# GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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## General Project Information

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|---|---|
| Project Title<br>Restoration and sustainable forest management of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest, ecosystem | |
| Region<br>Africa | GEF Project ID<br>11179 |
| Country(ies)<br>Algeria | Type of Project<br>FSP |
| GEF Agency(ies):<br>UNDP | GEF Agency Project ID<br>9690 |
| Project Executing Entity(s)<br>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development/ General Directorate of Forestry<br>UNDP | Project Executing Type<br>Government<br>GEF Agency |
| GEF Focal Area (s)<br>Multi Focal Area | Submission Date<br>6/12/2025 |
| Type of Trust Fund<br>GET | Project Duration (Months)<br>60 |
| GEF Project Grant: (a)<br>3,502,968.00 | GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)<br>0.00 |
| Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)<br>332,782.00 | Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)<br>0.00 |
| Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)<br>3,835,750.00 | Total Co-financing<br>24,000,000.00 |
| PPG Amount: (e)<br>150,000.00 | PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)<br>14,250.00 |
| Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)<br>4,000,000.00 | |
| Project Tags<br>CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No | |
| Project Sector (CCM Only)<br>AFOLU | |

Taxonomy

Demonstrate innovative approache, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Capital providers, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Learning, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Awareness Raising, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Forest, Drylands, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Forest, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Fire Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate resilience, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use

Rio Markers

| Climate Change Mitigation | Climate Change Adaptation | Biodiversity | Land Degradation |
|---|---|---|---|
| Significant Objective 1 | Significant Objective 1 | Principal Objective 2 | Principal Objective 2 |

## Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Northern Algeria's forests, particularly in the High Steppe region, are grappling with climate impacts, land degradation, and biodiversity loss partly caused by human activity, exacerbated by droughts, fires, and pest diseases. These challenges are intensified by years of under-investment, particularly in knowledge and evidence-based management and decision-making, and by limited participation of forest users in shaping the forest management regime. This has led to escalating trends in forest degradation and loss.

The project aims to promote inclusive conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem. It targets the conservation and restoration of 50,000 hectares of this ecosystem and the implementation of sustainable forest management practices over 293,175 hectares. As a result of ecosystem restoration activities, the project will achieve a total greenhouse gas emission reduction of 3,302,869 $tCO_2e$, significantly contributing to national climate mitigation targets. Key strategies include strengthening forest regulatory and management frameworks, improving knowledge management and capacity-building, and piloting innovative financing solutions to attract private investment. These strategies will integrate best-practice tools for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approaches and enhance the generation of forest ecosystem goods and services.

The project will benefit the 850,000 individuals living in vulnerable conditions in the region, 50% of whom are women facing heightened vulnerabilities. It will also generate global environmental benefits by aligning with GEF-8 Focal Area objectives on Land Degradation, Biodiversity, and Climate Change Mitigation by targeting GEF Core Indicators 3, 4, 6, and 11. In addition, the project will contribute to the goals of the CBD and the Kunming-Montreal GBF targets 2, 10, 11 and 19, support achieving SDGs 13 and 15, national LDN target 2 and 4.

## Project Description Overview

### Project Objective

Strengthen the resilience of Algeria’s Aleppo pine forest ecosystems through targeted restoration and sustainable forest management at Senalba, Telagh and Beni Imloul Forests

## Project Components

### Component 1. Policy, regulatory and institutional capacity strengthening to enable inclusive forest conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Technical Assistance | GET |
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 565,800.00 | 4,929,527.00 |

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1

Improved enabling environment in place for gender-inclusive

conservation and sustainable management and use of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest to contribute to national targets for climate action (NDCs), LDN and biodiversity conservation (NBSAPs)

*Indicators/Targets:* [MY1]

*Number of regulatory texts, guidelines and protocols for forest management updated and/or developed and approved*

*Baseline: DGF has begun developing*

*Targets: Drafts of 8 individual regulatory texts of Law No 23-21*

*Number of gender-responsive forest management plans for Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest updated and approved for implementation*

*Baseline: 0*

*Targets: 3 plans approved for implementation*

*Number of gender-responsive decision-support tools for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) developed and implemented*

*Baseline: Existing tools are in need of updating*

*Targets: 2 new tools validated and being implemented*

Output:

Output 1.1.1 Develop guidelines and protocols and build capacities related to implementation of Law 23-21 of 23 December 2023 relating to forests and forest resources.

Output 1.1.2. Develop/update forest management plans to integrate best-practice SFM principles and approaches, inclusive, participatory, and gender-responsive measures to enhance effective policy implementation and law enforcement.

Output 1.1.3. Develop and deploy gender-responsive best practice decision-support systems and tools for sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest landscape restoration

## Component 1. Policy, regulatory and institutional capacity strengthening to enable inclusive forest conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Investment | GET |
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 283,000.00 | 2,708,281.00 |

Outcome:

Outcome 1.2. Strengthened institutional and technical capacities, knowledge and skills in place to facilitate inclusive, gender-responsive, and science-based forest management and forest landscape restoration

*Indicators/targets*

*Number of forest professionals trained on SFM and FLR practices and approaches and applying them in forest administration and management (at least 30% women)*

*Baseline: 0 forest professionals trained*

*Targets: 200 have received initial training*

Outcome 1.3 Strengthened participatory forest conservation and management capacities in place at local and community levels to promote inclusive and gender-responsive conservation, sustainable use and restoration of forest landscapes

*Indicators/targets:*

*Number of gender-responsive community based technical guidelines for SFM and FLR developed and under implementation*

*Baseline: 0 guidelines available*

*Targets: 3 sets of final guidelines (one per target area), adopted and under implementation*

*Number of men and women community members trained/targeted by capacity building programs on SFM and FLR (At least 50% women)*

*Baseline: 0 community members*

*Targets: 500 community members (at least 50% women)*

*Increase in capacity of community members on SFM and FLR (as measured through UNDP capacity scorecard or similar tool)*

*Baseline: TBD*

*Targets: At last 30% increase in baseline scores*

Output:

Output 1.2.1: Conduct a training and technical capacity needs assessment at national and sub-national levels for SFM and FLR, ensuring gender considerations are integrated into the assessment process.

Output 1.2.2: Develop and deliver targeted gender-sensitive training programs to equip technical personnel at national and sub-national levels with up-to-date knowledge and skills for SFM and FLR, including for participatory planning, monitoring and reporting

Output 1.3.1.

Develop gender-responsive technical guidelines for community-based forest conservation and management to facilitate participatory management of forests and community-led forest landscape restoration

Output 1.3.2.

Train local civil society organizations/forest associations (i.e., Forest User Groups) on gender-sensitive forest management and equip them with skills and knowledge to coordinate implementation of forest management plans at community levels

## Component 2. Conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration across the Algerian Aleppo Pine forest landscapes

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Investment | GET |
| **GEF Project Financing ($)** | **Co-financing ($)** |
| 2,240,200.00 | 11,660,000.00 |

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1

Deforestation and degradation addressed through gender-responsive Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)

*Indicators/targets:*

*Area of forest and forest land restored GEF Core Indicator 3.2*

*Targets: 50,500 ha*

*Green House Gas Emissions Mitigated in the AFOLU sector GEF Core Indicator 6.1*

*Targets:* 3,302,869 *Tons CO2e*

*Number of direct project beneficiaries GEF Core Indicator 11*

*Target: 50,000 (50% are women)*

*Number of indirect beneficiaries*

*Targets: 250,000 (50% are women)*

Outcome 2.2 Conservation and sustainable forest management and use practices mainstreamed into production landscapes across the Aleppo Pine ecosystem

*Indicators/targets:*

*Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (GEF Core Indicator 4.3)*

*Target –* 293,175 *ha)*

*Number of value chains supported to adopt sustainable business and greening practices*

*Target – 3 value chains supported) (more than 50% of jobs and additional income for women and women-led cooperatives and businesses)*

*Number of direct beneficiaries (GEF Core Indicator 11)*

*Target - 150,000*

*Number of indirect beneficiaries*

*Target - 400,000 (50% are women)*

Outcome 2.3. Efficient financing solutions developed to facilitate sustainable investments in wood and non-wood forest value chains, and to conserve and restore forest ecosystems.

*Indicators/targets*:

*Number of Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes in place*

*Targets: 1 gender-sensitive PES mechanism piloted*

*Number of women owned, and women-led businesses engaged in and benefitting from financial innovations and incentive mechanisms*

*Targets:40*

Output:

Output 2.1.1.

Implement FLR strategies and interventions across 50,500 hectares (ha) of degraded Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest, ensuring the active participation of women in restoration activities.

Output 2.2.1.

Support implementation of gender-responsive forest management plans in 343,675 ha of the forest landscape, including through inclusive co-management approaches with local communities

Output 2.2.2.

Support CSOs/Forest Associations (i.e., Forest User Groups) and SMMEs with a focus on women to adopt sustainable practices within value chains for specific wood (thinning posts), NWFPs, and use of forest ecosystem services ensuring green jobs creation, income generation and gender inclusive benefit sharing

Output 2.2.3. Facilitate access to markets for sustainably sourced wood and non-wood forest products as well as other forest ecosystem services and support market innovations, digital solutions with an emphasis on increasing benefits for women

Output 2.3.1.

Develop and pilot a gender-sensitive payment for ecosystem services (PES) mechanism to compensate local forest communities for the ecosystem goods and services generated through adoption of practices that reduce pressure on forests and facilitate conservation and restoration

## Component 3 Knowledge management, Awareness-raising

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Technical Assistance | GET |
| GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
| 102,577.00 | 3,282,192.00 |

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1

Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning

Indicators/targets

*Number of solutions / lessons learned transformed into knowledge sharing products Baseline: 0*

*Targets: 8*

Output:

Output 3.1.1.

Develop and implement strategies for sharing/ exchanging knowledge, lessons and communicating project results and impacts, showcasing benefits for men and women (i.e., gender-disaggregated data)

## M&E

| Component Type | Trust Fund |
|---|---|
| Technical Assistance | GET |
| **GEF Project Financing ($)** | **Co-financing ($)** |
| 145,000.00 | 302,800.00 |

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1

Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and Social and Environmental Safeguards policies

*Indicators/Target: MTR and TE delivered on time and according to expected quality (targets: MTR, TE and PIR independent quality ratings S or better)*

*Gender action plan fully implemented and reported in PIRs, MTR and TE*

*Stakeholder engagement plan fully implemented and reported in PIRs, MTR and TE*

Output:

Output 4.1.1 Project M&E plan implemented, and results reported through Project Board, quarterly and annual reports (PIRs)

Output 4.1.2 MTR and TE conducted and reports shared with UNDP and GEF IEOs

## Component Balances

| Project Components | GEF Project Financing ($) | Co-financing ($) |
|---|---|---|
| Component 1. Policy, regulatory and institutional capacity strengthening to enable inclusive forest conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration | 565,800.00 | 4,929,527.00 |
| Component 1. Policy, regulatory and institutional capacity strengthening to enable inclusive forest conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration | 283,000.00 | 2,708,281.00 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Component 2. Conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration across the Algerian Aleppo Pine forest landscapes | 2,240,200.00 | 11,660,000.00 |
| Component 3 Knowledge management, Awareness-raising | 102,577.00 | 3,282,192.00 |
| M&E | 145,000.00 | 302,800.00 |
| **Subtotal** | **3,336,577.00** | **22,882,800.00** |
| Project Management Cost | 166,391.00 | 1,117,200.00 |
| **Total Project Cost ($)** | **3,502,968.00** | **24,000,000.00** |

Please provide Justification

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

**Current trends and baseline scenario**

Algeria's forests have faced years of underinvestment, including for addressing the impacts of human activities, such as unsustainable harvesting, that have led to forest degradation and loss. These trends are being exacerbated by climate change impacts, including droughts, fires and pest diseases. A notable lack of participation of forest users and local communities in shaping the forest management regime has undermined the willingness and capacities of local communities to invest in forest conservation, sustainable use and management. Over time, the mounting pressures, challenges and inadequacy of responses have led to increasing trends in degradation and forest loss in northern Algeria. This project aims to address some of the main challenges to forest protection and management, and promote conservation, restoration, and sustainable management and use of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest in three targeted areas: Telagh, Beni Imloul, Senalba (See Figure 1 and Annex E). Details of the challenges and associated barriers are provided below.

*i. Combination of land degradation processes, vulnerability to climate shocks and anthropogenic factors lead to forest degradation and loss*

Environmental degradation processes are acute in the areas targeted by the project. These include the combined impacts of land degradation processes and biodiversity loss, both of which are compounded by climate change and unsustainable human activities. The target zone is characterized by steep slopes, with altitudes that vary from 2300 m (northern) to 50 m (southern). The target forests, located on sloping land, once burned and before vegetative regrowth, are exposed to winter floods carrying the accumulated humus layers. For example, the Telagh forest located within the mountainous region contends with water erosion due to its steep gradients. Conversely, the southern side of this forest facing the steppe contends with significant wind erosion. The Beni Imloul Forest experiences both water and wind erosion due to elevation disparities.

Anthropogenic factors have played a significant role in Algeria's decline and loss of forest areas. For instance, Senalba Forest has been impacted by socio-economic pressures stemming from a burgeoning local population. Activities such as small-scale agriculture, selective subsistence harvesting, and commodity-driven plantations exacerbate forest degradation. Data from the Global Forest Watch (GFW) reveals that Algeria lost around 28,000 hectares of tree cover from 2001 to 2019. This decline can be attributed to agricultural expansion, forest fires, and illegal logging, all intensified by the country's rapid population growth and rising demand for wood

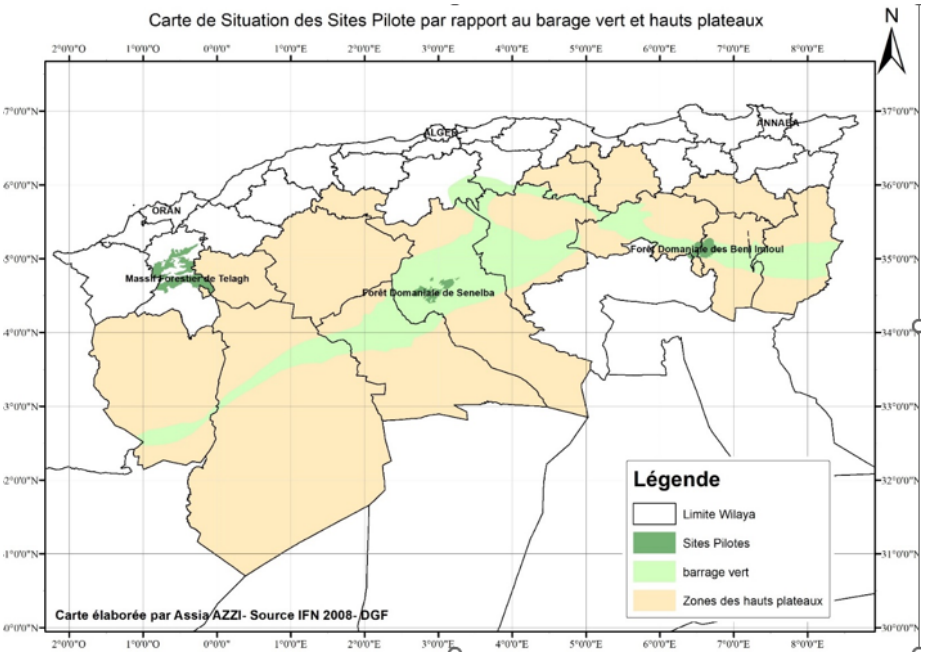
products. The practice of using fire for land management, coupled with inadequate governance and regulatory measures, has further compounded the forest's vulnerability.

The extent and intensity of forest degradation is also influenced by various landscape factors resulting from deforestation itself. The forest ecosystem is prone to strong erosive processes, especially in the southern part in direct contact with the Sahara. Their degradation thus accelerates desertification processes. Yet these forest ecosystems and landscapes play a crucial role as a barrier against desertification and constitute a major part of the national Green Dam Project, a Governmental initiative aimed at forming a vegetal barrier against desertification. In addition, climate change exacerbates land degradation processes in this ecosystem. A proven decrease in rainfall and rising temperatures increases the risk of forests being exposed to extreme heat, forest fires, water shortages and landslides, resulting in the loss of vegetative cover. Climate-induced tree disease outbreaks, including bark beetle infestation, with a high insect proliferation rate, cause the dieback of large swathes of the forest. In general, the effects of climate change on the forest ecosystem are severe. Climate predictions on the evolution of precipitation show that the targeted area will see its precipitation decrease by about -15% compared to the reference scenario (1850-1900) at +2°C [IPCC WGI Interactive Atlas, 2022]. Overall, the northern part of Algeria is highly vulnerable to drought, water scarcity, landslides, flooding, and extreme heat, which will continue to pose challenges for forests.

The total area of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest is a vast 1,158,500 hectares, of which this project focuses on three selected sites covering 343,675 ha, or 29.7% of the entire forest. These targeted forests lie in the High Steppe region, which is home to 30% of the nation’s low-income households. Within this target area, approximately 850,000 individuals grapple with vulnerabilities stemming from economic and environmental challenges. Of these, 200,000 individuals are expected to be direct beneficiaries of the project activities. The project aims at targeting at least 50% women who are significantly more exposed to heightened vulnerabilities in the project area considering lack of access to formal and decent work as well as limited access on financial instruments and products.

Aleppo pine provides various products and services to local populations, such as Aleppo pine seeds (APS), fuelwood products, pinecones/nuts as well as forest employment. Recent research shows that APS in particular have multiple uses, e.g., as a key ingredient in various agro-food industries such as ice-creams, candies, and pastries, and provide substantial nutritional benefits due to their high levels of protein (22.7%), oil (43.3%) and various mineral elements (potassium, magnesium and calcium). Collection of APS, fuelwood and medicinal plants represents a significant component of rural household income for many communities. Research from Tunisia shows that in some regions APS collection is influenced by gender, with women playing an important role in harvesting these and other forest products. In Algeria, forage, mainly leaves derived from trees, shrubs and bushes also plays an essential role in animal-based production systems (e.g. goats, sheep and cattle), which contribute significantly to the local and national economy.

Figure 1: Distribution area of the Aleppo Pine ecosystem, and projects’ sites (source: DGF)




The targeted forest areas are witnessing a severe decline in forest cover due to a combination of factors. The Beni Imloul Forest area has experienced a deforestation rate of 40% since 1990, while the rate soars to 60% in the Telagh forest area. This diminishing forest

cover not only affects the trees but also has detrimental consequences on the terrestrial biodiversity that these forest ecosystems support. Threats facing each of the sites are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Main threats for forest sustainability at target sites**

| Telagh (209,603 ha) | Beni Imloul (69,039 ha) | Senalba (65,033 ha) |
|---|---|---|
| - Drought and its corollary, water stress;<br>- The increased spread of parasitic attacks (bark beetles, etc.);<br>- Overgrazing and the impact of transhumant herders coming from the steppe regions during periods of famine;<br>- The extent of illegal logging for the processing of industrial timber through the installation of clandestine sawmills over the last two decades;<br>- The aging of the forest;<br>- Lack of forest management;<br>- Illegal land clearing by small farmers in search of more agricultural land for cultivation (cereals, vegetables, fruits)<br>- Forest fires (more than 134,515 ha were burned in the area between 1990 and 2022);<br>- Water erosion affecting the northern part and wind erosion impacting the southern part of the massif;<br>- Illegal hunting, particularly of certain protected species (Cuvier's gazelle). | - Drought and its corollary, water stress;<br>- Diseases and pest attacks (bark beetles, processionary caterpillars, etc.);<br>- Illegal logging;<br>- Illegal clearing by small farmers in search of more agricultural land for the establishment of apple orchards;<br>- The aging of the forest;<br>- Lack of forest management;<br>- Overexploitation of NTFPs by local populations;<br>- Mainly water erosion;<br>- Forest fires. | - Drought and increased water stress;<br>- The extent of the damage caused by parasitic attacks, particularly the bark beetle, which has become the main factor in degradation;<br>- Repeated and excessive overgrazing;<br>- The aging of the forest;<br>- Illegal logging by local residents;<br>- Lack of forest management;<br>- Mainly wind erosion;<br>- Illegal hunting which causes damage to wildlife. |

There is a clear need to invest in sustainable solutions, including restoration of degraded forest ecosystems and landscapes, if the challenges presented above are to be arrested, and resilience of landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity against the impacts of droughts, diseases and fires is to be enhanced. Supporting the adoption of best practices in forest management and enhancing the skills and capacities of local forest users and managers to respond to these challenges will be key to maintaining these forests and improving their prospects against a changing climate, and against mounting pressures from multiple uses. Beyond the climatic and anthropogenic challenges presented above, there exist institutional, legal and regulatory obstacles that must be tackled to foster a conducive environment for sustainable forest management, conservation and restoration. These include:

*ii. Weaknesses in the policy and regulatory environment which limit multi-stakeholder action and lack of public investments in sustainable forest management*

Algeria's forest management policies of the 1980s have become increasingly obsolete, unable to ensure the sustainable management of forest resources or their long-term viability. Two key barriers contributed to this: (i) an inadequate legal and regulatory framework, and (ii) flawed planning and financing methods tied to the annual nature of the Finance Act.

The forestry legislation under Law 84-12 (1984), which prevailed until 2023, proved ineffective in managing and protecting forest resources. Despite its initial intent to fill a legal vacuum, the law failed to keep pace with evolving challenges, leading to ongoing forest degradation. The law's focus on protection over development created a regulatory approach that minimized human interaction with forests but failed to support sustainable forest management. Moreover, its outdated design and enforcement shortcomings necessitated a revision, especially given the emergence of related legislative texts since 1990.

Institutionally, the forest administration, the only public body present in rural areas since the establishment of the state, played a central role in conserving national forests. However, during the 1980s, its focus on environmental protection overshadowed efforts to enhance ecosystem goods and services. The sector struggled with inadequate financial systems, programs, and annual planning, all of which hampered the achievement of long-term forest management goals. For example, forest management plans, key tools for organizing forest resources, have faced delays in implementation due to the lack of multi-year financial planning. Although planning was completed for over 200,000 hectares in the 2000s, the absence of consistent funding meant that these plans often became obsolete before they could be implemented. This highlights the need for stable, long-term financial and regulatory support for effective forest management.

While most forests in Algeria are part of the public domain[1][1], the lack of sufficient mechanisms and regulatory frameworks to secure user rights hinder long-term sustainable management of forest ecosystems and limits local communities' participation (e.g., farmers) and private sector investments in the forest sector. The current forests management plans were prepared in 1978 and 1982, and have not been updated since, and so are in large part outdated and potentially not effective as a management tool. Overall, the laws, policies and strategies have not caught up since they were disrupted by the civil insecurity of the 1990s, which led to a significant decline in investments, attention and focus on forest management. Local communities and the private sector lack the enabling environment (e.g., legal and regulatory frameworks) to effectively participate in forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable management.

Forest management programmes in Algeria are funded by the State budget annually and implemented by the General Directorate for Forests. This budget has been decreasing steadily in the last few years due to financial constraints in the State budget between 2015 and 2020. As a result, no new forest management programs have been implemented since 2015. However, in 2021, the Algerian Government renewed its commitments towards more sustainable forest management, notably through allocating more funding to forest programmes, including the restoration of degraded forests, particularly those located in the area leading to the Green Dam. The Forest Law, 1984 promotes sustainable and participatory forest practices and management. Professionals, users, residents, and forest owners can form associations, cooperatives, or forest groups. These groups can collaborate with the government on forest management, receiving support and preferential forest resource usage terms. This underscores the government's commitment to boost private sector participation in SFM and the NWFP sector. Interprofessional councils at the territorial level (wilayas) strengthen ties between administration and the private sector, spurring growth in sectors like wood, cork, and medicinal plants. Alongside, a strategy for NWFPs has been developed, with the government supporting 58 NWFPs focused micro-enterprises and encouraging producer associations. This initiative highlights the government's aim to involve small enterprises and women-led businesses in a sustainable forest value chain.

The government recognizes that the state-based funding model for forest management is inadequate due to delayed funding releases, challenges such as inconsistencies in budget allocation, unforeseen budget cuts, and bureaucratic hurdles in the annual budgeting process, and insufficient emergency response funding. Additionally, the absence of private sector investments and overall lack of participation of the private sector and local communities in forest governance, further limits the forest sector's ability to comprehensively address deforestation and forest degradation, and to respond to the emerging challenges, such as forest fires, pests, and disease outbreaks.

The project will contribute to addressing some of these challenges, by facilitating policy dialogue and action around inclusive forest sector governance, and piloting and testing new approaches and mechanisms that promote participation and inclusion of the private sector, local communities and other key actors and stakeholders in forest management. The project will support the updating of forest management plans and capacities for their implementation, including at local community levels, in order to improve the sector's effectiveness in addressing forest degradation and loss.

*iii. Ecosystem management challenges: insufficient knowledge and expertise for sound management of forests*

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and its General Directorate of Forestry are aware of the challenges facing forests and have developed a revised National Forest Development Strategy to support ecosystem conservation, restoration and sustainable forest management. But the implementation of the vision is hampered by a lack of application of cutting edge/ up-to-date knowledge and expertise, particularly by those tasked with managing forests (i.e., local forest managers, or forest conservators depending on the DGF), including engineers and technicians. The limitations in technical capacities are in part due to the absence of updated and relevant data for informing decisions, including for development of forest management plans. While forest management plans exist at the central level, capacities to implement them at the local levels are often missing. This is a key barrier to SFM and conservation of forests and impacts the capacity of local forest managers in applying and implementing relevant management interventions that can respond to the multiple challenges the forests face. Undoubtedly, the shortcomings in the management of forest ecosystems accelerate the degradation trends.

A key response is to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to strengthening capacities, skills and enforcement of laws and regulations for forest use. The project will support the updating of skills for SFM and FLR among the community members and at the practitioner level and support the development of science-based decision-support tools to ensure that management decisions are based on an understanding of the costs and benefits of taking those decisions, and to ensure that mitigation measures are also considered to address negative known consequences of decisions. Gender-responsive training programs will be developed and rolled out with the end goal of strengthening all relevant stakeholders' awareness, capacities and skills for forest planning, implementation of interventions and monitoring across different use and management scales.

*iv. Limited benefits from forest conservation and use and lack of incentives for sustainable management of forest and stewardship*

Poverty characterizes many of the rural areas where the forests are located. Combined with the gaps in knowledge about sustainable approaches to harvesting wood and NWFPs, the lack of investment in forest sector development and management over time and limited benefits to local communities from forest protection, have led to forest use practices that are largely unsustainable and lead to deforestation and forest degradation. While Algerian forests provide various benefits such as timber, fodder, non-wood forest products such as rosemary, pine needles or medicinal plants, as well as ecosystem services, not enough effort has been directed towards enhancing value at local or national scales. This lack of investment diminishes incentives for sustainable forest practices. Destructive activities like excessive logging, land clearance for farming, overexploitation of NWFPs, and unregulated wood collection persist due to the perceived immediate gains outweighing long-term advantages.

The forests' intrinsic value and the ecosystem services they provide to local communities and the economy have been underappreciated, partly due to lack of awareness and knowledge, and the unrecognized potential for economic benefits beyond basic uses. The project aims to elevate this awareness raising and showcase the advantages of forest protection, sustainable management, and restoration. By piloting payment for ecosystem services and introducing other incentive mechanisms, the project will highlight opportunities for job creation and income generation, especially for women.

Addressing the barriers to SFM and FLR in the project target areas will build on and contribute to past and ongoing investments by government to address land degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss. The proposed project will build on and complement a range of ongoing and completed GEF- and partner-funded initiatives, ensuring alignment with national and global biodiversity conservation objectives and sustainable forest management commitments while addressing remaining gaps through innovative, large-scale interventions in the Aleppo pine forest landscape.

| **Project overview** | **Gap filling and additionality from the present project** |
|---|---|
| The FAO-implemented project "Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes" (GEF ID 9806) developed participatory sustainable management plans, strengthened non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains, and piloted incentive mechanisms for cork oak forests in selected sites. | The present project will expand these approaches to the Aleppo pine ecosystem, scaling up participatory planning, updating management frameworks to align with the 2023 Forest Law, and introducing new value chain opportunities and payment for ecosystem services schemes tailored to the unique socio-ecological context of the Aleppo pine areas. |
| The FAO-implemented "Integrated Forest and Biodiversity Management for Sustainable Development in the Biban Mountain Range" (GEF ID 10170) is supporting integrated land-use planning, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihoods at the commune level. | The present project will draw lessons from these pilots and replicate integrated planning and inclusive governance mechanisms at a larger landscape level, covering over 340,000 hectares of priority Aleppo pine forests, while introducing additional innovations such as gender-sensitive benefit-sharing and broader institutional capacity development. |
| The UNDP-implemented project "Developing a National Strategy and Legal and Institutional Framework on Access to Genetic Resources and Related Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge" (GEF ID 5808) developed a national-level enabling framework for equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits. | The present project will take this work forward by operationalizing benefit-sharing mechanisms at the local level in forest-dependent communities and linking them to sustainable management practices and livelihoods. |
| At the national policy level, the Umbrella Programme to Support the NBSAP Update and the 7th National Report, supported by UNDP, is providing an updated strategic vision and reporting framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). | The present project will support the implementation of this updated NBSAP by delivering concrete actions on the ground that contribute directly to revised national biodiversity targets, particularly through restoration and sustainable management of forest ecosystems. |
| The Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (EAS) project, supported by UNDP, is currently facilitating an inclusive review and alignment of Algeria's biodiversity strategies, monitoring systems, and institutional frameworks with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). | The present project will complement this early alignment process by operationalizing updated GBF-aligned priorities in the field, translating them into tangible restoration outcomes, improved ecosystem services, and community benefits in the Aleppo pine landscapes. |
| The Eighth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP OP8) is empowering local civil society organizations to implement small-scale biodiversity and climate actions. | The present project will complement these grassroots efforts by providing a larger-scale institutional and landscape framework, while offering opportunities for SGP-supported initiatives to link with broader sustainable management plans. |
| The UNDP led Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans (BIOFIN) is | The present project will build on the strategic work being undertaken through BIOFIN to support the implementation of these plans by |

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| equipping Algeria with tools and strategies to mobilize additional resources for biodiversity. The project is supporting the Ministry of Environment and Quality of Life in developing a national biodiversity finance plan aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Within this framework, BIOFIN aims to identify and mobilize innovative financing mechanisms, including Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), to help bridge the biodiversity financing gap. It seeks to engage national and local private actors, such as water utilities, agricultural operators, and tourism enterprises, as potential buyers of ecosystem services, while strengthening the enabling environment for public–private partnerships in sustainable biodiversity financing. By doing so, BIOFIN Algeria contributes to the country's commitment to conserve and restore 30% of terrestrial and marine ecosystems by 2030, reduce harmful subsidies, and redirect financial flows towards nature-positive outcomes. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to mobilize at least 200 million USD per year for biodiversity-related actions and to integrate ecosystem service valuation into national economic and planning frameworks. | piloting innovative financing mechanisms, such as payments for ecosystem services, green value chains, and partnerships with the private sector, demonstrating how such mechanisms can sustain conservation and restoration in practice. In particular, under Output 2.3.1, the GEF project will support the detailed design and piloting of a PES scheme at one of the project sites. In this way, the project will build on, complement, extend and provide lessons for, the broader work of BIOFIN. |
| The Government of Algeria has committed significant resources to the rehabilitation of the "Barrage Vert" (Green Dam, 2023-30), a vast reforestation and land rehabilitation program across the steppe and arid zones, much of it dominated by Aleppo pine. Current investments focus on re-vegetating degraded areas, controlling desertification and stabilizing soils. Activities include planting, erosion control, and water retention measures. | These efforts are directly relevant to the project landscapes of Telagh, Beni Imloul and Sénalba, where the Green Dam is both a barrier against desertification and a source of socio-economic opportunities for local communities. |
| **National Forest Development Programme (2021–2024):** Through this program, the General Directorate of Forests (DGF) is investing in updating forest inventories, strengthening forest fire prevention, and expanding community-based afforestation. The programme includes development of new forest management plans, aligned with sustainable forest management principles, and prioritizes vulnerable areas in the High Steppe region. The **National Forest Inventory** currently under implementation is generating critical data on forest health, degradation drivers, and biomass. | The project will depend on and extend multiple aspects of these programs. In particular, the national forest inventory will guide the project's restoration strategies and provide a baseline for monitoring. |
| **Implementation of Law 23-21 on Forests and Forest Resources (2023)**: The adoption of Law 23-21 provides a new legal and institutional framework for participatory and sustainable forest management in Algeria. Implementation of this law is underway through the development of bylaws, regulatory texts, with budgetary allocations from the state to enable decentralized management, certification of forest products, and improved traceability. | These reforms create the enabling environment in which the project's interventions will be piloted and scaled. |
| **Programmes for Fire Prevention and Biological Pest Control:** The DGF continues to allocate annual resources for wildfire prevention, including establishment of firebreaks, lookout posts, and community fire brigades. Algeria has abandoned the use of chemical pesticides in forests for over 20 years, and since 2005 has been applying large-scale **biological control** (notably *Bacillus thuringiensis* against processionary caterpillars) over more than 200,000 ha. | Ongoing government co-financing covers the extension of this programme, with direct relevance for Aleppo pine ecosystems increasingly affected by bark beetles and climate-driven pest outbreaks. |

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| **Modernization of Forest Fire Management Systems:** The Government is investing in advanced technologies and equipment to strengthen wildfire prevention and response annually. This includes the deployment of drones for real-time surveillance, upgrading forest administration capacities with early-warning and first-intervention material, and reinforcing aerial firefighting means. | These efforts enhance the effectiveness of fire detection, monitoring, and suppression, directly contributing to the protection of Aleppo pine ecosystems |
| **Other relevant initiatives:** Additional programs include watershed protection schemes (2020-27) in erosion-prone areas, rural employment programs under the Ministry of Agriculture, and climate resilience initiatives supported by the national budget in collaboration with FAO and IFAD. | Together, these programs demonstrate the government's sustained financial and institutional commitment to integrated land and forest management. |

By building on the above initiatives, the proposed project will address remaining barriers identified in past interventions, institutionalize lessons learned on participatory governance and sustainable value chains, and achieve a step change in Algeria's capacity to meet its biodiversity, land degradation neutrality, and climate commitments.

While investments have generally been low in forest conservation and restoration, various ministries are working to reduce pressures on forest ecosystems in the targeted areas. The government has committed 7,595,846 USD for the three forest areas between 2020 and 2025. These funds are utilized for creating forest infrastructure, including forest roads for better accessibility and fire prevention, conducting reforestation efforts to replenish and expand forested areas, and performing silvicultural work to ensure sustainable forest management. Financing from the GEF is critical for catalyzing sustainability of these investments, to integrate SFM best practices and facilitate generation of local and global environmental benefits, as well as social ones in line with Algeria's own commitments within the MEA framework. The GEF's support will also amplify the impact of the government's investment and ensure the implementation of innovative global best practices, addressing both immediate challenges and long-term resilience of the forest ecosystems.

The Government of Algeria has committed substantial resources from its environmental conservation project, amounting to a significant co-financing of USD 24,000,000 (2023-30), in tandem with the GEF-funded initiative for the restoration and sustainable management of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem, including by financing projects in watershed conservation, ecosystem restoration, and land rehabilitation within the Aleppo Pine project area, the government is addressing both social and environmental challenges therefore implementing government's strategy to leverage public investment for economic growth, job creation, and enhancing the living standards of its population.

Furthermore, the government's support and co-finance to this project will also extend to provision of logistical support, deployment of technical staff and experts for key project interventions, including technical assessments and surveys, and overall coordination of technical interventions and activities of the project. This includes leveraging physical assets and infrastructure to execute ecosystem restoration and land rehabilitation activities. With GEF's support, the project can adopt a holistic approach to forest conservation, integrating innovative global best practices, fostering community participation, strategically addressing deforestation drivers, and implementing proactive measures against climate change impacts. The incremental cost, therefore, represents the financial and logistical bridge between the baseline and this enhanced, co-financed scenario, ensuring the project not only conserves the forest but also meets global standards and practices, and delivers lasting and sustainable benefits for both the environment and people.

Previous and ongoing initiatives have highlighted the importance of integrating community participation, addressing deforestation drivers proactively, and implementing measures against climate change impacts. These insights will be invaluable in guiding the implementation of the GEF-funded project, ensuring that it adopts a holistic approach to forest conservation, integrates innovative global best practices, and delivers lasting and sustainable benefits for both the environment and the local communities.

A crucial element of the baseline situation is the adoption of Law No. 23-21 on December 23, 2023, which represents a significant reform of Algeria's forest management framework, providing the legal basis for more sustainable and inclusive management of the country's forest resources. This new law, enacted following the 2020 constitutional reform that emphasized public ownership of Algeria's natural resources, addresses the growing challenges of forest degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change, while promoting the long-term sustainability of the forest sector. The law comes at a crucial time for the forestry sector, which has faced increasing pressures from environmental degradation and climate impacts, including drought and pests. It represents an opportunity to update outdated policies from the 1980s, which, as noted above, have become insufficient in addressing the modern-day challenges of forest management, conservation, and sustainable use.

One of the key advances introduced by Law 23-21 is its focus on the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM). This approach aims to balance forest conservation, economic benefits, and social development. The law embodies the National Forestry Strategy, which outlines strategic directions aligned with Algeria's broader socio-economic and environmental policies. These strategic directions will guide decision-making on the management and conservation of forest resources, ensuring their contribution to national development goals. Furthermore, the law establishes the National Forest Inventory (IFN), a critical tool for regularly assessing the state of forest resources, which will feed into the development of the National Forest Development Plan. This plan will serve as the blueprint for long-term forest management, restoration, and exploitation, ensuring that the country's forest heritage is managed sustainably.

An important provision of Law 23-21 is the requirement for forest management plans, which are legally mandated for both public and private forest lands. These management plans are designed to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of forest ecosystems. Plans must include measures for biodiversity preservation, fire prevention, soil conservation, and sustainable exploitation of forest resources. The Law also calls for the identification of areas within forests that can be designated for non-exploitative uses, such as ecotourism or recreational activities. This forward-thinking approach is key to adapting forest management to current environmental and socio-economic needs, particularly in the face of climate change and shifting land use pressures.

Furthermore, the law addresses the exploitation and valorization of forest resources through clear frameworks for timber and non-timber product value chains. This includes regulating the use of forest products, promoting sustainable harvesting practices, and ensuring that forest-derived products reach local and international markets under certified, sustainable conditions. For example, the law allows for the establishment of forest cooperatives and forestry groups, giving forest-dependent communities more direct control over resource management and enabling them to benefit from the sustainable use of forest resources. These provisions not only empower local communities but also foster greater involvement in forest management, creating a pathway for economic development through sustainable forest-based livelihoods.

Another notable aspect of Law 23-21 is its emphasis on the inclusion of local communities and stakeholders in forest management. Articles 116 and 117 provide the legal framework for local forest users, such as residents, farmers, and businesses, to organize themselves into cooperatives or associations. These groups can enter into agreements with the forestry administration to manage and exploit forest resources, receive technical support, and enjoy preferential access to forest products. This provision is a significant shift from previous approaches, which often excluded local communities from forest management decisions, and represents a more inclusive model that promotes sustainable development.

While these reforms are promising, there remain significant challenges in the implementation of the law. The legal and regulatory framework needs further refinement, particularly related to development of implementing texts that will clarify how the various provisions of the law will be enforced. Institutional capacity also remains a concern, as the forestry administration must strengthen its ability to monitor and regulate forest activities effectively. Finally, while the law provides for forest conservation and restoration, it will be crucial to ensure that the integration of development and conservation objectives is fully realized, particularly in light of Algeria's growing need for land-based economic activities, such as agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure development.

Thus, Law 23-21 represents a significant leap forward for forest governance in Algeria, aligning with global standards for sustainable forest management. It provides a comprehensive framework for forest management that balances conservation, development, and community engagement. However, for the law to reach its full potential, it must be backed by strong institutional support, clear regulatory frameworks, and ongoing efforts to engage local communities in the sustainable management of Algeria's forest resources. This law has the potential to transform Algeria's forestry sector, fostering sustainable development while protecting the country's valuable forest ecosystems for future generations.

Under a baseline scenario, exogenous factors unrelated to the project will continue shaping the baseline. Climate change projections show rising temperatures, declining precipitation, increasing aridity, and heightened risks of drought, wildfires and bark-beetle outbreaks across the Aleppo pine range. These pressures would intensify even if all ongoing national programmes continue as planned. Similarly, socio-economic drivers—population growth in forest-adjacent communes, demand for fuelwood and grazing land, pressures from agriculture, rural poverty, and limited livelihood alternatives—will also persist independently of GEF support. Even in the presence of national restoration programmes, these drivers are expected to continue contributing to degradation unless addressed through coordinated, participatory SFM approaches.

Against this backdrop, this scenario would see partial progress, but also persistent structural limitations. The new law would gradually be implemented, but with less detailed operational guidance, standardized criteria and indicators, robust coordination mechanisms, gender mainstreaming procedures, or demonstration sites showing how the law should be applied in practice. National programmes would implement selected restoration and rural development activities, and some management plans would be updated as resources permit, but many forest complexes—especially in remote or degraded Aleppo pine areas—would still lack fully revised, operational SFM plans because of financial and technical constraints.

Local institutions and forest-user communities—although empowered under Law 23-21 to organize themselves into cooperatives or associations—would still face barriers related to limited technical capacity, insufficient institutional support, and unclear operational modalities for agreements with the forestry administration. Some progress in community engagement would occur through ongoing government programmes, but approaches would remain uneven and would not yet provide the structured, participatory, gender-responsive engagement envisioned under the new law.

Existing national programmes would likely continue to focus on dispersed activities—firefighting, small-scale restoration, or rural development investments—rather than on integrated, ecosystem-wide management informed by updated plans. Critical gaps are likely to persist in: (i) translating management studies into actionable SFM plans; (ii) resourcing long-term restoration and forest-health interventions; (iii) establishing participatory, gender-responsive governance mechanisms; (iv) organizing value chains and forest user groups under the new law; and (v) developing operational mechanisms for payments for ecosystem services, which—although recognized in Algeria's financing strategy—remain at a conceptual or exploratory stage with no existing pilots in Aleppo pine landscapes.

**Scenario with GEF funding**

With GEF's support, the project will introduce a comprehensive approach to forest conservation, sustainable management, and restoration. The alternative scenario would facilitate:

Implementation of innovative and globally recognized best practices in forest management, ensuring long-term resilience of the forest ecosystem, generating local and global environmental benefits for biodiversity conservation, combatting degradation of landscapes and ecosystems, strengthening the role of forest ecosystems as carbon sinks and enhancing resilience of landscapes, ecosystems and people against the impacts of climate change.

Enhanced community engagement, with a particular focus on empowering women and youth, ensuring a 'whole-of-society' approach to forest conservation, in turn contributing to strengthened natural resources governance systems, especially at the local levels.

A multi-pronged strategy to address the various drivers of deforestation, integrating both preventive and corrective measures.

Proactive measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, ensuring the forest's health and vitality for future generations.

**Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs):** The Aleppo pine ecosystem is home to a diversity of faunal species: Mammals such as jackal, fox, wildcat, gundi, jerboa, Algerian hedgehog, hyena, hare and wild boar; Birds include the partridge, the calender lark, the field lark, the crossbill, the honeyeater, the wheat quail and diurnal and nocturnal raptors (the eagle, the owl); Reptiles include the chameleon, the collared snake, the Montpellier snake, the green lizard, the common snake, the taranto and the turtle. Several animal species on the IUCN Red List can be found in the Aleppo pine forest ecosystem: Barbary Sheep (*Ammotragus lervia Pallas*) (vulnerable), Barbary Stag (*Cervus elaphus barbarous*), Cuvier's Gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) (vulnerable), Greek Tortoire (*Testudo graeca*) (vulnerable), North African mastigure (*Uromastyx Achantinurus*), Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) (endangered), Algerian nuthatch (*Sitta ledanti*) (endangered).

Aleppo pine forests are home to a variety of plant species, including Aleppo pine itself, as well as other trees, shrubs, and grasses. The composition of the plant community varies depending on the level of degradation of the forest and the nature of the substrate. Pure natural stands of Aleppo pine are rare, but more common are mixed stands of Aleppo pine and other secondary species, such as holm oak and Phoenician juniper. Degraded stands of Aleppo pine include a variety of shrubs and grasses, such as Mattoral tree, moor, rosemary, Alfa grass, Sparta grass, and white sagebrush. The steppe at Alfa is located on the edge of the Aleppo pine forest and gives way to the steppes at Sparta and white sagebrush on loamy soils.

The project investment will therefore contribute to supporting the conservation of biodiversity, including key species outlined above, which are already under pressure from human and climate-induced impacts. Protecting and restoring the forests will contribute to several SDGs including SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). This initiative serves as a catalyst for harmonizing the objectives of the Rio conventions, contributing to key global targets, including under NDCs, LDN and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as other global initiatives such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Although it is not part of the GEF-8 Integrated Program on Ecosystem Restoration, its goals are aligned with it.

[1] Law No. 84-12 of June 23, 1984 on the general forest regime establishing that national forests are public domain.

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

This project aims to support and complement ongoing investments to conserve and restore Algerian Aleppo pine forests in the north of the country. It will do so by bringing 50,500 ha of the forest under restoration and promoting sustainable management of a further 293,175 ha through mainstreaming of biodiversity and SLM into production uses and systems in the landscape. It will adopt a participatory and multistakeholder approach with a focus on women beneficiaries and participation of CSOs and community stakeholders for development of green and sustainable wood and non-wood forest value chains and pilot payments for ecosystem services and other incentive mechanisms to generate green jobs and incomes from value-addition activities that can deliver benefits to communities currently depending on harvesting and collecting wood and NWFPs for household use and markets. These interventions will enhance skills and capacities at all levels of use and management and strengthen systems for forest conservation and sustainable management, and increase individual, community and forest sector investments, including by both public and private sector entities, in SFM and FLR. This is envisaged as the necessary integrated and participatory approach to strengthening these ecosystems and landscapes' resilience against land degradation and climate change impacts such as droughts, pests and diseases, and fires that pose key threats to the forests and the biodiversity they host, and the ecosystem goods and services they generate for people and the planet. The entire programme will be informed by gender analysis to ensure that women are active participants and benefit directly and indirectly throughout interventions across its three core components

### Theory of change

In response to the problems described above, the project will seek to support implementation of several interventions that collectively promote inclusive conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem. These interventions will contribute to the overarching goal of achieving healthy and resilient forest ecosystems, reduce GHGs and improve the livelihoods of local communities living in the landscape and dependent on forest resources for their livelihoods and socio-economic development.

The project will do this by addressing barriers at the policy, institutional and management framework levels, to remove bottlenecks to adoption of sustainable practices by local forest users, including farmers and livestock keepers, small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs), businesses engaged in timber and other wood and non-wood forest product exploitation. The project will also support the creation of and facilitate an enabling environment for incentives, including financial ones (e.g., PES), for forest use to become more sustainable, promote restoration and regeneration of forests, as well as their conservation and protection. The project will also support strengthening of regulatory environment and law enforcement capacities to reduce illegal and unsustainable extraction of forest and forest resources (i.e., illegal logging, overharvesting) by local communities, businesses and private sector entities, and to facilitate participatory governance and management, as well as private sector investments in forest conservation, sustainable management and restoration. It will promote approaches that facilitate increased benefits from sustainable use practices, reward sustainable practices (e.g., by facilitating access to markets for sustainably produced products) and discourage and make unsustainable practices costly.

By investing in enhancing institutional capacities, integrating modern spatial data and planning tools, and integrating gender-responsive interventions, the project will facilitate a shift away from centralized command and control approach to forest management, towards a more inclusive and participatory forest management regime, recognizing that state institutions alone cannot adequately address the challenges faced by forests, both human and climate-induced. Building and enhancing capacities at local (i.e., communities, local authorities and management institutions, forest rangers), and national (i.e., policies, laws, regulations) and improving access to knowledge, data, decision-support tools and training, is recognized as a key step towards fostering an environment conducive to informed decision-making, use of recognized best practices, participatory governance and equitable benefit sharing from forest conservation, sustainable use and restoration.

The project also recognizes the importance of both public and private sector investments in conservation, forest management, and restoration. By focusing on generating biodiversity, land degradation neutrality, climate benefits, and local economic opportunities, the project aims to initiate a virtuous cycle. Increased investments in sustainable forest management and restoration are expected to lead to improved ecosystem health, which in turn will generate ecosystem goods and services. These ecosystem goods and services will in turn facilitate opportunities for improved livelihoods from sustainable use and income-generation benefits, including through development of sustainable enterprises and greener and more sustainable forest value chains that can access more profitable markets.

Additionally, by guiding communities with a particular focus on women and enterprises towards sustainable business practices, the project aims to drive a sector-wide shift towards sustainability, in line with broader conservation and management goals.

These efforts are envisioned as pre-conditions for a transformed forest sector, one characterized by robust institutional capacities, active community participation, increased investments, and the adoption of responsible business practices. Successful implementation, results and impacts would be scalable across the forest sector elsewhere in the country. This transformation is expected to restore ecosystems and landscapes, enabling them to provide essential ecological services, support local livelihoods, and effectively counter challenges posed by human activities and climate change. Underpinning this theory of change and building on the information included under the baseline section, are several assumptions, including the following:

- Regarding private sector investments, the enabling environment will meet the conditions for its promotion, particularly for sustainable use and exploitation of forest products, wood and NWFPs. These activities must be further supported in a participatory framework ensuring the protection of natural resources, defining and enforcing quotas and levels of extraction that allow for renewal/regeneration of resources and where the partner actors are committed and empowered to participate in SFM and FLR.

- The national and sub-national governments are assumed to maintain their commitment to fostering an environment conducive to increased participation and investments in forest conservation, SFM, and FLR. This includes not only sustaining and possibly increasing budgetary allocations from public funds but also incentivizing private sector investments in alignment with the national vision and priorities for the forest sector. The government's proactive steps, such as the establishment of interprofessional councils at the territorial level and the development of a strategy for NWFPs, are expected to be sustained throughout the project's implementation and beyond.

- Building on the government's facilitation of 58 operational micro-enterprises for NWFPs and its encouragement of NWFP producer organization, the project assumes continued governmental interest in supporting the participation of SMMEs and women-led businesses in a sustainable forest value chain. The project will leverage this momentum, targeting these groups for both support and active participation in project design and execution.

- The ongoing legislative process aimed at fostering entrepreneurship and private investment in NWFPs will be both successful and timely. By the project's implementation phase, this new law is expected to be in place, harmonizing stakeholder investments in SFM and FLR.

- The DGF will proactively and punctually roll out training and capacity-building programs. These programs will target local and technical staff, equipping them with the skills needed for ecosystem conservation, restoration, and sustainable forest management.

- Local stakeholders, especially professional associations, cooperatives, and micro-businesses (including those led by women) in forest-adjacent areas, are assumed to be receptive to and supportive of the project. Their involvement is expected to span from benefiting from the project to actively participating in the development of sustainable enterprises and forest value chains.

Section A above provides details about the key barriers constraining effective conservation and sustainable management of the Aleppo Pine Forest. These include:

- The current policy, legal, institutional, and financial frameworks are insufficient to support SFM and FLR. This includes challenges in co-managing forests with local communities, forest-users, and the private sector.

- The lack of, or limited incentives for investing in conservation and sustainable management of forests and other natural resources, leading to their overharvesting and over-exploitation, as well as to under-investment or lack of investments in their restoration. Realization of increased benefits from investments in SLM, SFM and FLR would incentivize more investments from users to conserve, sustainably use and restore these ecosystems.

- The lack of, or inadequacy in technical knowledge and know-how on best-practices for conservation, restoration and sustainable management techniques to inform landscape-level interventions by users and managers of forest resources, including individuals, government institutions and private sector actors.

- Lack of know-how, experience and capacities to establish, implement, enforce and monitor mechanisms and guidelines for sustainable harvesting of wood, NWFPs and use of other forest ecosystem goods and services related, developing greener and sustainable value chains, as well as designing of sustainable finance mechanisms such as PES schemes is hindering adoption

of these tools and mechanisms to enhance SFM and FLR. Raising awareness, skills and knowledge, including the know-how of all actors would facilitate and contribute to more investments, of effort, time, budgets, into SFM and FLR action on the ground.

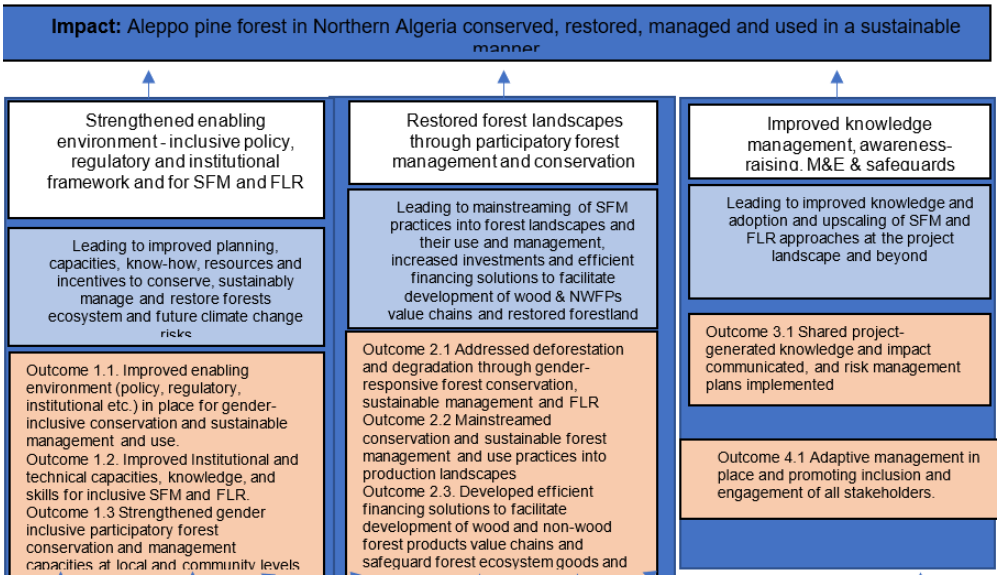
There's an urgent need to understand and enhance the value of non-wood products and forest inventory data. However, the current lack of comprehensive data, including a national inventory of valuable non-wood resources, hinders informed management decisions.

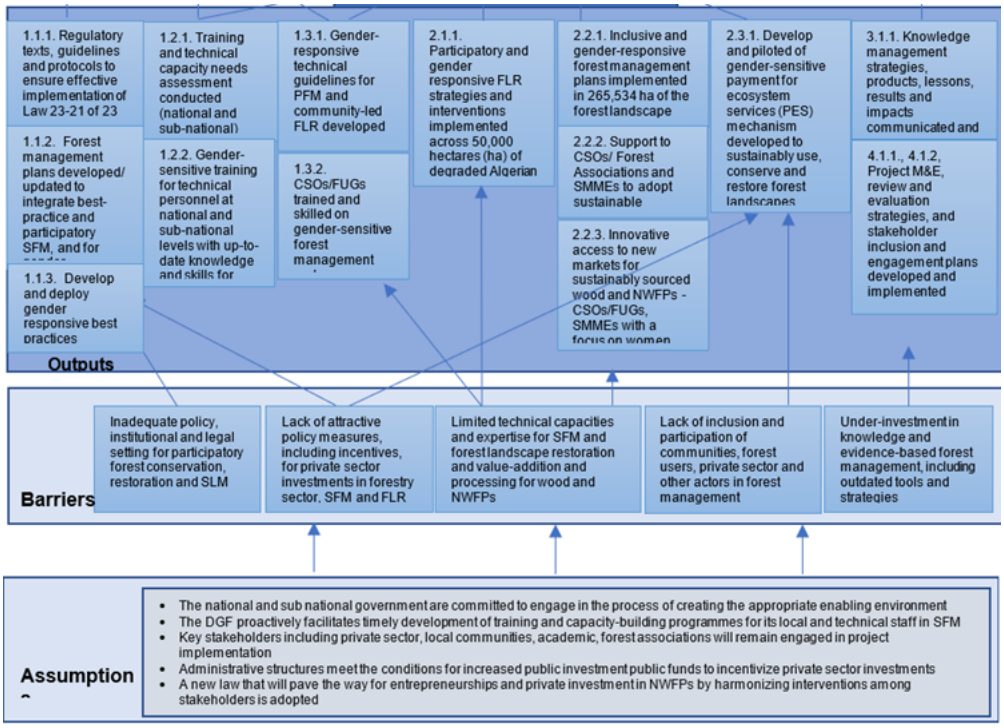
Figure 1 below summarizes the overall project logic, outcomes, outputs, the assumptions necessary for its success, and the barriers the project aims to address. This theory of change may be summarized as follows:

If the project strengthens policy, regulatory, and institutional capacity for inclusive forest conservation and management, including developing guidelines and protocols related to the new forest law, and develops gender-responsive forest management plans, then **an improved enabling environment will be established**.

If the project develops and delivers targeted, gender-sensitive training programs for forest professionals and community members, and develops community-based technical guidelines, then **institutional, technical, and participatory capacities will be strengthened** at all levels.

**Figure 1: Theory of change**






From the perspective of barrier removal, the logic according to which the project's activities and outputs will address the each of the barriers identified in the ToC diagram is as follows:

*Inadequate policy, institutional and legal setting for participatory forest conservation, restoration and sustainable land management*: The project will remove this barrier by strengthening regulatory and management frameworks and improving knowledge management and capacity-building. This includes the development of regulatory texts, guidelines, and protocols to ensure the effective implementation of the new Forest Law 23-21, which represents a significant reform of Algeria's forest management framework. By fostering an inclusive and participatory forest management regime and updating management plans, the project seeks to overcome years of underinvestment and limited user participation.

*Lack of attractive policy measures, including incentives, for private sector investments in forestry sector, SFM and FLR*: The project will remove this barrier by piloting innovative financing solutions and developing efficient business models designed to attract private sector investments in sustainable forest management and restoration. Specifically, it will test and operationalize a gender-sensitive Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) mechanism to provide economic incentives for local communities and private actors who engage in practices that reduce pressure on forests and contribute to conservation. Furthermore, the project will support sustainable wood and non-wood forest value chains, facilitating market access for responsibly sourced products and fostering the creation of green jobs and income, thereby making the forestry sector a more attractive investment opportunity.

*Limited technical capacities and expertise for SFM and forest landscape restoration and value-addition and processing for wood and NWFPs*: The project will remove this barrier by strengthening institutional and technical capacities for sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest landscape restoration (FLR) through the development and delivery of targeted, gender-sensitive training programs for forest professionals and community members, alongside the deployment of science-based decision-support tools. Concurrently, it will address value-addition and processing for wood and non-wood forest products (NWFPs) by supporting sustainable wood and NWFP value chains, facilitating access to finance and markets for sustainably sourced products, and piloting incentive mechanisms to generate green jobs and income, with a particular emphasis on empowering women and women-led businesses.

*Lack of inclusion and participation of communities, forest users, private sector and other actors in forest management*: The project will remove this barrier by promoting inclusive conservation and sustainable management through a multi-stakeholder approach that strengthens participatory capacities at local and community levels. This involves developing gender-responsive technical guidelines for community forest management and training local organizations, while actively involving communities, forest users, and the private sector in the joint development and implementation of forest management plans and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms,

including a gender-sensitive Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme. A comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan ensures continuous and meaningful involvement of all actors throughout the project phases.

*Under-investment in knowledge and evidence-based forest management, including outdated tools and strategies*: The project will remove this barrier by strengthening knowledge management and capacity-building, by developing and deploying gender-responsive, best-practice decision-support systems and tools for sustainable forest management and restoration. This includes identifying key data parameters, making relevant data accessible, and providing technical training and support to forest managers, policymakers, and local communities to ensure management decisions are informed by up-to-date information and scientific evidence. Furthermore, the project will implement knowledge management and communication strategies to capture and disseminate lessons learned and successful approaches for wider learning and future scaling.

**Project components:**

The project objective is: "Strengthen the resilience of Algeria's Aleppo pine forest ecosystems through targeted restoration and sustainable forest management at Senalba, Telagh and Beni Imloul Forests." Expected results and outputs from the project are shown below. Activities taking place under each output are presented in Annex 4.

**Component 1: Policy, regulatory and institutional capacity strengthening to enable inclusive forest conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration**

This component focuses on strengthening policy, regulatory, planning and institutional capacities to enable the participation of government and non-government, including public and private forest sector stakeholders, in the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of Aleppo pine forests. The component aims to improve the enabling environment for forest management to enhance the sector's capacity to contribute to national targets for building climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation action and to address biodiversity loss and degradation of forest landscapes and ecosystems. To this end, the component will take full advantage of, and build upon, Law 23-21 of 23 December 2023 relating to forests and forest resources (see above baseline description). GEF support will enhance the implementation of Law 23-21 in terms of full and practical alignment with national goals, including commitments and targets articulated in Algeria's NDC, LDN targets and NBSAP. This will include a shift towards co-management of forest resources and effective implementation of interventions for sustainable forest management—including conservation and restoration—enabled by effective policy and regulatory frameworks, capacities, skills and know-how.

**Outcome 1.1. Improved enabling environment in place for gender-inclusive conservation and sustainable management and use of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest to contribute to national targets for climate action (NDCs), LDN and biodiversity conservation (NBSAPs)**

Outcome 1.1 will consist of enhanced policy, regulatory, institutional, and management frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of Algeria's Aleppo pine forests, contributing to national commitments for climate action, land degradation neutrality and biodiversity conservation. In particular, GEF incremental support will enable the development of regulatory texts, protocols and guidelines to ensure that Law No 23-21 is implemented in ways that achieve sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest landscape restoration (FLR). In doing so, it will also ensure that implementation of the Law reflects close alignment with specific strategies and commitments made under the three relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), namely the UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD.

Regulatory texts often encounter difficulties in their application and translation into practice and remain inoperative due to unforeseen circumstances, lack of precision and/or misunderstanding. More precise and operational mechanisms and other regulatory, contractual and organizational instruments are therefore needed. Guidelines to support implementation of the new national regulatory framework will make it possible to better specify and make operational on the ground the provisions of the regulatory framework. In this context, the project will identify the target stakeholders, assess the gaps and design and deliver an appropriate training program aimed at improving their capacity to support the development and implementation of the above mechanisms and instruments to ensure, in turn, full implementation of the new forest policy.

Key thematic areas to be covered by enhanced frameworks will include:

forest management planning processes that explicitly integrate biodiversity conservation objectives, identify and protect areas of high biodiversity value, manage for species diversity, and discourage activities that could negatively impact ecosystems;

strengthened enabling environment for research and development related to SFM, including through partnerships with universities and research institutions;

afforestation and reforestation intervention plans prioritized in areas susceptible to desertification and land degradation, using native and drought-resistant species suitable for local conditions and approaches designed to increase carbon sinks;

integration of SLM practices into forest management planning, ensuring that forest activities do not contribute to soil erosion or land degradation;

agroforestry practices which simultaneously enhance land productivity, provide economic benefits, and combat desertification;

improved measures to prevent and combat forest fires, which are a significant driver of land degradation and GhG emissions;

enhanced traceability of forest products to ensure that they originate from sustainably managed forests that respect biodiversity;

increased emphasis within forest management plans on the role of forests in carbon sequestration, including through combating deforestation and encouraging practices that enhance carbon stocks in both forest biomass and soils;

more effective regulations on harvesting, hunting and trade in forest products to ensure that these activities are sustainable and do not threaten biodiversity and ecosystem services;

better integration of climate change adaptation measures into forest management, such as promoting species and ecosystem diversity to enhance resilience to changing climate conditions;

more accurate reporting of the forestry sector's carbon inventories; and

sustainable use of wood products as a renewable alternative to more energy-intensive materials, potentially contributing to reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions.

Each of the above themes is referred to, either directly or indirectly, in Law 23-21 and in Algeria's MEA commitments—creating an important opportunity for alignment and synergies. Outcome 1.1 will thus consist of the regulatory details, plans and operational tools needed to put these SFM themes into practice. The resulting enhanced systems will simultaneously empower local communities, women, forest managers, and policymakers to engage in more effective and participatory decision-making processes, fostering greater local ownership and collaboration. The integration of science-based approaches, the development of community-based forest management plans, and the establishment of decision-support tools will further facilitate sustainable forest management practices. This comprehensive approach will ensure that forest resources are managed responsibly, contributing to biodiversity protection, forest restoration, and the long-term resilience of forest ecosystems—in alignment with both the MEAs and Algeria's environmental and socio-economic goals—and ensuring a sustainable future for Aleppo pine forests and the communities that depend on them.

Under this outcome, the project will engage relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, forestry and environmental experts, and women's groups, in an inclusive process when developing legislation using a gender-based, participatory approach and taking into consideration local community dependence on natural resources, while seeking to minimize economic displacement. The forest management plans that will be developed will undergo a scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in a participatory manner resulting in an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) that will eliminate or reduce environmental and social risks and be fully integrated into each SFM plan. The SFM Plans will be developed with input from local communities, NGOs, women's groups, and researchers. The decision-support system and tools to enhance SFM and FLR will be developed in an inclusive and gender-responsive manner.

*Output 1.1.1. Regulatory texts, guidelines and protocols to ensure effective implementation of Law 23-21 of 23 December 2023 relating to forests and forest resources*

Output 1.1.1 consists of regulatory texts, guidelines and protocols to support the implementation of Law 23-21, which governs forests and forest resources in Algeria. This output aims to engage relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, forestry and environmental experts, and women's groups, in an inclusive process to gather inputs and build consensus on the law's implementation strategies, with focus on the thematic areas identified in the above bullet points. Detailed guidance will be developed, incorporating international best practices, scientific evidence, and local context to ensure that implementation of the forest law aligns with sustainable forest management principles, including a gender-responsive, participatory approach (see Annexes 8 and 10). Guidance will take into consideration local community dependence on natural resources, while seeking to minimize any economic displacement, in line with the project's safeguards policy (see Annex 9).

More detailed, operational guidance will help to translate the new law's provisions into effective practice. The guidelines and protocols will clarify these provisions, providing stakeholders with the necessary tools to implement them. These will help overcome challenges in applying the regulatory framework and ensure that the law is operational, particularly in areas such as forest management, biodiversity protection, and sustainable exploitation. Directives, memoranda of understanding, and partnership agreements will help institutionalize the law's provisions and build consensus on their implementation among key stakeholders. This approach will

strengthen the capacity of forest management systems and improve enforcement and monitoring, facilitating the law's successful adoption.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

1.1.1.1 Engage all relevant government stakeholders affected by Forest Law 23-21, including agencies, local communities, and environmental experts, and women's groups to gather views, insights and inputs and agree on strategies for implementation of Law 23-21

1.1.1.2 Develop an overall strategy for implementation, integrating international best practices and up-to-date science and context-specific evidence and data to ensure process aligns with sustainable forest management principles while remaining relevant to the local context

1.1.1.3 Produce complete set of final draft texts, guidelines and protocols, based on expert inputs and stakeholder feedback

1.1.1.4 Submit documents for final approval / adoption

1.1.1.5 Produce user-friendly summary versions of key texts for public awareness and dissemination, including to local communities

*Output 1.1.2. Develop forest management plans to integrate best-practice SFM principles and approaches, inclusive, participatory and gender-responsive measures, to enhance effective policy implementation and law enforcement*

This output consists of sustainable forest management plans at three target sites[1][2]—Senalba, Telagh and Beni Imloul—integrating best-practice principles of SFM and FLR. The plans will ensure alignment with MEAs, as well as inclusivity, participatory processes, and gender-responsive measures in line with regulatory texts, guidelines and protocols being developed in parallel under Output 1.1.1.[2][3] Forest management plans will be accompanied by a scoped Environmental And Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) that takes into consideration potential environmental and social risks associated with these plans. An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will thus be fully integrated into each SFM plan, thereby helping to ensure the inclusion of vulnerable groups, women and youths.

The process at each target site will begin with a thorough inventory and review of existing site-level activities and status, identifying gaps and areas for improvement specific to the local forest ecosystems. The plans will include clear, measurable targets for forest conservation, forest health, biodiversity protection, sustainable use, and restoration. Stakeholder engagement will be crucial, with local communities, NGOs, women's groups, and researchers engaged and participating to ensure that plans reflect diverse perspectives and are implementable. To this end, multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms will be established at the local level, including inter-ministerial collaboration as appropriate, to ensure integrated planning. Once developed, plans will be finalized and submitted for approval by the relevant institutional bodies, ensuring that they align with national forest policies and priorities. Initial implementation of the SFM plans will take place under Component 2 (see below).

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

1.1.2.1 Conduct an inventory and review covering: (i) the current state of the three intervention sites across technical, bioecological, and socio-economic dimensions, providing a reference for evaluation; (ii) existing and planned management activities at the three target sites to identify gaps and localize management strategies specific to the forest ecosystems for conservation, sustainable management, and restoration.

1.1.2.2 Engage local stakeholders, including communities, NGOs, women’s groups, and research institutes, in a participatory process to support the development and later implementation of each forest management plan

1.1.2.3 Establish multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at the local level, including inter-ministerial coordination, to ensure integrated planning and sustainable use of forest resources

1.1.2.4 Prepare a scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as integral components of each sustainable forest management (SFM) plan.

1.1.2.5 Develop criteria and indicators (C&I) to assess key SFM objectives, including forest conservation, biodiversity protection, sustainable use, and restoration, in alignment with MEA forest-related commitments

1.1.2.6 Prepare and finalize three sustainable forest management plans based on the baseline studies, outlining necessary actions such as regeneration, sanitation, phytosanitary treatment and forest infrastructure development

1.1.2.7 Develop site-specific approaches to forest ecosystem health to address the impacts of drought and degradation due to parasitic infestations, focusing on long-term forest health

1.1.2.8 Finalize and submit SFM plans for DGF approval

*Output 1.1.3. Develop and deploy gender-responsive best practice decision-support systems and tools for sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest landscape restoration (FLR)*

Output 1.1.3 is the development and deployment of gender-responsive decision-support systems and tools to enhance SFM and FLR. The process will begin with identification of the key data parameters required for effective decision-making in Aleppo pine forest conservation and restoration. Once priority data requirements are established, and data sets obtained (where possible), user-friendly, gender-responsive decision-support tools will be selected, adapted and/or developed to ensure real-time access to relevant data—including socio-economic aspects (e.g. income earned by local people from forest resources)—empowering forest managers, policymakers, and local communities to make informed decisions. In selecting the most appropriate decision-support tools, the project will reach out to, among others, the UN Biodiversity Lab and FAO's SEPAL. Once selected, tailored and tested, and technical training and support (see Output 1.2.2 below) provided, the tools will be applied in the development and initial implementation of SFM plans (see Outputs 1.1.2 and 2.1.1), ensuring that planning and other decision-making processes are efficient, inclusive, and based on up-to-date information, while enabling adaptive management.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

1.1.3.1 Identify data and information gathering parameters needed for effective decision-making in pine forest conservation, management and restoration.

1.1.3.2 Identify, select, adapt and/or develop decision-support tools that are user-friendly, gender-responsive and facilitate real-time access to relevant data, enabling informed decision-making by forest managers, policymakers, forest user groups and communities.

1.1.3.3 Deploy decision-support tools and provide technical training and support on the use of the tools in decision-making processes at different levels, including community, user group, forest managers and policy makers, including through training and capacity building sessions

1.1.3.4 Apply decision-support tools in development and initial implementation of SFM plans

**Outcome 1.2. Strengthened institutional and technical capacities, knowledge and skills in place to facilitate inclusive, gender-responsive, and science-based forest management and forest landscape restoration**

This outcome consists in improved technical capacity, knowledge, and skills of forest managers, researchers, and other stakeholders to effectively conserve, sustainably use, manage and restore Aleppo Pine forests in Algeria. The targeted training programs will ensure that technical personnel have the necessary skills and knowledge to apply science-based approaches in forest management, ensuring that the best available knowledge is applied to management decision-making processes. Thematic areas for capacity building will closely track with themes defined under Outcome 1.1, thus ensuring close synergies between newly acquired skills and knowledge and the specific management challenges being addressed through SFM guidelines and plans. This in turn will ensure alignment between skills development and achievement of national MEA commitments.

Training and capacity needs assessment under this outcome will ensure that gender considerations are integrated and address the needs of all stakeholders involved in forest management as part of the project's human rights based approach designed to safeguard marginalized and vulnerable groups.

The outcome will be achieved through two outputs, as described below.

*Output 1.2.1. A training and technical capacity needs assessment at national and sub-national levels for SFM and FLR, ensuring gender considerations are integrated into the assessment process.*

Output 1.2.1 will consist of a comprehensive training and technical capacity needs assessment[3][4] at both national and sub-national levels in the areas of sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest landscape restoration (FLR). The assessment will identify technical capacity gaps, and the specific knowledge and skills required for effective, science-based forest management and restoration, with specific emphasis on key thematic areas defined above for Outcome 1.1. At the national level, the assessment will target key institutions involved in forest policy decision-making, while at the sub-national level, it will focus on institutions responsible for

implementing forest conservation, management, and restoration activities (see Annex 8, Stakeholder Plan). The process will ensure that gender considerations are integrated into the assessment to address the needs of all stakeholders involved in forest management, as part of the project's human rights-based approach designed to safeguard marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

1.2.1.1 Finalize strategy for assessing technical capacity assessment needs, including final identification of target institutions and departments and selection of methodology (targets are likely to include, *inter alia*, statutory decentralized services of the forest administration such as the wilaya forest conservations, the forest districts and districts, but also and possibly other structures at the local level such as the INRF forest research stations)

1.2.1.2 Assess technical capacity gaps and the specific technical knowledge and skills required for science-based forest management and restoration at *national levels*, among key institutions engaged in forest policy decision-making.

1.2.1.3 Assess technical capacity gaps and the specific technical knowledge and skills required for science-based forest management and restoration at *sub-national and site/forest landscape levels,* among key institutions engaged in forest policy decision-making.

*Output 1.2.2. Develop and deliver targeted gender-sensitive training programs to equip technical personnel at national and sub-national levels with up-to-date knowledge and skills for SFM and FLR, including for participatory planning, monitoring and reporting*

Output 1.2.2 consists of the development and delivery of targeted, gender-sensitive training programs to equip technical personnel at national and sub-national levels with the necessary knowledge and skills for sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest landscape restoration (FLR). The training will address gaps identified through the above needs assessment (see Output 1.2.1) related to capacities to implement priority technical themes of SFM and FLR. Training content will be customized for specific target groups, including forest rangers, planners and data analysts. The effectiveness of these programs will be evaluated, with adjustments made as needed. In addition, the output will work to institutionalize periodic refresher training and capacity-building programs, integrating them into annual DGF work plans and budgets of relevant institutions to ensure long-term sustainability and continuous improvement in forest management practices.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

1.2.2.1 Finalize set of priority training topics based on the thematic requirements for SFM and FLR and based on the needs assessment (see Output 1.2.1) and feedback from target groups

1.2.2.2 Customize training content and adapt training materials to each target group, including forest rangers, planners, data analysts and technicians as necessary

1.2.2.3 Evaluate training effectiveness and impact of the training programs on improving technical capacity and adjust the content as needed.

1.2.2.4 Institutionalize periodic SFM refresher training and capacity building programs for integration into relevant institutions' annual workplans and budgets

**Outcome 1.3. Strengthened participatory forest conservation and management capacities in place at local and community levels to promote inclusive and gender-responsive conservation, sustainable use and restoration of forest landscapes**

Outcome 1.3 is the enhanced capacity of local community forest rangers, forest user groups, local communities and civil society organizations to effectively participate in the management, conservation, and restoration of Aleppo Pine forests in Algeria. Work under this outcome includes: the development of guidelines for community conservation and forest management to facilitate participation in development and implementation of forest management plans (see Outcome 2 below); development of participatory systems for monitoring the results and impacts of forest management interventions at the landscape level, and fostering a collaborative and joint management approach between communities and government institutions. The guidelines and corresponding support will help equip communities with the know-how and strengthen their involvement, including through integration of traditional knowledge and practices.

This outcome will result in technical guidelines that are gender-responsive and that facilitate participatory forest governance and community-led forest landscape restoration through engaging local communities in a culturally appropriate manner to ensure their effective participation in forest management. Local civil society organizations will be trained with a specific emphasis on gender-sensitive forest management.

Under this outcome, the following outputs are envisaged.

*Output 1.3.1. Develop gender-responsive technical guidelines for community conservation and forest management to facilitate participatory management of forests and community-led forest landscape restoration.*

Output 1.3.1 consists of gender-responsive technical guidelines for community-based forest conservation and management to facilitate participatory forest governance and community-led forest landscape restoration. The output begins with engaging local communities through culturally appropriate consultation methods to gather their views, expectations, and specific needs for effective participation in forest management, aligned with Forest Law 23-21. Based on the insights gathered, tailored technical guidelines will be developed for different community groups, such as farmers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs), and forest user groups, using accessible language and formats. These technical guidelines will facilitate increased community level awareness of SFM, SLM and FLR practices and approaches; the guidelines will also identify, recognize, and integrate good and proven local best practices already in use at community levels, based on local and traditional knowledge and citizen science. They will be disseminated through information-sharing sessions and awareness-raising activities to ensure broad understanding and effective implementation at the community level.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

1.3.1.1 Engage with local communities through culturally appropriate consultation methods to seek views, expectations and understand local level needs for effective participation in forest governance, in line with direction provided under Forest Law 23-21

1.3.1.2 Based on needs and expectations identified through above consultations, develop technical guidelines specifying respective roles in participatory management for different community-level target groups (e.g., farmers, SMMEs, forest user groups etc.,) in appropriate format and language

1.3.1.3 Disseminate technical guidelines through various means, including information-sharing and awareness-raising sessions

*Output 1.3.2. Train local CSOs /forest associations on gender-sensitive forest management and equip them with skills and knowledge to coordinate implementation of forest management plans at community levels*

Output 1.3.2 focuses on training local civil society organizations, including forest associations and forest user groups, with a specific emphasis on gender-sensitive forest management. The output begins with mapping the capacity-building needs of these organizations, including cooperatives, associations, and women-led forest user groups, to ensure they can effectively play a key liaison role in partnership with national and local government institutions. Following this assessment, a tailored capacity-building and training program will be developed and delivered to equip these organizations with the necessary skills and knowledge to support the implementation of forest management plans at the community level, enhancing local involvement in forest conservation and restoration efforts.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

1.3.2.1 Map, and identify capacity building needs of, key civil society and community-level organizations, including cooperatives, associations and ‘groupements forestieres’, including women-led forest user-groups to receive targeted training and capacity building and to play a key liaison role at the local level in collaboration with national and local government institutions.

1.3.2.2 Deliver tailored capacity building and training program for target groups in line with their identified roles in forest conservation, management and restoration.

**Component 2. Conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration across the Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest landscapes**

This component will support on-the-ground implementation of interventions aimed at delivering conservation, sustainable management, and restoration outcomes across the targeted Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest landscape. It will also pilot and implement innovative tools and strategies geared to incentivizing adoption and scaling up of sustainable forest management approaches and practices in production landscapes and across forest-dependent sectors, including SMMEs and forest user groups and other actors engaged in forest value chains. Interventions under this component will seek to lead to three key outcomes, which are described below, together with associated outputs and results.

**Outcome 2.1. Deforestation and forest degradation addressed through gender-responsive Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR)**

This outcome aims to improve the ecological conditions of the forest landscape by implementing strategies and interventions to restore degraded forest and forest land, mainly by protecting, tending to and managing naturally regenerating trees to enhance recovery of ecosystem processes. FLR interventions will be implemented under this outcome with the active participation of women and other local community members in line with the ESMPs developed for the SFM plans developed under Outcome 1.1. The outcome will be achieved through implementation of the following output:

*Output 2.1.1. Implement FLR strategies and interventions across 50,500 ha of degraded Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest, ensuring the active participation of women in restoration activities.*

This output focuses on the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) strategies across 50,500 hectares of degraded Algerian Aleppo Pine forests, with a strong emphasis on the active participation of women and other local community members in restoration activities. Priority areas for restoration will be selected based on a methodology the framework for which was prepared during the PPG[4][5] and will be designated for restoration under the SFM management plans being developed under Output 1.1.2. Specific restoration strategies will be identified based on a range of criteria to be developed. The approach will prioritize natural regeneration, including Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR), where the forest is allowed to naturally regrow, supported by interventions like invasive species removal and grazing control. More active restoration techniques, such as enrichment planting and tree sapling introduction, will be employed where necessary to accelerate recovery. Specific activities will include identifying degradation hotspots, prioritizing areas for intervention based on the type and extent of degradation, and selecting appropriate restoration techniques, such as creating firebreaks, managing grazing patterns, and improving water retention in soil. Local stakeholders will be actively involved through participatory mechanisms, such as cash-for-work schemes, ensuring community engagement in the restoration process.

In addition to the above, the project will establish 500 hectares of Aleppo Pine woodlots through community-based reforestation, with a focus on supporting women and youth-managed nurseries. This effort will be carried out in collaboration with forest associations and local user groups, promoting sustainable forest management and enhancing local livelihoods. In brief, the forest restoration efforts under the project will focus on two main approaches,

Reforestation through Repopulation: This method targets forest areas with high production potential, generally distant from human activity. It involves rehabilitating ecosystems by promoting natural regeneration where possible, or, if necessary, through direct seeding or planting nursery-grown plants (reforestation). This approach prioritizes restoring ecosystems in areas protected from human interference.

Agroforestry Restoration: This approach, suitable for areas with significant human activity, integrates tree and fodder species in harmony with the forest ecosystem. It may also include beekeeping, utilizing honey-producing species to foster biodiversity and generate income for local communities. These areas will gradually transition to agroforestry systems, engaging local populations sustainably. The introduction of fodder and honey-producing species also promotes cultural and biodiversity diversity.

In both cases, the public domain status of forest areas will remain unchanged, with forest activities conducted under Law No. 23-21. Restoration efforts, including assisted natural regeneration and active restoration, will ensure long-term success if technical conditions and monitoring are met. Measures like supplemental watering and area protection for at least five years will be implemented, as stipulated in the law.

Assisted natural regeneration involves soil tilling to promote seed germination, while active restoration uses direct seeding or planting locally grown plants for reforestation. In both cases, local communities will play a critical role in ensuring long-term sustainability and benefiting from these activities.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

2.1.1.1 Map degradation hotspots across the three target Aleppo Pine forest landscape sites and select 50,500 priority areas for key interventions depending on the type and level of degradation, and the current land uses

2.1.1.2 Identify and map, at appropriate scale, restoration options, techniques, and interventions for eliminating threats to forest growth and limiting forest disturbance, e.g.: (i) preventing the spread of fires by building firebreaks and clearing forest floor of dry debris; (ii) controlling cattle grazing patterns/establishing seasonal enclosures to protect tree saplings; (iii) removing invasive grasses and shrubs; channeling water into soil; (iv) weeding, pruning, fertilizing, enrichment planting, and (v) reintroduction and pruning branches, etc.

2.1.1.3 Promote species diversification while ensuring the use of resilient tree species, e.g. holm oak, juniper, thuja, carob, pistachio, olive, locust, and jujube

2.1.1.4 Mobilize local stakeholders (eg, individuals, families, smallholder farmers, forest managers through appropriate mechanisms (eg, cash-for-work schemes) to implement the relevant identified techniques in the forest landscape, covering 76,000 ha.

2.1.1.5 Based on analysis and mapping undertaken under Activity 2.1.1.1, establish 500 ha of Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis)* woodlots through community-based reforestation activities, ensuring support to women and youth-managed nurseries in collaboration with forest associations and other user groups

**Outcome 2.2. Conservation and sustainable forest management and use practices mainstreamed into production landscapes across the Aleppo Pine ecosystem**

In production landscapes where the use of the landscapes and ecosystems includes extractive use—e.g., for timber production, non-wood forest product harvesting/collection—the project will support the integration of sustainable use principles and will promote practices that facilitate regeneration, protect biodiversity (including forest and agro-biodiversity) and promote the integration of trees into production landscapes. It will also promote biodiversity conservation across these landscapes, including protection of wild and native species of flora and fauna (e.g., medicinal plants) in the context of harvesting/collection and use by local communities, businesses and forest users.

Work under this outcome will give particular focus to enhancing the participation and benefit of women in the implementation of the forest management plans across the target area of 293,175 ha of Aleppo Pine Forest landscape. The plans will be implemented in line with the ESMPs, taking into consideration environmental and social risks and ensuring engagement of all stakeholders including local communities. Empowering forest user groups, forest associations, cooperatives, and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs) will particularly focus on women. Improvement of value chains and access to financing for SMMEs will employ a participatory and gender-inclusive approach. In addition, enhancing market access for sustainably sourced wood and non-wood forest products will focus on increasing benefits for women.

The outcome will be achieved through implementation of the following three outputs.

*Output 2.2.1. Support implementation of gender-responsive forest management plans in 343,675 ha of the forest landscape, including through co-management approaches with local communities.*

Under this output, the project will support the implementation of three gender-responsive forest management plans covering 343,675 hectares of forest landscape, with an emphasis on co-management approaches involving local communities. The output aims to ensure that interventions identified in the forest management plans (see Output 1.1.2 above) are prioritized and carried out effectively, integrating local participation at all stages. This includes mapping intervention areas, defining sustainable harvesting practices, and ensuring that all user groups—such as smallholder farmers, women, and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs)—benefit equitably. The approach also involves mobilizing the necessary resources, such as labor, tools, and equipment, and establishing performance indicators to track progress. Data collection and analysis will be integral to monitoring and adapting forest management practices, ensuring continuous improvement and alignment with sustainable forest management goals. By fostering community involvement and ensuring gender equity, this output aims to promote long-term, sustainable forest use and conservation.

While the nature and extent of site-level activities to be supported under the present output will be defined within the respective site management plans (see Output 1.1.2 above), a number of indicative activities / areas of intervention have been identified through site visits and stakeholder consultations during the PPG. These will include a range of activities focused on promoting sustainable forest management and restoration across the three target sites, with an emphasis on inclusive, participatory processes and enhancing local community involvement. Key themes are expected to include capacity-building, such as mentoring female forestry personnel and supporting the transition to alternative livelihoods like beekeeping and fruit growing. Ecological restoration efforts will be supported through integrated pest management, species diversification, and water conservation measures, alongside strategies to mitigate threats like illegal logging, overgrazing, and poaching. Support will cover forest health monitoring and fire prevention, while fostering sustainable use of forest resources, including non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and wood derivatives. It encourages sustainable business practices by formalizing sustainable value chains (see Output 2.2.2), improving their traceability, and supporting small business development. Finally, SFM management plans will integrate rural renewal through green tourism, thereby enhancing both ecological resilience and socio-economic benefits for local communities.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

2.2.1.1 Prioritize, schedule and identify modalities for implementation of key forest management interventions in the forest management plans prepared under Output 1.1.2, ensuring participation of local communities.

2.2.1.2 Zone/map intervention areas for different uses, establish / review harvesting quotas, harvesting methods etc., ensuring equity in benefits across user groups (eg, SMMEs, farmers, women), and ensuring compliance with established sustainable yields for wood and non-wood forest products

2.2.1.3 Mobilize required inputs (including budgets, tools, equipment, labor) for carrying out the forest development operations (e.g., silviculture) and establish performance measures and targets for each intervention

2.2.1.4 Collect data, and compile, analyze and report to key institutions for monitoring implementation of the forest management plans to inform adaptive management

2.2.1.5 Implement additional activities defined in the SFM plans, an indicative list of which includes:

- Develop and implement integrated pest management strategies to address bark beetle infestations and mitigate the effects of drought.

- Implement water conservation measures, such as rainwater harvesting and improved irrigation techniques, to address the significant decline in the water table.
- Collaborate with hunting associations to protect endangered species like the Cuvier's gazelle and mitigate the impact of drought on wildlife
- Expand fire prevention systems and increase community involvement in fire management to reduce forest fires
- Implement forest health plans with research institutions to monitor and address pest outbreaks and other threats to forest biodiversity, including a 5-10 year implementation strategy.
- Strengthen enforcement of grazing regulations and collaborate with local herders to ensure that grazing is done within sustainable limits to avoid overgrazing.
- Implement a sanitary cutting program to remove infested and dying trees, prioritizing the recovery of dead trees for small-scale industrial use.
- Conduct a public awareness campaign to educate communities about the importance of sanitary cutting and forest restoration efforts.
- Designate overgrazed areas for protection for at least five years to promote natural regeneration, collaborating with local agricultural services and herders.
- Establish a supplemental watering program for reforestation efforts to ensure the survival of newly planted trees for up to five years.
- Promote species diversification in reforestation projects by using resilient species like holm oak, juniper, and carob to improve forest health and resilience to climate change.
- Set up a formal organization to ensure traceability and sustainable management of forest products, focusing on products like carob and essential oils.
- Collaborate with experts to develop strategies for the domestication and sustainable use of aromatic and medicinal plants threatened by drought and overexploitation.
- Develop a traceability system(s) designed to support operationalization of incentives for sustainably using ecosystem goods and services
- Develop green tourism and local craft activities.
- Support the organization of priority, sustainable forest product value chains
- Leverage local agencies, such as ANADE, to support the creation, expansion, and training of small businesses in the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Strengthen the production capacity of forest reproduction materials (PPG, Seed traceability, production of quality plants).

*Output 2.2.2. Support CSOs/Forest Associations (i.e., Forest User Groups) and SMMEs with a focus on women to adopt sustainable practices within value chains for specific wood (thinning posts), NWFPs, and use of forest ecosystem services, ensuring greener value chains and businesses through innovative access to financing and digital solutions.*

This output aims to empower forest user groups, forest associations, cooperatives, and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs), with a particular emphasis on women, by fostering the adoption of sustainable practices within forest-based value chains. The project will focus on wood products, non-wood forest products (NWFPs), arboricultural assets, and recreational and ecotourism activities, ensuring that these sectors contribute to the creation of green jobs and income generation. A key component of the output is the spatial and stakeholder analysis of priority value chains, which will map the actors and assess opportunities for enhancing sustainability and efficiency across the entire supply chain. A participatory approach will be employed to develop a value chain improvement strategy for at least two value chains per site, targeting inefficiencies and promoting sustainable, gender-inclusive practices. This strategy will ensure that women's groups and other underrepresented stakeholders are central to the process. To support the implementation of these improvements, tailored capacity-building programs will be provided, offering value chain actors practical tools to integrate sustainable practices, expand market access, and enhance their profitability. The output will also facilitate access to financing for SMMEs and forest-based businesses through partnerships with microfinance institutions and local banks, ensuring long-term sustainability and promoting gender-inclusive benefit-sharing across the value chains.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

2.2.2.1 Conduct spatial and stakeholder analysis / mapping of priority wood and non-wood value chains at the three target sites, including valorization of wood and its derivatives, NTFPs, arboricultural assets, recreational and ecotourism activities

2.2.2.2 Strengthen inter-sectoral consultation and cooperation among stakeholders involved in the individual value chains

2.2.2.3 Develop, through a consultative process, a value chain improvement strategy for at least two value chains per target site, focused on removing inefficiencies and promoting more sustainable practices across the entire value chain

2.2.2.4 Deliver targeted and tailored support for value chain actors to raise awareness and demonstrate different approaches for integrating sustainable practices at different value chain stages for increased access to new and better markets for sustainably sourced forest products

2.2.2.5 Facilitate access to finance and sustainable financing options for SMMEs through MFIs and local commercial banks and producer groups engaged in sustainable forest product value chains

*Output 2.2.3. Facilitate access to markets for sustainably sourced wood and non-wood forest products as well as other forest ecosystem services and support market innovations, digital solutions with an emphasis on increasing benefits for women*

Output 2.2.3 focuses on enhancing market access for sustainably sourced wood and non-wood forest products, with an emphasis on increasing benefits for women. It aims to improve the livelihoods of local communities by first assessing the ecosystem goods and services derived from Aleppo Pine forests, including both wood and non-wood products, and their role in supporting food security, incomes, and local economies. The project will also evaluate market readiness for sustainably sourced products, identifying gaps and barriers to market access and value addition. By providing tailored technical support to forest product collectors, households, and enterprises, the output will help these groups gain access to new, profitable markets for their sustainably sourced products. Furthermore, the output will facilitate purchasing agreements and contracts between small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs) and both local and international buyers, strengthening market linkages and ensuring more sustainable and equitable trade.

Priority will obviously be given to the community level, involving the most affected target groups, such as local residents' associations and traditional forest users, but with organizational forms to be determined in accordance with the provisions of the legal and regulatory framework. For this category, the focus will be on access to non-timber forest products and other activities such as organized grazing, arboriculture, and beekeeping. The private sector will also be integrated based on the potential identified by the management plan, particularly for access to timber and timber products. The situation may differ from one project area to another, depending on the specific local context of each region.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

2.2.3.1 Conduct an environmental economic valuation and assessment of ecosystem goods and services derived by local communities from Aleppo Pine forests, including wood and non-wood forest products (e.g., Aleppo Pine Seeds), and their contributions to the local economy, including household livelihoods, food security and incomes

2.2.3.2 Conduct an assessment of the markets and their readiness for sustainably sourced local wood and non-wood forest products (e.g., willingness to pay studies) and identify gaps for targeted support to address challenges and remove barriers to value addition and market access

2.2.3.3 Tailor and deliver targeted technical support to individuals, households, groups, and enterprises engaged in wood and non-wood forest product collection, harvesting, processing and use to access new and better markets for sustainably sourced forest products

2.2.3.4 Facilitate purchasing deals and contracts between SMMEs and local and international off-takers/buyers for sustainably sourced wood and non-wood forest products

**Outcome 2.3 Efficient financing solutions developed to facilitate sustainable investments in wood and non-wood forest value chains and to conserve and restore forest ecosystems.**

This outcome aims to support the development, testing and operationalization of a pilot payment for ecosystem services (PES) mechanism that will also be developed to economically recognize and compensate and provide incentives for local stakeholders for reducing pressure on forests, restoring ecosystems and/or sustaining the provision of ecosystem services. Examples of already operational mechanisms will be considered, and lessons learned adapted to the Algerian context. Relevant examples include the forest financing fund in Costa Rica (FONAFIFO) and the Vietnamese National Forest Fund (VNFF) - among others - which are two successful cases of how an effective forest PES mechanism can be designed and operationalized at national and local levels. The work will be complemented by work under Output 1.1.2, which will include a baseline assessment of ecosystem services generated by Aleppo pine forests. Finally, the project's knowledge and communication strategy (Outcome 3.1) will help to raise awareness of the scheme and its results among local populations, government bodies, and other stakeholders.

To ensure a gender-sensitive and inclusive PES mechanism, key stakeholders such as forest-dependent communities, NGOs, government agencies, and private sector partners will be engaged through consultations to ensure broad participation and support for the scheme. In addition, capacity-building workshops will integrate gender-sensitive approaches to ensure that women are actively involved in decision-making processes and benefit sharing.

*Output 2.3.1. Develop and pilot a gender-sensitive payment for ecosystem services (PES) mechanism to compensate local forest communities for the ecosystems goods and services generated through adoption of practices that reduce pressure on forests and facilitate conservation and restoration.*

This output will build on the strategic work being undertaken through BIOFIN to support the implementation of biodiversity financing strategies by piloting innovative financing mechanisms, such as payments for ecosystem services, green value chains, and partnerships with the private sector, demonstrating how such mechanisms can sustain conservation and restoration in practice. Complementing this work, the present project will support the detailed design and piloting of a PES scheme at one of the project sites. In this way, the project will complement, extend and provide lessons for, the broader work of BIOFIN.

This output will develop and pilot a gender-sensitive PES mechanism at one of the target sites, compensating local communities for their contribution to ecosystem services like carbon sequestration, water regulation, and biodiversity conservation. Following the example of the ongoing cork oak project, a feasibility assessment of PES systems specific to the geographic and social context of Aleppo pine forests will be conducted at pilot sites. This assessment will characterize ecological services and test the social acceptability of various PES systems. A list and pre-feasibility analysis of potential PES systems for the Aleppo pine forest will be prepared, with their economic and social feasibility tested through modeling and local surveys. Building on the PPG, during the initial identification / design phase, key baseline issues will be further clarified, including:

- Beneficiaries of the funds (i.e. service providers): The funds that would be generated by Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) would primarily benefit the financing of forest protection and development programs, the improvement of the living conditions of rural populations and the improvement of public services. However, it remains to define and design the necessary mechanisms and instruments to be put in place in accordance with the legal framework in force in the country to ensure the reinvestment of these funds for the benefit of the preservation and promotion of forest heritage and the improvement of the living conditions of rural populations and citizens in general. The project will thus have to develop, together with the key stakeholders concerned, a detailed identification of identify the beneficiaries.

- Assessment of conditions conducive to successful PES implementation: The project will have to determine and closely analyze the different ecosystem services that can be provided by the Aleppo pine forest and *the conditions* conducive to the successful implementation of PES.

- Necessary regulatory and institutional reforms: These will be identified as part of the process of developing a strategy for effective implementation of Law 23-21 (see Output 1.1.1), including necessary texts, guidelines and protocols.

- Identification of potential buyers: Specific options for analysis include payments from hydrocarbon companies, a system from public water suppliers or large water users, or reforestation fees from companies using forest resources, akin to Brazil's 'New Forest Code'.

The project will pilot the PES scheme at the selected site with a representative sample of local stakeholders, followed by testing the payment mechanisms for ecosystem service provision. Stakeholders will develop concept notes outlining the ecosystem services to be compensated and identifying the criteria for payment. Key actors, such as forest-dependent communities, NGOs, government agencies, and private sector partners will be engaged through consultations to ensure broad participation and support for the scheme.

To ensure the sustainability of the scheme, monitoring and verification systems will be established to track the services provided. In addition, capacity-building workshops will focus on integrating gender-sensitive approaches, ensuring that women are actively involved in decision-making processes and benefit sharing. By engaging potential buyers of ecosystem services, the project seeks to secure funding for the PES scheme, fostering long-term sustainability.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

2.3.1.1 Site-level stakeholders develop concept notes for PES schemes related to carbon sequestration, water regulation, biodiversity, and soil protection, using both field data and remote sensing tools, for review and selection by PMC.

2.3.1.2 Identify, map and consult with key stakeholders in the selected PES scheme, including forest-dependent communities, local NGOs, government agencies, and private sector entities, ensuring broad participation and buy-in from all relevant groups.

2.3.1.3 Conduct capacity-building workshops for local communities, forest managers, and relevant stakeholders on the concepts and implementation of PES, with a focus on gender-sensitive approaches and the involvement of women in decision-making and benefits distribution.

2.3.1.4 Develop a PES design document that outlines the criteria for qualifying for payments (e.g., landowner commitments, sustainable forest management practices), the ecosystem services to be compensated, and the payment structure.

2.3.1.5 Pilot the PES scheme at the selected site with a representative sample of local stakeholders, forest user groups, and landowners, including testing a small-scale payment program for the provision of identified ecosystem services.

2.3.1.6 Set up monitoring and verification systems for measuring and tracking the ecosystem services delivered, using indicators such as carbon sequestration rates, water flow, soil stability, and biodiversity conservation, and ensuring transparency in reporting.

2.3.1.7 Engage with potential buyers of ecosystem services, such as local and international companies looking to offset carbon emissions, water utilities, or government entities, to secure financing for PES payments.

**Component 3**: **Knowledge management and awareness-raising**

Component 3 will facilitate knowledge production, management and dissemination, and support awareness raising and learning among local communities, government institutions and the wider public on forest conservation and restoration to inform future investments, policy reforms and upscaling.

**Outcome 3.1. Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared and results and impact communicated for wider learning**

Outcome 3.1 consists of wider learning derived from effective dissemination of the valuable insights gained from the project to key stakeholders, both within and outside the project areas. This includes sharing lessons learned, best practices, and successful strategies for forest management, conservation, and restoration. Broader learning will take place among various stakeholders, such as local communities, policymakers, NGOs, and international networks. As a result, the project will contribute to the development of a more informed, adaptive approach to forest management and ecosystem restoration, fostering replication and scaling of successful practices. By sharing both successes and challenges, the project will ensure that knowledge generated and lessons learned are available and used to enhance future interventions and policies, benefiting a wider audience and supporting long-term sustainability.

The project will ensure that knowledge products are accessible to all stakeholders, including policymakers, lawmakers, and forest-dependent communities. It will include regular consultations with stakeholders and continuous feedback and dissemination of findings.

*Output 3.1.1. Strategies for sharing/exchanging knowledge, lessons and communicating project results and impacts, showcasing benefits for men and women are developed and implemented*

Output 3.1.1 focuses on developing and implementing strategies to share knowledge, lessons, and communicate project results and impacts, ensuring in particular that the benefits of SFM are highlighted. The Project Board will guide the dissemination of knowledge products, ensuring transparency and engaging stakeholders through workshops, print documents, and media outlets. This will include disseminating updated forest management plans to stakeholders and the wider public, ensuring understanding of forest management practices and compliance with regulations. Direct communication methods, such as workshops and easy-to-read technical guides, will be used to engage stakeholders responsible for implementing these plans.

The project will also aim to communicate new financing opportunities, forest valuation results, and raise awareness about SFM through knowledge products that are accessible to all stakeholders, including policymakers, lawmakers, and forest-dependent communities. Key conservation, restoration, and management measures tested and validated by the project will be widely shared.

Importantly, the project will foster the diffusion of innovative practices within and across the three target areas, ensuring that successful approaches are shared and scaled amongst both users and managers. By facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices among the different project sites, the project will ensure that lessons learned are adapted and applied in various contexts, enhancing overall impact. These efforts will help promote the spread of effective strategies for forest restoration and sustainable management beyond the project's immediate scope, increasing the resilience and sustainability of forest ecosystems in Algeria.

A systematic approach will capture and share outcomes related to policy, regulatory improvements, and forest management practices. Regular consultations with stakeholders will ensure continuous feedback and dissemination of findings. Local and national media, along with sectoral agencies, will play an essential role in disseminating information on the project's results. International networks and platforms will also be leveraged to share lessons learned and expand the project's impact beyond Algeria. The Knowledge Management and Learning Plan, alongside a comprehensive Communications Strategy, will ensure efficient knowledge-sharing across various levels.

Indicative activities needed to deliver this output are as follows:

3.1.1.1 Assess baseline systems associated with dissemination and diffusion of SFM practices within and among key groups of stakeholders, including local communities, professional foresters and local academic communities, along with a strategy to strengthen adoption of innovative and best practices

3.1.1.2. Develop and implement a project Knowledge Management Plan to guide data collection, packaging and dissemination, including project lessons learned, to various audiences through appropriate measures.

3.1.1.3 Develop and roll-out a Communication Strategy for the project, ensuring use of multiple channels appropriate for different audiences at local, national and international levels.

**Component 4. Monitoring & Evaluation and Safeguards**

Component 4 of the project focuses on the M&E, reporting and risk management aspects of the project to ensure adaptive management of the project in line with UNDP and GEF policies. The objective of this Component is to ensure that the project is responsive to changing circumstances and that progress is tracked, monitored and evaluated effectively, and safeguards risks are well understood and appropriately mitigated and managed, and that stakeholders have access to project personnel and the concerns they raise are appropriately handled through a transparent project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism.

**Outcome 4.1. Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and Social and Environmental Safeguards policies**

*Output 4.1.1. Project M&E plan implemented and results reported through the Project Board, quarterly and annual reports (PIRS).*

This output will support adaptive management, learning and accountability to stakeholders and beneficiaries. It will also ensure monitoring of environmental and social risks and impacts and how they are being managed during project implementation.

It is also through this output that the global environmental and socio-economic benefits generated by the project will be measured. At project inception, the project M&E plan will be reviewed and further elaborated by the project team and M&E specialist in consultation with partners. On this basis, the M&E system will be operationalized.

*Output 4.1.2. MTR and TE conducted, and reports shared with UNDP and GEF IEOs.*

The MTR will be conducted mid-way through project duration and serve the purpose of tracking the project's progress towards meeting the overall project development objectives, while the TE will serve the purpose of assessing the project's success and failures against the set objectives by end of project implementation.

**Gender**

In Algeria, women in rural areas are particularly impacted and exposed to vulnerabilities related to environmental degradation processes. They have limited access to decent jobs in the formal economy and employment sector. Many women belong to organized groups such as cooperatives and associations actively contributing to the social solidarity economy, considered a third form of income generation. It will be important, therefore, that the project prioritizes support to women and their forest-related livelihood practices and income-generation options in the context of climate change and land degradation.

Women's participation will be ensured in all decision-making bodies of the project, and their inclusion will be fostered in the various dialogue platforms that will serve the project implementation. KPIs on women participation will be monitored in all possible activities. For instance, gender equality considerations will be mainstreamed in the revision of policy and regulatory frameworks, and forest management plans. Building on existing local governance processes, local women groups and associations will be consulted to ensure their priorities and needs are well reflected in the revised frameworks and plans. The project will support improvements of these frameworks and plans to become more gender responsive. Women forest managers, operators and community representatives will be supported to participate in and benefit from capacity-building activities of the project. Project implementation will ensure that women have equal access to new jobs and additional income created/generated through project investments, including the envisaged PES mechanism.

During the PPG stage, the project has mapped stakeholders to ensure they are engaged in informing project design. It has also developed a stakeholder engagement plan that facilitates equal participation and establishes a grievance redress mechanism. This mechanism will ensure that throughout project implementation, stakeholders have access to decision-making linked to the project, whether they are directly or indirectly involved in project implementation.

The project recognizes the crucial role of women, youth and young women youth in society, especially in the context of forest resource utilization. Their involvement, participation, and benefits from investments in conservation, management, and restoration of these forests are part of the future success factors for the project. As direct resource users and managers, they are key to the sustainability of project results and impacts, including beyond the life of the project, and so are important project participants.

During the PPG, the project has developed strategies for women’s proactive participation and involvement; these will be continuously refined during the implementation phase of the project. The project's gender-focused approach aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 5, which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Gender analysis was conducted as part of the PPG, in line with UNDP and GEF requirements, and a gender action plan has been developed and costed, and gender-disaggregated indicators included in the project results framework to ensure that the interventions are gender-responsive and that their gender-responsiveness is monitored and reported on at project implementation review (PIR) periods, and at project mid-term (MTR) and end-of-term (TE).

An additional component on M&E will ensure that the project continuously monitors and evaluates its performance and reports on progress towards the development objective. This component will ensure alignment with UNDP and GEF monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks.

**Role of private sector**

The project will engage with private companies, including SMMEs, operating on wood and non-wood forest products on the development of greener and sustainable forest value chains and adoption of more sustainable and greener business practices. In line with the project's emphasis on collaborative governance, forest management plans will be jointly developed, involving the government, communities, and private sector stakeholders. While the government retains ownership of these plans, active participation from all stakeholders will be encouraged to ensure the successful implementation of sustainable practices and the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems. Furthermore, the project will facilitate dialogue with the private sector to promote investment in sustainable forest management and explore opportunities for public-private partnerships that support the restoration of degraded forest areas, contributing to environmental benefits and the achievement of project goals. The envisaged PES mechanism will be designed to recognize the role of local forest resource users, including individuals, small business operators and corporations, as contributors to and also as beneficiaries of the scheme in a public-private partnership arrangement.

The involvement of private sector operators will be limited in scale, typically to the level of a “forest series”, which represents the basic programming unit of the forest management plan. Given the opportunities offered by the targeted forest areas, the types of products will include wood and its derivatives (including significant volumes resulting from dieback caused by the effects of drought and pest attacks. In terms of demand), Aleppo pine wood is generally intended for the manufacture of makeshift furniture, pallets, crates, all-purpose boards, wooden bricks and charcoal, among others. In particular, there are promising outlets for the large quantities of wood waste and residues that can supply processing units for specific products for crushing and reconstituting wood and charcoal, while also clearing forest debris.

Regarding agro-forestry management practices and crops, actions undertaken in recent years related to the development of fruit tree growing in the arable areas adjacent to the forests targeted by the project have been the source of substantial interest among local rural populations in view of their ability to generate wealth, income and employment. This includes the case of apple orchards around the Beni Imloul massif and that of olive orchards in the Telagh massif, which have given very satisfactory results both in terms of yields and adaptation. Also, it should be added that the species requested and used benefit pollinators, thus allowing for the further development of beekeeping.

The project will ensure the preservation of biodiversity in areas exploited by the private sector for forest products, in particular through the application of measures laid down by the forest management plan and the system of rotation of plots to be exploited to be put in place. In addition to these technical and administrative measures and the awareness campaigns to be carried out, local phytosanitary[5][6] and ecological (biodiversity) monitoring units will be established, involving research and university institutions, which will benefit from capacity building within the framework of the project.

In addition, in line with Articles 41 and 42 of the new forest law, systems for certification and traceability of forest products will help to ensure that these come from forests managed and exploited according to the national standard of sustainable forest management. This is in compliance, among other things, with criteria relating to the conservation and improvement of forest resources, the conservation of biodiversity and the protection of soil and water.

**Knowledge management and learning**

The project will identify best conservation, restoration and sustainable management measures that require testing, validation and dissemination/rolling out, as well as capacity-building and technical support for their wider adoption and scaling. Part of such measures will include financial incentives and mechanisms, such as a Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes that will help mobilize and channel resources to local communities and enterprises engaged in forest development, conservation and restoration. Project’s lessons learned and good practices will be documented and packaged for wider dissemination with different stakeholders, including at national levels to inform policy dialogue (e.g., the General Directorate of Forestry (DGF), the National Advisory Company for Rural Development (BNEDER) and the National Institute for Forestry Research (INRF), and at the sub-national levels with authorities overseeing forest resource management (Forest conservators, local Directorates of Agricultural Services), and local communities (e.g., through CSOs, associations, businesses) to ensure awareness about the project’s results and lessons and impact, to also inform long-term adoption and replication. As part of the project’s KM and Communication Strategy, the project will establish an online presence through which project resources and media pieces will be shared, and to facilitate interaction with the wider public. The various components of the project will generate significant data, information and knowledge products and these will be shared, as appropriate and through relevant means, with the different project stakeholders mentioned above.

The project will establish a systematic mechanism for capturing outcomes related to policy, regulatory improvements, and enhancing institutional capacities as well as record knowledge about conservation practices, sustainable management techniques, and restoring forest landscapes in the Algerian Aleppo Pine region. Regular meetings, workshops, and seminars to consult stakeholders in the generation of knowledge products and to share and discuss findings of studies and assessments and to raise-awareness will also be

used as opportunities to disseminate information and share progress on project activities and receive feedback from project stakeholders and beneficiaries.

At local and national levels, local and national media will be mobilized to share key information on available techniques and incentives mechanisms developed and promoted by the project. All relevant local and national sectoral agencies will also be engaged to help disseminate lessons learned and good practices with the public. At the regional and international levels, existing networks and initiatives on ecosystem conservation, restoration and sustainable forest management will be leveraged, including in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (UNDER) platforms and links may be established, as appropriate, with the GEF-8 Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program led by Conservation International. Forest platforms and regional/international fora such as the Silva Mediterranean committee on Mediterranean forest issues, the Near East Forestry and Range Commission (NEFRC), the World Forest Week/CFO sessions, UNFF sessions, etc., provide relevant communication platforms to share lessons learned and good practices and learn from other countries and contexts. These aspects have been elaborated in the project's Knowledge Management and Learning Plan as well as its Communications Strategy to be articulated at PPG stage and fully developed during implementation.

**Upscaling and replication potential**

This project, focusing on the Algerian Aleppo pine forest, is strategically positioned to serve as a model for sustainable forest management and conservation, not just within Algeria but potentially in similar ecosystems in the North Africa and Middle East region and globally. The project's design, which currently targets less than a third of the vast 1,158,500 hectares of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest, inherently carries the blueprint for replication and upscaling. The innovative approaches and techniques developed under this project are not merely reactive solutions to existing challenges but are proactive strategies that anticipate future conservation and management needs. As the project uncovers and refines best practices, these can be seamlessly integrated into the broader Algerian forest landscape, ensuring that the entirety of the Aleppo Pine Forest benefits from the project's successes.

These approaches, combined with the project's strong strategy for inclusivity - emphasizing gender equality, youth empowerment, and community engagement - ensure that the conservation and restoration benefits are deeply embedded within the communities that rely on these forests, while generating key global environmental benefits for carbon mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem resilience. Furthermore, the project's collaboration with the private sector and its pioneering efforts in establishing sustainable financing mechanisms, such as PES, underscore its strong potential for laying the foundation for sustainability and wider replication. These mechanisms not only guarantee the project's longevity but also position it as a replicable model in regions grappling with conservation and restoration finance challenges.

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[1] See above Situation Analysis as well as Annex 20 of the project document for background and profiles of the target sites.

[2] Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 will be implemented simultaneously to ensure synergies and adaptive management between theory (as codified via regulations and guidance) and practice (as included in the site management plans).

[3] This will build on an initial assessment undertaken during the PPG.

[4] See "Cartographie des points chauds", PPG report.

[5] The term "phytosanitary treatment" in this case refers to "biological control methods" only. In fact, Algeria has abandoned the use of chemical pesticides for forest treatments for more than 20 years now. For example, the major phytosanitary treatments against the pine processionary caterpillar carried out since 2005 used biological products (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) on more than 200,000 ha. In the case of the project intervention areas, work will involve implementing an innovative biological control program under the supervision of the Djelfa forestry research station and with the support of international expertise to be mobilized within the framework of GEF financing. This will include support for testing and implementation of new biological agent methods, including the use of pheromone traps for bark beetles and entomopathogenic fungi in order to diversify the biological control toolkit.

## Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

**Section 1: General roles and responsibilities in the projects' governance mechanism**

The General Directorate of Forests, (Direction Générale des Forêts (DGF), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, has been designated as the Implementing Partner (IP) for this project. The government has requested limited execution support for key services, due to several financial and regulatory challenges explained below. The execution support services requested meet the GEF's Criteria 1 concerning legislative and regulatory restrictions. First, the Government of Algeria does not permit external entities to audit or evaluate government institutions (Note Verbale No.10-152/DGRM/2023 dated 28 March 2023, annex 19 UNDP Prodoc). One of the key Laws, the Law No. 95-20 (Ordinance 95-20) establishing the Algerian Court of Accounts, in Article 7, assigns the Court oversight over all public entities subject to public accounting rules. In addition, Law No. 23-07 on Public Accounting and Financial Management, particularly Articles 104 and 105, stipulates that external controls (including audits) are the exclusive responsibility of the Court of Accounts. As a result, external audits and HACT-based financial assessments by third parties are not permitted for ministries or other public entities.

Consequently, UNDP's Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) including macro and micro assessments, cannot be applied to the implementing partner, Directorate of General Forest (DGF). As a result, the direct fund transfers to the DGF are not feasible, therefore necessitating the need for UNDP to carry out Direct Payments to UNDP Implementing Partners/GEF Executing Entities.

Additionally, Algeria's administrative and regulatory frameworks significantly hinder the mobilization of international expertise and procurement of goods and services through national financial and procurement systems and procedures. All procurement processes, whether national or international, are governed by the *Code des Marchés Publics* (Public Procurement Code) and must follow the same expenditure procedures e.g. engagement, payment scheduling, and payment issuance through the Treasury. Further, payments to foreign suppliers add an additional layer of complexity, since each wire transfer requires validation by the Treasury and the Bank of Algeria, with the support of a local commercial bank. The DGF is a public institution *(institution publique)* fully integrated into the State's budgetary and administrative framework, and it adheres to national accounting and procurement regulations. These barriers include strict foreign currency regulations, making the government's use of international funding resources inefficient and often impractical, as they entail complex, time-consuming procedures that lead to significant delays.

In addition, significant bureaucratic constraints present challenges for mobilizing international expertise or procuring goods and services, particularly when foreign currency transactions are involved. Under Algerian foreign-exchange regulations issued by the Bank of Algeria, any payment in foreign currency requires prior authorization, rigorous documentation, and the domiciliation of the transaction through a commercial bank. This highly regulated process makes foreign payments slow, complex, and in some cases ineffective, especially when the contracting institution is a public entity subject to ministerial oversight.

In recognition of these documented constraints, the government has requested that UNDP provide targeted support services, particularly for international procurement, contracting, and financial operations, to ensure timely, efficient, and transparent project implementation (Government execution support letter attached in annex B). These services will complement DGF's strong institutional capacity by mitigating procedural bottlenecks, aligning procurement with international standards, and maintaining the project's pace and effectiveness without undermining national ownership or accountability.

UNDP's role will be limited support, and it will not entail replacing the national ownership over the project execution. The Project Management Unit will be physically hosted within the DGF offices, and day-to-day implementation of project activities will be directly overseen and coordinated by DGF through the PMU. DGF and UNDP will jointly participate in the project steering committee to guide the project management unit, including through review and approval of annual work plans and budget at steering committee meetings. The Project Steering Committee/Board will be chaired by the DGF to ensure full national ownership.

In addition, the project will also aim to strengthen the institutional and technical capacities of the national partner, including through training on project cycle management, results-based management and M&E, and other technical and project management related topics, thereby enabling the national partner to progressively undertake full National Implementation Modality (NIM) projects in the future. UNDP is also in the process of

supporting the government to one of the national institution - *FNI - Fonds National d'Investissement - Ensemble pour garantir l'avenir* - (National Investment Fund) to get accredited for GCF, and it is envisaged that this entity could act as a future executing entity for GEF projects as well.

Execution support request by the government (see in annex B) will be provided in accordance with the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) and includes:

- Management of payment processes
- Contractual Services for Individuals (including recruitment and contract issuance)
- Staff selection and recruitment process
- Staff HR & Benefits Administration & Management
- Procurement of Services and goods
- Travel management

UNDP will provide only administrative, operational and procurement support through UNDP's own resources, necessitated by capacity and risk Assessments (i.e., PCAT) to enable the Executing Entity (DGF) to carry out effective implementation of the project activities. The support will be limited to the following, and these will be triggered by written requests from DGF:

| Support services | Descriptions | Timetable for supply support services |
|---|---|---|
| To manage the recruitment monitoring and funding of project staff (CEO ER page 39) | **Recruitment process:** Publication, selection of CVs, interviews conducted together with the DGF representatives and including direct involvement of DGF in the final decisions. UNDP would issue staff contracts based on collective decision with DGF.<br><br>**Recurring personnel management services:** salaries for project personnel, administration & management (salaries, validation, disbursement, performance appraisal, extension promotion, leaving monitoring, etc.), internal management | UNDP draws up the contracts and makes the payment per UNDP procedures as soon as the project document is signed. |
| To take charge of the payment of all invoices forwarded by DGF | | Payment will be made through transmission of the direct payment request validated and signed by the DGF, certifying the service rendered. |
| To take charge of recruiting experts, companies, international /national | Call tenders, analysis, identification and drawing up of contracts. | The process is triggered immediately after receipt of the service request, per the annual work plan validated by project steering committee. |
| To take charge of the equipment and supplies acquisition process, with all the associated franchises. | Purchasing process involving the local procurement committee or other procedures (Identification & selection, supplier contracting, purchase order and follow-up)<br><br>Procurement not involving the local procurement committee (Identification & selection drawing up the Purchase Order, monitoring the process), Provision of equipment. | The process is triggered immediately after receipt of the service request by the DGF, per the annual work plan validated by the project steering committee. |
| Take charge of travel services | F10 travel authorization<br><br>Presentation of DSA costs in the event of a mission as part of the project.<br><br>Make airline and/or hotel reservations if necessary. | UNDP must receive the service request at least two weeks before the departure of the person in question in order to ensure that the mission expenses (DSA) are ready for payment. |

UNDP will **not** charge DPC to the GEF Budget for this administrative support.

Finally, and as per UNDP procedure on procurement and regulation on section Procurement Ethics, Fraud and Corrupt Practices, UNDP has set up several measures to prevent risk of conflicts of interest and maintain transparent, fair and impartial procurement process such as:

- Proceed with competitive process to select service providers, (i.e.: Suppliers, contractors and consultants are excluded from tendering for procurement opportunities if they or their affiliates provided consulting services for the preparation and implementation of a project)
- Impartiality declaration from stakeholder and Evaluation Committee members,
- Check of reference of service providers.
- Self-declaration of possible conflict of interest.
- Awareness-raising and training sessions on "zero tolerance policy".

Execution support is managed by UNDP's Operations Team, led by the Operations Manager and staffed with finance, HR, and procurement officers. Oversight is provided by a separate team within the programme unit, ensuring a firewall between execution and assurance in line with GEF's fiduciary separation requirements.

**Options Analysis for delivery of requested execution-support**

A rapid options analysis has been conducted to identify potential execution support modalities as follows:

**Non-Government Organization:**

Although Algeria has an active civil society landscape, national NGOs are legally and operationally excluded from serving as Responsible Parties for GEF-funded projects under the UNDP NIM framework. The following constraints apply:

- **Legal scope:** Under Law No. 12-06 of 12 January 2012, associations are limited to non-profit, public-interest activities and may operate in areas such as the environment and development. However, they do not have the legal status allowing them to assume responsibility of high value funds. Furthermore, receiving international funds is conditioned by a pre-authorization from Ministry of Interior which takes months to be issued.
- **Restrictions on international funding:** According to Article 30 of Law 12-06, NGOs may only receive funds from foreign entities, including international organizations, with prior authorization from the competent public authorities. This creates legal uncertainty and administrative delays, making it impractical to rely on NGOs for the direct management of internationally funded projects such as those supported by the GEF.
- **Fiduciary limitations:** Most national NGOs lack the institutional systems—such as dual-entry accounting, external audits, and internal procurement frameworks—required to meet GEF and UNDP fiduciary standards. Their legal frameworks do not support contractual liability, financial risk management, or international procurement operations.
- **Institutional practice and public governance coherence:** Strategic domains such as forest governance, biodiversity protection and land use planning are considered sovereign functions, typically entrusted to State institutions. Delegating the role of IP to an NGO in this project would challenge Algeria's centralized governance model in the forest and biodiversity sectors, and risk creating inconsistencies in inter-ministerial coordination, particularly with the Ministries of Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, and Finance.

For these reasons, while NGOs may contribute as Responsible Parties or be engaged through UNDP-managed procurement for specific outputs, they cannot be designated as Implementing Partners under the current legal, fiduciary, and institutional framework.

**Other UN Agencies**:

Several GEF-accredited UN agencies operate in Algeria, notably **FAO**, **UNIDO**, and **UNEP (non-resident)**. However, none meet the technical, operational, or legal requirements to serve as executing for this project:

- **FAO Algeria** is not considered suitable executing partner for this project due to concerns regarding cost-effectiveness such as high administrative and overhead costs reduce the proportion of the budget that can be allocated to on-the-ground implementation. Furthermore, the absence of regional office in the targeted project areas may constrain effective coordination, increase operational costs and limit direct interaction with local stakeholders.
- **UNEP** does not maintain an office or permanent staff in Algeria. As a non-resident agency, UNEP would face significant coordination and operational delays, and lacks logistical capacity for procurement, recruitment, and field-level project management in-country.
- **UNIDO Algeria** has a focused mandate on industrial development and SME support, without institutional experience in biodiversity, forest governance, or landscape resilience.

In contrast, UNDP Algeria has a dedicated Nature, Climate, and Energy portfolio and a robust internal control framework for execution support, aligned with GEF's fiduciary and operational standards. Moreover, UNDP has a strong in-country presence and institutional capacity to provide administrative, procurement and operational support directly to the government, providing that support under this project is cost effective and efficient, rather than going to another UN agency.

**Private sector/Consultancy firms**: The private sector, through specialised consultancy firms, can be considered as a potential provider of support services if they succeed in mobilising the necessary expertise. However, this option is not considered as optimal and efficient given the high costs of such services from for-profit entities.

**Role of the Implementing Partner (DGF)**

The DGF under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, is the designated Implementing Partner for this project. As such, DGF holds full responsibility for the execution of project activities, in accordance with the rules and standards outlined in the project document and in line with the National Implementation Modality (NIM) requested by the Government of Algeria.

The specific responsibilities of the Implementing Partner include:

- **Project planning, coordination, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting**. This includes timely provision of all data and information required for UNDP and GEF reporting obligations, including technical and financial progress. The DGF will ensure that project-level M&E is implemented in coordination with relevant national institutions and aligned with Algeria's national monitoring and information systems to reinforce long-term integration and sustainability.
- **Risk management**, including oversight of risks identified in the ProDoc as well as any emerging risks during implementation. Risk logs will be maintained and updated regularly by the project team, under the authority of the National Project Director.
- **Travel and logistics**: All official travel related to the project will comply with national public service regulations and safety protocols overseen by the Ministry of Agriculture and coordinated with the UNDP Country Office where relevant.
- **Approval and signature of annual and multi-year workplans**, developed jointly with the Project Management Unit and reviewed by the Project Steering Committee.
- **Approval and certification of the Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs)** at year-end, including the **financial report and the Funding Authorization and Certificate of Expenditures (FACE)**.
- **Institutional coordination**: As the lead national agency, DGF will ensure effective coordination with other key public stakeholders, including the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGRM)**, the **Ministry of Environment**, and potentially the **Ministry of Interior**, depending on the territorial scope of interventions. Engagement with local authorities and technical directorates will also be ensured through the project's governance mechanisms.

The DGF may engage **public technical institutes**, **local communities**, and where appropriate, **national NGOs and private service providers**, through contractual arrangements defined under UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP). These will be subject to standard UNDP procurement processes and national oversight, with a focus on participatory and inclusive implementation where applicable (e.g. reforestation, biodiversity conservation, agroforestry).

In addition, **targeted coordination will be ensured through technical working groups or subcommittees**, particularly in areas requiring cross-sectoral cooperation such as integrated land use planning, biodiversity monitoring, rural livelihoods, and policy

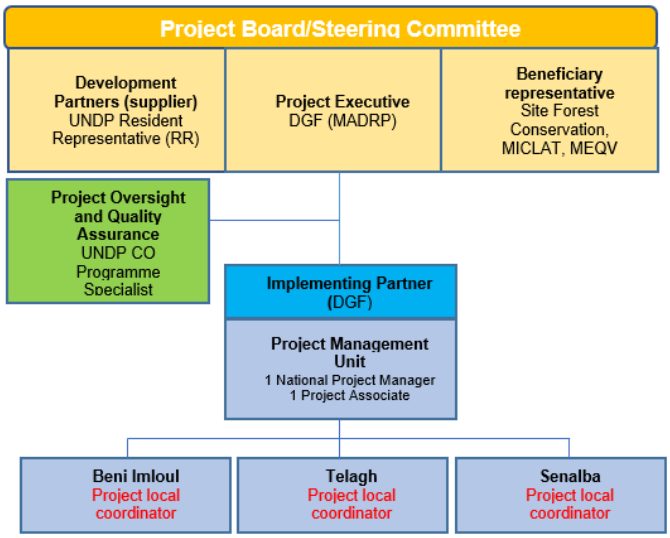
integration. These coordination mechanisms will be convened under the authority of the National Project Director and supported by the UNDP Programme Team.

**UNDP:** UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes overseeing project execution undertaken by the Implementing Partner to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with UNDP and GEF policies and procedures and the standards and provisions outlined in the Delegation of Authority (DOA) letter for this project. **The UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator, in consultation with UNDP Bureaus and the Implementing Partner, retains the right to revoke the project DOA, suspend or cancel this GEF project.** UNDP is responsible for the Project Assurance function in the project governance structure and presents to the Project Board and attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

In addition, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. Project Assurance has to be independent of the Project Manager. A UNDP program or monitoring and evaluation officer typically holds the project assurance role on behalf of UNDP. For this project, the project assurance will be conducted by UNDP **Team Leader NCE (UNDP CO programme specialist).**

**Section 2: Project governance structure**

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Program and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.




| First line of QA | Second line of QA |
|---|---|
| Person providing oversight of execution support (COS) cannot report to UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR | Regional bureau oversees RR and function of UNDP compliance in project assurance.<br>BPPS NCE RTA oversees functions of technical oversight and GEF compliance in project assurance. BPPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function.<br>UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight. |

**UNDP project support***:* The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services for the full duration of the project, and the GEF has agreed for UNDP to provide such execution support services. however, that such costs will not be charged to the project budget but will be fully covered by non-GEF resources. The execution support services – whether financed from the project budget or other sources - have been set out in detail and agreed between UNDP Country Office and the Implementing Partner in a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This LOA is attached in the annex.

To ensure the strict independence required by the GEF and in accordance with the UNDP Internal Control Framework, these execution services will be delivered independent from the GEF-specific oversight and quality assurance services.

**Section 3: Segregation of duties and firewalls vis-à-vis UNDP representation on the project board:**

As noted in the Minimum Fiduciary Standards for GEF Partner Agencies, in cases where a GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) carries out both implementation oversight and execution of a project, the GEF Partner Agency (i.e. UNDP) must separate its project implementation oversight and execution duties, and describe in the relevant project document a: 1) Satisfactory institutional arrangement for the separation of implementation oversight and executing functions in different departments of the GEF Partner Agency; and 2) Clear lines of responsibility, reporting and accountability within the GEF Partner Agency between the project implementation oversight and execution functions.

A strict firewall is in place to segregate UNDP oversight functions from execution support functions and is as follows:

Oversight support: The following technical and management expertise capacities are in place at UNDP Jordan Country Office and will provide oversight to the project, covered by the GEF Fee:

- Natasha Van Rijn, Resident Representative (RR)
- Francesca Nardini, Deputy Resident Representative (DRR)
- Ryadh Boudjemadi, Team Leader NCE
- Nassim Balla, Programme Officer
- Badreddine Souici, Programme Associate

The following personnels are planned to provide execution support, report to DRR (Operations) and will not be covered by the GEF grant.

- Finance Manager and HACT focal point: Yasmine Zidane
- Procurement specialist: Fatma Neggazi

**Section 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Organization Structure:**

**a) Project Board:** All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner** (as explained in the "Provide Oversight" section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Board reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Board is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the "Manage Change" section of the POPP).

**Requirements to serve on the Project Board**: *(see Annex 16)*

✓ Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.

✓ Meet annually; at least once.

- ✓ Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.

- ✓ Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.

- ✓ Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

**Responsibilities of the Project Board**: *(see Annex 16)*

- ✓ Consensus decision making:

    - The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.

    - Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;

    - The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.

    - In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.

    - In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

- ✓ Oversee project execution:

    - Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.

    - Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.

    - Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;

    - Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);

    - Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.

    - Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.

    - Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.

    - Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

- ✓ Risk Management:

    - Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.

- Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.

- Address project-level grievances.

✓ Coordination:

- Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.

- Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

**Composition of the Project Board**: The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: *DGF National Director*
2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representatives are: *MICLAT, MEQV, Local Forest administrations, CSOs*
3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is/are: UNDP Resident Representative

b) **Project Assurance:** Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution and UNDP Team Leader NCE (UNDP CO programme specialist) will play in this role.

A designated representative of UNDP playing the project assurance role is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. It should be noted that while in certain cases UNDP's project assurance role across the project may encompass activities happening at several levels (e.g. global, regional), at least one UNDP representative playing that function must, as part of their duties, specifically attend board meeting and provide board members with the required documentation required to perform their duties. The UNDP representative playing the main project assurance function is UNDP programme specialist.

c) **Project Management – Execution of the Project:** The Project Manager (PM) (also called project coordinator) is the senior most representative of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the project on behalf of the Implementing Partner, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, responsible parties, consultants and sub-contractors. The project manager typically presents key deliverables and documents to the board for their review and approval, including progress reports, annual work plans, adjustments to tolerance levels and risk registers.

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all board meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative.

The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is: Chief Programme Officer (DGF Programme Office) and the Project Manager (to be identified).

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

Yes

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

**Options Analysis for delivery of requested execution-support**

A rapid options analysis has been conducted to identify potential execution support modalities as follows:

**Non-Government Organization:**

Although Algeria has an active civil society landscape, national NGOs are legally and operationally excluded from serving as Responsible Parties for GEF-funded projects under the UNDP NIM framework. The following constraints apply:

- **Legal scope:** Under Law No. 12-06 of 12 January 2012, associations are limited to non-profit, public-interest activities and may operate in areas such as the environment and development. However, they do not have the legal status allowing them to assume responsibility of high value funds. Furthermore, receiving international funds is conditioned by a pre-authorization from Ministry of Interior which takes months to be issued.
- **Restrictions on international funding:** According to Article 30 of Law 12-06, NGOs may only receive funds from foreign entities, including international organizations, with prior authorization from the competent public authorities. This creates legal uncertainty and administrative delays, making it impractical to rely on NGOs for the direct management of internationally funded projects such as those supported by the GEF.
- **Fiduciary limitations:** Most national NGOs lack the institutional systems—such as dual-entry accounting, external audits, and internal procurement frameworks—required to meet GEF and UNDP fiduciary standards. Their legal frameworks do not support contractual liability, financial risk management, or international procurement operations.
- **Institutional practice and public governance coherence:** Strategic domains such as forest governance, biodiversity protection and land use planning are considered sovereign functions, typically entrusted to State institutions. Delegating the role of IP to an NGO in this project would challenge Algeria's centralized governance model in the forest and biodiversity sectors, and risk creating inconsistencies in inter-ministerial coordination, particularly with the Ministries of Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, and Finance.

For these reasons, while NGOs may contribute as Responsible Parties or be engaged through UNDP-managed procurement for specific outputs, they cannot be designated as Implementing Partners under the current legal, fiduciary, and institutional framework.

**Other UN Agencies**:

Several GEF-accredited UN agencies operate in Algeria, notably **FAO**, **UNIDO**, and **UNEP (non-resident)**. However, none meet the technical, operational, or legal requirements to serve as IP for this project:

- **FAO Algeria** focuses primarily on agricultural productivity, food systems, and small-scale rural livelihoods. Its in-country presence lacks the multi-sectoral operational scope and field infrastructure required for complex forest governance and landscape restoration projects.
- **UNEP** does not maintain an office or permanent staff in Algeria. As a non-resident agency, UNEP would face significant coordination and operational delays, and lacks logistical capacity for procurement, recruitment, and field-level project management in-country.

- **UNIDO Algeria** has a focused mandate on industrial development and SME support, without institutional experience in biodiversity, forest governance, or landscape resilience.

In contrast, UNDP Algeria has a dedicated Nature, Climate, and Energy portfolio and a robust internal control framework for execution support, aligned with GEF's fiduciary and operational standards. Moreover, UNDP has a strong in-country presence and institutional capacity to provide administrative, procurement and operational support directly to the government, providing that support under this project is cost effective and efficient, rather than going to another UN agency.

**Private sector/Consultancy firm**: The private sector, through specialised consultancy firms, can be considered as a potential provider of support services if they succeed in mobilising the necessary expertise. However, this option is not considered as optimal and efficient given the high costs of such services from for-profit entities.

**JNDP Algeria:**

The UNDP Country Office (CO) in Algeria has extensive experience managing GEF-funded projects in collaboration with national nstitutions, having successfully delivered over USD 22.9 million across 10 GEF projects since 2010. These include flagship projects on protected areas, genetic resources, and waste management.

Execution support (see in annex 2) will be provided in accordance with the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) and includes:

- Management of payment Process
- Contractual Services for Individuals (including recruitment and contract issuance)
- Staff selection and recruitment process
- Staff HR & Benefits Administration & Management
- Procurement of Services and goods
- Travel management

UNDP will provide only administrative, operational and procurement support through UNDP's own resources, necessitated by capacity and risk Assessments (i.e., PCAT) to enable the Executing Entity (DGF) to carry out effective implementation of the project activities. The support will be limited to the following, and these will occur on a need basis and only when requested by DGF:

a. Management of payments processes: following instruction by DGF and on completion/delivery of goods and services procured by DGF from service provider/supplier. This mean UNDP will not be involved in the sourcing of those good and services but will only facilitate direct payments at the instruction of DGF once the work is completed/goods delivered. UNDP will provide the services of its in-house finance section, at no cost to the project, for payment processing within its financial rules and regulations.
b. Procurement of goods and services: UNDP will only provide support for high value and complex procurement of goods and services through a competitive and transparent procurement process. This will only be limited to the identification of service providers and suppliers, and the eventual contract will be between DGF and the supplier/service provider.
c. Recruitment of Staff: Hiring of high-quality technical experts/assistants for the project management unit. UNDP will only provide support for the recruitment process and employment contracts will be between DGF and the employee.

UNDP will not charge DPC to the GEF Budget for this administrative support.

Finally, and as per UNDP procedure on procurement and regulation on section Procurement Ethics, Fraud and Corrupt Practices, UNDP has set up several measures to prevent risk of conflicts of interest and maintain transparent, fair and impartial procurement process such as:

- Proceed with competitive process to select service providers, (i.e.: Suppliers, contractors and consultants are excluded from tendering for procurement opportunities if they or their affiliates provided consulting services for the preparation and implementation of a project)

- Impartiality declaration from stakeholder and Evaluation Committee members,

- Check of reference of service providers.

- Self-declaration of possible conflict of interest.

- Awareness-raising and training sessions on “zero tolerance policy”.

Execution support is managed by UNDP’s Operations Team, led by the Operations Manager and staffed with finance, HR, and procurement officers. Oversight is provided by a separate team within the programme unit, ensuring a firewall between execution and assurance in line with GEF’s fiduciary separation requirements.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The project will ensure synergies are built with other potential technical assistance and/or investment projects in the project areas. They will also foster dialogue with other cooperation agencies addressing conservation, restoration and sustainable forest management issues, such as (not limited to): GIZ, FAO, UNFF, World Bank, etc. The Aleppo Pine Forest Project will promote strong synergies and coordination with other GEF-financed initiatives to maximize impact and ensure coherence at the landscape and national levels. In particular, collaboration will be established with the FAO-implemented projects on biodiversity and land degradation (GEF ID 10170 and GEF ID 9806), which focus on the sustainable management of community-based natural resources (CBNRM) at the landscape level. These partnerships will enhance integrated approaches and knowledge exchange for sustainable land and ecosystem management.

Furthermore, the project will coordinate closely with the UNDP-led global initiatives, including the GEF Enabling Activity for the updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the preparation of the 7th National Report to the CBD (GEF ID 11284), as well as the Biodiversity Financing Plan Project (BioFin GEF ID 11054). In addition, the project will actively coordinate with ongoing government-led reforestation and afforestation programmes (Annex X) to ensure strategic alignment and coherence in planning and implementation. This coordination will enhance the efficient use of financial and technical resources, avoid duplication, and promote synergies across interventions. By aligning with national priorities for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration, the project will contribute to the generation of measurable global environmental benefits. Furthermore, these linkages will strengthen national capacities for biodiversity monitoring and reporting and support the mobilization of sustainable biodiversity finance to secure long-term conservation outcomes.

## Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

**Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 76500 | 50500 | 0 | 0 |

**Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration**

| Disaggregation Type | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 76,500.00 | 50,500.00 | | |

**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration**

| Disaggregation Type | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 265534 | 293175 | 0 | 0 |

**Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

**Type/Name of Third Party Certification**

**Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems**

| Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 265,534.00 | 293,175.00 | | |

**Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided**

| Disaggregation Type | Ha (Expected at PIF) | Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported**

| Name of the OECMs | WDPA-ID | Total Ha (Expected at PIF) | Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Total Ha (Achieved at MTR) | Total Ha (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

| Title |
|---|
| |

**Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated**

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (direct)** | 8382098 | 3302869 | 0 | 0 |
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (indirect)** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector**

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (direct)** | 8,382,098 | 3,302,869 | | |
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (indirect)** | | | | |
| **Anticipated start year of accounting** | 2025 | 2026 | | |
| **Duration of accounting** | 20 | 20 | | |

**Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector**

| Total Target Benefit | (At PIF) | (At CEO Endorsement) | (Achieved at MTR) | (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (direct)** | | | | |
| **Expected metric tons of $CO_2e$ (indirect)** | | | | |
| **Anticipated start year of accounting** | | | | |
| **Duration of accounting** | | | | |

**Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)**

| Total Target Benefit | Energy (MJ) (At PIF) | Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement) | Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR) | Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Target Energy Saved (MJ)** | | | | |

**Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)**

| Technology | Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF) | Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR) | Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|

**Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments**

| | Number (Expected at PIF) | Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement) | Number (Achieved at MTR) | Number (Achieved at TE) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Female** | 100,000 | 100,000 | | |
| **Male** | 100,000 | 100,000 | | |
| **Total** | **200,000** | **200,000** | 0 | **0** |

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

GEF-8 Indicator 3: Restored land/ecosystem area (hectares) Target: 50,500 ha: The project will focus on restoring 29.52% of the degraded Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest and forest land area in Aurès (indicator 3.2), Senalba Chergui, and Telagh. Geographic Information Systems will be used for spatial monitoring with up-to-date data through assisted natural regeneration (50,000 ha) and active restoration (500 ha) interventions. The project primarily focuses on FLR within the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem. This approach is holistic and integrates SFM practices to enhance the resilience, productivity, and biodiversity of the forest landscapes. Restoration activities will include a combination of assisted natural regeneration, enrichment planting, and the establishment of agroforestry systems, tailored to the specific needs and conditions of the target areas. These practices aim to restore ecological functionality and enhance the provision of ecosystem goods and services, while also contributing to improved livelihoods for local communities.

GEF-8 Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices, Sub-indicator 4.3 - Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems. Target: 293,175 ha.: The project will promote sustainable land management practices across the entire area of the forest landscapes in Aurès, Senalba Chergui, and Telagh which will promote both the conservation and productive use of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem, while ensuring that the land's productive capacities are maintained and enhanced in a sustainable manner. This will include sustainable harvesting, agroforestry practices, and other sustainable land management techniques that will benefit both the environment and the local communities.

GEF-8 Indicator 6: The mitigation potential assessments across the three target forest sites were carried out using the FAO EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT). As a result of ecosystem restoration activities, the project will achieve a total greenhouse gas emission reduction of 3,302,869 $tCO_2e$, significantly contributing to national climate mitigation targets.

GEF-8 Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries, disaggregated by gender, as beneficiaries of GEF investment. Target: 200,000 beneficiaries with increased resilience. In addition, 650,000 individuals will receive indirect benefit from the project activities, 50% of whom are women (number based on local statistics).

## Key Risks

| | Rating | Explanation of risk and mitigation measures |
|---|---|---|
| CONTEXT | | |
| Climate | Moderate | Risk: Based on the climate risk analysis for the Senalba, Ben Imloul, and Telagh sites, a rapidly changing environmental context is evident. Historical data (1981-2024) consistently show a clear upward trend in average temperatures, with notable acceleration in recent years. This includes rising annual maximum and minimum temperatures, a decreasing trend in frost days, and a significant increase in heat stress days (>32°C), reaching record numbers annually. Precipitation exhibits high interannual variability and |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | often a downward trend, particularly in recent years. Aridity indices classify the sites as arid or semi-arid lands, with observations indicating an expansion of arid conditions. Climate projections to 2100 (SSP245, SSP585) forecast continued warming and decreased precipitation. The high-emissions SSP585 scenario projects significantly more pronounced increases in temperature and larger decreases in precipitation, exacerbating the risks of drought, water stress, and desertification. Mitigation measures: The project integrates several measures to mitigate risks associated with climate change. The project design itself includes adaptation measures based on considering potential worst-case climate scenarios. A climate risk analysis was undertaken for the project sites, identifying key vulnerabilities like increasing temperatures, decreasing precipitation, and increasing aridity. To address these, capacity-building efforts will include specialized training in climate-resilient forest management and the use of decision-support tools that incorporate climate data and adaptive planning. Findings from the climate risk analysis will also inform Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), ensuring that mitigation measures are integrated into forest management plans and restoration activities. Specific on-the-ground actions, to be undertaken within the context of SFM plans, will include selecting climate-resilient species for restoration, implementing supplemental watering and water conservation measures, improving fire prevention systems, and employing integrated pest management strategies to deal with drought-induced issues like bark beetle infestations. Together, these actions will aim to enhance the resilience of the forest ecosystem. |
| Environmental and Social | Substantial | Risks: Anthropogenic pressures such as human-induced fires, illegal logging and overgrazing, among others, are issues of concern. Generating alternative revenue sources through green value chains and implementing restoration options may have negative short-term social effects that will be analyzed and managed under the ESMF. Positive impacts of the project on jobs and income may take time to materialize. Mitigation measures: The project's stakeholder participation plan is designed to ensure the active involvement of local communities and other relevant stakeholders in project planning and decision-making processes. It will foster a participatory approach that considers stakeholder perspectives, needs, and concerns in order to help identify potential social impacts, design adaptive mitigation measures and enhance the project's social acceptance. Social & Environmental Screening analysis: Conduct a scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as integral components of each sustainable forest management (SFM) plan to help understand the potential positive and negative effects of the project on local communities, livelihoods, and social structures. The assessment will identify potential risks and develop specific strategies to address and mitigate those impacts. This assessment will consider the short-term and long-term |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | effects of the project, including the transitional period before some of the positive impacts on jobs and income materialize. |
| Political and Governance | Moderate | Risk: Insufficient participation and engagement of local communities, including women and private sector representatives. Mitigation measures: The project will foster inclusive decision-making approaches and management frameworks. The local administration for example will foster multisectoral dialogues and the inclusion of local stakeholders. Local forest governance can be improved, which will form part of the project activities. |
| INNOVATION | | |
| Institutional and Policy | Low | Risk: Uncertainty relate to the adoption or success of new frameworks—including regulations and PES mechanisms; uncertainty in reforming informal institutions and behaviors to support project outcomes. Risks associated with targeted organizational change Mitigation measures: The project will work closely with key institutional stakeholders on the design and monitoring of all new systems, with pilot testing as appropriate. |
| Technological | Low | Risk: Depending on the final design of the SFM plans, the project may deploy various innovative technologies to enhance forest management, conservation, and restoration efforts across the three target sites. These may include some or all of the following: (1) mobile devices and GNSS systems for accurate, real-time field data collection; (2) a central database and web platforms for integrated project management, monitoring progress through interactive dashboards and maps, and enhancing traceability; (3) advanced remote sensing, utilizing satellite and drone imagery with geoprocessing and potentially AI, in support of intelligent monitoring, climate hazard mapping, and reforestation optimization; (4) LiDAR to characterize forest structure; (5) Smart sensors (IoT) for continuous environmental monitoring and automatic alert systems for issues like fires or pest outbreaks. While these technologies aim for more accurate, efficient, and adaptive management, a core risk is the uncertainty of their success or whether they will achieve the intended environmental outcomes, especially for experimental or untested applications within this specific context. Mitigation: To mitigate resulting risks, the project will include targeted training programs for stakeholders and technical personnel to master and effectively utilize these technologies. Developing standardized protocols for data collection and analysis will also key to ensure consistency and comparability. Integrating the use of these tools into planning, monitoring, and adaptive management processes will help to validate their effectiveness and allow for adjustments if expected outcomes are not met. |
| Financial and Business Model | Moderate | Risk: The risk involves uncertainty regarding the success or adoption of new financing mechanisms and business models designed to support project objectives. The project aims to pilot innovative financial solutions, notably a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) mechanism, and support for sustainable wood and non-wood forest value chains. If these new mechanisms for mobilizing sustainable financing (like PES) or new green |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | business models fail to be adopted, operationalized, or achieve their intended outcomes, there is a risk that the project may not effectively attract private investment, mobilize and channel resources to local communities, or create sustainable green jobs and incomes. This could compromise the project's ability to incentivize sustainable practices, ensure long-term conservation and restoration, and ultimately achieve the project objective of sustainable forest management and restoration, potentially limiting benefits for vulnerable populations, including women. Mitigation: Appropriate risk mitigating measures are integrated into the project design. The project includes piloting the PES mechanism and supporting value chains, allowing for testing and adaptation before scaling. Capacity building is planned to equip stakeholders with the skills needed to engage with new financial and business models. A participatory approach ensures mechanisms and value chains are developed with local communities, SMMEs, and the private sector, fostering buy-in and relevance. The project will leverage lessons learned from other successful examples like PES schemes in Costa Rica and Vietnam. Finally, adaptive management supported by robust M&E and risk monitoring will track progress of these innovations and allow for timely adjustments if needed. |
| EXECUTION | | |
| Capacity | Low | Risk: Overloaded capacities of national institutions' staff may represent an implementation risk, in terms of abilities to deliver the project results in a timely manner. Mitigation measures: A dedicated project management unit (PMU) will be established by the project, with project funded and cofinanced support. With the project support, necessary training will be provided to reinforce capacities and specific technical knowledge. National and local administrations have sufficient resources and staff to ensure coordination and supervision of the project implementation, with UNDP support. |
| Fiduciary | Low | Risk: Algerian Government institutions have solid capacities in terms of financial, fiduciary and procurement management. The «Code des Marchés Publics» is a complex and solid instrument, and the DGF proceeds to very high value purchases every year. The difficulty is that DGF cannot contract with international providers., which creates a risk for the project’s ability to undertake timely contracting and payment of international providers. Mitigation measure: Support services scheme: UNDP will support the IP with procurement and contracting with international providers. |
| Stakeholder | Moderate | Risk associated with insufficient participation of stakeholders in projects and programs, and how this may impact results. Such risks may affect country ownership and partnerships. It may also affect the ability of the project or program to harness the knowledge, experience and capabilities of stakeholders. Mitigation measures include consultations or co-design processes undertaken to ensure that design reflects concerns and priorities expressed by diverse stakeholders; project or program management arrangements that incorporate key stakeholder groups in decision-making; |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | and multi-stakeholder dialogue processes to support the achievement and durability of outcomes. |
| Other | Moderate | Risk: the global economic crisis, with upward inflation trends could represent challenges for the success of the value chains related activities of the project. Mitigation measures: preference will be given to value chains that have a potential on local/national markets. Risk: Policy and/or management frameworks are not updated / revised as expected or unanticipated new policies are introduced during project implementation Mitigation measures: The project will closely and regularly monitor policy changes. It will engage with stakeholders, including key decision makers involved in relevant policy revision processes. It will include timelines and milestones to help ensure timely progress. Risk: Limited technical expertise available in national institutions/at national level. Mitigation measures: Technical Assistance: the design of the project takes into consideration the engagement of external experts and/or consultants to provide technical assistance to national institutions. This can be done through technical capacity building, short-term assignments, knowledge-sharing sessions, or long-term partnerships. These experts can offer guidance, share best practices, and provide hands-on support to address specific technical challenges. |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial | In accordance with UNDP's risk categorization methodology, the overall project risk rating is determined by the highest individual risk category identified across all the risks. The social and environmental risk categorization is rated as "Substantial," and other six risk areas were assessed at a "Moderate" level. Taken together, and in line with UNDP's internal risk framework, this results in overall risk rating of "Substantial." This rating reflects UNDP's commitment to proactively identifying and managing potential challenges during implementation. The detailed risk ratings are provided in CEO ER page 41 |

## C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Alignment with GEF-8 programming strategies

The project is aligned with the GEF focal area strategies for Biodiversity (BD Objective 1. To improve conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural ecosystems - *Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Priority Sectors*), Land Degradation (LDFA Objective 2 - *Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration*) and Climate Change Mitigation, as follows:

Under the BD focal area, the project prioritizes the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of the Aleppo Forest's biodiversity, ensuring that its rich flora and fauna are conserved for future generations. This not only safeguards the forests' unique ecosystems but also contributes to global biodiversity conservation goals.

In addressing LD, the project emphasizes sustainable land management practices and restoration efforts, aiming to reverse the degradation trends in the Aleppo Forest area. This ensures the land's productivity is maintained, benefiting both the environment and the local communities that rely on it.

Lastly, by focusing on forest conservation and restoration, the project directly contributes to CCM, by enhancing the resilience of the forest ecosystem as a carbon sink.

Alignment with international environmental agreements

The international context in which the project takes place responds to Algeria's commitments in terms of environmental protection and promotion of environmental goods and services, such as:

Sustainable forest management in relation to the Strategic Framework of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

Achievement of Algeria's SDG commitments, including in terms of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) objectives (under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification);

Implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (whose strategic orientation C 'Promote the conservation and restoration of biodiversity in order to sustain and develop Algerian natural capital' is aligned with this project. The Algerian NBSAP also calls for the design of innovative financing mechanisms, such as Payments for Ecosystem Services that the project will pilot. Thus, the proposed project is an example of building operational synergies between Rio conventions at the country level; and

National Climate Plan (PNC) that highlights the forest sector in the priorities for adaptation.

Algeria has signed the Agadir Commitment for Forest and Landscape Restoration[1][7]. Under the umbrella of the Silva Mediterranea Committee on Mediterranean Forest Issues, the Agadir commitment is a formal contribution to the Bonn Challenge.

In addition, Algeria has been one of the pioneer countries for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) with ambitious restoration programmes for forest and landscape restoration. The project will contribute to the achievement of the national LDN targets, which include the restoration of 1.5 million hectares of forest land in watersheds by 2030. Algeria is also committed to the goals and objectives of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

As a further global benefit, the project contributes to meeting the country's commitments to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 7% with its own funding and by 22% with international funding (according to NDC).

The project contributes towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13 on Climate Action and 15 on Life on Land and is a catalyst for restoration action in Algeria in the context of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. It also contributes to the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) – in particular its targets 2, 10, 11, 19 and 23.

The project's alignment with the GBF is integral to its design and objectives. Below is a detailed explanation of how the project contributes to each of the identified GBF targets:

Target 2: "Ensure that at least 30 percent globally of land areas and sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-

connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes."

**Contribution**: The project aims to conserve and restore 50,500 hectares of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem, while integrating sustainable forest management practices over an additional 293,175 hectares. This contributes to expanding the area under conservation, ensuring ecological representation, and enhancing connectivity within the landscape.

Target 10: "Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity."

**Contribution**: The project promotes sustainable forest management (SFM) and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) approaches, ensuring that forestry practices contribute to biodiversity conservation. It also aims to improve knowledge management and capacity-building in these areas, fostering sustainable practices in forestry.

Target 11: "Maintain and restore ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods, and well-being."

**Contribution**: By restoring degraded forest ecosystems and implementing SFM practices, the project will enhance the provision of ecosystem services, including water regulation and soil stabilization, which are crucial for local communities' health, livelihoods, and well-being.

Target 19: "Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make responsible choices and take positive actions for biodiversity through awareness, education, and public participation."

**Contribution:** The project includes components aimed at raising awareness and building capacities among local communities and stakeholders. This will empower them to participate actively in conservation efforts and make informed decisions that positively impact biodiversity.

*Alignment with national policies and multi-stakeholder platforms*

The project aligns with several national policy frameworks, including the National Spatial Planning Plan 2030 and the National Forest Development Strategy 2035. The latter was developed by the General Directorate of Forestry (DGF) in 2016 through a participatory and bottom-up approach across geographical and decision-making levels and involving stakeholders in the forest sector and the various ministerial departments concerned. Three main orientations of the strategy are:

Sustainable management of forest and alfa ecosystems, land conservation and restoration as part of an integrated landscape approach;

Conservation of flora and fauna genetic resources for their sustainable use and development;

Development and promotion of ecosystem goods and services in the context of sustainable socio-economic development.

Existing platforms for dialogue and stakeholders include those set up by the Government, such as:

National Forestry Commission

Intersectoral Commission for the Adoption of Anti-Erosion Development

Operational committees of wilayas (territorial level).

Two of the three project areas—Beni Imloul (Batna, Khenchela) and Senalbas (Djelfa)—are located in the area of the green dam project. Work at these sites will therefore benefit from the platforms set up by the public authorities in Algeria as part of the fight against desertification and the revival of the green dam project, including:

The national body to combat desertification and revive the green dam;

An intersectoral commission appointed as the steering committee of the project;

A technical and scientific committee; and

Local committees at the level of all 13 wilayas in the green dam programme.

As outlined in Section A, the project also acknowledges the persisting challenges related to policy coherence and inter-sectoral coordination. Outdated forest management plans, many dating back to the 1970s and 1980s, and the lack of enabling environments for local communities and the private sector to participate in forest conservation, highlight the need for updated policies and strategies. The project aims to address these gaps by facilitating policy dialogue, updating forest management plans, and building capacities at local levels, ensuring a more effective response to forest degradation and loss.

The Algerian government's renewed commitment to sustainable forest management, demonstrated by increased funding and support for forest programs, provides a solid foundation for the project. The Forest Law of 1984, which promotes sustainable and participatory forest practices, and the development of a strategy for Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs), further underscore the government's dedication to involving various stakeholders in sustainable forest value chains. The recently approved law n°23-21 of 23/12/2023, relating to forests and forest resources, represents a major step forward in this regard, which the present project will move further forward.

The project taps into existing platforms for dialogue and stakeholder engagement, leveraging the institutional setup provided by the state. This includes the National Forestry Commission, the Intersectoral Commission for the Adoption of Anti-Erosion Development, and operational committees at the wilaya (territorial) level. These platforms facilitate cross-sectoral coordination and ensure that the project is embedded in the national framework for forest management and biodiversity conservation.

The project is thereby not just aligned with, but is an integral part of Algeria's strategic framework for forest management and biodiversity conservation. It builds on existing policies, leverages national platforms for stakeholder engagement, and contributes to the country's broader goals of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and land restoration. This ensures policy coherence, intersectoral coordination, and a holistic approach to addressing the challenges of forest degradation and biodiversity loss in Algeria.

[1] https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/stories/agadir-commitment-restore-8-million-hectares-forest-ecosystems

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).**

Yes

**1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?**

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please 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;**

Yes

**Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or**

Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.**

Yes

**2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

## Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement**.**

Yes

**Select what role civil society will play in the Project**

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

## Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

## Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

## Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

| PIF | CEO Endorsement/Approval | MTR | TE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Medium/Moderate | High or Substantial | | |

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

Yes

### Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

The project is expected to generate several socio-economic benefits for the target populations:

- Creation of green jobs and income generation, particularly for local communities, women, and youth, through sustainable forest management and value chain development
- Improved livelihoods and living conditions for vulnerable populations in the target region, many of whom face economic and environmental challenges
- Increased income and benefits derived from the sustainable use of forest resources and the development of value chains for wood and non-wood products
- Enhanced participation and empowerment of women, who make up 50% of direct beneficiaries, by actively involving them in decision-making, capacity building, technical training, and benefit sharing from project interventions
- Support for sustainable enterprises, including Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and women-led businesses, by fostering the adoption of sustainable practices within forest-based value chains
- Piloting a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) mechanism to economically recognize and compensate local stakeholders for reducing pressure on forests and adopting practices that contribute to conservation and restoration
- Development and promotion of green tourism and local craft activities as alternative sources of income for communities in the project areas
- Improved resilience of local livelihoods against environmental and climate challenges through the implementation of sustainable practices that enhance ecosystem health

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

**Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Grant / Non-Grant | GEF Project Grant($) | Agency Fee($) | Total GEF Financing ($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation: BD-1 | Grant | 1,319,863.00 | 125,387.00 | 1,445,250.00 |
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Climate Change | CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4 | Grant | 680,594.00 | 64,656.00 | 745,250.00 |
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Land Degradation | LD STAR Allocation: LD-2 | Grant | 1,502,511.00 | 142,739.00 | 1,645,250.00 |
| **Total GEF Resources ($)** | | | | | | **3,502,968.00** | **332,782.00** | **3,835,750.00** |

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

150000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

14250

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | PPG($) | Agency Fee($) | Total PPG Funding($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation: BD-1 | 50,000.00 | 4,750.00 | 54,750.00 |
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Climate Change | CC STAR Allocation: CCM-1-4 | 50,000.00 | 4,750.00 | 54,750.00 |
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Land Degradation | LD STAR Allocation: LD-2 | 50,000.00 | 4,750.00 | 54,750.00 |
| **Total PPG Amount ($)** | | | | | **150,000.00** | **14,250.00** | **164,250.00** |

Please provide Justification

## Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Sources of Funds | Total($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Biodiversity | BD STAR Allocation | 1,500,000.00 |
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Climate Change | CC STAR Allocation | 800,000.00 |
| UNDP | GET | Algeria | Land Degradation | LD STAR Allocation | 1,700,000.00 |
| **Total GEF Resources** | | | | | **4,000,000.00** |

## Focal Area Elements

| Programming Directions | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing($) | Co-financing($) |
|---|---|---|---|
| BD-1-1 | GET | 1,319,863.00 | 10200000 |
| CCM-1-4 | GET | 680,594.00 | 4800000 |
| LD-2 | GET | 1,502,511.00 | 9000000 |
| **Total Project Cost** | | **3,502,968.00** | **24,000,000.00** |

## Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Recipient Country Government | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | In-kind | Recurrent expenditures | 7200000 |
| Recipient Country Government | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | Public Investment | Investment mobilized | 16800000 |
| **Total Co-financing** | | | | **24,000,000.00** |

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The Government of Algeria, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, will avail resources of the government environmental conservation project amounting up to USD 24,000,000 in support of the implementation of the GEF funded project “Restoration and sustainable forest management of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem”. These parallel resources will be delivered directly though the Ministry in the states in support of forest management and conservation. This mobilization of public investment is an important strategy for Algeria government to promote economic growth, create jobs, and improve the living

standards of Algerians. It is intended to address social and environmental challenges by financing projects in areas of watershed conservation, restoration of the ecosystems and land rehabilitation in Aleppo Pine project area.

The government support will be in the form of availing logistical support, engaging technical staff and experts in relevant surveys, assessments and technical coordination of related interventions of the project. The support includes using of physical assets and infrastructure to undertake ecosystem restoration and land rehabilitation activities.

Information regarding related investments that the project can build on and articulate with is detailed in Section A. The project is strategically positioned to leverage and contribute to ongoing and past investments by the Algerian government and other stakeholders in addressing land degradation, desertification, and biodiversity loss.

The following represents the development programs carried out in parallel by the Algerian Government in the project area.

National Programme on the three project sites through the National Fund for Rural Development and the Sectoral Development Plan (2020-25): $55 295

National forestry inventory and National Programme for Forest Development (2021-24): $ 3,639,750

Watershed Restoration Programme (development of mountain areas and combat against land degradation and desertification 2020-23): $ 19,072,292

Actions targeting the Great Green Dam (Barrage Vert): $950,000

In-kind contribution of the DGF: $290, 000

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

| GEF Agency Type | Date | Project Contact Person | Phone | Email |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| GEF Agency Coordinator | 6/11/2025 | Nancy Bennet | | nancy.bennet@undp.org |
| Project Coordinator | 6/11/2025 | Min Htut Yin | | min.htut.yin@undp.org |

### Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

| Name of GEF OFP | Position | Ministry | Date (MM/DD/YYYY) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Karim Baba | Director of Urban Environment Policy | Ministry of Environment | 12/4/2023 |
| Karim Baba | Director of Urban Environment Policy | Ministry of Environment | 11/1/2023 |
| Karim Baba | Director of Urban Environment Policy | Ministry of Environment | 8/11/2025 |

## ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal(s):** SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) | | | | | | | |
| **Intended Outcome as stated in the UNSDCF/Country Program Results and Resource Framework :›** UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) Output 1.1: Institutional capacities for the preservation of the environment and the fight against climate change are strengthened. by strengthening the institutional underpinnings essential for effective environmental conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation in Algeria. | | | | | | | |
| **Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: 1.1 The 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other inter-governmentally agreed frameworks integrated in national and local development plans, measures to accelerate progress put in place, and budgets and progress assessed using data- driven solutions** | | | | | | | |
| **Project title and Quantum Project Number:** Restoration and sustainable forest management of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest ecosystem | | | | | | | |
| **Objective and Outcome Indicators** | | **Data Source** | **Baseline** | **Mid-term Target** | **End of Project Target** | **Data Collection Methods[1]8** | **Risks/Assumptions** |
| **Project Objective:** | Strengthen the resilience of Algeria's Aleppo pine forest ecosystems through targeted restoration and sustainable forest management at Senalba, Telagh and Beni Imloul Forests | | | | | | |
| | Indicator 1: Area of **land restored (**Hectares): GEF CI 3.2: Area of forest and forest land under restoration | GIS maps and monitoring reports | 0 | 35,000 ha | 50,500 ha | GIS tools to be selected | Continuing political will and commitment of stakeholders are assured |
| | Indicator 2: Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (excluding protected areas)( Hectares) GEF CI 4.3: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems | GIS maps and approved management plans | 0 | 100,000 ha | 293,175 ha | Field surveys | Effective adoption of practices as delineated / identified in management plans |
| | Indicator 3: **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated** (metric tons of CO2e) GEF CI 6.5: Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (direct) | GIS maps and monitoring reports | 0 | TBD | 3,302,869 T $CO^2e$ | GIS tools to be selected | Effective control of fire risk |
| | Indicator 4: Number of **direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender** as co-benefit of GEF investment GEF CI 11: | | | 100,000 direct beneficiaries, 300,000 | 200,000 direct beneficiaries, 650,000 indirect | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | People benefiting from GEF-financed investments | | | indirect beneficiaries, 50% of whom are women | beneficiaries, 50% of whom are women | | |
| Component 1 | Policy, regulatory and institutional capacity strengthening to enable inclusive forest conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration | | | | | | |
| **Project Outcome 1.1** Improved enabling environment in place for gender-inclusive<br><br>conservation and sustainable management and use of the Algerian Aleppo pine forest to contribute to national targets for climate action (NDCs), LDN and biodiversity conservation (NBSAPs) | Indicator 5: Number of regulatory texts, guidelines and protocols for forest management updated and/or developed and approved | DGF official documentation | DGF has begun developing regulatory texts | Drafts of 8 individual regulatory texts of Law No 23-21 | Regulatory texts approved / adopted by DGF | Project reports and official issuance of regulations | Effective implementation of regulatory texts |
| | Indicator 6: Number of gender-responsive forest management plans for Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest updated and approved for implementation | DGF official documentation | 0 | Three plans approved for implementation | Implementation of three plans initiated | GDF documents and project reports documenting the participatory process for the development and adoption of the plans | Effective adoption and implementation of gender-responsive elements |
| | Indicator 7: Number of new / updated gender-responsive decision-support tools for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) developed and implemented | Project reporting documenting development and adoption of tools | Some tools exist (e.g. PRR) but they are in need of updating | Tools and instruments updated and adapted for current circumstances | 2 new tools validated and being implemented | Project monitoring reports | Capacities remain in place to continue making effective use of introduced tools |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1** | Output 1.1.1 Develop guidelines and protocols and build capacities related to implementation of Law 23-21 of 23 December 2023 relating to forests and forest resources<br><br>Output 1.1.2. Develop/update forest management plans to integrate best-practice SFM principles and approaches, inclusive, participatory, and gender-responsive measures to enhance effective policy implementation and law enforcement<br><br>Output 1.1.3. Develop and deploy gender-responsive best practice decision-support systems and tools for sustainable forest management (SFM) and forest landscape restoration | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Project Outcome 1.2** Strengthened institutional and technical capacities, knowledge and skills in place to facilitate inclusive, gender-responsive, and science-based forest management and forest landscape restoration | Indicator 8: Number of forest professionals trained on SFM and FLR practices and approaches and applying them in forest administration and management (at least 30% women) | Training reports | O forest professionals trained | 200 have received initial training | At least 200 trained forest professionals, including at least 30% women, have completed training and are applying SFM and FLR approaches at the three sites | Project reporting | Careful selection, and active participation, of trainees |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2** | Output 1.2.1: Conduct a training and technical capacity needs assessment at national and sub-national levels for SFM and FLR, ensuring gender considerations are integrated into the assessment process.<br><br>Output 1.2.2: Develop and deliver targeted gender-sensitive training programs to equip technical personnel at national and sub-national levels with up-to-date knowledge and skills for SFM and FLR, including for participatory planning, monitoring and reporting | | | | | | |
| **Project Outcome 1.3**<br><br>Strengthened participatory forest conservation and management capacities in place at local and community levels to promote inclusive and gender-responsive conservation, sustainable use and restoration of forest landscapes | Indicator 9: Number of gender-responsive community-based technical guidelines for SFM and FLR developed and under implementation | DGF official documentation | 0 guidelines | 3 sets of draft guidelines under review and pilot testing | 3 sets of final guidelines (one per pilot zone), adopted and under implementation | Distributed guideline documents | Availability and access to reliable data |
| | Indicator 10: Number of men and women community members trained through capacity building programs on SFM and FLR | Project reporting | 0 community members | 250 community members (at least 50% women) | 500 community members (at least 50% women) | Project reports | Selected / trained community members are finding practical opportunities to utilize their skills |
| | Indicator 11: Increase in capacity of community members (men and women), including representatives of key community-based organizations, on SFM and FLR | UNDP Capacity Scorecard to be implemented at each site during Inception Phase | TBD | At least 30% improvement in baseline scores (to be measured following selection of target community members) | At least 30% improvement in baseline scores (to be measured following selection of target community members) | UNDP Capacity Scorecard | Capacity building scorecard is effectively capturing skills needed for SFM and FLR in the Algerian context |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.3** | Output 1.3.1: Develop gender-responsive technical guidelines for community-based forest conservation and management to facilitate participatory management of forests and community-led forest landscape restoration<br><br>Output 1.3.2: Train local civil society organizations/forest associations (i.e., Forest User Groups) on gender-sensitive forest management and equip them with skills and knowledge to coordinate implementation of forest management plans at community levels | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Project component 2** | **Conservation, sustainable management and forest landscape restoration across the Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest landscapes** | | | | | | |
| **Outcome 2.1**<br><br>Deforestation and degradation addressed through gender-responsive Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR ) | Indicator 12: Area of forest and forest land restored GEF CI 3.2: Area of forest and forest land under restoration | GIS maps and monitoring reports | 0 | 35,000 ha | 50,500 ha | GIS tools to be selected | Continuing political will and commitment of stakeholders are assured |
| | Indicator 13: Green House Gas Emissions Mitigated in the AFOLU sector GEF CI 6.5: Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (direct) | GIS maps and monitoring reports | 0 | TBD | 3,302,869 T $CO^2e$ | Assessment report by qualified expert | Effective control of fire risk |
| | Indicator 14: Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex) GEF CI 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments | Project reporting | 0 | 20,000 (direct)<br><br>100,000 (Indirect)<br><br>50% of each are women | 50,000 (direct)<br><br>250,000 (Indirect)<br><br>50% of each are women | Mid-term and final evaluation reports | FLR plans design and implementation effectively reflect broad interests of local populations |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1** | Output 2.1.1 Implement FLR strategies and interventions across 50,500 hectares (ha) of degraded Algerian Aleppo Pine Forest, ensuring the active participation of women in restoration activities. | | | | | | |
| **Outcome 2.2**<br><br>Conservation and sustainable forest management and use practices mainstreamed into production landscapes across the Aleppo Pine ecosystem | Indicator 15: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems | GIS maps and approved management plans | 0 | 100,000 ha | 293,175 ha | Field surveys | Effective adoption of practices as delineated / identified in management plans |
| | Indicator 16: Number of value chains supported to adopt sustainable business and greening practices | Project reporting | 0 | 1 value chain | 3 value chains, with at least 50% of associated new jobs and additional income for women and women-led cooperatives and businesses | Focus groups / project surveys | Market opportunities create sufficient incentives for sustainably green practices |
| | Indicator 17: Number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (disaggregated by sex)<br><br>GEF CI 11: People benefiting from GEF-financed investments | Project reporting | 0 | 100,000 direct beneficiaries, 300,000 indirect beneficiaries, 50% of whom are women | 200,000 direct beneficiaries, 650,000 indirect beneficiaries, 50% of whom are women | Mid-term and final evaluation reports | SFM plan design and implementation effectively reflect broad interests of local populations |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2** | Output 2.2.1. Support implementation of gender-responsive forest management plans in 343,675 ha of the forest landscape, including through inclusive co-management approaches with local communities<br><br>Output 2.2.2. Support CSOs/Forest Associations (i.e., Forest User Groups) and SMMEs with a focus on women to adopt sustainable practices within value chains for specific wood (thinning posts), NWFPs, and use of forest ecosystem services ensuring green jobs creation, income generation and gender inclusive benefit sharing<br><br>Output 2.2.3. Facilitate access to markets for sustainably sourced wood and non-wood forest products as well as other forest ecosystem services and support market innovations, digital solutions with an emphasis on increasing benefits for women | | | | | | |
| **Outcome 2.3**<br><br>Efficient financing solutions developed to facilitate sustainable investments in wood and non-wood forest value chains, and to conserve and restore forest ecosystems. | Indicator 18: Number of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes in place | Project reporting | 0 | PES scheme established | 1 gender-sensitive PES mechanism, designed | 1 gender-sensitive PES mechanism, designed and piloted. | Continuing political will, support and commitment of public authorities and stakeholders |
| | Indicator 19: Number of small and medium-sized enterprises and community-based organizations earning income from the sustainable marketing of forest products, using a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem goods and services | Project reporting | 0 | 30 SMEs/CBOs, of which at least 40% are led by women | 40 women-led businesses are benefitting | Project survey | Market opportunities create sufficient incentives for sustainably green practices |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.3** | Output 2.3.1. Develop and pilot a gender-sensitive payment for ecosystem services (PES) mechanism to compensate local forest communities for the ecosystem goods and services generated through adoption of practices that reduce pressure on forests and facilitate conservation and restoration | | | | | | |
| **Project component 3** | **Knowledge management, Awareness-raising** | | | | | | |
| **Outcome 3.1**<br><br>Project-generated knowledge and lessons shared and results and impact communicated and disseminated for wider learning | Indicator 20: Number of solutions / lessons learned transformed into knowledge sharing products | Published knowledge products | 0 | 3 | 8 | Project reporting | Findings are effectively disseminated / diffused and acted upon by relevant stakeholders |
| **Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1** | Output 3.1.1. Strategies for sharing/exchanging knowledge, lessons and communicating project results and impacts, showcasing benefits for men and women are developed and implemented | | | | | | |
| **Project component 4:** | **Monitoring & Evaluation** | | | | | | |
| **Outcome 4.1**<br><br>Adaptive management of project activities in line with UNDP and GEF M&E and Social and Environmental Safeguards policies | Indicator 21: MTR and TE delivered on time and according to expected quality | Mid-term evaluations, independent final evaluations | 0 | MTR independent quality ratings S or better | MTR, TE and PIR independent quality ratings S or better | Consultant reports | Evaluation recommendations are fully adopted and acted upon |
| | Indicator 22: Gender action plan (GAP) fully | PIRs, MTR and TE | GAP developed and | Positive review of GAP | Gender equality action plan | Project reporting | GAP design & implementation effective |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | implemented and reported in PIRs, MTR and TE | | dissemin ated | implement ation in MTR | fully implemented and reported in preliminary assessment reports, mid-term reviews and independent preliminary evaluations | | in overcoming inherent social constraints |
| | Indicator 23: Stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) fully implemented and reported in PIRs, MTR and TE | PIRs, MTR and TE | SEP develope d and dissemin ated | Positive review of SEP implement ation in MTR | Stakeholder engagement plan fully implemented | Project reporting | Continuing DGF willingness to fully embrace participatory approach |

[1] *Data collection methods should outline specific tools used to collect data and additional information as necessary to support monitoring. The PIR cannot be used as a source of verification.*

## ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

| Project Preparation Activities Implemented | GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Budgeted Amount | Amount Spent To date | Amount Committed |
| -International Project Development Specialist (GEF PPG Team Leader). International Social and Environmental/ Gender and Stakeholder Engagement Expert. Local consultants on Climate Risk Analysis, Innovative and Digital Technologies for Monitoring Vegetation, Wildlife, and Land Use and strategic reports. | 130,060.00 | 100,513.00 | 29,547.00 |
| Travel expenses of local consultants and stakeholders to consultations field visits. This support aims to ensure inclusive and representative participation of all relevant stakeholders. | 6,000.00 | 1,403.42 | 3,797.00 |
| Consultation workshops were held on 18–19 February 2025 in Sidi Bel Abbès, with a field visit to the Telagh Forest Massif. The event gathered around 40–60 participants from national partner, civil society, academia, and the private sector) | 13,940.00 | 6,439.00 | 7,501.00 |
| **Total** | **150,000.00** | **108,355.42** | **40,845.00** |

## ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

**Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place**

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|---|---|---|---|
| Merine | 34.80868824 | -0.502026804 | 2,487,912 |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|---|---|---|---|
| Charef | 34.56928298 | 2.94408299 | 2,501,767 |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tafechna | 35.12835199 | 6.600464755 | 2,478,797 |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.**

The project's three target sites are located as follows:

| GEO Name ID | Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | Location Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2487912 | Merine | 34.80868824 | -0.502026804 | Telagh |
| 2501767 | Charef | 34.56928298 | 2.94408299 | Senalba |
| 2478797 | Tafechna | 35.12835199 | 6.600464755 | Ben Imloul |

The Aleppo pine forests are divided into three geographical zones, each of which hosts one of the project's implementation sites:

- The East Zone - the Aurès, Hodna and Bibans: for the implementation site of the Beni Imloul national forest (69,039 ha).

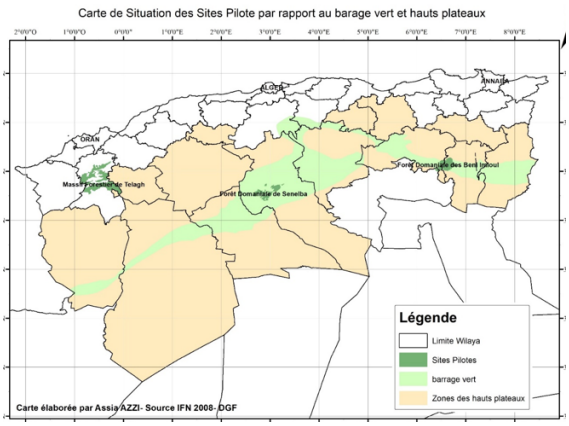
- The Central Zone at the level of the central steppe with the Ouled Nails mountains: for the implementation site of Senalba (65,033 ha).

- The Northwest Zone concerning the Telagh forest, the Saida and Frenda Mountains, contains a significant block of Aleppo pine forests (209,603 ha).

The cumulative area of implementation sites thus represents 343,675 ha in total, out of which 50,500 ha will be restored and the remaining area will be under improve practices.

Selected project areas were proposed and selected considering their geographical location in relation to the seven (7) ecological zones of Algeria, three of which are project sites: Beni Imloul for the Monts des Aurès in the East, Senalbas for the central steppe and the Telague for the Western Tell. The project site selection is also based on the inventory results of 1984 and 2008, which will be consolidated by the current inventory whose completion is scheduled for 2024. The latter, conducted by the national rural development consulting enterprise 'BNEDER' will result in a national forest development plan for all forest areas, which will include new dispositions for the implementation of more sustainable practices potentially supporting the initiatives implemented as part of this project. The proposed GEF project will provide critical support to these national planning priorities.

Figure 1: Repartition area of the Aleppo Pine ecosystem, and project sites (source: DGF)



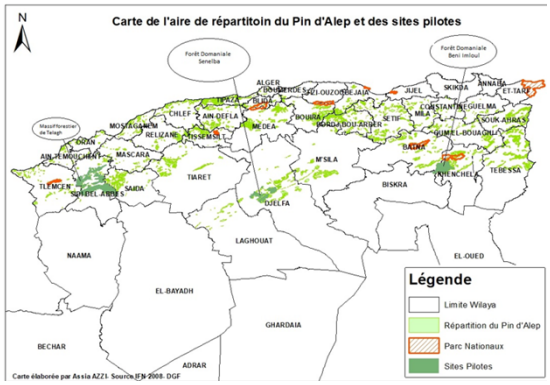
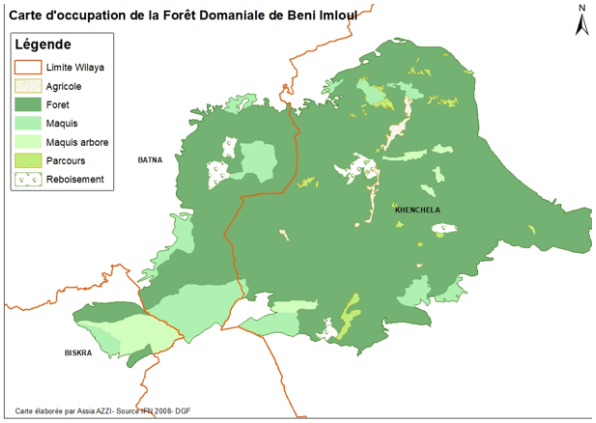



Figure 2: Map of the Beni Imloul forest (69,039 ha), 35°01'05'N 6°30'00'W; 35°10'08'N 6°50'02'W




*Remaining figure 3 and 4 available in CEO ER Annex E*

## ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

| Title |
|---|
| Gender Analysis Action Plan |
| Stakeholder Engagement Plan |
| Environmental and Social Management Framework |
| Social and Environmental Screening Procedure |

## ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

**Please upload the budget table here.**

| Expenditure Category | Detailed Description | Component (USDeq.) | | | | | | Total (USDeq.) | Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Component 1* | *Component 2* | *Component 3* | *Sub-Total* | *M&E* | *PMC* | | |

| | | Outcome 1.1 | Outcome 1.2 | Outcome 1.3 | Outcome 2.1 | Outcome 2.2 | Outcome 2.3 | Outcome 3 | *Sub-Total* | *M&E* | *PMC* | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contractual services-Company** | Contractual service by company on Site baseline studies (3 @ $26,000 / study = $78,000). Contractual service by company on SFM plan development (3 @ $30,000 / plan = $90,000). TOTAL = $168,000 | 168,000 | | | | | | | 168,000 | | | 168,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Contractual services-Company** | Contractual service by company on Development of needs assessment - $20,000. Contractual service by company on Implementation of training at HQ and project sites - $ 125,500. TOTAL = $ 145,500 | | 145,500 | | | | | | 145,500 | | | 145,500 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Contractual services-Company** | Training for CSOs and forestry associations. TOTAL= $100,000 | | | 100,000 | | | | | 100,000 | | | 100,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Contractual services-Company** | Contractual service by company on Support to implementation of restoration work, including woodlot establishment. TOTAL= $190,000 | | | | 190,000 | | | | 190,000 | | | 190,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Contractual services-Company** | Contractual services by company on SFM implementation - $1,270,000. Contractual services by company on Support services for sustainable practices - $156,950. Contractual services by company on Support for market access – $90,000. TOTAL = $1,516,950 | | | | | 1,516,950 | | | 1,516,950 | | | 1,516,950 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Contractual services-Company** | Contractual service by company on Support to PES design. TOTAL= $40,000 | | | | | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | | | 40,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Contractual Services - Individ** | Contractual service for technical team leader and project coordinator (20 months @ $3,500 / Month = $70,000). TOTAL= 70,000 | 70,000 | | | | | | | 70,000 | | | 70,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Contractual Services - Individ** | Contractual Service for Technical team leader and project coordinator (25 months @ $3,500 / Month = $87,500. Outposted PMU staff at each site from year 3 to provide technical support to SFM plan implementation – 36 Months x 3 | | | | | 195,500 | | | 195,500 | | | 195,500 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | staff x $1,000 /month = $108,000. TOTAL = $195,500 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Contractual Services - Individ** | Contractual service on Technical team leader and project coordinator/ manager (15 months @ $3,500 / Month = $52,500). Contractual service on Admin / finance / procurement assistant (60 months @ $1,700 / month = $102,000) TOTAL = $154,500 | | | | | | | | - | | 154,500 | 154,500 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **International Consultants** | Individual contract for SFM planning expert (with emphasis on non-timber benefits, including forest carbon, BD and LD; all sites): 75 days (25 per site) @ $650 / day = $48,750. Individual contract for Decision-support tools training expert: 25 days @$650 / day= $16,250. TOTAL = $65,000 | 65,000 | | | | | | | 65,000 | | | 65,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **International Consultants** | Individual contract for Forest restoration expert: 50 days @ $650 / day = $32,500. Individual contract for Sustainable value chains expert: 50 | | | | | 130,000 | | | 130,000 | | | 130,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | days @ $650 / day = $32,500. Individual contract for Pest management expert: 50 days @ $650 / day = $32,500. Individual contract for Economic valuation and market analysis - 50 days @ $650 / day = $32,500. TOTAL = $130,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **International Consultants** | Individual contract PES specialist: 50 days at $640 / day = $32,000 TOTAL= $32,000 | | | | | | 32,000 | | 32,000 | | | 32,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **International Consultants** | Individual contract for Project evaluation specialists for mid-term review and final evaluations: (90 days @ $650 / day = $58,500) TOTAL= $58,500 | | | | | | | | - | 58,500 | | 58,500 | UNDP |
| **Local Consultant** | Local consultant for Development of regulatory texts, guidelines and protocols 60 days @ $350/day = $21,000. Local consultant for ESIA and ESMP: 100 days @ $400 / day = $40,000. Local consultant for Data preparation: 60 days @ $350 / day = $21,000. | 82,000 | | | | | | | 82,000 | | | 82,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | TOTAL = $ 82,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Local Consultant** | Local consultant for development of guidelines – 50 days @ $350 = $17,500 TOTAL= $17,500 | | | 17,500 | | | | | 17,500 | | | 17,500 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Local Consultant** | Local consultant for Restoration planning – definition of areas and methods – 60 days @ $350 / day = $21,000 TOTAL= $21,000 | | | | 21,000 | | | | 21,000 | | | 21,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Local Consultant** | Local Consultant for Financial specialist: 30 days @ $350 = $10,500. Local Consultant for Spatial and Participatory Value Chain Analysis: 30 days @ $350 / day = $10,500. TOTAL - $21,000 | | | | | 21,000 | | | 21,000 | | | 21,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Local Consultant** | Local consultants for Forest economist: 50 days @ $350 = $17,500 TOTAL= 17,500 | | | | | | 17,500 | | 17,500 | | | 17,500 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Local Consultant** | Local consultant for Knowledge management: 60 days @ $350/day = $21,000 TOTAL= 21,000 | | | | | | | 21,000 | 21,000 | | | 21,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Local Consultant** | Local consultant for Project evaluation specialists for mid-term | | | | | | | | - | 35,000 | | 35,000 | UNDP |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | review and final evaluation (100 days at $350 / day = $35,000). TOTAL= 35,000 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Workshops, meetings and consultations: (1) develop and disseminate regulatory texts, guidelines, etc.; (2) develop SFM plans, incl. community-level consultations; (3) training. TOTAL = $75,800 | 75,800 | | | | | | | 75,800 | | | 75,800 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Consultations for development of training needs assessment. TOTAL= $5,000 | | 5,000 | | | | | | 5,000 | | | 5,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Community-level consultations. TOTAL= $15,000 | | | 15,000 | | | | | 15,000 | | | 15,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Workshops and meetings associated with SFM plan implementation, etc. TOTAL= $27,000 | | | | | 27,000 | | | 27,000 | | | 27,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Local-level consultations related to PES mechanism. TOTAL= $9,250 | | | | | | 9,250 | | 9,250 | | | 9,250 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Workshops and meetings for knowledge management. TOTAL= $30,000 | | | | | | | 30,000 | 30,000 | | | 30,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Development |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Inception workshop for project implementation and other training related expenses. TOTAL: $20,000 | | | | | | | | - | 20,000 | | 20,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Training, Workshops, Meetings** | Workshops and meetings relate to project management. TOTAL= $1,891 | | | | | | | | - | | 1,891 | 1,891 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Travel** | International travel by international consultants (2 trips @ $5,000 / trip = $10,000); Domestic travel between Algiers and project sites and between project sites (70 trips @ $1,000 / trip = $70,000). TOTAL = $80,000 | 80,000 | | | | | | | 80,000 | | | 80,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Travel** | International travel by international consultants (5 trips @ $4,000 / trip = $20,000). Domestic travel between Algiers and project sites and between project sites (20 trips @ $1,000 / trip = $20,000). TOTAL = $40,000 | | | | | 40,000 | | | 40,000 | | | 40,000 | Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development |
| **Travel** | Travel for inter-site exchange and knowledge | | | | | | | 11,577 | 11,577 | | | 11,577 | Ministry of Agricult |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | sharing ( 4 trips @ $2,000 and 1 trip @ $3,577) TOTAL= $11,577 | | | | | | | | | | | | ure and Rural Develo ment |
| **Travel** | International and domestic travel for M&E, including evaluations and supervision missions. TOTAL= $ 31,500 | | | | | | | | - | 31,5 00 | | 31,50 0 | Ministry of Agricult ure and Rural Develo ment |
| **Other Operatin g Costs** | Printing of texts, guidelines and protocols, including simplified versions, 2 languages. TOTAL= $25,000 | 25,00 0 | | | | | | | 25,00 0 | | | 25,00 0 | Ministry of Agricult ure and Rural Develo ment |
| **Other Operatin g Costs** | Print and audio-visual materials for lessons learned, etc. TOTAL= $40,000 | | | | | | | 40,000 | 40,00 0 | | | 40,00 0 | Ministry of Agricult ure and Rural Develo ment |
| **Other Operatin g Costs** | Audit and spot checks 2 times in project lifetime @ 5,000 each. Total= 10,000 | | | | | | | | - | | 10,0 00 | 10,00 0 | UNDP |
| **Grand Total** | | **565,8 00** | **150,5 00** | **132,5 00** | **211,0 00** | **1,930, 450** | **98,75 0** | **102,57 7** | **3,191, 577** | **145, 000** | **166, 391** | **3,502, 968** | |

**Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here**

## ANNEX I: 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.