum for the upscaling phase (Component 3).²⁹

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS²⁴

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:		GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)	
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To Date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Salaries Professionals	\$ 7,143	\$	\$ 7,143
Consultants	\$ 83,500	\$ 20,767	\$ 68,148
Contracts	\$ 3,000	\$	\$ 8,000
Travel	\$ 30,000	\$ 6,970	\$ 327
Expendable Procurement	\$ 5,357	\$ 5,357	
Workshops	\$ 21,000	\$ 16,629	\$ 16,658
Total	\$ 150,000	\$ 49,724	\$ 100,277

²⁴ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

N/A

Annex E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table E to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Completed and added as a separate document.

Annex F: GEF Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Completed and added as a separate document.