



## **Integrated forest and biodiversity management for sustainable development in the Biban mountain range**

### **Part I: Project Information**

#### **GEF ID**

10170

#### **Project Type**

FSP

#### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

#### **CBIT/NGI**

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

#### **Project Title**

Integrated forest and biodiversity management for sustainable development in the Biban mountain range

#### **Countries**

Algeria

#### **Agency(ies)**

FAO

#### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

Ministry for Environment and Renewable Energy (MEER)

#### **Executing Partner Type**

Government

#### **GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

#### **Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Complementarity, Livelihoods, Community-based adaptation, Mainstreaming adaptation, Climate resilience, Innovation, Climate information, Private sector, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Technology Transfer, Renewable Energy, Financing, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Biomes, Grasslands, Temperate Forests, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Certification -National Standards, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Ceritification - International Standards, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Species, Plant Genetic Resources, Animal Genetic Resources, Invasive Alien Species, Threatened Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Drought Mitigation, Sustainable Pasture Management, Ecosystem Approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Fire Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Cover and Land cover change, Food Security, Forest, Drylands, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approach, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Capital providers, Large corporations, SMEs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Integrated Programs, Commodity Supply Chains, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Financial Screening Tools, Sustainable Commodities Production, Smallholder Farmers, Adaptive Management, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Sustainable Food Systems, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Food Value Chains, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Landscape Restoration, Sustainable Commodity Production, Smallholder Farming, Integrated Landscapes, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Generation, Training, Targeted Research, Knowledge Exchange, Peer-to-Peer, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management

## **Rio Markers**

### **Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

### **Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Submission Date**

6/15/2021

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/1/2022

**Expected Completion Date**

12/31/2025

**Duration**

48In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

313,240.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	1,472,717.00	13,051,281.00
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	GET	1,277,180.00	11,318,424.00
LD-1-4	Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	GET	547,363.00	4,850,755.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>3,297,260.00</b>	<b>29,220,460.00</b>

**B. Project description summary**

**Project Objective**

To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and natural ecosystems, improve the management of natural resources in two communes of the Biban mountain range, and support outscaling across the Biban mountain range. Indicator 1: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity  
Target 1: 32,257 hectares Indicator 2: Number of individuals adopting sustainable, nature-based income-generating activities Target 2: 16,815 individuals (including 50% women)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Biodiversity and land management planning, policy strengthening and financial capacity building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Biban mountain range	Investment	Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management are integrated into communal development plans and budgeted for in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes	<p>Output 1.1.1 Training provided to strengthen capacity of the government staff from communal to central level including technical staff, decision makers, and key officials and influencers on integrated land-use planning including on participatory processes and on how to prioritize specific interventions and landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning</p> <p>Output 1.1.2 Inventories of fauna and flora species, and mapping of biodiversity, ecosystems, threats and levels of degradation undertaken by CNDRB using a participatory approach with CBOs,</p>	GET	499,199.00	3,153,534.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Adoption of sustainable sources of income that contribute to conserving biodiversity and reversing land degradation by local resource users in the targeted communes	Investment	Outcome 2.1 Nature-based sustainable businesses in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes are developed and are directly contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, forest ecosystems and land	<p>Output 2.1.1 Two government-based technical support services established to assist the implementation, monitoring, maintenance and growth of the SLM, SFM and sustainable income-generating activities to be implemented under Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3</p> <p>Output 2.1.2 2,750 ha of agricultural, forest and pastoral land under rehabilitation or improved management</p> <p>Output 2.1.3 At least 40 Sustainable business plans in agroecology, agritourism, ecotourism, handcrafting, forestry, NTFP Value Chains or other economic activities</p>	GET	2,191,049.00	21,311,414.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3 : Outscaling and upscaling of successful interventions across the Biban mountain range	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1 Sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation integrated in development planning across the Biban mountain range	<p>Output 3.1.1 An intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform including public and private sector actors established to promote biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, and support access to financial sources for the outscaling of good practices</p> <p>Output 3.1.2 Amendments to the policy framework and programmes proposed to enable and promote integrated, participatory, landscape-scale development planning, SLM and biodiversity conservation in the targeted Wilayas and at the national level</p>	GET	450,000.00	2,738,179.00



Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Sub Total (\$)					3,140,248.00	27,203,127.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET			157,012.00		2,017,333.00	
Sub Total(\$)			157,012.00		2,017,333.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)			3,297,260.00		29,220,460.00	

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	12,727,143.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	531,079.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	3,567,543.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	509,670.00
Recipient Country Government	ANADE	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,990,319.00
Recipient Country Government	ANADE	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	180,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Land-Use planning	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	5,641,821.00
Recipient Country Government	ANN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	420,353.00
Recipient Country Government	ADS	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,275,128.00
Recipient Country Government	ADS	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	127,513.00

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	CNDRB	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	3,291.00
Recipient Country Government	CNDRB	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	48,718.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	997,882.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>29,220,460.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

2,990,319 ANADE (Financing of 40 Business Plans selected under Component 2 up to AD 10 million / project holder in line with the applicable requirements)

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>
FAO	GET	Algeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,472,717	139,908
FAO	GET	Algeria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,824,543	173,332
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>3,297,260.00</b>	<b>313,240.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)  
PPG Required **false**

PPG Amount (\$)  
100,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)  
9,500

Agenc y	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programmin g of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Algeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	25,000	2,375
FAO	GET	Algeria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	75,000	7,125
Total Project Costs(\$)					100,000.00	9,500.00

## Core Indicators

**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)
32000.00	32257.00	0.00	0.00

**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)
16,000.00	32,257.00		

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)**

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)
16,000.00			

**Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided**

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

**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title

Submitted

**Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment**

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	9,750	8,204		
<b>Male</b>	9,750	8,611		
<b>Total</b>	19500	16815	0	0

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

Consultations, focus groups and field visits were conducted during the PPG phase to develop the baseline and gather the missing data at national, regional and local levels.



## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### 1.a Project Description

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description).

#### 1.1 Brief description of the geographic, political, social, economic, environmental and climatic context in Algeria (national scale)

1. Algeria is a North African country bordered by the Mediterranean Sea in the north, Tunisia in the northeast, Libya in the east, Niger in the southeast, Mali, Mauritania and Western Sahara in the southwest, and Morocco in the west. Its total land area is slightly over 2.3 million km<sup>2</sup>. Algeria is divided into 58 Wilaya or provinces. A wilaya is a territorial collectivity which has economic and diplomatic freedom. Each wilaya is divided into several communes.

2. The climate conditions vary significantly from the North to the South ranging from a humid Mediterranean climate to semi-arid climate to dry and desertic climate in the South. This climatic diversity delineates five large agroecological zones: i) Sahel and coastal zones; ii) sub-coastal plains; iii) inland plains, high plains with cereal production and high plateaus; iv) high steppe-like plains; and v) Saharian and oasian zone.

3. Algeria achieved independence in 1962 after more than a century of occupation by France. During the 1990's, widespread terrorist activities in villages and rural areas led large sections of the rural population to abandon rural areas and seek security in large towns and cities. The security situation has stabilized since the late 1990s and the Government has progressively promoted a policy of encouraging the population to return to rural areas and small villages.

## 1.2 Description of the institutional and policy context for the management of natural resources and biodiversity in Algeria

### Institutional framework (key ministries and their role) ? from central to local level

4. Because of the inter-disciplinarity of the project, a diversity of governmental institutions will participate in the project. The main institutions that will be involved in the project are described below.

#### Central level:

5. The **Ministry of Environment (ME)** is responsible for the implementation of the government's environmental policy, including regarding climate change. It includes several departments and agencies that are important for the project: the National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD), the General Department of the Environment and Sustainable Development (DGEDD) and its Departments of Environment (DEs) at Wilaya level, the Department for the Preservation, Conservation and Value-addition for Biodiversity and Ecosystems, the Department for Awareness, Education, and Partnership for Environmental Protection, the Department of Climate Change, National Development Centre for Biological Resources (CNDRB), National Conservatory for Environmental Training Courses (CNFE), National Centre for Cleaner Production Technologies (CNTPP), Department of Urban Environmental Policy and National Wastes Agency.

6. The **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)** will be a major partner of the project particularly through the following departments: the General Forest Department (DGF) based at central level and its Departments for Forest Conservation (DCFs) in each wilaya, Department for the Protection of Fauna and Flora, Department to Combat Desertification and Restore Degraded Land, and Department of Planning and Information Systems; the Department of Organic Agriculture, Certification and Promotion of Agricultural Production; the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones through the Department of Mountain Agriculture Development; and Research Institutes and other organizations under the supervision of MADR. The latter includes the National Agency for Nature Conservation (ANN), the National Institute for Forest Research (INRF), the National Institute for Agricultural Research in Algeria (INRAA) and the National Institute for Plant Protection (INPV). Other organizations under the MADR include the Centre for Food-Processing techniques (CTIAA).

7. Other important ministries to be involved in the project include: the Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Land-Use planning (MICLAT); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA); the Ministry of Tourism and Hand-crafting; the Ministry of Water Resources; the Ministry of Solidarity, Family and Women well-being; the Ministry of Micro-Enterprises, Start-ups and Knowledge Economy; the Ministry of Work, Employment and Social Security; the Ministry of Culture and Art; the Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy; the Ministry of Vocational Training; the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research; the Ministry of National Education; and the Ministry of Finance.

#### Wilaya level:

8. The Departments of Environment, Agricultural Services, Water and Forest Conservation are represented at the Wilaya<sup>[1]</sup> level. These departments have representatives at the communal level through local services, local extension agents, and forestry officials. The Wilaya authority is in charge of overseeing, coordinating and controlling the interventions undertaken in its communes and ensuring that they contribute to social, cultural and economic development, environmental protection, and the well-being of the population. This process is supported by the Da?ra which is a decentralised administrative level between the wilaya and the commune. It usually regroups several communes (two communes in Ighil Da?ra and four communes in Medjana Da?ra including Teniet En Nasr). The People?s Assembly of the Wilaya, whose members are elected, can propose every year a list of projects to be integrated in sectoral action plans. The Wilaya has the authority to initiate and implement projects for the protection or improvement of agricultural land, development of rural infrastructure and equipment particularly in isolated areas, reforestation and conservation of soil and forest resources. It also supports financially and technically the development of small to medium water management infrastructure (i.e., for access, treatment, reuse) that go beyond the jurisdiction of the commune.

#### Local (commune) level:

9. The commune is the lowest administrative division. Every proposed investment project has to be previously validated by the People?s Local Assembly of the commune. The People?s Local Assembly is responsible for the protection of agricultural land and natural areas. It also ensures that investments in the sanitation, water availability, waste management, hygiene and road network are in alignment with the policy framework.

10. Among the main sectors concerned by the project, four departments have staff at the local level: Department of Environment (DE), Department of Agricultural Services (DSA), DCF and ADS. They work closely with local populations. However, their capacity is limited by insufficient human and financial resources. For example, the DCF has rangers that patrol forests but the number of rangers is low and each must cover approximately 1000 ha of forest. DCF?s equipment is also limited with one car for 5,000 ha of forest.

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# Policy framework (including land tenure) ? from central to local level

The main strategies, plans and policy documents of relevance to the Bibans project are described below.

## Strategies:

11. **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2030** focused on protecting and restoring terrestrial ecosystems, managing forests sustainably, combatting desertification, stopping land degradation and biodiversity decline.

12. This strategy is well aligned with the **National Action Plan for the Environment and Sustainable Development (2001)** which highlighted the need to increase populations involvement and other stakeholders in the management of natural resources through participatory approaches

13. Algeria has finalised its first **National Communication** in 2001 and its second one in 2010. The development processes for the third National Communication and the updated biennial report are ongoing. In its **Nationally Determined Contribution (2015)**, Algeria committed to reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions by 7% by 2030 with government budget and up to 22% with international support.

14. A National Committee for Climate Change headed by the Minister of Environment was established in 2015 to develop the required strategies and other documents in alignment with the Paris Agreement. The committee has developed a National Climate Plan which was validated in 2019 and contains 155 actions towards adapting to and mitigating climate change.

15. The **Forest Strategy at the 2035 Horizon** aims to integrate the value of goods and services into the national economy, with a particular focus on timber, cork, hunting and other non-timber products. It is also intended to take charge of management, decentralization, reform of the budget system and development of the intervention capacities of the forest administration and national and international partnership.

## Plans:

16. A **National Reforestation Plan** was adopted in 1999. It has resulted in the reforestation of 825,000 ha between 2000 and 2016. The planted areas include *inter alia* 30,000 ha of forest plantations, 52,000 ha of orchards, 4,000 ha of pastoral land and fodder plantation, 22,000 ha of improved land tenure. The current reforestation programme with the objective of 'one tree per citizen' (2020-2024) targets the plantation of 49,000 ha. The Programme for Forest Restoration focused on the restoration of 12,330 ha of burnt forests by 2022.

17. **National Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development (2002)** supports *inter alia* the development of irrigation technologies in arid and semi-arid areas.

18. Under the **Rural Renewal Programme (2009-2014)**, USD 1 billion of public funds were invested in 11,932 Local Projects for Integrated Rural Development<sup>[2]</sup> (PPDRI) to combat land degradation, desertification and adapt to droughts. It includes the following two programmes: 'management and extension of forest land' and 'conserving natural ecosystems'.

#### Policies:

Themes	Policy documents
Environment	<p>? Law No. 03-10 on the protection of the environment in the context of sustainable development defines environmental management tools and promotes the protection of biodiversity, air quality, water quality, wetland ecosystems, soil, arid ecosystems and people living conditions. It also stipulates that any person whose activities causes or might cause pollution of the environment must pay for any prevention, mitigation or restoration measures for the environment.</p> <p>? Law No. 14-07 on biological resources which defines the modalities to access, conserve, exchange, transfer, share and add value for a fair distribution of the advantages generated from the use of biological resources and associated knowledge.</p> <p>? Law No. 01-19 relating to the management, control and disposal of waste</p> <p>? Executive Decree No. 93-68 relating to the methods of application of the tax on activities polluting or dangerous for the environment</p> <p>? Law No. 04-03 on the protection of mountainous areas in a sustainable development context stipulates that land-use planning in mountainous areas should follow specific rules to account for the fragility and importance of these areas. It also emphasises that mountainous areas should be protected and promoted, and provides for the establishment of a fund for mountainous areas.</p>

Protected Areas	<p>? Law No. 11-02 of 14 Rabie El Aouel 1432 on Protected Areas within the framework of sustainable development classifies Protected Areas and determines management and protection rules.</p> <p>? Decree No. 19-224 which defines the modalities for the elaboration, validation and revision of the Protected Areas Master Plan</p> <p>? Decree No. 19-225 which defines the modalities for the elaboration, validation and revision of the Protected Areas Management Plan</p> <p>? Decree No. 87-143 fixing the rules and modalities of classification of national parks and nature reserves and Decree No. 87-144 fixing the modalities for the creation and functioning of nature reserves</p> <p>?</p>
Agriculture	<p>? Agricultural orientation law No. 08-16 on the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas provides directions for agricultural development in order to increase food security and its economic, environmental and social benefits.</p> <p>? Law No. 83-18 regarding access to agricultural land ownership</p> <p>? Law No. 10-03 establishing the conditions and modalities for the exploitation of agricultural land in State land</p>
Pastoralism	<p>? Ordinance No. 75-43 of June 1975 on the pastoral code</p>
Forests	<p>? Forest law No. 84-12 on the general forest regime focuses on forests? protection, development, expansion, management and exploitation, as well as soil conservation and fight against erosion.</p> <p>? Executive Decree No. 06-368 establishing the legal regime, conditions and procedures for the use of recreational forests</p> <p>? Executive Decree No. 06-368 regulating the use of recreational forest</p> <p>? Executive Decree No. 89-170 approving the general administrative provisions and technical clauses for the preparation of specifications relating to the exploitation of forests and the sale of forest products</p> <p>? Decree No. 87-44 relating to the prevention against fires in the national forest domain and nearby.</p>
Fauna	<p>? Law No. 04-07 relating to hunting</p>

Land-use planning	<p>? State law No. 90-30 which defines the composition of the national domain, the rules of its constitution, its management and control of its use.</p> <p>? Law No. 01-20 of 12 December 2001 relating to the planning and sustainable development of the territory.</p> <p>? Executive Decree No. 16-83 setting the modalities for the preparation of the wilaya land use plan.</p> <p>? law No. 11-10 of 06/22/2011 relating to the municipality</p> <p>? Law No. 04-05 of August 14, 2004 amending and supplementing Law No. 90-29 on land use planning and development</p> <p>? The National Land-Use Policy was developed in the early 80s and resulted in: i) the creation of the National Agency for Land Use<sup>[3]</sup> (ANAT) in 1982 in charge of developing the National Land-Use Plan and required assessments at the Wilaya level; ii) the law for the Wilaya Development Plans; and iii) the law for the Local/Communal Development Plans (PCDs).</p>
Renewable energy	? Law No. 04-09 relating to the promotion of renewable energies within the framework of sustainable development
Culture	? Law No. 98-04 on the protection of cultural heritage

## Decision-making and planning processes ? from central to local level

19. The **National Land-Use Policy** was developed in the early 80s and resulted in: i) the creation of the ANAT in 1982 in charge of developing the 20-year National Land-Use Plan and required assessments at the National level; ii) the law for the Wilaya Development Plans; and iii) the law for the PCDs. Decision-making regarding land-use planning remains mostly centralized. In 1990, new codes for the wilayas and communes, increased the role and responsibilities of local governments. The commune is in charge of implementing national and local laws, and of managing the provision of local public services including *inter alia* water availability, wastewater treatment and waste management. The budget of the commune comes from taxes (some such as VAT are shared between the state and the commune, others like property taxes are allocated in full to the commune) and any income from public land and equipment in the commune.

20. **Regional Frameworks for Land-Use Planning**<sup>[4]</sup> (SRATs) are developed at the inter-wilaya level in alignment with the National Frameworks for Land-Use Planning<sup>[5]</sup> (SNATs) to support land-use planning and sustainable development in the region. Both SRATs and SNATs are developed for a

20-year period with an assessment every 5 years and subsequent revisions if necessary. The group of wilaya targeted by a SRAT have similar physical characteristics and development objectives. Algeria is divided into nine regions. The SRAT include interventions for agricultural development, environmental protection, the construction of large infrastructure and economic development to address unemployment among others.

21. **Wilaya Land-Use Plans (PAW[6]<sup>6</sup>)** ? developed by the People's Assembly of the Wilaya (APW) in alignment with the SRATs ? determines *inter alia* the assets and development directions for each commune, urban development hierarchy, areas for intercommunal planning and economic zones to be developed. They have a key role as the link between national and regional guiding documents and local development efforts. The PAWs focus on guiding the development and provision of public services and equipment, and developing required local programmes for the implementation of the SRATs.

22. **Local/Communal Development Plans** are the main document that guides development in the commune, they are key to achieving local development targets. All interventions for infrastructural development and equipment are integrated in these plans which are developed by the Communal People's Assembly (APC). Annual and pluriannual actions are generally developed to guide the implementation of the PCDs. Based on these plans, the government provides public funding annually to support economic and social development. Public support is allocated for each wilaya based on the situation of the communes and the distribution of this budget between communes is thereafter determined at Da?ra and Wilaya level. The PCDs are complemented by Masterplans of Architecture and Urbanism (PDAU) which are developed for each commune to regulate urban development and define urbanisation zones.

## 1.3 Description of the project intervention sites

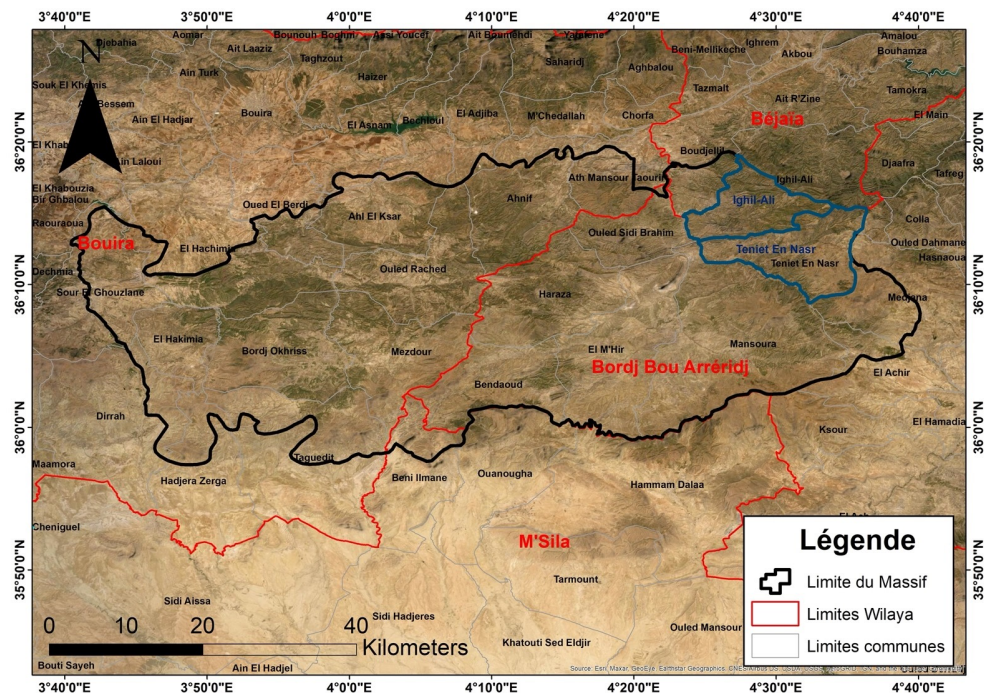
General context: location, land use (agricultural land, pastoral land, Protected Areas?), description of forests, biodiversity and other natural resources

23. Forest ecosystems cover approximately 4.1 million ha (1.72% of the country) and are mainly found in the mountainous areas of the North of the country. The forests of northern Algeria provide a

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range of environmental goods and services ? which are locally and globally significant. These include: habitat for fauna and flora, water infiltration and regulation, climate regulation, soil conservation and carbon storage as well as the provision of food, medicine, construction material, energy, recreational value and cultural goods. In the north of the country, the Biban mountain range is located in the North West of the Wilaya of Constantine, and lies between the Kabylie mountains in the North and the High Plateaus in the South, which gave it its names of Bibans or 'doors' in Arabic (see Figure 1). It spreads over four wilayas: Bouira, Bordj Bou Arreridj, B?ja?a and a small portion in Msila. It covers approximately 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> and the highest point is Mount Mansoura at 1,862 m. The Biban mountain range is made mostly of schist and marl, and characterized by having very sharp relief[7]. The vast majority of the Biban mountain range lies in the mid-mountain zone, with 38% lying between 400 and 800 m altitude and 55.5% lying between 800 and 1,200 m altitude (0,5% below 400 m and 6% above 1,200 m). The main economic activities are agriculture and forestry, except in administrative centers where a significant portion of the population is employed by public institutions and to a lesser extent by private companies.



**Figure 1: Map of the Biban mountain range (Source: Prof. Mourad AHMIM, 2020)**

Note: the two communes are only partially represented in the map but are considered under the project as being part of the mountain range in their entirety.

24. Agriculture covers approximately 113,000 hectares and the principal agricultural products are cereals and olives. The total forest cover is approximately 100,000 hectares. The main forest ecosystems are Aleppo Pine associated with Holm Oak above 1250 m. Livestock raising also plays an important role in the local economy, with notably sheep accounting for approximately 68% of livestock. In addition, the population of the Biban mountain range grows a very large number of fruits,

vegetables, nuts and cereals. Finally, the collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NFTPs) is traditionally a key economic activity ? this includes honey, mushrooms, acorns and many medicinal and aromatic plants (e.g., carob, rosemary, thyme). This continues to play an important role in the economy as well as in the local culture. Most communes in the range are classified as ?rural poor communes?[8]<sup>8</sup>. The Biban mountain range also holds an important place in Algeria?s culture and history, with notably many Roman and Ottoman monuments.

### *Biodiversity in the Biban mountain range*

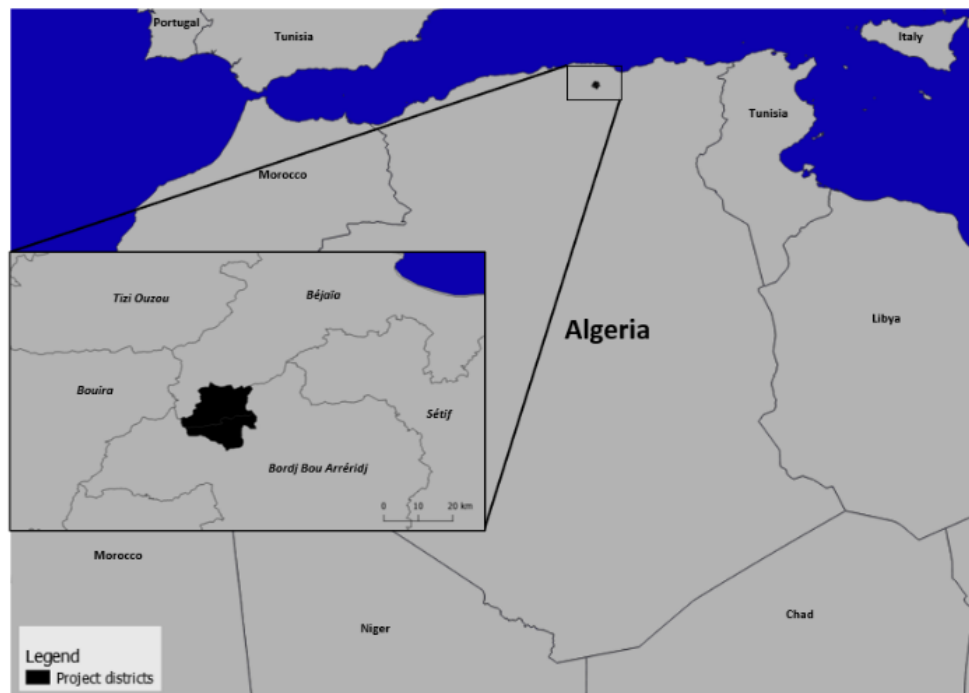
25. Algeria lies at the intersection of two phytochorions ? the *holarctis* and the *paleotropis* ? and hence its flora is especially rich. 16,000 species from all taxonomic groups have been inventoried in Algeria including 700 endemic species and 226 threatened species[9]<sup>9</sup>. 51% of Algerian plant species are rare or very rare[10]<sup>10</sup>. The Biban mountain range is located in the North African biodiversity hotspot of Kabylies-Numidie-Kroumirie[11]<sup>11</sup> and contains a diversity of important and fragile ecosystems. The Biban mountain range was identified in 2018 as the 28<sup>th</sup> Algerian Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) for plants[12]<sup>12</sup> (out of a total of 39 KBAs in northern Algeria). The plant biodiversity in the Biban mountain range has not been fully studied and the information available is sparse. Eight orchid species (e.g., *Ophrys fusca*, *Ophrys speculum*) and a large range of medicinal plants have been observed in the forests of the area such as the azarole (*Crataegus azarolus*), the mastic tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*), common caper (*Capparis spinosa*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and wormwood (also called mint of the mountains, i.e., *Artemisia vulgaris*). Although there have been few studies, agrobiodiversity also appears to be rich in the Biban mountain range. The population uses traditional practices to cultivate locally-developed plant varieties and raising different livestock breeds, many of which may have specific genetic characteristics that warrant study and conservation. For example, there are known to be many varieties of the following: fig (e.g., tazla, taamtooit, bouankoud, adjaafar), apricot, olive, plum, apple and peach trees as well as varieties of pepper, onion, garlic, pea, squash and tomato. It is likely that some of these varieties are endemic to the Biban mountain range. The traditional knowledge and uses of this diversity of plants for food and medicinal purposes is also unique to the region.

26. Based on the knowledge of the region, the following species should be found in the Bibans, however, inventories would be needed to confirm these hypotheses. There are 125 bird species in the region including 32 under national protection[13]<sup>13</sup>. These include the endangered Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, the vulnerable European turtle dove *Streptopelia turtur* and three Near Threatened species: Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*, European roller *Coracias garrulus* and the red-footed falcon *Falco vespertinus*. 39 mammal species are found in the region including 25 nationally-protected species such as two Vulnerable species (Mehely?s horseshoe bat *Rhinolophus mehelyi*, long-fingered bat *Myotis capaccinii*) and five Near-Threatened species (i.e., striped hyena *Hyaena hyaena*, Felten?s myotis *Myotis punicus*, Schreibers?s bat *Miniopterus schreibersii*, Mediterranean horseshoe

bat *Rhinolophus euryale* and otter *Lutra lutra*). Other mammal species include wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), golden jackal (*Canis anthus*), fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and wild cat (*Felis silvestris*). Most of these species are expected to be found in low abundance in the Biban mountain range. 19 reptiles and one amphibian species have been identified. Two of these reptile species are nationally protected (Mediterranean pond turtle *Mauremys leprosa* and Mediterranean chameleon *Chamaeleo chamaeleon*). The Bibans mountain range is expected to have a great diversity because of its geographical (high mountain in close proximity to the coastline), geological and meteorological characteristics (with six bioclimatic zones within a short range, encompassing high diversity in rainfall, temperatures and seasonality).

#### *Presentation of the targeted communes*

27. The targeted area of intervention of the project within the Biban mountain range is the forest and mountain ecosystems in the two adjacent communes of Ighil Ali ? located in the South West of the B?ja?a Wilaya and on the north-facing slope of the Bibans ? and Teniet En Nasr ? located in the North East of Bordj-Bou-Arreridj Wilaya and on the south slope of the Bibans. Ighil Ali is bordered by the communes of Ait R?zine in the north, El Mhir and Teniet En Nasr in the south, Djaafra in the east and Boudjellil in the west. It is mostly mountainous with the highest peak at 1,200 meters. The administrative centre of the commune is Ighil Ali village. Teniet En Nasr is bordered by the communes of Ighil Ali in the north, Medjana and Mansoura in the south, Colla and Medjana in the east and Mansoura in the west. It has a mountainous area with the highest peak at 1,500 meters as well as a hillier area mostly constituted of a network of watersheds. Its administrative center is Teniet el Khemis.



**Figure 2: Location of the two communes**

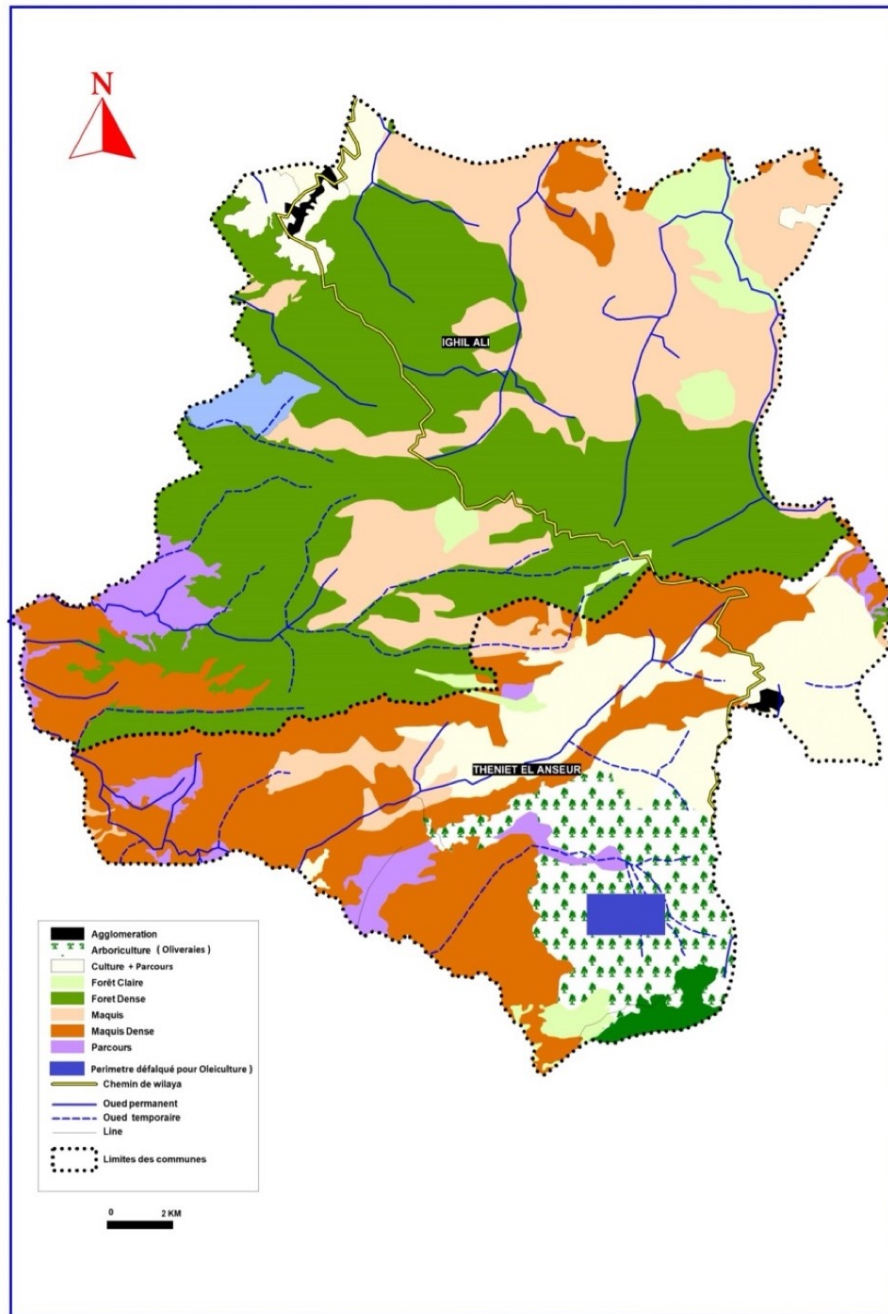


Figure 3: Land-use types in the targeted communes (Source: original, Professor Mourad AHMIM, 2021).

The area designated as Maquis (in dark and light orange) corresponds mostly to shrublands and open pine forests (also known as Matorrals).

*Selection criteria*

28. These rural communes were selected for the implementation of the Bibans project based on a set of criteria. Firstly, they have significant forest cover, large areas of agriculture and rangelands. They are both renowned for the quality of their agricultural products. In addition, they have a high patrimonial and historical value including unique historical vegetable gardens with unique agrobiodiversity. The biodiversity of the region is poorly known but because of its geographic location in the Kabylies-Numidie-Kroumirie biodiversity hotspots, its climate and topography, and the presence of forest species typical of the region (e.g., *Quercus rotundifolia*) it is expected to be particularly rich. As a result, they are both considered to have potential for eco-tourism[14]<sup>14</sup>. Furthermore, the two communes have a large working-age population, and many of the traditional skills and much traditional knowledge has been preserved. Despite these potentialities, they are among the least developed zones of the country. Another selection criterion for these communes is that they belong to two different Wilayas which will facilitate upscaling of the project interventions.

### *Demographics*

29. The combined population of the two communes was 16,815 inhabitants in 2019 census (10,272 inhabitants in Ighil Ali and 6,543 in Teniet En Nasr). Ighil Ali contains 15 villages but 61% of the population of Ighil Ali commune lives in Ighil Ali village. Teniet En Nasr has 31 villages and the population is more heterogeneously distributed with 36% of the population living in Teniet el Khemis. Insecurity and the degradation of socio-economic services has led to rural exodus towards urban areas and other countries during the period 1988 to 1998. This exodus has continued from 1998 to 2008 during which population growth rate was negative, it has now improved during the period 2008 to 2019 with the return of some migrants to Algeria. Currently, approximately 50% of houses are unoccupied in Teniet En Nasr[15]<sup>15</sup>. With youth migrating towards urban areas, the population in rural areas is aging.

### *Land-uses*

30. The surface area of both communes is 32,257 hectares (i.e., 19,537 ha in Ighil Ali and 12 720 ha in Teniet En Nasr). According to the DSAs and DCFs in both Wilayas, these 32,257 ha include 50% or 16,259 ha of forests and shrublands (i.e., 11,265 ha in Ighil Ali and 4,994 ha in Teniet En Nasr), 27% or 8,697 ha of agricultural land covers (i.e., 5,197 ha in Ighil Ali and 3,500 ha in Teniet En Nasr), 17% or 5,354 ha of pastoral land (i.e., 1,469 ha in Ighil Ali and 3,886 ha in Teniet En Nasr), 3% or 1,122 ha of urban areas (i.e., 932 ha in Ighil Ali and 190 ha in Teniet En Nasr), and 3% of public land.

31. Forested areas in the targeted communes are dominated by the following species: Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*), Holm oak (*Quercus ilex rotundifolia*), Kermes oak (*Quercus coccifera*), Phoenician juniper (*Juniperus phoenicea*), rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), spiny broom (*Calycotome spinosa*), Montpellier cistus (*Cistus monspeliensis*), *Genista tricuspida*, Alfalfa (*Stipa tenacissima*), common mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), Mastic tree (*Pistacia lentiscus*) and *Globularia vulgaris*. Ighil Ali commune includes 11 Forest Divisions that are owned by the government (i.e., Taguemounte, Arirous, Boni, Tizi Ali, Assif Laadjev, Mouka, Ighzer Amokhane, Iabdenourene, Tizi Tergui, Tassift Tamda, Ighzer Thichaabanine) with a surface area ranging from 337 to 932 ha.

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### *Socio-economic situation*

32. Both communes face several socio-economic challenges. They contain multiple 'grey zones'[16]<sup>16</sup> or disadvantaged areas according to the new classification system for development levels in Algeria. Grey zones in Algeria are defined as 'opened-up areas devoid of means and services and characterised by their remoteness from any major road towards the administrative centre and/or other villages and towns'. A total of 13,587 grey zones were identified in Algeria including 30 in Teniet En Nasr and 12 in Ighil Ali communes. They have generally benefitted from no or little development support. Basic services such as access to water, sanitation, waste management, health care, education, public transportation and energy are insufficient. Health care services for example are insufficient with the closest hospital based in Akbou. Several schools in isolated areas have closed and the transportation of pupils to the school of the district seats is difficult 'particularly in winter' because of the bad road network.

33. Water availability is low both for household consumption and agriculture with a daily provision of 80 L per person in Ighil Ali. The channelling system from Tichy Haf dam is under construction. Water supply is discontinuous and the villages therefore rely on the small network of boreholes and wells. In addition, most of the villages do not have a water sanitation system for wastewater, which is generally directly discarded in the watersheds. In Teniet En Nasr, access to drinking water has recently been improved and the daily provision is now 150 L per person. Approximately 95% of wastewater is treated in water sanitation systems. Waste management is not well developed in the targeted communes. The absence of waste management sites often leads to unauthorized landfills.

34. The civil society is very active in Ighil Ali commune. Participatory projects for public benefits are often organized in the villages of the region. Each village has a set of local rules to regulate the use of public spaces and goods. In Ighil Ali, the youth are participating to all village-level decision-making structures including village committees and associations. There are associations in multiple sectors: cultural (e.g., Association Jean El Mouhoud and Marguerite Taos Amrouche focused on offering theatre and choir activities to youth), social (e.g., Associate for Women of B'ja'a that provides support and training to women for improved livelihoods and conservation of traditional knowledge), environmental (e.g., Youth Association Tiddukla n Tizgi to protect the environment through waste clean ups and other activities) and agricultural (e.g., Association ADHRAR for the development of mountain agriculture and promotion of local products, Association of Fig Producers in B'ja'a). In Teniet En Nasr, the civil society is less prominent. Three active associations were identified: the charity Association of Al-Fajr focused on increasing literacy and providing training to women; the Association El Ghaith for Solidarity and against poverty and exclusion; and the Civil Society Academy.

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# Local economy: main livelihoods ? with gender-disaggregated information

35. As previously mentioned, the two communes are poorly developed. Limited employment opportunities and infrastructural development in the area is leading to rural exodus. The exact unemployment rates in the targeted communes are unknown but they are considered as high. Unemployment was estimated at approximately 50% in 2016 and is affecting youth and women in particular<sup>[17]</sup><sup>17</sup>. Olive plantation, agriculture and pastoralism are the main sources of livelihood in the targeted communes.

## *Agroforestry*

36. Olive production is the main economic activity of the region. Olive plantations cover 2,030 ha out of 2,075 ha (98%) of fruit tree plantations in Ighil Ali and 841 ha out of 905 ha (93%) in Teniet En Nasr. The remaining plantations are mostly fig trees. Olive plantations are mostly extensive and on rough ? often mountainous ? terrains. As a result, olive trees are poorly maintained and harvesting techniques are often inadequate which limits the production. Olive harvesting is done manually. Most landowners have some olive trees on their land. A significant portion of the plots are abandoned because of rough terrain, and steep slope which make their access difficult. There are 58 huileries in the region but none are in the targeted communes.

37. Regarding the other agroforestry products, the economic benefits from fig trees are also limited but several recent initiatives are focusing on strengthening this Value Chain. For example, the Fig Producers Association of B?ja?a have created a cooperative with the support of Association BEDE. Pear and peach plantations are now rare and slowly disappearing. Wood and cork Value Chains are more developed. They are mostly managed by the government. Carob fruit Value Chains is also quite developed. Finally, Since the support provided under PPDR project, bee keeping is increasing in the targeted communes.

## *Agriculture*

38. After olive production, agricultural and pastoralism are the main sources of income in the targeted communes. Except for a couple of large and extensive cereal, olive and livestock farms, agriculture and pastoralism are undertaken at a small scale and in a traditional manner often on steep slopes and rough terrain. Soil enrichment techniques such as using compost are scarce. Farms are run as small family business where unqualified labour (mostly family members) provide help seasonally. Women are actively involved in agricultural activities. Out of the 5,197 ha of agricultural land in Ighil Ali, 4,291 ha are currently exploited and 905 ha (or 17%) are not exploited<sup>[18]</sup><sup>18</sup>. In Teniet En Nasr,

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there are 2,340 ha of cultivated land and 960 ha (or 22%) of non-exploited land[19]<sup>19</sup>. The limited surface of agriculture land under exploitation in the targeted site is due to several factors including rural exodus, the difficulty to access some agricultural plots, the occurrence of fires, land tenure issues, degradation caused by a high density of wild boars and limited water availability. Only 2% of exploited land is under irrigation. The majority of farmers (approximately 80%) have less than 10 ha and issues regarding inheritance and unclear land ownership often prevent investments in improved agricultural practices. Agricultural production mostly focuses on cereals (e.g., wheat, barley), fodder and vegetables. Agricultural activities are mostly characterized by few crops, low productivity and undertaken in isolation. There is however an exception. In Tazla, which is small traditional village of 200 inhabitants located 30 km away from Ighil Ali village, agropastoral activities are well organized, diverse and productive with agricultural associations which practice intensive cultivation and generally use organic compost. This can be partly explained by the fact that Tazla was the vegetable garden of Beni Abbes kingdom between the 16th and the 19th centuries and has a high agrobiodiversity which includes ancient, rare varieties (e.g., pepper Ifelfel A?bb?s, Tazla tomatoes, Tazla peach tree, Tazla green peas, Tazla?s giant cabbages).

### *Livestock husbandry*

39. Small-scale husbandry of livestock is widespread in the targeted communes but it is more common in Teniet En Nasr than in Ighil Ali. Pastoral land represents 41% (1,469 ha) of the total agropastoral land in Ighil Ali and 52% (3,886 ha) in Teniet En Nasr. Poultry represents most of livestock husbandry activities in both communes. It is generally undertaken in an intensive manner. After poultry, the main livestock species are sheep, goats and cows. Sheep farming is more common in Teniet En Nasr than in Ighil Ali with 20 times more sheep in Teniet En Nasr (16,500 sheep and 835 sheep respectively[20]<sup>20</sup>). Goat farming is more common in Teniet En Nasr which has five times more goats than Ighil Ali (1100 and 219 goats). There are few cattle in both Teniet En Nasr and Ighil Ali (662 and 600 cattle respectively), which is likely due to the limited availability of food. Fresh and fermented milk are among the traditional products of the communes. Finally, bee keeping has recently started to become more common. There are 860 hives in Teniet En Nasr (data missing for Ighil Ali) but their productivity is limited by the availability of melliferous species. Overall, the availability of food (i.e., pastoral land) is a common limiting factor to the different types of livestock farming in the two communes.

### *Forestry*

40. Forest-based livelihoods are very limited in the targeted communes. The first policy document on the exploitation of NTFPs was recently developed by the DCF of Bordj Bou Arreridj and validated in 2020. In Bordj Bou Arreridj, several tender to apply for exploitation permits have been published. So far, one request for exploitation was submitted. The process of developing a policy document for the exploitation of NTFPs was initiated in B?ja?a in 2018 as well but it has not materialized so far. Several species found in the forested areas of the two communes have economic interests: azarole (*Crataegus azarolus*), common capper (*Capparis spinosa*), bitter almond (*Prunus amygdalus* var. *amara*), common fig (*Ficus carica*), pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), barbary fig (*Opuntia ficus indica*), and other medicinal and aromatic plants. The latter are mostly harvested by elderly man. NTFP species are exploited traditionally for household use and as a secondary source of income.



### *Hand-crafting*

41. The region is known for its traditional knowledge and products. Wood carving, carpet weaving, basket and mattress making and jewellery are among the local products characteristic of the targeted area. However, these livelihoods are slowly disappearing because of the living conditions in rural areas, migration towards urban centres to find fixed employment contracts, competition from cheap imported products, the introduction of modern production techniques among others. As a result, the youth rarely adopt these traditional livelihoods. For example, pottery and weaving are now marginalized livelihoods that are undertaken by a few women only. Similarly, a few elderly men practice wood carving and salt production. Regarding hand-crafted food items, women in Ighil Ali are known to have a particularly rich traditional knowledge regarding the preparation of traditional food products (e.g., Ifelfel A?bb?s or chilli powder, crushed garlic, traditional pasta, semolina, traditional bread and other baked goods) and other local products[21]<sup>21</sup>. It is usually a secondary source of income for women who produce these goods individually at home with limited equipment.

### *Ecotourism*

42. Ecotourism and cultural tourism are not currently significant sources of income in the targeted communes. Some guest houses have recently been established in the targeted communes (e.g., in Ait Abbes village). There is a high potential for the development of ecotourism in this area but it is not yet developed. In addition to the beauty of the landscape, the region is historically important with roman relics and war remembrance sites.

### *Other livelihoods*

43. The industrial sector is not developed in the region. The services sector has recently increased because some young people received support from the National Agency to Support and Develop Entrepreneurship (ANADE) previously named National Agency for Youth Employment (ANSEJ) to open shops. As a result, multiple small shops opened in Ighil Ali village in the past years which has a good potential for commercial development for its location at the crossroads between B?ja?a and Bordj Bou Arreridj Wilayas.

### *Climate*

44. Ighil Ali has a semi-arid temperate climate divided into a wet and cold winter and a dry and hot summer. Based on the weather station of Akbou, which has similar characteristics to Ighil Ali, the coldest month is January for a mean temperature of 8°C and the highest temperature is observed in August with 30°C. The dry period occurs between mid-June and Mid-September. Rainfall range between 400 to 500 mm per year.

45. Teniet En Nasr climate is sub-humid to semi-arid with cold winters and hot summers. The precipitations are a bit higher than in Ighil Ali and vary within the commune. The mountainous area receives 500 to 700 mm of rainfall per year and the lower area get 400 to 500 mm of rainfall (with an average of 524 mm in the commune in 2015). According to the weather station of Bordj Bou Arreridj,

the coldest temperatures are found in December with an average of 12°C and the maximum is experienced in July with an average temperature of 36°C. Similarly, the wettest and driest months are December and July respectively.

## 2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects.

### 2.1 Threats, root causes, drivers and barriers

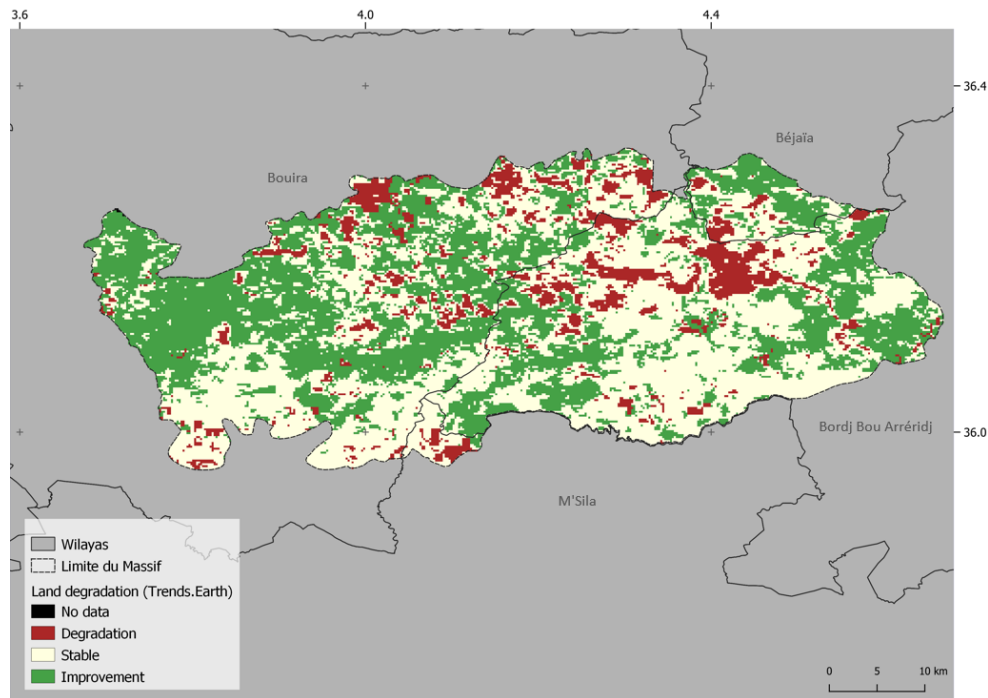
#### Main environmental threats in the Biban Mountain Range (Levels of degradation of natural resources)

46. The Biban mountain range is highly populated and pressure on natural resources is increasing. During the civil insecurity of the 1990's economic activities in this region were limited, and so degradation was also limited. However, during that period, all the existing natural resource management mechanisms, including the Department of Forests and the Department of Environment, effectively lost access to the land, and as such they were not able to maintain a management presence. Further, during that period, management capacity (of natural resources) declined progressively. As a result, once economic activity started up again in the early 2000's, the natural resources management capacity was highly limited, harvesting and processing activities were rarely sustainable, and this led to land degradation and biodiversity loss.

47. As noted in the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP, 2004)<sup>[22]</sup>, in Algeria "the forests seem to be sliding rapidly on a path of progressive degradation of the main species and their replacement by the scrub and brush". The Biban mountain range is characterized by high susceptibility to erosion which is induced by the interaction of several factors including the land uses, lithology, climate, the very rugged terrain with sharp relief, and the dense hydrographic network which is fed by a precipitation concentrated in a short period, and often torrential. As a result, 50% of the land

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between 400 ? 800m altitude is considered unstable or highly unstable, as is 31% of land between 800 and 1200m where most of the remaining forests are<sup>[23]</sup><sup>23</sup>.



**Figure 4: Land Degradation trends in the Biban mountain range (trend.earth ? data 2001-2018)**

Note: the two communes are only partially represented in the map but are considered under the project as being part of the mountain range in their entirety.

## Root causes and drivers of forest degradation and biodiversity loss in the Biban Mountain Range

Root causes of land degradation

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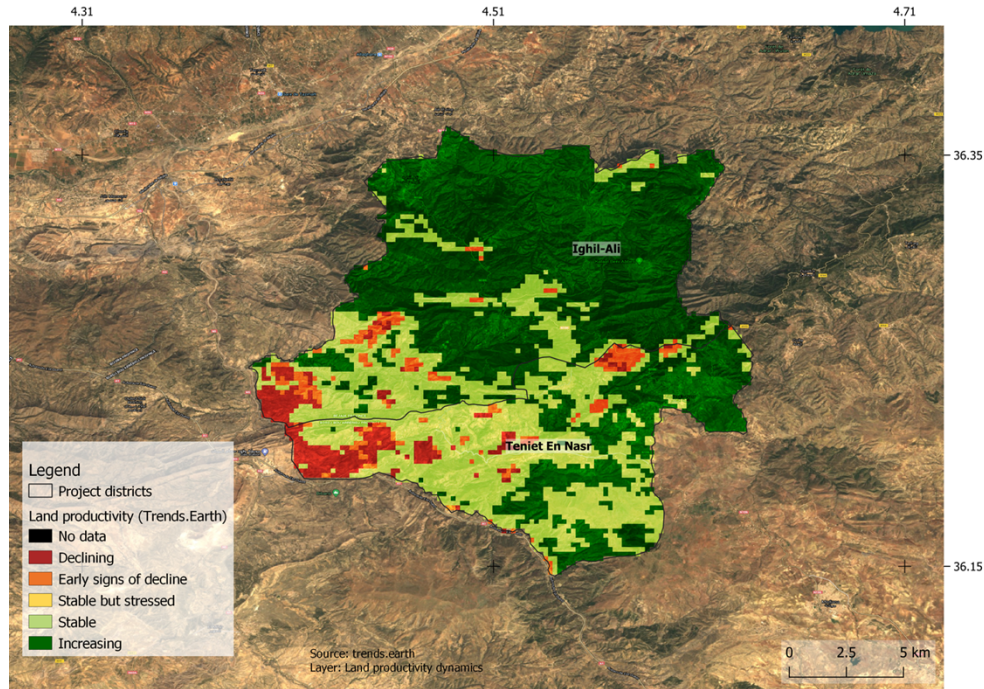


Figure 5: Land productivity trends in the targeted communes (trend.earth ? data 2001-2018)

#### Threats to biodiversity and land in the Biban mountain range

48. Large patches of degraded land can be observed in the targeted communes using Trends.Earth. 6% of the area (11,600 km<sup>2</sup>) in Ighil Ali and 13% of the area (16,200 km<sup>2</sup>) in Teniet En Nasr over the period 2001 to 2018. This degradation affects wide areas including high altitudes. The main cause of this degradation is wild fires. Other factors of degradation include overgrazing, agricultural encroachment, unsustainable harvesting, logging and pollution.

49. Fire is the single most prevalent and most damaging threat. The surfaces affected by fire, fires? frequency, intensity and negative impact are increasing. The issue with fires is that their frequency and intensity is increasing. This increase is caused by a combination of factors including: climate change which leads to increased temperature and more frequent droughts, increase in human-induced fire ignition (voluntarily and involuntarily), and changes in forest composition due to land clearing, plantations and invasive species. The two targeted Wilayas are among the 10 wilayas most affected by fires (number of households affected) in the country between 2000-2018<sup>[24]</sup><sup>24</sup>. Although many oak and pine trees are known to be fire resistant, changes in frequency and intensity of fires is creating significant damages. Fire damages Algerian forest and mountainous ecosystems through:

- ? destruction of the undergrowth removing most species;
- ? destruction of young oaks and pines;
- ? weakening of even healthy oak and pine through recurrent and repeated fires;

- ? reduction of vegetative cover causing soil erosion;
- ? damages to soil layers; and
- ? contribution to the entry/emergence of many other threats such as disease, agricultural encroachment, unsustainable grazing, and invasive species.

50. In 2020, a total of 43,919 ha of land including 38% of forests burnt in the country. The Wilaya of B?ja?a was the most affected by fires in terms on surface of land burnt out of the 40 wilayas assessed. In total, 5678 ha including 1902 ha of forests have burnt in 2020 in these Wilayas (188 households affected). In Bordj Bou Arreridj, the same year, fires affected 1878,41 ha including 290 ha of forests (34 households affected)[25]<sup>25</sup>, it is the 8<sup>th</sup> most affected wilaya in 2020. The majority of these fires are caused by human activities.

51. Over-grazing. The number of livestock (sheep, goats and cattle) is below the carrying capacity of the area in both communes, particularly for Ighil Ali. However, the livestock are concentrated in certain areas with no adequate management system for pastoral resources. This leads to the low productivity of pastoral land. As a result, forests are often required by pastoralists as a source of grazing for livestock[26]<sup>26</sup>. Grazing and over-trampling of the undergrowth reduces forest regeneration capacity. This issue is expected to be aggravated by the arrival of herders who bring sheep from the south of the country to graze in the region of the Biban mountain range because of a shortage of grazing resources in the South.

52. Unsustainable agricultural practices. Multiple agricultural assessments highlight the risks created by increasing pressure on soil and water resources on soil fertility[27]<sup>27</sup>. The unsustainable exploitation of agricultural resources and inadequate agricultural practices (e.g., annual tilling) are leading to erosion, desertification, reduction of groundwater availability, water pollution and increased salinity. Inadequate practices result in a reduction of land productivity, thereby causing increased pressure on agricultural land and encroachment onto pastoral land and forests.

53. Pollution. Pollution of natural areas with solid and liquid wastes is considered as a major cause of biodiversity loss in forest and mountainous areas including rivers (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan ?? NBSAP, 2016). The absence of waste management sites in Ighil Ali leads to the discarding of a large proportion of the waste on hill sides and in watersheds. Wastewater management is also inadequate with no wastewater treatment facilities. The current processes used for olive oil production generate a large amount of waste which are generally discarded. In Teniet En Nasr, there is a small landfill site but its capacity is insufficient (maximum of 200 m3 of waste), waste management is minimum and access can be difficult based on weather. The discarding of solid and liquid wastes in the wild or in open landfill sites is a source of air, soil, surface water and ground water pollution.

54. Logging. Small scale logging in the Biban mountain range, mostly by local people for charcoal production is increasing in the region. Charcoal is rarely used at household level, as most of the villages have access to gas and/or electricity but illegal wood cutting for charcoal production occurs to supply restaurants and for barbecues. Some gaps exist in the policy framework regarding the sustainable exploitation of forest resources which can results in inadequate exploitation activities (i.e., tree cutting, ignition of fire, agricultural encroachment, grazing, illegal harvesting of forest products and pollution).

#### Drivers of land degradation

##### Poverty:

55. The Biban mountain range has a low level of economic development. The two communes in particular are classified as poor rural communes. Isolated population in mountainous areas are indeed among the poorest in the country. The targeted communes are dominated by agricultural and pastoral livelihoods while the environmental conditions and the limited availability of infrastructure create significant difficulties to generate a stable income from these activities. The limited access to employment and economic opportunities prevents local populations from adopting improved livelihoods and maintains their reliance on wild and cultivated resources which are often unsustainably harvested or produced to generate an income.

##### Population growth:

56. Despite the continued exodus of youth towards areas with better employment opportunities and access to public services, the population size is slowly increasing (0.7% increase from 2008 to 2019 in Ighil Ali<sup>[28]</sup><sup>28</sup>). The population size increase in the Biban mountain range can lead to increased pressure on natural resources and land clearing to expand infrastructure in some areas.

##### Climate Change:

57. Algeria has suffered from significant and recurrent floods with individual events affecting up to 60,000 people<sup>[29]</sup><sup>29</sup> and causing significant material losses. The country has also experienced during the last three decades, a period of intense and persistent droughts, characterized by a significant rainfall deficit, estimated at nearly 30%, over the whole country. Northern Algeria is extremely vulnerable to climatic variations and extremes, with recurrent droughts becoming a particularly serious problem. The early 1990s were characterized by extreme droughts which caused water shortages and poor harvests in the region<sup>[30]</sup><sup>30</sup>. Northern Algeria and the mountainous regions especially are also subject to landslides. Every year, particularly in the winter, the extreme rainfall triggers enormous landslides causing infrastructure and property damages<sup>[31]</sup><sup>31</sup>.

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58. The Maghreb has experienced higher warming during the 20<sup>th</sup> century than the global average (0,74°C versus 1,5 to 2°C). Annual mean temperatures have risen across Algeria since the 1960's. Inter-annual and decadal variability show a warming of about 2.7°C per century since the 1900's<sup>[32]</sup><sup>32</sup>. Rainfall has also reduced by 10 to 20% between 1926 and 2006. This trend is expected to continue in the coming decades and the northern part of the country is expected to face the most intense changes in temperature and rainfall. According to the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment in Africa (CORDEX Africa), under the most optimistic scenario whereby carbon emissions will decrease, the precipitation between September and May will decrease by 50-75 mm and temperatures between June and September will increase by 1-2°C in the period 2031-2060, and 100-150 mm and 2-3°C in the period 2069-2098 in the region of the Biban mountain range. Under the most pessimistic scenario, precipitations will decrease by up to 125 mm and temperature will increase by 2-3°C by 2060 and more than 150 mm and 5-6°C by 2098<sup>[33]</sup><sup>33</sup>. In addition to decreased precipitations and increased average temperature, it is projected that climate change in northern Algeria will lead to: more intense hot periods, more intense and extensive dry periods, more frequent heavy rains and floods, and fewer cool days/nights. Each of these are expected to affect water availability, agricultural, forest and pastoral productivity, and ecosystem functioning. Increased evaporation and decreased precipitation will accentuate the decrease of water mobilized in dams and groundwater thus greatly affecting agricultural systems<sup>[34]</sup><sup>34</sup>. Climate change is also expected to exacerbate other threats ? such as increasing fire, increasing desertification, increasing landslides, more intense storms, outbreak of disease, alien invasion and habitat fragmentation<sup>[35]</sup><sup>35</sup>. Climate change projections and the estimated changes to wildfire risk for the future decades (2030-2060) indicate that the entire Maghreb region, including Algeria, will be among the most affected areas of the Mediterranean. Longer fire seasons will be experienced and extended by an additional month with each passing year<sup>[36]</sup><sup>36</sup>. Further, the NBSAP observes the expected negative impact of increased *temperature and droughts on plant species*<sup>[37]</sup><sup>37</sup> whose distribution is expected to change ? notably moving higher in altitude.<sup>[38]</sup><sup>38</sup>

## Barriers to sustainable forest and biodiversity management

### Component 1:

*1: Lack of knowledge on fauna and flora species, ecosystem health and extent of degradation, and the role and value of biodiversity and natural ecosystems*

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59. Fauna and Flora species in the Biban mountain range ? including NTFP species and other species which are currently providing financial benefits through their exploitation ? are poorly known. **No species inventories have been undertaken in the region.** Inadequate knowledge of species repartition, abundance and population trend prevents their sustainable exploitation. Indeed, without this knowledge, sustainable harvesting rates ? for NTFPs as an example ? cannot be determined. This is both a risk for the conservation of fauna and flora species, and a missed opportunity regarding the diversity of forest products that could be sustainably harvested to increase the resilience of local populations? livelihood. Insufficient knowledge of fauna and flora diversity also prevents the promotion of the Biban mountain range as an attractive ecotourism site.

60. Another major knowledge gap is on the value of natural ecosystems and biodiversity at the cultural, social and economic levels. **No assessment of the value of ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity have been undertaken in the region so far.** This knowledge gap prevents the identification of adequate land-use planning and natural resources? management practices to increase livelihoods? resilience and productivity and biodiversity richness. Some localised information on the value of ecosystem services has shown that the value of natural ecosystems is currently greatly underestimated in Algeria[39]<sup>39</sup>. Environmental services are generally not well understood and the current economic system rarely converts ecosystems? goods and services into an economic value for local people or the national economy. The value attributed to natural resources is mainly limited to immediate financial value of forest products. As a result, local populations ? and often local authorities ? resent efforts to conserve forest, as they see this as directly limiting their economic opportunities. There is limited consideration of biodiversity and natural ecosystems in decision-making at the household level. The poor development of Value Chains ? particularly products? processing for value addition and commercialisation ? in the targeted communes contributes significantly to the undervaluation of natural resources.

*2. Outdated approaches to agricultural and forest management planning, limited capacity for cross-sectoral planning, poor integration of biodiversity in existing plans, and unclear roles and responsibilities at sectoral level*

61. Under government support programmes, local populations? involvement in decision-making processes ? which is necessary to create ownership and empower local populations ? has been insufficient. The system of providing financial assistance with limited local populations? involvement in the project?s design, limited technical and management support to local populations for project implementation and maintenance of the interventions, and minimal monitoring of provided support has often proven to be inefficient in achieving sustainable development outcomes. Indeed, most sustainable investments in Algeria are the ones where significant time and/or financial contribution was required from the beneficiary as a condition to receive support.

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62. The socio-economic situation has changed considerably since the 1990's. The extent of land and forest degradation has also evolved together with the threats to land and forests. Fires, over-grazing, climate change and encroachment were not significant threats in the late 1990s?. Because of the aforementioned break in agricultural and forest management support and programmes that led to the loss of technical expertise in this field, **current approaches of decision makers, planners and technical staff regarding the management of forest and agricultural resources are sometimes inadapted to the current situation**. The tools and information used to manage land and forests in the 1990's are no longer suitable to face the present challenges and achieve sustainability. For example, forest management often focuses on a single product or species ? e.g., timber from pine ? and the vast diversity of products and potential economic opportunities is not fully appreciated. This hinders the efficient conservation of plant species, biodiversity and natural ecosystems. Similarly, livestock husbandry often focuses on maximizing production with limited integration of sustainable land use and forest conservation principles in rangeland management.

63. There is **insufficient knowledge and experience in integrated, participatory land management planning** to enable the adoption of improved approaches and undertake development in a harmonised manner. Furthermore, the integration of gender considerations into development at decentralised level has also been limited by the low capacity to develop gender-responsive development plans.

64. Multiple development plans exist from the national to the local levels. Because of the aforementioned knowledge gaps, **biodiversity and natural ecosystems are poorly considered in development strategies, plans and programmes**. For example, the main plan leading development at the communal level is the PCD. These plans are supposed to cover all development areas. However, the environmental aspects are limited to waste management. They do not integrate biodiversity conservation, ecosystem functioning or climate change adaptation principles. These plans include no or very few interventions such as forest restoration, erosion control interventions, habitat or species protection, or the development of recreational green areas.

65. Private sector involvement in sustainable development is at its infancy in Algeria. The limited availability of experience and good examples of private sector involvement through Public Private Partnerships, Corporate Social Responsibility and/or Payment for Ecosystem Services hinders the integration of private sector actors in planning processes. This is a missed opportunity for the development of sustainable Value Chains to support rural livelihoods, the leveraging of sustainable funding sources, and the outscaling of improved exploitation practices.

*3: Limited technical capacity of central institutions and extension services on sustainable agriculture and forest management to guide local populations in adopting improved practices*

66. During the 1990s, the population left the rural areas, and both government foresters and government agricultural extension services were unable to work in rural areas. Agricultural extension workers and foresters were unable to practice for over a decade. This led to a long break in agricultural support and forestry activities. During this period, (i) many experienced technical experts retired, (ii) very few new experts were employed, and those that were employed could not obtain field experience and, (iii) even the experienced technical experts that remained in employment did not obtain much field

experience. As a result, **the technical knowledge and capacity in the country for sustainable agriculture and forest management is low**. For example, there is a shortage in technical knowledge and capacity on climate-resilient practices for soil conservation, water management and ecosystem restoration (e.g., forests), for the establishment and maintenance of plantations, and on practices that support biodiversity.

(Barrier to both Components 1 and 2)

## **Component 2:**

### *4: Limited financial opportunities to adopt improved livelihoods based on the sustainable management of natural resources*

67. Local populations in the targeted communes have **limited livelihood opportunities and often rely on small-scale, traditional activities based on the exploitation of natural resources including agricultural land, grassland and forests**. These activities are often providing limited income as they are undertaken without: adequate knowledge of the resource, capacity for sustainable management planning, collaboration with other producers and buyers, technical knowledge on good practices, harvesting/processing tools and equipment, and access to the market. The sustainable development of nature-based livelihoods is hindered by the aforementioned insufficient technical knowledge of extension services which cannot provide adequate support to land-users. There is currently poor processing practices and value addition on natural products in the targeted communes. As a result, the income received by local populations from agricultural products and NTFPs is low. Olive processing for example uses pressing methods that are wasteful and with low oil yield. In addition, the difficulty to access olive plantations and processing infrastructure and equipment (e.g., storage equipment) further reduces the yield. The limited public or private funding opportunities for the sustainable development of agricultural, forest and pastoral livelihoods hinders their improvement.

### *5: Land tenure issue that hinders sustainable land-use planning*

68. Land tenure issues are mostly due to the inheritance system in the Kabylie region. When the owner passes away, women can make use of the familial land but cannot own it as it creates the risk of losing the land to another family. The land therefore becomes the property of the family without individual owner. Over time unclarity on ownership increases. Whenever development interventions are proposed, if any of the family members is in disagreement the intervention cannot be undertaken. The absence of clarity over land ownership can prevent investments in the land. Alternatively, when the land is split between family members, it can be divided up into small plots of a couple of hectares that limit the development of sustainable, diversified and climate-resilient agricultural and/or pastoral activities. Land tenure issues can also prevent the development of the communes. For example, both communes have a Strategy for Waste Management but they are not under implementation because of the issue of land tenure for the identification of landfill sites.

### Component 3:

*6: Absence of evidence-based knowledge on successful approaches and practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forest and land resources*

69. Local models and examples of how to approach sustainable, integrated management of biodiversity, forest and land resources that is adapted to the Biban mountain range are required as a basis for developing capacity, for changing attitudes and for developing tools and collecting information. However, at present, **the limited availability of successful examples of approaches and practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forest and land resources ? including improved agricultural, agroforestry and pastoral methods ??** prevents the adoption of a harmonised approach for sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in the Biban mountain range.

*7: Some weaknesses in the policy framework, limited knowledge sharing and collaboration at landscape level, and insufficient access to knowledge by local populations that prevents integrated and harmonised decision-making and planning processes at landscape level*

70. **A few weaknesses in the policy framework for the sustainable use of natural resources and biodiversity** were identified during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase. These includes *inter alia* the absence of: NTFP policy in B?ja?a; regulations for the management, treatment and discarding of olive processing wastes; and laws defining and regulating ecotourism activities. In addition, some weaknesses to existing policy documents have been identified. As an example, the reforestation section of the General Law on Forest does not mention how species selection should be done (e.g., locally-adapted species, use of mixed species, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation). In addition, law enforcement processes are sometimes unclear ? such as the role of sectoral institutions ? which hinders the efficiency of law application to deter illegal activities in and around forests. Similarly, the National Reforestation Programme does not mention the importance of considering local conditions such as the type of ecosystems, species, biodiversity and climate in the design of the interventions. The consideration of biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning into planning processes is very limited in the PCD policy.

71. There is **limited communication and knowledge exchange between sectoral entities at the central and local levels**. There are no cross-sectoral platforms to share knowledge on multidisciplinary matters such as the management of soil, water and forest resources, and land degradation issues such as erosion. Insufficient cross-sectoral knowledge limits the opportunities to create synergies between the different projects and initiatives, and prevents efficient management of natural resources.

72. Except for water resources which have a management committee based at watershed level<sup>[40]</sup>, there is currently no landscape-level platform that enables knowledge exchange, information sharing or concerted decision making for the management of agricultural, pastoral and forest resources beyond the administrative boundaries. Decisions are taken at the central level, the wilaya level and to a lower extent at the communal level. Decision making for the Biban mountain range is therefore undertaken in isolation by the four wilayas and 30 communes over which it spreads (i.e., Bouira, Bordj Bou Arreridj, B?ja?a and Msila).

Regarding communication between the government and local people, various communication means are used by government authorities to inform local populations on projects process and new initiatives. However, availability and access to information by local populations remains insufficient. As a result, local populations have limited awareness on **the role of biodiversity and natural ecosystems, including the diversity of goods and services provided, or on opportunities to develop sustainable livelihoods.**

## 2.2 The baseline situation

### *Technical training initiatives (Output 1.1.1):*

73. Training centres for the agricultural and forest sectors have been established at the regional and local level. These include the Regional Agricultural School and the training centres of Jijel and Beni Slimane. Vocational training centres are increasingly integrating agricultural and forest management training in their programmes. Several projects and programmes have included capacity building interventions to address existing technical capacity gaps within government institutions. For example, a training-of-trainers programme was implemented under PPDR programme to strengthen technical skills in soil conservation, water management, agricultural practices, plantation management and at the local level. Under Programme of Pilot Actions for the Rural and Agricultural Development (PAP-ENPARD), training was provided to Territorial Development Advisors who are in charge of informing farmers on agricultural techniques and pests under the municipality on spatial planning and value addition to natural resources in four wilayas (S?tif, Ain Temouchent, Tlemcen and Laghouat). Training was also provided under the Project for Environmental and Biodiversity Management (GENBI project) on integrated planning for the management of El Kala National park, and good practices for the exploitation of NTFPs (e.g., bee-keeping products, sustainable harvesting of mastic tree and processing practices). Training sessions are also planned under the FAO project for the strengthening of the olive oil Value Chain. However, these training sessions are often localised and have seldomly reached the targeted communes.

### *Inventories (Output 1.1.2):*

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74. In 2019, a national inventory of bird species was undertaken. A national inventory for mammals? species was also supported by Deutsche Gesellschaft f?r Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in 2019. In addition, methodology documents to undertake inventories of mammal species, bird species and habitats were developed taking the El Kala National Park as an example. An inventory of flora species particularly medicinal, aromatic, fodder, rare and endemic species as well as orchids, freshwater fish species was planned by ANN in B?ja?a Wilaya but it has not materialised yet. The Departments of Conservation of the two targeted Wilayas have initiated studies to start filling up the knowledge gap regarding NTFP species. They have focused on the most common species, other species are poorly known. No ongoing or planned projects to fill in the knowledge gaps on fauna and flora diversity in the Biban mountain range could be identified during the PPG phase.

75. At the national level, the CNDRB has an online platform for national data on biological resources but it is not operational anymore since 2015. The CNDRB is also implementing monitoring network services for species and ecosystems that aim to exchange information on biodiversity. Currently, three networks are being established for: lichens, aquaculture and ethnobotany.

76. Multiple research projects are being undertaken by the Centre for Scientific and Technical Research in Arid Regions of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. These projects focus on addressing knowledge gaps on soil and water resources management, natural ecosystems, climate and desertification as well as on agricultural and pastoral resources.

*Economic assessment (Output 1.1.3):*

77. Two economic assessment of ecosystem services have been undertaken so far in the country: one in El Kala National Park and one in the future Protected Area of Edough mountain. Awareness-raising and training sessions were organised for government institutions at the central and local level as well as to civil society organisations on the methodology to undertake these assessments. In addition, guidelines to support the economic evaluation of ecosystem services have recently been developed by GIZ in collaboration with the ME under the GENBI project to further support capacity strengthening. These guidelines use El Kala National Park as the example to demonstrate the method. No assessment of the social, economic or cultural value of biodiversity and ecosystems has been undertaken in the region of the Biban mountain range.

*Existing plans and initiatives (Output 1.1.4 and 1.1.6):*

78. The GENBI project have focused on addressing the issue of sectoral development planning and has piloted the application of a cross-sectoral approach to development planning that integrate the maintenance of ecosystem functioning and biodiversity conservation in El Kala National Park. The experience generated under the GENBI project in the development of an integrated management plan will be built upon.

79. Ighil Ali's PDAU is not yet endorsed while the PDAU in Teniet En Nasr is under implementation. The latter does not include the aspects of biodiversity and ecosystem preservation. There are currently no plans that include interventions for biodiversity conservation, Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in the targeted communes, and no guiding documents to support the design of such interventions.

80. The policy framework pertaining to the management of natural resources is not always well known by decentralised government staff and civil society organisations such as local associations.

*Budget and financial opportunities for rural development (Output 1.1.5):*

81. Few opportunities exist to direct funding towards biodiversity conservation and environmental protection initiatives. As explained above, the low value attributed to biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services prevents their integration into planning and budgeting processes, and the allocation of resources thereto. An Ecological Tax was created in December 2019 to punish environmental degradation. It applies to all activities that are polluting or potentially dangerous for the environment. 50% of this tax goes to the government and 50% to the National Fund for Environment and Coastline. The latter also receives funds from fines linked to illegal activities detrimental to the environment among others.

*Protected Areas (Output 1.1.7):*

82. Currently the only type of Protected Areas in the country are National Parks. Protected Areas in Algeria include fully protected zones (to protect most fragile ecosystems and species) as well as zones of restricted access and use (to take into account local needs). This mixed system is functioning well. The Biban mountain range does not contain Protected Areas to date. The closest protected area to the Biban mountain range is Gouraya National Park which is located within the B?ja?a Wilaya. Djurdjura and Babor-Tababort<sup>[41]</sup> National Parks are at close proximity to the Biban mountain range. The Biban mountain range has a strategic position in the corridor between these three National Parks within a hotspot of biodiversity. The GENBI programme includes the strengthening of the Protected Areas network as part of its objectives. The creation of a new Protected Area as part of an integrated management plan will be undertaken in Edough mountain range under the Project for Environmental and Biodiversity Management in Algerian Coastline which will provide some evidence base on this approach (PEBLA).

**Component 2:**

*Technical support and monitoring of development investments (Output 2.1.1):*

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83. There is currently no government expert team at the local level able to support the development of sustainable livelihoods. Long-term support to members of the local populations adopting improved practices and monitoring of the maintenance of these activities is insufficient which often leads to rural development investments being unsustainable. Insufficient collaboration between sectors at the local level (i.e., forest, agricultural and social development department) prevents the harmonization of the support provided, and complementarity and synergy of the efforts. Some technical capacity building interventions are also needed to enable the provision of efficient support to land-users in adopting and sustaining nature-based, sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

84. Three agencies (i.e., National Agency for the Management of Microloans ? ANGEM, ANADE and National Office for Unemployment-Insurance ? CNAC) have been established to support unemployed people and entrepreneurs in finding work or developing their activities. However, the success of the financial support provided by these agencies in improving beneficiaries' sources of income also suffers from insufficient technical and management support to the beneficiaries to enable them to adopt and maintain improved livelihoods. Inadequate monitoring of their projects also hinders the implementation of an adaptive approach based on the successes and failures of their investments.

#### *Land-use practices (Output 2.1.2):*

85. Since the mid-2000's, the economic renewal of agriculture and rural areas has been a national priority. Multiple initiatives have therefore been undertaken to support rural development in Algeria in recent years. Examples of these initiatives include: the Sectoral Development Plan<sup>[42]</sup><sup>42</sup>, the Joint Fund for Local Authorities<sup>[43]</sup><sup>43</sup> and the PPDRI. These initiatives focus on supporting members of the local populations in designing their projects and in accessing financial support. The PPDRI ended in 2015 after the establishment of several funds for the development of agricultural and pastoral livelihoods: the Fund to Combat Desertification and Develop Pastoralism and Steppes<sup>[44]</sup><sup>44</sup>, the Fund for Rural Development and Land Value Addition through Concession<sup>[45]</sup><sup>45</sup> and the Fund to Support Livestock Farmers and Small-scale Agricultural Farmers<sup>[46]</sup><sup>46</sup>. These financial structures have been continuously replenished, and the accessing conditions have become lighter. As a result, this financial assistance has enabled multiple farmers to establish plantations, livestock husbandry facilities and other infrastructure, and purchase equipment. However, the multiple projects supported have suffered from insufficient management support and cross-sectoral coordination which has affected negatively the sustainability of these investments. Nevertheless, some projects have succeeded and are still functioning today. This is the case for example of five beneficiaries who have been supported in establishing 50 ha of olive tree plantation and one beneficiary who planted fodder crops and built some infrastructure for cattle. Both operations are still operational and productive. Lessons learned from the few projects that were successful have been used to inform the design of the Bibans Project. For example, a factor common to these successful projects is the contribution of the beneficiary to the realisation of the project through financial and/or time investment as a condition to receive project support.

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#### *Fire management in forests:*

86. Fires are increasing in frequency, breadth and intensity. It is affecting large surface of land, particularly in B?ja?a. Forest Fire Plans are developed annually by DGF for each Wilaya as a response to this environmental threat. These plans include a monitoring system and a detailed response system involving a diversity of actors to be implemented in case of fire (first interventions to be implemented by DGF, people to be contacted, means to be mobilised...). These plans focus mostly on firefighting and their implementation period is 1 June to 31 October. To address environmental issues post-fire, the National Reforestation Programme focuses on restoring burnt forests in 26 northern wilaya, six wilaya in the high plateaus, and one southern wilaya. This programme provides some technical instructions to guide planting activities at the national level. Guidance on site selection, local climatic and ecological conditions, biodiversity conservation, land restoration and climate resilience is however limited.

#### *Current agricultural practices:*

87. Small-scale agricultural activities are undertaken in a traditional manner, often by women, with very limited equipment and infrastructure. Agricultural practices in use in the targeted communes are often inadequate with little or no implementation of soil conservation techniques to enable productivity on slopes (e.g., terraces), absence of rainwater management and irrigation systems, no maintenance interventions for planted trees, damaging harvesting methods (e.g., breaking branches to harvest mastic tree fruits), and fertilisation methods using chemicals rather than compost. Agricultural productivity is therefore decreasing because of soil impoverishment and erosion in most of the communes? agricultural land. There are however some positive examples of mixed cultivation on terraces in Tazla where agricultural productivity is good. Tazla farmers are cultivating traditional crops such as green chilli pepper, beans, tomatoes, cabbage and pumpkin among others.

88. A significant surface of agricultural land is currently non-exploited in both communes. This is because of a combination of land tenure issues and insufficient knowledge on sustainable and productive agricultural practices on slopes.

#### *Olive plantations:*

89. A large proportion of olive plantations suffer from ill-management. Most olive trees? plantations are small scale and poorly maintained. Harvesting methods are also often inadequate. There are currently no technical guidelines available on olive harvesting and processing. However, under the FAO project ?Developing the organic olive oil Value Chain in Algerian mountains? good practices will be demonstrated and promoted in five coastal pilot sites and at the national scale.

#### *Pastoralism:*

90. Similarly to agricultural activities, pastoral activities are undertaken in a traditional manner. Despite being under the estimated carrying capacity, current pastoral practices are leading to environmental degradation. The absence of sustainable management plan and livestock husbandry practices that are non-adapted to fragile mountainous ecosystems is causing the reduction of pastoral land productivity. The limited availability of pastoral resources and livestock feed prevents the



development of livestock farming (145 ha of pastoral land in Ighil Ali and 429 ha in Teniet En Nasr). Water availability is a major reason for limited pastoral land surface. A new livestock census is being undertaken by MADR in collaboration with Algerian Spatial Agency to map current pastoral areas, assess fodder resources, and estimate the carrying capacity.

*Value chains (Outputs 2.1.3 and 2.1.4):*

*Sweet chilli Value Chain:*

91. Almost all women in the targeted area produce some sweet chilli at home, a traditional product of the region which is thereafter dried up and grinded. The sweet chilli of Ait Abbas made with chilly from the Bibans region has high economic value compared to the chilli from other regions because of its colour and sweet taste. The visibility of this product is however limited and has not been promoted adequately in the country. Chilli grinding is done by hand without much equipment and often leads to health issues (skin burns and breathing issues).

NTFPs? Value Chains:

92. The NTFP's sector is poorly developed. There are few harvesters or processors of NTFPs in the targeted communes and existing ones have limited technical capacity on harvesting, processing and packaging/storing NTFPs. Based on the assessment undertaken during the PPG phase, the diversity of NTFPs present in the region offer multiple economic opportunities but there are for the majority underdeveloped.

93. Some recent initiatives are planning to develop **essential oils Value Chains**. A sub-sector for Plant species with Aromatic and Medicinal Properties<sup>[47]</sup> (PPAM) was officially recognised in 2018. PPAM products in Algeria include mostly essential oils, vegetal oils and medicinal plants. They can be harvested from the wild as NTFPs or in small-scale plantations. Some private companies (e.g., Biosource, Terroir Sahel, Aroma Biooil) are leading the way of this new sub-sector and work closely with local harvesters. In addition, an interprofessional committee regrouping people working in the PPAM sub-sector was recently created. A first agreement was signed in October 2020 between a small company specialised in essential oils ? Aroma Biooil ? and the Department of Conservation of Bordj Bou Arreridj to exploit NTFPs in a formal, controlled and sustainable manner. Both parties appeared to be satisfied with this agreement during the field visits which constitute a successful example to be replicated under the project.

94. **Bee-keepers** in the targeted communes have limited technical capacity on good bee-keeping practices and generally produce honey only. Melliferous species are in low abundance which hinders the development of the Value Chains. Bees are also affected by diseases such as those caused by parasitic Varroa mites (e.g., varoase?). There are however some successful examples to build upon. For example, a young women entrepreneur from Teniet En Nasr produces beeswax and propolis. The veterinary services of the agricultural unit of Da?ra of Medjana in Teniet En Nasr are currently trying

to formalize bee keeping by registering the hives and bee-keepers. The GENBI project developed a guiding document on good practices for bee keeping to support training activities for the local populations living in the surroundings of El Kala National Park.

95. **Carob trees** ? which are highly sought after at the national and international levels ? are naturally found in Algeria. Their leaves, pods and seeds are traditionally used for their various properties. It has a strong economic interest for rural development and livelihood diversification in Algeria, as well as a strong environmental interest as it is drought resilient, melliferous, and it can grow on relatively poor soil which makes it a good candidate for soil restoration interventions.

96. **Fig production** is also not well developed in the two communes. Fig trees are not adequately maintained, and the absence of technical guidelines for soil and water management, fig trees maintenance, fig harvesting and processing hinders any improvement in the practices currently used. In Beni Maouch, the common fig Value Chain is well organised and generates a stable income. Almost all figs are dried up and a certification scheme was created. This represents a good example for the strengthening of the common fig Value Chain in other areas. The barbary fig Value Chain also presents good opportunities for development. A strategy for the strengthening of the barbary fig Value Chain was developed in 2020 by FAO and INRAA[48]<sup>48</sup>.

97. Other undeveloped Value Chains with low supply and high demand including the **Azarole** (*Crataegus azarolus*) fruits which are sought after in Algeria but are currently not cultivated in the targeted area. Similarly, **free-range chicken** is sought after in Algeria and its value is up to five times higher than battery chicken.

98. Some common weaknesses have been observed in most of the Value Chains presenting good development opportunities: the absence of organisation of producers into associations or cooperatives, insufficient collaboration and networking between producers and potential buyers, inadequate equipment and infrastructure for product processing and packaging for value addition. For example, no olive processing or packaging infrastructure are found in the targeted communes, all olives are taken to neighbouring communes. Similarly, there are no processing facilities for milk and only two livestock feed production units.

#### *Certification:*

99. Several Value Chains development initiatives have included the creation of certification schemes mostly for regional appellations (chilli, figs) and organic products (olive oil, honey). Beni Maouch offers a successful example of how products' certification can successfully increase the income generated. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is working on the certification of agricultural products for the preservation of genetic diversity and traditional knowledge. Three products have been certified by decree so far: the Date 'Deglet Nour de Tolga'; Dry Fig of Beni Maouch; and Cheese of Bouhezza. An inventory of potential products for certification was recently

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undertaken and 100 potential products were identified. A catalogue of these products is under development with support from FAO.

#### *Private sector involvement in Value Chains:*

100. There are a few examples of public-private partnership in the targeted communes for the essential oils Value Chain as previously mentioned. The agreement between DGF and Aroma-Biooil appears to be successful. Local populations' involvement in and benefits from this Value Chain is however not yet clear.

#### *Tourism and ecotourism:*

101. Tourism is not developed in the targeted communes. There are no tourism information point and very few accommodation options. Some individuals and associations have launched tourism development initiatives but there is no collaboration and coordination between them. As a result, traditional villages are deteriorating, and traditional knowledge and products are slowly being lost. Local populations are showing great interest in developing environmental, agroecological and cultural tourism activities. The villages of Ait Abbes in Ighil Ali and Afirou in Teniet En Nasr are particularly beautiful and are considered as a good starting point for ecotourism circuits and tourist accommodation. Some members of the local populations have started developing guest houses, particularly in Ait Abbes village (e.g., Hamoudi family). The absence of policy to define and regulate ecotourism in Algeria is currently preventing the development of this Value Chain. Several sites have been identified as good touristic attraction such as Belayel salt pans and Kelaa n'Ait Abbes traditional village on the top of cliffs and with a panoramic view. Belayel was previously a major salt production site but the salt mine is now mostly abandoned with only three elderly men still producing salt. The beauty of the site makes it a good tourism attraction (similarly to the Pamukkale salt pans in Turkey). Strong willingness of the remaining users is sharing their knowledge. The Village of Kelaa n'Ait Abbes ? in Ighil Ali ? was built at the top of spectacular cliffs and with a panoramic view. It was the capital of B'ni Abb's kingdom and was built during the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The tomb of Cheikh el Mokrani symbol of the resistance is in the village as well as other remembrance sites from the war. However, pollution from wastewater and olive oil production make some sites unattractive.

102. Two programmes have focused on tourism development. The PAP-ENPARD programme which ended in 2019 and organised training and workshops for the development of ecotourism in the targeted Wilaya and the Programme for Small Initiatives (PPI-OSCAN). The latter has funded 22 initiatives in Algeria, the majority of these initiatives contribute to the development of ecotourism activities. One Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) received support in Bordj Bou Arreridj to raise awareness of 10,000 pupils in 60 schools on biodiversity. This was done by 12 activity leaders trained by the NGO. Awareness raising was undertaken through theatre plays on biodiversity, the distribution of a drawing book illustrating biodiversity, and the creation of a video game. A third phase of the programme will start in 2022.

#### *Civil society:*

103. The civil society in Ighil Ali is active in the development of improved livelihoods for vulnerable people. The women association AFUD of B'ja'a is implementing a programme for the development of handcrafting and processing of local products focused on women and disabled people

in Ighil Ali commune. The main interventions under this programme are: training in basket making, creation of a cooperative for all the raw material need for basket making, establishment of a pottery workshop, establishment of a processing workshop for local products (e.g., chilli sauce, fig jam and paste, carob couscous), establishment of oil production units for barbary figs and essential oils. The association also focuses on tourism development and plans to establish traditional restaurants and selling point for local goods and hand-crafted products, create a festival for the Ait Abbas sweet chilli and other traditional products, include visits to hand crafting workshops in tourism circuits, and establish a common selling point (i.e., Akham Temtouth or 'house of women') for local products.

104. Several NGOs are working on addressing environmental issues caused by pollution. For example, the sociocultural Thighra Association has initiated a project for the natural cleaning of a polluted water source (Thala n Tkoravth) with a budget of USD 5,000 (Thighra 2019). In addition, the local governments of both communes are working on identifying suitable landfill sites. It was observed during the consultations with local populations at PPG stage that they have a strong interest in recycling organic and non-organic wastes. Some local populations' leaders have been identified as potential champions to initiate recycling activities and are very motivated.

### **Component 3:**

#### *Landscape-level planning (Output 3.1.1):*

105. An inter-ministerial committee for the management of El Kala National park and surroundings was established as part of the interventions of the GENBI project. Among its attributions, the committee is in charge of undertaking species inventories and in creating a georeferenced database for the park resources. There is no such initiative planned so far for the Biban mountain range to centralise data on natural resources and on-going projects in order to enable harmonised and informed development planning. Decision making and development planning is limited to administrative boundary with some general guidance being provided at Wilaya level to the communes.

#### *National policies and programmes (Output 3.1.2):*

106. An NTFP policy was recently created in Bordj Bou Arreridj. A first official exploitation application was received. Such policy remains absent in B'ja'a. A Waste Management Law has been drafted and is under discussion. Policy strengthening is needed for green waste management such as olive processing wastes to address this environmental issue or on ecotourism to support the development of this sustainable income source in rural areas. The National Reforestation Programme was created to address forest degradation issues in the country and provides a good funding opportunity for forest restoration, but the current contribution of this programme to biodiversity conservation and to the preservation or restoration of ecosystem functioning could be improved.

#### *Guiding documents (Output 3.1.3):*

107. Guidelines have been produced under the GENBI project to guide the adoption of improved practices in and around El Kala National Park. The themes covered by these guidelines are: bee-keeping, sustainable exploitation of mastic tree and economic assessments of ecosystem services. These documents were developed for a specific environment but most of the information provided applies to other areas in Algeria.

*Public and private funding sources (Output 3.1.4):*

108. As discussed above, there are multiple sources of public funding for rural development. These include ANADE, CNAC and ANGEM. None of them includes selection criteria that capture the environmental benefits of the project, such as the contribution of the proposed project to biodiversity conservation, maintenance or promotion of ecosystem functioning, or increased vegetation cover. Similarly, the Presidential Programme for the development of 'grey zones' and Community Development Programme (DEV-COM) provides very limited support for biodiversity conservation and to maintain or restore the provision of ecosystem goods and services which are not considered key element for rural development.

109. The private sector contribution in natural resources management and biodiversity conservation is very limited and not structured. Payment for Ecosystem Services schemes have not yet been tested in the country. It is one of the priority actions identified under the NBSAP. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is not common in the country. Some large corporates such as Cevital, SOUMMAN and Benhamadi groups which is the second largest industrial company of the country are operating in the targeted Wilayas (Bordj and Bordj Bou Arreridj respectively).

*Awareness raising (Output 3.1.5):*

110. Awareness-raising facilities called 'Homes of the Environment' exist in each Wilaya (e.g., 'maison Wilaya d'el Bordj' is operational in the targeted area). These facilities are part of the CNFE and are dedicated infrastructure for training, awareness-raising and education activities.

*Knowledge dissemination (Output 3.2.1, 3.2.2 and 3.2.3):*

111. As part of the implementation of the Rural Renewal Policy since 2008, several communication tools and platforms have been established. An online platform was created under the DGF to share information on the implementation of the Rural Renewal Policy and the PPdRI with all citizens. Rural coordination units<sup>[49]</sup> were established in each commune to enable citizens to access and provide

information on rural development, and raise any concerns with local authorities regarding PPDRI. Institutions' websites, medias, billposting at communal level and awareness raising events such as the National Day of Trees and the National Exhibition on Agriculture are other means for authorities to inform local populations on projects, financial support opportunities and others.

112. According to the new structure of the ME (Executive Decree n°20-357 of 30 November 2020), a Department for Cooperation and Communication in charge of designing a communication strategy for the environmental sector and of evaluating its results and impacts should be established. Its mandate also includes the design and implementation of communication actions and projects aligned to the sectoral objectives through a sub-department of communication.

#### Potential baseline projects:

Project	Description	Budget
Ministry of Environment (ME)	ME is supporting improved waste management in B'ja'a and Bordj Bou Arr'ridj to address the issue of pollution in these Wilayas (cofinance to Component 1). It is also supporting increased access to solar energy (cofinance to Component 2). In addition, ME provides funding in the targeted Wilayas for the functioning of environmental centres, awareness-raising campaigns, education and trainings on environmental matters in the targeted communes (cofinance to Component 2). DGEDD, ONEDD and the DEs of both Wilayas will also provide in-kind cofinancing through staff time, equipment and training facilities (cofinance to PMC).	USD 13,258,222  (C1: 2,064,005)  (C2: 10,487,350)  (C3: 175,788)  (PMC: 531,079)
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)	MADR supports rural development through the FNDR. In the two targeted communes, this funding supports to the open, improve and maintain agricultural roads, provide beehives for beekeeping development and provide olive seedlings (cofinance to Component 2). In addition, at the Wilaya level, FNDR funds further improvement of agricultural roads, research projects and publication and the construction of wells. This will facilitate the upscaling of the interventions across the Wilaya and the region (cofinance to Component 3).  Cofinancing from MADR also includes in-kind cofinancing through technical and logistical backstopping including staff time, vehicles and rentals from MADR, DGF and INRAA.	USD 4,077,213  (C1: 590,588)  (C2: 527,044)  (C3: 2,449,912)  (PMC: 509,670)

ANADE	<p>ANADE (ex-ANSEJ) supports access to employment and helps entrepreneurs in the implementation of their projects. It provides microloans of up to USD 75,000 (i.e., 10,000,000 DA) without interest rates and with tax advantages to people between 19 and 40 years old. As part of the conditions to access these loans, a contribution of 15% from the beneficiary is required. ANADE will provide funding to support entrepreneurship to strengthen Value Chains under Component 2 of the Biban project. This funding will complement the funding for the business plans selected under the project and/or support the implementation of the business plans developed under the project that cannot receive support under the Bibans project.</p> <p>ANADE will also provide in-kind cofinancing to the project through technical and logistical backstopping including staff time, vehicles and rentals.</p>	<p>USD 3,170,319 (C2: 2,990,319)</p> <p>(PMC: 180,000)</p>
Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Land-Use planning (MICLAT)	<p>MICLAT is supporting rural development in the two targeted communes through the implementation of the PCDs and other development plans. In Teniet En Nasr, MICLAT is funding improved access to drinking water, the development of youth centres, opening and maintenance of forest tracks and reforestation.</p> <p>In the Ighil Ali, it is supporting improved access to drinking water, improved sanitation and rain water drainage, and the development of youth centres.</p>	<p>USD 5,641,821 (C2: 5,529,342)</p> <p>(C3: 112,479)</p>
ADS	<p>ADS is cofinancing 70 projects within the framework of its community development programs in line with project investments under Component 2. Cofinancing from ADS also includes Technical and logistical backstopping for projects identification and project-cycle support</p>	<p>USD 1,402,641 (C2: 1,275,128)</p> <p>(PMC: 127,513)</p>
CNDRB	<p>CNDRB is cofinancing through 4000 plants to be provided to the Municipality of IA, as well as through contributions to centralizing inventories at national level through CNDRB database</p>	<p>USD 52,009 (C2: 3,291)</p> <p>(PMC: 48,718)</p>
ANN	<p>ANN is supporting through its regional Unit in the Wilaya of Bejaia in charge of fauna and flora and natural ecosystems conservation and development (Technical and logistical backstopping including in kind staff time and meeting facilities over the period 2022-2025)</p>	<p>USD 420,353 (PMC: 420,353)</p>

FAO	FAO is implementing several TCP projects during the period 2022-2025 (cofinancing to Components 2 and 3). FAO will also provide in-kind cofinancing for the project through Technical and logistical backstopping, including staff time, office space and meeting facilities.	USD 1,197,882 (C1: 498,941)  (C2: 498,941)  (PMC: 200,000)
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### 3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project's Theory of Change.

## Project objective

113. The project objective is to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and natural ecosystems, improve the management of natural resources in two communes of the Biban mountain range, and support outscaling across the Biban mountain range. The GEF resources will therefore be used to remove the barriers to the sustainable management of the Biban mountain range ecosystems. This will be done through the implementation of three interlinked components (please see Annex A.1).

## Project components

*Component 1: Biodiversity and land management planning, policy strengthening and financial capacity building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Biban mountain range.*

114. Component 1 focuses on building required skills and knowledge base to enable integrated planning to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. Component 1 will increase the knowledge available on i) the species and ecosystems of the Biban mountain range, as well as the sources of degradation and their effects; and on ii) the social, economic and cultural value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems. This information will thereafter be used to inform the participatory development by local government and local populations of updated PCDs in the targeted communes. To support the implementation of the additional interventions identified in the PCDs, complementary funding sources will be identified and local protocols will be developed to facilitate the implementation of biodiversity conservation, SLM and



SFM practices to guide government and populations. Finally, a protected area ? whose conservation status will be determined at a later stage ? will be designed in a participatory manner to protect biodiversity hotspots and key habitats, and the creation process will be initiated.

*Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management are integrated into communal development plans and budgeted for in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes*

115. To address the barrier identified during the PPG phase, regarding the limited capacity and experience available in the country on integrated planning for the sustainable management of natural resources, the first interventions of the project will focus on training at least 40 decision-makers from central to local government in charge of development planning on every step of the implementation of an integrated, participatory planning process. The targeted institutions include *inter alia* the DEs, DSAs, DCFs, Health, Waste Management, Meteorology, Land-Use Planning, Urbanism, Risk management, Transportation, Research, Water Resources and ADSs/CPSs. Two to four staff will be trained in each institution. Training sessions implemented at the decentralised level will include the selection, prioritization, design, planning and implementation of interventions for the sustainable management of natural resources using a landscape approach. This will be complemented by tailor-made technical training to address identified capacity gaps regarding ecosystem functioning, restoration practices, biodiversity-friendly practices and climate-resilient practices. Finally, to set the ground for the efficient and coordinated management of natural resources, training will be provided on existing policy documents to ensure that all relevant institutions have a similar level of knowledge of the policy framework for natural resources.

116. The second output will focus on addressing the major knowledge gaps on fauna and flora species, biodiversity, ecosystems and climate resilience in the Bibans mountain range. The deliverables of this output will include: i) a full inventory of the fauna and flora species (both wild and cultivated/farmed), and their distribution (including for threatened/protected species and species with high social, economic and/or ecological value); ii) a biodiversity map identifying hotspots; iii) a biodiversity loss map identifying threats and levels of degradation; iv) a map on agricultural land, forests, and grassland degradation presenting sources of degradation and effects, including land and forest degradation hotspots; and v) vulnerability to climate change. These studies will be undertaken in a participatory manner, involving experts, government officials, local officials, local influencers and representatives of the local population after organising required capacity building interventions, including capacity building of CNDRB to undertake the inventories and update them thereafter. Important conservation areas (e.g., Important Area for Bird Conservation ? ZICO, Important Plant Area ? ZIP, or Key Area for Biodiversity ? ZCB) will be identified based on the results of these inventories and assessments and a georeferenced database will be established under CNDRB for easy access to the data. The experience generated under the GENBI project in El Kala national park through the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to undertake species inventories and establish a georeferenced database will be built upon. Partnerships with local universities such as B?ja?a and BBA Universities will be established wherever possible to address knowledge gaps that necessitate long-term monitoring.

117. The value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems at all levels ? including environmental, financial, economic, social, cultural and patrimonial values ? in the Biban mountain range will thereafter be assessed under Output 1.1.3 as recommended under NBSAP 2016-2030. A combination of existing tools will be used to assess the value of biodiversity and

ecosystem functioning (e.g., FAO's B-Intact tools, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries ? SEEA-AFF, The Biodiversity Finance Initiative ? BIOFIN/ Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services ? WAVES, as well as the guidelines developed under GENBI project). The cultural value and traditional uses of natural resources are of particular importance in the two targeted communes, and will therefore be investigated under this output. The methodology used to undertake the biodiversity part of the assessment will be aligned as much as possible with the guidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This assessment will inform the content of the awareness-raising tools under Output 3.1.5.

118. Based on the knowledge generated under Output 1.1.2 and 1.1.3, the existing PCDs of Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr will be updated to integrate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning dimensions. The corresponding interventions will be identified following SLM and SFM approaches and embedded in the integrated PCDs. Fire risk and resilience will be key selection criteria for the interventions together with drought resilience. These Plans will set out the targets, strategies, responsibilities and actions necessary to shift the local development path to a path that conserves biodiversity and land. A map will be created under each Plan to establish different zones in the commune based on the maps developed under Output 1.1.2 (e.g., no access zone, protected zone, agroforestry development zone, small-scale livestock husbandry development zone, pastoral zones, key cultural zones, ecotourism attraction development zone). A series of concrete activities will be defined for each zone. This will include the development of an animal feeding calendar and/or rotational grazing schemes to address over-grazing issues in pastoral zones. Alignment with the National Climate Plans and Local Climate Plans that are currently under development will be maximised. A significant proportion of these interventions will be implemented under Outcome 2, that will also lead to improved socio-economic conditions in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr. The integrated PCDs will also set out details of: (i) the resources required to implement the plan and timeline, and (ii) a monitoring and evaluation framework. The role of each group of institutions and populations groups in the implementation and monitoring of the integrated PCDs will be clarified to enable efficient and harmonised implementation. Areas of improvement of the current monitoring processes for PCDs will be identified and addressed in collaboration with APCs, local populations and other relevant institutions.

119. Existing investment plans to implement the PCDs will be analysed to identify the gaps regarding the financing of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions of the integrated PCDs. This will be done in collaboration with local government and with the PIC. The gap analysis will take into account the budget of the relevant sectors (agriculture and livestock, environment, forestry, land-use planning, family, gender and youth) as well as GEF investments under Component 2 (including the micro-enterprises) and other funding sources allocated. Additional sources of funding will be identified to fill in the identified gaps, and the funding of the remaining interventions of the PCDs will be advocated with national and local governments. The goal of this output is for the interventions of the integrated PCDs linked to biodiversity and ecosystems preservation to be fully funded. Considering that several issues in the communes are not covered under the project, workshops gathering relevant sectors (e.g., tourism, transportation, waste management, water) will be supported under the Bibans project for the participatory development of a strategy and financial plan to remaining priority development issues.

120. Two local protocols will be developed under Output 1.1.6 to support the implementation of the biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions of the integrated PCDs. These protocols will describe activities that are prohibited, allowed and encouraged in each zone of the PCDs. They will also contain technical guidance for the implementation of identified agricultural, tourism, forestry or

other activities. Training will be provided to local governments and civil society organisations on the use of these protocols. Awareness-raising interventions on the existing policy framework regarding the management of agricultural, forest and pastoral resources will also be organised for NGOs and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to ensure that they all have a complete understanding of the regulations in place.

121. The project will contribute toward achieving a well-connected system of Protected Areas (in alignment with Aichi target 11) by supporting the creation of a new Protected Area within the Biban mountain range in collaboration with the management offices of the existing parks. The decision regarding the mapping, zoning and level of protection for the new Protected Area will be made in a participatory manner by local populations with support from the government representatives of communal and wilaya levels as part of the zoning exercise for the development of the integrated PCDs under Output 1.1.4. The project will thereafter contribute to initiating the process toward the creation of a new Protected Area. The demand for the creation of a new Protected Area will be made by the mayor, the Wali, the Director of Environment or the Director of Forest Conservation. It will then be submitted for validation to the Wilaya Commission on Protected Areas (i.e., if it covers one commune) and National Commission on Protected Areas (i.e., if it covers several communes). After validation, a classification study will be undertaken in alignment with Article 26 of the law. This study includes a species inventory, socio-economic assessment, identification of existing challenges and potential threats, zoning proposal. The creation of the Protected Area will then be undertaken through the creation of a decree or by-law (at communal, wilaya or at central level if the Protected Area covers several wilayas)<sup>[50]</sup>.

#### **Indicators of success:**

- (i) Number of government staff disaggregated by gender from the central to the local level trained on biodiversity monitoring and land-use planning for sustainable land, forest and biodiversity management
- (ii) Number of funding sources leveraged to support the implementation of the biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM of the two integrated PCDs
- (iii) Number of Protected Areas under development

#### **Assumptions:**

- (i) Decentralised government institutions involved in natural resources? management, local populations? leaders, local populations? groups, NGOs and private sector institutions acknowledge the necessity to increase cross-sectoral and regional collaboration to enable the sustainable development of rural areas and conserve biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in the mountainous areas of the Biban mountain range

**Lead Executing Entity:** Outcome 1.1 will be implemented under the lead of ONEDD with support from FAO, CNDRB, ANN, APCs, universities and other relevant institutions for each of the corresponding output.

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**Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:**

*Output 1.1.1: Training provided to strengthen capacity of the government staff from communal to central level including technical staff, decision makers, and key officials and influencers on integrated land-use planning including on participatory processes and on how to prioritize specific interventions and landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning*

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**Key activities:**

(i) Provide training to at least 40 decision-makers from central and decentralised government (Wilaya and Communes) of Agricultural Services, Forest Conservation, Health, Waste Management, Meteorology, Planning, Urbanism, Risk management, Transportation, Research, Water management and Social Development on: i) the use of spatial data and assessments results to assess biodiversity richness, land degradation levels and environmental risks, spatial planning and prioritisation of interventions accordingly (decision-making tools); ii) participatory, gender-sensitive, integrated land-use planning processes for biodiversity conservation in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr; iii) implication of private sector actors in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation (e.g., the creation of PPPs); and iv) participatory management and co-management systems for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation

(ii) Provide training to at least 60 technical staff including 50% of women from Agricultural Services, Forest Conservation, Health, Waste Management, Meteorology, Planning, Urbanism, Risk management, Transportation, Research, Water management and Social Development on ecosystem functioning and service provision, restoration practices, and biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices in agricultural, forest and pastoral land

(iii) Raise awareness of local government institutions on existing policy documents related to biodiversity conservation, land tenure and natural resources? management, and provide training to increase enforcement efficiency

*Output 1.1.2 Inventories of fauna and flora species, and mapping of biodiversity, ecosystems, threats and levels of degradation undertaken by CNDRB using a participatory approach with CBOs, environment and agricultural staff, local government, NGOs, and universities and students in the two targeted communes to address knowledge gaps*

Key activities:

(i) Provide training to at least 30 individuals (3/4 per institutions) including 50% of women from the ME, MADR, Ministry of Water Resources, and training and research institutions on biodiversity assessments, species monitoring and mapping, ecosystem degradation assessments across agricultural, forest and pastoral land

(ii) Undertake the inventories on wild flora and fauna species, the inventories of traditionally cultivated and farmed varieties/breeds specific to the targeted area, in the identification of important conservation areas (ZIP, ZICO, ZCB); and establish a georeferenced database to centralise this information under CNDRB

(iii) Undertake biodiversity assessments, identify hotspots and delineate different ecosystems (using a combination of participatory mapping exercises with local populations and georeferenced tools such as Trends-Earth), and produce corresponding maps for the two communes

(iv) Assess and map:

- ecosystem productivity;

- extent of degradation, trends and causes (e.g., fires, pollution, unsustainable land management practices, climate change, pollution); and

- vulnerability to future climate conditions and its effects (e.g., increased occurrence of droughts and fire) and future suitability and productivity

(v) Support CNDRB in undertaking yearly update of the inventories and assessments in the two communes

(vi) Create a partnership with B'ja'a and Bordj Bou Arreridj universities (as well as Msila and Bouira) to undertake research projects that address remaining knowledge gaps that require medium- to long-term monitoring

*Output.1.1.3: Social, economic and cultural value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems in the Biban mountain range assessed by government staff using a participatory approach*

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Key activities:

(i) Train 20 government staff from ONEDD, DGEDD, National Agency for Water Resources, and/or DGF in undertaking social, economic and cultural assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on CBD guidelines[51]<sup>51</sup> to measure the value and services provided by natural ecosystems, FAO's B-Intact tools and SEEA-AFF approach, and the guidelines[52]<sup>52</sup> developed under the GENBI project to undertake the economic assessment of ecosystem services with the example of El Kala national park.

(ii) Assess the value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems at all levels in the two communes using a participatory approach with local populations: Environmental, Financial, Economic, Social, Cultural and Patrimonial values

*Output.1.1.4: Two pilot PCDs integrating biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM ? one for each commune ? with detailed action plan and zoning of the interventions, developed by the APC in a participatory manner with local populations and with support from government officials, and under implementation*

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Key activities:

(i) Raise awareness of local government, NGOs, associations, local populations and private sector actors on the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and opportunities for improved livelihoods, and on the existing regulations regarding the management of natural resources

(ii) Integrate ? using a participatory development approach with local populations and APCs, communal legal expert, government staff from forest, agriculture, water, tourism and waste management sectors, and NGOs ? biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM principles in the PCDs of the two targeted communes including:

- targets, strategies, responsibilities and actions necessary to shift the local development path to a path that conserves biodiversity and land;

- updated maps to establish different zones in the commune (e.g., no access zone, protected zone, agroforestry development zone, NTFP harvesting zone, small-scale livestock husbandry;

- development zone, pastoral zones, key cultural zones, ecotourism attraction development zone, previously identified landfill zones) based on the results of Output 1.1.2; and

- concrete activities to address biodiversity and land degradation issues identified under Output 1.1.1 (e.g., development of a sustainable management plan for pastoral land).

(iii) Review and propose improvement to the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system for the PCDs, including increasing populations? involvement

(iv) Identify the areas of overlap in the mandate of local authorities and implement solutions to ensure that they all clearly understand their role and responsibilities for the smooth implementation of the integrated PCDs

*Output 1.1.5: Gap analysis of the investment plans for the PCDs, identification of financial opportunities to address these gaps and fund biodiversity, SLM and SFM interventions, and mobilisation of these funds through advocacy*

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Key activities:

(i) Undertake an analysis of the existing investment plan to implement the PCDs for Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr in collaboration with the Wali, the mayor, the DE, the DCF, the DSA, the DRE and the Direction of Vocational Training in each commune to identify the funding gaps for the interventions of the integrated PCDs linked to biodiversity and ecosystems preservation

(ii) Identify additional sources of funding (e.g., government programmes, private sector companies) to fill in the financial gaps

(iii) Undertake advocacy interventions to leverage funding for the remaining biodiversity-oriented interventions of the PCDs with government (and non-government) institutions

(iv) Develop a strategy and financial plan with the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Water Resources, MICLAT, and the ME to address the priority development issues of the two communes which are not yet covered under the PCDs (e.g., improving the road network, access to drinking water, provision of solar panels for energy, sanitation, waste management, restoration of traditional villages and establishment of tourism infrastructure to increase their capacity to develop ecotourism activities

*Output 1.1.6: Two local protocols to support the implementation of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions under the pilot PCDs*

Key activities:

(i) Develop local protocols to guide the implementation of the biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions identified in the pilot PCDs in collaboration with sectoral authorities and local populations

(ii) Provide training on the use of the protocols to relevant institutions (e.g., APCs, DGEDD, DGF, DSA, ADS, local NGOs and associations)



*Output 1.1.7: Opportunities for the protection of biodiversity hotspots and natural forests in the targeted communes identified to support species and ecosystems? preservation, support ecotourism and create spatial continuity with Djurdjura, Gouraya and/or Babor-Tababort National Parks, and consultative and legal processes initiated for the creation of a new Protected Area*

(i) Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current network of National Parks in Algeria and identify opportunities to increase the connectivity of the existing network through the creation of one or several Protected Areas in the Biban mountain range (at least part of the Protected Area will cover the targeted communes, in alignment with zoning exercise under Output 1.1.4)

(ii) Initiate the creation process for a new Protected Area in the Biban mountain range following the mixed model proved to be efficient in the country with full protection in the biodiversity hotspots and restricted access in other areas to enable sustainable harvesting of NTFPs

*Component 2: Adoption of sustainable sources of income that contribute to conserving biodiversity and reversing land degradation by local resource users in the targeted communes.*

122. Component 2 will support the implementation on the ground of the interventions identified in a participatory, integrated manner under Output 1.1.4 to generate financial benefits while conserving natural resources. Based on previous experiences that highlighted the need to undertake close monitoring and provide long-term support to sustain improved livelihoods, a technical support service will first be created, institutionalised and members will be trained in each commune to ensure that required long-term support is available. SLM and SFM interventions identified under the integrated PCDs will be implemented over at least 2,750 ha of degraded land. The selected SLM and SFM interventions supported under the project will aim to support the development and maintenance of sustainable sources of income under Output 2.1.4. Local populations will thereafter be supported in developing business plans for the strengthening of sustainable Value Chains for agricultural, forest or pastoral products. Approximately 20 business plans will be selected in a transparent manner based on a defined set of criteria and their implementation will be supported. Overall, Component 2 will give local stakeholders the technical and financial capacity to strengthen and diversify their sources of income while preserving biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

*Outcome 2.1: Nature-based sustainable businesses in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes are developed and are directly contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, forest ecosystems and land*

123. Under Output 2.1.1, a government-based technical support group will be created to support the adoption, monitoring and maintenance of SLM, SFM and the sustainable income-generating activities to be supported under the Bibans project. This service will be headed by the APC's president and constituted by the local staff of the DSA (2 staff ? one agricultural and one livestock experts), DCF (2 staff), DE (2 staff), CPS (4 staff) and APC (1 staff ? administration and coordination expert). Each of the members of the service will receive tailor-made training on technical, administrative, financial and managerial aspects of the targeted sustainable livelihoods, to enable provide required training and support to local population members using a training-of-trainers approach. The interventions under this

output will include supporting the institutionalization of the technical support service in order to maintain it beyond the project lifespan. Training will also be provided to ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC to strengthen their monitoring system for the loans provided and strengthen their learning mechanism to increase the success and sustainable rates of their financial support systems.

124. The identified SFM interventions will be implemented under Output 2.1.2. All training activities to NGOs and members of the local populations will be provided jointly with the technical support service. In alignment with the integrated PCDs, 250 ha of burnt forests and shrublands will be rehabilitated using Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) techniques. These interventions will use indigenous, fire-resilient, melliferous species that provide valuable NTFPs. The issue of fires will be further addressed through supporting the staff from the Da'ra, the APC, the DE and DCF in each commune in improving their fire prevention approach and techniques. Considering that invasive species are one of the aggravating factors of fires, The current approaches to invasive species management will also be reviewed and improvements will be proposed based on experience from neighboring countries. In agricultural land, SLM interventions will be implemented over at least 1,000 ha in alignment with the integrated PCDs. These improved land management practices will include *inter alia* the development of multi-specific cultivation on terraces (taking the successful example of Tazla), the production and use of compost and natural fertilizers, crop diversification (with a particular focus on traditional crops and agroforestry), soil management techniques such as terraces, improved rainwater harvesting and water management, climate-resilient irrigation techniques). Wherever possible, support for increased access to energy will be provided to the project beneficiaries through the installation of small solar energy systems. Based on the observations in olive plantations in the targeted communes, training on improved practices for the production of olive oil and other olive-based products will be provided to interested producers. This will include training on: i) biodiversity-friendly methods; ii) olive tree management; iii) olive growth and harvesting; iv) water-less processing method for oil production; and v) management and treatment of solid and liquid wastes. The implementation of improved practices will be supported over a minimum of 500 ha of olive plantations. Finally, improved practices for the sustainable management of pastoral resources will be supported in alignment with the integrated PCDs over 1,000 ha of pastoral land. Improved practices will include for example rotation of pathways and grazing sites, integrated agropastoral systems with on-farm livestock grazing delineated by green fences made of fodder and melliferous trees, and feed production. This intervention will enable to sustain the livestock numbers while maintaining productivity, vegetation cover and biodiversity in pastoral land.

125. Under Output 2.1.3, at least 40 medium-term business plans will be prepared by members of the local populations with support from the project. Training will therefore be provided to interested members of the local populations on business plans in collaboration with the technical support service. Particular attention will be given to attract youth and women as project applicants. The business plans will have to be aligned with the integrated PCDs. They will focus on entrepreneurial and profit-oriented activities that will generate revenue through undertaking activities that support biodiversity conservation, SLM, SFM, or all three. A clear path to financial sustainability will have to be integrated in each business plan. Each business plan will focus on one Value Chain that can be developed and marketed<sup>[53]</sup>. For example, such business plans will include: the strengthening of Value Chains for traditional and regional agricultural products, the development of ecotourism activities to discover the mountain, agritourism activities to visit agroforestry fields, handcrafting projects such as carpet weaving and basket making based on sustainably harvested resources, or processing of sustainably harvested NTFPs (e.g., olive, fig, carob, honey). The business plans will demonstrate the economic and financial feasibility of each investment, as well as defining the total investment, the investors, the

actions, the timelines, the stakeholders, the risks and the targets. At least 50% of the business plan owners will be women.

126. During the PPG phase, local populations have provided ideas regarding the livelihoods they would like to develop. Projects' ideas were submitted to the national consultants by: 414 women and 172 men in Teniet En Nasr (total 586), and 133 women and 565 men (total 698) in Ighil Ali. The interventions proposed under Component 2 are based on populations' suggestions. Under the integrated approach of the project, several complementary income-generating sources will be developed to strengthen and sustain the targeted Value Chains. Individual proposals will be therefore be grouped as much as possible. Based on these proposals and on the consultations and visits in the field, potential opportunities for the strengthening of income-generating activities in an integrated manner include:

? Agriculture: i) locally-owned nurseries; ii) retailers for agricultural input and equipment; iii) processing units for traditionally crafted food items from agricultural products (e.g., sweet chilli powder ? see Box 1, crushed garlic, traditional pasta from wholewheat); and iv) marketing company.

? Agroforestry: i) establishment of nurseries owned by local populations for traditional crops and multi-purpose, local agroforestry species (e.g., cherry blossom, mastic tree, bitter almond, walnut tree, carob, apricot tree and/or pomegranate are locally present in the communes, in high demand in Algeria, drought-resilient, melliferous, processed products with high economic value, grow well between 800 and 1200 m); ii) small processing units managed by cooperatives for traditionally crafted food items from sustainably harvested forest (or agroforestry) products (e.g., dry figs ? see Box 1, capers in juice, blackberry bush jam, mastic oil[54]<sup>54</sup>, carob powder, honey and related products ? see Box 1); iii) processing units with more efficient technologies for olive oil production (e.g., water-less extraction processes to reduce vegetable water); iv) processing equipment to reuse/recycle vegetable water from olive oil production such as settling tanks (e.g., to transform vegetable water into soaps), spent olives (i.e., ?grignons?) into mulch or compost; and v) tree trimming company.

? Livestock husbandry: i) establishment of a production group for fodder (e.g., local variety of barley for fodder); ii) small livestock farms (free-range and organic poultry, goats, cattle, sheep or rabbit) prioritising local breeds and associated with sustainable pastoral land management practices implemented under Output 2.1.2; iii) transportation and storage equipment and services; iv) processing units for milk, cheese, meat and eggs; and v) green waste collection and recycling into compost, mulch and other products.

? NTFPs: i) nurseries for forest species; ii) harvesters group in forest areas; iii) handcrafting businesses for non-good products (e.g., carpet weaving, basket making based on sustainably harvested resources); iv) small processing units managed by cooperatives for traditionally crafted food items from sustainably harvested forest (or agroforestry) products (e.g., dry figs, capers in juice, bitter almond oil, blackberry bush jam and/or mastic oil, carob powder, oak acorn, dry mushrooms, honey); and v) processing companies into oils, powders and other products.

? Ecotourism and agrotourism: i) tourist information point; ii) tourist guides; iii) tourism business such as ecotourism accommodation and activity development; iv) tourism marketing agency; and v) educational farms.

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<b>Box 1: Examples of opportunities identified for some specific Value Chains</b>
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For **sweet chilli powder Value Chain** (activity suggested by women producers during the field visit ? 53 women interested in Moka village of Ighil Ali), potential interventions could include :

- i) create an association/cooperative of women producers of sweet chili;
- ii) develop a processing unit for the association (with adequate hygiene and security rules) to produce the powder, process, store and package the products;
- iii) establish green houses to grow the chilli more efficiently and year round;
- iv) install solar ovens to dry up the products;
- v) diversify the products (spice mix, essential oils, cooking oils, cosmetic products, soaps?);
- vi) develop a certification system as regional product to support commercialisation; and
- vii) support marketing and develop agreements with retailers.

Similar activities could be undertaken for **crushed garlic Value Chains**.

**Fig production** could be done for human consumption, livestock feed and cosmetics. This could build on the lessons learned and good practices from successful dry figs and jam production in Beni Maouch. Exchange visit to these sites could be organised for selected project holders.

For **honey production** (80 bee-keepers interested in Teniet En Nasr), the following complementary interventions could be implemented:

- i) provide training on bee-keeping good practices<sup>[55]</sup> (including on the breeding of queens);
- ii) promote the integration of melliferous species in reforestation and agroforestry interventions (species selection to be undertaken jointly by DE, DCF, DSA and bee-keepers, in collaboration with Association Adhrar n?Ait Abbes (interested in contributing to planting melliferous species along roads to support bee- keeping and reduce erosion);
- iii) analyse the demand for bee products (e.g., wax, propolis, royal jelly) and develop necessary processing systems; and
- iv) organic certification.

127. Among the 40 business plans developed under Output 2.1.3, 20 will be selected and their implementation will be supported under Output 2.1.4. The selection process will be undertaken in a transparent manner to ensure that the individuals whose business plans are not selected have a good

understanding of the justification behind this decision. The selection criteria will include inter alia personal contribution of the beneficiary, clarity of land ownership, cost-effectiveness, individual and common socio-economic benefits, environmental benefits, contribution to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and financial, socio-economic and environmental sustainability. The establishment of at least 20 selected businesses will be supported through the provision of equipment and training in collaboration with ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM and/or banks. The support system will be refined based on the projects proposals in collaboration with ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM and banks. The Project will also contribute to the establishment of small infrastructure that support the identified Value Chains and are not part of the selected business plans. This could include for example: i) common, locally-managed nurseries for traditional crops, agroforestry and forest species to support SLM, SFM and Value Chain strengthening interventions; ii) common composting facilities; iii) local markets for local populations and tourists; and iv) tourist information points to be financially supported by the Ministry of Tourism and tourism association(s). However, in each case, to the extent possible, the aim is to have an economically sustainable infrastructure so the nurseries, compost facilities and information points would be run by individuals as income sources.

128. Each supported business will benefit from increased organisational capacity of producers and harvesters into associations and cooperatives. Complementary training will be provided in collaboration with the technical support service on fund raising, administrative and financial management to each of these organisations to enable them to operate independently and efficiently beyond the project lifespan. In addition, based on the national strategies and plans and on experience from previous projects, the project will support the production of certified products. Potential certifications to be supported include: organic (e.g., organic olive oil); free range; biodiversity friendly; fair trade; traditional/regional products such as sweet chilli powder; traditional medicinal product; and/or gender sensitive.

#### **Indicators of success:**

(i) Number of sustainable Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) generating profit established, disaggregated by gender and age (e.g., women and youth)

#### **Assumptions:**

(i) Cultural barriers and land tenure issues do not prevent women from effectively adopting improved sources of income based on the sustainable management of agricultural land, forests and rangeland.

(ii) Members of the local populations and groups grasp the opportunities offered by improved management of natural resources and Value Chains development, and are willing to invest the required time and energy to make their livelihoods more resilient.

(iii) Domestic and international markets for green Value Chains products can be sufficiently developed and market access strengthened to provide secured sources of income for local producer organizations and buyer companies adopting sustainable practices over the long term

**Lead Executing Entity:** Outcome 2.1 will be implemented under the lead of ONEDD with support from FAO, DGEDD, ANADE, ANGEM, CNAC, DGF, ADS, and other relevant Ministries such as Tourism, Culture and Vocational Training for each of the corresponding output.

**Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:**

*Output 2.1.1: Two government-based technical support services established to assist the implementation, monitoring, maintenance and growth of the sustainable income-generating activities to be developed and implemented under Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3*

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Key activities:

(i) Create and institutionalize a *technical support service for the development, monitoring and maintenance of SLM, SFM and sustainable income-generating activities in rural areas* in each commune headed by the APC's president and constituted by the local staff of the relevant institutions including DE, DSA, DCF, Department of Water Resources, ADS and APC

(ii) Train the members of the service on the technical, administrative, financial and managerial aspects of SLM, SFM and nature-based, sustainable income-generating activities in rural areas (training-of-trainers approach)

(iii) Provide training to ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC, and review their functioning where required to support improved monitoring of the success of the projects they support ? including sustainable resources management projects ? and integration of these results in their selection processes

*Output 2.1.2 2,750 ha of agricultural, forest and pastoral land under rehabilitation or improved management*

Key activities:

Forests

(i) Providing training on ANR techniques using a learning-by-doing approach (e.g., FAO's Farmer Field Schools) with DE, DCF, NGOs, CBOs, members of the local populations and other relevant stakeholders with the help of the technical support service, and support the implementation of ANR interventions in 250 ha of burnt forests and shrublands (using indigenous, fire-resilient, melliferous species that provide valuable NTFPs such as carob, chestnut, holm oak)

(ii) Provide technical training and equipment to the Da'ra, APC, the DE and DCF staff for improved fire prevention and invasive species management

Agricultural land:

(iii) Provide training on sustainable, biodiversity-friendly and drought-resilient agricultural practices in mountainous areas following an agroecology approach working closely with the technical support services

(iv) Develop compost and natural fertilizers production plans from natural wastes, and organize the network of producers to gather green wastes from households, agriculture and livestock husbandry (e.g., poultry)

(v) Support the implementation of improved agricultural practices over 1,000 ha of agricultural land

(vi) Support targeted land-users in purchasing solar energy kits for agriculture in alignment with the national objectives to develop renewable energy and reduce emissions

Olive plantations:

(viii) Provide training ? working closely with the technical support services ? to members of the local populations interested in championing improved practices for olive production

(ix) Support the adoption of improved practices over 500 ha of olive plantations

Pastoral land:

(x) Implement improvement interventions identified under the sustainable management plan for pastoral land integrated in the pilot PCDs (e.g., rotation of pathways and grazing sites, integrated agropastoral systems with on-farm livestock grazing delineated by green fences made of fodder and melliferous trees, feed production) over at least 1,000 ha

*Output.2.1.3: At least 40 Sustainable business plans in agroecology, agritourism, ecotourism, handcrafting, forestry, NTFP Value Chains or other economic activities developed to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable and productive land-use practices, and livelihoods resilience*

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Key activities:

(i) Refine the list of criteria to be met by the business plans based on the criteria pre-identified during the PPG phase (e.g., personal contribution of the beneficiary, clarity of land ownership, cost-effectiveness, individual and common benefits, environmental benefits, climate resilience, sustainability)

(ii) Organise complementary consultations with members of the local populations who expressed their interest in developing specific sources of income, identify similarities and complementarities, and design a strategy to group people for stronger projects

(iii) Raise awareness of members of the local populations interested in tourism development on the principles of ecotourism versus general tourism

(iv) Provide training to interested members of the local populations (particularly youth and 50% of women) on the development of good business plans and support them in the preparation of at least 40 medium-term business plans in alignment with the PCDs to create sustainable revenue while contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems preservation



*Output 2.1.4: At least 20 MSMEs that are generating income and contributing to biodiversity, ecosystems and land conservation established or strengthened*

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Key activities:

- (i) Select at least 20 business plans out of the 40 developed based on specific criteria in a transparent manner
  - (ii) Analyse the different funding options for each project with ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM and banks, and allocate the funding of each business plan to the relevant institution and to the Bibans project
  - (iii) Provide required equipment and training to the entrepreneurs of the selected MSMEs to initiate the activities
  - (iv) Identify the required small infrastructure to support the Value Chains not integrated in the selected business plans, identify members of the local populations interested in these income-generating activities and support them in their implementation
- (USD 200,000)
- (v) Establish required groups, cooperatives or associations to regroup producers for each Value Chain targeted by the project (at least 5 cooperatives/associations ? olive oil and derivatives producers, sweet chilly producers, fig producers, ecotourism operators)
  - (vi) Provide training to producers? groups, associations and cooperatives on fund raising, and on administrative and financial management
  - (vii) Select required certification in a participatory manner with local populations, private sector actors, local and central government, and support the creation of required Value Chains products certifications

*Component 3: Outscaling and upscaling of successful interventions across the Biban mountain range*

129. Component 3 will identify the successful approaches and practices from Components 1 and 2, and ensure that they are adequately shared to support their outscaling and upscaling beyond the targeted communes. An inter-communal, cross-sectoral Biodiversity Platform for the region will be

created to facilitate access to the relevant information on the Bibans project and other relevant initiatives across the three wilayas of the region. The policy framework will be strengthened to facilitate and promote integrated planning, biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM. Technical guidelines on good practices from the Bibans project and relevant partner projects will be developed and shared on this platform and through a diversified range of awareness-raising tools. Advocacy to raise public and private funds for the replication of successful practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land within the Biban mountain range and in other relevant landscapes will be undertaken using the results of the assessments undertaken under Output 1.1.3 and the successful results of the Bibans project's investments. This will be complemented by an awareness-raising campaign for the general public on the importance of biodiversity and forest ecosystems, land degradation and other threats, and sustainable management opportunities. The interventions under Component 3 will be supported by a solid monitoring and evaluation, and projects' communication strategies to be deployed throughout the project implementation period.

*Outcome 3.1: Sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation integrated in development planning across the Biban mountain range*

130. The intercommunal Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform will be established to promote and support biodiversity and ecosystem conservation across the Biban mountain range. A major objective of the platform is to bring together local governments, civil society, local populations and private sector companies from the Wilayas of B'ja'a, Bordj-Bou-Arreridj, Bouira and potentially Msila that depend on the natural resources of the Biban mountain range, and provide a structure for negotiations, cooperation and alignment of efforts for the sustainable management of shared natural resources in the Biban mountain range. Another major objective of the platform is to share experiences from different initiatives implemented in the region, promote the replication of successful interventions, and facilitate access of local populations to financing opportunities. The members of this platform will include Walis from the four Wilayas of the Biban mountain range, local government representatives and decision-makers from relevant ministries, environmental and social development NGOs, local populations' leaders, and private sector representatives. The Platform members will meet regularly to share experiences and discuss land-use issues if any, to develop joint visions, harmonize efforts, identify funding opportunities, and raise local populations' awareness. The Platform members will also be engaged in the implementation of Components 1 and 2, and will collectively determine ways to broadly disseminate the lessons learned from those components. One of the first tasks of the platform will be to support the identification of similar communes that would benefit from the update of their PCDs into integrated PCDs, and support the identification of financial sources to undertake the process. Advocacy with local governments in the identified communes will also be undertaken to promote the integrated, participatory planning process. Focal points for the platform will be identified at the communal, Wilaya and central levels to ensure the maintenance of a dynamic platform beyond the project lifespan.

131. Several gaps in the policy framework and in on-going government programmes pertaining to integrated land-use planning and implementation, biodiversity conservation and preservation of ecosystem goods and services were identified during the PPG phase. This identification will be refined in a participatory manner with local governments at project inception. The project will contribute to addressing priority gaps by developing policy recommendations, drafting new policy documents or proposing recommendations for the implementation of identified government programmes, and supporting their submission for validation. Potential opportunities for improvement identified at PPG stage include:

? Support DGF in identifying policy improvement opportunities for the **General Law on Forests** (Régime Général des Forêts, 1984) to support biodiversity-friendly and resilient forest restoration interventions and clarify/amend policy enforcement processes.

? Draft a policy document to define and regulate **ecotourism** in a participatory manner with the Ministry of Tourism and the ME.

? Develop a policy document to regulate the management of **olives? processing wastes** and/or create tax reduction systems and other incentives to support the recycling of solid and liquid wastes from olive processing.

? Propose recommendations to strengthen the **PCDs? policy** to promote: i) the integration of biodiversity conservation and the preservation of ecosystem good and services in the PCDs; and ii) participatory planning processes with local populations.

? Develop recommendations for better integration of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and climate resilience principles (e.g., guidance on species selection and planting protocols) in the **National Reforestation Programme** and other reforestation/ecosystem restoration interventions.

132. Guidelines on good approaches and practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land conservation demonstrated under Components 1 and 2 of the project will be developed under Output 3.1.3. These guidelines will define advised approaches and practices to enable sustainable development while preserving biodiversity, ecosystem or land resources across the Biban mountain range. These documents will include guidance on good practices to undertake agriculture, forestry, livestock husbandry and tourism in priority areas. Preferred approaches for public and private sector investments towards the development of socio-economic opportunities for local populations based on the sustainable management of natural resources will also be integrated in these guidelines. Examples of themes that could be covered by these guidelines are: i) integrated, participatory development planning; ii) integrated management of agriculture, forest and rangeland resources, and resulting climate-resilient sources of income; iii) raising public and private sector investments towards the development of socio-economic opportunities for local populations; and iv) specific techniques or methodologies (e.g., ecosystem restoration, improved olive oil production processes, rotational grazing practices, agroforestry, compost production, ecotourism project development and implementation).

133. Under the guidance of the Platform (Output 3.1.1), public and private financial opportunities will be identified for the upscaling of successful interventions as described in the guidelines developed under Output 3.1.3 in the Biban mountain range. The financial opportunities to be explored will include private donor, government funding through programmes and financing mechanisms, NGOs and other organisations at the local, national and international scales. For private sector funding resources, opportunities for the creation of incentives for the adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices and taxation systems that promote sustainable practices will be explored. A resource mobilization strategy will be developed based on the opportunities identified, and initial activities towards mobilizing identified financial resources will be supported. By including national-scale government programmes, financing mechanisms, and incentive mechanisms in the strategy, this output will likely have an impact beyond the Biban mountain range, through promoting improved practices in other landscapes.

134. Output 3.1.5 focuses on raising awareness of the entire population of the Biban mountain range. Awareness will be raised on the value of natural resources in the region and the threats faced in the

region. Based on the outputs from Components 1 and 2, and under the guidance of the Platform (Output 3.1.1), a series of awareness-raising material and tools will be designed and implemented. The set of awareness-raising activity for the broader public is to be determined during the PPG phase and it will include a combination of television shows, social media campaigns, school events, theatre performances, posters, show-casing stands at national events, games, concerts and/or field visits to Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr. The awareness-raising activities will remain flexible to address specific needs that would emerge during the implementation phase and to adapt to the receptivity of the targeted populations to enhance intake and foster the desired behavioral changes.

**Indicators of success:**

- (i) Number of policy document drafted, policy recommendations developed to integrate biodiversity and ecosystems? considerations
- (ii) Additional private and public resources mobilized for the upscaling of sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation practices in other communes of the Biban mountain range

**Assumptions:**

- (i) Microfinance institutions and Private sector companies are willing (or can be encouraged) to invest in activities to address biodiversity loss and land degradation issues, and create sustainable development opportunities in rural areas

**Lead Executing Entity:** Outcome 3.1 will be implemented under the lead of ONEDD with support from FAO, DGEDD, the Wilaya and Communes government across the Bibans mountain range, and with central ministries.

**Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:**

*Output 3.1.1: An intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform including public and private sector actors established to promote biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, and support access to financial sources for the outscaling of good practices*

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Key activities:

(i) Establish an intercommunal Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform bringing together local governments, civil society, private sector and local populations to support concerted and harmonized development planning, promote biodiversity and ecosystem conservation across the Biban mountains range, share knowledge and lessons learned from the project (using communication tools developed under Output 3.2.3) and other relevant projects, and support access to financial sources for the replication of good practices identified under Output 3.1.5 and from other relevant projects

(ii) Advocate for the identification of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions to complement existing PCDs in other communes of the Biban mountain range and promote the integration of such interventions in the next revision process planned in 2025

*Output 3.1.2 Amendments to the policy framework and programmes proposed to enable and promote integrated, participatory, landscape-scale development planning, SLM and biodiversity conservation in the targeted Wilayas and at the national level*

Key activities:

(i) Refine the identification of gaps in the policy framework and programmes for integrated land-use planning and implementation, biodiversity conservation and preservation of ecosystem goods and services

(ii) Develop policy documents or policy recommendations to address priority gaps including for example: policy improvement opportunities for the **General Law on Forests**, draft policy document on **ecotourism**, policy document to regulate the management of **olives? processing wastes** and/or tax reduction systems and other incentives to support the recycling of olive processing wastes, recommendations to strengthen the **PCDs? policy**, recommendations for better integration of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and climate resilience principles in the **National Reforestation Programme**.

*Output.3.1.3: Guidelines on good approaches and practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land conservation in the Biban mountain range developed and disseminated*

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Key activities:

- (i) Develop guidelines to support the uptake of successful project's approaches and practices for the integration of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM into development planning across the Biban mountain range
- (ii) Review the training programmes of the vocational training centres regarding agricultural, forest management and tourism sectors and propose revisions to promote sustainable approaches and practices in the targeted wilayas and beyond

*Output 3.1.4: Public and private resource mobilisation strategy developed and put under implementation to outscale and upscale successful practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land within the Biban mountain range*

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Key activities:

- (i) Develop ? in a participatory manner with relevant actors from the government and the private sector ? a resource mobilization strategy to raise funds (e.g., government programmes such as DEV-COM and ?Programme Zone d'Ombres?, ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM, banks, partnerships with private sector) and upscale the successful interventions of the project in other communes and wilayas of the Biban mountain range (e.g., commune of El Hachimia in Bouira wilaya) and in other relevant landscapes
- (ii) Implement the resource mobilisation strategy
- (iii) Establish an incentive mechanism for private companies to adopt/support more sustainable practices

*Output 3.1.5: Awareness-raising campaigns implemented for the general population across the Biban mountain range including women and youth on the importance of biodiversity and forest ecosystems, land degradation and other threats, and sustainable management opportunities*

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Key activities:

(i) Based on knowledge generated under Output 1.1.3 and on the experience of government institutions in awareness raising (e.g., experience of ME and related institutions in awareness raising for forest protection), develop a set of awareness raising tools (e.g., Television show, social media campaign, school events, theatre performances, posters, games, concerts and/or field visits) on the concept of common resources, the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and existing income-generating opportunities through sustainable management

(ii) Organise awareness-raising events using existing local platforms, at national remembrance days and other national events, and in schools

*Outcome 3.2: Project monitored, results captured and lessons learned widely disseminated.*

135. A detailed M&E Plan using a results-based management approach will be developed to monitor the performance of the project. To do so, an M&E expert will be hired in PY1 to design and establish an M&E system to obtain information on progress in meeting targets, evaluating results and facilitating the systematization of experiences. Throughout the duration of the project, monitoring reports will be prepared by the Project Management Unit (PMU) according to the M&E system. The results matrix (Annex A1) presents the expected results from the project, related gender-sensitive indicators and measurement methods and tools that will be used. Throughout the project duration, annual financial audits will be conducted to ensure that resources are appropriately used as planned. An independent Mid-Term Review (MTR) will be conducted in PY3 by experts selected by FAO with the approval of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). The technical MTR will be important to assess the project progress towards achieving its targets and objectives and also to assess the project management effectiveness. Recommendations to eventually adjust and update some of the outputs and activities will also be made if necessary. At the end of the project, an independent Terminal Evaluation will be conducted. Lessons learned and recommendations produced by the terminal evaluation will be fundamental to inform future initiatives.

136. A project's communication strategy will be developed to enable the systematic dissemination of information on the project progress, results, good practices and lessons learned. The design and implementation of the communication strategy will be supported by a communication expert to be appointed in PY1. It will also create linkages with regional and global knowledge-sharing platforms, for example by linking to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments and the FAO/Global Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism. A diversity of communication products will be developed and disseminated to maintain the project stakeholders ? including central and decentralised governments, local populations, NGOs, private sector and other partners ? continuously informed on the project's progress. Potential products to be developed include: i) radio talks and short documentaries on the project progress; ii) a project page on the website of the ME; iii) a documentation platform where all documents can be downloaded on the website of the ME; iv) posters on the project interventions to be

displayed in local government offices and public spaces; v) facebook page for the project; and vi) short video clips to be broadcasted on international platforms. Communication material will also be produced to broadcast news from the project on the facebook page and other platforms used by partner NGOs. Finally, group visits to the intervention sites will be organised wherever suitable. An educational farm might be established by supporting interested project beneficiaries in transforming their farm to host exchange visits with other farmers, school visits and awareness-raising activities (several members of the local populations have expressed their interest in doing so).

**Indicators of success:**

- (i) Number of M&E plans and communication strategies developed and implemented

**Lead Executing Entity:** Outcome 3.2 will be implemented under the lead of ONEDD with support from FAO, DGEDD and sectoral institutions involved in the project implementation.

**Corresponding outputs (to be adjusted/expanded as necessary) with summary of key activities:**

<p><i>Output 3.2.1: Project Monitoring &amp; Evaluation plan developed and implemented</i></p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Key activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Develop a detailed gender-sensitive M&amp;E strategy and plan (including M&amp;E activities, methodology and responsibilities)</li> <li>(ii) Implement the M&amp;E plan continuously during the project implementation phase</li> </ul>
<p><i>Output 3.1.2 Project Mid-term and Terminal Evaluations undertaken</i></p> <p><u>Key activities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Undertake the MTR</li> <li>(ii) Undertake the Terminal Evaluation</li> </ul>



*Output 3.2.3 A Communication Strategy on the Bibans project developed and implemented*

Key activities:

- (i) Design a communication strategy for the project to facilitate the strategic dissemination of the Project's progress, results, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and global levels
- (ii) Implement the communication strategy continuously during the project implementation phase

## 4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;

137. The project is mainly aligned with two GEF focal areas: Biodiversity (BD) and Land Degradation (LD). In the Biodiversity Focal Area, the project will contribute to achieving Objective 1 ?Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes? specifically the first GEF-7 entry point ?Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Priority Sectors? (BD1-1). Indeed, under Component 1, the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning will be integrated in the PCDs of the targeted communes. The lessons learned from biodiversity integration into PCDs in the targeted communes will thereafter be used to guide the mainstreaming of biodiversity in other PCDs within the Biban mountain range. The assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems good and services under Component 1 and awareness-raising interventions thereto, combined to the training interventions on sustainable income-generating opportunities, and on participatory, integrated planning, will promote the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning into decision making and planning at a wider scale. Similarly, the biodiversity-positive business plans to be supported by the project will provide evidence base on the opportunities from improved natural resources? management and promote a shift towards improved production practices in the targeted communes under Component 2 and across the Biban mountain range under Component 3.

138. Under the Land Degradation focal area, the project will contribute to LD1-1 ?Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)? and LD1-4 ?Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape?. Regarding LD1-1, the project will support the improvement of land-use practices ? including through promoting agroecology and sustainable grazing schemes ? to increase, restore and maintain ecosystem services, diversify and increase food production, support sustainable livelihoods, and increase resilience to climate change. The project will also support integrated land-use planning and promote SLM and SFM practices in the targeted communes to address land degradation issues such as fires, over-grazing, inadequate agricultural practices and pollution. This will enable to sustainably increase productivity in agricultural, pastoral and forest land, increase resilience to climate change including droughts, and support increased economic opportunities in the region (through development of sustainable Value Chains) which will reduce rural exodus. Protected zones will also be integrated in the management plan to preserve

biodiversity, key habitat and ecosystem functioning. As a result, further degradation of natural resources will be avoided and land rehabilitation will be promoted. Hence, the project will contribute directly to LD1-

## 5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

*Component 1: Biodiversity and land management planning, policy strengthening and financial capacity building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Biban mountain range.*

139. *Baseline and co-financing:* The baseline for Component 1 consists mostly of the investments made in the targeted wilayas to overcome existing development issues. MADR is supporting the maintenance of agricultural roads under FNDR (Cofinancing: USD590,588). ME is working towards addressing existing issues linked to waste management, as well as improved access to renewable energy and better waste management (Cofinancing: USD2,064,005). FAO will also provide USD498,941 as cofinancing to Component 1. Total co-financing for Component 1 is USD3,153,534. Without GEF investment, the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in development planning processes which will remain limited and prevent the development of sustainable livelihoods for rural populations in the Biban mountain range.

140. *GEF support and financing:* GEF support will first increase the knowledge available on species, biodiversity, ecosystems and their value as well as land degradation issues and vulnerability to climate change in the Biban range by providing training to relevant government staff and supporting them to undertake required assessments. The storage of this information on a georeferenced database will provide easy access to this information to guide development planning. This will address an important capacity gap as highlighted in Algeria's NBSAP and enable continuous update of the information beyond the project. The information generated will inform the update of existing PCDs into integrated PCDs developed in a participatory manner that fully consider biodiversity and natural ecosystems. These pilot PCDs will enable to demonstrate the integrated planning approach and its implementation for uptake of the approach by other communes. GEF support to this Component is USD499,199.

*Component 2: Adoption of sustainable sources of income that contribute to conserving biodiversity and reversing land degradation by local resource users in the targeted communes.*

141. *Baseline and co-financing:* The baseline support for Component 2 mostly includes funding provided by government institutions to improve income-generating opportunities for local populations. MADR is supporting the development of bee keeping as a sustainable source of income as well as the development of olive production and improved access to water for agriculture (i.e. building new and maintaining existing wells). Cofinancing from MADR for Component 2 is USD527,044. Several

discussions with ANADE took place during the PPG phase which showed great interest in collaborating with the project and adopting a coherent, harmonised strategy to support local populations successfully and sustainably. ANADE will provide financial support for the adoption of sustainable income-generating activities to complement GEF funding following the integrated approach of the Bibans project (Cofinancing: USD2,990,319). The ADS will also provide USD1,275,128 as cofinancing for Component 2 through supporting 70 projects under DEV-COM and labor-intensive public utility works in the two targeted wilayas. Cofinancing for Component 2 also includes ME's efforts for the management of dangerous waste and decontamination of affected sites. Furthermore, ME is allocating funding for the functioning of the Home of the Environment in Bordj Bou Arr'ridj. The cofinancing from ME for Component 2 is USD10,487,350. The interventions funded by MICLAT under the PCDs of the targeted communes for the opening and maintenance of forest roads and reforestation, water management, rainwater drainage and sanitation will directly complement the Bibans project interventions (Cofinancing: USD 5,529,342). CNDRB will support the establishment of a nursery in Ighil Ali which is considered as cofinancing (USD3,291). FAO will also provide USD 498,941 as cofinancing to Component 2. Total co-financing for Component 2 is USD21,311,415. Without the GEF-funded project, local populations will continue to be supported through isolated sectoral interventions and small individual grants, without consideration of the entire system and will therefore generate limited long-term benefits for rural populations.

142. *GEF support and financing:* GEF support will develop a chain of interconnected interventions towards creating stable, sustainable and lucrative sources of income that support biodiversity and ecosystems preservation. Financial support will be provided to local populations in alignment with the pilot PCDs of the communes and in parallel to improved land management practices that enhance biodiversity and climate resilience, and support the targeted Value Chains. A technical support system will be established to provide long-term support to the project holders within local populations. The projects will be fully owned by the local populations whose commitment will be ensured by supporting them in developing their own project and requiring a small financial contribution to access project support. The supported businesses will both generate profit and conserve natural resources. A new approach to support sustainable local development will therefore be demonstrated to inform existing financial mechanisms in Algeria. GEF support to this Component is USD2,191,049.

### *Component 3: Outscaling and upscaling of successful interventions across the Biban mountain range*

143. *Baseline and co-financing:* As part of its mandate, ME supports awareness-raising, education and training interventions in the targeted communes. This includes events organised at the Home of the Environment of the Wilaya, information and awareness-raising days, support to Environmental Clubs at communal level to develop educational games, and training to journalists to better communicate on environmental matters. The cofinancing from ME for Component 3 is USD175,788. The funds provided by MADR to strengthen the network of agricultural roads is partly considered as cofinancing under Component 3 as it will facilitate the outscaling of the good practices across the wilayas (Cofinancing: USD 2,449,912). Under the PCDs, MICLAT supports the construction and rehabilitation of youth infrastructure in the targeted communes. These infrastructure strengthening interventions will present multiple benefits for the Bibans project as they will facilitate communication with youth people at project inception, increase youth organisational capacity and structuring into groups, provide infrastructure for training and meetings with potential young entrepreneurs, and support outscaling of the interventions (e.g., through communication and exchange visits). USD 112,479 are therefore considered as cofinancing from MICLAT for Component 3. FAO will provide support to upscale the interventions under Component 3 through using its platform and networks for knowledge sharing. Total co-financing is USD2,738,179.

144. *GEF support and financing:* GEF support will assist with the establishment of a biodiversity platform at the landscape level for the Bibans mountain range to: i) advocate for the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation considerations into development plans; ii) facilitate horizontal and vertical collaboration between sectors and institutions, and experience sharing; and iii) enable harmonised and efficient development planning across the region. Under Component 3, the successful approaches and practices from Components 1 and 2 will also be compiled, guiding documents and other learning material will be developed, and this new evidence-based knowledge will be disseminated on a diversity of platforms. Furthermore, funding opportunities from existing government programmes and from the private sector will be identified and raised wherever possible to direct more funds towards the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land. This will support outscaling of the integrated land-use planning approach in other communes. Upscaling of the projects' good practices will be supported through strengthening the policy framework to facilitate the adoption of improved approaches and practices. These complementary interventions will contribute to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation across the entire Biban mountain range. GEF support to this Component is USD355,650.

## 6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);

### *Biodiversity and endangered species*

145. As previously mentioned, biodiversity in the Biban mountain range is expected to be rich particularly for plant species because of its location within a wider biodiversity hotspot of Kabylies-Numidie-Kroumirie and its geographical, geological and meteorological characteristics. The Bibans project interventions will concur towards preserving and enhancing this biodiversity. This will be done by: i) undertaking an inventory of species and habitats; ii) mapping biodiversity hotspots; iii) protecting hotspots and fragile ecosystems through the creation of a protected area; iv) promoting the adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices for land, soil and water management; and v) strengthening nature-based income-generating activities that support biodiversity conservation such as the sustainable exploitation of NTFPs and ecotourism (NBSAP Objectives 1, 7, 14, 19). The protection of important conservation sites in the Biban mountain range will enable to reduce the isolation of the Gouraya, Djurdjura and Babor-Tababart National Parks that are surrounding the Biban mountain range. This will contribute to increased circulation of species between these protected areas thereby supporting their conservation and increasing their capacity to adapt to changing climate or environmental conditions.

### *Ecosystem goods and services*

146. The Bibans mountain range provides important ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, rainwater channeling and retention, and climate regulation. In addition, forests and shrublands in the Biban mountain range produce a wide range of food, medicinal and aromatic products for local consumption and income generation. Under Component 1 of the project, integrated planning processes will be implemented in the two communes through the revision of existing PCDs. The integrated PCDs will support better management of biodiversity and ecosystems over 32,257 hectares of forest, shrub, agricultural and pastoral land. Under these integrated PCDs, the project will directly support the implementation of identified interventions over 2,750 ha. These interventions will include

the implementation of ANR techniques in at least 250 ha of forests and shrublands, agroecology practices over 1,000 ha of agricultural land, biodiversity-friendly practices in 500 ha of olive plantations and integrated management systems for 1,000 ha of pastoral land. In addition, the transformation of green wastes into compost will be promoted in the targeted communes and is expected to generate multiple benefits including *inter alia* greater soil fertility, water retention and soil biodiversity, and reduced pollution.

147. The project interventions will support and promote crop, grass, shrub and tree species, varieties and breeds that are resilient to droughts and heavy rains, able to withstand increased temperatures, resilient to fire and with limited pest sensitivity. This will enable the project to enhance ecosystems? and populations? resilience to climate change (NBSAP Objectives 13 and 15).

148. Through implementing interventions that increase tree cover in agricultural, pastoral and forest land, the project will enable increased carbon storage. The expected amount of carbon stored as a result of the interventions will be assessed based on the inventories and assessments to be undertaken under Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3. Carbon emission will be avoided through addressing deforestation issues (such as fires and overgrazing) and promoting sustainable agricultural practices following the principles of agroecology. Increased tree cover will also enable soil stabilisation and increased fertility, buffering against climate change and water regulation. The SLM and SFM interventions will support an increased provision of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods.

149. The project interventions ? including increased knowledge on species, biodiversity and ecosystems; SLM and SFM interventions; and the development of sustainable nature-based Value Chains ? will raise the economic value of natural ecosystems for local populations and their contribution to the national economy. This will increase the willingness of government, local populations and private sector actors to preserve natural resources and ecosystems in the long term.

## 7) Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development ?

### *Innovativeness*

150. The project approach and interventions are innovative in multiple ways. Firstly, this Project is an integrated development and conservation project. This integrated approach is relatively new in Algeria and has only been piloted locally by GIZ under the GENBI project and by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) under two GEF-funded projects. Development programmes in Algeria such as the Programme for Rural Renewal have the tendency to be sectoral which make their implementation difficult and hinders their efficiency. Similarly, the management of forest resources is not considered in current environmental, agricultural or tourism policies<sup>[56]</sup><sup>56</sup>. Through the development of integrated PCDs, the project will aim to promote **collaboration across agriculture,**

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**forestry, tourism, cultural, enterprise development and environment sectors** for the sustainable management of natural resources at the landscape scale. Collaboration between all sectors and groups of stakeholders will be further supported through the creation of a platform of cooperation between government, local populations, private sector, civil society organisations and research institutions to promote and support the sustainable management of land and forest ecosystems in the Biban mountain range.

151. To date, ecosystem goods and services have not been considered in natural resources management planning, and resources have therefore been managed separately. The **ecosystem approach** is just starting to gain interest in Algeria, with the recent development of the National Strategy of Wetland Ecosystems Management. The Bibans project will promote this new approach in Algeria, to support building a solid foundation for natural capital accounting towards internalizing the value of natural assets in national environmental accounts. Similarly, there is very limited experience regarding the agroecology approach in the country. The interventions for improved agriculture sustainability, diversity and productivity through agroecology under Outcome 2 will provide new evidence base on the potential of agroecology to improve simultaneously ecosystem functioning, food production, livelihoods, and climate resilience in Algeria. FAO will provide the necessary technical backstopping and support for the introduction of innovative tools such as the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE), which aims to measure the multi-dimensional performance of agroecological systems across the different dimensions of sustainability. TAPE will support inter-sectorial and inter-ministerial cooperation, while contributing to producers' empowerment through a self-diagnosis and assessment of their system's level of transition and performances.

152. Financial support mechanisms tend to provide assistance to individuals on a demand basis without a clear and consistent support strategy. The subventions are provided independently and benefit one or a couple of individuals with very limited coordination with other subventions and support systems. The integrated approach of the Bibans project looks at the entire system and will support the **adoption of income-generating interventions that will be sustained by the required land-use planning and management interventions and will in return promote environmental protection**. The project will provide a model to address the weaknesses of the current financial support systems highlighted during the PPG phase. This new approach generates a lot of interest among the project stakeholders who acknowledge that sectoral and isolated initiatives implemented so far have lacked a clearly-defined strategy which has limited their efficiency, and are therefore eager to test and experience an integrated approach on the ground.

153. The business-as-usual approach to natural resources' management in Algeria is generally top-down. Multiple previous initiatives have highlighted the need to fully involve local populations in the design and implementation of programmes and projects. However, there is still limited consultation of local populations for the development processes for policy documents and development plans. The **participatory approach adopted by the project** whereby local populations have been involved in the design of the interventions from the very beginning is part of the recommendations of several previous projects but is yet to be implemented at a wider scale.

### *Sustainability*

154. As stated by national stakeholders based on previous experiences with projects' implementation, the key to project's sustainability is the **ownership of the interventions by local**

**populations.** Local populations have great interest in the project as shown by their responsiveness to the project team during the field missions. Populations' buy-in for the project approach and their motivation in improving their livelihoods will be secured by asking for individual financial contributions as a condition to access support from the project. It is also expected that the beneficiaries will work towards maintaining their income-generating activities beyond the project lifespan to avoid losing their initial investment. The emphasis placed by the project on empowering local populations through information and training, continuous technical support will provide them with all the required tools and skills to maintain their improved livelihoods. In addition, it will be ensured that local authorities and local associations are adequately involved in the project throughout the implementation phase and have the required capacity to provide technical support to local populations if required after the project to enable the maintenance of the project outputs.

155. At the core of the sustainability strategy of the project is the development of financially profitable Value Chains for local populations that depend on healthy ecosystems. During the consultations, it was stated multiple times that local populations are strongly attached to the cultural heritage in the region and appreciate the great agrobiodiversity and beauty of the landscape. However, they currently struggle to derive sustainable income from the resources available in the region and wish to enhance their visibility and economic value. Increased **financial benefits from healthy ecosystems** through agroecology, NTFP Value Chains and ecotourism is expected to further motivate biodiversity and ecosystems' protection by local populations in the long term.

156. The project includes a set of complementary interventions that will build **a resilient system that provides social, environmental, climatic, financial and economic benefits** in the targeted communes. Social sustainability will be promoted by ensuring that all local populations' groups are involved adequately in the project and that the interventions have a positive impact on the preservation of cultural values. Environmental sustainability will be ensured by integrating the preservation of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in development plans, by promoting and encouraging SLM and SFM, and strengthening Value Chains that have a positive impact on biodiversity and on the environment. Climatic sustainability will be maximised by implementing climate resilient interventions that use diversified and locally adapted species complemented by soil and water conservation practices. Economic sustainability will be enabled by the strengthening of sustainable, resilient and profitable green Value Chains, increasing the organisation of producers into cooperatives, and creating public-private partnerships. The diversification of sources of income will enable financial resilience at household level. Furthermore, the diversification and strengthening of the production systems locally (e.g., diversification of agricultural products, diversification of sustainably harvested forest products, compost production, increased access to solar energy, increased water availability for agriculture) will increase the autonomy of local populations and their resilience to potential future economic crises that would affect national or international trade and supply chains (e.g., lockdowns).

157. At the government level, several important factors suggest that the **maintenance of the Project's results will be strongly supported by sectoral institutions**: (i) the acknowledgement of the weaknesses in the current approach to natural resources' management and the commitment and willingness to learn of key institutions such as ME, MADR and ANADE; (ii) the national economic situation in which the development of sustainable streams of revenue in rural areas has become critical to revive them and maintain cultural heritage; and (iii) the strong alignment of the project with national policies and strategies (see Part II 7. Consistency with National Priorities and Plans).

### *Potential for scaling up*

158. Components 1 and 2 will provide the required evidence based on good practices. Under Component 1, the development of the pilot PCDs will be paralleled with the identification of additional financial sources to complement the current PCD budget and the GEF budget to ensure that the budget available is sufficient to cover all the interventions of the PCD. This will enable the outscaling of SLM and SFM interventions across the two communes. Component 3 of the project is dedicated to outscaling and upscaling good practices from the project and other relevant partner initiatives beyond the targeted communes. The first steppingstone towards outscaling and upscaling good practices is to develop guiding documents and other required material that are custom made for easy uptake by relevant institutions, NGOs and/or groups. Secondly, financial opportunities from both the public and private sector to support the replication of the interventions in similar landscapes of the Biban mountain range will be identified and advocacy to raise these financial sources will be undertaken. Thirdly, an intercommunal Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform will be established to advocate and guide the replication of good practices to enable a harmonised and coherent development strategy that promotes biodiversity and ecosystem functioning across the region. At national level, opportunities to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystems? considerations across sectors through policy strengthening will be identified, and policy documents and recommendations considered as priorities will be proposed. Finally, awareness-raising interventions on the project investments and results will be undertaken for the broader public and central institutions through the development and dissemination of a diversity of communication products to increase the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems in land-use planning across local initiatives and national programmes.

### *Capacity development*

159. Capacity development interventions will focus on a diversity of sectors, stakeholder groups and scales. At the government level, training will first be provided on integrated planning, on participatory processes and on monitoring and evaluation at central and decentralised levels for at least 40 staff. In addition, technical training on SLM and SFM practices will be provided to at least 40 staff in a targeted manner to address capacity gaps. Training on inventories, biodiversity assessments and ecosystem health assessments will also be provided to at least 30 staff from targeted institutions at the central and decentralised levels in alignment with their mandates. In addition, 20 staff will be trained on the methodology to undertake assessments of social, economic and environmental value of biodiversity and ecosystems, and support in undertaken such assessments in the targeted communes. This will give them the capacity to both undertake all the required assessments to address knowledge gaps and inform integrated planning, and enable them to continue updating this information beyond the project lifespan. Training will also be provided to local government staff from government institutions and financial support institutions on the sustainable income-generating opportunities and on technical, administrative, financial and managerial and monitoring to support the development of corresponding businesses.

160. At local populations? level, training will first be provided on the development of integrated PCD using a learning-by-doing approach under the lead of local authorities including the APCs in collaboration with ME and other relevant ministries. Based on the updated PCDs, technical training will be provided to interested land-users ? on SLM and SFM practices to improve natural resources? management and sustainably increase productivity. Thereafter, training will be provided on the development of business plans to members of the local populations interested in adopting sustainable, nature-based livelihoods. They will then be trained and supported in the development of their improved businesses. Training will also be provided to strengthen their organisational capacity and support the creation of associations and cooperatives, and on fund raising, administrative and financial management for these organisations to operate efficiently and with full autonomy. Existing NGOs and



associations will be involved in all project activities to the implementation on the ground, and will therefore have the opportunity to embark on a continuous learning process alongside the project.

161. Capacity of government institutions and local populations will be further raised through increased access to information (e.g., creation of biodiversity database with open access, wide dissemination of the technical guidelines and other training material, creation of the biodiversity platform at landscape level, exchange visits). The awareness-raising interventions on existing policy documents for both government institutions, civil society organisations and local populations will also increase their decision-making capacity and their understanding of access rights. Awareness-raising on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems to support livelihoods and well-being, and the opportunities offered by sustainable management practices, will empower local populations in making informed decision making for their household.

162. Awareness-raising activities on the project investments and financial opportunities from sustainable, nature-based Value Chains will be implemented to private sector companies operating in the targeted communes. Under the integrated approach of the project, private sector's involvement in planning processes will be increased to ensure adequate consideration of their activities and to identify potential areas of interest for private companies to increase their involvement and contribution to improving the management of natural resources in the targeted communes. Interested private companies will also receive training on sustainable land-use practices adapted to their businesses and on public-private partnership opportunities.

## 8) Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

Table 1: Changes between the Project Identification Form (PIF) and the Project Document

PIF	Project Document	Comments
Targets		

<p>4: Area of landscapes under improved practices, excluding Protected Areas</p> <p>(Hectares): 32,000 ha</p> <p>11: Number of <b>direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender</b> as co-benefit of GEF investment: 19,500 direct beneficiaries including 50% of women</p>	<p>4: Area of landscapes under improved practices, excluding Protected Areas</p> <p>(Hectares): 32,257 ha</p> <p>6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated: [The expected amount of carbon stored as a result of the interventions will be assessed based on the inventories and assessments to be undertaken under Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3.]</p> <p>11: Number of <b>direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender</b> as co-benefit of GEF investment: 16,815 direct beneficiaries including 50% of women</p>	<p>An indicator was added to account for the benefits of the project on carbon sequestration.</p> <p>The number of direct beneficiaries was amended based on the results of the population census of 2019.</p>
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Project Objective: To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and forest ecosystems, and improve the management of natural resources of the Biban mountain range

	Project Objective: To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and natural ecosystems, improve the management of natural resources in two communes of the Biban mountain range, and support outscaling across the Biban mountain range.	The objective was amended slightly to clarify the project approach.
<b>Components</b>		
1: Biodiversity and land management planning, policy strengthening and financial capacity building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Biban mountain range.	1: Biodiversity and land management planning, policy strengthening and financial capacity building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Biban mountain range.	Unchanged
2: Adoption of sustainable sources of income that contribute to conserving biodiversity and reversing land degradation by local resource users in the targeted communes.	2: Adoption of sustainable sources of income that contribute to conserving biodiversity and reversing land degradation by local resource users in the targeted communes.	Unchanged

3: Replicating and upscaling of successful interventions across the Biban mountain range	3 : Outscaling and upscaling of successful interventions across the Biban mountain range	The wording was amended slightly to highlight the different scaling dimensions.
<b>Outcomes</b>		
1.1: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management are integrated into communal development plans and budgeted for in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes	1.1: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management are integrated into communal development plans and budgeted for in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes	Unchanged
2.1: Nature-based sustainable businesses in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes are developed and are directly contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, forest ecosystems and land	2.1: Nature-based sustainable businesses in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes are developed and are directly contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, forest ecosystems and land	Unchanged
3.1: Sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation integrated in development planning across the Biban mountain range	3.1: Sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation integrated in development planning across the Biban mountain range	Unchanged
<b>Outputs</b>		
1.1.1: Training sessions organized for government staff including technical staff, decision makers, and key officials and influencers on biodiversity assessments and ongoing monitoring, on how to prioritise specific interventions and landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning, and on land-use planning, in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes, and at the central level	1.1.1 Training sessions organized for government staff from communal to central level including technical staff, decision makers, and key officials and influencers on integrated land-use planning including on participatory processes and on how to prioritize specific interventions and landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning	The wording was amended slightly to clarify the targets and themes of the training sessions.

1.1.2: Knowledge gaps addressed through supporting government staff in completing the inventory of fauna and flora species, and mapping of biodiversity, ecosystems, threats and levels of degradation in the Biban mountain range	1.1.2: Inventories of fauna and flora species, and mapping of biodiversity, ecosystems, threats and levels of degradation undertaken by CNDRB using a participatory approach with CBOs, environment and agricultural staff, local government, NGOs, and universities and students in the two targeted communes to address knowledge gaps	The wording of this output was amended to focus on the product and clarify the targeted partners.
1.1.3: Social, economic and cultural value of biodiversity, land and ecosystems in the Biban mountain range assessed by government staff using a participatory approach	1.1.3: Social, economic and cultural value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems in the Biban mountain range assessed by government staff using a participatory approach	Minor amendments were made to the wording for more clarity.
1.1.4: Two "Biodiversity and Land Management Plans" ? one from each commune ? with zoning exercise, detailed action plan, and Gender-balanced Implementation Committee, developed by local populations with support from government official, and implementation initiated	1.1.4: Two pilot PCDs integrating biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM ? one for each commune ? with detailed action plan and zoning of the interventions, developed by the APC in a participatory manner with local populations and with support from government officials, and under implementation	The output was amended to clarify that existing plans (the PCDs) will be revised rather than creating new plans.
1.1.5: Gap analysis of the investment plans for the Communal Development Plans, identification of financial opportunities to fund the Biodiversity and Land Management Plans, and mobilisation of these funds through advocacy.	1.1.5: Gap analysis of the investment plans for the PCDs, identification of financial opportunities to address these gaps and fund biodiversity, SLM and SFM interventions, and mobilisation of these funds through advocacy	The wording was amended to clarify that existing plans (the PCDs) will be revised rather than creating new plans.

1.1.6: Two legislative documents with protocols to support the implementation of the Biodiversity and Land Management Plans	1.1.6: Two local protocols to support the implementation of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions under the pilot PCDs	Considering that policy documents are developed at central level, local protocols are considered more adequate to guide the implementation of the biodiversity, SLM and SFM interventions of the pilot PCDs.
1.1.7 Opportunities for the creation of one or several Protected Areas identified towards supporting ecotourism and creating spatial continuity with Djurdjura, Gouraya and/or Babors National Parks, and consultative and legal processes towards the Protected Area creation process initiated if appropriate	1.1.7 Opportunities for the establishment of a Protected Area identified towards conserving natural forests and biodiversity, supporting ecotourism and creating spatial continuity with Djurdjura, Gouraya and/or Babors-Tababort National Parks, and consultative and legal processes initiated	Based on the PPG assessments, one mixed Protected Area would be appropriate.
2.1.1 A government-based technical support team established to assist, monitor and enable the maintenance of the sustainable income-generating activities to be developed and implemented under Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3	2.1.1 A government-based technical support team established to assist the implementation, monitoring, maintenance and growth of the sustainable income-generating activities to be developed and implemented under Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3	The role of the support team was clarified in the name of the output.
N/A	2.1.2 1,750 ha of agricultural, forest and pastoral land under rehabilitation or improved management	This output was added for the implementation of improved agricultural, forest and rangeland management practices in support of the Value Chains to be strengthened under Output 2.1.2 and 2.1.3.

2.1.2 At least 100 Sustainable business plans in agroecology, agritourism, ecotourism, handcrafting, forestry, NTFP Value Chains or other economic activities developed in alignment with the Biodiversity and Land Management Plans and zones (Output 1.1.4)	2.1.3 At least 40 Sustainable business plans in agroecology, agritourism, ecotourism, handcrafting, forestry, NTFP Value Chains or other economic activities developed to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable and productive land-use practices, and livelihoods resilience	Based on the consultations with local populations during PPG phase, it was decided to reduce the number of business plans and support groups and associations as much as possible rather than individuals.
2.1.3 At least 50 MSMEs that are generating income and contributing to biodiversity, ecosystems and land conservation established	2.1.4 At least 20 MSMEs that are generating income and contributing to biodiversity, ecosystems and land conservation established	In alignment with the budget available and the types of projects of interest to the local populations, the number of Value Chains strengthening projects to be supported was reduced to 20 with a focus on supporting groups.
3.1.1 An intercommunal Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform including public and private sector actors established to promote biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, and support access to financial sources for the replication of good practices	3.1.1 An intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform including public and private sector actors established to promote biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, and support access to financial sources for the outscaling of good practices	?Replication? was changed for ?outscaling? in alignment with the landscape approach.
3.1.2 Amendments to policies, strategies and plans proposed to enable and promote integrated, participatory, landscape-scale development planning, and sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation in the targeted Wilayas and at the national level	3.1.2 Amendments to policies, strategies and plans proposed to enable and promote integrated, participatory, landscape-scale development planning, SLM and biodiversity conservation in the targeted Wilayas and at the national level	Unchanged

3.1.3 Awareness-raising campaigns implemented for the general population across the Biban mountain range including women and youth on the importance of biodiversity and forest ecosystems, land degradation and other threats	3.1.5 Awareness-raising campaigns implemented for the general population across the Biban mountain range including women and youth on the importance of biodiversity and forest ecosystems, land degradation and other threats, and sustainable management opportunities	The themes of awareness raising were further detailed.
3.1.4 Guidelines on best approaches and practices for sustainable development and biodiversity, forests and land conservation in the Biban mountain range developed and disseminated	3.1.3 Guidelines on good approaches and practices for sustainable development and biodiversity, forests and land conservation in the Biban mountain range developed and disseminated	Unchanged
3.1.5 Public and private resource mobilisation strategy developed and implementation initiated to upscale successful practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land within the Biban mountain range	3.1.4 Public and private resource mobilisation strategy developed and under implementation to outscale and upscale successful practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land within the Biban mountain range	The wording was amendment slightly to highlight the different scaling dimensions.
3.2.1 Project Monitoring & Evaluation plan developed and implemented.	3.2.1 Project Monitoring & Evaluation plan developed and implemented	Unchanged
3.2.2 Project Mid-term and Terminal Evaluations undertaken.	3.2.2 Project Mid-term and Terminal Evaluations undertaken	Unchanged
3.2.3 A Communication Strategy developed and implemented.	3.2.3 A Communication Strategy developed and implemented	Unchanged
GEF budget per component:  1: USD 380,000  2: USD 2,010,248  3: USD 750,000	GEF budget per component:  1: USD 380,000  2: USD 2,010,248  3: USD 750,000	Unchanged
<b>Co-financing</b>		

ME: USD 11,976,155	ME USD 13,258,222	Additional funding sources were identified and some funding was leveraged during the PPG phase. However, the cofinancing from MADR and FAO has reduced because several of the identified projects will be ending shortly after the planned project start. The overall cofinancing total remains similar.
MADR: USD 14,000,000	MADR USD 4,077,213	
FAO: USD 1,416,000	ANADE USD 3,170,319	
Total: USD 26,682,155	MICLAT USD 5,641,821	
	ANN USD 420,353	
	ADS USD 1,402,641	
	CNDRB USD 52,009	
	FAO USD 1,197,882	

[1] *Wilaya* is the first administrative sub-division of the country.

[2] *Projet de Proximité de Développement Rural Intégré*

[3] *Agence Nationale de l'Aménagement du Territoire*

[4] *Schéma Régional d'Aménagement du Territoire*

[5] *Schéma National d'Aménagement du Territoire*

[6] *Plan d'Aménagement de la Wilaya*

[7] BNEDER, 2008. *Etude relative à la Caractérisation et la Délimitation des Monts des Biban*

[8] FAO/Government of Algeria, 2016. *Sustainable and Integrated Development of the Biban mountain range*; and BNEDER, 2008. *Land-Use Plan and Priority Programmes and Maps*.

[9] ME, 2016. *Algeria's Stratégie et Plan d'Action Nationaux pour la Biodiversité (NBSAP) 2016-2030*

[10] DGF, 2016. *Stratégie du secteur des forêts à l'horizon 2035, Algérie*.

[11] Vîla, E. & Benhouhou, S. 2007. *Évaluation d'un nouveau point chaud de biodiversité végétale dans le bassin méditerranéen (Afrique du nord)*. C.R. Biologies, 330: 589-605.

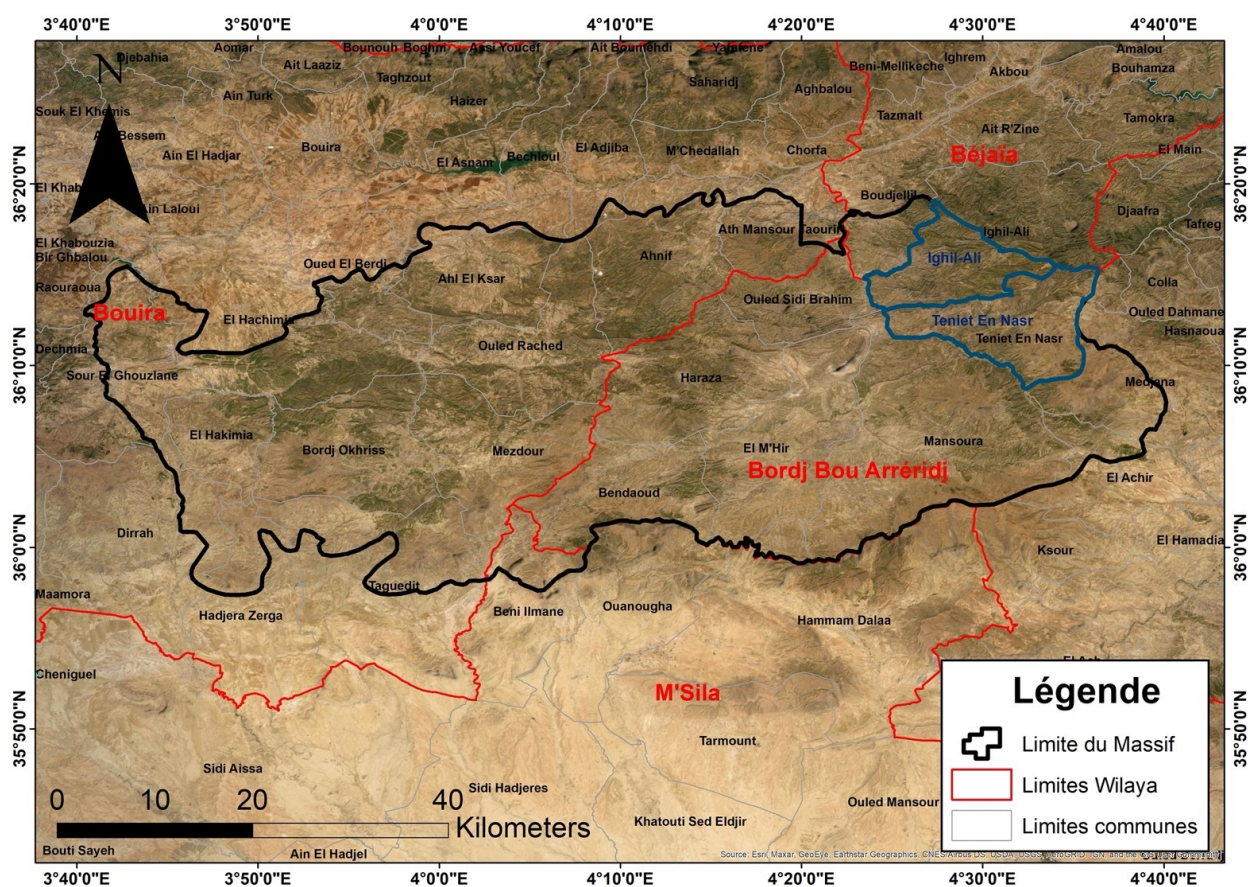
[12] Benhouhou, Salima & Yahi, Nassima & Vîla, Errol. (2018). *Algeria* ? Chapter 3 "Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) for plants in the Mediterranean region".

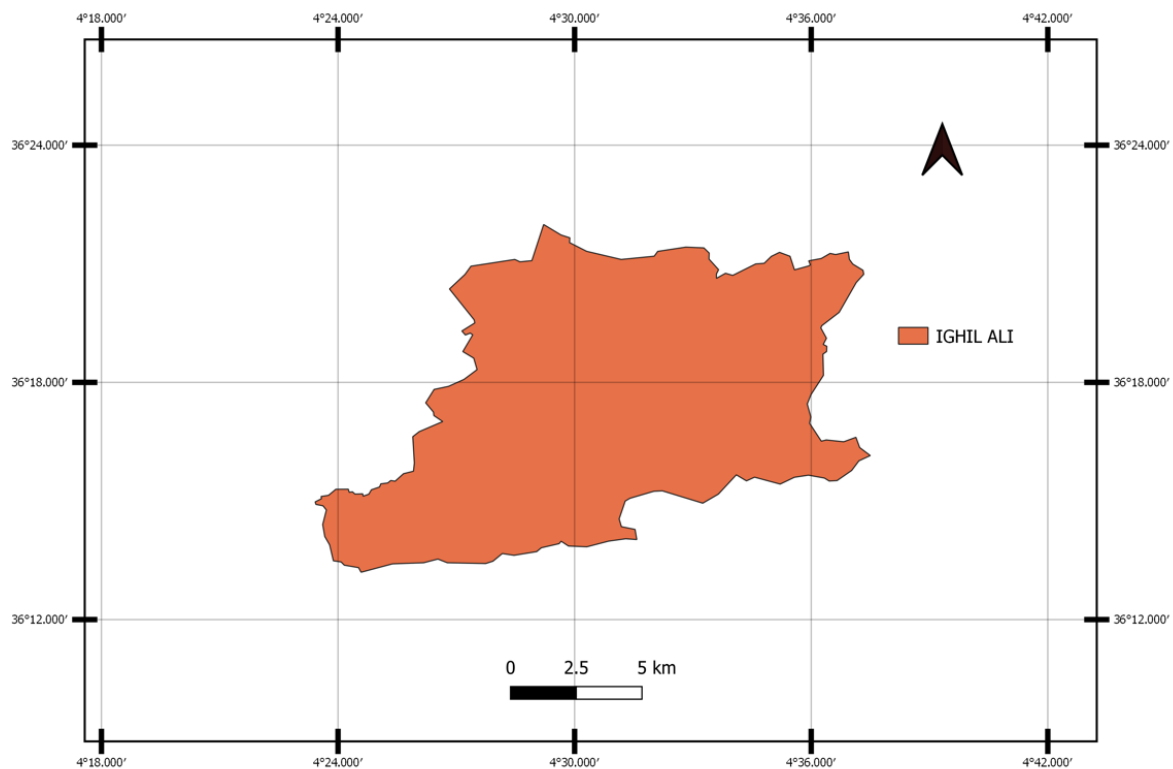


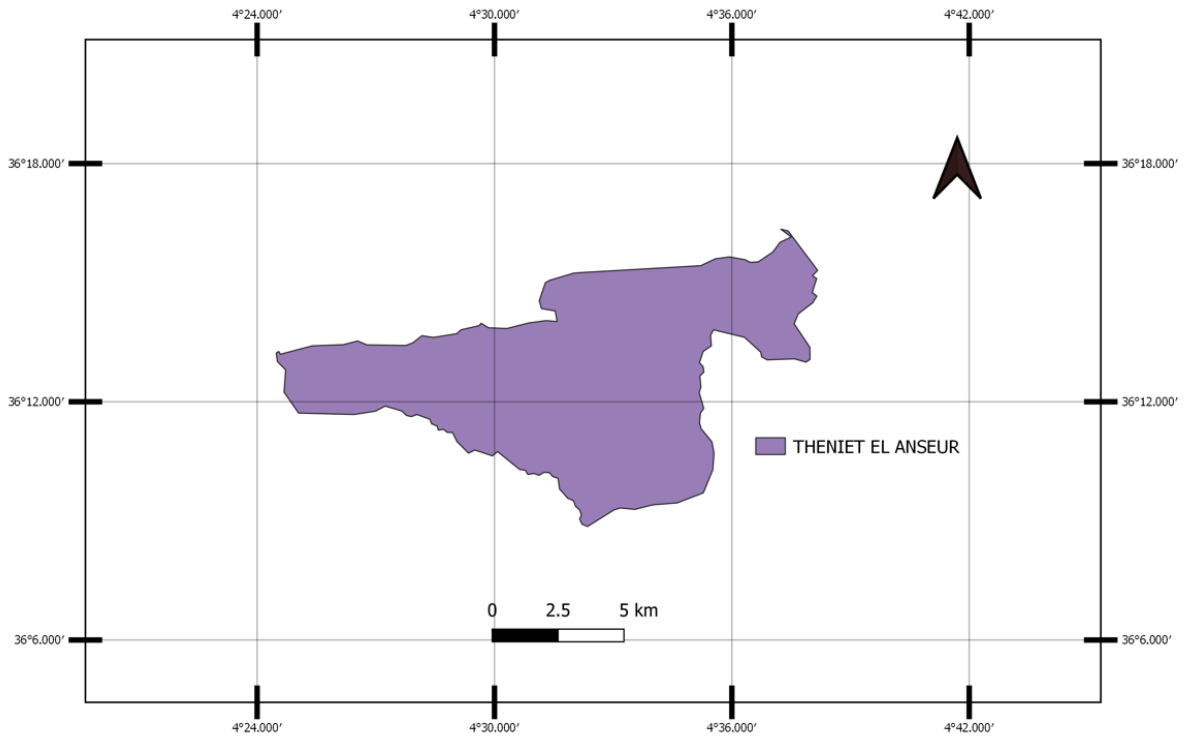
- [13] Executive Decree n° 12-235 of 24 May 2012 listing non-domestic animal species that are protected.
- [14] Bensadek, 2016. Diagnostic / ?tat des lieux du tourisme au sein du massif montagneux des "Bibans".
- [15] Data from RGPH, 2019.
- [16] ?Zone d'ombre? Les deux communes sont class?es Zones d'ombre : Une nouvelle politique de l'?tat qui a pour objectif de lister les zones d'?favoris?es dans le d?veloppement et leur accorder des budgets suppl?ementaires pour r?aliser les infrastructures de base.
- [17] Bensadek, 2016. Diagnostic / ?tat des lieux du tourisme au sein du massif montagneux des "Bibans".
- [18] Sources of agricultural data for Ighil Ali: Direction des Services Agricoles (2020) ? Subdivision de l'Agriculture d'Ighil Ali (2020) ? Annuaire statistique de la Wilaya de B?ja?a (2019)
- [19] Sources of agricultural data for Thniet Ennasr : Direction des services agricoles (2020) ? Subdivison de l'Agriculture de Thniet Ennasr ? Annuaire statistique de la Wilaya de Bordj Bou Arreridj (2018)
- [20] Livestock numbers were provided by the Local Agricultural Units of Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr.
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- [22] DGF, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 2014
- [23] Bneder, 2008. Etude relative ? la caract?risation et ? la d?limitation des Monts de Bibans. Phase II : Analyse prospective de l'?tat des lieux du massif montagneux des Bibans.
- [24] DGF, 2019. Probl?matique des incendies de for?ts en Alg?rie.
- [25] DGF, 2020. Le Bilan des Feux de For?ts.
- [26] Ministry of Land Management and Environment, 2014
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- [36] Sahar Meddour O. 2015. Wildfires in Algeria: problems and challenges. iForest - Biogeosciences and Forestry. 8. e1-e9. 10.3832/for1279-007.
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- [39] NBSAP, 2016-2030.
- [40] Dcret exécutif n°10-24 du 12 janvier 2010 relatif au cadre de concertation en matière de gestion intégrée des ressources en eau
- [41] Babors National Park was created in April 2019. It covers a surface of 23,656 ha including 11,909 ha, 7478 ha and 4,269 ha in the Wilayas of Sétif, Bône and Jijel respectively.
- [42] Plan Sectoriel de Développement
- [43] Fond commun des Collectivités Locales
- [44] Fond pour la Lutte contre la Désertification et le Développement du Pastoralisme et de la Steppe
- [45] Fond de Développement Rural et de Mise en Valeur des Terres par la Concession
- [46] Fond de Soutien aux Eleveurs et Petits Exploitants Agricoles
- [47] Plantes à Parfum, Aromatiques et Médicinales
- [48] FAO/INRAA project TCP/ALG/ 3702 ?Elaboration d'une stratégie de développement de la filière du figuier de barbarie (*Opuntia Ficus indica* (L.) en Algérie?
- [49] Cellule d'Animation Rurale Communale
- [50] Loi n° 11-02 du 14 Rabie El Aouel 1432 (17 February 2011)
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### 1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

### 2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

## 2. Stakeholders.

1. In alignment with the projects' integrated approach, a large array of stakeholders will contribute to the project implementation. These stakeholders were first identified by the PPG experts during field visits and consultations, and the list and roles were further refined during the validation workshop. A schematic representation of the stakeholders and their expected level of involvement is provided below. Please see annex I2 for more information.

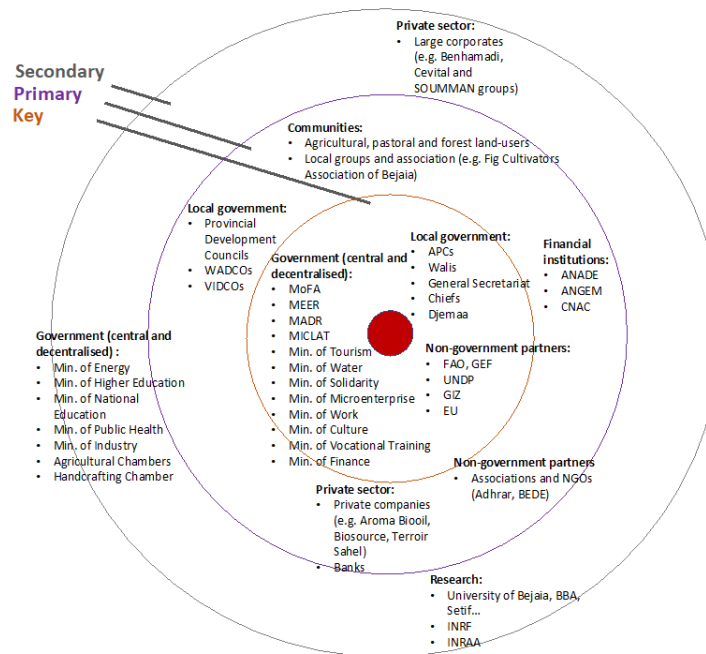


Figure 6: Stakeholders map

### Types of stakeholders

- ? **Key Stakeholders:** Have skills, knowledge or position of power to significantly influence the project
- ? **Primary Stakeholders:** Directly affected by the project / direct beneficiaries
- ? **Secondary Stakeholders:** Only indirectly or temporarily involved / indirect beneficiaries

2. A first 10-day field visit was undertaken from 03 to 12 October 2020. During this visit, consultations with local authorities, NGOs, CBOs, members of the local populations including women were undertaken. The objective of this first mission was to inform the stakeholders about the project and engage them as much as possible in its design. For example, land-users were asked to identify livelihoods improvement interventions that they would be interested in. Consultations, field visits and

group discussion were undertaken. In total, approximately 100 people for local institutions and 250 members of the local populations were consulted.

3. After this first field mission, the Local Social Units (CPS) of Medjana supported data collection in Teniet En Nasr on socio-economic conditions, particularly for women, and collect information on the income-generating activities of interest to men and women. In Ighil Ali, Association AFUD undertook a similar exercise focused mostly on women.

4. An online workshop was then organised at the central level on 25 November 2020 with government representatives to collect required information for the design of the project. A targeted questionnaire was presented at the workshop and sent to each participant. The questionnaire aimed to address specific information gaps and understand the expectations, strengths and weaknesses of each institutions with regards to the project approach and interventions.

5. A 7-day field visit was thereafter undertaken from 04 to 11 December to meet again with local members of the local populations and discuss suggestions regarding potential nature-based income-generating interventions of interest for them. Communication via phone and emails was maintained with local authorities, APCs and associations between the two missions as they were in charge of guiding and gathering information from members of the local populations. Complementary consultations were undertaken with NGOs and CBOs. Information related to the questionnaire was also gathered through consultations with local authorities during this second field visit. Two meetings were organised in each commune during this visit, one at the APC and one at the office of the Da?ra.

6. A week of consultations was undertaken at the central level with key stakeholders between 11 and 18 December. These consultations focused on addressing the information gaps highlighted in the questionnaires and discussing cofinancing arrangements. Consultations with ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC were organised to discuss opportunities for collaboration to fund the business plans for improved livelihoods and develop sustainable Value Chains to be developed under the project.

7. A draft Project Document was prepared based on these consultations and shared with key relevant stakeholders at central and local levels prior to a validation workshop which was held in the Wilaya of Bordj Bou Arr?ridj with the participation of her excellency, the Minister of Environment. This workshop enabled the PPG team to gather final input and suggestions from the project stakeholders and beneficiaries on the project proposal following an inclusive, gender-responsive and participatory approach.

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

## Stakeholder consultations in project formulation<sup>[1]</sup> and Stakeholder Engagement Matrix<sup>[2]</sup>

The table below summarizes the main stakeholders that were consulted during project preparation (PPG) and/or who will play a role in the project implementation. It also indicates the methodology for consultation or engagement.

### Types of stakeholders

? Key Stakeholders: Have skills, knowledge or position of power to significantly influence the project

? Primary Stakeholders: Directly affected by the project / direct beneficiaries

? Secondary Stakeholders: Only indirectly or temporarily involved / indirect beneficiaries

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
a) National government				
<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)</b>	Key	MoFA is responsible for the implementation of Algeria's relation with other countries, including the African Union and the Maghreb Union.	? Multiple meetings throughout the PPG phase  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	As the GEF Political focal point, MoFA will be involved in monitoring the project and ensuring its smooth implementation. MoFA is also the UNFCCC focal point.



Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Environment (ME)</b>  National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD)  General Department for the Environment and Sustainable Development (DGEDD) which includes the following key Departments:  - Department for the Preservation, Conservation and Value-addition for Biodiversity and Ecosystems[3] (DPCVBE) - Sub-Departments for: i) the Protection and Valorisation of Mountain, Steppe and Desert Ecosystems (SDPVEMSD); and ii) the preservation and enhancement of natural heritage, biological resources and green areas[4] (SDVVPNBEV).  - Department for Awareness raising, Education, and	Key	ME is in charge of the implementation of the government's environmental policy, including regarding climate change.  ONEDD is in charge of collecting, gathering, analysis and sharing the data and information on the state of the environment. ONEDD has four regional labs including one in Constantine and several monitoring stations across the country in charge of biological data collection, undertaking EIAs, monitoring pollution sources (e.g., from industries) and emergency responses.  DGEDD has the responsibility to design and ensure the implementation, evaluation and update of national strategies and plans related to environmental protection. Its tasks that are most relevant to the project include <i>inter alia</i> monitoring and evaluating environmental health, ensuring policy enforcement for environmental protection, establishing a database and GIS on the environment to guide sustainable development, designing required policy documents for environmental protection, supporting awareness raising on	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021  ? Regular online meetings throughout the PPG phase	As the GEF operational focal point and the CBD focal point, ME will notably be involved in project monitoring and follow-up. In addition, various ME departments will (i) technically support project activities; (ii) benefit from capacity building under the Project; and (iii) promote Project outputs.  ONEDD is the Executing Partner for the project.  DGEDD will play a leading role in the project implementation and support ONEDD in coordinating all departments and sectors to successfully implement the project interventions.  DPCVBE and its sub-departments (SDPVEMSD and SDVVPNBEV) will contribute actively to the fauna and flora inventories, mapping of biodiversity and land degradation, identification of a site for a new Protected Area and creation process (Component 1), and design and monitoring the restoration interventions (Component 2).  DSEEP will be involved primarily in the design and implementation of the awareness-raising and knowledge sharing interventions under Component 3 and support the coordination with other awareness-raising initiatives in the targeted communes to harmonize the approach across projects and maximise complementarity

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)</b>  General Forest Department (DGF) - Department of Forest and Alfalfa management[7],  Department for the Protection of Fauna and Flora[8], Department to Combat Desertification and Restore Degraded Land[9], Department of Planning and Information Systems[10]  National Agency for Nature Conservation (ANN)  Department of Organic Agriculture, Certification and Promotion of Agricultural Production[11] (DABLPPA)  National Institute for Plant Protection (INPV)	Key	<p>MADR is responsible for the development of national policies in the sectors of agriculture, rural development, forests and natural areas, and to monitor and control their implementation in accordance with laws and regulations.</p> <p>DGF ensures the development, administration, enhancement, protection and management of the forest, steppe and Saharan plant and animal heritage as well as protected natural areas, within the framework of a national forest policy</p> <p>ANN is responsible for undertaking fauna and flora inventories at the national level and support the preservation of the natural environment. To undertake this role, the tasks of the ANN include inter alia monitoring natural ecosystems, identifying and ranking potential sites for Protected Areas, establishing seed banks for the conservation of flora's genetic diversity, undertaking restoration interventions, participating in research projects, implementing awareness-raising campaigns and knowledge sharing activities.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 13 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>MADR will be a major actor of the project. It will support the implementation of the interventions for capacity building, policy strengthening, and development planning (Components 1 and 3) as well as the on-the-ground interventions for improved practices in agricultural, pastoral and forest land, and Value Chain strengthening.</p> <p>DGF and its departments will be leading partners for the participatory development of biodiversity, SLM and SFM interventions (e.g., fire prevention and ANR), and their implementation in and around forest areas.</p> <p>ANN will participate in the inventories of fauna and flora species in the Bibans. It will also support the creation of seeds and seedlings for species with high economical, environmental or social value.</p> <p>DABLPPA will support the design and implementation of the interventions for Value Chain strengthening in the agricultural and livestock husbandry sectors including certification processes and improvement of practices to support biodiversity (Component 2).</p> <p>INPV will be involved in the design of improved agricultural practices under Component 2.</p>

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Land-Use planning (MICLAT)</b>  Department of Land Use Planning	Key	Among the multiple missions of this ministry, it supports local development by: assisting municipalities in the preparation and implementation of their development plans; initiating local development actions;  defining the rules for urban and rural planning as well as land tenure; initiating and monitoring any action intended to develop and open-up rural and border areas; and defining, coordinating and implementing central actions having an impact on local populations.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 13 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	The expected involvement of this ministry is to: support the cross-sectoral coordination for participatory decision-making and planning processes at inter-wilaya, wilaya and commune levels; and assist with the identification of required interventions to address any land tenure issues that would come up at the start of the project implementation phase.
<b>Ministry of Tourism and Hand-crafting</b>	Key	This ministry is responsible for the development and implementation of the government policy on tourism, hand-crafting and social economy.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 15 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of the interventions related to ecotourism and cultural tourism development in the project, and support the development of tourism infrastructure in the region to make it more attractive to visitors.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Water Resources</b>  National Agency for Water Resources  The Algerian Water Authority[12]  National Office for Sanitation  National Office for Irrigation and Drainage	Key	This ministry is responsible for the quantitative and qualitative monitoring of conventional and non-conventional water resources, the maintenance and protection of public natural water domain, the access to water resources and sanitation, and integrated water management. It operates through several agencies including <i>inter alia</i> ONA which is in charge of protecting and maintaining water resources, combatting water pollution sources, and undertaking awareness-raising, education, training, assessments and research interventions against water pollution	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 14 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support increased water availability in the targeted area (e.g., the channelling of water from Tichy Haf to Ighil Ali, supporting the development of rainwater catchments for irrigation, and supporting improved management of water resources for irrigation)

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Solidarity, Family and Women well-being</b>  Social Development Agency (ADS) ? Local Social Units  National Agency for the Management of Microloans <sup>[13]</sup> (ANGEM)	Key	<p>This ministry focuses on addressing poverty and social exclusion issues.</p> <p>ADS is in charge of promoting, selecting and financing (at least partly) interventions for the development of poor local populations, as well as labor intensive projects at the local level to support employment.</p> <p>ANGEM supports the socioeconomic integration of vulnerable people particularly non-educated women. It provides micro-loans of three types: USD 300 (i.e., 40,000 DA_ for women in rural areas to buy row material for hand-crafting, USD 750 (i.e., 100,000 DA) for officially-registered craftsperson to support their activities; and USD 7500 (i.e., 1,000,000 DA) for unemployed people who want to adopt a new activity. ANGEM has local units who works closely with local populations.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 15 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>The collaboration with this ministry and the ADS will enable to maximise the participation of women in the interventions and the benefits raised for women.</p> <p>The local units of ADS have supported the data collection activities with local populations during the PPG phase (e.g., unit of Medjana in Teniet En Nasr) and will continue to participate actively in awareness raising. They will also be an important partner in monitoring the project interventions on the ground.</p> <p>The local agencies of ANGEM will be involved in all activities aiming at increasing revenue and capacity building for local people. They will be involved as partners and in providing technical support. This will cover (i) activities that generate revenue from sustainable use of forest resources and (ii) activities that create alternative livelihoods.</p>

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Micro-Enterprises, Start-ups and Knowledge Economy</b>	Key	This ministry is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the policy and strategy for the promotion and development of micro-enterprise, and for ensuring, with relevant sectors, the establishment of the legislative and regulatory framework to support the development of these companies.	N/A	This ministry will be involved in the design and implementation of the interventions for Value Chains strengthening under Component 2, particularly in assisting members of the local populations for the development of business plans, selecting the business plans to be supported by the project, and facilitating the creation of micro-enterprises to support the proposed businesses.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises</b>  National Agency to Support and Develop Entrepreneurship (ANADE)		ANADE (ex-ANSEJ) supports access to employment and helps entrepreneurs in the implementation of their projects. It provides microloans of up to USD 75,000 (i.e., 10,000,000 DA) without interest rates and with tax advantages to people between 19 and 40 years old. As part of the conditions to access these loans, a contribution of 15% from the beneficiary is required for tripartite agreements (bank, ANADE, beneficiary) and 50% for direct agreements between ANADE and the beneficiary. This support is not only for unemployed people but also for people wishing to improve their income generating activity.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? Meeting on 16 December 2020 ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021 ? Online meeting on 29 April 2021	ANADE is a co-financing partner of the project and will support funding to members of the local populations wherever possible to improve livelihoods. The GEF-funded project will contribute to the fund where required if the beneficiary cannot pay the entirety of the 15% or 50%. The Bibans project will include the projects support by ANADE in the monitoring process. ANADE will also benefit from capacity building on sustainable livelihoods and opportunities in the Biban mountain range, and on monitoring and evaluation.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Work, Employment and Social Security</b>  National Office for Unemployment-Insurance[14] (CNAC)	Key	<p>The ministry supports unemployed people in finding an income-generating activity and provide funding contributions for the creation of economic activities.</p> <p>CNAC: This office is similar to ANADE except that it focuses on unemployed people who are between 30 and 55 years old. The loans can go up to USD 75,000 (i.e., 10,000,000 DA) as well and the contribution requested from the beneficiary is 2% maximum.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 15 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>Ministry will contribute to the elaboration of a robust funding system for livelihoods improvements to ensure fair access to CNAC's grants among all groups, and the sustainability of the investments.</p> <p>CNAC: Eligible projects identified under the Bibans project that meet CNAC criteria will be funded by CNAC as much as possible.</p>
<b>Ministry of Culture and Art</b>	Key	<p>The ministry focuses inter alia on historical and cultural heritage both material and immaterial. Its duties include undertaking inventories and documenting cultural heritage and traditional knowledge; assessments as well as monitoring and evaluation of material heritage; and maintaining a data base with information on cultural heritage.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 14 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>Support the social and cultural assessments to be undertaken under Component 1, support the development of ecotourism packages that include cultural sites and traditional skills.</p>



Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy</b>	Secondary	This ministry focuses on reducing carbon emissions from the energy sector.	N/A	This ministry will be mostly involved in: i) the intersectoral discussions to support development in the targeted communes (Component 1): and ii) the design of the interventions to increase access to renewable (solar) energy by the project beneficiaries (Component 2).
<b>Ministry of Vocational Training</b>	Key	The mandate of this ministry is to ensure the training of a qualified workforce that meets the demands and needs of the market, in particular through technical training and apprenticeship training. A diversity of training processes have been development such as the Training Process in Rural Areas and the Training Process for women who are homemakers.	? Meeting on 04 October 2020 (B?ja?a)  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	This ministry will provide support with refining the scoping of specific training needs and designing the training tools and processes that are the best adapted to these needs and to the trainees.
<b>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research</b>	Secondary	This ministry is responsible for analysing and proposing the necessary measures for the organization and development of the different levels of higher education, with the objective of setting up a global and integrated system.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	This ministry will assist with undertaking the inventories, and with the design and realization of the social, cultural and environmental assessments through providing expertise and allocating students to participate in data collection and analysis.
<b>Ministry of National Education</b>	Secondary	This is the main ministry in charge of education in the country.	N/A	This ministry will support the preparation and implementation of awareness-raising sessions in schools.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>	Key	This ministry is responsible for promoting economic development and advising the government on financial matters.	? Consultation meeting on 28 April 2021	The Ministry of Finance will play a major role in the discussions and interventions to increase the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in development planning and budgeting (Component 1 and 3).
<b>Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform</b>	Secondary	The Ministry is responsible for public health facilities and population monitoring.	N/A	The ministry will support awareness-raising efforts related to the role of healthy ecosystems in the mitigation of public health threats such as zoonotic diseases, exposure to chemicals and pollution.
<b>Ministry of Industry</b>	Secondary	It proposes the elements of national policy in the fields of industrial development, industrial competitiveness, and the monitoring of the management of State holdings in the industrial public sector, investment promotion, small and medium-sized enterprises, and small and medium-sized industries. It monitors and controls their implementation, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	This ministry will support awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts to promote research and development as well as innovations related to the sustainable valorization of biodiversity-based products such as compost, biopesticides, and other nature-based solutions.
b) Regional government (Wilaya)				

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Department of Environment of B?ja?a (under ME)	Key	In charge primarily of creating and implementing programmes for environmental protection and for the development of renewable energy, law enforcement in relation to the environment and renewable energy, monitoring the state of the environment.	? Meeting on 04 October 2020 ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? Meeting on 08 December 2020 ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support with the coordination of all the department of ME for the implementation of the project interventions, collaboration closely with the DE of Bordj Bou Arreridj, and participate actively in the creation of the intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform
Department of Environment of Bordj Bou Arreridj (under ME)	Key	In charge primarily of creating and implementing programmes for environmental protection and for the development of renewable energy, law enforcement in relation to the environment and renewable energy, monitoring the state of the environment.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020 ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? Meeting on 06/07 December 2020 ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support with the coordination of all the department of ME for the implementation of the project interventions, collaboration closely with the DE of B?ja?a, and participate actively in the creation of the intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Department for Forest Conservation (DCF) in B?ja?a (under MADR)	Key	This department focuses on the development, enhancement, protection and management of forests and Alfalfa, within the framework of the national forest policy.	? Meeting on 05 October 2020 ? ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? ? Meeting on 08 December 2020 ? ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of SFM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.
DCF in Bordj Bou Arreridj (under MADR ? based in Akbou)	Key	This department focuses on the development, enhancement, protection and management of forests and Alfalfa, within the framework of the national forest policy.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020 ? ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of SFM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.
Agricultural Chamber of B?ja?a	Secondary	They inform, undertake awareness raising and provide training to farmers on agricultural practices, and help to regulate and strengthen the market for agricultural products.	? Meeting on 05 October 2020	

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Agricultural Chamber of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Secondary	The chamber informs, undertakes awareness raising and provides training to farmers on agricultural practices, and help to regulate and strengthen the market for agricultural products.	? Meeting on 12 October 2020	
Department of Agricultural Services (DSA) of B?ja?a (under MADR)	Key	Decentralised office of MADR	? Meeting on 05 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of SLM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.
DSA of Bordj Bou Arreridj (under MADR)	Key	The DSA is the decentralised office of MADR and is therefore in charge of fulfilling MADR's mandate at the local level.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support the design and implementation of SLM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Department of Tourism and Handcrafting at Wilaya level	Key	This department is the decentralised office of Ministry of Tourism and Hand-crafting and is therefore in charge of fulfilling its mandate at the local level.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	? Lead the participatory development of the ecotourism strategy  ? Participate to the development of training courses on ecotourism  ? Support establishment of tourism facilities in the targeted communes (and other communes of the Bibans)  ? Support the design and implementation of handcrafting activities based on the sustainable exploitation of forest resources and the strengthening of the corresponding Value Chains (Component 2 of the project).
Department of Water Resources of B?ja?a	Key	This department is the decentralised office of MRE, and is therefore in charge of fulfilling MRE?s mandate at the local level.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support the identification and implementation of interventions for increased water availability for agricultural, pastoral and restoration interventions under Component 2 and other roles determined at project inception.
Department of Water Resources of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Key	This department is the decentralised office of MRE, and is therefore in charge of fulfilling MRE?s mandate at the local level.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support the identification and implementation of interventions for increased water availability for agricultural, pastoral and restoration interventions under Component 2 and other roles determined at project inception.
B?ja?a Wali and advisors	Key	The Wali is the representative of the state at the Wilaya level.	? Discussion on the phone on 05 October 2020	Support intersectoral decision-making and planning processes at Wilaya and inter-Wilaya levels.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Bordj Bou Arreridj Wali and advisors	Key	The Wali is the representative of the state at the Wilaya level.	? Meeting on 21 March 2021  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support intersectoral decision-making and planning processes at Wilaya and inter-Wilaya levels.
General Secretariat of Bordj Bou Arreridj Wilaya	Key	The General Secretariat coordinates all sectors in the implementation of decentralized activities among other duties.	? Meeting on 21 March 2021	
Department of Social Action and Solidarity of Bordj Bou Arreridj - Local Social Units (CPS) of Medjana	Key	This department supports employment and the adoption of income-generating activities especially for women.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	
Social Development Agency of B?ja?a	Key	Work closely with local populations to support the development of sustainable livelihoods.	N/A	ADS will be a major partner for the implementation of the project. They have a very good presence on the ground and strong relationships with local populations.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Social Development Agency of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Key	Work closely with local populations to support the development of sustainable livelihoods.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	ADS will be a major partner for the implementation of the project. They have a very good presence on the ground and strong relationships with local populations.
Handcrafting Chamber of B?ja?a	Secondary	The chamber informs, undertakes awareness raising and provides training to handcrafters, and supports the promotion and commercialization of the products (fairs and exhibition).	? Meeting of 08 December 2020	
Offices of the Gouraya, Djurdjura and Babor-Tababort National Parks	Key	The National Parks offices coordinate and contribute to the conservation and valorization of biodiversity and environmental education.	N/A	The knowledge and experience of the management offices of these National Parks regarding fauna and flora inventories and monitoring, ecosystem functioning, working with the surrounding local populations, training of local authorities and local populations, and traditional use of natural resources will be highly valuable for the project implementation.
Direction of Water Resources of B?ja?a (under Ministry of Water)	Key	This direction is in charge of the mobilization and distribution of water resources (both for irrigation and consumption) and sanitation at local level.	N/A	



Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Direction of Water Resources of Bordj Bou Arreridj (under Ministry of Water)	Key	This direction is in charge of the mobilization and distribution of water resources (both for irrigation and consumption) and sanitation at local level.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020	
Department of Employment of B?ja?a	Secondary	This agency coordinates and monitors the support of employment, in particular green employment.	? 08 Dec 2020 ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	
Department of Employment of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Secondary	This agency coordinates and monitors the support of employment, in particular green employment.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	
c) Local government (Communes)				
Ighil Ali Da?ra	Key	The Da?ra is a decentralised government administration in charge of managing the Da?ra technical committee (which is constituted of all the sectoral sub-departments) and to coordinate the design and implementation of the PCDs.	? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	As it regroups representative from all sectors, the Da?ra will be a key platform for intersectoral collaboration throughout the project.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Medjana Da?ra	Key	The Da?ra is an administrative arm of the Wilaya.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	
Communal People's Assembly (APC <sup>[15]</sup> ) of Ighil Ali	Key	The APC is the municipal council and the decision-making body of the commune.	? Meeting and field visit on 07 October 2020 (18 individuals including the PAPC)  ? Meeting on 08 December 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 09 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Lead the participatory development of the interventions for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning to be integrated on the PCDs.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
APC of Teniet En Nasr	Key	The APC is the municipal council and the decision-making body of the commune.	? Meeting and field visit on 08 October 2020  ? Meeting on 11 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 06/07 December 2020	Lead the participatory development of the interventions for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning to be integrated on the PCDs.
Sub-division of Agriculture of Ighil Ali	Key		? Meeting on 08 December 2020	
Sub-division of Agriculture of Teniet En Nasr	Key		? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	
d) Local populations and groups				
Members of the local populations and groups in Ighil Ali (Tazla, Moka, Tinighi, Belaial, Takorabt, Azro, Zina and Tabouanant Villages)	Primary	Agricultural, pastoral and forest land-users in Ighil Ali.	? Group discussions on 10 October 2021  ? Group discussions on 9 December 2021	The population in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes have been involved throughout the design process for the fine-tuning of the interventions. They are the main partners and the final beneficiaries of all project interventions including improved governance and planning, awareness raising, training, income-generating

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Members of the local populations and groups (e.g., bee-keeping group) in Teniet En Nasr (Tizaatrine, Afighou, El mouten, Ghorfa, Hchachna, Boukten, and Feracha Villages)	Primary	Agricultural, pastoral and forest land-users in Teniet En Nasr.	? Meeting on 11 October 2021 with 40 bee keepers  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 06/07 December 2020	interventions as well as biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration interventions.
Djemaa (Village committees)	Primary	The Djemaa represents the village and contribute to awareness-raising and mobilization of the population.	? Group discussions on 09 December 2021	The Djemaa will play an important role in the project for the development of the management plans and the enforcement of adopted decisions and rules. These structures will facilitate mediation and participatory decision-making processes within villages.
e) Civil society				

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<p>Association ADHRAR</p> <p>Associations Adhrar Tazla, Tiddukla n Tizgi, Thighra, Assirem Zina, Azrou and Rural Women Association AFUD (Ighil Ali)</p>	Key	<p>ADHRAR is one of the largest associations of Ighil Ali with 133 supporters (including 8 women). It focuses on agricultural development and value adding to local products.</p> <p>Adhrar Tazla Association focuses on rural development in mountainous areas through increasing the resilience of agricultural systems while preserving biodiversity, soil and water resources. It promotes agroecological practices and raise awareness on environment and sustainable development. It implemented in 2015 an awareness-raising project on the preservation of local agricultural biodiversity in collaboration with BEDE.</p> <p>Tiddukla n Tizgi is a youth association which undertake interventions for environmental protection(e.g., removing wastes and installing bins in Adhrar)</p> <p>Thighra is a youth association located in Takorabt villages which focuses on environmental protection (e.g., reforestation campaigns, awareness raising, river clean up)</p>	<p>? Meeting on 04 October 2020 (AFUD, Civil Society representative of Ighil Ali)</p> <p>? Meeting on 10 October 2020 in Takorabt</p> <p>? Meeting on 11 October 2020 (Tazla, Rural Women Association AFUD)</p> <p>? Meeting on 09 December 2020 (ADHRAR)</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021 (AFUD, ADHRAR, Tafat)</p>	<p>NGOs and local associations will be involved as partners to facilitate engagement with local populations (with a particular focus on women and youth) and provide technical support for the implementation and maintenance of on-the-ground project interventions.</p>

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<p>Association El Ghaith Bordj Bou Arreridj</p> <p>Associations of El Ghaith Bordj Bou Arreridj, and Al-Fajr</p> <p>Academia of the Civil Society in Teniet En Nasr</p>	Secondary	<p>El Ghaith provides training for women including literacy training</p> <p>Al-Fajr addresses poverty and social exclusion issues.</p>	? Participation to several meetings organised by the APC during the PPG phase.	
Fig cultivator association of B?ja?a	Primary	This association was created in 2009 to strengthen the Value Chain including increasing quality and productivity, value addition through processing, and marketing in collaboration with BEDE in B?ni Maouche. A cooperative has also been established. In 2018, the association implemented an initiative to support women in producing male fig trees which are rare in the area and therefore limits fig production.	N/A	The experience of this association in B?ni Maouche will be very valuable to strengthen the Fig Value Chain in the targeted communes. The association will also participate in the identification of the strengths and weaknesses of the Value Chain at the sub-national, national and international levels.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Association Biodiversity: Sharing and Disseminating Experience - BEDE (voir rapport Zatla)	Key	BEDE was funded in 1994 and it focuses on agricultural biodiversity.  BEDE undertook analyses of agricultural biodiversity in Djurdjura, Tlemcen and Babor-Tababart National Parks under the EU project PAP-ENPARD.  BEDE currently supports the Fig cultivator association of B'ja'a on strengthening the figs Value Chain in collaboration with	N/A	
President of the Research and Study Group on the History of Mathematics - GEHIMAB	Secondary	GEHIMAB contributes to research activities on the period between the Middle Ages and the XIXth century in B'ja'a, in the Maghreb and the Mediterranean area.	? Meeting on 04 October 2020	GEHIMAB is an important source of information on the historical sites in Ighil Ali for the development of the ecotourism and cultural tourism packages under Component 2.
National Association of Terroir Products	Key	Faciliter la commercialisation des produits de terroir	? Meeting on 28 October 2020	The association will be involved in the design and implementation of the interventions for the strengthening of the Value Chains for local agricultural products.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
National Association for the Promotion of the Carob Tree	Key	Faire des plantations du caroubier et faciliter la commercialisation par la suite.	? Meeting on 28 October 2020	This association will be consulted to evaluate business plans focused on carob products. If the carob Value Chain is selected, the Association will be involved in the design and implementation of the interventions for the strengthening of this Value Chain.
f) Private sector				
Aroma Biooil, Biosource, Terroir Sahel	Primary	Private companies involved in the processing and/or marketing of essential oils and other natural products.	? Meeting on 11 October and 28 October	Private sector companies at the national and local levels will be involved in the implementation of the interventions under Component 2 particularly for the development of income-generating activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources. The engagement of the private sector will be threefold: their experience will be valuable for the development of profit-making business plans, the opportunities offered by their businesses will guide the selection of the products, Value Chains and/or services to be developed, and potential business partnership and/or investors will be identified with private sector actors.
Large corporates operating in the area (e.g., Benhamadi group, SOUMMAN group, Cevital group)	Secondary	Large corporates operating in the targeted which might be interested in supporting sustainable rural development through CSR.	? Meeting on 29 October and 05 April 2021	Corporates will be approached to investigate their interest in supporting sustainable livelihood interventions and biodiversity conservation.
g) Regional and international organisations, development partners				



Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
GIZ	Key	GIZ is implementing projects that are well aligned with the Biban project interventions in other regions.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Contacted via phone and email, and one meeting in person in March 2021	Lessons learned from the GIZ project such as GENBI and PEBLA will be built on to maximise the success and sustainability of the Biban project.
FAO	Key	FAO has multiple ongoing project that are of interest to the Bibans project.	? Continuously lead the PPG process	FAO is the IA for the project.
EU	Key	The EU has multiple investments in the country and has recently developed its new programmatic plan from 2021-2027: ?Neighbourhood ,  Development and  International Cooperation  Instrument (NDICI).	N/A	Opportunities for collaboration will be identified as soon as the new support for Algeria are finalised.
UNDP and Conservation International	Key	Both are accredited agency to the GEF. UNDP has been the main implementing agency for previous GEF-funded projects. Both UNDP and CI are currently implementing GEF-funded projects in Algeria.	N/A	Knowledge sharing with other GEF projects will be maximised.
h) Academia/research institutions				

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Universities of the region (B?ja?a, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Setif...)	Secondary	Responsible for post-graduate studies and research in B?ja?a.	? Meeting on 4 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support with filling in knowledge gaps related to species, ecosystems, biodiversity and land degradation (Output 1.1.2) and social and economic assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services (Output 1.1.3).
National Institute for Forest Research (INRF) in both wilaya (under the supervision of MADR)	Key	INRF undertakes research and experimentations in forestry, NTFPs, forest ecology, improvement of forest species, use and conservation of forest genetic resources, erosion by water and mitigation methods in small pilot watersheds, fauna and hunting management methods	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021 (INRF Setif)	Support with filling in knowledge gaps related to species, ecosystems, biodiversity and land degradation (Output 1.1.2) and social and economic assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services (Output 1.1.3).
National Institute for Agricultural Research in Algeria (INRAA) in both wilaya (under the supervision of MADR)	Key	INRAA undertakes research projects in agronomics and disseminating research results at the national and international levels.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support with filling in knowledge gaps related to species, ecosystems, biodiversity and land degradation (Output 1.1.2) and social and economic assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services (Output 1.1.3).

[1] See [FAO Operational Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement](#)

[2] See [FAO Operational Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement](#). Please include identification and consultations of disadvantage and vulnerable groups/individuals in line with the [GEF policy on Stakeholder Engagement](#) and [GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards](#).

[3] Direction de la Pr?servation, Conservation et Valorisation de la Biodiversit? et des ?cosyst?mes

[4] Sous-direction de la pr?servation et la valorisation du patrimoine naturel et biologique et des espaces verts

[5] Direction de la Sensibilisation, de l'?ducation ? l'Environnement et du Partenariat

[6] Centre National de d?veloppement des ressources biologiques et de bios?curit?

[7] Direction de la Gestion du Patrimoine Alimentaire et Forestier

[8] Direction de la Protection de la Faune et de la Flore

[9] Direction de la Lutte Contre la D?sertification et la Restauration des Terres

[10] Direction de la Plannification et des Syst?mes d'Information

[11] Direction de l'Agriculture Biologique, de la Labellisation et de la Promotion des Productions Agricoles

[12] L'Alg?rienne des Eaux

[13] Agence Nationale de Gestion du Micro-Cr?dit

[14] Caisse Nationale d'Assurance-Ch?mage

[15] Assembl?e Populaire Communale (APC): The members are elected by the local populations and are in charge of designating the mayor and its assistants.

[16] This section has to be adapted to each specific country.

[17] Compliance Reviews following complaints related to the Organization?s environmental and social standards: <http://www.fao.org/aud/42564-03173af392b352dc16b6cec72fa7ab27f.pdf>

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Different budget lines have been allocated to ensure the identified stakeholder are meaningfully involved throughout decision making process. This includes several capacity development interventions from central to local levels for government and non-government stakeholders. The results framework includes indicators that ensure stakeholder participation in all components of the project. Adequate engagement of relevant central ministries, local authorities, NGOs, local associations, local populations? groups and private companies will be a prerequisite to undertake all institutional capacity development, participatory planning and policy strengthening interventions which will each require extensive consultation processes.

The PMU, under the overall supervision of FAO will be responsible for implementing the stakeholder engagement activities as outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Matrix. It will also be responsible for monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement through the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports.

In the annual PIRs, the PMU will report on the following indicators:

- ? Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, vulnerable groups and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase.
- ? Number of engagements (such as meetings, workshops, official communications) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase.
- ? Number of grievances received and responded to/resolve

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
a) National government				
<b>Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)</b>	Key	MoFA is responsible for the implementation of Algeria's relation with other countries, including the African Union and the Maghreb Union.	? Multiple meetings throughout the PPG phase  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	As the GEF Political focal point, MoFA will be involved in monitoring the project and ensuring its smooth implementation. MoFA is also the UNFCCC focal point.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<p><b>Ministry of Environment (ME)</b></p> <p>National Observatory for the Environment and Sustainable Development (ONEDD)</p> <p>General Department for the Environment and Sustainable Development (DGEDD) which includes the following key Departments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Department for the Preservation, Conservation and Value-addition for Biodiversity and Ecosystems<sup>[1]</sup> (DPCVBE) - Sub-Departments for: i) the Protection and Valorisation of Mountain, Steppe and Desert Ecosystems (SDPVEMSD); and ii) the preservation and enhancement of natural heritage, biological resources and green areas<sup>[2]</sup> (SDPVPNBEV).</li> <li>- Department for Awareness raising, Education, and</li> </ul>	Key	<p>ME is in charge of the implementation of the government's environmental policy, including regarding climate change.</p> <p>ONEDD is in charge of collecting, gathering, analysis and sharing the data and information on the state of the environment. ONEDD has four regional labs including one in Constantine and several monitoring stations across the country in charge of biological data collection, undertaking EIAs, monitoring pollution sources (e.g., from industries) and emergency responses.</p> <p>DGEDD has the responsibility to design and ensure the implementation, evaluation and update of national strategies and plans related to environmental protection. Its tasks that are most relevant to the project include <i>inter alia</i> monitoring and evaluating environmental health, ensuring policy enforcement for environmental protection, establishing a database and GIS on the environment to guide sustainable development, designing required policy documents for environmental protection, supporting awareness raising on</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p> <p>? Regular online meetings throughout the PPG phase</p>	<p>As the GEF operational focal point and the CBD focal point, ME will notably be involved in project monitoring and follow-up. In addition, various ME departments will (i) technically support project activities; (ii) benefit from capacity building under the Project; and (iii) promote Project outputs.</p> <p>ONEDD is the Executing Partner for the project.</p> <p>DGEDD will play a leading role in the project implementation and support ONEDD in coordinating all departments and sectors to successfully implement the project interventions.</p> <p>DPCVBE and its sub-departments (SDPVEMSD and SDPVPNBEV) will contribute actively to the fauna and flora inventories, mapping of biodiversity and land degradation, identification of a site for a new Protected Area and creation process (Component 1), and design and monitoring the restoration interventions (Component 2).</p> <p>DSEEP will be involved primarily in the design and implementation of the awareness-raising and knowledge sharing interventions under Component 3 and support the coordination with other awareness-raising initiatives in the targeted communes to harmonize the approach across projects and maximise complementarity</p>

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)</b>  General Forest Department (DGF) - Department of Forest and Alfalfa management[5],  Department for the Protection of Fauna and Flora[6], Department to Combat Desertification and Restore Degraded Land[7], Department of Planning and Information Systems[8]  National Agency for Nature Conservation (ANN)  Department of Organic Agriculture, Certification and Promotion of Agricultural Production[9] (DABLPPA)  National Institute for Plant Protection (INPV)	Key	<p>MADR is responsible for the development of national policies in the sectors of agriculture, rural development, forests and natural areas, and to monitor and control their implementation in accordance with laws and regulations.</p> <p>DGF ensures the development, administration, enhancement, protection and management of the forest, steppe and Saharan plant and animal heritage as well as protected natural areas, within the framework of a national forest policy</p> <p>ANN is responsible for undertaking fauna and flora inventories at the national level and support the preservation of the natural environment. To undertake this role, the tasks of the ANN include inter alia monitoring natural ecosystems, identifying and ranking potential sites for Protected Areas, establishing seed banks for the conservation of flora's genetic diversity, undertaking restoration interventions, participating in research projects, implementing awareness-raising campaigns and knowledge sharing activities.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 13 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>MADR will be a major actor of the project. It will support the implementation of the interventions for capacity building, policy strengthening, and development planning (Components 1 and 3) as well as the on-the-ground interventions for improved practices in agricultural, pastoral and forest land, and Value Chain strengthening.</p> <p>DGF and its departments will be leading partners for the participatory development of biodiversity, SLM and SFM interventions (e.g., fire prevention and ANR), and their implementation in and around forest areas.</p> <p>ANN will participate in the inventories of fauna and flora species in the Bibans. It will also support the creation of seeds and seedlings for species with high economical, environmental or social value.</p> <p>DABLPPA will support the design and implementation of the interventions for Value Chain strengthening in the agricultural and livestock husbandry sectors including certification processes and improvement of practices to support biodiversity (Component 2).</p> <p>INPV will be involved in the design of improved agricultural practices under Component 2.</p>

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Land-Use planning (MICLAT)</b>  Department of Land Use Planning	Key	Among the multiple missions of this ministry, it supports local development by: assisting municipalities in the preparation and implementation of their development plans; initiating local development actions;  defining the rules for urban and rural planning as well as land tenure; initiating and monitoring any action intended to develop and open-up rural and border areas; and defining, coordinating and implementing central actions having an impact on local populations.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 13 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	The expected involvement of this ministry is to: support the cross-sectoral coordination for participatory decision-making and planning processes at inter-wilaya, wilaya and commune levels; and assist with the identification of required interventions to address any land tenure issues that would come up at the start of the project implementation phase.
<b>Ministry of Tourism and Hand-crafting</b>	Key	This ministry is responsible for the development and implementation of the government policy on tourism, hand-crafting and social economy.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 15 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of the interventions related to ecotourism and cultural tourism development in the project, and support the development of tourism infrastructure in the region to make it more attractive to visitors.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Water Resources</b>  National Agency for Water Resources  The Algerian Water Authority[10]  National Office for Sanitation  National Office for Irrigation and Drainage	Key	This ministry is responsible for the quantitative and qualitative monitoring of conventional and non-conventional water resources, the maintenance and protection of public natural water domain, the access to water resources and sanitation, and integrated water management. It operates through several agencies including <i>inter alia</i> ONA which is in charge of protecting and maintaining water resources, combatting water pollution sources, and undertaking awareness-raising, education, training, assessments and research interventions against water pollution	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 14 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support increased water availability in the targeted area (e.g., the channelling of water from Tichy Haf to Ighil Ali, supporting the development of rainwater catchments for irrigation, and supporting improved management of water resources for irrigation)



Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Solidarity, Family and Women well-being</b>  Social Development Agency (ADS) ? Local Social Units  National Agency for the Management of Microloans <sup>[11]</sup> (ANGEM)	Key	<p>This ministry focuses on addressing poverty and social exclusion issues.</p> <p>ADS is in charge of promoting, selecting and financing (at least partly) interventions for the development of poor local populations, as well as labor intensive projects at the local level to support employment.</p> <p>ANGEM supports the socioeconomic integration of vulnerable people particularly non-educated women. It provides micro-loans of three types: USD 300 (i.e., 40,000 DA_ for women in rural areas to buy row material for hand-crafting, USD 750 (i.e., 100,000 DA) for officially-registered craftsperson to support their activities; and USD 7500 (i.e., 1,000,000 DA) for unemployed people who want to adopt a new activity. ANGEM has local units who works closely with local populations.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 15 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>The collaboration with this ministry and the ADS will enable to maximise the participation of women in the interventions and the benefits raised for women.</p> <p>The local units of ADS have supported the data collection activities with local populations during the PPG phase (e.g., unit of Medjana in Teniet En Nasr) and will continue to participate actively in awareness raising. They will also be an important partner in monitoring the project interventions on the ground.</p> <p>The local agencies of ANGEM will be involved in all activities aiming at increasing revenue and capacity building for local people. They will be involved as partners and in providing technical support. This will cover (i) activities that generate revenue from sustainable use of forest resources and (ii) activities that create alternative livelihoods.</p>

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Micro-Enterprises, Start-ups and Knowledge Economy</b>	Key	This ministry is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the policy and strategy for the promotion and development of micro-enterprise, and for ensuring, with relevant sectors, the establishment of the legislative and regulatory framework to support the development of these companies.	N/A	This ministry will be involved in the design and implementation of the interventions for Value Chains strengthening under Component 2, particularly in assisting members of the local populations for the development of business plans, selecting the business plans to be supported by the project, and facilitating the creation of micro-enterprises to support the proposed businesses.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises</b>  National Agency to Support and Develop Entrepreneurship (ANADE)		ANADE (ex-ANSEJ) supports access to employment and helps entrepreneurs in the implementation of their projects. It provides microloans of up to USD 75,000 (i.e., 10,000,000 DA) without interest rates and with tax advantages to people between 19 and 40 years old. As part of the conditions to access these loans, a contribution of 15% from the beneficiary is required for tripartite agreements (bank, ANADE, beneficiary) and 50% for direct agreements between ANADE and the beneficiary. This support is not only for unemployed people but also for people wishing to improve their income generating activity.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? Meeting on 16 December 2020 ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021 ? Online meeting on 29 April 2021	ANADE is a co-financing partner of the project and will support funding to members of the local populations wherever possible to improve livelihoods. The GEF-funded project will contribute to the fund where required if the beneficiary cannot pay the entirety of the 15% or 50%. The Bibans project will include the projects support by ANADE in the monitoring process. ANADE will also benefit from capacity building on sustainable livelihoods and opportunities in the Biban mountain range, and on monitoring and evaluation.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Work, Employment and Social Security</b>  National Office for Unemployment-Insurance[12] (CNAC)	Key	<p>The ministry supports unemployed people in finding an income-generating activity and provide funding contributions for the creation of economic activities.</p> <p>CNAC: This office is similar to ANADE except that it focuses on unemployed people who are between 30 and 55 years old. The loans can go up to USD 75,000 (i.e., 10,000,000 DA) as well and the contribution requested from the beneficiary is 2% maximum.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 15 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>Ministry will contribute to the elaboration of a robust funding system for livelihoods improvements to ensure fair access to CNAC's grants among all groups, and the sustainability of the investments.</p> <p>CNAC: Eligible projects identified under the Bibans project that meet CNAC criteria will be funded by CNAC as much as possible.</p>
<b>Ministry of Culture and Art</b>	Key	<p>The ministry focuses inter alia on historical and cultural heritage both material and immaterial. Its duties include undertaking inventories and documenting cultural heritage and traditional knowledge; assessments as well as monitoring and evaluation of material heritage; and maintaining a data base with information on cultural heritage.</p>	<p>? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020</p> <p>? Meeting on 14 December 2020</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021</p>	<p>Support the social and cultural assessments to be undertaken under Component 1, support the development of ecotourism packages that include cultural sites and traditional skills.</p>

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Energy Transition and Renewable Energy</b>	Secondary	This ministry focuses on reducing carbon emissions from the energy sector.	N/A	This ministry will be mostly involved in: i) the intersectoral discussions to support development in the targeted communes (Component 1); and ii) the design of the interventions to increase access to renewable (solar) energy by the project beneficiaries (Component 2).
<b>Ministry of Vocational Training</b>	Key	The mandate of this ministry is to ensure the training of a qualified workforce that meets the demands and needs of the market, in particular through technical training and apprenticeship training. A diversity of training processes have been development such as the Training Process in Rural Areas and the Training Process for women who are homemakers.	? Meeting on 04 October 2020 (B?ja?a)  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	This ministry will provide support with refining the scoping of specific training needs and designing the training tools and processes that are the best adapted to these needs and to the trainees.
<b>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research</b>	Secondary	This ministry is responsible for analysing and proposing the necessary measures for the organization and development of the different levels of higher education, with the objective of setting up a global and integrated system.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	This ministry will assist with undertaking the inventories, and with the design and realization of the social, cultural and environmental assessments through providing expertise and allocating students to participate in data collection and analysis.
<b>Ministry of National Education</b>	Secondary	This is the main ministry in charge of education in the country.	N/A	This ministry will support the preparation and implementation of awareness-raising sessions in schools.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>	Key	This ministry is responsible for promoting economic development and advising the government on financial matters.	? Consultation meeting on 28 April 2021	The Ministry of Finance will play a major role in the discussions and interventions to increase the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in development planning and budgeting (Component 1 and 3).
<b>Ministry of Health, Population and Hospital Reform</b>	Secondary	The Ministry is responsible for public health facilities and population monitoring.	N/A	The ministry will support awareness-raising efforts related to the role of healthy ecosystems in the mitigation of public health threats such as zoonotic diseases, exposure to chemicals and pollution.
<b>Ministry of Industry</b>	Secondary	It proposes the elements of national policy in the fields of industrial development, industrial competitiveness, and the monitoring of the management of State holdings in the industrial public sector, investment promotion, small and medium-sized enterprises, and small and medium-sized industries. It monitors and controls their implementation, in accordance with the laws and regulations in force.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  Y	This ministry will support awareness-raising and capacity-building efforts to promote research and development as well as innovations related to the sustainable valorization of biodiversity-based products such as compost, biopesticides, and other nature-based solutions.
b) Regional government (Wilaya)				

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Department of Environment of B?ja?a (under ME)	Key	In charge primarily of creating and implementing programmes for environmental protection and for the development of renewable energy, law enforcement in relation to the environment and renewable energy, monitoring the state of the environment.	? Meeting on 04 October 2020 ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? Meeting on 08 December 2020 ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support with the coordination of all the department of ME for the implementation of the project interventions, collaboration closely with the DE of Bordj Bou Arreridj, and participate actively in the creation of the intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform
Department of Environment of Bordj Bou Arreridj (under ME)	Key	In charge primarily of creating and implementing programmes for environmental protection and for the development of renewable energy, law enforcement in relation to the environment and renewable energy, monitoring the state of the environment.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020 ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020 ? Meeting on 06/07 December 2020 ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support with the coordination of all the department of ME for the implementation of the project interventions, collaboration closely with the DE of B?ja?a, and participate actively in the creation of the intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Department for Forest Conservation (DCF) in B?ja?a (under MADR)	Key	This department focuses on  the development, enhancement, protection and management of forests and Alfalfa, within the framework of the national forest policy.	? Meeting on 05 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 08 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of SFM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.
DCF in Bordj Bou Arreridj (under MADR ? based in Akbou)	Key	This department focuses on  the development, enhancement, protection and management of forests and Alfalfa, within the framework of the national forest policy.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of SFM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.
Agricultural Chamber of B?ja?a	Secondary	They inform, undertake awareness raising and provide training to farmers on agricultural practices, and help to regulate and strengthen the market for agricultural products.	? Meeting on 05 October 2020	



Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Agricultural Chamber of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Secondary	The chamber informs, undertakes awareness raising and provides training to farmers on agricultural practices, and help to regulate and strengthen the market for agricultural products.	? Meeting on 12 October 2020	
Department of Agricultural Services (DSA) of B?ja?a (under MADR)	Key	Decentralised office of MADR	? Meeting on 05 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support the design and implementation of SLM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.
DSA of Bordj Bou Arreridj (under MADR)	Key	The DSA is the decentralised office of MADR and is therefore in charge of fulfilling MADR's mandate at the local level.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support the design and implementation of SLM interventions under Components 1 and 2, as well as their integration in the PCDs.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Department of Tourism and Handcrafting at Wilaya level	Key	This department is the decentralised office of Ministry of Tourism and Hand-crafting and is therefore in charge of fulfilling its mandate at the local level.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	? Lead the participatory development of the ecotourism strategy  ? Participate to the development of training courses on ecotourism  ? Support establishment of tourism facilities in the targeted communes (and other communes of the Bibans)  ? Support the design and implementation of handcrafting activities based on the sustainable exploitation of forest resources and the strengthening of the corresponding Value Chains (Component 2 of the project).
Department of Water Resources of B?ja?a	Key	This department is the decentralised office of MRE, and is therefore in charge of fulfilling MRE's mandate at the local level.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support the identification and implementation of interventions for increased water availability for agricultural, pastoral and restoration interventions under Component 2 and other roles determined at project inception.
Department of Water Resources of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Key	This department is the decentralised office of MRE, and is therefore in charge of fulfilling MRE's mandate at the local level.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support the identification and implementation of interventions for increased water availability for agricultural, pastoral and restoration interventions under Component 2 and other roles determined at project inception.
B?ja?a Wali and advisors	Key	The Wali is the representative of the state at the Wilaya level.	? Discussion on the phone on 05 October 2020	Support intersectoral decision-making and planning processes at Wilaya and inter-Wilaya levels.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Bordj Bou Arreridj Wali and advisors	Key	The Wali is the representative of the state at the Wilaya level.	? Meeting on 21 March 2021  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support intersectoral decision-making and planning processes at Wilaya and inter-Wilaya levels.
General Secretariat of Bordj Bou Arreridj Wilaya	Key	The General Secretariat coordinates all sectors in the implementation of decentralized activities among other duties.	? Meeting on 21 March 2021	
Department of Social Action and Solidarity of Bordj Bou Arreridj - Local Social Units (CPS) of Medjana	Key	This department supports employment and the adoption of income-generating activities especially for women.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	
Social Development Agency of B?ja?a	Key	Work closely with local populations to support the development of sustainable livelihoods.	N/A	ADS will be a major partner for the implementation of the project. They have a very good presence on the ground and strong relationships with local populations.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Social Development Agency of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Key	Work closely with local populations to support the development of sustainable livelihoods.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	ADS will be a major partner for the implementation of the project. They have a very good presence on the ground and strong relationships with local populations.
Handcrafting Chamber of B?ja?a	Secondary	The chamber informs, undertakes awareness raising and provides training to handcrafters, and supports the promotion and commercialization of the products (fairs and exhibition).	? Meeting of 08 December 2020	
Offices of the Gouraya, Djurdjura and Babor-Tababort National Parks	Key	The National Parks offices coordinate and contribute to the conservation and valorization of biodiversity and environmental education.	N/A	The knowledge and experience of the management offices of these National Parks regarding fauna and flora inventories and monitoring, ecosystem functioning, working with the surrounding local populations, training of local authorities and local populations, and traditional use of natural resources will be highly valuable for the project implementation.
Direction of Water Resources of B?ja?a (under Ministry of Water)	Key	This direction is in charge of the mobilization and distribution of water resources (both for irrigation and consumption) and sanitation at local level.	N/A	

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Direction of Water Resources of Bordj Bou Arreridj (under Ministry of Water)	Key	This direction is in charge of the mobilization and distribution of water resources (both for irrigation and consumption) and sanitation at local level.	? Meeting on 06 October 2020	
Department of Employment of B?ja?a	Secondary	This agency coordinates and monitors the support of employment, in particular green employment.	? 08 Dec 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	
Department of Employment of Bordj Bou Arreridj	Secondary	This agency coordinates and monitors the support of employment, in particular green employment.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	
c) Local government (Communes)				
Ighil Ali Da?ra	Key	The Da?ra is a decentralised government administration in charge of managing the Da?ra technical committee (which is constituted of all the sectoral sub-departments) and to coordinate the design and implementation of the PCDs.	? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	As it regroups representative from all sectors, the Da?ra will be a key platform for intersectoral collaboration throughout the project.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Medjana Da?ra	Key	The Da?ra is an administrative arm of the Wilaya.	? Meeting on 07 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	
Communal People's Assembly (APC <sup>[13]</sup> ) of Ighil Ali	Key	The APC is the municipal council and the decision-making body of the commune.	? Meeting and field visit on 07 October 2020 (18 individuals including the PAPC)  ? Meeting on 08 December 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 09 December 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Lead the participatory development of the interventions for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning to be integrated on the PCDs.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
APC of Teniet En Nasr	Key	The APC is the municipal council and the decision-making body of the commune.	? Meeting and field visit on 08 October 2020  ? Meeting on 11 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 06/07 December 2020	Lead the participatory development of the interventions for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning to be integrated on the PCDs.
Sub-division of Agriculture of Ighil Ali	Key		? Meeting on 08 December 2020	
Sub-division of Agriculture of Teniet En Nasr	Key		? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	
d) Local populations and groups				
Members of the local populations and groups in Ighil Ali (Tazla, Moka, Tinighi, Belaial, Takorabt, Azro, Zina and Tabouanant Villages)	Primary	Agricultural, pastoral and forest land-users in Ighil Ali.	? Group discussions on 10 October 2021  ? Group discussions on 9 December 2021	The population in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes have been involved throughout the design process for the fine-tuning of the interventions. They are the main partners and the final beneficiaries of all project interventions including improved governance and planning, awareness raising, training, income-generating

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Members of the local populations and groups (e.g., bee-keeping group) in Teniet En Nasr (Tizaatrine, Afighou, El mouten, Ghorfa, Hchachna, Bougten, and Feracha Villages)	Primary	Agricultural, pastoral and forest land-users in Teniet En Nasr.	? Meeting on 11 October 2021 with 40 bee keepers  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Meeting on 06/07 December 2020	interventions as well as biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration interventions.
Djemaa (Village committees)	Primary	The Djemaa represents the village and contribute to awareness-raising and mobilization of the population.	? Group discussions on 09 December 2021	The Djemaa will play an important role in the project for the development of the management plans and the enforcement of adopted decisions and rules. These structures will facilitate mediation and participatory decision-making processes within villages.
e) Civil society				



Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<p>Association ADHRAR</p> <p>Associations Adhrar Tazla, Tiddukla n Tizgi, Thighra, Assirem Zina, Azrou and Rural Women Association AFUD (Ighil Ali)</p>	Key	<p>ADHRAR is one of the largest associations of Ighil Ali with 133 supporters (including 8 women). It focuses on agricultural development and value adding to local products.</p> <p>Adhrar Tazla Association focuses on rural development in mountainous areas through increasing the resilience of agricultural systems while preserving biodiversity, soil and water resources. It promotes agroecological practices and raise awareness on environment and sustainable development. It implemented in 2015 an awareness-raising project on the preservation of local agricultural biodiversity in collaboration with BEDE.</p> <p>Tiddukla n Tizgi is a youth association which undertake interventions for environmental protection(e.g., removing wastes and installing bins in Adhrar)</p> <p>Thighra is a youth association located in Takorabt villages which focuses on environmental protection (e.g., reforestation campaigns, awareness raising, river clean up)</p>	<p>? Meeting on 04 October 2020 (AFUD, Civil Society representative of Ighil Ali)</p> <p>? Meeting on 10 October 2020 in Takorabt</p> <p>? Meeting on 11 October 2020 (Tazla, Rural Women Association AFUD)</p> <p>? Meeting on 09 December 2020 (ADHRAR)</p> <p>? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021 (AFUD, ADHRAR, Tafat)</p>	NGOs and local associations will be involved as partners to facilitate engagement with local populations (with a particular focus on women and youth) and provide technical support for the implementation and maintenance of on-the-ground project interventions.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
<p>Association El Ghaith Bordj Bou Arreridj</p> <p>Associations of El Ghaith Bordj Bou Arreridj, and Al-Fajr</p> <p>Academia of the Civil Society in Teniet En Nasr</p>	Secondary	<p>El Ghaith provides training for women including literacy training</p> <p>Al-Fajr addresses poverty and social exclusion issues.</p>	? Participation to several meetings organised by the APC during the PPG phase.	
Fig cultivator association of B?ja?a	Primary	This association was created in 2009 to strengthen the Value Chain including increasing quality and productivity, value addition through processing, and marketing in collaboration with BEDE in B?ni Maouche. A cooperative has also been established. In 2018, the association implemented an initiative to support women in producing male fig trees which are rare in the area and therefore limits fig production.	N/A	The experience of this association in B?ni Maouche will be very valuable to strengthen the Fig Value Chain in the targeted communes. The association will also participate in the identification of the strengths and weaknesses of the Value Chain at the sub-national, national and international levels.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Association Biodiversity: Sharing and Disseminating Experience - BEDE (voir rapport Zatla)	Key	<p>BEDE was funded in 1994 and it focuses on agricultural biodiversity.</p> <p>BEDE undertook analyses of agricultural biodiversity in Djurdjura, Tlemcen and Babor-Tababart National Parks under the EU project PAP-ENPARD.</p> <p>BEDE currently supports the Fig cultivator association of B?ja?a on strengthening the figs Value Chain in collaboration with</p>	N/A	
President of the Research and Study Group on the History of Mathematics - GEHIMAB	Secondary	GEHIMAB contributes to research activities on the period between the Middle Ages and the XIXth century in B?ja?a, in the Maghreb and the Mediterranean area.	? Meeting on 04 October 2020	GEHIMAB is an important source of information on the historical sites in Ighil Ali for the development of the ecotourism and cultural tourism packages under Component 2.
National Association of Terroir Products	Key	Faciliter la commercialisation des produits de terroir	? Meeting on 28 October 2020	The association will be involved in the design and implementation of the interventions for the strengthening of the Value Chains for local agricultural products.

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
National Association for the Promotion of the Carob Tree	Key	Faire des plantations du caroubier et faciliter la commercialisation par la suite.	? Meeting on 28 October 2020	This association will be consulted to evaluate business plans focused on carob products. If the carob Value Chain is selected, the Association will be involved in the design and implementation of the interventions for the strengthening of this Value Chain.
f) Private sector				
Aroma Biooil, Biosource, Terroir Sahel	Primary	Private companies involved in the processing and/or marketing of essential oils and other natural products.	? Meeting on 11 October and 28 October	Private sector companies at the national and local levels will be involved in the implementation of the interventions under Component 2 particularly for the development of income-generating activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources. The engagement of the private sector will be threefold: their experience will be valuable for the development of profit-making business plans, the opportunities offered by their businesses will guide the selection of the products, Value Chains and/or services to be developed, and potential business partnership and/or investors will be identified with private sector actors.
Large corporates operating in the area (e.g., Benhamadi group, SOUMMAN group, Cevital group)	Secondary	Large corporates operating in the targeted which might be interested in supporting sustainable rural development through CSR.	? Meeting on 29 October and 27 January and 05 April 2021	Corporates will be approached to investigate their interest in supporting sustainable livelihood interventions and biodiversity conservation.
g) Regional and international organisations, development partners				

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
GIZ	Key	GIZ is implementing projects that are well aligned with the Biban project interventions in other regions.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Contacted via phone and email, and one meeting in person in March 2021	Lessons learned from the GIZ project such as GENBI and PEBLA will be built on to maximise the success and sustainability of the Biban project.
FAO	Key	FAO has multiple ongoing project that are of interest to the Bibans project.	? Continuously lead the PPG process	FAO is the IA for the project.
EU	Key	The EU has multiple investments in the country and has recently developed its new programmatic plan from 2021-2027: ?Neighbourhood ,  Development and  International Cooperation  Instrument (NDICI).	N/A	Opportunities for collaboration will be identified as soon as the new support for Algeria are finalised.
UNDP and Conservation International	Key	Both are accredited agency to the GEF. UNDP has been the main implementing agency for previous GEF-funded projects. Both UNDP and CI are currently implementing GEF-funded projects in Algeria.	N/A	Knowledge sharing with other GEF projects will be maximised.

h) Academia/research institutions

Stakeholder Name	Type	Key function within mandate/activity related to the project	Consultation methodology & date of consultations  (PPG)	Expected role in project implementation  (Implementation)
Universities of the region (B?ja?a, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Setif...)	Secondary	Responsible for post-graduate studies and research in B?ja?a.	? Meeting on 4 October 2020  ? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020	Support with filling in knowledge gaps related to species, ecosystems, biodiversity and land degradation (Output 1.1.2) and social and economic assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services (Output 1.1.3).
National Institute for Forest Research (INRF) in both wilaya (under the supervision of MADR)	Key	INRF undertakes research and experimentations in forestry, NTFPs, forest ecology, improvement of forest species, use and conservation of forest genetic resources, erosion by water and mitigation methods in small pilot watersheds, fauna and hunting management methods	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021 (INRF Setif)	Support with filling in knowledge gaps related to species, ecosystems, biodiversity and land degradation (Output 1.1.2) and social and economic assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services (Output 1.1.3).
National Institute for Agricultural Research in Algeria (INRAA) in both wilaya (under the supervision of MADR)	Key	INRAA undertakes research projects in agronomics and disseminating research results at the national and international levels.	? Consultation meeting on 25 November 2020  ? Validation meeting on 30 March 2021	Support with filling in knowledge gaps related to species, ecosystems, biodiversity and land degradation (Output 1.1.2) and social and economic assessment of biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services (Output 1.1.3).

[1] Direction de la Pr?servation, Conservation et Valorisation de la Biodiversit? et des ?cosyst?mes

[2] Sous-direction de la pr?servation et la valorisation du patrimoine naturel et biologique et des espaces verts

[3] Direction de la Sensibilisation, de l'?ducation ? l'Environnement et du Partenariat

[4] Centre National de d?veloppement des ressources biologiques et de bios?curit?

- [5] Direction de la Gestion du Patrimoine Alimentaire et Forestier
- [6] Direction de la Protection de la Faune et de la Flore
- [7] Direction de la Lutte Contre la Désertification et la Restauration des Terres
- [8] Direction de la Planification et des Systèmes d'Information
- [9] Direction de l'Agriculture Biologique, de la Labellisation et de la Promotion des Productions Agricoles
- [10] L'Agence des Eaux
- [11] Agence Nationale de Gestion du Micro-Crédit
- [12] Caisse Nationale d'Assurance-Chômage
- [13] Assemblée Populaire Communale (APC): The members are elected by the local populations and are in charge of designating the mayor and its assistants.

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;**

**Co-financier;**

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

**Executor or co-executor; Yes**

**Other (Please explain)**

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment.**

## **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.**

### *Gender considerations in the policy framework*

1. Gender equality is promoted by the majority of the policies in Algeria. Women enjoy the same civil and political rights as men and have the status of full citizens under the Algerian Constitution developed in 1996 and revised in 2008. Algeria has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1996 but it has not ratified the Optional Protocol on violence against women. The Constitution promotes women political rights and their representativeness at elected assemblies. According to the Civil Code, men and women have the same property rights. According to the law on agricultural land tenure (1983), men and women can equally purchase agricultural land. The Labour Code stipulates equal access to employment based on skills and merit, without discrimination. The Convention of Equal Remuneration states that salary must be defined based on the work with no discrimination. The Family Code enables marriage from 19 years old and each spousal conserves his/her heritage unless they agree otherwise via a Marriage Act. However, there are two policies that contain articles that differentiate between men and women. For example, the Marriage Act states that women can only marry if her tutor is present, and women have a tutor until they are able to marry, while men have a tutor until 10 years old. Furthermore, the father is the tutor of the children, not the mother. According to the Family Code, inheritance is unequal between men and women, daughters receive half of what sons receive. In the absence of brothers, daughters must share their heritage with other men from the father's family[1].

### *Current situation regarding gender*

2. Despite a policy framework that mostly promotes gender equality, inequalities are still present in Algeria. Economic participation and opportunities for women are particularly low in the country which ranks as 132 out of 149 countries assessed[2]. As of February 2019, 25.8% of parliament seats were held by women. Similarly, central government staff is made of 14% of women and there is only 30% and 21% of female members at Wilaya- and communal-level committees respectively[3]. Limited involvement of women in decision-making is also expected to be prominent in rural areas. Particular attention will be given to women participation in the project and closer collaboration will be established with Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women as well as gender-focused UN organizations to develop and implement the best approach possible for women participation and empowerment through the project.

3. During the field visit, consultations where both men and women were invited where mostly attended by men except for women from government institutions and the head of Association AFUD.



However, they were numerous at the meetings specifically organized for women. This could be explained by the underlying gender dynamics according to which women may not feel comfortable or empowered to share their thoughts or voice their concerns in the presence of their men counterparts from the household or the community. Hence the emphasis in this project on empowering women and girls, including by providing them with an adequate space to speak their minds and interact with their peers throughout project implementation.

4. Decision-making at household level is mostly undertaken by men. Men are the main decision makers at the commune and village levels as well. Several factors explain this gender inequality in decision making such as cultural and religious beliefs which reduce women mobility, social norms whereby women must stay at home to take care of the house and the kids, and the absence of training centers for women. Literacy for women has improved in the younger generation but illiteracy is still high in older generations. In total, 67.5% of women older than 15 years old are literate against 82.6% of men[4]. Importantly, the gender bias in decision making is less visible in young households in which more women have received education and have access to employment. Birth control has enabled women to become more active professionally. Young women entrepreneurship is rising. Furthermore, the poverty level in the targeted region and the necessity to focus on socio-economic development is in favor of more involvement of women in income-generating activities and of their access to education. The current policy framework also provides the required tools for women to claim their rights to education and work.

5. Finances are generally managed by men. Only the income from women's small-scale, independent activities is under their management. The low financial autonomy of women hinders their access to social services such as health services and public transportation.

6. Women have limited access to land ownership because traditional inheritance systems focus on men. The absence of land ownership documents can prevent them from accessing loans and other financial support. Acknowledging women vulnerability, a women development programme was launched in 2016 in Algeria to support women in rural area. As an example, ANGEM was created to provide financial support to vulnerable people with a particular focus on women without qualifications. In total, 64% of all the subventions provided by ANGEM have been attributed to women in rural areas[5].

7. In Ighil Ali, out of the 512 officially-recognized farmers only 12 are women. These women work mainly in olive production. According to a study undertaken as part of the Support Programme for the Agricultural Sector (PASA, Table 4), women play a major role at every step of olive production and processing but they rarely participate in associations and have lower access to training. Women

constitute most of the labour on farms. If the farm adopts more modern practices, more men step in as the work then requires more specific skills and training. Regarding selling the olive oil, women are in charge of sales to family and neighbors, and men are in charge of external sales.

8. Regarding the harvesting and processing of NTFPs, the targeted area of the project is part of the Berber-speaking region. Within Berber populations, women play a key role in natural resource management, especially of forest ecosystems. Women are mostly responsible for harvesting NTFPs, including medicinal plants. Women's know-how about medicinal and aromatic plants (recognition, use, preparation) is important and needs to be safeguarded and promoted. Further, many women have skills and are involved in the packaging, processing and storage of NTFP products (mushrooms, honey, nuts, oils, etc.). Handcrafting such as weaving, pottery and carpet making is also generally undertaken by women. In addition, women are responsible for the education of children, for maintaining social relations with neighbors and relatives. Therefore, they are a particularly important target for the awareness raising interventions for the protection of natural resources.

#### *Gender integration in the project*

9. Women have been thoroughly engaged in the design of the project. Specific consultations with women were organised. Out of the 1,284 project proposals submitted by members of the local populations, 547 (i.e., 43%) were developed by women.

10. As a first important step to mainstream gender equality in the project, 50% of the members of the PSC will be women. This will apply to representatives from government and non-government organisations. Specific measures will be implemented across the project interventions to ensure that men and women benefit equally from the project's investments (please see the table below). The implementation of these measures will be monitored by gender-sensitive indicators as part of the M&E plan (please see table below and Annex A1). As an example, 50% of the trainers under the training-of-trainers programme will be women. Where necessary (if an area is particularly isolated), training for women will be provided at household level. Lessons learned and experience from the Ministry of Vocational Training with its Training Process for women who are homemakers will be built upon to maximise the efficiency of the training activities. Cultural sensitivities with regard to gender relations will be taken into consideration at all points.

**Table 2. Gender entry points for monitoring during project implementation**

#	Question	Answer	Comment
1	<i>Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?</i>	Yes	Following a gender-sensitive analysis during the PPG process, gender-responsive measures were designed to maximise women's participation and leadership role in the management of agricultural, pastoral and forest resources, and promote women's empowerment through the project's activities.
2	<i>Which area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:</i>	All three	The project will contribute to all three areas by creating specific opportunities for women to be part of the project's activities and benefit from the project's outcome.
2a)	<i>Closing gender gaps in access and control over natural resources</i>	Yes	Land access rights will be clarified wherever required and exploitation permits will be applied for NTFPs. Overall, the land-users benefitting from the project will have clear access rights to land and resources and will include 50% of women.
2b)	<i>Improving women's participation and decision-making</i>	Yes	Women groups and mixed groups will be strengthened which will result in increased capacity of women (and men) to participate to decision making and negotiations. The service and platform to be established under the project will include 50% of women representatives.
2c)	<i>Generating socioeconomic benefits or services for women</i>	Yes	The development of sustainable income-generating activities under Component 3 will support 50% of women.
3	<i>Does the project's results framework include gender-sensitive indicators?</i>	Yes	Gender-sensitive indicators were included in the project's Logical Framework in order to assess the project's progress on promoting gender equality and improvements in women's participation in decision-making processes.
	<i>Source: GEF Guidance to Advance Gender Equality 2018.</i>		

### Gender Action Plan

11. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) was designed to ensure that sources of gender inequality are addressed, that the project interventions contribute to closing the gender gap, and that women are empowered under the project's interventions in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes, and beyond. Table 3 below set out the GAP provisions per project components, outputs and activities.



Table 3: Gender Action Plan (GAP) per project activity

OVERARCHING HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL COMMITTMENTS	National Project Coordinator (NPC), supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer (national consultant) and Gender Focal Point at FAO Algeria	<p><b>Gender milestone actions by Project Activity</b></p> <p>? Ensure that the gender metrics are effectively monitored</p> <p>o The NPC will be responsible for this activity with the support of an M&amp;E expert and a Gender Officer who will monitor and provide operational support for the implementation of the GAP and the gender-sensitive results-based framework.</p> <p>? Insert gender/social inclusion standards in all project staff/consultants TOR:</p> <p>o The NPC will have overall responsibility for GAP implementation and gender-related results including mobilising relevant human and financial resources and taking timely remedial action as needed.</p> <p>o All staff/consultants will be responsible for identifying and integrating practical actions to respond to gender-differentiated issues and their implications for women and men.</p> <p>? Carry out briefing on project GAP for all staff and require that all consultants familiarise themselves with the GAP.</p> <p>o The NPC will be responsible for this activity with the support of an M&amp;E expert and a Gender Officer who will monitor and provide operational support for the implementation of the GAP and the gender-sensitive results-based framework.</p> <p>? The Gender Officer will review all inputs and ensure that the NPC will ensure that the Gender Officer input/recommendations/findings are addressed.</p>
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Outputs	Responsibilities	Core activities
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1.1.1	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD and FAO	<p>(i) Provide training to at least 40 decision-makers from central and decentralised government on: i) the use of spatial data and assessments results to assess biodiversity richness, land degradation levels and environmental risks, spatial planning and prioritisation of interventions accordingly; ii) participatory, gender-sensitive, integrated land-use planning processes for biodiversity conservation; iii) implication of private sector actors; and iv) participatory management and co-management systems</p> <p>? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. Female staff from government institutions will therefore be particularly encouraged to participate in the training sessions.</p> <p>(ii) Provide training to at least 60 technical staff including 50% of women on ecosystem functioning and service provision, restoration practices, and biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices in agricultural, pastoral and forest land</p> <p>? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. Female staff from government institutions will therefore be particularly encouraged to participate in the training sessions.</p> <p>(iii) Raise awareness of local government institutions on existing policy documents related to biodiversity conservation, land tenure and natural resources? management, and provide training to increase enforcement efficiency</p> <p>? Equal participation to awareness-raising events will be sought for both women and men. Female staff from government institutions will therefore be particularly encouraged to participate in the training sessions.</p>
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1.1.2	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., CNDRB, ANN, Universities)	<p>(i) Provide training to at least 30 individuals (3/4 per institutions) including 50% of women on biodiversity assessments, species monitoring and mapping, ecosystem degradation assessments across agricultural, forest and pastoral land</p> <p>? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. Female staff from government institutions will therefore be particularly encouraged to participate in the training sessions.</p> <p>(ii) Undertake the inventories on wild flora and fauna species, the inventories of traditionally cultivated and farmed varieties/breeds specific to the targeted area, in the identification of important conservation areas, and establish a georeferenced database to centralise this information under CNDRB</p> <p>? Particular attention will be given to integrating species, varieties and breeds that are traditionally used by women.</p> <p>(iii) Undertake biodiversity assessments, identify hotspots and delineate different ecosystems, and produce corresponding maps for the two communes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(iv) Assess and map: i) ecosystem productivity; ii) extent of degradation, trends and causes; and iii) vulnerability to future climate conditions and its effects, and future suitability and productivity</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(v) Support CNDRB in undertaking yearly update of the inventories and assessments in the two communes</p> <p>? Training activities will target CNDRB's female staff as much as possible.</p> <p>(vi) Create a partnership with B'ja'a and Bordj Bou Arreridj university (as well as Msila and Bouira) to undertake research projects that address remaining knowledge gaps that require medium- to long-term monitoring</p> <p>? If Bachelor, Masters or PhD students participate in the research projects to be agreed on under the project, the Universities will be encouraged in appointing 50% of women.</p>
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1.1.3	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., DGF)	<p>(i) Train 20 government staff from ONEDD, DGEDD, National Agency for Water Resources and/or DGF in undertaking social, economic and cultural assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services</p> <p>? Equal participation to awareness-raising events will be sought for both women and men. Female staff from government institutions will therefore be particularly encouraged to participate in the training sessions.</p> <p>(ii) Assess the value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems at all levels in the two communes</p> <p>? Value assessments will take into consideration differences between men and women, and value assessments of biodiversity and ecosystems will be disaggregated by gender such differences exist (e.g., differences in cultural, social, economic and/or financial value).</p>
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1.1.4	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and local government partners (e.g., APCs)	<p>(i) Raise awareness of local government, NGOs, associations, local populations and private sector actors on the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and opportunities for improved livelihoods, and on the existing regulations regarding the management of natural resources</p> <p>? Equal participation to awareness-raising events will be sought for both women and men. Female staff from civil society will therefore be particularly encouraged to participate in the training sessions. Awareness-raising activities will be organised for women if necessary to ensure that 50% of women are reached.</p> <p>(ii) Integrate biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM principles in the PCDs of the two targeted communes</p> <p>? Each intervention to be integrated in the PCD will be gender sensitive. Differences in the interests and activities of men and women will be taken into consideration and the PCDs will integrate interventions that benefit men and women equally.</p> <p>(iii) Review and propose improvement to the M&amp;E system for the PCDs, including increasing local populations' involvement</p> <p>? Men and women will participate equally to the consultations to design a more efficient M&amp;E system. The set of interventions identified and data collection methods will aim for the participation of 50% of women.</p> <p>(iv) Identify the areas of overlap in the mandate of local authorities and implement solutions to ensure that they all clearly understand their role and responsibilities</p> <p>N/A</p>
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1.1.5	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and local government partners (e.g., APCs)	<p>(i) Undertake an analysis of the existing investment plan to implement the PCDs for Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr to identify the funding gaps for the interventions of the integrated PCDs linked to biodiversity and ecosystems preservation</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(ii) Identify additional sources of funding (e.g., government programmes, private sector companies) to fill in the financial gaps</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(iii) Undertake advocacy interventions to leverage funding for the remaining biodiversity-orientated interventions of the PCDs with government (and non-government) institutions</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>(iv) Develop a strategy and financial plan to address the priority development issues of the two communes which are not yet covered under the PCDs</p> <p>? The identification of the priority development issues will be done through the consultation of men and women together and/or separately, including youth, to ensure that the development priorities of each groups are well captured.</p>
1.1.6	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., NGOs, CBOs)	<p>(i) Develop local protocols to guide the implementation of the biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions identified in the pilot PCDs in collaboration with sectoral authorities and local populations</p> <p>? The format of the protocols will be defined through consultations with men and women, and ensure that they are equally user friendly and accessible for both.</p> <p>(ii) Provide training on the use of the protocols to relevant institutions</p> <p>? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. Female staff from government institutions will therefore be particularly encouraged to participate in the training sessions.</p>

1.1.7	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., DGF, National Park Offices, Ministry of Culture)	<p>(i) Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current network of National Parks in Algeria and identify opportunities to increase the connectivity of the existing network through the creation of one or several Protected Areas in the Biban mountain range</p> <p>? These assessments will likely include surveys and consultations to: i) capture the opinion of local populations surrounding protected areas on their efficiency and relevance; and ii) select the level(s) of protection, allowed and prohibited activities in each zone, and define the different zones to be integrated under the PCDs. The participants to these consultations will include 50% of women.</p> <p>(ii) Initiate the creation process for a new Protected Area in the Biban mountain range following the mixed model proved to be efficient in the country</p> <p>N/A</p>
2.1.1	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., ANADE, CNAC)	<p>(i) Create and institutionalize a technical support service for the development, monitoring and maintenance of SLM, SFM and sustainable income-generating activities in rural areas in each commune</p> <p>? The service will include 50% of women in each commune.</p> <p>(ii) Train the members of the service on the technical, administrative, financial and managerial aspects of SLM, SFM and nature-based, sustainable income-generating activities in rural areas</p> <p>? The training activities will aim to reach similar levels of capacity and roles for men and women.</p> <p>(iii) Provide training to ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC, and review their functioning where required to support improved monitoring and integration of the results in their selection processes</p> <p>? Training activities will target female staff from ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC to reach 50% participation to the training sessions.</p>

2.1.2	<p>Project NPC, supported by M&amp;E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., DGF, DSA, ADS)</p>	<p>(i) Providing training on ANR techniques, and support the implementation of ANR interventions in 250 ha of burnt forests and shrublands</p> <p>? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. Training sessions for women will be organised if necessary.</p> <p>(ii) Provide technical training and equipment to the Da?ra, APC, the DE and DCF staff for improved fire prevention and invasive species management</p> <p>? Training activities will target as much as possible female staff from the Da?ra, APC, the DE and DCF staff to reach 50% participation to the training sessions.</p> <p>Agricultural land:</p> <p>(iii) Provide training on sustainable, biodiversity-friendly and drought-resilient agricultural practices in mountainous areas following an agroecology approach working closely with the technical support services</p> <p>? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. Training sessions for women will be organised if necessary.</p> <p>(iv) Develop compost and natural fertilizers production plans from natural wastes, and organize the network of producers to gather green wastes from households, agriculture and livestock husbandry (e.g., poultry)</p> <p>? Equal participation to trainings will be sought for both women and men. Training sessions for women will be organised if necessary.</p> <p>(v) Support the implementation of improved agricultural practices over 1,000 ha of agricultural land</p> <p>? 50% of benefitting land-users will be women.</p> <p>(vi) Support targeted land-users in purchasing solar energy kits for agriculture</p> <p>? 50% of benefitting land-users will be women.</p> <p>Olive plantations:</p> <p>(vii) Provide training ? working closely with the technical support services ? to members of the local populations interested in championing improved practices for olive production</p> <p>? Olive production is often conducted by men but the</p>
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2.1.3	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners	<p>(i) Refine the list of criteria to be met by the business plans based on the criteria pre-identified during the PPG phase</p> <p>? The criteria for the selection of the business plans will be gender sensitive.</p> <p>(ii) Organise complementary consultations with members of the local populations who expressed their interest in developing specific sources of income, identify similarities and complementarities, and design a strategy to group people</p> <p>? Mixed group and women groups will be supported in order to ensure women empowerment.</p> <p>(iii) Raise awareness of members of the local populations interested in tourism development on the principles of ecotourism versus general tourism</p> <p>? Equal participation to awareness-raising events will be sought for both women and men. Awareness-raising activities will be organised for women if necessary to ensure that 50% of women are reached.</p> <p>(iv) Provide training to interested members of the local populations (particularly youth and 50% of women) on the development of good business plans and support them in the preparation of at least 40 medium-term business plans</p> <p>? Equal participation to training events will be sought for both women and men. Awareness-raising activities will be organised for women if necessary to ensure that 50% of women are reached. At least 50% of the business plans submitted will be women lead.</p>
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2.1.4	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., DE, DCF, DSA, ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM)	<p>(i) Select at least 20 business plans out of the 40 developed based on specific criteria in a transparent manner</p> <p>? An equal proportion of women-led and men-led business plans will be selected.</p> <p>(ii) Analyse the different funding options for each project with ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM and banks, and allocate the funding of each business plan to the relevant institution and to the Bibans project</p> <p>? Gender sensitivity will be ensured in the development of the funding options.</p> <p>(iii) Provide required equipment and training to the entrepreneurs of the selected MSMEs to initiate the activities</p> <p>? An equal proportion of women-led and men-led business plans will be funded.</p> <p>(iv) Identify the required small infrastructure to support the Value Chains not integrated in the selected business plans, identify members of the local populations interested in these income-generating activities and support them in their implementation</p> <p>? The additional funding sources created will be designed for benefit 50% of women.</p> <p>(v) Establish required groups, cooperatives or associations to regroup producers for each Value Chain targeted by the project</p> <p>? Mixed groups and women groups will be created to ensure women empowerment. Mixed organisation will have equal participation and influence in decision-making between men and women.</p> <p>(vi) Provide training to producers groups, associations and cooperatives on fund raising, and on administrative and financial management</p> <p>? Equal participation to training events will be sought for both women and men.</p> <p>(vii) Select required certification in a participatory manner with local populations, private sector actors, local and central government, and support the creation of required Value Chain products certifications</p> <p>? The set of certification schemes will be selected in other to benefit women-lead and men-lead businesses equally. The gender sensitivity of the certification processes will be analysed and any gender imbalance in the process will be discussed with relevant</p>
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3.1.1	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners from government, civil society and private sector	<p>(i) Establish an intercommunal Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform bringing together local governments, civil society, private sector and local populations</p> <p>? The platform will include 50% of female members, if possible from each type of stakeholder.</p> <p>(ii) Advocate for the identification of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions to complement existing PCDs in other communes of the Biban mountain range and promote the integration of such interventions in the next revision process planned in 2025</p> <p>? Each intervention to be integrated in the PCD will be gender sensitive. Differences in the interests and activities of men and women will be taken into consideration and the PCDs will integrate interventions that benefit men and women equally.</p>
3.1.2	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and government partners	<p>(i) Refine the identification of gaps in the policy framework and programmes for integrated land-use planning and implementation, biodiversity conservation and preservation of ecosystem goods and services</p> <p>? The gender sensitiveness of the targeted policy documents will be assessed.</p> <p>(ii) Develop policy documents or policy recommendations to address priority gaps</p> <p>? Policy documents and recommendations to be developed under the project will be gender sensitive.</p>
3.1.3	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., DE, DCF, DSA, ADS, Ministry of Vocational Training)	<p>(i) Develop guidelines to support the uptake of successful project's approaches and practices for the integration of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM into development planning across the Biban mountain range</p> <p>? The format of the guidelines will be defined through consultations with men and women from relevant government and non-government organisations, and ensure that they are equally user friendly and accessible for both.</p> <p>(ii) Review the training programmes of the vocational training centres regarding agricultural, forest management and tourism sectors and propose revisions to promote sustainable approaches and practices in the targeted wilayas and beyond</p> <p>? Gender sensitiveness will be a pre-requisite for the selection of the programmes to be supported under the project.</p>

3.1.4	Project NPC, supported by M&E Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD, FAO and partners (e.g., Ministry of Finance)	<p>(i) Develop ? in a participatory manner with relevant actors from the government and the private sector ? a resource mobilization strategy to raise funds and upscale the successful interventions of the project in other communes and wilayas of the Biban mountain range and in other relevant landscapes</p> <p>? The consultations under the participatory process will include 50% of female participants. The resource mobilization strategy will be gender sensitive.</p> <p>(ii) Implement the resource mobilisation strategy</p> <p>? The strategy will aim to benefit 50% of women land-users and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>(iii) Establish an incentive mechanism for private companies to adopt/support more sustainable practices</p> <p>N/A</p>
3.1.5	Project NPC, supported by Communication Officer, Gender Officer, ONEDD and FAO	<p>(i) Develop a set of awareness-raising tools on the concept of common resources, the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and existing income-generating opportunities through sustainable management</p> <p>? Any differences regarding the preferred media and events of men and women will be considered. The set of awareness raising tools to be developed will aim to reach 50% of women. The youth will also be strongly targeted.</p> <p>(ii) Organise awareness-raising events using existing local platforms, at national remembrance days and other national events, and in schools</p> <p>? Overall, the campaign will aim to reach 50% of women.</p>
3.2.1	M&E Expert with support from the NPC, the Gender Officer, ONEDD and FAO	<p>(i) Develop a detailed gender-sensitive M&amp;E strategy and plan (including M&amp;E activities, methodology and responsibilities)</p> <p>? The M&amp;E plan will be gender sensitive.</p> <p>(ii) Implement the M&amp;E plan continuously during the project implementation phase</p> <p>N/A</p>



3.2.2	M&E Expert with support from the NPC, the Gender Officer, ONEDD and FAO	<p>(i) Undertake the MTR</p> <p>? The gender sensitiveness of the project interventions will be evaluated under the MTR.</p> <p>(ii) Undertake the Terminal Evaluation</p> <p>? The gender sensitiveness of the project interventions will be evaluated under the Terminal Evaluation.</p>
3.2.3	Communication Officer with support from the NPC, the Gender Officer, the M&E Expert, ONEDD and FAO	<p>(i) Design a communication strategy for the project to facilitate the strategic dissemination of the Project's progress, results, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and global levels</p> <p>? The communication strategy will be gender sensitive.</p> <p>(ii) Implement the communication strategy continuously during the project implementation phase</p> <p>? Following an adaptive approach, it will be adjusted where necessary during the implementation period to ensure that men and women are reached equally.</p>

[1] [http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/listcountries/nationallegalframework/fr/?country\\_iso3=DZA](http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/listcountries/nationallegalframework/fr/?country_iso3=DZA)

[2] <https://countryeconomy.com/demography/global-gender-gap-index/algeria> - 2020 assessment. Consulted on 09 April 2021.

[3] ONU FEMMES, 2015-2016. Rapport d'activit? ONU femmes Maghreb.

[4] <https://data.unwomen.org/country/algeria>, consulted on 09 April 2021.

[5] Source Minist?re de la Solidarit?, de la Famille et de la Condition de la femme, 2020.

[6] Please refer to [GEF Gender Equality Guidelines](#), [Guide to mainstreaming gender in FAO's project cycle](#), [GEF Gender Guidelines](#).

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

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes**

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women** Yes

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

Yes

#### **4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

## **4. Private Sector Engagement.**

1. Private sector engagement in the project is a priority as it is key to the success and sustainability of the project's investments particularly the Value Chains strengthening interventions and the upscaling activities. In alignment with GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy, the entry points for private sector engagement in the project have been maximised. Continuous involvement of private sector companies through the project implementation phase will be ensured through having private sector representatives in the Biodiversity Platform to be established under Output 3.1.1 and in the PSC. The selected private sector representatives will assist with the identification of relevant private sector partners for the project interventions, contribute to defining the private sector interests and expectations to invest in environmental matters, and support the identification of further opportunities to increase private sector involvement during the project.

2. Under Component 1, private sector companies operating in the targeted communes will be engaged with to participate to the development of the integrated PCDs including the zoning exercises and identification of opportunities for improved land and forest management, and sustainable livelihoods opportunities. Thereafter, interested private sector companies who are involved in the Value Chains targeted by the project will play a major role for the implementation of the interventions under Component 2 for the design and implementation of business plans based on the sustainable use of natural resources. The project will target private sector companies whose businesses focus on tourism and ecotourism (e.g., accommodation, catering, travel agencies), and/or agriculture and forest-based products (e.g., Biosource, Terroir Sahel, Aroma Biooil), and investors. Interested companies will be invited to participate to the selection of the business plans under Output 2.1.3 to benefit from their expertise in entrepreneurship, business development and on existing Value Chains. They will play an important role in the diagnosis of existing Value Chains and the identification of opportunities for improvement based on the demand. Partnerships between local populations' groups and private companies will be developed. Value Chains' strengthening will increase the stability and sustainability of the local supply and sales thereby benefitting both the producers/harvesters and the private companies.

3. Private sector partners will support the identification of financial opportunities for the upscaling of successful project interventions across the Biban mountain range as part of their involvement in the Biodiversity Platform. Private sector involvement will contribute to upscaling good practices from the Bibans project in several ways. Firstly, by promoting the development of certification schemes to strengthen Value Chains and improve environmental impact, the project will encourage interested companies in working with producers who have adopted SLM and SFM practices. This will motivate producers/harvesters within the targeted communes and beyond to improve their practices. Secondly, private sector engagement in the marketing and commercialisation of the targeted products will create sustainable income-generating opportunities for producers from other communes or landscapes ? pending that sustainable production/harvesting rate and the demand are sufficient. Thirdly, opportunities to raise funding from the private sector for the replication of good practices within and beyond the Bibans mountain range will be developed. These financing opportunities could include CSR, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes and/or incentive mechanisms. During the PPG phase, two large corporates that operate in the targeted communes (i.e., Benhamadi, SOUMMAN and Cevital groups) have been identified as potential good candidates to contribute to the development of nature-based sources of income using a CSR approach. Opportunities for the development of PES schemes where the activities of private companies depend on the sustainable management of surrounding resources or ecosystems by local populations will be investigated during the project implementation period and piloted if possible. Opportunities to create incentive-based mechanisms for private companies to adopt/support more sustainable practices will be identified in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, ME and other relevant government institutions, and their establishment will be supported as appropriate.

## 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

Section A: Risks to the project

Description of risk	Impact[1 ]	Probability of occurrence 3	Mitigation actions	Responsible party

Security issues undermine efforts to develop sustainable activities (notably ecotourism).	High	Low	Tourism is the main economic activities supported by the project that may be affected by insecurity. If the security situation deteriorates, over the short-medium term the emphasis will be placed on other economic activities that are less affected by insecurity. However, this is a low risk because security has improved greatly in recent years and the government is committed to maintaining security.	Ministry of Tourism Ministry of Interior ME FAO
Decreased project ownership and support from governmental agencies	Medium	Low	ME and other key ministries, and Wilaya and Communes government agencies are currently very supportive of the project. To maintain this support, they will continue to be fully involved in the project preparation and in the project implementation and management. The project design takes into consideration the need to achieve results in the short-term in order to demonstrate the relevance of the project objectives, results, and activities to local and national governmental agencies. The alignment of the project with national strategies and policies is also a strong warrant of government commitment in the project.	ME FAO
Climate change may lead to increased threats to forest, through fire, pests, diseases and changing climatic conditions (temperature, precipitation).	Medium	Low	Current and future climate conditions will be taken into account when designing the on-the-ground interventions as it is a condition for the sustainability of the project inputs. As an example of this integration of climate resilience in the project, a key selection criteria for the species to be promoted by the project will be their resilience to current and future climate scenarios based on the latest information available.	ME (ONEDD, DCC and DE) MADR (DCF, DSA)

Fires occur in the intervention sites and hinder the success of the SLM and SFM interventions	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	The fire risk will be systematically assessed as part of the selection process for the SLM, SFM and Value Chains strengthening interventions, to exclude interventions with high risks where efficient mitigation measures cannot be identified.	<b>ME (ONEDD, DCC and DE)</b>  <b>MADR (DCF)</b>  <b>APCs</b>  <b>Da?ra</b>
Low involvement and participation of local institutions in planning and monitoring mechanisms.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	Local authorities such as the Walis and their advisors, the APCs, the DGF, Social Development Agencies among others have provided continuous support during the PPG phase to organise field visits and consultations, and provide required information for the project design. They also participated actively to the two workshops organised. Their engagement in the project will be maintained by keeping them informed on the progress of the project's validation process until the start of the implementation, and supporting multi-stakeholder and participatory processes for the development and coordination of project activities. Local authorities will be strongly involved in every step of the project and their capacity will be built. The anchoring of the project interventions on existing local development planning processes through the PCDs will further secure their involvement. Finally, because of the project alignment with the national policy framework, the project interventions fall under the mandate of local authorities in each relevant sector. This should strongly contribute to the maintenance of the commitment throughout the project.	<b>APCs</b>  <b>Da?ra</b>  <b>Walis</b>  <b>ME (ONEDD, DE)</b>  <b>MADR (DCF, DSA)</b>  <b>ADSs</b>

Overexploitation of NTFPs as a result of Value Chains strengthening interventions	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	NTFPs? Value Chains development will be supported by the inventories and assessments that will inform sustainable harvesting rates. Thereafter, harvesting permits will be defined and allocated on demand. The capacity of DGF in monitoring permits will be increased. Involvement of local populations in monitoring will also be increased. The certification systems to be implemented as part of Value Chain strengthening will include environmental certifications and will increase the financial value of the products which is expected to further encourage the compliance to harvesting rates. The monitoring interventions linked to these certification schemes will further encourage sustainable harvesting rates to be followed. Awareness-raising interventions will also be implemented to prevent environmental degradation.	<b>DE</b> <b>DCF and DSA</b> <b>APCs</b> <b>WPCs</b> <b>Local Populations</b> <b>Private companies</b>
Agricultural and urban encroachment as a result of increased population size due to the creation of income opportunities	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>	The integrated PCDs to be developed in a participatory manner under the project will clearly identify the different land-use zones and development zones for each land-use category. Local authorities? capacity to monitor these plans and local populations? involvement in monitoring will be enhanced. Increased economic value attributed to natural ecosystems are a result of the assessments undertaken as part of Component 1 and corresponding knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising interventions will further encourage environmental protection.  SLM interventions will result in increased productivity of existing agricultural land which will reduce the necessity to expand agricultural land.	<b>DE</b> <b>DCF and DSA</b> <b>APCs</b> <b>WPCs</b> <b>Local Populations</b> <b>Private companies</b>

## COVID-related risks

1. In Algeria, from 3 January 2020 to 24 May 2021 at 10:32am CEST, there were about 126,651 confirmed cases of COVID19 with approximately 3,411 deaths, reported to WHO[2]. Vaccine launched, data pending. There have been different waves of infections but the restrictions have prevented major outbreaks. In the targeted communes, there has been very few cases, probably because of their isolation. The economic impact of COVID19 has not yet been fully assessed. The government recently launched an evaluation of the impact of the pandemic on enterprises and households. In addition, the government committed to increasing the financial support to the most vulnerable areas (?grey zones?) in 2021 to respond to the socio-economic repercussions post COVID19.

2. One sector that has benefitted from the pandemic is the agricultural sector, Agricultural production has increased and has generated more profit than the oil sector in 2020 (USD 27,000,000 versus USD 25,000,000). This enabled agricultural production to cover 70% of the national needs. However, shortages still exist for some primary products such as wheat, vegetable oils, milk and sugar which maintains dependency on imported food products. Following the COVID19 outbreak and the effect it had on importations, the government initiated a project to develop Saharan agriculture towards increasing self-sustenance regarding these four products. Another positive result of the pandemic is for the environment. People movements has drastically reduced which has had a positive impact on fauna particularly. According to the Department of Forests of Tiaret Wilaya, several species populations have increased in forests and National Parks to which access by the public was closed during lock down. Some species that were considered as extinct in some areas have reappeared (e.g., Atlas wolf in Tiaret forest).

Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Implications at national level				

Reduced financial (co-financing) support from Government, development partners, and private sector, due to limited overall funding availability resulting from the COVID-19-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID-19	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	ONEDD supported by ME, FAO and project partners will work closely to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas.	<b>ONEDD</b> <b>ME</b> <b>FAO</b>
<b>Implications for project activities (on the ground)</b>				
Closure of offices, transport etc. will delay launch of project and its implementation.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	The project will institute local mechanisms such and work with local partners to ensure that project interventions can continue on the ground during lockdowns while complying with applicable restrictions and national guidance related to COVID19. Detailed planning will be done conducted to mobilize relevant field offices while ensuring that all recommended safety practices are followed by the project team and by local populations.	<b>ONEDD</b> <b>ME</b>
Higher dependence on natural ecosystems for livelihoods, driven by losses of jobs and income from other sectors, increasing thus pressures on natural resources	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Medium</b>	FAO will provide necessary support to ONEDD/ME to analyse and monitor the impacts of COVID-19. Based on these findings, the project may prioritize working in target areas that are more impacted to strengthen alternative livelihoods.	<b>ONEDD</b> <b>ME</b> <b>FAO</b>

[1] H: High; M: Moderate; L: Low.

[2] <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/dz>

## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination



**Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

## 6. Institutional Arrangements and Coordination.

### 6.a Institutional arrangements for project implementation.

1. ONEDD will have the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, with FAO providing oversight as GEF Agency as described below. ONEDD will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the ship Agreement signed with FAO. As OP of the project, ONEDD is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements. The project organization structure is presented in Figure 7.

#### **National Project Director**

2. The government will designate a National Project Director (NPD). Located in ONEDD offices, the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. S/he will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator (see below) on the government policies and priorities.

#### **Project Steering Committee**

3. The NPD will chair the PSC which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from ONEDD and CNDRB under ME, DGF and ANN under MADR, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Solidarity, Walis, APWs, APCs, ANADE, CNAC, Private sector, NGOs/CBOs, GIZ, UNDP and FAO.

4. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

5. The NPC will be the Secretary to the PSC. The PSC will meet at least twice per year to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project; iii) Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support; iv) Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; v) Effective coordination of government partner work under this project; vi) Approval of the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget; vii) Making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the NPC of the PMU.

### **Project Management Unit**

6. A PMU will be co-funded by the GEF and established within ONEDD central offices in Alger. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the PSC, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be composed of (Figure 8):

- ? The full-time NPC based at ONEDD's central office in Alger;
- ? A full-time Financial and Administrative Officer based at ONEDD's central office in Alger;
- ? Two Field Assistants to the NPC, one based in Ighil Ali and one based in Teniet En Nasr;
- ? A full-time Monitoring & Evaluation Expert based at ONEDD's central office in Alger;
- ? A part-time Communication Expert based at ONEDD's central office in Alger; and
- ? A part-time Gender Officer based at ONEDD's central office in Alger.

#### PMU and Operational Partners

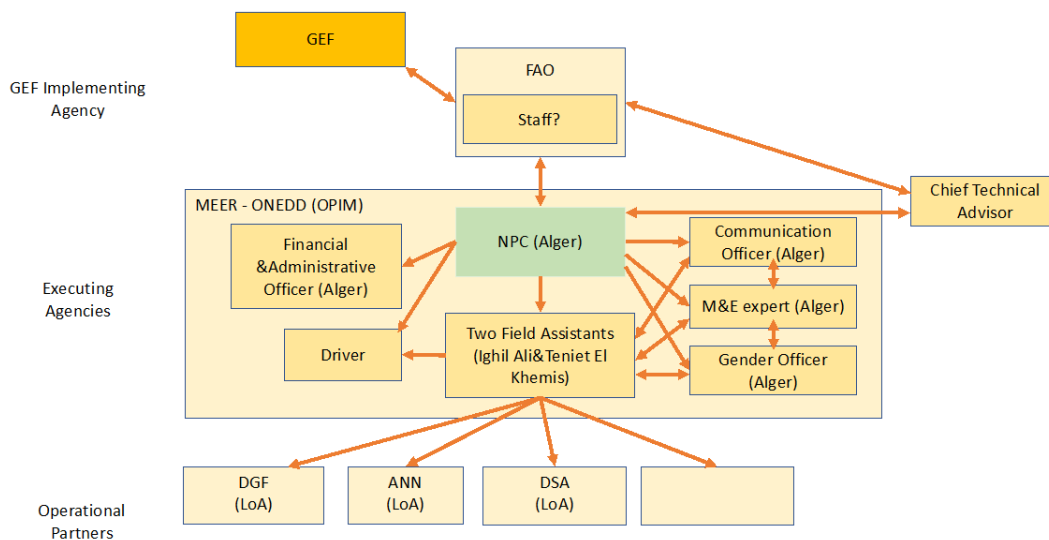


Figure 7: Proposed PMU structure

#### National Project Coordinator

7. The NPC will be in charge of daily implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the Operational Partner and within the framework delineated by the PSC. S/he will be responsible, among others, for:

- i) coordination with relevant initiatives;
- ii) ensuring a high level of collaboration among participating institutions and organizations at the national and local levels;
- iii) ensuring compliance with all Operational Partner Agency (OPA) provisions during the implementation, including on timely reporting and financial management;
- iv) coordination and close monitoring of the implementation of project activities;
- v) tracking the project's progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs;
- vi) providing technical support and assessing the outputs of the project national consultants hired with GEF funds, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project;

- vii) approve and manage requests for provision of financial resources using provided format in OPA annexes;
- viii) monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;
- ix) ensuring timely preparation and submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO as per OPA reporting requirements;
- x) maintaining documentation and evidence that describes the proper and prudent use of project resources as per OPA provisions, including making available this supporting documentation to FAO and designated auditors when requested;
- xi) implementing and managing the project's monitoring and communications plans;
- xii) organizing project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan;
- xiii) submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO;
- xiv) preparing the first draft of the PIR report;
- xv) supporting the organization of the mid-term and terminal evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder (BH) and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED);
- xvi) submitting the OP six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and facilitate the information exchange between the OP and FAO, if needed;
- xvii) inform the PSC and FAO of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support.

8. To assist coordination, a national Project Technical Committee (PTC) will be established. Membership of this PTC will include experts from ME, MADR, FAO and other technical experts. The role of the PTC will be: (i) to review and comment on workplans and terms of reference; (ii) to mobilize stakeholders and resources to project activities; (iii) to review and comment on draft outputs and; (iv) to share information and facilitate joint planning of activities. The PTC will be supported by a PMU, and one staff member will be responsible for supporting coordination.

### **Implementing Agency: FAO**

9. FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall

accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex J for details):

Position	Description	Contact Information
Budget Holder	Usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution.	FAO Representative a.i. in Algeria Mr. Mohamed Lemine HAMOUNY
Lead Technical Officer	Drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee.	Hamid, AbdelHamied (FAORNE)
Funding Liaison Officer(s)	Within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.	VeyretPicot, Maude (OCB) Bergigui, Mohamed (OCBD) Dottori, Arianna (OCBD)

10. FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- ? Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- ? Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- ? Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- ? Conduct at least one supervision mission per year;
- ? Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual PIR reports, the MTR, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress; and

? Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

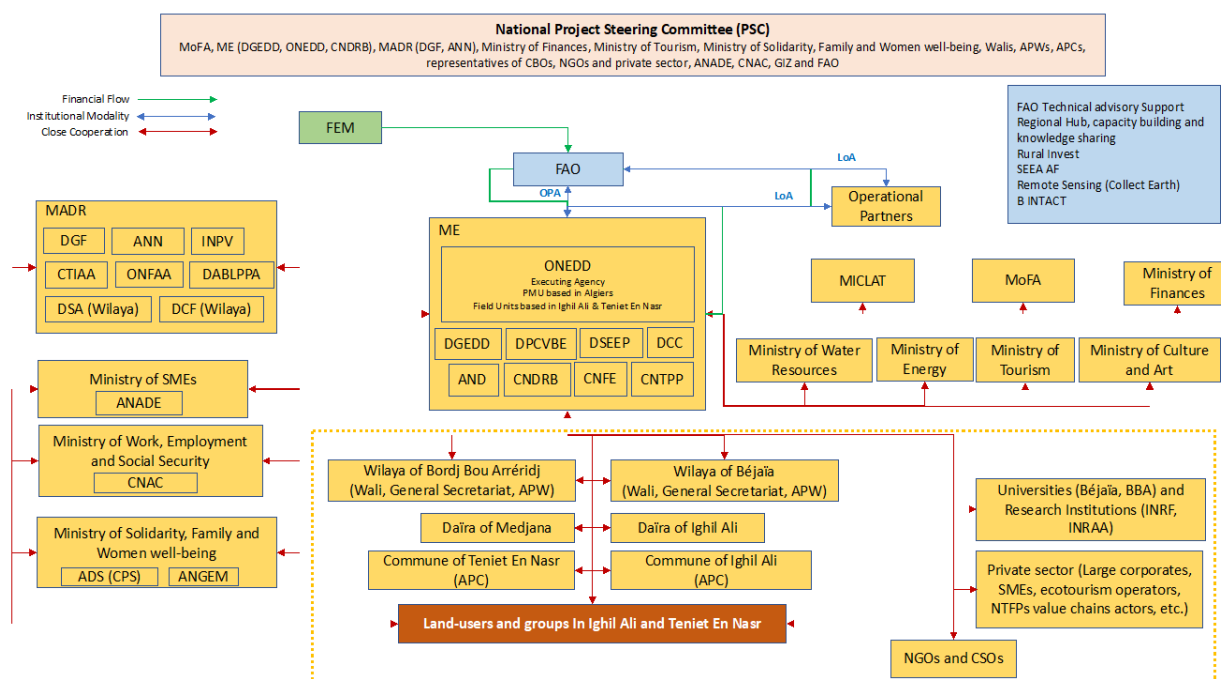


Figure 8: Institutional arrangements

## 6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

11. Several initiatives funded by GEF and other funding sources have been identified as highly relevant to the project because they have piloted some approaches or practices that are of interest for the Bibans project. Available information on successes, failures and lessons learned from these projects have been built on for the design of the Bibans project proposal. Continuous exchange of information with these initiatives throughout the project implementation phase will enable to guide the implementation of the project interventions, and vice versa. This collaboration will also enable to avoid duplication of efforts and maximise complementarity with on-going projects.

Table 4: Relevant GEF-financed projects and other non-GEF initiatives

Project title	Implementing Agency	Period	Project description
Local Projects for Integrated Rural Development <sup>[1]</sup> (PPDRI)	MADR	2009-2015 with the established funds still operational	<p>The PPDRI projects supported the implementation of the Rural Renewal Policy. It had four components : i) modernising villages ; ii) diversifying economic activities ; iii) protecting and adding value to natural resources ; and iv) protecting and adding value to rural cultural heritage. A complementary programme for the strengthening of human capacity and technical assistance was added later on. Under Component 3 of PPDRI, at the wilaya level, a total of USD 3,500,000 was invested in B?ja?a and USD 4,200,000 in Bordj Bou Arreridj. In the targeted communes, a total of USD 1,200,000 was invested. The interventions in the targeted wilayas focused on increasing access to agricultural exploitations (24 km in Ighil Ali and 5 km in Teniet En Nasr) and maintaining existing roads (50 km in Ighil Ali and 12 km in Teniet En Nasr), delineating forest areas, reforestation, establishing plantations (i.e., 5 ha and 225 ha of olive plantation in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr respectively, and 69 ha and 60 ha of orchards in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr respectively), improving land tenure over 11 ha in Ighil Ali and 71 ha in Teniet En Nasr, improving water springs catchments (16 in Ighil Ali and 1 in Teniet En Nasr), building boreholes and rainwater catchments (7 in Ighil Ali and 4 in Teniet En Nasr), terracing for water retention, and developing apiculture (92 hives established in Teniet En Nasr). The funds established under PPDRI are still functioning and have provided USD 410,000 in Teniet En Nasr and USD 3,000,000 in Ighil Ali for the period 2018-2020 to protect and add value to natural resources. However, the success of these investments has been limited. Building on this experience, interventions to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration was integrated in the Bibans project to enable its efficient and successful implementation, as well as the upscaling and the sustainability of the project's results. Another lesson learned from the PPDRI is that direct financial support is not efficient. Under the Bibans project, local populations were strongly engaged in the design of the project and continuous engagement will be maintained throughout the project implementation phase to ensure their ownership and accountability for project success and sustainability. Contributing to the project will also be a condition to receive support.</p>

Project for Environmental and Biodiversity Management (GENBI)	ME/GIZ	2014-2019	<p>The project implemented by GIZ and the ME focused on environmental education, improved governance, and strengthening of NTFP Value Chains (i.e., mastic oil, barbary figs vinegar and oil) in the areas neighbouring the national park. This work provides a good basis for future actions with these and other NTFPs to support forests and biodiversity conservation around and within Protected Areas, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Several technical guidelines for sustainable livelihoods have been developed under this project including on organic bee-keeping, economic evaluation of ecosystem services, sustainable harvesting of the mastic tree and oil production process, and the creation of local cooperatives. The content of these guidelines that applies to the conditions in the targeted communes will be used for the implementation of Biban project's interventions.</p> <p>PEBLA focuses on supporting the implementation of the National Strategy for Integrated Management of Coastal Areas and the National Biodiversity Strategy. It will strengthen and complement the interventions implemented under GENBI by undertaking required environmental studies to classify the terrestrial and marine part of the Edough mountain range as Protected Area, identify the users of natural resources and create cooperatives, and building capacity for the development of sustainable Value Chains based on mastic trees, aromatic and medicinale plants, and honey in the Edough mountain range.</p> <p>The experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the model used under both GENBI and PEBLA projects ? i.e., the creation of a Protected Area in parallel to the development of opportunities for resilient sources of income based on the sustainable management of natural resources ? is very relevant for the Biban project and will be built on for the implementation of the interventions in the Biban mountain range.</p>
Project for Environmental and Biodiversity Management in Algerian Coastline (PEBLA[2])		2020-2023	



Conservation of Globally Significant Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Algeria's Cultural Parks (MENARID)	UNDP	2013-2021	<p>MENARID was funded by GEF-4 with a budget of USD 5,387,142. The objective of this project was to support the management of the national system of cultural parks in Algeria to secure the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystem services, while at the same time, protecting the cultural heritage. The project focused on five Cultural Parks: Tassili N'Ajjer, Ahaggar, Touat-Gourara-Tidikelt, Tindouf and Saharan Atlas. The experience under MENARID in the capturing and storage of monitoring information on fauna and flora biodiversity will be built on to design the most efficient system possible to undertake the inventories and assessments under Output 1.1.2 of the Bibans project. In addition, lessons learned from the profiling of tourists' expectation and the development of sustainable tourism will inform the ecotourism development activities of the Bibans project.</p> <p>- The recommendations from several other UNDP project have informed the design of the Bibans project. The project 'Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Algeria's arid and semi-arid zones' funded by GEF and implemented between 2002 and 2007 advised for example to strongly involve and build capacity of civil society organisations, and promote ecotourism development including training of guides for the protection of cultural and biological heritage.</p>
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Significant Biodiversity in the Tassili and Ahaggar National Parks	UNDP	2004-2009	Lessons learned from this GEF-funded project emphasise the importance of engaging local populations actively from the project design and maintaining continuous communication to enable their ownership of the project.

GEF Small Grant Programme (SGP)	UNDP	2012-ongoing	The SGP started operations in Algeria in 2012 and includes many local initiatives to conserve biodiversity and improve land management. SGP has already learned many lessons and developed a strong network, particularly related to participatory approaches. The proposed Project will explore the approach and successes of the SGP and learn from that experience. More specifically, the project will capitalize on a wide array of lessons learned from SGP-funded projects across Algeria in the areas of sustainable land use and land restoration, local solutions for soil conservation and agroecology, inventories of local flora and fauna, rational use of water resources in fragile ecosystems, biodiversity conservation using nurseries and model forests, reforestation and renewable energies, as well as trainings and awareness-raising interventions benefiting CSOs, farmers and livestock producers, local communities, local governments, and private sector stakeholders deriving benefits from ecosystem services.
The Project focused on Developing a National Strategy and Legal and Institutional Framework on Access to Genetic Resources and Related Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge in Line with the CBD and Its Nagoya Protocol in Algeria	UNDP/DGF	2016-2021	This GEF-funded project, implemented by UNDP, started up in 2016 and is implemented by the DGF (Budget of USD1,900,000). Collaboration with the project will be built for the Value Chains strengthening interventions.

Programme of Pilot Actions for the Rural and Agricultural Development (PAP-ENPARD)	DGF	2014-2019	With a budget of USD 24,000,000 (50% from the European Union and 50% from the government), the project focused on: the implementation of a participatory process for the identification of sustainable rural development projects in the pilot Wilayas; Value Chain development for local products and resources; and strengthening of communication and information on local entrepreneurship. The targeted wilayas were S?tif, Ain Temouchent, Tlemcen and Laghouat. The programme focused on a diversity of Value Chains including <i>inter alia</i> bitter almond, caper, saffron, pistachio, honey, milk, tourism Value Chains. More than 350 groups and associations benefitted from the support of the programme. Lessons learned from PAP-ENPARD regarding the strengthening of the aforementioned Value Chains will be built on.
Project for Small Initiatives (PPI-OSCAN)	IUCN	2014-2025	<p>PPI-OSCAN is funded by the French Facility for Global Environment and is finishing its second phase (Phase 1: 2014 to 2017 ? Phase 2: 2018 to 2021 ? and Phase 3 is planned for 2022- 2025). It supports NGOs in the implementation of local initiatives for biodiversity conservation, the sustainable management of natural resources and climate change adaptation. 79 projects were funded in Algeria, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. Out of the 22 projects funded in Algeria, one was in Bordj bou Arreridj and focused on awareness-raising on biodiversity in 60 schools.</p> <p>Lessons learned from awareness raising, training and ecotourism development by NGOs in Algeria will be built on for the implementation of ecotourism development interventions in the targeted communes.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ppioscan.org/projets/">http://www.ppioscan.org/projets/</a></p>
Support Programme for the Agricultural Sector (PASA)	GIZ/MADR	2018-2022	PASA is funded by the European Union (EU) and currently implemented in the neighbouring Soummam region. It focuses on olive production in mountainous areas. Lessons learned from PASA will be built on for the implementation of the interventions to strengthen the olive Value Chain.

Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes	FAO/DGF	2021-2025	This GEF-funded project has a budget of USD 3,411,644 and aims to demonstrate and upscale sustainable management and harvesting practices as well as conservation interventions in Algeria's cork oak forest ecosystems. The project interventions focus on addressing the causes of the reduction of oak production which include fires, overexploitation and inadequate forest management, through promoting the sustainable management of oak forests and reforestation. The project focuses on the communes of Beni Idder (Wilaya Jijel), Taourir Ighil (Wilaya B?ja?a) and Hafir (Wilaya Tlemcen). The lessons learned from the project implementation and experience in implemented different practices for improved forest management will be very valuable for the selection and implementation of SFM interventions under the Bibans project.
TCP/ALG/3603	FAO	2018-2021	The project had a budget of USD 145,000 and aimed at the promotion of quality and valorisation of products, through the promotion of organic farming and the strengthening of the various sectors concerning quality and access to markets, as well as their regulation. The knowledge generated from this project on the olive Value Chains will inform the project interventions and opportunities to complement the investment of this project will be maximised.
National inventory of local products	FAO/MADR	2020-2021	This project aims to revitalize rural areas through the valorization of agricultural products of known quality and provenance (Budget: USD 32,419). It will establish a methodology and strengthen the capacity of the MADR to protect local products, and provide a first selection of products to be promoted. It focuses both on the Algerian market and on exportations.
TCP/ALG/3501 - <i>Integrated and sustainable management of the Biban Mountain range</i>	FAO	2015-2016	This project undertook field visits and consultations in the two targeted communes in the Biban to assess the opportunities for improved management of natural resources in the area. This information provided for foundation for the development of the Bibans project.

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[1] Projet de Proximit? de D?veloppement Rural Int?gr?

[2] Protection de l'Environnement et de la Biodiversit? du Littoral Alg?rie

## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

# 7. Consistency with National Priorities.

1. The Bibans project is well aligned with the two key national economic policies in Algeria:

? The policy for ?Rural Renewal? and its PPDR aimed to combat land degradation, desertification and adapt to droughts. One of the pillars of this policy is to add value to natural areas. The Bibans project was designed based on the lessons learned from PPDR and with the vision of maximising complementarity with these previous investments.

? The ?New Economic Growth Model? (2016) aims to diversify the economy, notably through the use of natural resources with a particular focus on re-energizing rural areas. It promotes the convergence of economic transition and ecological transition, integrated ecosystem management, the conservation of traditional knowledge on natural resources, and encourages the creation of value added and the sustainable management of ecosystems? goods and services (e.g., pharmacologic, cosmetic, agroforestry products)[1]. This project will directly support the implementation of this policy in rural areas, through the development of activities that generate income and help to sustainably manage natural resources and ecosystems.

2. The National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (SNEDD) 2017-2035 recalls the five general principles for environmental protection stated in the 2003 bill, and lays the foundations for a joint understanding of sustainable development in Algeria. It also identifies the key objectives, thematic and cross-cutting priority interventions by 2035. The SNEDD is a tool for strategic planning that encompasses the objectives of several sectorial strategies and action plans related to the environment and sustainable development. Through its integrated approach across Algeria?s agro-sylvo-pastoral mountainous landscapes in the Biban mountain range, the Bibans project will support the effective operationalization of the SNEDD by seizing the untapped potential of Algeria?s bioeconomy through sustainable Value Chains of biodiversity-based products to fuel economic diversification. The project will also build human and institutional capacities, to capture the value of natural capital, strengthen environmental governance through participatory and integrated local planning. By mainstreaming gender equality into its design and implementation, the project will also advance the gender equality agenda through empowerment of women and girls living in mountainous areas. On the long term, building on its outscaling and upscaling effect, the project will contribute to accelerating the expected transition into green and circular economy in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. The National Climate Plan developed by ME with support from GIZ identifies the design of an Integrated Development Plan for the regions of Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr of the Biban mountain range as part of the medium-term adaptation actions (2020-2035). The project is also strongly aligned to two other short-term Adaptation Actions: value-addition and replication of the experience from Oran Wilaya on organic compost production as natural fertilizer; and rehabilitation of pastoral land through deferred grazing. In the medium term (i.e., 2020-2035), identified actions include: improving agricultural practices for a better use of rainwater in semi-arid areas; and adaptation of forest ecosystems to climate change and increasing their ecological resilience, e.g., high altitude species. The Bibans project is also well aligned to several mitigation targets identified under the PNC such as: the development of a Strategy to reduce Forests Fires, and the development of fire prevention and management tools.

4. The SNAT has four directives and 20 action programmes. The project will significantly contribute to two programmes under Directive 1 ? Toward a sustainable territory ?. Directive 1 Action Programme 2 ?Soil conservation and combatting desertification? focuses on protecting and adding value to soil resources, and embedding soil protection into an integrated land-use planning strategy. The targets by 2030 under this Programme include to enhance agricultural productivity through improved practices and land value-addition over 1,000,000 ha, extend forest land by 1,050,000 ha, and combat desertification in affected arid, sub-arid and sub-humid areas. Under Action Programme 3 ?Ecosystems?, the objectives are to protect and rehabilitate ecosystems, and combine ecosystem protection and value-addition in the land-use planning policy. One of the strategies to achieve this objective covers mountainous areas and forest ecosystems. It provides for the design of a Land-Use Planning Frameworks for 20 mountainous ranges that promote *inter alia* participatory processes with the inhabitants for the protection, value-addition, improvement and better management of agricultural land, and agricultural development in mountainous area through the provision of technical support, incentives and compensation measures regarding the environmental challenges met in these zones, and other forms of government support. Regarding forest ecosystems, the reforestation target defined under the SNAT is 60,000 ha per year, in alignment with the National Plan for Forest Development that identified 4,700,000 ha of land in need of reforestation, the majority of which is in the north of the country.

5. Other plans to which the Bibans project will contribute to are: the National Reforestation Plans that focuses on the reforestation of burnt forests, the Environmental Sector Strategy regarding the development of renewable energy sources particularly solar energy, and the Road map of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which promotes the certification of agricultural products for the preservation of genetic diversity and traditional knowledge.

6. Algeria?s NBSAP 2016-2030 identifies 21 objectives, the project is aligned with each of them. The main objectives that the Bibans project will contribute to are described in the table below.

NBSAP National Objective	How the Project contributes
1: Strengthening intersectoral cooperation and efficient coordination between all the stakeholders and actors relevant to biodiversity	The project will strongly promote intersectoral collaboration through promoting participatory processes across the project interventions and facilitating landscape-level intersectoral coordination through the creation of the Biodiversity Platform for the Bibans mountain range.
2: Intensifying institutional strengthening and capacity development for all stakeholders taking gender, civil society and the media into consideration	The project will implement tailor-made training interventions to address specific capacity gaps of each relevant institutions to enable the implementation of integrated, participatory and gender sensitive processes. CSOs including NGOs and local associations will be strongly involved in the project interventions and benefit from technical and institutional capacity building. The communication strategy to be implemented under the project will cover gender aspects and will target a diversity of media.
3: Integrating biodiversity in the strategies and action plans of specific sectors such as energy, industry and mines, agriculture, fisheries, tourism among others	Biodiversity conservation and the preservation of ecosystems? functioning will be integrated in two PCDs which are the leading decentralised plans guiding development across sectors.
4: Adapting, updating and implementing an efficient policy framework which applies to conservation, sustainable use, restoration and biodiversity value addition	The national policy framework will be strengthened to be more supportive of SLM, SFM and biodiversity conservation.
5: Develop new financial mechanisms such as PES for biodiversity conservation and for value addition using traditional knowledge, and ensure the prioritisation of biodiversity conservation in budgets, in alignment with international funding opportunities	The NBSAP identified the need to undertake an intersectoral analysis to measure the potential for PES development in Algeria. The objective is to increase the value attributed to biodiversity and support the mainstreaming of ecosystem services and realistic PES schemes across relevant sectors. It acknowledges that the multiple existing sectoral funds in Algeria offer good opportunities for the creation of PES schemes.
7: Stocktake, undertake research and provide training to improve knowledge on biodiversity, particularly on biodiversity inventories and good practices for conservation, restoration and biodiversity value addition.	Knowledge gaps on the natural resources in the Bibans mountain range will be addressed by undertaking fauna and flora species inventories, and biodiversity assessments and developing corresponding maps. Research projects will be undertaken through collaboration with universities to further address knowledge gaps. Experience from partner projects will continue to be built on to inform the selection of good practices and sustainable and biodiversity-friendly Value Chains to be implemented under Bibans project.

10: Raising awareness of decision makers at all levels on the socio-economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem preservation	The social and economic value of biodiversity and ecosystems goods and services in the targeted communes will be assessed and the results of these assessments will be used to raise-awareness of government institutions from the central to the local level.
11: Informing, raising awareness and teaching the public (population, users, civilians) including youth on the importance of biodiversity and of rational exploitation for sustainable development	A diversity of awareness-raising tools will be developed and disseminated through multiple channels to inform the general public on the concept of common resources, the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and existing income-generating opportunities through sustainable management.
12: Protect, conserve and restore ecosystems in order to maintain their equilibrium, ensure their sustainability, and ensure sustainable production of ecosystem services, aiming at the conservation of at least 20% of terrestrial areas, 5% of marine and coastal areas and restoration of natural ecosystems over an area of at least 5 million hectares.	The rehabilitation and sustainable management of 250 ha of forests, 1000 ha of agricultural land, 500 ha of olive plantations and 1000 ha of pastoral land using biodiversity-friendly practices will be supported under the project. The project will further promote the upscaling of these practices across 32,257 ha through the development of integrated land-use plans and the strengthening of sustainable Value Chains that rely on the preservation of natural resources and ecosystems.
14: Integrating the population in biodiversity management, conservation, restoration and value addition, building upon good co-management practices to enable buy-in and responsibility taking for biodiversity preservation	Participatory processes are at the foreground of the project interventions as it is critical to create ownership of the project by local populations and sustain the project outputs. Experience from partner projects such as GENBI and PEBLA will continue to inform the implementation of good management mechanisms under the Bibans project.
17: Integrate climate change adaptation approaches (ecosystem resilience, restoration of degraded ecosystems, combating desertification) and prevention of natural hazards and disasters into ecosystem management.	Climate change resilience will be a prerequisite for all project interventions. The project will demonstrate and raise awareness on how climate change consideration is central to sustainable natural resource management, and will develop tools and increase capacity for the integration of climate change adaptation into development planning across all sectors involved in the management of natural resources.
19. Investing in natural ecosystems with high added value, in particular to the added value of key biodiversity sectors contributing to the creation of permanent jobs and income for the local populations.	The project will contribute directly to this objective, notably through the entire Component 2. Component 2 is about ensuring that biodiversity conservation, and sustainable natural resource management, contribute significantly to the local economy.
20: Developing Public-Private Partnerships and strengthening private sector engagement for the development of key Value Chains for biodiversity	Private sector companies will be strongly engaged in the project including in the design of the PCDs and the development of the Value Chains through PPP development. They will also be engaged in identifying potential financial opportunities to upscale good practices (e.g., CSR, PES, incentive systems).



Note: The NBSAP also promotes undertaking economic assessments of ecosystems and widely disseminating the results if these assessments.

7. Algeria is one of 14 countries to have piloted the preparation of a National Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) report. The Algerian LDN report was prepared during 2014-2016 and can be considered the most recent formulation of national policy towards land degradation. This project is in support of the vision of achieving LDN in Algeria, and is strongly aligned with the LDN programme objectives, particularly with the following ones:

? Objective 1: ?Integrated management of dam watersheds?, with a focus on integrated watershed management upstream of the reservoirs for ?the conservation of soils and waters and the improvement of the living standards of the populations?. This proposed project will contribute to this objective in the targeted landscape.

? Objective 2: ?The National Reforestation Plan?. In this objective, LDN reaffirms the national commitment to re-plant 1,250,000 hectares. 750,000 hectares have been planted so far. This project will contribute to this program through promoting increased vegetation cover in the targeted landscape and directly supporting ANR over 250 hectares of burnt forests and shrublands.

? Objective 3: ?Water Saving and Food Security?, which includes improved water management to increase agricultural production and ensure food security.

? Objective 4: ?Management and pastoral land protection?. This objective focuses on rehabilitating pastoral land in steppes and pre-saharian zones through deferred grazing and improvement of pastoral resources over 2,000,000 ha with a vision to protect the high plateau region against desertification. Since 2015, the issue of overgrazing in the Biban mountain range has increased and the project will therefore contribute to this objective.

8. The project interventions are well aligned with Pillar 3 of the Support Framework for the United Nations for the Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 crisis in Algeria[2]: ?Economic response and recovery: protecting jobs, SMEs and the informal sector workers?. In particular, the project will contribute to: i) strengthening SMEs and Value Chains, and supporting economic diversification (Outcome 3.1); supporting women in accessing finance and improving their livelihoods, strengthening national institutions that support entrepreneurship (Outcome 3.2); promoting the adoption of greener practices and technologies by private companies (Outcome 3.3); and improving agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors (i.e., production, storage and commercialization) to increase food security (Output 3.4). The GEF project is also fully aligned with Pillar 5 which focused on social cohesion and populations? resilience and aims at ?strengthening capacity at Wilaya level to adopt an intersectorial and integrated approach for local development including during exceptional situations (e.g., pandemic)?.

[1] Ministère des Ressources en Eau et de l'Environnement, 2016. Synthèse nouveau Modèle de Croissance Économique Algérie Horizon 2035.

[2] Cadre d'Appui des Nations Unies pour la Réponse Socio-Economique de la Crise COVID-19 en Algérie, 2020.

## 8. Knowledge Management

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

# 8. Knowledge Management.

1. Knowledge generation and management are integrated across the Project's components. A gender-sensitive and adaptive communication strategy will be developed during PY1 to support the project implementation and outscaling of the project activities.

2. Knowledge management under the project started with undertaking a stocktake of previous initiatives that piloted approaches and practices targeted under the Bibans project including cross-sectoral approaches, participatory processes, rural development support for livelihoods improvement, nature-based Value Chains development among others. Further identification of the lessons learned from ongoing initiatives will be undertaken at project inception to refine the project interventions and maximise their success and sustainability. At the technical level, existing agricultural, forest and pastoral management practices currently under implementation in the targeted communes (including traditional practices of men and women from all groups) will be discussed as part of the participatory process to update the PCDs to identify evidence-based and gender-sensitive good practices already in use that should be promoted under the PCDs.

### *Inventories, mapping exercises and assessments*

3. Component 1 includes activities to collect data and information on biodiversity, ecosystems, land-use, biodiversity loss, land degradation and threats, in order to address identified knowledge gaps in the targeted communes. This information will thereafter be available to decision-makers and planners at central and local levels, and to local populations using a diversity of means. A georeferenced database which will be widely accessible will centralise the data collected. Digital and printed copies of the inventories, data sets, maps and reports will also be accessible for consultation at the offices of local authorities, environmental associations and other relevant locations. Posters and pamphlets summarising the highlights of the inventories and assessments will also be produced. The assessments of the value of these natural resources will also address a major knowledge gap for the region and for the country. The

results of these inventories, mapping exercises and assessments will be shared with all relevant government and non-government stakeholders in the targeted communes and inform the participatory development of the integrated PCDs. The results of these assessments will be used under Component 3 to advocate for increased allocation of financial resources to interventions for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem rehabilitation, and for their preservation to be systematically integrated into decision-making and planning processes through the landscape-level Biodiversity Platform. Finally, the information on biodiversity richness, and the value of biodiversity and ecosystems will be integrated in the awareness-raising campaigns to be implemented at the national level under Component 3.

4. Knowledge and understanding of local government institutions, NGOs, CBOs and local populations on the existing policy framework regulating the management of natural resources will be increased through awareness raising and training under Component 1.

#### *Demonstration sites*

5. Under Component 2, improved practices for the management of natural resources and sustainable sources of income that support biodiversity and ecosystem functioning will be demonstrated in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes. The on-the-ground interventions to be implemented under Component 2 will generate knowledge on how to conserve biodiversity, on how to increase the productivity of agricultural, pastoral and forest land through the implementation of SLM and SFM approaches, and on the financial opportunities offered by sustainable, nature-based Value Chains. The expected positive results of the approach will also demonstrate the benefits of integrated land-use planning following a participatory approach. Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr will thereby serve as living demonstration sites that stakeholders from throughout the Biban mountain range will be invited to visit and learn from (under Component 3).

#### *Scaling up*

6. Component 3 is dedicated to outscaling and upscaling the successful practices and approaches from the project across the Biban mountain range and in other landscapes. Firstly, under Component 3, a multi-stakeholder Biodiversity Platform will be established. This Platform will be tasked with disseminating required documentation and information, and supporting the uptake of the good approaches and practices from the project and other relevant initiatives implemented in the region across the Biban mountain range. Guidelines on successful approaches and practices will be developed to facilitate their replication. A national awareness-raising campaign will also be implemented for the general public on the concept of common resources, the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and existing income-generating opportunities through sustainable management using the lessons learned and experience from the project and other relevant initiatives. A diversity of tools will be used to reach as many people as possible (e.g., Television show, social media campaign, school events, theatre performances, posters, games, concerts, field visits). A particular attention will be given to reaching

women and youth. Component 3 will also include the development and implementation of the project monitoring and evaluation plan to ensure the systematic collection, analysis and compilation of the results generated from the project throughout the implementation period. Finally, a communication strategy will be implemented to disseminate information on the Project's progress, results, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and global levels. Communication material and tools to be used will include for example radio talks and short documentaries, a website page, an online documentation platform, posters, a facebook page, short video clips, group visits to demonstration sites including for schools, educational farms to showcase good practices.

7. FAO ? through its regional and international networks ? will ensure the flow of information and knowledge from other programmes and projects towards relevant stakeholders of the Bibans? project in order to achieve highest technical quality as possible for the on-the-ground interventions. Experience from the Bibans? project will also be shared on these networks. For example, FAO is one of the GEF Agencies of The Restoration Initiative (GEF ID 9264) and The Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme, and will ensure that the results and lessons learned from national projects addressing similar challenges under these programmes are adequately built on under the Bibans project.

## **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

# **9. Monitoring and Evaluation.**

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

2. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, and HQ Technical Units will provide oversight on GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the semi-annual project progress reports, annual PIRs, periodic backstopping and annual supervision missions.

3. Project monitoring will be carried out by the PMU, the FAO BH, FAO country office and ONEDD. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At project inception, the results matrix will be

reviewed to finalize the identification of: i) outputs; ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the M&E expert appointed at the PMU, and reviewed and approved by the PSC and FAO.

Table 5: M&E plan

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Inception Workshop	PMU in consultation with the LTO, BH and PSC	Within 1 month after start-up	USD 3,000
Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget	PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force	3 weeks after Start-up and annually with the reporting period July to June	Project staff time
Project Inception Report	PMU in consultation with the FAO LTO, FAO BH, FAO country office  Report cleared by the FAO BH, FAO LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in the Field Program Management Information System (FPMIS) by the FAO BH	1 month after start-up	Project staff time
Project M&E Expert	Part-time expert as part of the PMU	1 month after start-up	USD 13,200
M&E training workshop	M&E expert	During Year 1	USD 7,650
M&E tools and equipment	GPS and other tools required by the Project M&E expert	Within 6 months after start-up	USD 7,000
Supervision Visits	FAO	Mid-term	Project staff time

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	<p>PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework.</p> <p>The PPR will be submitted to the FAO BH and FAO LTO for comments and clearance. The FAO BH will upload the PPR on the FPMIS.</p>	No later than one month after the end of each six-monthly reporting period (30 June and 31 December)	Project staff time
Project Implementation Review (PIR) report	FAO LTO (in collaboration with the PMU) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the FAO BH and the GEF-Funding Liaison Officer	August 1, of each reporting year	Project staff time
Co-financing Reports (Disbursement, Output)	PMU	On a semi-annual basis, and will be considered as part of the semi-annual PPRs	Project staff time
GEF Core Indicators	PMU and reviewed by FAO LTO	At mid-point and end of project	Project staff time
Technical Reports	Project staff and consultants, with peer review as appropriate	As appropriate	Project time and consultant costs
Mid-term Review	External consultant, FAO BH in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners.	Half way through project implementation	USD 30,000
Independent Terminal Evaluation	The BH will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED.	6 months prior to terminal review meeting	USD 33,500

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Lessons Learned	Project Staff, short-term consultants and FAO	As appropriate	Project time and consultant costs
Terminal Report	PMU and reviewed by FAO LTO	One month before the Terminal Evaluation	Project staff time
<b>Total Budget</b>			<b>USD 94,350</b>

4. Specific reports that will be prepared under the PMU are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) AWP/B; (iii) PPRs; (iv) annual PIR; (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, assessment of the relevant GEF-7 core indicators (see Annex A1: Project Results Framework) and capacity scorecards against the baselines (completed during project preparation) will be required at mid-term and final project evaluation.

5. *Project Inception Report:* It is recommended that the PMU prepare a draft project inception report in consultation with the FAO LTO, the FAO BH, ONEDD and other project partners. Elements of this report should be discussed during the Project Inception Workshop and the report subsequently finalized. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B, a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be circulated to the PSC for review and comments before its finalization, no later than one month after project start-up. The report should be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, ONEDD, and will be uploaded in FAO FPMIS by the FAO BH.

6. *Results-based AWP/B:* The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with the joint FAO Project Task Force and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop inputs will be incorporated and the PMU will submit a final draft AWP/B within two weeks of the Inception Workshop to the BH. For subsequent AWP/B, the PMU will organize a project progress review and planning meeting for its review. Once comments have been incorporated, the BH will circulate the AWP/B to the LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, ONEDD for comments/clearance prior to uploading in FPMIS by the BH. The AWP/B must be linked to the project's Results Framework indicators so that the project's work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included

together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B should be approved by the PSC and uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO BH.

7. *Project Progress Reports*: PPRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework (Annex A1). The purpose of the PPR is to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan. The BH has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PMU, FAO LTO, FAO Funding Liaison Officer (FLO), FAO country office, and ONEDD. After LTO, BH, FLO, and ONEDD clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

8. *PIR*: The PMU (in collaboration with the BH and the LTO) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit FLO for review and approval no later than (check each year with GEF Unit but roughly end June/early July each year). The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will submit the PIR to the GEF Secretariat and GEF Evaluation Office as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. PIRs will be uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

9. Key milestones for the PIR process:

? Early July: The LTOs submit the draft PIRs (after consultations with BH, project team, and ONEDD) to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit ([faogef@fao.org](mailto:faogef@fao.org), copying respective GEF Unit officer) for initial review;

? Mid July: FAO-GEF Coordination Unit responsible officers review main elements of PIR and discuss with LTO as required;

? Early/mid-August: The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit prepares and finalizes the FAO Summary Tables and send it to the GEF Secretariat by (date is communicated each year by the GEF Secretariat through the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit);

? September/October: PIRs are finalized. PIRs carefully and thoroughly reviewed by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and discussed with the LTOs, FAO country office and ONEDD for final review and clearance;

? Mid-November: The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit submits the final PIR reports ? cleared by the LTO and approved by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit ? to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office.



10. *Technical Reports:* Technical reports will be prepared by national, international consultants, and partner organizations under LoAs as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The drafts of any technical reports must be submitted by the PMU to the FAO BH, who will share it with the FAO LTO, FAO country office and ONEDD. The LTO, FAO country office and ONEDD will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of said report. The BH will upload the final cleared reports onto the FPMIS. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the PSC as appropriate.

11. *Co-financing Reports:* The FAO BH, with support from the PMU, FAO country office and ONEDD, will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document/CEO Request. The PMU will compile the information received from the executing partners and transmit it in a timely manner to the FAO LTO, BH, FAO country office and ONEDD. The report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The format and tables to report on co-financing can be found in the PIR.

12. *Terminal Report:* Within two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Terminal Evaluation, the PMU will submit to the FAO BH, LTO, FAO country office and ONEDD a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

### **Evaluation Provisions**

13. Two independent project evaluations, an MTR half way throughout the project and a Terminal Evaluation to begin six months prior to project NTE, will be carried out.

14. *Mid-Term Review:* The FAO BH will arrange an independent MTR in consultation with the PSC, the PMU, the LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, FAO country office and ONEDD. The MTR will be conducted to review the progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objective, outcomes and outputs. The MTR will allow mid-course corrective actions, if needed. The MTR will provide a systematic analysis of the information on project progress in the achievement of expected

results against budget expenditures. It will refer to the Project Budget (see Annex A2) and the approved AWP/Bs. It will highlight replicable good practices and key issues faced during project implementation and will suggest mitigation actions to be discussed by the PSC, the LTO, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, FAO country office and ONEDD.

15. *Terminal Evaluation:* The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and large size projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved; and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

16. The BH will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the "GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects." FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralized Evaluation Support team. In particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, Terms of Reference of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings.

17. After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within 4 weeks and share it with national partners, GEF OFP, OED and the FAO-GEF CU.

## 10. Benefits

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?**

# 10. Benefits

1. The project interventions under Components 1 and 2 will contribute significantly to **empowering local populations** by increasing involvement in decision-making and planning processes as well as in monitoring and evaluation activities, increasing access to knowledge and skills, increasing access to financial opportunities with continuous technical support, supporting clustering into strong organisations (i.e., producers' associations and cooperative), and improving management practices in agricultural, pastoral and forest land to increase livelihoods' resilience. This will enhance local populations' autonomy and adaptive capacity, and give them the opportunity to become agents of change. Furthermore, the gender-sensitive approach adopted throughout the project will contribute to addressing gender inequalities by creating opportunities for women which often have limited access to land and financial opportunities, and particularly vulnerable to climate change. Gender balance will be promoted by ensuring that women participate actively in decision making, planning and monitoring processes, and benefits adequately from the knowledge-sharing, capacity building and income-generating interventions.

2. By supporting improved management of natural resources for increased land productivity and strengthening Value Chains, the project will **increase the range of economic opportunities** that exists in the Biban mountain range. As a result, the youth will not be constrained to move to the cities to find decent jobs, they will be able to adopt decent and sustainable livelihoods in the area if they wish to do so.

3. In alignment with the requests from local populations, the Bibans project will contribute to **reviving, conserving and adding value to the rich traditional knowledge** on the use and transformation of natural resources in the region. Under Component 1, traditional and indigenous knowledge will be built on to undertake the inventories, value assessments and corresponding mapping exercises. Additional consultations with local populations at project inception will enable to refine the identification of the traditional know-how and products that people would like to focus on in the targeted communes. A market analysis will thereafter be undertaken in collaboration with private sector actors to assess the demand and development opportunities for the identified products. Individuals and groups will thereafter be supported in strengthening the Value Chains that present good development opportunities under Component 2. A particular focus will be given to traditional crop species and breeds under the SLM interventions in order to contribute to the conservation of the cultural heritage of the region. The development of ecotourism and cultural tourism packages and the creation of a protected area will further contribute to conserving and adding value to cultural and heritage sites and knowledge.

4. The diversification of agricultural and forest products, improved exploitation practices and increased productivity under Component 2 will increase the diversity of food products available locally for **better affordability of diverse and nutritious diets**. This will have positive effects on health in the targeted communes. Furthermore, the biological diversity of production systems will further strengthen their resilience to pest outbreaks and climate shocks thereby enabling sustained provision of diverse local products[1].

5. Agroecology practices will enable improved usage of natural resources, such as solar radiation, atmospheric carbon and nitrogen. In addition, in these improved production systems, the recycling of nutrients, biomass and water will be increased as well as resource use efficiency, and wastes will be reduced. By enhancing biological processes and recycling biomass, nutrients and water, producers will be able to use fewer external resources, thereby **reducing costs**. As an example, biological nitrogen fixation by legumes in intercropping and rotation systems can enable a major reduction in the need for synthetic fertilizers[2]. As a result, **agricultural production will be sustainably increased**[3].

6. Agricultural, pastoral and forest-based income sources and markets will be strengthened under the Bibans project. The **diversification of income sources** through improved production systems and processing methods over 2,750 ha of agricultural, forest and pastoral land will directly benefit approximately 900 land-users[4] including at least 50% of women which will contribute to stabilising household income for approximately 4,500 individuals. In addition, diversified income sources will increase the resilience of land users to climate and environmental risks. The failure of a crop, forest or livestock species will have lower impact on the households' income which will be more economically resilient.

### **Environmental benefits**

7. The project will have a wide range of benefits for biodiversity conservation and for the maintenance of ecosystem functioning for sustained provision of ecosystems' goods and services. The project interventions will result in increased vegetation cover, increased soil fertility, improved water availability, greater species diversity in forest, agricultural and pastoral land, and maintained and protected habitat to support biodiversity and species conservation. It will also contribute to addressing pollution issues linked to waste management in the targeted communes by reusing green wastes to produce compost (please see Part II 1.a. 6. Global Environmental Benefits for more information).

### *Benefits related to the current situation with COVID-19*

The Bibans project will support local populations in the targeted communes in building a livelihood foundation that not only enhances climate resilience but also provides a response and recovery plan to the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be done through the establishment and strengthening of Value Chains' opportunities. For example, under Outputs 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.1.4, livelihoods' resilience and diversification will be supported through improved management of agricultural, pastoral and forest resources and through the strengthening of crops, PPAMs, NTFPs and small livestock Value Chains to support increased and more reliable income for vulnerable households. The criteria for prioritising the livelihood interventions will include the impact of COVID-19 on local populations. Increased production of a diversity of products

and local productions of required inputs (e.g., seeds, seedlings, indigenous breeds) will increase economic reliance in rural areas and reduce their vulnerability to national market restrictions.

[1] FAO, 2018. The 10 Elements of Agroecology : Guiding the transition to sustainable food and agricultural systems.

[2] FAO, 2016. Soils and Pulses: Symbiosis for life. Rome.

[3] Levard L (Gret), Mathieu B (AVSF), 2018. Agro?cologie : capitalisation d?exp?riences en Afrique de l'Ouest. 82pp.

[4] This includes approximately 300 crop producers, 200 olive producers, 200 livestock farmers, and 200 harvesters of forest products.

## 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification \*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

#### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Risk identified	Risk Classification	Mitigation Action (s)	Indicator / Mean(s) of Verification	Progress on mitigation action
Access to GR/aTK held by indigenous, local communities and/or farmers	Low	In case any of the value chains that will be developed under Component 2 triggers the ITPGRFA or the ABS Mechanism, the applicable MLS/SMTA requirements and/or the national ABS legislation will be observed with regards to obtaining PIC/MAT for any utilization of GR/aTK in line with the Nagoya Protocol	% of value chain interventions in line with the ITPGRFA and the ABS Mechanism of the Nagoya Protocol	N/A
Transfer of seeds and/or planting materials for cultivation	Moderate	Seeds and/or planting materials provided as part of the investments under Component 2 will be from endemic and locally adapted crops and varieties that are accepted by farmers and consumers and it will be ensured that the seeds and planting materials are free from pests and diseases according to agreed norms, especially the IPPC	% of endemic and locally adapted seeds and planting materials used in agroforestry demonstration practices in the target landscapes across the Biban mountain range	N/A
Reforestation intervention in the target demonstration sites	Moderate	The project will undertake pro-biodiversity investments under Component 2, including through reforestation interventions within the targeted communes of the Biban mountains range. To do so, the project on-the-ground interventions will adhere to existing national forest policies, forest programmes or equivalent strategies. The project will also observe principles 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forests.	% of reforestation interventions in line with principles 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forests	N/A

Participation of women and youth to value chains interventions	Moderate	The project will undertake specific measures as highlighted in the Gender Action Plan, to empower women, youth and the most vulnerable social sub-groups to generate alternative source of income through the sustainable valorisation of NTFPs along local value chains.	% of women and youth benefiting from value chain investments and interventions	N/A
Community participation into drafting of policies and regulations	Low	The project will take the necessary measures to enable a wider participation of all stakeholders, including women and youth groups as per the Gender Action Plan, in the process of updating the PCDs as well upscaling and outscaling interventions.	% of policy documents and regulations developed with the participation of local communities, including women and youth groups	N/A

#### Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>Environmental and Social Risk Certification ALG002GFF (Bibans) June 15</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK** (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

## Annex A<sub>1</sub>: Project Results Framework <sup>[1]</sup>

Project Components	Project Outcomes (+ Indicator & target)	Project Outputs (+ Indicator & target)	Activities	Additional information
<p>Project Objective: To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and forest ecosystems, and improve the management of natural resources in two communes of the Biban mountain range, and support outscaling across the Biban mountain range</p> <p><u>Indicator 1</u>: Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity</p> <p>Target 1: 32,257 hectares</p> <p><u>Indicator 2</u>: Number of individuals adopting sustainable, nature-based income-generating activities</p> <p><u>Target 2</u>: 16,815 individuals (including 50% women)</p>				



<p>Component 1: Biodiversity and land management planning, policy strengthening and financial capacity building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Biban mountain range.</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management are integrated into communal development plans and budgeted for in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes</p>	<p>Output 1.1.1 Training provided to strengthen capacity of the government staff from communal to central level including technical staff, decision makers, and key officials and influencers on integrated land-use planning including on participatory processes and on how to prioritize specific interventions and landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem functioning</p>	<p>(i) Provide training to at least 40 decision-makers from central and decentralised government (Wilaya and Communes) of Agricultural Services, Forest Conservation, Health, Waste Management, Meteorology, Planning, Urbanism, Risk management, Transportation, Research, Water management and Social Development on: i) the use of spatial data and assessments results to assess biodiversity richness, land degradation levels and environmental risks, spatial planning and prioritisation of interventions accordingly (decision-making tools); ii) participatory, gender-sensitive, integrated land-use planning processes for biodiversity conservation in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr; iii) implication of private sector actors in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation (e.g., the creation of PPPs); and iv) participatory management and co-management systems for environmental protection and biodiversity conservation</p>
<p>(USD 380,000)</p>	<p><u>Indicator 1:</u></p> <p>Number of government staff disaggregated by gender from the central to the local level trained on integrated land-use planning, inventories and biodiversity assessments, and value assessments</p>	<p><u>Indicator 1:</u></p> <p>Number of government staff disaggregated by gender from the central to the local level trained on integrated land-use planning for sustainable land, forest and biodiversity management</p>	
	<p><u>Target 1:</u></p> <p>150 government staff including 50% of women</p>	<p><u>Target 1:</u> At least 100 government staff (60 staff at local level, 30 per each commune) and 40 staff at central level (out of which at least 50% are women)</p>	
	<p><u>Indicator 2:</u></p> <p>Number of integrated PCDs that address biodiversity and land degradation concerns developed and implementation initiated</p>		<p>(ii) Provide training to at least 60 technical staff including 50% of women from Agricultural Services, Forest Conservation, Health, Waste Management, Meteorology, Planning, Urbanism, Risk management, Transportation, Research, Water management and Social Development on ecosystem functioning and service provision, restoration practices, and biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient practices in agricultural, pastoral</p>
		<p>(USD 50,000)</p>	

-	Output 1.1.2 Inventories of fauna and flora species, and mapping of biodiversity, ecosystems, threats and levels of degradation undertaken by CNRDB using a participatory approach with CBOs, environment and agricultural staff, local government, NGOs, and universities and students in the two targeted communes to address knowledge gaps	(i) Provide training to at least 30 individuals (3/4 per institutions) including 50% of women from the ME, MADR, Ministry of Water Resources, and training and research institutions on biodiversity assessments, species monitoring and mapping, ecosystem degradation assessments across agricultural, forest and pastoral land	CNDRB and ANN as a key partner
<u>Target 2:</u> Two integrated PCDs that address biodiversity and land degradation concerns			and in partnership with Universities
<u>Indicator 3:</u> Number of Protected Areas under development			
<u>Target 3:</u> One Protected Area under development	<u>Indicator:</u> Number of biodiversity, species distribution, degradation and vulnerability maps developed	(ii) Undertake the inventories on wild flora and fauna species, the inventories of traditionally cultivated and farmed varieties/breeds specific to the targeted area, in the identification of important conservation areas (ZIP, ZICO, ZCB); and establish a georeferenced database to centralise this information under CNDRB	
	<u>Target:</u> At least 6 inventories (fauna, flora, ecosystems) and 10 maps (at least 5 per commune)	(iii) Undertake biodiversity assessments, identify hotspots and delineate different ecosystems (using a combination of participatory mapping exercises with local populations and georeferenced tools such as Trends-Earth), and produce corresponding maps for the two communes	
	(USD 130,000)	(iv) Assess and map:  - ecosystem productivity;  - extent of degradation, trends and causes (e.g., fires, pollution, unsustainable land management practices, climate change,	

		<p>Output 1.1.3 Social, economic and cultural value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems in the Biban mountain range assessed by government staff using a participatory approach</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of assessments of social, economic and cultural value of biodiversity and ecosystems undertaken</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least two (one per commune)</p> <p>(USD 80,000)</p>	<p>(i) Train 20 government staff from ONEDD, DGEDD, National Agency for Water Resources and/or DGF in undertaking social, economic and cultural assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services based on CBD guidelines[2] to measure the value and services provided by natural ecosystems, FAO's B-Intact tools and SEEA-AFF approach, and the guidelines[3] developed under the GENBI project to undertake the economic assessment of ecosystem services with the example of El Kala national park.</p> <p>(ii) Assess the value of biodiversity and of the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems at all levels in the two communes using a participatory approach with local populations:</p> <p>? Environmental</p> <p>? Financial</p> <p>? Economic</p> <p>? Social</p> <p>? Cultural</p> <p>? Patrimonial values</p>	
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		<p>Output 1.1.4 Two integrated PCDs integrating biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM ? one for each commune ? with detailed action plan and zoning of the interventions, developed by the APC in a participatory manner with local populations and with support from government officials, and under implementation</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of integrated PCDs that address biodiversity and land degradation concerns developed and implementation initiated</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Two integrated and gender-responsive PCDs that address biodiversity and land degradation concerns</p> <p>(USD 60,000)</p>	<p>(i) Raise awareness of local government, NGOs, associations, local populations and private sector actors on the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and opportunities for improved livelihoods, and on the existing regulations regarding the management of natural resources</p> <p>(ii) Integrate ? using a participatory development approach with local populations and APCs, communal legal expert, government staff from forest, agriculture, water, tourism and waste management sectors, and NGOs ? biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM principles in the PCDs of the two targeted communes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- targets, strategies, responsibilities and actions necessary to shift the local development path to a path that conserves biodiversity and land;</li> <li>- updated maps to establish different zones in the commune (e.g., no access zone, protected zone, agroforestry development zone, NTFP harvesting zone, small-scale livestock husbandry;</li> <li>- development zone, pastoral zones, key cultural zones, ecotourism attraction development zone, previously identified landfill zones) based on the results of Output 1.1.2; and</li> <li>- concrete activities to address biodiversity and land degradation issues</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Output 1.1.5 Gap analysis of the investment plans for the PCDs, identification of financial opportunities to address these gaps and fund biodiversity, SLM and SFM interventions, and mobilisation of these funds through advocacy</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of funding sources leveraged to support the implementation of the biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM of the PCDs</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least two additional sources of funding leveraged</p> <p>(USD 25,000)</p>	<p>(i) Undertake an analysis of the existing investment plan to implement the PCDs for Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr in collaboration with the Wali, the mayor, the DE, the DCF, the DSA, the DRE and the Direction of Vocational Training in each commune to identify the funding gaps for the interventions of the integrated PCDs linked to biodiversity and ecosystems preservation</p> <p>(ii) Identify additional sources of funding (e.g., government programmes, private sector companies) to fill in the financial gaps</p> <p>(iii) Undertake advocacy interventions to leverage funding for the remaining biodiversity-orientated interventions of the PCDs with government (and non-government) institutions</p> <p>(iv) Develop a strategy and financial plan with the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Water Resources, MICLAT and the ME to address the priority development issues of the two communes which are not yet covered under the PCDs (e.g., improving the road network, access to drinking water, provision of solar panels for energy, sanitation, waste management, restoration of traditional villages and establishment of tourism infrastructure to increase their capacity to develop tourism activities</p>	
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		<p>Output 1.1.6 Two local protocols to support the implementation of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions under the pilot PCDs</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of local protocols developed and validated to support the implementation of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least two gender-responsive local protocols developed and validated</p> <p>(USD 15,000)</p>	<p>(i) Develop local protocols to guide the implementation of the biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions identified in the pilot PCDs in collaboration with sectoral authorities and local populations</p> <p>(ii) Provide training on the use of the protocols to relevant institutions (e.g., APCs, DGEDD, DGF, ADS, DSA, local NGOs and associations)</p>	
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		<p>Output 1.1.7 Opportunities for the protection of biodiversity hotspots and natural forests in the targeted communes identified to support species and ecosystems? preservation, support ecotourism and create spatial continuity with Djurdjura, Gouraya and/or Babor-Tababart National Parks, and consultative and legal processes initiated for the creation of a new Protected Area</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of Protected Areas under development</p> <p><u>Target:</u> One Protected Area under development</p> <p>(USD 20,000)</p>	<p>(i) Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current network of National Parks in Algeria and identify opportunities to increase the connectivity of the existing network through the creation of one or several Protected Areas in the Biban mountain range (at least part of the Protected Area will cover the targeted communes, in alignment with zoning exercise under Output 1.1.4)</p> <p>(ii) Initiate the creation process for a new Protected Area in the Biban mountain range following the mixed model proved to be efficient in the country with full protection in the biodiversity hotspots and restricted access in other areas to enable sustainable harvesting of NTFPs</p>	
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<p>Component 2: Adoption of sustainable sources of income that contribute to conserving biodiversity and reversing land degradation by local resource users in the targeted communes.</p> <p>(USD 2,080,248)</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1 Nature-based sustainable businesses in Ighil Ali and Teniet En Nasr communes are developed and are directly contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, forest ecosystems and land</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of sustainable MSMEs generating profit established disaggregated by women and youth</p> <p><u>Target:</u> at least 20 MSMEs established in each commune</p>	<p>Output 2.1.1 Two government-based technical support services established to assist the implementation, monitoring, maintenance and growth of the SLM, SFM and sustainable income-generating activities to be implemented under Outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3</p> <p>(USD 80,000)</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Policy documents to institutionalise the support services</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Two gender-sensitive local policy documents</p>	<p>(i) Create and institutionalize a <i>technical support service for the development, monitoring and maintenance of SLM, SFM and sustainable income-generating activities in rural areas</i> in each commune headed by the APC's president and constituted by the local staff of the relevant institutions including DE, DSA, DCF, Department of Water Resources, ADS and APC</p> <p>(ii) Train the members of the service on the technical, administrative, financial and managerial aspects of SLM, SFM and nature-based, sustainable income-generating activities in rural areas (training-of-trainers approach)</p> <p>(iii) Provide training to ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC, and review their functioning where required to support improved monitoring of the success of the projects they support ? including sustainable resources management projects ? and integration of these results in their selection processes</p>	<p>After the project, the service should be maintained by the Wilaya (with potential complementary funding from relevant sectors) as the service of the Wali to support the implementation and the monitoring of the project for the development of ?grey zones?. The service will be audited annually by the Wali's control services.</p>
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	Output 2.1.2 2,750 ha of agricultural, forest and pastoral land under rehabilitation or improved management	<u>Forests</u>  (i) Providing training on ANR techniques using a learning-by-doing approach with DCF, NGOs, CBOs, members of the local populations and other relevant stakeholders with the help of the technical support service, and support the implementation of ANR interventions in 250 ha of burnt forests and shrublands (using indigenous, fire-resilient, melliferous species that provide valuable NTFPs such as carob, chestnut, holm oak)  (ii) Provide technical training and equipment to the Da?ra, APC, DE and DCF staff for improved fire prevention and invasive species management	USD 500 per hectare (total ANR : USD 125,000)  USD 200 per ha for agricultural improvement (USD 200,000 in total)  USD 300 per ha for olive plantation improvement (USD 150,000 in total)  USD 100 per ha for pastoral land (USD 100,000 in total)
	Indicators:  - Number of ha of forests under restoration and sustainably managed  - Number of ha of agricultural land under improved management practices  - Number of ha of olive plantations under improved management practices  - Number of ha of pastoral land under improved management practices	<u>Agricultural land:</u>  (iii) Provide training on sustainable, biodiversity-friendly and drought-resilient agricultural practices in mountainous areas following an agroecology approach working closely with the technical support services  (iv) Develop compost and natural fertilizers production plans from natural wastes, and organize the network of producers to gather green wastes from households, agriculture and livestock husbandry (e.g., poultry)  (v) Support the implementation of	
	Targets:  - 250 ha of forests  - 1000 ha of agricultural land  - 500 ha of olive plantations  - 1000 ha of pastoral land  (USD 750,000)		

		<p>Output 2.1.3 At least 40 Sustainable business plans in agroecology, agritourism, ecotourism, handcrafting, forestry, NTFP Value Chains or other economic activities developed to support biodiversity conservation, sustainable and productive land-use practices, and livelihoods resilience</p> <p>(USD 70,000)</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of Sustainable business plans developed</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 40 Sustainable business plans developed (out of which at least 20 are developed by women)</p>	<p>(i) Refine the list of criteria to be met by the business plans based on the criteria pre-identified during the PPG phase (e.g., personal contribution of the beneficiary, clarity of land ownership, cost-effectiveness, individual and common benefits, environmental benefits, climate resilience, sustainability)</p> <p>(ii) Organise complementary consultations with members of the local populations who expressed their interest in developing specific sources of income, identify similarities and complementarities, and design a strategy to group people for stronger projects</p> <p>(iii) Raise awareness of members of the local populations interested in tourism development on the principles of ecotourism versus general tourism</p> <p>(iv) Provide training to interested members of the local populations (particularly youth and 50% of women) on the development of good business plans and support them in the preparation of at least 40 medium-term business plans in alignment with the PCDs to create sustainable revenue while contributing to biodiversity and ecosystems preservation</p>	
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	<p>Output 2.1.4 At least 20 MSMEs that are generating income and contributing to biodiversity, ecosystems and land conservation established or strengthened</p> <p>(USD 1,180,248)</p> <p>(Average budget of: 40,000 USD per project from the GEF project ? Total USD 800,000)</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of MSMEs created or strengthened</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 20 MSMEs created or strengthened (out of which at least 20 are women-led)</p>	<p>(i) Select at least 20 business plans out of the 40 developed based on specific criteria in a transparent manner</p> <p>(ii) Analyse the different funding options for each project with ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM and banks, and allocate the funding of each business plan to the relevant institution and to the Bibans project</p> <p>(iii) Provide required equipment and training to the entrepreneurs of the selected MSMEs to initiate the activities</p> <p>(iv) Identify the required small infrastructure to support the Value Chains not integrated in the selected business plans, identify members of the local populations interested in these income-generating activities and support them in their implementation</p> <p>(USD 200,000)</p> <p>(v) Establish required groups, cooperatives or associations to regroup producers for each Value Chain targeted by the project (at least 5 cooperatives/associations ? olive oil and derivatives producers, sweet chilly producers, fig producers, ecotourism operators)</p> <p>(vi) Provide training to producers groups, associations and</p>	
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<p>Component 3 : Outscaling and upscaling of successful interventions across the Biban mountain range</p> <p>(USD 680,000)</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1 Sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation integrated in development planning across the Biban mountain range</p> <p><u>Indicator 1:</u> Number of policy document drafted, policy recommendations developed to integrate biodiversity and ecosystems? considerations</p> <p><u>Target 1:</u> At least three policy document drafted or policy recommendations developed</p> <p><u>Indicator 2:</u> Additional private and public resources mobilized for the upscaling of sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1 An intercommunal, cross-sectoral Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform including public and private sector actors established to promote biodiversity and ecosystems conservation, and support access to financial sources for the outscaling of good practices</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of regional platforms established and operational</p> <p><u>Target:</u> One operational platform for the Biban mountain range</p> <p>(USD 50,000)</p>	<p>(i) Establish an intercommunal Biban mountain range Biodiversity Platform bringing together local governments, civil society, private sector and local populations to support concerted and harmonized development planning, promote biodiversity and ecosystem conservation across the Biban mountain range, share knowledge and lessons learned from the project (using communication tools developed under Output 3.2.3) and other relevant projects, and support access to financial sources for the replication of good practices identified under Output 3.1.5 and from other relevant projects</p> <p>(ii) Advocate for the identification of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM interventions to complement existing PCDs in other communes of the Biban mountain range and promote the integration of such interventions in the next revision process planned in 2025</p>	
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	<p>practices in other communes of the Biban mountain range</p> <p><u>Target 2:</u> X\$ (To be determined at project inception)</p>	<p>Output 3.1.2 Amendments to the policy framework and programmes proposed to enable and promote integrated, participatory, landscape-scale development planning, SLM and biodiversity conservation in the targeted Wilayas and at the national level</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of policy document drafted, policy recommendations developed to integrate biodiversity and ecosystems? considerations</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least three gender-sensitive policy document drafted or policy recommendations developed</p> <p>(USD 60,000)</p>	<p>(i) Refine the identification of gaps in the policy framework and programmes for integrated land-use planning and implementation, biodiversity conservation and preservation of ecosystem goods and services</p> <p>(ii) Develop policy documents or policy recommendations to address priority gaps including for example: policy improvement opportunities for the <b>General Law on Forests</b>, draft policy document on <b>ecotourism</b>, policy document to regulate the management of <b>olives? processing wastes</b> and/or tax reduction systems and other incentives to support the recycling of olive processing wastes, recommendations to strengthen the <b>PCDs? policy</b>, recommendations for better integration of biodiversity, ecosystem restoration and climate resilience principles in the <b>National Reforestation Programme</b>.</p>	
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		<p>Output 3.1.3 Guidelines on good approaches and practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land conservation in the Biban mountain range developed and disseminated</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of guiding documents developed on good approaches and practices</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least three gender-sensitive guiding documents</p> <p>(USD 60,000)</p>	<p>(i) Develop guidelines to support the uptake of successful project's approaches and practices for the integration of biodiversity conservation, SLM and SFM into development planning across the Biban mountain range</p> <p>(ii) Review the training programmes of the vocational training centers regarding agricultural, forest management and tourism sectors and propose revisions to promote sustainable approaches and practices in the targeted wilayas and beyond</p>	
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		<p>Output 3.1.4 Public and private resource mobilisation strategy developed and put under implementation to outscale and upscale successful practices for the sustainable management of biodiversity, forests and land within the Biban mountain range and in other relevant landscapes</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u></p> <p><u>Target:</u></p> <p>(USD 60,000)</p>	<p>(i) Develop ? in a participatory manner with relevant actors from the government and the private sector ? a resource mobilization strategy to raise funds (e.g., government programmes such as DEV-COM and ?Programme Zone d'Ombres?, ANADE, CNAC, ANGEM, banks, partnerships with private sector) and upscale the successful interventions of the project in other communes and wilayas of the Biban mountain range (e.g., commune of El Hachimia in Bouira wilaya) and in other relevant landscapes</p> <p>(ii) Implement the resource mobilisation strategy</p> <p>(iii) Establish an incentive mechanism for private companies to adopt/support more sustainable practices</p>	
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		<p>Output 3.1.5 Awareness-raising campaigns implemented for the general population across the Biban mountain range including women and youth on the importance of biodiversity and forest ecosystems, land degradation and other threats, and sustainable management opportunities</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of people reporting increased knowledge on the importance of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem goods and services, SLM and SFM, and improve practices, as a result of awareness raising</p> <p><u>Target:</u> At least 20,000 people (out of which at least 50% are women) reporting increased knowledge on the importance of biodiversity conservation, ecosystem goods and services, SLM and SFM, and improve practices</p> <p>(USD 150,000)</p>	<p>(i) Based on knowledge generated under Output 1.1.3 and on the experience of government institutions in awareness raising (e.g., experience of ME and related institutions in awareness raising for forest protection), develop a set of awareness raising tools (e.g., TV show, social media campaign, school events, theatre performances, posters, games, concerts and/or field visits) on the concept of common resources, the importance of biodiversity, ecosystem goods and services, degradation trends and effects, and existing income-generating opportunities through sustainable management</p> <p>(ii) Organise awareness-raising events using existing local platforms, at national remembrance days and other national events, and in schools</p>	
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	<p>Outcome 3.2: Project monitored, results captured and lessons learned widely disseminated.</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of M&amp;E plans and communication strategies developed and implemented</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 1 M&amp;E Plan, 1 Communication Strategy.</p>	<p>Output 3.2.1 Project Monitoring &amp; Evaluation plan developed and implemented</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of monitoring reports</p> <p><u>Target:</u></p> <p>(USD 85,000)</p>	<p>(i) Develop a detailed gender-sensitive M&amp;E strategy and plan (including M&amp;E activities, methodology and responsibilities)</p> <p>(ii) Implement the M&amp;E plan continuously during the project implementation phase</p>	
	<p>(USD 300,000)</p>	<p>Output 3.2.2 Project Mid-term and Terminal Evaluations undertaken</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of external evaluations? reports</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Two external evaluations? reports</p> <p>(USD 85,000)</p>	<p>(i) Undertake the MTR</p> <p>(ii) Undertake the Terminal Evaluation</p>	

		<p>Output 3.2.3 A Communication Strategy on the Bibans project developed and implemented</p> <p><u>Indicator:</u> Number of communication tools developed and disseminated</p> <p><u>Target:</u> One gender-sensitive communication strategy is developed and operationalized</p> <p>(USD 130,000)</p>	<p>(i) Design a communication strategy for the project to facilitate the strategic dissemination of the Project's progress, results, good practices and lessons learned at the national, regional and global levels</p> <p>(ii) Implement the communication strategy continuously during the project implementation phase</p>	
Components budget: USD 3,140,248				
Project Management budget: USD 157,012				
<b>Total project budget: USD 3,297,260</b>				

[1] Please note that output based indicators are not mandatory as long as the targets for each output are well defined.

[2] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-77-en.pdf>

[3] GIZ & ME, 2018. Guide pratique pour l'évaluation économique des services écosystémiques. Programme ? Gouvernance Environnementale et Biodiversité (GENBI) ?.

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

# Annex B: Response to Project Reviews

(from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion, and responses to comments from the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

STAP comment	Response	Document reference
<p><b>STAP Overall Assessment:</b> Minor issues to be considered during project design. STAP welcomes the project entitled "Integrated forest and biodiversity management for sustainable development in the Biban mountain range" from FAO. Overall, STAP feels that the project clearly articulates the problem, drivers, and barriers associated with this project. There is a narrative theory of change set out, although it remains very broad-brush and does not identify key assumptions underlying the logical sequence of steps to achieve the objective, and certain of these are questionable. In particular, issues around building local buy-in, participation in governance and management capacity are insufficiently addressed. Lessons learned from other experiences could also be considerably strengthened. However, overall the project appears well-designed to target the problems and overcome barriers.</p>	<p>A strong participatory process was implemented during the PPG phase. Local populations have been fully involved in the development of the interventions, particularly under Component 2. There is clear buy-in overall, both from the local populations who have been particularly responsive to the project team and have taken time to provide their suggestions regarding the income-generating interventions, but also from the key national partners giving the high political profile seen in the validation workshop which was attended by Her Excellency the Minister of Environment and the Wali. This was also confirmed during the two workshops where there was active participation from civil society representatives. In addition, under Component 3, recommendations to improve the PCD policy including for example increased involvement of local populations will be developed. Finally, training will be provided to the project beneficiaries on fund raising, administrative and financial management under Component 2.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 3) Alternative Scenario</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p> <p><b>Annex I2</b></p>

<p><b>Project Objective:</b> The objective given is "To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and forest ecosystems, and improve the management of natural resources of the Biban mountain range". This is clear and related to the problem diagnosis. Note that later a differently worded objective is given "to protect biodiversity and forest ecosystems, and improve the management of natural resources of the Biban mountain range" ? this should be made consistent.</p>	<p>The project objective is to ?To conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and forest ecosystems, and improve the management of natural resources in two communes of the Biban mountain range, and support outscaling across the Biban mountain range?. This is consistent throughout the document.</p>	<p><b>Executive summary</b></p> <p><b>Table B</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p>
<p><b>1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed:</b></p> <p>Yes, generally clear. The description of biodiversity of the area would be strengthened by clarifying the threat status of the various species/ecosystems, if possible. Clarification of specialised terms like Matorral or wilaya would be welcome. "The Biban mountain range is characterized by high sensitivity to land erosion which affects 70% of the area." Does this mean 70% is eroded, or 70% is sensitive to erosion? Re the discussion of fire, presumably these forests are fire-adapted like most Mediterranean forests, so would it be more appropriate to characterise the problem as one of too-frequent/too-hot fires, rather than presence of fire itself?</p>	<p>There is very limited knowledge available on the biodiversity in the Biban mountain range. Strengthening this knowledge will be an important outcome of the project. The broader information on threatened and rare species in northern Algeria is now detailed further in the Project Document.</p> <p>The terms shrubland and open forests are used to designate the Matorral or Maquis areas in the targeted communes, this was clarified on the land-use map of the two communes. The Wilaya is an administrative division that correspond to a province. This was clarified in the text.</p> <p>The information on land erosion is now clarified in the text. It concerns land that is particularly susceptible to erosion because of its characteristics.</p> <p>The issue with fires is that their frequency and intensity is increasing because of a combination of factors including: climate change which leads to increased temperature and more frequent droughts, increase in human-induced fire ignition (voluntarily and involuntarily), changes in forest composition due to land clearing, plantations and invasive species.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 1) 1.1 Brief description</b></p> <p><b>Part II 1.a. 1) 1.3 General context</b></p> <p><b>Part II 2) 2.1. Root causes</b></p>

<p>Threats are clear. Barriers are poverty, limited livelihood opportunities, limited local knowledge of sustainable management, under-valuation of ecosystem goods and services, low national technical knowledge, outdated understanding of threats and approaches to management, lack of local models for integrated, participatory management. The characterisation of the current official approach to forestry is insightful and helpful. The characterisation of local attitudes toward the forests, as ignoring a whole range of benefits, appears somewhat dismissive - presumably this simply reflects individual direct costs. It is not surprising that long-term shared costs of degradation are not taken into account, if this is a tragedy of the commons situation and the institutions for long-term collective management are not present.</p>	<p>Yes, the absence of harmonised and integrated approach to be used consistently and jointly by sectoral institutions prevent the establishment of an adequate framework to guide economic development through the sustainable use of natural resources in rural areas. The very limited knowledge on biodiversity is also an important impediment to species and habitat preservation. The barriers are now further explained.</p>	<p><b>Part II 2) 2.1. Barriers</b></p>
<p><b>2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects:</b></p> <p>Reasonably - other ongoing and planned interventions are listed. It would be good to know if the other interventions are designed so as to avoid worsening the problem i.e., the expansion of olives and carob will not come at the cost of forest loss, for example.</p>	<p>The project focuses primarily on addressing environmental degradation issues and preserving biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem goods and services. The integrated approach adopted by the project including participatory and integrated planning, thorough and participatory monitoring and policy strengthening will prevent negative leakages of the project interventions on the environment. As an example, olive plantations are already present in the targeted area. Practices will be improved over 500 ha of existing plantations to make them more biodiversity friendly, climate resilient, and sustainably increase productivity. The same approach will be used for the other agricultural, pastoral and forest products to be targeted by the project.</p>	<p><b>Part II 2) 2.2. Baseline</b></p> <p><b>Part II 3) Alternative scenario</b></p>

<p>Lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions: No, this is a clear gap. For example, the project includes exploration of idea of setting up a Protected Areas, and highlights others nearby - what lessons can be learned from the effectiveness of those parks? The project does reference a number of studies on biodiversity-friendly business (see p 32) but no detail is given about what lessons have been learned from these.</p>	<p>The lessons of key past and ongoing projects including PPDRI, GENBI, National Reforestation Programme, previous GEF projects, National Parks as well as the experience of key institutions such as DGF and ANADE have been built on to design the project. Key lessons learned include as examples the need to request a counter-part as a condition to benefit from the project (lesson learned from PPDRI), the need to have a clear and consistent strategy to provide support for rural development (lesson learned from ANADE) and the efficiency of mixed models for Protected Areas designed in collaboration with local populations compared to strict-protection models (lesson learned from National Parks Offices).</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 2)</b> <b>2.1. Barriers</b></p> <p><b>Part II 1.a. 2)</b> <b>2.2. Baseline</b></p> <p><b>Part II 1.a. 7)</b> <b>Innovativeness</b></p> <p><b>Part II 6.</b> <b>6.b.Coordination with other projects</b></p>
<p><b>3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project:</b></p> <p>A narrative TOC is set out, although it is very broad-brush and doesn't include any identification of pathways within the broad logic, or key assumptions underlying these pathways. There are major assumptions underlying this TOC, such as that there will be strong local buy-in and support to the PICs. Articulating these clearly, and testing these assumptions at suitable points of the project, should increase the likelihood of project success.</p>	<p>A more detailed ToC was developed. Main assumptions and drivers are now clearly defined.</p>	<p><b>Part II 3)</b> <b>Alternative scenario</b></p>

<p>The text on component 1 in this section (p29) is questionable - it assumes that attitudes of local people can be simply changed by telling people about ecosystem values. Is there any evidence to support this? In general, such changes may be promoted by local people actually holding stewardship/management responsibilities along with the capacity and resources to exercise them, and gaining actual benefits from ecosystems. It would be clearer to have this increase of local support for conservation among local people as a standalone output, that could be assessed and monitored in the project. Currently these actions (i.e., "The knowledge available on i) the species and ecosystems of the Biban mountain range, as well as the sources of degradation and their effects and on ii) the social, economic and culture value of biodiversity, land and ecosystems will first be increased" just sit alone and are not tied to any output. Also, there is no focus in outputs or outcomes on building (institutional and technical) capacity among local people for management -see Output 1.1.1 where only government officials are mentioned. Given that the project seeks to emphasise participatory management, should not the building of local management capacity be explicitly recognised in the outputs? To whom is the funding in output 1.1.5 actually going? If its participatory management, presumably part of this will be going to local management institutions? Can more detail be added on these institutional and funding arrangements?</p>	<p>The project's main entry point to achieving the desirable behavioural change is via creating strong incentives for local communities and other stakeholders. This will be done through strengthening nature-based Value Chains to make them more sustainable and lucrative. The financial benefits generated from nature-based livelihoods will be greater. Increased economic value of natural resources and the ecosystems they depend on is the primary strategy adopted by the project to encourage improved management of biodiversity and natural ecosystems. As a note, there is strong interest in developing tourism in the region and in preserving nature-based traditional knowledge which is a strong sign of populations' willingness to improve the management of natural resources.</p> <p>The logic of interventions and linkages between the outputs is now further explained in the ToC and in the narrative. Interventions for local populations' empowerment (through training of both local populations and local government, establishment of support services, awareness raising and policy strengthening) are now better emphasised in the project's results framework. Output 1.1.5 is now more detailed. Additional funding will be secured to finance the complementary interventions added in the pilot PCDs.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 3)</b> <b>Alternative scenario</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p> <p><b>Annex I2</b></p>
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<p>The actual governance model for forest/NR management is insufficiently addressed in the proposal - it is not clear what sort of power-sharing model is being proposed. Who will actually make decisions, and how, about management practices? Will local institutions for monitoring and enforcement be established/strengthened, or will this be a government responsibility? Re Output 3.1.1, would be useful to include peer to peer visits, as an effective way to disseminate learning. The emphasis on "guidelines" in output 3.1.4. seems to assume there will be one right way to do things, rather than this being highly context-specific, so it may be worth considering whether sharing successes, best-practices, principles, local learnings (in a variety of formats adapted to various audiences) may be a more effective way to build knowledge.</p>	<p>The project will work mostly with local authorities at commune level and with local populations. Access right for forest areas will be clarified through the issuance of harvesting permits. This approach was launched in 2020 by the government in Bordj Bou Arreridj with the creation of a policy to regulate NTFP exploitation. Sustainable harvesting rates will be defined based on the inventories and assessments undertaken under Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3. The members of the local populations interested in developing NTFP Value Chains will be supported in applying for permits accordingly. The DGF will be in charge of controlling these permits. Assisted Natural Regeneration will focus on burnt areas in forest and shrubland which are managed by the state. The sites will be selected in a participatory manner with local populations during the process of updating the PCDs.</p> <p>The monitoring of the interventions will be undertaken following a detailed M&amp;E plan and implemented by local authorities and populations. Local populations involvement in M&amp;E will be increased in alignment with the pilot PCDs and to support the selected Value Chains, the main incentive for local populations being to maintain their improved livelihoods.</p> <p>Exchange visits to sites that are piloting an integrated approach and/or successfully using improved pratiques and nature-based Value Chains from the Bibans project and other initiatives (e.g., B?ni Maouche, Tazla, El Kala) will be undertaken under Components 1, 2 and 3.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 2)</b> <b>Baseline scenario</b></p> <p><b>Part II 1.a. 3)</b> <b>Alternative scenario</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p>
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<p><b>6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):</b></p> <p>One question here: it is not entirely clear how the 10,000ha of agricultural land and 6,000ha of grazing land will "will benefit from improved management practices which will promote biodiversity". How exactly will biodiversity on these lands be benefited? It would be helpful to clarify this.</p>	<p>This target was refined. 8,697 ha of agricultural land and 5,354 ha of pastoral land will benefit from improved management planning through the strengthening of the PCDs and the integration of interventions for biodiversity conservation and for the preservation of ecosystem good and services. The project will also directly support on-the-ground interventions to improve land-use practices in degraded areas over at least 1,000 ha of agricultural land and 1,000 ha of pastoral land.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 3) Alternative scenario</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p>
<p><b>7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling-up:</b></p> <p>In terms of sustainability, the proposal talks about empowering communities and building their capacity, but the emphasis and details regarding local empowerment in management and capacity building (including institutional capacity-building, which is crucial) are quite weak. Details on how communities are to be resourced to carry out management are also quite unclear.</p>	<p>Based on the brief diagnosis undertaken during the PPG phase, one of the common weaknesses of existing Value Chains in the targeted communes in the lack of organisation of producers. Increasing the organisation of local populations into associations and cooperatives is therefore a major element of the Value Chains strengthening approach. Following the creation of these organisations, training on fund-raising, administrative and financial management will be provided. The established of the government-based support service will also enable the project beneficiaries to receive long-term support for the maintenance of their livelihoods.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 2) 2.1 Barriers</b></p> <p><b>Part II 1.a. 2) 2.2 Baseline</b></p> <p><b>Part II 1.a. 3) Alternative scenario</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p>

<p><b>2. Stakeholders:</b></p> <p>The table is really clear and helpful. It would be helpful to have more details on how local institutions have provided input to this proposal and in particular whether they've agreed to participate in and support it. Consultations have clearly been held, but what were the key things that came out of these? Given that community buy-in is essential for the success of this project, this would be good to know.</p>	<p>The participatory approach of the project was implemented throughout the PPG phase. Local populations have first been consulted at the very beginning of the process and have therefore been able to contribute actively to the development of the Bibans project. The interest of the local populations in the project is evident as 1,284 project proposals were submitted by the populations to the project design team. Local authorities and civil society representatives have provided continuous support to the project design through assisting local populations in formulating their projects and gathering their proposals, supporting the field visits and consultations undertaken by the PPG experts, and participating actively to the workshops. To further ensure the buy-in of local populations and based on the experience from previous programmes, a financial counterpart will be requested to benefit from the project.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 3) Alternative scenario</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p> <p><b>Annex I2</b></p> <p><b>National Experts Reports</b></p>
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<p><b>3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:</b></p> <p>While gender has been thought about carefully, the specific gender-based barriers to participation and benefit from the project have not been articulated and addressed clearly. What might prevent women from participating in and benefiting from this project, and how will these potential barriers be addressed?</p>	<p>A more thorough gender analysis was undertaken during the PPG phase. Gender-based barriers were identified and specific measures were developed to ensure that at least 50% of the project beneficiaries are women. To do so, a gender expert was appointed and gender-focused organisations from the government and the civil society were consulted during the field missions and the workshops. 43% of the 1,284 proposals received are women led. Based on the projects proposed by women, a strong emphasis was given in the Bibans project to the livelihoods of interest to women.</p> <p>The key barriers hindering women participation in project implementation include the triple burden shouldered by women who have to play different productive, reproductive and community roles. Special consideration will be given to plan consultations and trainings at times favourable to women's participation. The same applies to providing women with an enabling environment to voice their concerns and speak up, which they might not feel comfortable doing in the presence of male members of their households or their communities. Another key factor is the project's ability to empower women by developing their technical productive skills and managerial capabilities through strengthening SMEs led by women entrepreneurs and enable gender-champions (both women and men). This will advocate for gender equality and challenge the underlying root causes of gender inequality in line with Algeria's national priorities under SDG5.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 3) Alternative scenario</b></p> <p><b>Part II 3. Gender equality</b></p> <p><b>Annex A1</b></p> <p><b>Annex I2</b></p>
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<p><b>5. Risks.</b></p> <p>The climate-related risks would appear to be acute for the region, and the project does not address these in any detail. The PIF says "Current and future climate conditions will be taken into account when designing the on-the-ground interventions as it is a condition for the sustainability of the project inputs. As an example of this integration of climate resilience in the project, a key selection criteria for the species to be promoted by the project will be their resilience to current and future climate scenarios." But it would be good to see more explicit focus on e.g., likely impacts of more severe fire risks on the opportunities for e.g., SFM and sustainable enterprises.</p>	<p>The expected effects of climate change are now further detailed in the document. Under the integrated approach of the project, all the interventions will concur towards building a more resilient system. This includes for example: the diversification of production systems, increased land cover and improved soil management methods for better retention of water resources, recycling green waste to produce compost among others. Regarding fires, the interventions include training for fire prevention and better management of invasive species, use of fire resilient species, improved equipment and awareness raising. Based on the latest reports, wild fires are mostly started involuntarily as a result of human activities. Several initiatives funded by the government and by GEF are focusing on the issue with fire. The methods to be used will be based on the latest findings of these initiatives and experience from other countries. The fire risk will be systematically assessed as part of the selection process for the SLM, SFM and Value Chains strengthening interventions, to exclude interventions with high risks where efficient mitigation measures cannot be identified.</p>	<p><b>Part II 1.a. 1.3 Climate conditions</b></p> <p><b>Part II 1.a. 3) Alternative scenario</b></p>
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<p><b>6. Coordination.</b></p> <p>The proposal says it will be coordinated with other GEF projects, but not how. And it is not clear if and how there will be coordination with the several other closely related non-GEF projects described earlier in the proposal.</p> <p>There is very little learning from previous projects highlighted in the proposal. It would be good to have a clear assessment of lessons learned, what has worked, and what has not, in previous projects on related subject matter.</p>	<p>Lessons learned from several GEF projects have been considered for the design of the project. This includes for example the necessity to adopt truly participatory processes with local populations to enable the project to be successful. Another lesson learned is the high value of working closely with civil society organisations to benefit from their knowledge of local conditions and populations, facilitate the mobilisation of local populations, and build their capacity to provide long-term support to maintain the interventions. UNDP will be a member of the PSC to ensure regular transfer of information between the Bibans project and other GEF-funded projects implemented by UNDP, prevent any risk of duplication and maximise complementarity. Close collaboration with the GENBI and PEBLA projects will be ensured as well as these projects are among the only initiatives that are piloting an integrated approach to natural resources? management. GIZ will be a member of the PSC. Experience from several other initiatives have been built on to design the Bibans project.</p>	<p><b>Part II 6.</b> <b>6.b.Coordination with other projects</b></p>
<p><b>GEF Sec comment:</b> The GEF secretariat requests that at CEO Endorsement, the co-financing amount and modality (Investment Mobilized) to remain as close to the PIF ratio as possible to enable the proper executing of activities on the ground. Thanks.</p>	<p>Indicative co-financing at PIF stage amounted to USD 26,682,155, this figure was updated accordingly to reflect the current situation at CEO Endorsement which indicates a confirmed total cofinancing of USD 27,284,913 with a breakdown by source, type of cofinancing, and project components to which it contributes.</p>	

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).**  
**(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:**

# Annex C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

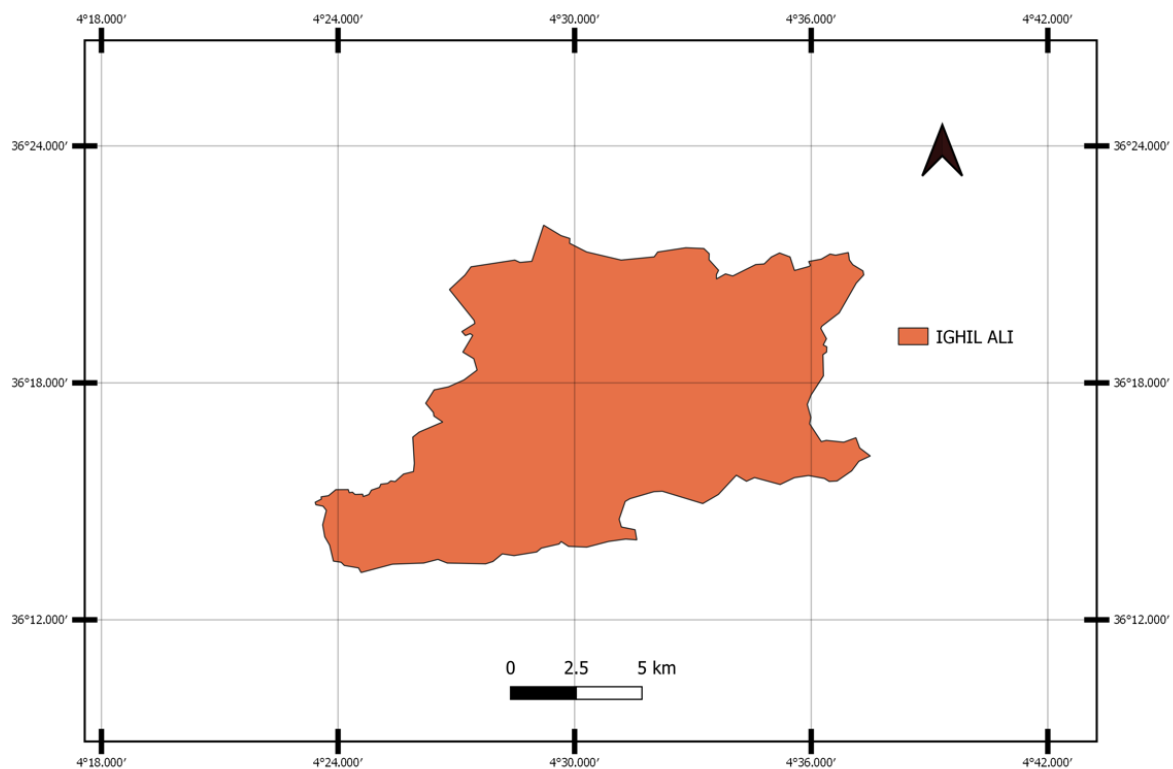
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

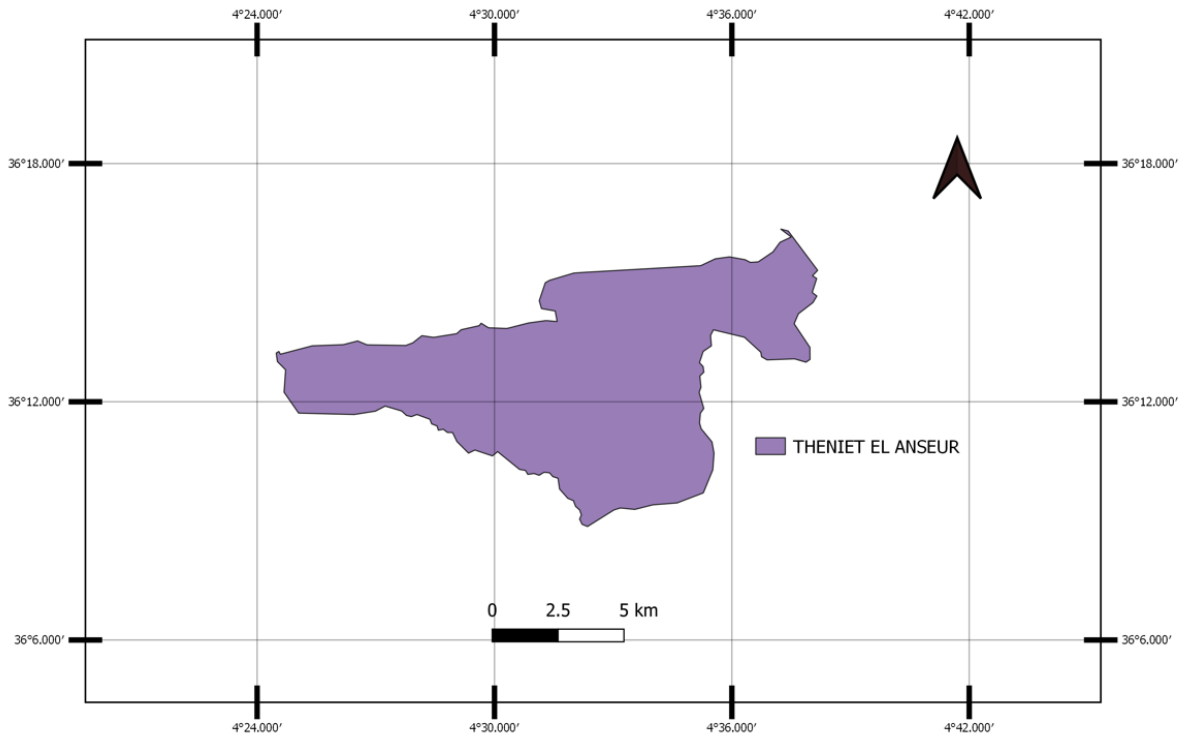
PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent to date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
(5011) Salaries Professional	5,000	0	
(5013) Consultants	58,000	48,395	
(5014) Contracts	4,500	4,038	
(5021) Travel	11,500	12,051	
(5023) Training	21,000	9,667	
Total	100,000	74,151	25,849

If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities (including workshops and finalization of baseline, when needed) up to one year of CEO Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

## ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

**Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.**





## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.



Description, Units and Unit Costs		Total Cost per Component and Project Management				penditure by year
Oracle code and description	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PMC	GEF
5011 Salaries professionals						
5013 International Consultants						
Chief Technical Advisor	34,129	34,129	34,130		23,212	125,600
Integrated Land-Use Planning Expert	46,750	5,500				52,250
International Ecosystem Restoration Expert	16,500	16,500				33,000
International Natural Capital Accounting Assessments (NCAA) Expert	44,000					44,000
International Fire Prevention Expert		16,500				16,500
International Agroecology/SLM Expert		22,000				22,000
International Business incubation and Value Chains expert		22,000				22,000
Sub-total international Consultants	141,379	116,629	34,130	0	23,212	315,350
National consultants						
National Project Coordinator	27,200	27,200	27,200			81,600
Financial and Administrative Officer					46,000	46,000
Communication Officer			26,400			26,400
Gender Officer	8,800	8,800	8,800			26,400
National Policy and Institutions Expert	15,000	15,750	12,750			43,500
National Biodiversity and Land Degradation Expert	23,250	13,500	24,750			61,500
IT expert	6,000					6,000
Financial planning expert	12,750		16,500			29,250
National Protected Areas expert	7,500					7,500
National Green Waste Management Expert		7,500				7,500
National Expert in biodiversity-friendly Olive Cultivation		10,500				10,500
National participatory rangeland management expert		6,750				6,750
Two Field Assistants		81,600				81,600
Drivers					22,500	22,500
National Value Chains Expert		36,000	4,500			40,500
National Awareness-raising Expert			10,500			10,500
M&E expert				13,200		13,200
Sub-total national Consultants	100,500	207,600	131,400	13,200	68,500	521,200
5013 Sub-total consultants	241,879	324,229	165,530	13,200	91,712	836,550
5650 Contracts						
Mid-term review	0	0		30,000		30,000
Final Evaluation	0	0		33,500		33,500
4 Masters research projects	32,000	0	0			32,000
Spot checks					30,400	30,400
Audits					26,600	26,600
5650 Sub-total Contracts	32,000	0	0	63,500	57,000	152,500
5021 Travel						
National Travel	54,953	54,953	54,953			164,860
International Travel	19,200	23,200				42,400
5021 Sub-total travel	74,153	78,153	54,953	0	0	207,260
5023 Training and workshops						

Inception Workshop	0	0	0	3,000		3,000
PSC meeting	2,667	2,667	2,667			8,000
2 two-day workshops on Integrated Land-Use Planning	14,000					14,000
2 two-days workshops on ecosystem restoration	18,000					18,000
2 one-day workshop on policies for government staff	8,000					8,000
2 three-day workshop on inventories and biodiversity	18,000					18,000
3 three-days workshops on value assessments	22,500					22,500
2 one-day awareness-raising workshop on biodiversity and ecosystem preservation, and policies in the two communes	8,000					8,000
Participatory planning meetings and field visits	20,000					20,000
Advocacy interventions for fund raising	15,000					15,000
1 two-day workshop to design the strategy and financial plan	6,000					6,000
2 one-day training event on the use of the protocols	9,000					9,000
1 two-day workshop on M&E systems		5,500				5,500
2 one-day workshop and training days on ANR on site		15,000				15,000
2 one-day training workshop and training days on fire prevention techniques on site		19,000				19,000
2 one-day workshops and 8 training days on agroecology on site		33,000				33,000
2 one-day workshops and 6 training days on improved olive cultivation on site		26,800				26,800
1 three-day workshop on the sustainable management of pastoral resources on site		10,800				10,800
2 one-day workshops on ecotourism		6,000				6,000
4 one-day workshops on business plans development		22,000				22,000
1 one-day workshops on subventions systems		2,400				2,400
2 two-day workshops on administrative and financial management		14,000				14,000
Participatory planning meetings and field visits in other communes			20,000			20,000
1 one-day workshop on national policy strengthening opportunities			3,500			3,500
1 two-day workshop for the design of the resource mobilisation			7,000			7,000
Awareness raising events on biodiversity and ecosystem roles and sustainable management opportunities			62,000			62,000
M&E training workshop				7,650		7,650
<b>5023 Sub-total training</b>	<b>141,167</b>	<b>157,167</b>	<b>95,167</b>	<b>10,650</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>404,150</b>
<b>5024 Expendable procurement</b>						
Small equipment and tree seedlings for assisted natural regeneration in forest area		125,000				125,000
Equipment to establish compost production points		98,700				98,700

Small equipment and agricultural input for agroecology development		120,000				120,000
Small equipment and seedlings for biodiversity-friendly olive		100,000				100,000
Signs and delineation equipment for the implementation of the sustainable grazing scheme		20,000				20,000
Equipment and training for Value Chains strengthening		800,000				800,000
Complementary infrastructure for Value Chains support		110,000				110,000
Equipment and technical support to meet the certification requirements		60,000				60,000
M&E tools and equipment				7,000		7,000
Communication material on the project's interventions and progress, knowledge exchange, and signage for visibility of the			40,000			40,000
<b>5024 Sub-total expendable procurement</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,433,700</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,480,700</b>
<b>6100 Non-expendable procurement</b>						
Equipment and softwares for inventories and biodiversity assessments, and communication material on their results	5,000					5,000
Equipment and softwares for value assessments	5,000					5,000
Equipment for fire prevention		37,800				37,800
Solar energy conversion equipment for agricultural facilities		40,000				40,000
Vehicules x2		90,000				90,000
<b>6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>167,800</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>177,800</b>
<b>6300 General Operating Expenses budget</b>						
IT equipment for PMU					8,300	8,300
Project Vehicle maintenance		30,000				30,000
<b>6300 Sub-total GOE budget</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>38,300</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>499,199</b>	<b>2,191,049</b>	<b>355,650</b>	<b>94,350</b>	<b>157,012</b>	<b>3,297,260</b>

Component 2: Equipment to support mainstreaming demonstrations including 2 vehicles @45k/each. Transportation means are needed to implement project interventions mainly demonstrative practices under Component 2, two vehicles are included to cover the target geographical areas, one vehicle to cover each of the two target Communes.

#### ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

#### ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).