

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

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10170

Countries

Algeria

Project Name

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

Agencies

FAO

Date received by PM

6/16/2021

Review completed by PM

11/23/2021

Program Manager

Adriana Moreira

Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Project Type

FSP

PIF
CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-23-21: The project remains aligned with the BD (1.1) and LD (1.1 and 1.4) strategies for GEF-7.

Agency Response Noted

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-23-21: Project structure/design has improved since PIF stage, but some issues related to stand-alone activities and recurrent expenditures remain (inventories/need and gap identification/planning/training/awareness). We take note of the explanations under each component on the role of the GEF and cofinancing, but the proposed approach is still fragile, notably in terms of ownership and sustainability. Please, clarify.

- Output 2.1.3: please clarify how the proposed sustainability business plans will be endorsed and used by the economic sector.

- Output 3.1.5: Behavioral change is welcomed in a GEF project. Please,

could you elaborate a bit more the strategy and the methods (notably in view of evaluation) behind this output? How are you planning to measure/evaluate the results? How do you measure behavior change?

9-10-21: Explanation on questions on proposed project design and structure is satisfactory.

Agency Response

(i) Stand-alone activities and recurrent expenditures: The text describing previous initiatives relating to the inventories (under 2.2 Baseline) was amended to clarify what is available, what is missing and what are the linkages with the other outputs.

(ii) Sustainability and ownership of the Business Plans: The proposed value chains were identified using a participatory approach involving CSOs, local populations, government entities, and private entities. They are based on the interest of the populations, the market opportunities and interest from the private sector, and the development objectives of the government. These selection criteria have been used to ensure the success and the sustainability of the supported value chains.

(iii) Measuring Behavioral Change: An indicator to measure behavioral change was added to the logframe under Annex A1. The selected method is the use of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) surveys which will be administered at project inception, at mid-term and at project end by the M&E officer and Awareness-raising Expert with the support of the Field Assistants in each commune. It is expected that at least 70% of the respondents including 50% of women will show increased interest in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems by the end of the implementation phase as a result of project interventions.

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response Noted

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-23-21: The proposed US\$29.2 million of co-financing is essentially recurrent expenditures with the exception of US\$ 2.99 million ANADE financing for 40

business plans. As stated in the original PIF comments, the GEF investment looks again as a stand-alone project with questions on the added value and the sustainability of this approach. The original announced co-financing from FAO as ?investment mobilized? has disappeared and the current document only indicates ?recurrent costs?. Some grant co-financing continues to be marked as ?recurrent expenditures?. However, where co-financing truly meets the definition of "grant", it should typically be classified as "investment mobilized " rather than "recurrent expenditures ". For further details, please refer to the Co-Financing Guidelines

(http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cofinancing_Guidelines.pdf).

Please revise and clarify the changes in co-financing from what was originally agreed at PIF stage.

9-21-21: The co-financing document of the Ministry of the Interior, Local Authorities and Land-Use planning has no clear time frame over which the Co-Financing will be provided (as requested by Guidelines) ? it mentions the 4 years period, but do not mention a start/end date. Please, attach a revised letter following the appropriate guidelines.



Agency Response

This is well noted. The type of cofinancing was revised under item ?C. Confirmed sources of co-financing for the project by name and by type?. The changes in

cofinancing were further clarified under item ?8) Summary of changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF?.

Noted. The Start/End dates for the cofinancing from the Ministry of Interior were specified, quoting from the letter "... the Ministry of Interior, local collectivities, and Territory planning, of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, has agreed to provide co-financing of USD 5,641,821 over 4 years from 2021 to 2025, for the above-mentioned project".

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-23-21: Please, check for consistency in the agency fee amount reported in the LoE (\$ 322,240.00) and in the CEO Endorsement document (\$313,240.00)

Letter of Endorsement:

The total financing (from GEFIF, LDCE, SCCE) being requested for this project is US\$3,720,000, inclusive of project preparation grant (PPG), if any, and Agency fees for project cycle management services associated with the total GEF grant. The financing requested for Algeria is detailed in the table below.

Category	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Project Preparation	Project	Fee	Total
F	FAO	BD	\$ 25,000	\$ 1,472,717	\$ 142,283	\$ 1,640,000
F	FAO	LD	\$ 75,000	\$ 1,824,543	\$ 180,457	\$ 2,080,000
Financing			\$ 100,000	\$ 3,297,260	\$ 322,740	\$ 3,720,000

TABLE D:

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
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
Total Grant Resources(\$)					3,297,260.00	313,240.00

Agency Response This is well noted. The total of Agency Fee is USD 322,240 indeed, counting Project Agency Fee at USD 313,240.00 in addition to PPG Agency Fee at USD 9,500.

Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-26-21: Status of utilization of PPG is adequately reported in Annex C.

Agency Response Noted

Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: This project is receiving finance from LD and BD focal areas and the core indicators need to reflect these investments. Estimates were provided at PIF stage for core indicators 4.1 and 4.3. Please explain why estimates for core indicator 4.3 is blank. The project has a strong focus on ?Sustainable Land Management, please explain what happened to the PIF level core indicator 4.3 of 16,000 ha under SLM corresponding to 10,000 ha of agricultural lands and 6,000 ha of rangelands . Targets under the core indicator 6 on carbon benefits are expected at CEO endorsement and need to be indicated in the table. Please, revise the core indicators table, correct, indicate expected targets and provide explanation on methodologies and targets in the appropriate place under the table.

9-21-21: Please include the target for Indicator 6 ?Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated? into Annex A-Project Results Framework.

Agency Response

This is now revised under Table B and Annex F. The entire area was indicated under Indicator 4.1 because the whole set of interventions will improve biodiversity. However, the agricultural, pastoral, urban and public land included in the targeted area (27% of agricultural land, 17% of pastoral land, and 3% of urban areas, and 3% of public land) totaling 15,998 is now under Indicator 4.3 linked to SLM interventions.

Indicator 6.1 has been added under Table G and Annex F. It is expected that a total of 113,669 metric tons of CO₂e will be avoided as a result of the project over a period of 20 years starting from 2022, counting 4 years of implementation and 16 years of capitalization. The carbon-balance appraisal (EX-ACT file) was uploaded, the EX-ACT Rationale, illustrating the reasoning behind the choices made during the analysis was added as an annex to the ProDoc with a summary provided under Table F.

Noted with Thanks. The target for Indicator 6 "Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated" was included into Annex A-Project Results Framework.

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-2021: Environmental problems, root causes and barriers are adequately addressed.

Agency Response Noted

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Elaboration of baseline scenario is satisfactory.

Agency Response Noted

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

7-26-21: Components and proposed outcomes are adequately described.

Agency Response Noted

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: The project is well aligned with the GEF-7 strategies for the BD and LD Focal Areas.

Agency Response Noted

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Incremental reasoning is adequate, but the observations made above about co-financing need to be addressed.

Agency Response Noted. The comments regarding cofinancing have been addressed.

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Explanation on project's contribution to GEBs is adequate.

Agency Response Noted

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Description of innovation and scaling up aspects is adequate. The sustainability strategy of the project is focused on the development of financially profitable Value Chains for the local population, please explain how these interventions are connected to the larger government initiatives (credit, technical assistance) that ensures policy coherence and support to the project's approach. Please, also provide justification on the sustainability of the proposed approach in light of the comments on co-financing above.

9-10-21: Justification is adequate.

Agency Response The existing governmental and parastatal organisations in charge of supporting the creation or strengthening of income-generating activities at the national level (e.g. ANADE, ANGEM and CNAC) have shown great interest in the project approach. These organisations ? particularly ANADE who decided to provide cofinancing to support sustainable business plans ? want to participate in piloting the integrated approach proposed under the project and use this experience to guide their

own approach for the provisioning of financial support beyond the project. The government provides financing to these organisations every year, their maintenance beyond the project is therefore ensured which will enable business-continuity in the application of the integrated approach after the end of the project. Furthermore, the capacity of these organisations to support the design, establishment, strengthening and maintenance of sustainable business plans as well as to monitor and evaluate the successful implementation of these business plans will be increased under the project. This will enable them to maintain their improved approach to the provisioning of financial support after the end of the project. This was clarified in the text under item ??) Sustainability?.

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Geo-reference maps provided for project areas of intervention are satisfactory.

9-21-21: Currently Annex D (Project Maps and Coordinates) of the CEO Endorsement form is showing information related to Consistency with National Priorities (see below). Please remove this part and include the maps of Section 1b in Annex D.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

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 PPORI 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 PPORI 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.

Agency Response

Noted

Noted, the entry under Annex D was corrected accordingly.

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response Noted

Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Stakeholders engagement is adequately described.

Agency Response Noted

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: The project includes gender-responsive activities and gender-sensitive indicators.

9-21-21: It is very well noted that this project has carefully considered and taken into account important gender dimensions. The Prodoc (page 71) indicate that a gender analysis was conducted during the PPG process but this analysis has not been attached. Please clarify and/or upload the gender analysis conducted.

Agency Response

Noted

Noted with thanks. A brief gender assessment was conducted during the PPG phase by the National Rural Sociology and Gender expert to inform a gender sensitive design of the ProDoc. In line with the GEF gender Policy, a detailed gender analysis will be conducted during the inception phase based on which a detailed gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan will be developed and operationalized to ensure that gender considerations are properly mainstreamed into project interventions. The language referring to gender analysis in the ProDoc was further clarified to reflect these.

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Elaboration on private sector engagement is adequate.

Agency Response Noted

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Risk analysis is satisfactory.

Agency Response Noted

Coordination

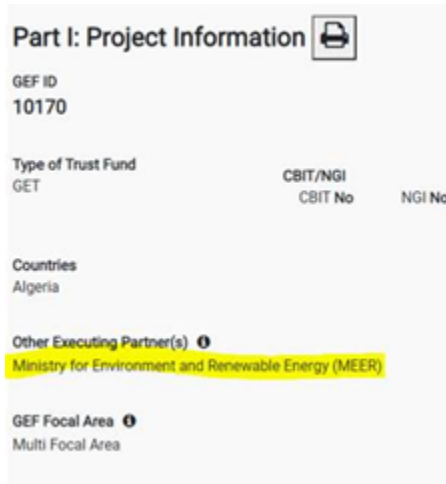
Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?


Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-21-21: Proposed institutional arrangements are satisfactory.

9-21-21: There is an inconsistency in the document regarding the Executing Partner. While in project information the Executing Partner is identified as MEER (Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy), in Section 6 of Institutional Arrangements and Coordination the Executing Partner is identified as ONEED (which is not identified). Please amend

Project information:



Part I: Project Information 

GEF ID
10170

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT No NGI No

Countries
Algeria

Other Executing Partner(s) ⓘ
Ministry for Environment and Renewable Energy (MEER)

GEF Focal Area ⓘ
Multi Focal Area

Section 6:

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.

! 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 DP 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.

Agency Response

Noted

Noted. The ONEDD is the Executing Agency for the project, it is part of the Ministry of Environment. The language was revised in the ProDoc/Portal for consistency.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: The project describes the alignment with national priorities.

However, a reference to the NAP under UNCCD is missing, as well as a minimum of analysis of the LDN targets

(<https://knowledge.unccd.int/home/country-information/countries-having-set-voluntary-ldn-targets/algeria>). Please, revise and complement.

9-10-21: Explanation and revisions are satisfactory.

Agency Response

Noted. The alignment of the project with the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification developed in 2004 was added to the Project Document under item ?7. Consistency with National Priorities?.

The project contribution to LDN targets was further elaborated in the text. Future collaboration with the DSL IP to maximise the contribution of the Bibans project to achieving LDN in the Biban mountain range is also emphasised in the text.

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Project includes a Knowledge Management strategy integrated with the monitoring/evaluation and communication activities, including specific deliverables and timeline.

Agency Response Noted

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: The project includes an environmental and social management plan, where risks, impacts and mitigation measures are described.

Agency Response Noted
Monitoring and Evaluation

Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Project includes a satisfactory M&E plan with indicators, targets and budget.

Agency Response Noted
Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Social and economic benefits are adequately described.

Agency Response Noted
Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: The relatively high budget for consultants (international: US\$315,350; national: US\$521,200) reinforces the issues about the sustainability and the ownership of the approach raised before. Are there national or local institutions (research center, training center, extension services) with capacity to conduct these activities? Please explain.

Please, justify the purchase of two vehicles. Please, provide the number of current vehicles used by partners on the ground. Would it be possible to cover these vehicles by co-financing or the GEF Agency resources?

9-21-21: The Chief Technical Advisor has been charged across the components and the PMC, so one could assume that this position is part of the

Project Management Unit. However, there is no mention to this position in the ProDoc, neither in the CEO Endorsement request ? also, no TORs describing unique outputs linked to the respective components were found. Also, the National Project Coordinator (NPC) has been charged to the project's components but not to PMC. A great majority of the responsibilities for the NPC (see screenshots below) are focused on coordination / management, which implies that his/her salary must be covered by PMC (both ?GEF and co-financing portions?). Please note that some co-financing letters specify the contribution to PMC which enough funds to cover the above mentioned positions. Please revise and amend.

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
	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PMC	
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

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.

11-30-21: Please revise the Budget table. The table's subtotals by components in Annex E in Portal now show some differences with the components in Table B in the Portal CEO endorsement entry as follows:

- Component 1 in Budget table: \$487,237 - Component 1 in Table B: \$499,199
- Component 2 in Budget table: \$2,188,425 - Component 2 in Table B: \$2,191,049
- Component 3 in Budget table: \$343,668 - Component 3 in Table B: \$450,000

GEF	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PMC	GEF
3,297,260	487,237	2,188,425	343,687	120,900	157,012	3,297,260
Table B	499,199	2,191,049	450,000		157,012	3,297,260
Diff	-11,962	-2,624	-106,313	120,900	0	0

GEF	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	M&E	PMC	GEF
3,297,260	487,237	2,188,425	343,687	120,900	157,012	3,297,260
Table B	499,199	2,191,049	450,000		157,012	3,297,260
Diff	-11,962	-2,624	-106,313	120,900	0	0

Agency Response

(i) There are significant capacity gaps within national institutions on themes that are key to the project approach, such as natural capital assessments, integrated land-use planning processes, the design and implementation of successful ecosystem restoration interventions that address land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss issues, and the development of sustainable business plans that provide economic, social and environmental benefits. The average salary scales for consultants are determined based on national surveys, according to their level of expertise and contract duration. Part of the necessary expertise to fill-in the existing capacity cannot be sourced locally hence the need to invest in capacity strengthening by blending international and national expertise to build a critical body of knowledge and best practices which could be then diffused elsewhere in the country to upscale and disseminate project innovations and good practices towards ensuring sustainability of its results over the long term. To minimize the costs related to hiring national and international consultants, an efficient process for

transfer of knowledge and skills from national and international expertise to governmental and non-governmental organizations will be supported *inter alia* by the implementation of a training-of-trainers approach and the establishment and strengthening of knowledge-sharing platforms.

(ii) Given the current budget restrictions, Government entities on the ground are unable to provide cofinancing to buy vehicles for the implementation of field interventions. The same applies to other partners on the ground including NGOs and local populations, hence the need to purchase at least two vehicles to ensure a reasonable coverage of project target landscapes. Both the Ministry of Environment (ME) and the Forest Administration (DGF) have one vehicle each for their teams located at the Wilaya level. That's a total of 4 vehicles covering the 2 Wilayas where the project targeted sites are located, covering a very large area of more than 7,000 km² (counting 3 268 km² for the Wilaya of B?jaia and 3 920 km² for the wilaya of Bordj Bou Arr?ridj) including about 5,000 ha of forests covered by DGF. Given these large areas covered by both the ME & DGF teams on the ground, the existing fleet of 4 vehicles is largely insufficient and therefore at least 2 vehicles (as the necessary minimum, one for each targeted commune) will be needed for the project to reasonably deliver sound interventions across the target landscapes.

Noted with thanks.

The CTA is now charged to the components only, in line with its technical tasks specified in the illustrative ToRs now included under Annex J.4 Terms of Reference of the Chief Technical Advisor.

The NPC is now charged to PMC, reflecting the coordination and managerial nature of the tasks assigned to this position.

Giving the current budget restrictions, Government entities will not be able to fund the CTA/NPC positions, but will contribute to the overall PMC costs through in-kind cofinancing. The Cofinancing provided in-kind by project partners as indicated in the cofinancing letters, will be materialized through technical and logistical backstopping including staff time dedicated to supporting project interventions, vehicles used to participate in project activities, in addition to office space and meeting facilities in the capital Algiers as well as in the wilayas of Bejaia and BBA.

Dec 1

Thank you very much. The numbers in Annex E are now matching those in Table B in both the portal and the ProDoc. The total for component 3 includes the M&E portion of the budget as well (464,587=343,687+120,900).

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-26-21: Proposed results framework is satisfactory.

Agency Response Noted

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

7-26-21: Please provide responses to the comments above and resubmit. Thanks!

9-21-21: Please provide responses to the minor additional comments and resubmit. Thanks!

11-30-21: Please revise the inconsistencies in the budget tables and resubmit. Thank you!

Agency Response

Noted with many thanks

Dec 1

Noted with many thanks, the budget was revised accordingly.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

9-20-21: Please remove the information related to Private Sector Engagement in Annex 8 (see screenshot below) and include an answer, in appropriate annex of the CEO Endorsement form, to the following comment made by the Council Member from Germany:

**management for sustainable development in
the Biban mountain range - FAO - GEFID=
10170**

• Comment by Sylvia Schmidt (Sylvia.Schmidt@bmz.bund.de) on behalf of Mrs. Kordula Mehlhart, Head of Division Climate Finance, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Council, Germany made on 1/7/2020

Comment
Germany comments sender info specific to all trust funds:

Algeria, Integrated Forest and Biodiversity Management for Sustainable Development in the Biban Mountain Range; GEF Project Financing: \$3,297,260; Co-Financing: \$26,682,155; Agency: FAO; GEF ID: 10170.

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

Germany welcomes the project and suggests establishing working links with the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, AFR100, and with the Secretariat at African Union Development Agency/ AUDA in Midrand, Republic of South Africa. Emphasis for future cooperation could be on Monitoring and Evaluation for Landscape Restoration.

Confidential Comment:

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).

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 PCOs 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

Agency Response

Noted

Noted. The response to the council comment is now included under ANNEX B: responses to project reviews.

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response Noted

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response Noted

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response Noted

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response Noted

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-26-21: Status of PPG utilization is satisfactory.

Agency Response Noted
Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request 7-26-21: Maps and coordinates provided are adequate.

Agency Response Noted
Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Noted

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response Noted

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response Noted

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Review Dates

Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement

Response to
Secretariat
comments

First Review
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations