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Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10876

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Sustainable Management and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes for Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in India

Countries

India

Agency(ies)

UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Land Degradation

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Pasture Management, Ecosystem Approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Agriculture, Land Degradation Neutrality, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nationally Determined Contribution, Climate Change Adaptation, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate resilience, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Education, Behavior change, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Information Dissemination, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Enabling Activities, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Significant Objective 1

Biodiversity

No Contribution 0

Land Degradation

Principal Objective 2

Submission Date

12/6/2022

Expected Implementation Start

7/1/2023

Expected Completion Date

6/30/2028

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

627,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management	GET	3,600,000.00	19,245,644.00
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	3,000,000.00	15,000,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			6,600,000.00	34,245,644.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) through sustainable ecosystem-based management and restoration of degraded landscapes across agricultural, forest, pastoral lands and surface water bodies.

Project Component	Financi ng Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Tru st Fund d	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: Enabling institutional, strategic frameworks and policies for integrated sustainable land management (SLM) practices and restoration of degraded production landscapes	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 1: Enhanced national, state and district-level enabling frameworks incentivizing SLM practices and supporting participatory multi-sector platforms to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate mitigation, as measured by:</p> <p>- Development schemes at district level that have mainstreamed complementary measures for SLM and restoration of degraded landscape, as indicated by: (a) 5 national government development schemes; (b)</p>	<p>Output 1.1: National and state level gender-responsive and inclusive land use framework developed for restoring land degradation, conserving biodiversity and positive climate action. <i>Activities under this output include: analyse existing national and state sectoral policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks to map entry points for LDN in relevant sectors; Assess and analyse development and land use planning policies and processes under implementation across target landscapes; Review international frameworks in the context of national priorities to identify synergies between land restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate action goals.</i></p>	GET	1,013,000.00	5,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>at least 3 state-level and 6 district-level multi-stakeholders ? participatory platforms established and LDN strategy 2030 negotiated, adopted and demonstrated by these platforms.</p>	<p>Output 1.2: Complementary cross-sectoral mainstreaming actions developed and demonstrated to enhance LDN, NDC and biodiversity outcomes in existing government schemes where agricultural, forestry and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists. <i>Activities under this output would include: undertake a review of government schemes currently under implementation at state and district levels to identify opportunities for integrating SLM and restoration of degraded lands; develop state-level action plans in the target states based on the India's NAP to combat desertification; develop effective and comprehensive decision-support system for planning,</i></p>			
		<p>- Capacity building of different stakeholder groups to achieve LDN targets, as indicated by: (a) at least 35 training-of-trainers programs (10 in each state and 5 national and global) on SLM practices; (b) capacity building and awareness programs for internalizing LDN designed</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		and implemented in 6 target districts for tribal communities (with at least 50% women participation).	<p><i>monitoring and adapting climate-resilient SLM at the State and district levels.</i></p> <p>Output 1.3: Multi-stakeholder platforms established and operationalized at national, state and landscape levels for integrating LDN in land-use planning frameworks. <i>Activities under this output include: Identify key stakeholders across target project sites and undertake a SWOT analysis of their capacity to implement a cross-sectoral approach to achieving LDN targets; establish and/or strengthen state and district-level multi-stakeholder land degradation and desertification alliances/platforms; Develop framework for multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for scaling out to other states.</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<p>Output 1.4: Capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for carrying out transformative projects resulting in land restoration, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. <i>Activities under this output:</i> <i>Assess capacity building needs of stakeholders and establish training coordination mechanisms at national, state and district-levels; Develop landscape specific training modules for target stakeholders; Identify and engage national agencies that can deliver the training, and develop a roster of experts; and organize training programmes for all stakeholders.</i></p>			
			<p>Output 1.5: Programs to enable participation of tribal groups, especially</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
			<p>women, aimed at internalizing LDN implemented in relevant state in partnership with local agencies with State and District administration.</p> <p><i>Activities will cover: Assess, identify and develop capacity building programme for tribal people on sustainable land-use planning and identification of SLM options; Identify champion tribal farmers, using FPIC approach; Develop database of roster of experts and undertake capacity building and awareness programmes; Organise trainers training programmes; Organise farmers? exchange visits for sharing learning experiences and exchange of traditional knowledge.</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Implementing and up-scaling landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices to avoid, reduce and reverse degraded production landscapes	Investment	<p>Outcome 2: Integrated participatory landscape design and financing models established in support of avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and negative impacts of climate change to generate multiple sustained environmental and economic benefits, as measured by:</p> <p>- SLM resource management units established to demonstrate land restoration practices, as indicated by: (a) At least 6 (2 in each state) SLM resource management</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Drivers of land degradation identified and participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive, landscape level eco-restoration plans developed for targeted landscapes. Activities include: <i>undertake baseline survey to document site specific drivers of LD through HH survey and focal group discussion; prepare GIS-based participatory district and village land use mapping to quantify status of LD; review and document existing evidence-based SLM innovative models, best practices and technologies available; develop eco-restoration plans for targeted landscapes.</i></p> <p>Output 2.2: Gender-responsive and inclusive improved alternative</p>	GET	3,996,800.00	20,511,362.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		units established covering at least 50 villages across target 6 districts.	sustainable land and ecosystem management practices and appropriate technologies identified, demonstrated and upscaled, for enhancing resilience of local communities and restoration of targeted landscapes.			
		- Diversified and green livelihood options , as indicated by: (a) 180,000 direct beneficiaries (Male ? 108,000; Female ? 72,000) from improved agricultural, grassland management and forest loss avoidance; (b) 15% income enhancement of community members across all landscapes	<i>Activities include: undertake gender-responsive field demonstrations for sustainable agricultural management practices across both irrigated and unirrigated farming systems; undertake gender-responsive field demonstrations for sustainable pasture management practices, including investments in sustainable and climate adaptive silviculture approaches and dairy production from integrated crop-livestock systems; undertake gender-responsive field demonstrations for sustainable forest management</i>			
		through diversified and green livelihood; (c) 75 Self-help groups (SHGs) established with 50% women				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>participation across target 6 districts; (d) increase in species richness, both at inter- and intra-species level, conserving indigenous biodiversity of global significance.</p> <p>- Improved land management (agriculture, grassland and forest), indicated by: (a) Area of land restored ? 108,000 ha, which include 76,000 ha of degraded agricultural land, and 32,000 ha of degraded natural grass and shrublands; (b) Area of landscape under improved practices ? 209,000 ha, which include 114,000 ha of</p>	<p><i>practices, including equitable access to forest resources, for restoration of forest land; support community-level participatory monitoring of eco-restoration plans, with training provided on M&E methods; develop a replication plan for upscaling of best management practices.</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.3: Green, resilient and inclusive recovery strategies developed and demonstrated through sustainable and gender responsive livelihood options that reduce pressures on natural resources. <i>Output activities include: undertake a mapping of existing FPOs that are already engaged in value chains across project sites (108 in Gujarat, 195 in Karnataka and 1950 in</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
		agricultural lands, 50,000 ha of grasslands and shrub and 45,000 ha of forests (33,000 ha of HCVF and 12,000 ha of production forest landscape).	<p><i>Maharashtra), and provide training in the steps necessary to formalise and/or strengthen producer groups with management structures, roles, and negotiated by-laws and benefit distribution mechanisms; undertake feasibility studies for each proposed enterprise, including supply and demand, marketing and linkages with service providers; assist producers to develop business plans for the selected value chains; develop and undertake training programs on value-chains enhancement and business management for local communities, women groups, youth.</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.4: Innovative and blended financing solutions demonstrated by fostering new strategic partnerships for</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
			<p>implementation of the landscape level eco-restoration plans with enhanced resources towards achieving LDN. <i>Activities include: assess current and future financial needs to implement the eco-restoration plans and achieve LDN targets, and define a suite of financial incentives; identify and document possible sources of blended financing for scaling up of SLM to achieve LDN at national and state level, including improving access of producers to credit and/or investment opportunities; undertake case studies to demonstrate benefits of Payments for Ecosystem Services; draft and implement a sustainable financing strategy for implementation of the eco-restoration plans; Develop database of private players engaged in</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
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support SLM practices.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Information system for SLM and LDN indicators; Gender mainstreaming, knowledge management, evaluation and project reporting; National outreach; and south-south cooperation	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3: Improved capacity for LDN monitoring, assessment and reporting to UNCCD in support of LDN target setting and evaluation of capacities of partners; allowing government institutions and other agencies to better document, analyse and disseminate effective intervention strategies for restoring productive landscapes and replication of best practices at national and state level, and at international level through improved South-South cooperation, knowledge and adaptive management, as	Output 3.1: Information systems to document real-time data on impacts, trade-offs, costs-benefit analysis of restoration, and identifying incremental synergies through dashboard and web portal developed and institutionalized. Output activities include: <i>review current national LDN core indicators assessment and monitoring systems, and tools and their utility at national and sub-national levels in order to identify improvements/standardization, where required; develop and/or support digital knowledge platform(s) and focal node for storage, management and analysis of LD and LDN-related data; establish a specific ?dashboard? within the LDN knowledge platform; Update existing spatial planning/GIS-based</i>	GET	1,275,915.00	7,100,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>measured by:</p> <p>- Improved knowledge management system, as indicated by: (a) establishment of Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation ; (b) establishment of a real time dashboard detailing targeted interventions on water, soil and land, as well as mapping and assessment of existing government schemes on land degradation, and financial gap assessment data; (c) district-level communication strategy operational in 6 districts; (d) dissemination</p>	<p><i>systems/facilities, where necessary, to provide robust data and information management capacity to support the knowledge platform.</i></p> <p>Output 3.2: Knowledge sharing mechanism established, and decision support and management capacities of stakeholders in the principles of agroecological intensification enhanced. Output activities include: <i>develop knowledge sharing mechanism, including use of global monitoring tools; establish knowledge sharing platforms and undertake capacity building programmes for key stakeholder groups on LDN assessment and monitoring at landscape level; operationalize national LDN monitoring and reporting system to guide LD and</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>n of at least 10 project best practices via community of practice, SLM and biodiversity knowledge platforms and grassroots outreach; (e) Replication uptake of project best practices initiated in at least 5 additional districts.</p>	<p><i>SLM assessment; develop and operationalize plan for the sustainability (financial, institutional and human capacity) of the LDN monitoring and reporting system.</i></p> <p>Output 3.3: Communication strategies, knowledge products and tools designed and developed for collation of good practices, rewarding innovation and dissemination of success stories and project results. Activities under this output include: <i>develop project communication materials, activities and events to inform multiple stakeholder audiences; develop a process framework for a two-way transfer of project information between the state/national and landscape/community levels; develop and</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<p><i>implement a gender-sensitive KMCS and associated financing plan to guide all project knowledge management, communication and outreach activities; design and deliver a training module on communication and outreach for stakeholders; synthesize all project-generated knowledge acquired and publish in academic journals.</i></p>			
			<p>Output 3.4: Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management strengthened under the overall guidance and support of MoEFCC to further South-South cooperation and international alliances to address UNCCD global agenda. <i>Activities include: review activities and mandates of existing relevant national and international</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
			<p><i>institutions actively engaged in capacity building for SLM and LDN targets; develop course curriculum and training modules in consultation with national and international experts; prepare international roster of experts to deliver specific course modules; linkages with other LDN initiative for effective South-South Cooperation.</i></p>			
			<p>Output 3.5: Project M&E system, incorporating gender mainstreaming and social and environmental safeguards, implemented for adaptive project management. <i>Activities include: set up national-level and landscape PMUs and make necessary arrangements for PMU staff orientation and periodic trainings/off-site meetings for</i></p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<i>effective project management; Monitor achievement of project indicators; Operationalize Environmental and Social Management Framework, undertake Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Environmental and Social Management Plan and associated plans; develop and initiate implementation of a Sustainability Plan for the project.</i>			
				Sub Total (\$)	6,285,715.00	32,611,362.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET		314,285.00			1,634,282.00
			Sub Total(\$)	314,285.00		1,634,282.00
			Total Project Cost(\$)	6,600,000.00		34,245,644.00

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,600,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,400,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Government of Maharashtra	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,600,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Government of Maharashtra	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,400,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	1,750,000.00
Private Sector	Jain Irrigation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	61,411.00
Private Sector	Jain Irrigation	Grant	Investment mobilized	184,233.00
Recipient Country Government	State Government of Gujarat	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,600,000.00
Recipient Country Government	State Government of Gujarat	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,400,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				34,245,644.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Investments to be made by government are indicated as follows: ? Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will be making investments under the following programs: (i) Green India Mission that supports the protection, restoration and enhancement of India?s forest cover; (ii) Compensatory

Afforestation that will support ANR, forest protection and management; and (iii) National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) that will support afforestation, ecological restoration and community management of forests. Recurrent/in-kind expenditure in the form of staff time. ? State Governments (of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka): Support through a number of national and state schemes at the local level, including the following: o Rural Development support programs such as (i) Rural Livelihood mission creating institutional platforms of the rural poor to enable sustainable livelihood enhancement and improved access to financial services; (ii) integrated watershed management programs that focuses on rainfed and degraded area development; (iii) Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme; (iii) Entrepreneurship Development and Employment Generation Scheme; (iv) The National Livestock Mission (NLM); (v) Rashtriya Gokul mission for conservation of indigenous livestock breeds; (vi) ?Van Dhan Vikas Karyakram of TRIFED? scheme that supports value addition, livelihoods, etc. (vii) State Scheduled Tribes Finance and development scheme for grant-in-aids, (viii) Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan scheme to strengthen PRI institutions for achieving SDGs, etc. Recurrent/in-kind expenditure in the form of staff time. Co-finance commitment from the state government of Karnataka could not be secured at the CEO ER stage, and discussions are underway to secure co-financing letter by the inception of the workshop. The co-financing realized from Karnataka state will be reported in the first PIR. ? Private sector co-financing: Jain Irrigation will be providing co-financing for demonstrating innovative and improved technologies in water management in agriculture, fighting soil degradation and desertification, afforestation and agroforestry ? UNDP in-kind and grant contribution through staff time and parallel programme from other funding sources will support the program.

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(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	India	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	6,600,000	627,000	7,227,000.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					6,600,000.00	627,000.00	7,227,000.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	India	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	200,000	19,000	219,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
108000.00	108000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Rangeland and pasture	76,000.00	76,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Natural grass	32,000.00	32,000.00		

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
209000.00	209000.00	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)
Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations			
Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
164,000.00	176,000.00		

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

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Other forest	45,000.00	33,000.00		

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	6793648	6793648	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	6,793,648	6,793,648		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2022	2023		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

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

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	108,000	108,000		
Male	72,000	72,000		
Total	180000	180000	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

Please refer to Core Indicator Worksheet in Annex 16 for detailed breakdown on each of the core indicators. ? Core Indicator 3: includes 76,000 ha of degraded agricultural land and 32,000 ha of degraded natural grass and shrublands restored ? Core Indicator 4: This includes 114,000 ha of agricultural lands, 50,000 ha of grasslands and shrub and 45,000 ha of forests (33,000 ha of HCVF and 12,000 ha of production forest landscape) under improved practices ? Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas mitigation amounting to around 6,793,648 metric tons of CO₂e over 20-year period from avoided forest loss in 45,000 ha and 114,000 ha of agricultural lands, 50,000 ha of grasslands and shrub under improved practices and 76,000 ha of degraded agricultural land and 32,000 ha of degraded natural grass and shrublands restored ? Core Indicator 11: This includes 178,000 direct beneficiaries from improved agricultural and grassland management and forest loss avoided and 2,000 community members benefiting from green livelihoods (with 60:40 men/women beneficiaries)

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

There are no significant changes in alignment with the project design of the original PIF. A few of the indicative outcomes and outputs outlined in the PIF were revised and merged through the process of refining the project design during the project preparation phase. Please see Section II Development Challenge of the UNDP project document.

There is a slight reduction in the co-financing amount from USD 46 million to USD 34 million as the co-financing commitment from the state government of Karnataka could not be secured through a co-financing letter. Discussions are underway with the state government and the co-financing commitment is expected to be realized by the time of project inception.

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

Desertification/ land degradation is an issue of global concern, as it threatens not only the productivity of land but also water

quality, human health and the fundamentals of ecosystems on which all life depend. It has also close connection with other major global issues, particularly climate change and biodiversity. It has been estimated that globally around 24 billion tons of fertile soil and 27,000 bio-species are lost each year. Land degradation has multiple and complex impacts on the global environment through a range of direct and indirect processes affecting a wide array of ecosystem functions and services. Land degradation, thus, interrupts the regulating and provisioning services of ecosystems, in particular nutrient cycling, the global carbon cycle and the hydrological cycle. While land degradation is acutely felt in the world's arid lands, some 80% is occurring outside these areas.

With a land area of 328.72 m ha, India is endowed with several climatic zones, diverse ecological regions (Box 1), as well as numerous and varied land and water resources. One of the seventeen mega diverse countries, India holds almost 8% of global biodiversity and is an acknowledged Centre of crop diversity and crop wild relatives with 4 of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots (Box 2). This unique biodiversity is under immense threat due to growing biotic and abiotic factors and lack of understanding of the critical role that it plays in maintaining our life, livelihood and economy.

However, with barely 2.4% of the total land area of the world, the country has to support 16.7% of the total human population. India also has only 0.5% of the world's grazing area but supports 18% of the world's cattle population. About a third of the total feed intake of the ruminants in India is by grazing on common property resources (CPRs). The Thar Desert lies in the hot arid region of Western Rajasthan and is one of the most densely populated deserts of the world.

Agriculture is the major sector of growth of the Indian economy (occupies 140.1 m ha of the total area of 328.7 m ha of the country). Around 70% of India's population lives in rural area, of this nearly 55 % of the population, particularly the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of society, rely on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihood. The vast majority of Indian farmers are small and marginal and cultivate about 86.21% of the total land holdings comprising merely 47.34% of the total agricultural land (Agriculture Census 2015-16). Their farm size is decreasing further due to population growth. Of the total cultivated area, a major part of agriculture in the country is rainfed, extending to over 97 m ha and constituting nearly 68% of the net cultivated area.

About 228 m ha of its geographical area (70%) fall within drylands (arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid) as per Thornthwaite classification, and these lands are all facing some level of land degradation as a result of climatic and anthropogenic factors. Various studies, including one done by Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad in 2021, reveals that a large part of India's land mass is under land degradation and desertification. Successive studies also indicate that the process of land degradation is increasing. An ongoing MoEFCC sponsored national project entitled, 'Desertification Status Mapping of India', being executed by the Space Applications Centre (SAC), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Ahmedabad along with 19 concerned Central/State government departments and academic institutes, has produced the 'Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India'^[1].

The analysis reveals that 97.85 million ha area of the country is undergoing land degradation i.e., 29.77% of the total geographic area (TGA) of the country during 2018-19. The area undergoing DLD (desertification and land degradation) during timeframe 2011-13 and 2003-05 is observed as 96.40 million ha (29.32% of the TGA) and 94.53 million ha (28.76% of the TGA), respectively. A cumulative increase of 1.45 million ha area (0.44% of the TGA) undergoing DLD is observed from timeframe 2011-13 to 2018- 19 (Figure 2.). Whereas, from timeframe 2003-05 to 2011-13, a cumulative increase of 1.87 million ha area (0.57% of the TGA) is observed. Overall, around 23.79% (2018-19), 23.63% (2011-13) and 23.34% (2003-05) of the area undergoing DLD with respect to TGA of the country is contributed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Ladakh UT, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana (in descending order). All other remaining states are contributing less than 1% (individually) of the country TGA.

Land degradation has direct correlation with the loss of livelihood in India, as a large part of the population is still dependent on natural resources for their livelihood. Adverse impacts of land degradation pose challenges such as low agro-productivity, environment loss, food security and overall quality of life of people. It also poses challenges like loss of biodiversity and climate change. Moreover, this can have far reaching impacts on the growth trajectory of the country. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in its recent study on economics of desertification and land degradation

found that land degradation and land use change through various processes in India cost around 2.5 per cent of the country's GDP in 2014-15. It also found that almost 82 per cent of the estimated cost is on account of land degradation (the rest being from land use change), which indicates that it has severe adverse impact on food security and livelihood security of millions of people. Forest degradation accounts for 55% of the total cost of land degradation, agriculture for 16% and rangelands for 4% (Figure 3). The study also estimated total investment India requires for reclamation of land degraded by five major processes (water erosion, wind erosion, forest degradation, water logging and salinity) is Rs. 2948 billion (2014-15 price) to reclaim 94.53 mha degraded land as per newest survey of by SAC, Ahmedabad.

Project landscapes:

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Based on the information in the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, the project considers land use pattern, process of degradation (mainly vegetation degradation, water erosion, wind erosion, salinity and water logging), and severity level to identify project landscapes and focus interventions. The target landscapes include the following types of degraded lands: (i) agriculture irrigated, (ii) agriculture unirrigated, (iii) forest/ plantation, (iv) grassland/ grazing land, and (v) other land use categories, including land with scrub, as well as to some extent dune/ sandy area, barren areas, and surface water bodies. In selecting target states and their respective districts, care was taken to include all kinds of landscapes as described and such sites are included at least twice so that results across sites can be replicable. Accordingly, the project will target implementing its activities across two districts of three states of India (Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra). The major reasons for land degradation (Table 1) and the detailed description for selecting the states and their respective districts are described below:

[1] SAC. (2021). Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (Assessment and analysis of changes over 15 years based

on remote sensing). Space Applications Centre, ISRO. Ahmedabad, India. 282 pages.

Table 1: State wise Status of Desertification/ Land Degradation measured during 2018-19 and 2011-13 (area in

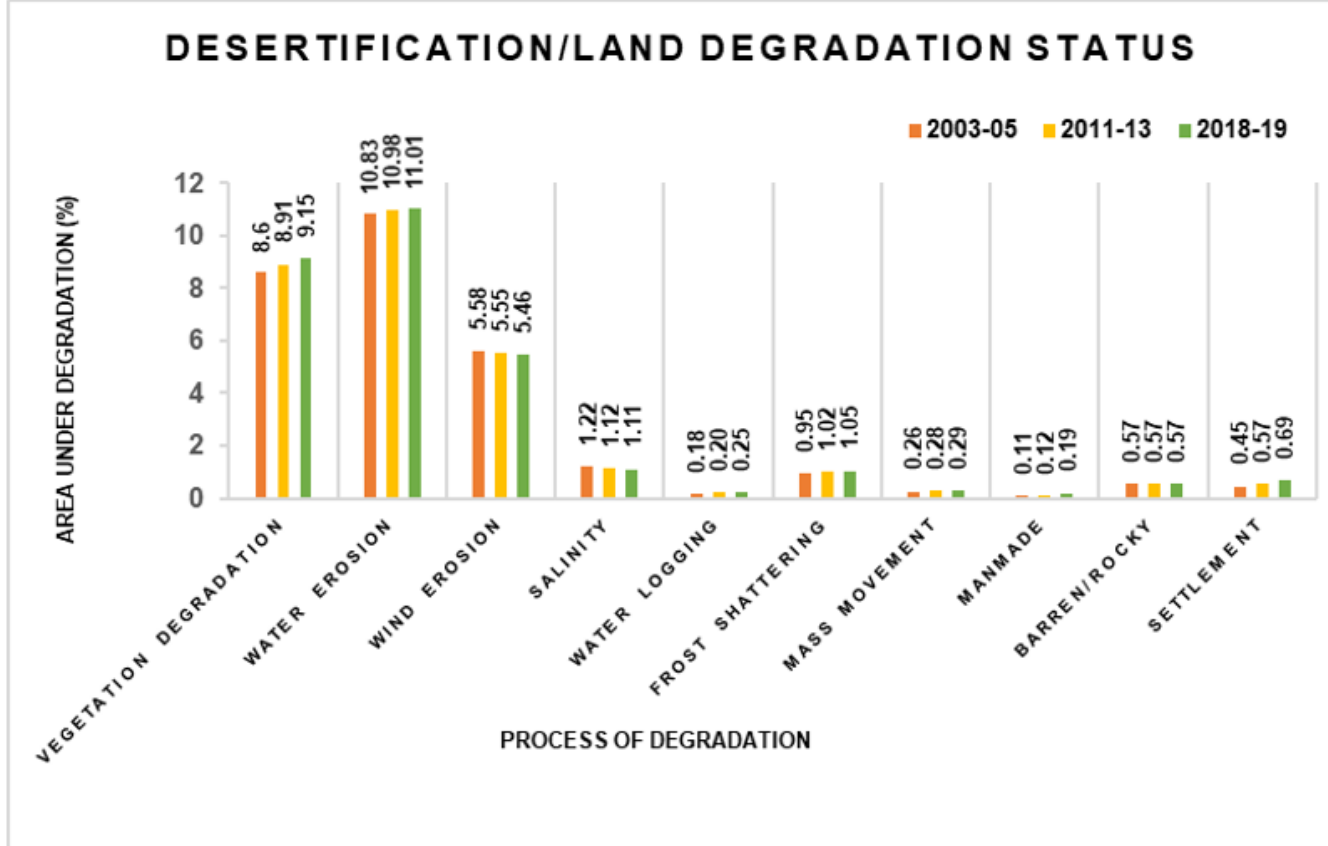
State Name	Vegetation Degradation		Water Erosion		Wind Erosion		Salinity		W
	2018-19	2011-13	2018-19	2011-13	2018-19	2011-13	2018-19	2011-13	
Gujarat	2322802	2,319,826	3833330	3,859,497	1174936	1,177,105	2598828	2,645,405	3375
Karnataka	1697479	1,712,386	5012171	5,043,041	2159	2,159	89122	86,740	-
Maharashtra	5142353	4,884,005	8217047	8,060,753	-	-	28713	29,089	-
Country Total	30073939	29,298,553	36200711	36,099,042	17944887	18,233,594	3641727	3,674,759	8079

More information on the project landscapes is provided in the *Landscape Profiles in Annex 12a, Map in Annex 3* of the *Project Document*.

Threats and Root Causes (Drivers):

As per the most recent Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, the most significant processes of desertification/ land degradation in the country are water erosion (11.01% in 2018-19, 10.98% in 2011-13 and 10.83% in 2003- 05), followed by vegetation degradation (9.15% in 2018-19, 8.91% in 2011-13 and 8.60% in 2003-05), and wind erosion (5.46% in 2018-19, 5.55 % in 2011-13 and 5.58 % in 2003-05). See Figure 4.

Figure 4 of the Project Document: Process wise changes in land degradation status from 2003-0



Reports from different states of the country only show a worsening trend in degradation processes. For example, timber extraction in Maharashtra has led to rampant soil erosion, soil erosion triggered by mining has led to aggravated water scarcity in Jharkhand with alarming reduction in ground water levels, desertification is creeping into Nagaland due to shifting cultivation, deforestation and rising populations, low rainfall and increased dependence on bore wells has led to soil aridity in many places

in Andhra Pradesh. Land degradation pressures observed in the project landscapes are described further below:

Water resource related issues: Water scarcity in India is becoming commonplace every year and spreading to more and more urban and rural areas. Underground water resources in the country are shrinking due to heavy exploitation of aquifers without any natural recharge. It is ironical that in India both floods and droughts occur regularly and alternately. On an average, 35% of the land is drought-prone and receives rainfall of less than 750 mm, another 18.5% of the land receiving 750-1000 mm falls in the transitional zone, whereas, the remaining 46.5% receiving rainfall of over 1000 mm falls under the humid zone. During the 2019 monsoon/rainy season more than 50% of the country was affected by drought, including all three target districts. The impact of drought leads to shortage of fodder, shortage of drinking water, loss in agricultural production, and a general decline in living standards, across all target districts. On the other hand, irrigated areas are increasingly plagued with water logging, salinity and sodicity, including target districts (Banaskantha, Aurangabad and Bagalkot), reducing the productive capacity of soils and consequently leading to loss of soil fertility, crop yields, and agro-biodiversity. Therefore, continued interference and relentless pressures on utilisation of water resources are disturbing ecosystem balances.

Overgrazing: On one hand, India has one of the largest numbers of cattle population (over 197 million cattle), while on the other the grazing practices in India are not sustainable. In many parts of semi-arid systems, livestock is the mainstay of livelihoods for survival, and common grazing lands are used to support fodder requirements of the livestock population. Over time, common grazing lands are degraded and grasses grown are neither palatable nor sufficient to feed the livestock population. Therefore, livestock overgrazing, as observed in Banni and Nandurbar grassland (target project sites) is yet another factor causing degradation of the existing common property resources (CPRs). The existing CPRs, which include natural grazing lands, have very poor green cover to feed the livestock. Heavy grazing intensity reduces vigour of grazed plants, distorts the plant growth pattern and changes the biodiversity composition of the grazing land. All these has led to serious problems as animals have encroached into forest lands and even agricultural lands. Due to lack of green fodder, animals are pushed to the fringes of reserve forests (Nandurbar) and are thus destabilising the forest vegetation. Land degradation due to overgrazing, especially Banni grassland, leads to desert ? like conditions which, in turn, reduce animal productivity and increase the economic pressure on human beings who depend on animals for their livelihood.

Deforestation: *India loses 1.3 million hectares of forests per year. One of the major causes of desertification is the cutting* down of trees and excessive harvesting of the forest products, as observed in Nandurbar. According to the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), India had less than 11.4% of area under forest as per the 1992 observation. But the more recent satellite pictures show that the forest cover is now less than 10%. This is also happening across 2 districts (Nandurbar, Coorg) of the target project sites.

Vegetation degradation: Vegetation degradation is happening in India, including target districts (Banaskantha, Aurangabad and Bagalkot) at a faster rate, which is mainly due to change in cropping pattern, poor agricultural practices such as improper crop rotations; overuse of agrochemicals and water resources, soil erosion caused by surface runoff and removal of topsoil.

Long-term Vision of the Project:

The long-term vision is to meet the national land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets by strengthening policy and incentive frameworks, building capacities for implementing sustainable land management practices, and implementing and up-scaling landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices to avoid, reduce and reverse degraded production landscapes through implementation of participatory approaches of sustainable land management in six target arid and semi-arid landscapes to restore degraded ecosystems and their essential services, reduce poverty and increase resilience to climate change.

Barriers Analysis:

The barriers currently impeding the achievement of this vision are described below.

Barrier 1: Lack of landscape level policy coherence across sectors to provide a supportive enabling environment for achieving LDN, NDCs and National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs). LDN is a newly introduced concept, and one that requires multi-sectoral action. Significant effort will be required to mainstream its objectives, technologies, and monitoring into existing research plans, government policies and extension activities. Current policies and plans are based along sector boundaries and there is a lack of coherence in policies focused on or related to sustainable land management. Inadequate institutional capacity, tools and system gaps among landscape stakeholders and in key institutions pose challenges for implementing integrated landscape management. LDN approaches are not yet integrated in land-use planning processes; various departments and divisions do not work in an integrated way. There are no significant national budget allocations for integrated LDN programming. More specifically, systems-thinking and holistic approaches to land management that are required to implement LDN are lacking, including the use of a landscape-scale context for testing, introducing and adapting SLM options within a larger economic and ecological plan.

Policy decisions related to LDN are sometimes not supported by long term technical, social and economic perspectives, leading to unintended consequences. For example, indiscriminate promotion of *Prosopis juliflora* in Kachchh, in earlier decades has impacted the health of grasslands and indigenous vegetation. Policies on planning and transition of abandoned agricultural lands into either natural landscapes or agriculturally productive systems that provide adequate returns on investment need to be improved. Cropland abandonment and uncontrolled succession processes often lead to the establishment of woody weeds and invasive species, which does not provide adequate forage for livestock and increases costs for returning the land to a cultivatable state.

Responsible land governance including land tenure security has emerged as one of the critical factors in combating desertification. It is important to note that the data available in India on ownership of land by women are severely inadequate and lack coherence, primarily because for years land records have not kept sex-disaggregated data of land ownership. There is a need to better understand land tenure systems across the project landscapes (at present, there are many land tenure systems, especially in Nandurbar), assess ownership status, and identify drudgery-reducing technologies for women (for

example in coffee plantation in Kodagu, and *chironji* extraction in Nandurbar). Based on this, suggestions for reducing land tenure insecurity, especially for women, can be presented for consideration to the government

Barrier 2. Insufficient coordination across sectors and landscape-wide geographies to identify and resolve LDN challenges. There is currently a lack of agreed coordination mechanisms for agencies and stakeholders to work together on achieving LDN. Weak institutional platforms and governance mechanisms lead to insufficient coordination and impede stakeholder negotiation and collective action across sectors and landscape-wide geographies to identify and resolve LDN challenges. Given the need for cross-sectoral, landscape-level action, insufficient coordination is a significant barrier to addressing land degradation and achieving LDN. Diverse government agencies are managing programmes with implications for land degradation and desertification. Coordination among these agencies, and even between programs managed by the same agency, is essential when pursuing a multi-faceted objective like LDN. Similarly, there is a need to pull together related agencies and stakeholders at district and state level, to align individual work plans to support sustainable land management. There is inadequate focus on cross-sector approaches to address agriculture-environment-livelihood conflicts. Land reclamation processes would be more effective if implemented with cross-sectoral coordination on a watershed mode, that is led by strong central planning, active participation of stakeholders and institutions involved, and collective ownership.

Barrier 3: Conflicts in resource management at the local level. There are several underlying factors that exacerbate resource use conflicts. The lack of clear policy guidance and operational support for local communities has resulted in their inability to play a major role in resource management and protection as well as in developing a collaborative shared vision for its management and use amongst the key stakeholders. Limited enforcement of regulations regarding resource use coupled with patronization by socio-political elites and vested interests makes it difficult to ensure equitable access and benefits to members of the community. As a consequence, marginalized local communities that usually live in abject poverty tend to resort to desperate means of resource exploitation in pursuit of short-term gains in the absence of a collective long-term strategy for promotion of resource conservation and sustainable use that would benefit them.

Barrier 4. Lack of adopted and proven technical methodologies and practices to support LDN across a range of land types and contexts. In selecting alternative practices, farmers' participation should be ensured from the beginning, and they need to be appraised of the short-and long-term benefits of the measures, which is currently happening at limited scale. Plans need to be drawn such that farmers can see some short-term benefits and the technologies are remunerative because people participate only when they get tangible benefits. Traditional customs and practices, user rights of common property resources, and sustenance of natural resource base must all be considered so that the new approaches to sustainable land management meet the needs of different sections of society.

Technical challenges range from market issues to demonstration of effective and practical techniques that can be adopted by farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers. Overall, there is an absence of demonstrated practical and sustainable agro-economic models that will be viable for small and marginal farmers. Land fragmentation, which is a significant issue in India, also causes low productivity and poverty and prevents application of new SLM techniques, requiring attention to participatory platforms, and other approaches that can help overcome this barrier. Though new

techniques are emerging that offer both environmental and economic benefits, they need more demonstration and confirmation of viability. One example is ZBNF, which is an agro-ecological method that has attracted success in Southern India and is recognized for its potential to improve farmer incomes through savings on input costs. However, it is yet to be a widely accepted practice supported by state government budgets as questions remain about its viability/replicability and the conditions under which it will be successful at achieving environmental and livelihood benefits. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) is currently conducting experiments at multiple locations to establish the viability of ZBNF. There is an urgent need to pilot and demonstrate a range of techniques across different conditions, and show viability for small and medium farmers, to support the adoption and scaling up of SLM practices.

Barrier 5: Lack of evidence and data that can help decision-makers and local communities identify and monitor the benefits of innovative SLM approaches and technologies. There are gaps in evidence to inform the design of action and investment to implement landscape approaches at scale. There is a lack of real-time data on the condition of land and state of natural resources, as data discrepancies are common and fail to capture on-the-ground realities. Unified, national data protocols and datasets are also missing, leading to failure to show national and regional trends and thresholds within different land cover types and landscape areas (for example, through a national dashboard). Also, there is no monitoring of the benefits of SLM practices nor dissemination of knowledge to support broader scaling up strategies to reduce land degradation. There is no system in place to identify how to balance land degradation and loss of productive land with restoration within given land types, nor the transfer of such lands to other land types. In other words, there is no clear mechanism for monitoring the implementation and achievement of LDN.

Barrier 6. Insufficient documentation and sharing of knowledge gained from demonstrations, including South- South cooperation, on best practices and lessons learned. In a context where multiple institutions are developing local, on-the-ground interventions, there are ample, largely untapped opportunities to capture and share experience and lessons learned and to apply these to the development of LDN strategies as well as to more localized situations. Knowledge regarding successful approaches is limited based on a combination of factors, including limited lesson capture and poor communication/ dissemination of successful and efficient outcomes. Knowledge of successful approaches, techniques, tools and strategies often fail to be applied to potentially analogous situations. Such knowledge transfer will be essential to achieve the type of scaling up and grassroots support that will be needed to ramp up sustainable land management across India. Limited knowledge transfer also impedes the potential for learning and cooperation between countries facing similar land degradation challenges ? an area of South-South cooperation identified by the Prime Minister of India as important to develop land restoration strategies and address climate change, biodiversity and land degradation[1].

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Baseline Scenario

Realizing these threats, successive Indian governments have been in the forefront to announce policies and set target to regenerate degraded land resources. India has had a long journey in addressing degraded lands and has also recorded some remarkable success. The pro-activeness of the government is evident from its active participation in international conventions related to environment and climate change such as National Determined Contributions (NDCs), UNCCD and UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and has set national targets for landscape restoration and sustainable land management. India has committed to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030, which indicates that no more land would be degraded as compared to the degraded land of baseline year (2003-2005), that is 94.53 mha. At the 2019 Conference of Parties for the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD), India's Prime Minister announced an increase in the country's ambition for land restoration from 21 million ha to 26 million ha between now and 2030.

Among the other international commitments most relevant to the present project are the following: i) the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement to sequester 2.5 to 3 billion tons CO₂eq by 2030 through improved forest and tree cover; ii) Bonn Challenge to restore 21 mha of degraded and deforested lands and achieve land degradation neutrality, and; iii) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ? particularly no poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (2), good health and well-being (3), decent work and economic growth (8), climate action (13), and life on land (15). India's international commitments that have a bearing on land restoration are described below:

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD): India is committed to the strategic framework to combat desertification, which was adopted at the COP13 of UNCCD, to guide the actions of the stakeholders and partners. The framework includes five objectives and indicators under each objective that Parties must strive to improve within the period of 2018-2030 and are as follow: (i) Improving the condition of affected ecosystems, combating desertification/land degradation, promoting sustainable land management and contributing towards land degradation neutrality; (ii) Improving the living conditions of the affected populations; (iii) Mitigation, adaptation and management of the effects of drought; (iv) Generating global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD; and (v) Mobilizing substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level. Following this, India host COP 14 which was held in New Delhi in 2019, and the "Delhi Declaration" was adopted by parties, which renewed commitment to objectives already set at the COP13. It further commits to achieve objectives with programs that include the participation of local communities and are gender inclusive, include drought preparedness and risk mitigation in case of droughts and dust storms, invite more investments from different stakeholders including the private sector and encourage the creation green jobs, encourage the peace forest initiative amongst others within the time period from 2018-2030. India's National Action Program (NAP) was prepared in 2001 for a 20-year period, and included comprehensive measures to achieve the UNCCD objectives.

India's Nationally Determined Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: India being a responsible signatory and member of COP 21 ratified the convention and converted INDCs into

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). India's NDCs communicated to UNFCCC include to: (i) put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation; (ii) adopt a climate friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development; (iii) reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 % by 2030 from 2005 level; (iv) achieve about 40 % cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 with the help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF); (v) create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030; (vi) better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programs in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management; (vii) mobilize domestic and new and additional funds from developed countries to implement the above mitigation and adaptation actions in view of the resource required and the resource gap; and (viii) build capacities, create domestic framework and international architecture for quick diffusion of cutting-edge climate technology in India and for joint collaborative R&D for such future technologies.

India's Commitments under CBD: India provided its 6th national report to the CBD in 2018 to provide an update on its progress towards the national biodiversity targets (NBT). The 20 Aichi targets have been enshrined within the 12 NBT's in India. The Constitution of India embeds the fundamental support in the form of laws and policies for the realization of these targets. The State and the people of India are bound to comply with these and conserve the rich biodiversity of the country at the national, state and local level. While various policies and laws existed, many new ones have evolved to address the various aspects that the NBSAP serves.

Policy and legislative baseline: Though India does not have a specific policy or legislative framework for combating desertification as such, the concern for arresting and reversing land degradation and desertification gets reflected in many of the national policies and laws that have enabling provisions for addressing DLDD problems. It is also implicit in the goals of sustainable forest management (SFM), sustainable agriculture, sustainable land management and the overarching goal of sustainable development which the country has been pursuing. The subject has in fact been engaging the attention of planners and policy makers since the inception of planning. The first five-year plan (1951-1956) had 'land rehabilitation' as one of the thrust areas. In the subsequent plans too, high priority has been consistently attached to development of the drylands. India has demonstrated strong commitment to achieving sustainable food systems and effective environmental management. The 'National Strategy for New India' (NITI Aayog, 2018) prioritizes 'Doubling farmers' income' through sustainable agriculture and livelihood diversification; maintaining ecosystems and resilience to climate change and disasters.

Baseline Activities: Government supported projects and programmes

In the business-as-usual scenario, with no GEF investment, there are several ongoing and planned national initiatives/missions that contribute to combating land degradation and restore different

landscapes; close coordination with these baseline initiatives will be critical to successful implementation of the project. These are presented below:

Sl. No	Project Scheme	Agency	Description
Watershed development programmes and schemes			
1	Soil and Water Conservation under DPAP and DDP	Ministry of Rural Development (MORD)	The Drought Prone Area Development (DPAP) programme was one of the first development programmes launched to address the problems of a specific area such as drylands. The main objective was to curtail the impacts of drought on cultivation, livestock, water, land and human resources. The drought proofing programme also sought to enhance the socio-economic conditions of the vulnerable people who lived amongst precarious conditions. The DDP sought to restore ecological balance in areas where desertification had set in, and droughts were severe. This was to be done by rejuvenation of natural resources and making the local poor populations more resilient and capable of improving their socio-economic status. A total of 13,476 projects were sanctioned, with a total budget allocation of Rs. 3817.68 crores
2	The National Wasteland Development Board	Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC)	The National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) was set up under the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in 1985 in order to address land degradation, restoration of ecology and meet the increasing demand of fuelwood and fodder at the national level. The target of this mission was to restore 5 m ha of wastelands annually by planting trees. However, the board could not translate its vision into action. The reason for this was mostly the conflict between the MoEFCC and NWDB on land related issues for implementing various schemes.
3	National Watershed Development Program	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare	The National Watershed Development Program (NWDP) for rainfed areas was launched in 1990-91 under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. The twin formula of integrated watershed management and sustainable farming systems formed the basis for it. The scheme was set up to address conservation, development and sustainable management of natural resources. Increasing agriculture production in a sustainable manner was also part of the scheme as well as greening and restoring the ecological balance in degraded rainfed ecosystems. In November 2000, Common Approach for Watershed Development and New Operational Guidelines for National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPPRA) were operationalised.

4	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)	Jal Shakti Mantrayala, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture	The Government of India has been implementing centrally sponsored scheme on micro-irrigation (CCS) with the objective to enhance water use efficiency in the agriculture sector by promoting appropriate technological interventions like drip and sprinkler irrigation technologies and encourage the farmers to use water saving and conservation technologies (Box 8). The Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in January 2006. Budget provision of 4000 crore is provided in the financial outlay for 2020-21
5	National Water Mission (NWM)	Department of Water resource, RD and GR	Government of India has established the 'National Water Mission (NWM)', as one of the eight National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The main objective of NWM is 'conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management'.
6	Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain	Ministry of Jal Shakti	One of the National Water Mission's (NWM) campaign 'Catch the Rain' with the tagline 'Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls' was launched by The Prime Minister of India on 22 March 2022 to nudge the states and stakeholders to create appropriate Rainwater Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata with the active participation of people.
Forestry programmes and schemes			
7	Social Forestry and Joint Forest Management Programs	Ministry Of Environment Forest and Climate Change	The Joint Forest Management (JFM) program came into implementation in 1990. State forest departments and local communities were to take part in management of degraded or deforested forests together. While all income for non-wooded forest produce was to go to the locals, their share in the sale of timber was 25%, while the rest would go to the forest department. Village level committees were formed for this joint management. Further, each state had its own guidelines according to which JFM was to be implemented. In several states, almost 3/4th of the forest cover was under JFM in states like Jharkhand (72.94%), Bihar (71.42%) and Madhya Pradesh (70.62%)

8	National Mission for a Green India or 'Green India Mission'?	Ministry Of Environment Forest and Climate Change	The Green India Mission (GIM) is one the eight missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). It aims at 'protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover (Box 10) and responding to climate change' by increasing green cover across India by five million hectares (mha) and improve the quality of existing green cover on another five mha, while improving ecosystem services like carbon sequestration, hydrological services and biodiversity and provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non- timber forest produces (NTFPs). The mission is also charged with increasing forest-based livelihood incomes for about three million households. The budgetary allocation for National Mission for Green India has been raised from Rs 210 crores in financial year (F.Y.) 2018-19 to Rs 290 crore in F.Y. 2019-20 and to Rs 361.69 crore this year (2022-23) with the national afforestation programme alone being allotted Rs 300 crore, more than last year's amount of Rs 235 crore.
9	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)	Ministry Of Environment Forest and Climate Change	The CAMPA authority created in 2001 by the Supreme Court to manage fund collected towards compensatory afforestation. For last two decades, the collected CAMPA fund remains largely un-utilized and, in some case, it was diverted for other purposes. In a major boost towards promoting afforestation and achieving green objectives of the country. The government of India released Rs. 47,436 crores of CAMPA fund in August 2019 to 27 different States and UTs Rs. 47,436 crores.
10	National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC)	Ministry of Science and Technology	National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC)' is one of the 8 sub-missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), being operated by Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
Agriculture programmes and schemes			
11	National Food Security Mission	Ministry of Agriculture	The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53 rd meeting held on 29 th May 2007 adopted a resolution to launch a Food Security Mission comprising rice, wheat and pulses to increase the annual production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan (2011-12). Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), was launched in October 2007. The Mission met with an overwhelming success and achieved the targeted additional production of rice, wheat and pulses. The total budget allocation for this mission during 2021-22 was 599.02 crore

12	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) ? Sub-mission on Agro Forestry Active year 2016-17	Ministry of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare,	Sub-Mission on Agroforestry has been launched in 2016-17 to encourage tree plantation on farmland ?Har Medh Par Ped?, along with crops/ cropping system. The scheme is being implemented in the states which have liberalized transit regulations for selected tree species. The implementation of the sub-mission will result in providing additional income opportunities for farmers, increase in tree cover that will lead to higher carbon sequestration and complement the national initiatives on climate change adaptation and mitigation and trees grown on farmland will help in enriching soil organic matter. A total budget of Rs. 3.3 crore was allocated during 2020-21, whereas the budget allocated during 2021-22 is only Rs. 1.12 crore.
13	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) - National Bamboo Mission:	Ministry of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare,	The National Bamboo Mission (NBM), mainly focused on boosting of domestic cultivation of quality and appropriate species for providing adequate supply to Indian industry, was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2006-07 and was subsumed under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) during 2014-15 and continued till 2015-16. Though NBM contributed significantly towards enhancing bamboo areas both in forest and non-forest areas, the main weakness of the scheme had been the absence of a linkage between the producers (farmers) and the industry and a strong value addition component. Hence the emphasis now will be on propagation of quality plantations of bamboo of the required species, product development and value addition including primary processing and treatment; micro, small and medium enterprises as well as high value products; markets, and skill development, thus ensuring a complete value chain for growth of the bamboo sector to boost bamboo-based industry which would also have a ripple effect on rural economy. A total of 64.66 crore was allocated for this mission during 2021-22, which include budget for Gujarat (Rs. 2.0 crore), Karnataka (Rs. 4.0 crore), and Maharashtra (Rs. 4.0 crore).
14	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) Sub-mission on Rainfed Area Development	Ministry of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare,	Rainfed Area Development (RAD) adopted an area-based approach for development and conservation of natural resources along with farming systems. This programme focuses on integrated farming system in which crops/cropping system is integrated with activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture, etc. to enable farmers to not only maximize farm returns for sustaining livelihood, but also to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The total budget allocated during 2021-22 is Rs. 17.5 crore, which includes budget for Gujarat (Rs. 2.40 crore), Karnataka (Rs. 1.20 crore) and Maharashtra (Rs. 0.73 crore)

15	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) - Sub-mission on Soil Health Management	Ministry of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare,	Soil Health Management (SHM) mission is aiming to promote location as well as crop specific sustainable soil health management including residue management, organic farming practices by way of creating and linking soil fertility maps with macro-micronutrient management, appropriate land use based on land capability, judicious application of fertilizers and minimizing the soil erosion/degradation. This mission also provide support to reclamation of problem soils (acid/alkaline/saline). Soil Health cards (SHCs), issued under this mission, describe the status of soils with respect to 12 parameters, and will provide crop-specific fertilizer recommendations and will help farmers improve productivity by maintaining soil health.
16	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) - Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare,	This sub-mission under NMSA is supporting creation and bidirectional (land/farmers to research/scientific establishments and vice versa) dissemination of climate change related information and knowledge by way of piloting climate change adaptation/mitigation research/model projects in the domain of climate smart sustainable management practices and integrated farming system suitable to local agro-climatic conditions.
17	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	Ministry of Agriculture	National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is one of the sub schemes of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) which is being implemented by State Horticulture Missions (SHM) in selected districts of 18 States and 6 Union Territories. In case of National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB), Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland and the National Level Agencies (NLA), GOI contributes 100%. The total financial outlay for this mission for 2020 - 21 is Rs. 2310.25 crore.
18	National Livestock Mission (NLM):	Ministry of Agriculture, & Farmers Welfare,	The NLM supports activities required to ensure quantitative and qualitative improvement in livestock production systems and capacity building of all stakeholders. The Mission objective is the sustainable development of the livestock sector in the country. The ?Sub-Mission on Fodder and Feed Development? will address the problems of scarcity of animal feed resources, to give a push to the livestock sector making it a competitive enterprise for India, and also to harness its export potential.
19	National Programme for Dairy Development	Department Of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	scheme since 2014-15, with the objective to create and strengthen dairy infrastructure for procurement, processing and marketing of milk and milk products by the State Implementing Agencies (SIAs), mainly focusing on two activities namely: (a) Village based milk procurement system and (b) Milk Quality Testing Facilities at Village/District/State Level.

20	Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)	Department Of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	been launched in December 2014 with an outlay of Rs 2025 crore for development and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding in the breeding tract and genetic upgradation of nondescript bovine population. The scheme comprises of two components namely ?National Programme for Bovine Breeding (NPBB)? and ?National Mission on Bovine Productivity (NMBP). An outlay of Rs 2025 crore for development and conservation of indigenous breeds through selective breeding in the breeding tract and genetic upgradation of nondescript bovine population. Rs 2025 crore
21	Supporting Dairy Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations	Department Of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	launched during 2017-18. The scheme is being implemented by National Dairy Development Board. A corpus of Rs. 300 crore is kept in perpetuity with National Dairy Development Board to be used for providing soft loans for working capital to enable Cooperative Societies and farmer producer organizations engaged in dairy activities to provide a stable market access to farmers. A corpus of Rs. 300 crore is kept in perpetuity with National Dairy Development Board to be used for providing soft loans for working capital to enable Cooperative Societies and farmer producer organizations engaged in dairy activities to provide a stable market access to farmers.
22	Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)	Department of Agriculture cooperation	Launched in 2015, is an extended component of Soil Health Management (SHM) under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). PKVY aims at supporting and promoting organic farming, in turn resulting in improvement of soil health. The scheme promotes Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) For India (PGS- India) form of organic certification that is built on mutual trust, locally relevant and mandates the involvement of producers and consumers in the process of certification. Funding pattern under the scheme is in the ratio of 60:40 by the Central and State Governments respectively. Budget allocation for the year 2020-21 is 500 crores

23	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana ? Remunerative Approach for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RAFTAAR):	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare (MOA&FW)	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana ? Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation is a unique scheme of Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare. It is aimed at strengthening infrastructure in Agriculture and Allied sectors to promote Agri-preneurship and Agribusiness by facilitating financial aid and nurturing a system of business incubation. MANAGE-CIA, Centre for Innovation and Agri-preneurship is a Centre of Excellence and Knowledge Partner to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare for Implementation of RKVY-RAFTAAR Scheme. This programme will provide states and territories with autonomy to draw up plans for increased public investment in agriculture by incorporating information on local requirements, geographical/climatic conditions, available natural resources / technology and cropping patterns in their districts in order to increase agricultural productivity. The budget allocated for RKVP during 2020-21 is 3700 crores.
24	Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare (MOA&FW)	Government of India has launched a new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" with a clear strategy and committed resources to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs in the country. Under this scheme, FPOs are to be developed in produce clusters, wherein agricultural and horticultural produces are grown/cultivated for leveraging economies of scale and improving market access for members. ?One District One Product? cluster to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding and export. Under this Central Sector Scheme with funding from Government of India, formation & Promotion of FPOs are to be done through the Implementing Agencies. Rs 6865 crore
25	Sahi Fasal	The Ministry of jal shakti	Government of India has established the ?National Water Mission (NWM)?, as one of the eight National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The main objective of NWM is ?conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management?
Rural development programmes and schemes			

26	Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)	The Ministry of Rural Development	The mission was launched in June 2011 and was renamed as 'Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM)' in November 2015. With support from World Bank, the Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services targeting 7 crore rural poor households, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh gram panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a period of 8-10 years.
27	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MG-NREGA)	The Ministry of Rural Development	The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has evolved as a major program for regeneration of natural resources in the rural part of India. While this program guarantees 100 days of unskilled job per year for every rural household, it also has played crucial role in creating individual and community level rural assets. These assets are largely constructed to re-generate local natural resources. The 2022-23 budgetary allocation for MGNREGA was maintained at the same Rs.73,000 crore level, even though the previous year's revised estimates were 25% higher at Rs. 98,000 crores.

GEF-financed projects and programmes: Government initiatives are also supported by donor-funded efforts to strengthen enabling policy and institutional frameworks and facilitate behaviour change among farmers to embrace improved farming practices. These include multiple GEF-financed projects supporting aligned objectives, such as: the GEF-5 funded project 'Integrated Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Services Improvement Project' supported by the World Bank, which designed sustainable forest management strategy across six states (Goa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Nagaland) of India. Another GEF-6 funded project 'Green Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes' supported by FAO, which is developing intersectoral mechanisms and policies to reform India's agricultural sector to support biodiversity conservation in five states (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, and Odisha), including the deployment of a 'green landscapes' approach that will provide useful lessons that this project can build upon. Also relevant is the UNEP-supported GEF-5 project 'Building the Foundation for Forest Landscape Restoration at Scale' advancing progress towards achieving the Bonn Challenge to bring 150 million hectares into the process of restoration by 2020; and GEF-5 project 'Mainstreaming Agricultural Biodiversity Conservation and Utilization in Agricultural Sector to Ensure Ecosystem Services and Reduce Vulnerability across 6 states of India (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Assam) and UT of Ladakh.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

No major changes have been made compared to the PIF; additional details have been provided based on information gathered during the PPG phase. Please see Sections IV Results and Partnerships of the UNDP project document. Some minor changes have been made to the phrasing of project outputs as described in the table below.

The objective of the project is to assist the Government of India to achieve its goal *to combat land degradation and desertification* with the primary objective *to achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) through sustainable ecosystem-based management and restoration of degraded landscapes across agricultural, forest, pastoral lands and surface water bodies*. The multiple regulatory and provisioning ecosystem services to be strengthened by the project include: improved soil health, carbon sequestration, water quality and flow (including groundwater resources); biodiversity conservation and provisioning of food, fodder, non-timber forest produce and fuelwood for improved livelihood options.

In order to achieve the above objective, the project's interventions are organised into three high-level Outcomes expected from the three project Components. Outputs/activities under these Outcomes will build on the experiences and up-scale the results of the SLM programmes and activities under implementation in and outside of the country. At the national and state levels, the project will ensure a strong and sustainable enabling framework for adopting/implementing SLM approaches to land degradation. A high proportion of the project budget and effort will be given to develop, demonstrate and up-scale successful SLM approaches across target landscapes and support the development of SLM land use planning and decision support system. Project Outcomes and their respective Outputs and Activities together with their deliverables for each Component are described below:

Component 1: Enabling institutional, strategic frameworks and policies for integrated sustainable management (SLM) practices and restoration of degraded production landscapes.

? **Outcome 1:** Enhanced national, state and district-level enabling frameworks incentivizing SLM practices and supporting participatory multi-sector platforms to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate mitigation.

Component 2: Implementing and up-scaling landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices to avoid, reduce and reverse degraded production landscapes.

? **Outcome 2:** Integrated participatory landscape design and financing models established in support of avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and negative impacts of climate change to generate multiple sustained environmental and economic benefits.

Component 3: Monitoring system for SLM and LDN indicators; Gender mainstreaming, knowledge management, evaluation and project reporting, national outreach, and south-south cooperation

? **Outcome 3:** Improved capacity for LDN monitoring, assessment and reporting to UNCCD in support of LDN target setting and evaluation of capacities of partners; allowing government institutions and other agencies to better document, analyse and disseminate effective intervention strategies for restoring productive landscapes and replication of best practices at national and state level, and at international level through improved South-South cooperation, knowledge and adaptive management.

Component 1: Enabling institutional, strategic frameworks and policies for integrated sustainable management (SLM) practices and restoration of degraded production landscapes. Under Component 1, policies review for land governance, land use planning and natural resource conservation and management will be undertaken, and revision, where required, to provide an effective policy framework for the implementation of LDN will be suggested. Additionally, experiences from other countries will also be analyzed such as: (i) Land degradation neutrality: The science-policy interface from the UNCCD to national implementation[2]², (ii) Opportunities and Limitations for Achieving Land Degradation-Neutrality through the Current Land-Use Policy Framework in Kenya[3]³, and (iii) Taking Land Degradation Neutrality from concept to practice: Early reflections on LDN target setting and planning[4]⁴. Component 1 will strengthen institutional capacity at national and across three target states level, including tribal and local communities, and will create an enabling environment to implement LDN following the UNCCD response hierarchy of avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation using standard tools and approaches for LD and SLM assessment. LDN policy gaps at national and state-level will be addressed and participatory collaborative and coordination mechanisms will be strengthened and successfully demonstrate among key sectors (agriculture, grassland and forest). This will be underpinned by an understanding of the key indirect and direct drivers of land degradation, including climate change, that leads to loss of productive land as well as the associated costs to local communities and the national economy. Barriers to scaling up of SLM will also be understood at the landscape level in order to design strategies and policies that will promote scaling up to achieve LDN.

Component 2: Implementing and up-scaling landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices to avoid, reduce and reverse degraded production landscapes. Under Component 2, and in line with the action strategies developed under Component 1 Outputs, GEF funding will support pilot actions in select sites of three target states (Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra). Selection of these states was based on baseline information provided in the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (SAC, ISRO, 2021). Two districts from each of these three states were identified at PIF submission and *Taluka* level target project intervention sites were confirmed during the PPG phase, in consultation with state level partners during site visits (as detailed in **Annex 3**). Using the baseline information and as mentioned above, the project will mainly target three elements of degradation, viz., land use, process of degradation and severity level. The target landscape proposes to include degraded agriculture irrigated, agriculture unirrigated, forest and plantation, grassland, grazing

land, land with scrub, as well as to some extent restore water bodies and barren land. Selection criteria for identification of *Talukas* per district include presence of water stressed districts/*Talukas*, land use systems with existing levels of land degradation, restoration opportunities, and support from local administration and other agencies engaged in complementary projects.

Technical demonstrations to support adoption of economically, ecologically and socially sensitive climate resilient sustainable land management and energy efficient practices by relevant stakeholders across agricultural, grazing and forest lands; and successful on-the-ground restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas will be main contribution of Component 2. In this context, STAP's LDN guidelines are a valuable resource in the development of LDN demonstration interventions, which includes a necessary analysis of trade-offs and positive synergies and avoidance of indirect effects. Land degradation decision matrix to assist with localized land degradation assessments will be worked out under Output 2.1. Scaling of sustainable land management is central to Component 2 and the project will develop scaling pathway that defines how the project seeks to scale SLM and land restoration across sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, livestock, biodiversity) and spatial scales at landscape/district and also at state levels (Output 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3).

The implementation process will involve close engagement with local communities to more clearly define precisely how best to ensure certain practices are adopted and that they endure for project sustainability. In addition, the strategic eco-restoration plan will provide a concrete program to facilitate decision-makers to track, monitor, and report on the results of funded activities to UNCCD. This will offer decision-makers with a clear understanding of what investments and actions work best to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation, increase climate change resilience and mitigation, and improve livelihood standards. This will also generate information and models that can then be sustained within each of the target areas and amplified through both Component 2 and Component 3 activities to increase sustainable production practices and reduce degradation at national and state levels.

Importantly, efforts under this Component will also work to address issues related to financing that currently inhibit adoption of sustainable practices. This work will also address the value-chain side of the equation through improved marketing and other models through establishing SMEs and linkages to existing Farmers' Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Farmers' Producer Companies (FPCs), being supported by Government of India. The project will thus assist producers to access financing required to invest in value-addition practices. This will involve working with existing government financing programs to make certain they are strategically supporting production efforts designed to address degradation issues.

Component 3: Monitoring system for SLM and LDN indicators; Gender mainstreaming, knowledge management, evaluation and project reporting, national outreach, and south-south cooperation. Communication, education and public awareness are the key to mainstreaming agrobiodiversity for sustainable land management across sectors and implement priority actions with involvement of all stakeholders. This would also ensure that concerns of sustainable land management and ecosystem

services are mainstreamed in decision making at all levels. In order to ensure awareness and enhance understanding among range of stakeholders, a communication strategy and awareness programmes, comprising of methods, tools and approaches for raising awareness of relevant stakeholders on SLM, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation are necessary to achieve LDN targets and will be developed under Component 3 of the project. Special action will be targeted towards youth, where youth interns including 50% of which would be women, will be trained. A web-based portal will be established at national level with pages for each state to ensure maximum coordination and sharing of information about the overall SLM programme. This will have access to all policies, plans, guidelines, technical documentation, as well as information on capacity building and events.

The project will support monitoring and evaluation under both Component 1 and Component 2 activities. Under Component 3, the data gathering, monitoring, and evaluation elements of the project will be consolidated to provide decision-makers at district, state and national levels with access to accurate and timely information required to inform decision-making. The project will design and implement a data gathering and information strategy within six months of inception, which will address challenges such as the current approaches for data collection and information management. This will be linked to project efforts under both Components 1 and 2 focused initially upon the project's six target districts. However, by project close, information gathering and management protocols will be scaled-up state level to facilitate much more effective and efficient availability of knowledge to inform decision-making.

Theory of Change:

The project's strategy/ theory of change (**Figure 5**) is premised on avoiding, reducing, and reversing land degradation and desertification, and negative impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss across the degraded landscapes ultimately supporting the achievement of LDN, NDCs and the commitments under the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It will do so by focusing attention and effort on policy and institutional barriers; multi-stakeholder participation; area-wide assessment, development and implementation of pilot district-level strategies; and knowledge management. It aims to do this through three interconnected impact pathways, as described below. These three interconnected pathways will be underpinned by monitoring, evaluation and dissemination and communication of lessons learned supporting behavioral and institutional change that leads to adoption and implementation of LDN principles at district, state and national level, and balancing of gains and losses of productive land across the six pilot districts to achieve LDN.

Impact Pathway 1: Strengthened institutional capacities, policies, and cross-sectoral coordination to achieve LDN

This pathway aims to improve policy and planning frameworks to incentivize sustainable land management, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and biodiversity conservation, as well as remove disincentives, along with enhanced capacity of stakeholders at all levels to support a stronger enabling framework. It will strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder coordination and collaboration to bring together all sectors with an impact or interest in LDN, NDCs and NBTs to jointly describe the landscape vision and priorities. Successful realization of this pathway such that it contributes to the goal of LDN rests on the assumption that institutional commitment from national, state, district and local government actors for the policy and institutional strengthening interventions proposed by the project remains strong (A1 in figure), and that capacities developed through the project are not lost due to staff turnover (A2).

Impact Pathway 2: Demonstration of landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices

This pathway will undertake technical demonstrations to support adoption of economically, ecologically and socially sensitive, as well as climate resilient, sustainable land management practices by relevant stakeholders across agricultural, grazing and forest lands. It aims to incentivize land users to adopt SLM through support of sustainable value chains and securing their rights to value-added products. It will also undertake on-the-ground restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas. Successful realization of this pathway such that it contributes to the goal of LDN rests on the assumption that local communities in the 6 target landscapes are not resistant to changing their approaches and practices because they perceive benefits from engaging with SLM approaches promoted by the project and appreciate the linkage between achievement of LDN and their livelihoods (A3), and that co-financing contributions are realized as planned (A4).

Impact Pathway 3: Improved LDN monitoring and adaptive management

This pathway aims to improve capacity for LDN monitoring, assessment and reporting to UNCCD in support of LDN target-setting, as well as capacitating government institutions and other agencies to better document, analyse and disseminate effective intervention strategies for restoring productive landscapes and replication of best practices. The project will generate lessons and experience that can be amplified both nationally and internationally, through South-South cooperation that the Government of India has committed to. Ensuring durable long-term impacts will depend on the landscape-level stakeholders' ability to access and adopt best practices and emerging knowledge regarding SLM, and this pathway will enable that. Evidence-based knowledge exchange regarding best practices will be supported between project districts, as well as with other districts in the country, and with other countries facing similar challenges. Successful realization of this pathway such that it contributes to the goal of LDN rests on the assumption that data sharing across different levels of government and across sectors occurs smoothly (A5), and that there is interest from other districts facing similar DLDD challenges as the pilot sites to learn about the project approach and that knowledge transfer and replication of SLM practices through the six district-level training centers and the multi-stakeholder platform will influence social innovation (A6).

[1] India plans to restore 2.6 crore hectares of Degraded Land by 2030: PM Modi - https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/prime-minister-narendra-modi-at-un-india-plans-to-restore-2-6-crore-hectares-of-degraded-land-by-2030-2463798?pfrom=home-ndtv_topscroll

[2] <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1462901118305677?via%3Dihub>

[3] <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/8/8/115>

[4] <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1462901118313881?via%3Dihub>

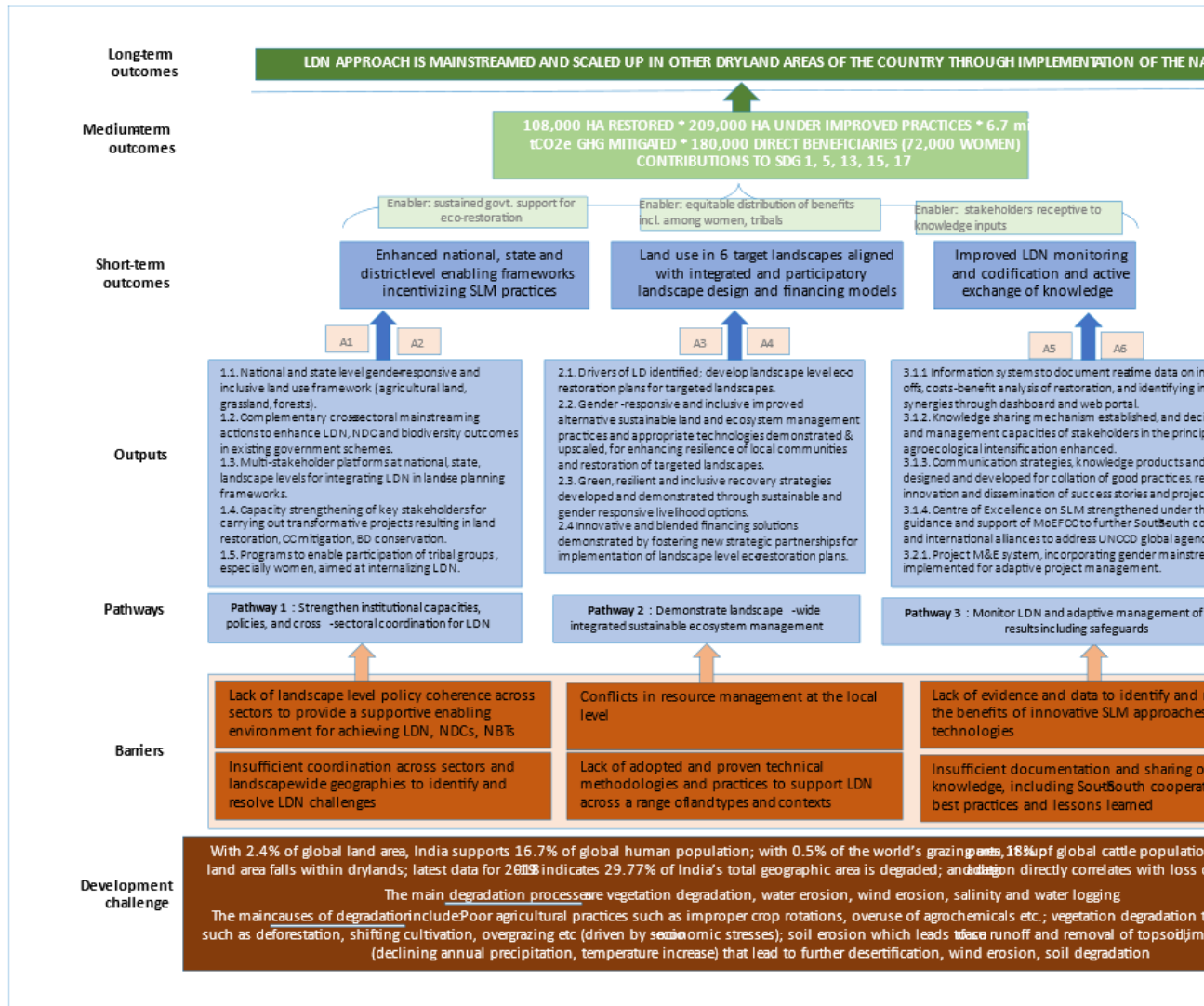


Figure 5 of the Project Document: Theory of Change

Changes in Alignment with the Project Design with the Original PIF

The following adjustments were made to some of the indicative outputs and outcomes outlined in the PIF.

Original PIF	CEO Endorsement
<p>Component 1: Enabling institutional, strategic frameworks and policies for integrated sustainable management (SLM) practices and restoration of degraded production landscapes.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Outcome 1: Enhanced national, state and district-level enabling frameworks incentivizing SLM practices and supporting participatory multi-sector platforms to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate mitigation.</p> <p><u>Output 1.1:</u> National and State -level development and land use planning processes assessed for gaps, opportunities, convergence and cooperative implementation to reduce land degradation, biodiversity loss and negative impacts of climate change identified and barriers to LDN removed.</p>	<p>Output 1.1: National and state level gender-responsive and inclusive land use framework developed for restoring land degradation, conserving biodiversity and positive climate action.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> The major focus remains the same with inclusion of gender responsive and inclusive framework and rewording to make the statement clearer and more comprehensive.</p>
<p><u>Output 1.1:</u> National and State -level development and land use planning processes assessed for gaps, opportunities, convergence and cooperative implementation to reduce land degradation, biodiversity loss and negative impacts of climate change identified and barriers to LDN removed.</p>	<p>Output 1.1: National and state level gender-responsive and inclusive land use framework developed for restoring land degradation, conserving biodiversity and positive climate action.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> The major focus remains the same with inclusion of gender responsive and inclusive framework and rewording to make the statement clearer and more comprehensive.</p>
<p><u>Output 1.2:</u> Complementary mainstreaming actions developed to enhance LDN, NDC and biodiversity outcomes in existing government schemes in production landscapes where agricultural, forestry and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists.</p>	<p>Output 1.2: Complementary cross-sectoral mainstreaming actions developed and demonstrated to enhance LDN, NDC and biodiversity outcomes in existing government schemes where agricultural, forestry and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> Addition of cross-sectoral and action demonstrated.</p>

Original PIF	CEO Endorsement
<p><u>Output 1.3:</u> Participatory platform, involving public-private agencies, communities and indigenous peoples, established at State and district level and strategies and action plans at vertical and horizontal co-ordination mechanisms established and strengthened for integrating LDN in land use planning frameworks.</p>	<p>Output 1.3: Multi-stakeholder platforms established and operationalized at national, state and landscape levels for integrating LDN in land-use planning frameworks.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> Reframed without changing the focus of this output ? multi-stakeholder platforms include all stakeholders as indicated in the original Output 1.3. During PPG discussion, it was suggested that these platforms should also be operationalised in addition to their establishment.</p>
<p><u>Output 1.4:</u> Institutional capacity of related academic /research institutes/organizations/ authorities; non-governmental organizations; extension agencies for carrying out transformative projects resulting in land restoration, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation strengthened.</p>	<p>New Output 1.4: Capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for carrying out transformative projects resulting in land restoration, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> Reframing with key stakeholders, which included all stakeholders as indicated in the original PIF Output 1.4.</p>
<p><u>Output 1.5:</u> Programs to enable participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, especially women, aimed at internalizing LDN implemented in relevant state in partnership with local agencies with State and District administration.</p>	<p>Output 1.5: Programs to enable participation of tribal groups, especially women, aimed at internalizing LDN implemented in relevant state in partnership with local agencies with State and District administration.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> Replacing indigenous peoples and local communities with tribal groups as explained the project document.</p>
<p>Component 2: Implementing and up-scaling landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices to avoid, reduce and reverse degraded production landscapes.</p> <p>-</p> <p>Outcome 2: Integrated participatory landscape design and financing models established in support of avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and negative impacts of climate change to generates multiple sustained environmental and economic benefits.</p>	<p>No change</p>

Original PIF	CEO Endorsement
<p><u>Output 2.1:</u> Drivers of land degradation (land cover, land cover change and land productivity trends) identified and participatory district and village land use plans and evidence-based innovative practices and technologies developed.</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Drivers of land degradation identified and participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive, landscape level eco-restoration plans developed for targeted landscapes.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> Reframing of statement without changing the focus of this Output, with addition of focus on gender-responsive eco-restoration plan.</p>
<p><u>Output 2.2:</u> Protection and mitigation applied for drought management, food security, water scarcity management, invasive species, wind erosion, through plantation of native and water efficient tree and grassland species, agroforestry and agro-horticulture models, integrated soil nutrient management, drought mitigation measures for restoration of high conservation value degraded forest, pasture and agricultural lands, including rejuvenating surface water bodies.</p>	<p>Output 2.2: Gender-responsive and inclusive improved alternative sustainable land and ecosystem management practices and appropriate technologies identified, demonstrated and upscaled, for enhancing resilience of local communities and restoration of targeted landscapes.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> During PPG discussion, it was suggested to merge the original Output 2.2 and 2.3 into a single Output 2.2, without changing the focus of the two Outputs (2.2 and 2.3) in the PIF. The new Output 2.2 thus focus on management practices and appropriate technologies identified, demonstrated and upscaled, with gender responsive and inclusive focus.</p>
<p><u>Output 2.4:</u> Green, resilient and inclusive recovery strategies developed and implemented facilitating the establishment of Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) focused on agriculture, animal husbandry and forest products at village and district level.</p>	<p>Output 2.3: Green, resilient and inclusive recovery strategies developed and demonstrated through sustainable and gender responsive livelihood options that reduce pressures on natural resources.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> Reframing the statement without changing the focus of the original Output 2.4 of the PIF.</p>

Original PIF	CEO Endorsement
<p><u>Output 2.5:</u> New and innovative financing mechanism identified and LDN funding opportunities strengthened through engagement of corporates/industries, using best practices, cutting-edge technologies and innovative business models.</p>	<p>Output 2.4: Innovative and blended financing solutions demonstrated by fostering new strategic partnerships for implementation of the landscape level eco-restoration plans with enhanced resources towards achieving LDN.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> No change in the focus of the original Output 2.5, but as suggested during PPG discussion, the Innovative and blended financing solutions should not be limited to identification, but the project should also have a major focus on their demonstration through developing new strategic partnerships (PPP).</p>
<p>Component 3: Monitoring system for SLM and LDN indicators; gender-mainstreaming, knowledge management, evaluation and project reporting, national outreach; and South-South cooperation.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>Outcome 3: Improved monitoring system, gender mainstreaming and capacity for LDN monitoring, assessment and reporting to UNCCD, and support government institutions and other agencies to better document, analyse and disseminate effective intervention strategies for restoring productive landscapes and replication of best practices at national and state level, and at international level through improved South-South cooperation.</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Improved capacity for LDN monitoring, assessment and reporting to UNCCD in support of LDN target setting and evaluation of capacities of partners; allowing government institutions and other agencies to better document, analyse and disseminate effective intervention strategies for restoring productive landscapes and replication of best practices at national and state level, and at international level through improved South-South cooperation, knowledge and adaptive management.</p> <p>Slight phrasing without changing the focus of the outcome.</p>
<p><u>Output 3.5:</u> M&E system, incorporating gender mainstreaming implemented for adaptive project management</p>	<p>Output 3.5: Project M&E system, incorporating gender mainstreaming and social and environmental safeguards, implemented for adaptive project management.</p> <p><i>Justification:</i> Inclusion of social and environmental safeguards, which was missing from PIF Output 3.5.</p>

Component 1: Enabling institutional, strategic frameworks and policies for integrated sustainable management (SLM) practices and restoration of degraded production landscapes.

Outcome 1: Enhanced national, state and district-level enabling frameworks incentivizing SLM practices and supporting participatory multi-sector platforms to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate mitigation.

Output 1.1: National and state level gender-responsive and inclusive land use framework developed for restoring land degradation, conserving biodiversity and positive climate action

The project will assess at least five major planning policies and guidelines currently under implementation at national and state level to identify supporting institutional, technical and planning gaps and related arrangements at national and state level to promote up-scaling of SLM practices through evidence-based and locally relevant information on land degradation and restoration status. The project will provide technical and financial support based on SLM principles, and develop a framework to ensure the sustainable utilization of land resources that would help in promoting land conservation practices, providing sustainable growth, reducing land degradation, poverty alleviation, and improving wellbeing of the people in line with the government's overall development objectives. A systematic approach to integrate the concept of SLM into national and state sectoral policies, legal and regulatory frameworks shall be the major outcome of this Output. The framework will be developed through a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), in line with UNDP Safeguards, and be supported by the Social Inclusion Planning Framework, in respect of the agreed Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol.

Indicative activities under Output 1.1 include:

Activity 1.1.1: Analyse existing national and state sectoral policies, legislation and regulatory frameworks to map entry points for LDN in relevant sectors, such as agriculture, grassland, forestry, biodiversity, climate change, science and technology, and rural development, ensuring the analysis is gender-responsive.

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Activity 1.1.2: Assess and analyse development and land use planning policies and processes under implementation across target landscapes (agriculture, grassland and forest) in pilot states and districts.

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Activity 1.1.3: Review international frameworks in the context of national priorities to identify synergies between land restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate action goals.

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Activity 1.1.4: Based on the analysis of existing policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks, as well as on the SESA, draft land use frameworks (one each for agriculture, grassland and forest) at the national (one) and state (three) levels for achievement of LDN through integrated landscape management approaches to avoid-reduce-reverse land degradation, conserve biodiversity and promote positive climate action.

Output 1.2: Complementary cross-sectoral mainstreaming actions developed and demonstrated to enhance

LDN, NDC and biodiversity outcomes in existing government schemes where agricultural, forestry and

rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists.

The project will put in place an evidence-based effective and comprehensive decision-support system for planning, monitoring and adapting climate-resilient SLM at the State and district levels - critical to mainstreaming LDN and mobilizing the investment needed for implementation. The goal of this Output will be to provide decision makers the information required to make sound land use management decisions that reflect climate change challenges into SLM practices. It will do so by supporting the development of a land and ecosystem degradation assessment, monitoring and decision-support system that is relevant to target districts and landscape level planning and management. This Output will also assist in on-going efforts to revise the current National Action Plan for combatting desertification, drought and land degradation, by supporting further decentralization of planning around DLDD issues. It will be supported by the SESA, and the state-level action plans will be supported by the Social Inclusion Planning Framework, in respect of the agreed Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol.

Indicative activities under Output 1.2 include:

Activity 1.2.1: Undertake a review of government schemes currently under implementation at state and district levels to identify opportunities for integrating SLM and restoration of degraded lands in these schemes. This mapping of existing funding sources and expenditures will help identify opportunities for mainstreaming SLM and allocating existing funding towards achieving LDN targets, NDCs, and NBTs.

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Activity 1.2.2: Based on India's NAP to combat desertification, and in order to further decentralize planning around DLDD issues, develop state-level action plans in the target states; this will also serve as a standardized framework that can be replicated in other states post-project.

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Activity 1.2.3: Develop effective and comprehensive decision-support system for planning, monitoring and adapting climate-resilient SLM at the State and district levels.

Output 1.3: Multi-stakeholder platforms established and operationalized at national, state and landscape levels

for integrating LDN in land-use planning frameworks.

Project will establish and/or strengthen state and district-level multi-stakeholder land degradation and desertification alliances/platforms. The purpose of such platforms will be to bring together government (District, State and Central Government) authorities, non-Government stakeholders, private sector, academia, civil society and community-based organizations for building synergised actions towards achieving targets for LDN, NDCs and biodiversity conservation. Whenever engaging with tribal peoples and their representatives, the project will follow the Social Inclusion Planning Framework and associated FPIC protocol.

Indicative activities under Output 1.3 include:

Activity 1.3.1: Identify key stakeholders across target project states, districts and landscapes, and undertake a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of their capacity to implement a cross-sectoral approach to achieving LDN targets.

Activity 1.3.2: Based on the results of SWOT analysis, establish multi-stakeholder platforms at state, district and landscape levels through sensitisation programmes; and demonstrate effective implementation of SLM practices for improved livelihood and ecosystem services through multi-stakeholder platform across project sites.

Activity 1.3.3: Develop framework for multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for scaling out to other states, thereby supporting achievement of the overall national target for LDN.

Output 1.4: Capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for carrying out transformative projects resulting in

land restoration, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.

Under this output, the project will support the development of a strategic, long-term approach to individual capacity building in SLM for professional staff of national, state and district level line departments and agencies, as well as NGOs and community leaders at district level. Following an assessment of the key gaps and requirements in knowledge, this will involve the design of a formal certifiable SLM training program (with competence standards / accreditations) as part of the in-service career progression of the professionals. The training programme will establish formal cooperation agreements for delivery with specialised universities, institutes, NGOs and the management and professional development department. These will be supported by preparation of manuals, presentations, advance study materials and written hand-outs for field learning, as well as tests to determine competency standards. The capacity building program will generate training materials that reflect the Indian landscape level context, while reflecting best international principles and practices.

Indicative activities under Output 1.4 include:

Activity 1.4.1: Assess capacity building needs of stakeholders and establish training coordination mechanisms at national, state and district-levels, including gender mainstreaming in LDN.

Activity 1.4.2: Develop landscape specific (agriculture, grassland and forest) training modules for target stakeholders, including gender dimensions, in achieving national target for LDN.

Activity 1.4.3: Identify and engage national agencies that can deliver the training, and develop a roster of experts, including global experts.

Activity 1.4.4: Organise training programmes for all stakeholders.

Output 1.5 Programs to enable participation of tribal groups[1], especially women, aimed at internalizing LDN

implemented in relevant state in partnership with local agencies with State and District administration.

Project will design and undertake specific capacity building programmes for tribal groups and local communities as they tend to have deeper understanding of local ecosystems and their dynamics, and thus play an important role in long-term monitoring of ecosystems which can help make better-informed management decisions contributing to biodiversity conservation and to carry out ecological restoration of degraded lands. Such programmes will also enable their active participation in scientific assessments, recognizing territorial rights and creating partnerships between scientists, implementing agencies (both public and private) and among tribal groups and local communities. They are part of a dedicated approach towards tribal peoples in order to 'leave no one behind', which constitutes the overarching principle of UNDP Social and Environmental Safeguards. All activities targeting and/or impacting tribal peoples will be compliant with the Social Inclusion Planning Framework.

Indicative activities under Output 1.5 include:

Activity 1.5.1: Assess, identify and develop capacity building programme for tribal people on sustainable land-use planning and identification of SLM options to balance gains and losses of productive land.

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Activity 1.5.2: Identify champion tribal farmers, using FPIC approach, to be trained in better understanding of principle of LDN and implementation of related activities across the target districts.

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Activity 1.5.3: Develop database of roster of experts and undertake capacity building and awareness programmes of tribal communities across the target districts to carry out specialised training modules.

Activity 1.5.4: Organise trainers training programmes.

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Activity 1.5.5: Organise farmers' exchange visits for sharing learning experiences and exchange of traditional knowledge across target project sites and beyond.

Component 2: Implementing and up-scaling landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices to avoid, reduce and reverse degraded production landscapes.

Outcome 2: Integrated participatory landscape design and financing models established in support of avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and negative impacts of climate change to generate multiple sustained environmental and economic benefits.

Output 2.1: Drivers of land degradation identified and participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive,

landscape level eco-restoration plans developed for targeted landscapes.

Project will undertake detailed GIS and remote sensing-based field studies together with Focal Group Discussion (FGD) to identify drivers of land degradation (land cover, land cover change, and land productivity trends) across target project sites, which will assist to prepare district and village ecosystem restoration plans. This will include identifying the primary degradation issues associated with sustainable management practices and integrating within the approved planning framework incentives to adopt sustainable alternatives. This will also include mapping and detailed assessment of production practices, productivity and profitability through improved agriculture, grassland and forest management and conservation-oriented production practices and relationship with LDN and SLM impacts. The project will provide technical assistance to local communities to develop and implement local level eco-restoration plans based on internationally recognized SLM principles and will focus upon improving local and traditional practices related to the use and conservation of land, water and biodiversity resources.

Indicative activities under Output 2.1 include:

Activity 2.1.1: Undertake baseline survey to document site specific drivers of LD through HH survey and focal group discussion (FGD) at target landscape level.

Activity 2.1.2: Prepare GIS-based participatory district and village land use mapping to quantify status of LD (i.e., prevailing land degradation processes as well as data on land cover change, land productivity dynamics, and soil organic carbon), including:

- Assessment of the socio-economic conditions of the landscape
- Identify the areas of intervention according to the landscape mapped

Activity 2.1.3: Review and document existing evidence-based SLM innovative models, best practices and technologies available at national and international level that are suitable for each target landscape (agriculture, grassland and forest), through engaging with national and international experts, including:

- Social, environmental and financial threats, gaps, opportunities and challenges
- Analysis of land tenure systems in the different landscapes
- Analysis of asset ownership based on gender disaggregated data in the landscapes
- Identifying best practices on technologies to reduce the drudgery of women and children

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Activity 2.1.4: Based on the results of the above activities, develop eco-restoration plans for targeted landscapes, on the basis of stakeholder consultations, that contribute to achievement of national LDN targets.

Output 2.2: Gender-responsive and inclusive improved alternative sustainable land and ecosystem management practices and appropriate technologies identified, demonstrated and upscaled, for enhancing

resilience of local communities and restoration of targeted landscapes.

A major emphasis of action under Output 2.2 will be to restore ecosystem functionality as a contribution to GEF Core Indicators: 3 (area of land restored), 4 (area of landscape under improved practices), and 6 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions mitigated). Process of land restoration priorities and practices will be fully identified in the land use planning process and finely tuned and applied through this Output. The project will work with producers and government agencies to apply principles and practices to show specifically how currently highly degraded agriculture, forest, and grazing lands can be restored to full ecosystem functionality. Evidence-based innovative practices and technologies will be identified and/or modified/developed and will support solutions for protection and restoration of high conservation value degraded agricultural, grassland and forest lands, including rejuvenating surface water bodies, that can be scaled up and scaled out to maximize global and national benefits for ecosystem health and local livelihoods.

Indicative activities under Output 2.2 include:

Activity 2.2.1: Based on the eco-restoration plans developed under 2.1.4, undertake gender-responsive field demonstrations for sustainable agricultural management practices across both irrigated and unirrigated farming systems; including enhance use of local crop diversity under organic farming practices and Zero Budget Natural Farming systems, together with water conservation practices (per drop more crop), and other climate smart agricultural practices, in line with Government priorities. This activity will also be supported through the following:

- Assessment of existing farming systems across target landscapes and identify gaps for SLM practices.
- Identify champion farmers, including women farmers, who are willing to participate to undertake SLM practices.
- Identify appropriate intervention models/approaches for SLM intervention for different agricultural landscapes. This may include farm diversification, both inter and intra species level, including climate smart crops; agro-horticulture systems; agro-forestry system, including precision agriculture, organic farming, Zero Budget Natural farming, intergraded pest management, system of rice intensification, suitable crop rotation practices, etc.
- Organise participatory workshop to educate the champion farmers for undertaking various SLM approaches suitable for their landscapes.
- Undertake on farm demonstration in participatory mode, using citizen science approach.
- Develop mobile app for document data and information sharing mechanisms among farmers and extension workers.
- Organise farmers field days, where farmers outside target landscape can also visit for cross learning.
- Undertake capacity building programmes for certified seed production and quality seeding raising of improved planting materials at village level and strengthen village seed system. This will enhance availability of seed/planting materials locally and at lower cost compared to market.
- Undertake farmers' awareness programme to better understand value chain and the role they can play to promote sustainable and climate-resilient food systems.
- Initiate participatory farmers groups, where farmers participate to discuss issues related to their farms together with professional advisors. This will help them to develop their farms and find new solutions for production and markets.
- Promote alternative uses of agricultural biomass such as crop residues, animal waste, food and processing waste and byproducts, leaves, straw, etc. This can increase the value and revenue of crop production, as well as provide new market opportunities that can feed back into value chain.
- Develop programmes to create consumer demand by producing material that provide education on the benefits of non-chemical farming and similar mass media outputs through various communication channels. This will not only enhance consumer awareness for adopting sustainable consumption practices, but also incentivise farmers to move in this direction.
- Plan and undertake activities for up-scaling and out-scaling of good practices, using crowdsourcing approach.
- Document and publish success stories as an outcome of project intervention.
- Publish scientific and popular articles.

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Activity 2.2.2: Based on the eco-restoration plans developed under 2.1.4, undertake gender-responsive field demonstrations for sustainable pasture management practices, including investments in sustainable and climate adaptive silviculture approaches and dairy production from integrated crop-livestock systems. This activity will also be supported through the following:

- ? Assessment of existing livestock production systems across target landscapes and identify gaps for SLM practices.
- ? Identify appropriate intervention models/approaches for SLM intervention for different grassland landscapes.

- ? Identification and introduction of superior varieties of native grass and range legume species.
- ? Identification and introduction of adaptive tree species for establishment and promotion of silvipasture systems in areas with low salinity.
- ? Adoption and upscaling appropriate technologies for strengthening fodder, water and resource management to make communities climate resilient such as reducing salinity by raised platforms and mounds, and preventing rainwater run-off to enter the treatment area by trenching and bunding.
- ? Upscaling and improving local traditional water harvesting systems like virda (local traditional dugwells) and holiyo (water recharging through deep bore).
- ? Restoration of surface water bodies such as ponds through desilting, deepening, and rainwater harvesting
- ? Reduction in grazing pressure through improvement in grass/fodder production, encouraging stall feeding, implementing grazing cycle, etc.
- ? Develop and promote livestock-based value-added products and establishment of SMEs.
- ? Establishment of biodiversity parks representing native flora including an interpretation centre for documentation and awareness generation.
- ? Establishment of an eco-taskforce for Eco-restoration by engaging the local communities, especially youth.

Activity 2.2.3: Based on the eco-restoration plans developed under 2.1.4, undertake gender-responsive field demonstrations for sustainable forest management practices, including equitable access to forest resources, for restoration of forest land within the selected landscapes. In addition to activities proposed for improved grasslands, this activity will also be supported through the following:

- ? Promote Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) in the landscape through fencing to prevent encroachment and overgrazing, seeding, fire protection, etc.
- ? Improving species diversity in the landscape by leveraging tools such as Diversity for Restoration (D4R)
- ? Encourage the adoption and plantation of native tree species, including fruit plants, to improve soil nutrient content.
- ? Establish an Eco-taskforce for eco-restoration by engaging the local communities, especially youth to regenerate degraded forest through plantation drives.
- ? Promote cleaner energy options like electric '*chulhas*' to reduce dependence on fuelwood collection.
- ? Identify and support the implementation of measures such as check dams, bio-contour bunding, loose boulder structures, trenching, etc.
- ? Identify and promote long-term erosion control on unstable slopes and prevents surface erosion across diverse forest landscapes.

Activity 2.2.4: Support community-level participatory monitoring of eco-restoration plans, with training provided on M&E methods as needed.

Activity 2.2.5: Develop a replication plan for upscaling of best management practices in at least 5 new districts (both within the three target states as well as other states).

Output 2.3: Green, resilient and inclusive recovery strategies developed and demonstrated through sustainable and gender responsive livelihood options that reduce pressures on natural resources

Output 2.3 will be aimed at supporting community-based environmental-friendly small enterprise and livelihood improvements using financial instruments to avoid biodiversity loss and promote sustainable land management. This will entail developing and facilitating the establishment of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) focused on agriculture, animal husbandry and forest products, at village and district level including organic farming, NTFP-based enterprises, community-based ecotourism, forest and wetland-based livelihoods and sustainable fisheries-related activities, etc. The SMEs will be screened through the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and selected on the basis of environmental and social criteria as per the Environmental and Social Management Plan.

Indicative activities under Output 2.3 include:

Activity 2.3.1: Undertake a mapping of existing FPOs that are already engaged in value chains across project sites (108 in Gujarat, 195 in Karnataka and 1950 in Maharashtra), and provide training in the steps necessary to formalise and/or strengthen producer groups with management structures, roles, and negotiated by-laws and benefit distribution mechanisms.

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Activity 2.3.2: Building on PPG stage assessment of suitable value chains, undertake feasibility studies for each proposed enterprise, including supply and demand, availability of raw materials and the feasibility of the intermediary processes, marketing and linkages with service providers.

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Activity 2.3.3: Through FPOs and FPCs linkages, assist producers to develop business plans for the selected value chains based on review of existing value-added products, including market access for sustainable products (agriculture, livestock and forestry), marketing plans, and detailed budget analysis to make certain adopted practices remain profitable.

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Activity 2.3.4: Develop and undertake training programs on value-chains enhancement and business management (e.g., marketing, processing, and certification) for local communities, extension services, farmers, women groups, and youth.

Output 2.4: Innovative and blended financing solutions demonstrated by fostering new strategic partnerships

for implementation of the landscape level eco-restoration plans with enhanced resources towards achieving

LDN.

The project will continue working with initiatives involving private entrepreneurs and businesses to devise unique partnerships with local communities to overcome the problem of land degradation and desertification, with condition that such projects shall benefit the local communities. A study will also be undertaken to explore and make recommendations for generating Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).

Indicative activities under Output 2.4 include:

Activity 2.4.1: Assess current and future financial needs to implement the eco-restoration plans and achieve LDN targets, and define a suite of financial incentives and disincentives for third parties (private enterprises, land owners, farmers, and others) for the sustenance of ecological benefits.

Activity 2.4.2: Identify and document possible sources of blended financing for scaling up of SLM to achieve LDN at national and state level, including improving access of producers to credit and/or investment opportunities supported by donors and financial institutions, with special efforts to identify women-specific support under budgets for gender equality.

Activity 2.4.3: Undertake case studies (at least one for each target states) to demonstrate benefits of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) together with improved livelihood.

Activity 2.4.4: Draft and implement a sustainable financing strategy for implementation of the eco-restoration plans in consultation with key stakeholders to scale up LDN.

Activity 2.4.5: Develop database of private players engaged in support SLM practices, both in country and globally.

Component 3: Monitoring system for SLM and LDN indicators; Gender mainstreaming, knowledge management, evaluation and project reporting, national outreach, and south-south cooperation

Outcome 3: Improved capacity for LDN monitoring, assessment and reporting to UNCCD in support of LDN target setting and evaluation of capacities of partners; allowing government institutions and other agencies to better document, analyse and disseminate effective intervention strategies for restoring productive landscapes and replication of best practices at national and state level, and at international level through improved South-South cooperation, knowledge and adaptive management.

Output 3.1: *Information systems to document real-time data on impacts, trade-offs, costs-benefit analysis of*

restoration, and identifying incremental synergies through dashboard and web portal developed and institutionalized.

Under this output, project will support the development of a centralized, publicly available national database system hosting LDN-related information to enhance the efficient and timely sharing (and reporting) of information between relevant sectors and agencies both at national and state levels, as well as to regional and global levels. The strengthened national knowledge management framework will help to better inform decision-making and scale out successful SLM and LDN practices to other districts of the target states and probable to other districts of the country.

Indicative activities under Output 3.1 include:

Activity 3.1.1: Review current national LDN core indicators (land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks), assessment and monitoring systems, and tools and their utility at national and sub-national (state, district, municipality, community/village) levels in order to identify improvements/ standardisation, where required.

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Activity 3.1.2: Develop and/or support digital knowledge platform(s) and focal node for storage, management and analysis of LD and LDN-related data, practices and lessons learned from the project to provide accurate and timely information to inform decision-making, focused on national and sub-national level data and linking to other relevant regional and global databases, where possible.

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Activity 3.1.3: Establish a specific 'dashboard' within the LDN knowledge platform targeted at government decision-makers to facilitate ease of reporting under international requirements.

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Activity 3.1.4: Update existing spatial planning/GIS-based systems/facilities, where necessary, to provide robust data and information management capacity to support the knowledge platform, and link with relevant international and regional databases and tools that can support national spatial analyses of land degradation.

Output 3.2: Knowledge sharing mechanism established, and decision support and management capacities of

stakeholders in the principles of agroecological intensification enhanced.

Project's innovative practices, lessons and knowledge generated will be codified, documented and disseminated under this output that will contribute to learning and facilitate replication and scaling up

in other parts of the country and beyond, through Center of Excellence for South-South, in terms of mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land use practices.

Indicative activities under Output 3.2 include:

Activity 3.2.1: Develop knowledge sharing mechanism, including use of global monitoring tools.

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Activity 3.2.2: Establish knowledge sharing platforms and undertake capacity building programmes for key stakeholder groups on LDN assessment and monitoring at landscape, national and international levels.

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Activity 3.2.3: Operationalize national LDN monitoring and reporting system to guide LD and SLM assessment, monitoring and decision-making in the integrated land management process.

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Activity 3.2.4: Develop and operationalize plan for the sustainability (financial, institutional and human capacity) of the LDN monitoring and reporting system at least one year prior to project close.

Output 3.3: Communication strategies, knowledge products and tools designed and developed for collation of

good practices, rewarding innovation and dissemination of success stories and project results

The project will support the documentation and dissemination of knowledge on SLM and LDN approaches, tools, lessons learned and best practices. Project knowledge management, communications and outreach activities will be guided by a Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy (KMCS), supported by a project web-based knowledge management portal and innovative information-sharing program.

Indicative activities under Output 3.3 include:

Activities 3.3.1: Develop project communication materials, activities and events (including a final workshop) to inform multiple stakeholder audiences (from national to community levels) about project aims, progress and results, using the most appropriate means for the target audience, with a web-based platform for hosting and disseminating project-related communication materials, lessons learned and best practices from the project.

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Activity 3.3.2: Develop a process framework for a two-way transfer of project information between the state/national and landscape/community levels. At the landscape level, it is likely that agriculture and forestry extension services will facilitate dissemination and outreach activities to stakeholders in each target landscape, but also feed results and experiences back into the knowledge management structure at the national level (through the PMU).

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Activity 3.3.3: Develop and implement a gender-sensitive KMCS and associated financing plan to guide all project knowledge management, communication and outreach activities, with tailored knowledge management and communications plans for individual target landscapes and their respective districts/communities.

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Activity 3.3.4: Design and deliver a training module on communication and outreach to develop the capacity of the Project Management Unit and key stakeholders to design and deliver effective social-media content.

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Activity 3.3.5: Synthesise all project-generated knowledge acquired and publish in academic journals; feed to regional and global databases/knowledge platforms; and share widely through participation in national, regional and global events of relevance for knowledge management.

Output 3.4: Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management strengthened under the overall guidance

and support of MoEFCC to further South-South cooperation and international alliances to address UNCCD

global agenda

In order to further develop scientific approach and facilitate induction of technology to land degradation issues, India has decided to set up a Centre of excellence on Sustainable Land Management under the overall guidance and support from MoEFCC (as announced by The Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, while inaugurating the High-Level Segment of Conference of Parties to the UNCCD, on the 9th of September, 2019). The project will facilitate the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for South-South cooperation for capacity building and

dissemination of best practices for cross-learning through exposure visits, development of course curriculum and its implementation in coordination with international alliances and engagement and contributions to global knowledge platforms to address UNCCD global agenda.

Indicative activities under Output 3.4 include:

Activity 3.4.1: Review activities and mandates of existing relevant national and international institutions actively engaged in capacity building for SLM and LDN targets, and suggest a model for effective setting up of a Center of Excellence for South-South cooperation.

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Activity 3.4.2: Provide assistance to develop course curriculum and training modules in consultation with national and international experts and provide support for conducting training programmes.

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Activity 3.4.3: Provide assistance in preparing international roster of experts and to provide necessary support for engaging international experts to undertake specific course modules, for which internal expertise is not available.

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Activity 3.4.4: Provide support for linkages with other LDN initiative for effective South-South Cooperation.

Output 3.5: Project M&E system, incorporating gender mainstreaming and social and environmental

safeguards, implemented for adaptive project management.

Project M&E will contribute to the national LDN monitoring and reporting system, providing important information to help populate the national LDN platform. The project will develop and implement a detailed M&E framework inclusive of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) to support an adaptive, results-based management approach to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of project implementation and delivery of project results and impacts. The project M&E framework will be consistent with the overall M&E framework and learning program, and will generate and systematically document lessons learned that will contribute to the knowledge base on SLM approaches and practices and means to achieve LDN targets.

Indicative activities under Output 3.5 include:

Activity 3.5.1: Set up a national-level steering committee and a coordination committee at the targeted landscapes.

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Activity 3.5.2: Set up national-level and landscape PMUs and make necessary arrangements for PMUs staff orientation and periodic trainings/off-site meetings for effective project management, operation and delivery, and to identify practical solutions to resolve issues and overcome barriers hindering project performance to support adaptive management.

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Activity 3.5.3: Monitor achievement of project indicators as per the project results framework, including GEF-7 core indicators, and report on project's implementation progress through the mandatory annual PIR. Continuously monitor changes in all project risks and undertake adaptive management actions as needed.

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Activity 3.5.4: Operationalization of the Environmental and Social Management Framework, development of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Environmental and Social Management Plan and associated plans.

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Activity 3.5.5: Undertake an MTR (Medium-Term Review) no later than project month 30 and a TE (Terminal Review) at least two months prior to close, disseminate results and deliver their respective management responses.

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Activity 3.5.6: Develop and initiate implementation of a Sustainability Plan for the project, providing a practical framework for facilitating further progress towards achievement of longer-term outcomes and global environmental benefits, as outlined in the project Theory of Change.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies

The LD Focal Area strategy in GEF-7 has three main goals, the first of which is described as 'aligning GEF support to promote UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept through an appropriate mix of investments'. The project will support this goal through close alignment with the UNCCD Scientific-Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality and as summarized in the Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes (LDN TPP). Specific elements of the latter, and corresponding aspects of project design, are presented in the annex with the [LDN Checklist](#).

In alignment with *LD-1-1 - Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management*, the project will focus on productive landscapes where agricultural, forest and rangeland management practices underpin the

livelihoods of poor rural farmers, tribal communities and pastoralists. The Strategy's emphasis on sustainable management of drylands in arid and semi-arid zones addressing, among other issues, drought-prone ecosystems and populations, is met by various project activities and by the project's placement at the interface of arid and semi-arid zones. In line with the GEF-7 strategy, the project will include support and access to finance and technical assistance for smallholders and small businesses. Strategies pursued with the private sector will target SMEs that are promoting innovations in agriculture and livestock production systems.

Finally, the project will include support for South-South cooperation, in line with GEF guidance on this subject and *LD-2-5 Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN*. This will be primarily through support for the centre of excellence, being established by MoEFCC, which will facilitate and enhance South-South cooperation, and through partnerships with grassroots champions and people's movements allowing transfer of knowledge and techniques across India and beyond.

The STAP's LDN guidelines for GEF projects (April 2020) inform the development of this project, especially in terms of: (i) the need for concerted and coordination effort to integrate LDN into land use and land management (Outputs 1.1 and 1.2); (ii) maintain or enhance land-based natural capital (Outputs 2.1 and 2.2); (iii) protecting the rights of marginalized and vulnerable land users (Output 1.5); (iv) integrating planning and implementation of LDN into existing land-use planning processes (Output 2.1); (v) seek solutions that provide multiple environmental economic and social benefits (Outputs 2.2 and 2.3); (vi) apply a participatory process in designing and implementing LDN interventions (Output 1.3); (vii) apply local knowledge and data to validate and interpret data (Outputs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2) and (viii) apply a continuous learning approach to review and adjust plans (Output 3.2.1).

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

The incremental cost justification for GEF financial support to the project strategy is summarized below (Table

2).

Table 2 of Project Document: Incremental cost reasoning

Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place	Global environmental benefit
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Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place	Global environmental benefit
<p>Policy, planning and institutional shortcomings: LDN is a newly introduced concept and significant effort will be required to mainstream its methodologies, monitoring and objectives into existing plans, policies and programs. Current policies and plans are based along sector boundaries and there is a lack of coherence in policies focused on or related to sustainable land management and achievement of LDN.</p> <p>Coordination issues: Several governmental agencies are managing programmes with implications for land degradation and desertification. Coordination amongst these agencies and even between programs managed by the same agency, is essential when pursuing a multi-faceted objective like LDN. Related issues may involve coordination among districts and in some cases, states. Given the project's cross-cutting, landscape-level remit, insufficient coordination poses an important barrier to achieving LDN</p> <p>Technical constraints: There is a wide variety of technical constraints / barriers limiting the ability of land users and land managers to pursue productive ventures sustainably - whether such activities take place on agricultural, grazing or forest lands.</p> <p>Knowledge constraints: In a context where multiple institutions are developing local, on-the-ground interventions, there are ample, largely untapped opportunities to capture and share experience and lessons learned and to apply these to the development of national strategies as well as to more localized situations. Knowledge regarding successful approaches is limited based on a combination of factors, including limited lesson capture and poor communication/ dissemination</p>	<p>? Improved state and district-level development and land use planning processes based on mainstreaming of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and a landscape-level monitoring system.</p> <p>? Multi-stakeholder coordination platforms will ensure enhanced coordination and rationalization of efforts by private and public sectors and civil society.</p> <p>? Improved practices are being applied to land use management of croplands, pastures and forest lands within the landscape, under the overall guidance of participatory LDN strategies</p> <p>? Technical and practical data, information, knowledge and innovation is moving rapidly at multiple geographic levels and is thus increasingly available for uptake, and application in ways that reduce land degradation and desertification.</p> <p>? Center of excellence for capacity building for LDN enhancing South-South cooperation.</p>	<p>? 317,000 ha under improved management practices including: (a) adverse changes in the quality of non-degraded land and forest avoided on 209,000 ha through improved practices and technologies (114,000 ha of agricultural lands, 50,000 ha of grasslands and shrub and 45,000 ha of forests) and (b) 108,000 ha of land currently undergoing degradation or degraded restored (76,000 ha of agricultural land and 32,000 ha of natural grass and shrublands)</p> <p>? Direct carbon sequestration benefits estimated at 6,793,648 tCO₂e over a 20-year period, with indirect benefits to flow from replication and policy uptake</p> <p>? Biodiversity benefits associated with management of existing forests and farming systems</p> <p>? Additional areas of land brought under improved management practices through replication and local outreach and through project engagement in global knowledge platforms for restoration to share/ exchange lessons and best practices with other countries, facilitating south-south cooperation and global learning.</p>

Baseline practices	Alternative to be put in place	Global environmental benefit
of successful and efficient outcomes. In addition, knowledge of successful approaches, techniques, tools and strategies often fail to be applied to potentially analogous situations		

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

The proposed project has global, national and local benefits and these benefits are closely linked. The project will demonstrate synergy between the goals and targets of UNCCD, CBD, UNFCCC and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting the achievement of LDN and NDCs in three states in India (Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra) across degraded forest land, pastureland and cropland that are important to meet commitments under these conventions. Project's global environmental benefits will include:

1. Improved ecosystem stability and productivity, by adopting sustainable land management practices, and the restoration and subsequent protection of degraded ecosystems for enhancing their structural and functional stability, while improving the livelihood of local communities;
2. Improved carbon sequestration, which would be achieved through the adoption of sustainable agriculture and rangeland/pasture management practices and the restoration of degraded vegetation in areas currently used for livestock production, as well as through promoting afforestation;
3. Conservation of existing forests that could benefit biodiversity and watershed functions and ameliorate climate impacts; and
4. Meeting India's obligations under UNCCD as well as CBD, UNFCCC and multiple SDGs and Aichi targets through cross-sectoral interventions and integrated management of land resources.

As an outcome of project implementation, following global environmental benefits will be delivered:

1. Area of landscapes under improved management practices on 209,000 ha in select districts including, 114,000 ha of agricultural lands, 50,000 ha of grasslands and shrub and 45,000 ha of forests
2. Area of degraded or degrading land restored covering 108,000 ha, including 76,000 ha of agricultural land and 32,000 ha of natural grass and shrublands

3. Carbon sequestration benefits calculated at an estimated 6,793,648 tCO₂e over a 20-year period
4. Direct project beneficiaries 180,000 of which 72,000 are women
5. Expected replication of project approaches across India post-project, resulting in additional achievement of land under improved management, and associated tCO₂e ? across at least an additional 5 districts
6. Contribution of technical best practices and lessons learned to global knowledge platforms to strengthen global knowledge exchange and replication on restoration through enhanced South-South cooperation

The national benefits, which are inter-linked with global benefits, generated from the project include:

1. Implementation of National Action Programme (NAP) to combat desertification and mainstreaming SLM principles into national policies and plans
2. Improved economic productivity through sustainable management practices, including efficient use of water resources which would lead to rise in water table, introduction of soil conservation measures to improve soil fertility, introduction of integrated management of land resources to secure sustainability of restored landscapes, and introduction of land use planning to mitigate the drivers of land degradation such as intensive agriculture practices, overgrazing, wastelands, and deforestation
3. Conservation and enhance use of local agrobiodiversity in production systems
4. Sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural communities and reduced poverty through benefits derived from ecosystem goods and services associated with improvement in land management
5. Improved policy and planning framework to support sustainable land management concepts and practices, which once developed and validated will be promoted under its South-South cooperation strategy
6. Enhanced institutional strengths and human-resource capacity to promote sustainable use of natural resources
7. Improved management skills at the local level through participatory learning and actions and involvement of local communities in decision-making processes for making on-the-ground investments for building social infrastructure and promoting SLM practices
8. Interventions would contribute to the achievement of India's LDN target to restore 26 million hectares by 2030.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

The project provides many opportunities to pilot and develop innovative approaches to addressing global environmental problems, particularly those involving smallholders and rural communities, as well as opportunities and potential for scaling up and sustainability.

Innovation:

Project strategies are based on a novel approach of multi-stakeholder engagement and stewardship that have not been adequately applied before in India for sustainable land management and combating land degradation and desertification. This innovation will focus on strengthening the governance and financial viability at national and state level to demonstrate application of SLM practices towards enhancing the ecological condition of the target landscapes. This will be achieved through: (i) promoting a community-based approach towards the protection and management of the ecosystems; (ii) empowering local resource users to manage the available resources through co-management arrangements, where local communities are empowered to take responsibility for managing their respective landscapes; (iii) design and promoting an alternative conservation-oriented natural resource-based economy within and around the target landscape and testing sustainable financing mechanisms, with emphasis on private sector partnerships with local communities; and (iv) establishment of a participatory monitoring framework that will cover both its management and ecological status.

The project will engage communities in achieving LDN and NDCs by empowering community-level institutions as well as governmental stakeholders from different administrative levels (States, districts) and institutional mandates (see Section above on baseline projects for key institutions) that are directly or indirectly involved in achieving LDN and NDCs but which in many cases work within institutional silos. In addition, with support from UNDP's newly established India Accelerator Lab (**Box 17.**) in collaboration with other international platforms for SLM and all relevant stakeholders, the project will mainstream improved alternative sustainable land management practices and technologies to validate their potential to accelerate development.

This approach will likely ensure that there is increased equity and self-determination, likelihood of sustainability, appropriateness of conservation and management initiatives, sense of local ownership and likelihood of success. The project will provide technical support, best practices, extension support and facilitate partnerships between community institutions and government and private sector partners.

Sustainability:

The project has been designed to promote social, environmental and economic sustainability. Environmental and social sustainability are main objectives of the project, and were assessed through the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure. Environmental and Social Safeguard risks are further addressed in the ESMF. Socially, the project will increase access of a large number of farmers to extension/information services and best practices, empowering them to make decisions about the land use planning and implementation of SLM/CSA practices. The project strengthens the capacities of

organizations, including cooperatives and producer associations with the training of their field agents as facilitators (at least 35% women) and youth on SLM/CSA practices and synergies with biodiversity, storage of organic carbon, rational use of water and its importance to improve local livelihoods.

Economically, the project will promote the beneficiaries' access to innovative financing mechanisms to adopt/replicate SLM/CSA practices for key crop production systems and livestock systems as well as it will provide assistance to improve the productive capacity of the land, as well as advice, information and guidance that will help integrate sustainable food value chains, so as to strengthen business capacity in the areas of implementation and consequently increase income of the beneficiaries. As such, it will generate new and innovative approaches to multi-sector land use planning based on testing activities of MoAFW and MoEFCC and opportunities for scaling up best practices will also be explored in the context of India's sharing of experiences with other countries and UNCCD, through strengthening 'Center of Excellence'. The joint efforts of GoI, UNCCD and the Global Mechanism will make the know-how and financial tools available to countries in need of such support.

Extensive multi-stakeholder participation through district and area-wide platforms will further support sustainability by helping to create multiple institutional champions. In order to ensure long-term sustainability, the up-scaling SLM program envisages supporting collaboration and linkages between the State Planning and Development Departments under the overall coordination of the national Desertification cell of the MoEFCC. A provision has been made to establish dedicated units in partnership with the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of ICAR (Box 18) for promoting SLM practices towards the end of the 1st year of the project implementation so that the units are fully embedded in the system and are able to run effectively after the close of the programme.

Capacity building is a major thrust of the project, so both short-term and long-term plans to strengthen technical expertise and capability for all involved, have been recommended. Capacity building of government staff and others is expected to be institutionalized and continued after the project. Securing the institutional sustainability of the project's impacts will be promoted by developing the technical capacities at relevant levels, in all the participating institutions. The capacity building activities, networking and continuous field-level presence by the management agencies (state, private and civil society) will help achieve social sustainability of the project. The build-up of trust through dialogues and stakeholder consultations, and stakeholder mobilization through capacity building by the project will assist in achieving this long-term objective.

The strong focus on building local knowledge, capacities and incentives and ensuring gender equity are expected to lead to social sustainability. Finally, efforts to demonstrate the cost effectiveness of investments (particularly in prevention) and the viability of different SLM techniques and technology-based energy efficient solutions will provide an economic logic in support of sustainability and facilitate enhanced State government adoption and investment in providing incentives for SLM including transitional support for smallholder farmers to adopt improved land management practices. The financial sustainability of the project's impacts will be further assured by the project's focus on a business-based approach to SLM. The ideal situation is to develop the business aspect of the project into activities so that in the long-term, these same activities will become self-supporting and independent of external funding.

Scaling up:

The project has been designed to ensure that its actions can be widely replicated within India. The governance, capacity building, monitoring and financial strengthening of the target district level landscapes (agriculture, grassland and forest) achieved and demonstrated during the lifetime of this proposed project, including the adoption of standards, protocols and tools, will benefit other landscapes within the state as well as in other states of India. The cost-effectiveness, as well as institutional, social and environmental sustainability factors mentioned above is expected to contribute to the replication of the project's approaches. In addition, the project will ensure that activities, impacts and lessons learnt are recorded and disseminated widely within the country (and internationally through GEF and UNDP knowledge management mechanisms[2]) to generate a bottom-up demand for similar activities throughout the country. The involvement of NGOs and the private sector in the project activities are also expected to lead to further replication of the project's actions in India.

One of the strongest mechanisms for wider replication of the project's activities nationally will be through the incorporation of SLM consideration in the development of participatory community development plans through *Gram Panchayat* development programme. GEF support under Component 2 is focused on demonstrating technical solutions to achieving LDN and NDCs within select pilot districts of the three states (Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra). Project success will therefore require a careful, ongoing process of lesson learning and scaling up, to ensure that the hopefully positive aspects across the demonstration landscape of selected districts can be quickly taken up by remaining districts, as well as to other states. The role of district-level platforms in this regard will be critical. In addition, Component 3 is focused on using knowledge exchange and outreach to facilitate wide replication and uptake of SLM and climate mitigation practices. All of the knowledge and experience gained, lessons learned, training modules, templates for management planning and monitoring, management plans and associated monitoring data, legal and regulatory provisions will be readily accessible on a web-based information system with GIS capabilities.

Through support of the Centre of Excellence, the project will be able to draw on pre-existing experiences in order to amplify and accelerate their uptake. This will focus on supporting replication across India with some targeted South-South Cooperation in thematic areas relevant to the project, e.g., knowledge exchange across drylands systems. The project will also seek to engage and contribute to existing SLM/restoration global knowledge platforms (e.g., webinars, virtual learning events, contribution of best practices and technical studies to knowledge databases) to help replicate project best practices and approaches in other dryland systems. Replication across India will also be supported by the use of grassroots champions and people's movement partnerships to help build a groundswell of farmer support for SLM and restoration and climate mitigation, offering further project impact and land under improved management practices.

The Project's investment component will seek to develop synergies among rural development and private sector actors and programs with an objective of raising additional investments that will fund and expand models of ecosystem conservation and resource use and alternative livelihood activities within and outside of the targeted landscapes. Additionally, the PMU will work with the MoEFCC, MoAFW and local governments to identify sources of government and private sector funding, micro-

capital grants and self-help groups to initiate and promote replication in other districts (at least 5 districts).

[1] Indigenous people in India are referred as tribal groups ? currently India is a home to about 700 tribal groups with a population of 104 million, as per 2011 census, constitute second largest tribal population in the world after Africa.

[2] www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.48.07.Rev_01_KM_Approach_Paper.pdf

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

See map included in *Annex E*.

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 Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Please see *Annex 8* to the *Project Document* for the full Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

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

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain) Yes

To ensure inclusive participation, a wide range of stakeholders have been and will be engaged in the implementation of the project across all six target sites. During the Project's PPG Phase, guidelines were developed describing the types of stakeholders and actors that the project should ideally engage. Based on this guideline, the executing agencies, together with national partners, undertook extensive site visits, stakeholder consultations with potential partners and related institutions to explore roles and inputs and ways of creating added value and synergies. These include relevant state planning and development departments and line departments, research organisations, extension agencies, NGOs, Community Based Organizations (CBOs), local communities (farmers, livestock herders, forest communities), private sector and the donor community. During the PPG site visits, it was observed that several NGOs and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) also operate on the ground and have been active in creating awareness among local communities on land degradation and desertification and providing assistance for various SLM-related initiatives. Over the years some of these NGO's have acquired considerable experience and skills of working in the rural environment and are particularly specialized in fields such as community organization, capacity building and promoting networking among many organizations working at the grass-roots level. Because of this consideration, some of these organizations could also be involved in the field implementation of project interventions in the respective target districts.

The proposed project follows a cross-sectoral and participatory approach, requiring involvement of different stakeholders in implementation at national, state, district and local levels. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan defining roles and responsibilities of the project partners was defined during PPG and will include: a mechanism for effective coordination among different stakeholders; a strategy for mobilization of local communities and their involvement in preparation and

implementation of site-specific land use plans; a mechanism for providing technical assistance to the local communities through line agencies, district governments, and contracted NGOs for implementation of SLM interventions; a system for participatory monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the project activities; a complete road map for stakeholders? participation in project activities based on what, how, who, when and where, as well as sustainability and affordability; and a mechanism for involvement of local groups of both men and women for participatory resource assessments and identification of local priorities. A detailed description of the major institutions identified for the implementation of various project activities can be found in **Annex 8 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan** of the UNDP project document.

South-south cooperation (SSTrC): to bring the voice of India to global and regional fora, the project will explore opportunities for discourse on SLM to achieve LDN targets. The project will furthermore provide opportunities for south-south and triangular cooperation with countries that are implementing initiatives on LDN in geopolitical, social and environmental contexts relevant to the proposed project in India. Project will look for opportunities for replication in other countries, and to facilitate dissemination through global ongoing South-South and global platforms, such as a global knowledge sharing and partnership-brokering platform ? South-South Galaxy [1] and PANORAMA[2]. The project will also strengthen capacity building of partners engaged in LDN in other developing countries. This will be achieved through providing support for the establishment and sustainable functioning of ?Center of Excellence?, which Government of India has announced during CoP 14 of the UNCCD, held during 2019 in India.

[1] <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org>

[2] <https://panorama.solutions/en>

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Land degradation is gendered and closely tied to gender biases in land rights, access to resources and incentives, opportunities to participate in decision-making, and the distribution of costs/benefits of projects targeting land improvement. Given the prevalent patriarchal socio-cultural norms, practices, and attitudes in the project landscapes, women and girls continue to be on the margins. Additionally, because of historical and intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender with caste, class, religion, age, ability and sexuality, certain groups of women like those from Dalit communities, other schedule castes and schedule tribes, ethnic and linguistic minorities, single and or widowed women experience further compounded discrimination and exclusion in these areas. Women are uniquely and differentially affected due to their substantial role in agriculture and food production, their reliance on forests, their greater vulnerability to poverty, and their typically weaker legal protections and social

status. In project landscapes, women work longer hours than men when accounting for paid productive and unpaid reproductive, domestic or care responsibilities. They continue to shoulder most of the unpaid and undervalued work, such as collecting water, cooking, cleaning, and caretaking, all while battling the impacts of climate change, unpredictable rainfall, natural disasters, and non-yielding gardens.

Given that the discourse and actions on gender and LDN are at a nascent stage in India as well as in the project landscapes, the project will adopt an incremental approach to design, implement and monitor gender focused activities. Its gender mainstreaming strategy recognizes the differential gender needs, priorities, the division of labour and access to knowledge, use of and control over resources by women and men as well as other diverse genders. It focuses on moving away from just numeric equality to achieving objectives that are anchored in promoting substantive equality thereby prioritising not just equality of inputs but of opportunities and outcomes.

Throughout the project duration and across all pathways, the project includes specific gender-responsive measures tailored to the local context to address gender gaps and promote gender equality and women's empowerment. It adopts a multi-tiered, socio-ecological approach to address gender inequality, focusing interventions at individual, family, community, and systemic/institutional levels.

Recognizing the alarming lack of gender disaggregated data on LDN as a major gap, the project includes interventions on strengthening data systems to net gender disaggregated data to inform policy and programme formulation, including grassroots level planning on LDN through local governance institutions such as the Panchayats. It includes strengthening women's community collectives e.g., Self Help Groups (SHGs), thereby improving their bargaining power. It integrates women's economic empowerment in the implementation of activities to eradicate their extreme poverty and advocate for improving their access to, control over and use of natural resources and assets, particularly land for women from marginalized communities. This is accompanied by efforts to transform prevalent gender-discriminatory norms, behaviours, and attitudes, particularly on women's greater burden of care work at home, including through engaging with men and boys as allies and partners in SLM/LDN.

Improving capacities of women is a key component of the project as this would contribute to the objectives of this project in increasing investments in the long-term sustainability and productivity of land, as well as specifically the incomes of women and female-headed households. The project will emphasize the access of women to land in the development of land use plans, which will strengthen the organization of women in informal groups, associations, and cooperatives to strengthen their market access, position in value chains and control over revenues from agriculture, agroforestry, and trade (Component 1). Particular emphasis on the roles, rights and entitlement of women will also be included

in policy and institutional framework under Component 1. Women groups will be closely involved in all activities relating to SLM and restoration of degraded agriculture, grassland and forest landscapes across target sites (Component 2); guidelines provided under 'Gender and Inclusion Toolbox: Participatory Research in Climate Change and Agriculture' of the CGIAR-CCAFS program^[1] (an in-depth, ready-to-use guide for researchers and development practitioners to help uncover important gender and social differences in rural communities); as well as the UNDP/FAO 'Toolkit for value chain analysis and market development integrating climate resilience and gender responsiveness'^[2] will be used for assessing the specific role and problems of women at the beginning of interventions and streamline activities with the specific local needs, during full project implementation. Where appropriate according to those initial assessments and prioritized by the women groups themselves, specific value chains will be developed or strengthened for women groups and cooperatives.

[1] <https://ccafs.cgiar.org/resources/tools/gender-and-inclusion-toolbox>

[2] <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/ru/c/cb0699en/>

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.

During field visits and discussions with local partners, it was observed that some private sectors and philanthropic organisations are already playing an increasingly important role in funding LDN-related initiatives and other environmental targets over the years, but needs more efforts to accelerate these efforts. Jain Irrigation Systems Limited (JISL), one of the project private partners identified during PIF stage, is already engaged across all three target states is supporting sustainable farming through technology for micro-irrigation/drip-irrigation and providing quality planting materials of tropical fruits and vegetables and their processing. The partners will be benefited through technology developed based on detailed study of inter-relationship among soil, water, crop, land terrain and related agro-climatic conditions, a suitable and economically viable system, to deliver a measured quantity of water

to each plant at regular intervals. This is to ensure that the plants do not suffer from stress or strain of less and over watering. Jain irrigation will also be engaged for supplying quality planting materials of suitable fruits, vegetables, agroforestry tree species, which will be grown under controlled conditions with micro-irrigation with fertigation which eliminates any possibilities of pest or disease incidence. JISL is also engaged in food processing of vegetables and fruits and market them internationally under their brand name 'FarmFresh'. It processes selected varieties of fruits and vegetables that are brought either through the contract farming systems of the company or directly from open market. Project will take advantage of developing a cooperative management system for production and marketing of fruits and vegetables with support of JISL. Regarding the involvement of UPL, which was also identified as one of the private sector engagement partners at PIF stage, however, during PPG stage UNDP undertook due diligence of UPL as per its DD policy and, due to concerns that emerged through this process, UNDP took the decision not to pursue this partnership.

Another opportunity identified during PPG stage is to engage with Tata Trust, who are actively engaged in two of the target states (Maharashtra and Karnataka) and supporting cohesive eco-system for effective civil society action, thereby positively impacting the lives of marginalised communities. Other possible private partners identified during PPG field visits include Lupin Foundation and Axis Bank Foundation, who are presently engaged in ecosystem restoration programmes in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra and are willing to expand their support to other target districts. Partnership with a philanthropy-driven conservation model for promoting production and consumption of tropical fruits in India for the benefit of human and planet has also been established, who has established a Center for Fruitful Lands (CFL) India, hosted by one of the international project partners, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT - a CGIAR institute.

The project will continue working with such initiatives involving private entrepreneurs and businesses to devise unique partnerships with local communities to overcome the problem of land degradation and desertification, with condition that such projects shall benefit the local communities.

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):

The project's full risk register is included in **Annex 6** - UNDP Risk Register. The risk register includes both risks to the project that could undermine its success, along with potential mitigation measures and recommended risk owners who would be responsible to manage the risks during the project implementation phase.

Social and environmental risks were assessed as part of the UNDP social and environmental screening procedure (SESP - see **Annex 5**) are also consolidated into the risk register (See **Annex 6**). SESP was finalised during project preparation, as required by UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The SESP identified 8 risks for this project that could have potential negative impacts in the absence of safeguards, six (6) of these risks were rated as 'moderate' and two (2) as 'substantial'. The overall risk categorization for the project is '**Substantial**'.

In accordance with UNDP's SES guidelines, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed for this substantial risk project during the project preparation phase (**Annex 9a**). A Social Inclusion Planning Framework (SIPF ? **Annex 9b**) as per UNDP SES Standard 6 has been completed during the PPG based on the Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) protocol undertaken. The purpose of this SIPF is to set out the requirements of UNDP SES Standard 6, organisational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to subprojects or project components that are not yet defined and will be prepared during project implementation. It is the equivalent of the 'Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework?', as per UNDP SES policy.

The ESMF sets out the additional safeguards measures that apply to the project during the inception phase, including but not limited to: (i) the completion of an environmental and social impact assessment (3 ESIAAs for 3 landscapes) and a social and environmental strategic assessment (3 SESAs) to further assess potential risks and impacts associated with the project; and (ii) the development of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (3 ESMPs one per landscape) including identified management measures as required based on the results of ESIAAs/SESAs. The ESMPs (one per Landscape, three in total) will provide a set of avoidance, mitigation, monitoring, and institutional measures ? as well as actions needed to implement these measures ? to achieve the desired social and environmental sustainability outcomes. Complementing what has already been identified in the ProDoc, the ESMPs will further identify project activities that cannot take place until the relevant mitigation measures are approved and put in place. The measures will be adopted and integrated into the project activities, monitoring and reporting framework and budget, and captured in a revised SESP for each project. Specific management plans will be developed during the ESIAAs/ESMPs phase, including but not limited to: (i) Livelihood Action Plans (LAP? one per landscape); and (ii) Social Inclusion Plans (SIP ? one per landscape). These plans are currently conceived as sections of the ESMPs allowing for more background information and details on operational procedures, implementation steps for key measures related to the most substantial risks. The exact content of the ESMPs will be determined based on the findings of the ESIAAs, and as required for SES compliance.

The project includes key measures to ensure full, effective and meaningful participation and Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) through an ad hoc protocol to be used throughout the project to seek and obtain consent on any activity linked with the identified risks. Culturally appropriate consultation have been and will be continuously carried out with the objective of achieving agreement and FPIC is ensured on any matters that may affect 'positively or negatively' the STs, SCs and OBCs' rights and interests, lands, territories, resources, traditional livelihoods, and/or tangible and intangible Cultural Heritage. The FPIC process has started during PPG and the consent to participate to the project activities was collected. The FPIC process' primary goal at the beginning of the project will be to confirm STs, SCs and OBCs' participation in the implementation of the pilot projects in the sites where these communities could be affected. If the indigenous communities decide not to confirm their participation in the Project, an eligibility process will be carried out to establish alternative pilot interventions that comply with the particularities of the pilot intervention and UNDP SES. The initiation of the FPIC process and its findings will also serve to update this Social Inclusion Planning Framework to convert it into comprehensive SIPs. The SIPs will be carried out in a participatory manner, it will be developed based on a complete analysis

about potential social and environmental impacts to the indigenous communities, and will include appropriate management measures to address them.

The **table** below provides an overview of the required social and environmental safeguards elements to be designed in the first six months of project implementation. Substantial Risk activities ? highlighted in the SESP ? will not start before appropriate Management Plans are in place.

Environmental and social elements	Description
<i>Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)</i>	In accordance with UNDP's SES policy, high-risk projects require comprehensive forms of assessment. An ESIA assesses the full range of social and environmental impacts, including alternatives analysis. It will be developed and carried out by independent experts in a participatory manner with stakeholders during the inception phase. The ESIA will further identify and assess social and environmental impacts of the project and its area of influence; evaluate alternatives; and design appropriate avoidance, mitigation, management, and monitoring measures. It will address all relevant issues related to the SES Overarching Principles and Project-level Standards. (3 ESIA's : 1 per landscape)
<i>Strategic Social and Environmental Assessments (SESA)</i>	SESA will be necessary in order to design the land use frameworks and the eco-restoration plans. This SESA will build on the SIPF in order to work together with the communities and tribal peoples representatives in a participatory-based approach, and ensure their rights and interests are included in the policies and plans. (3 SESAs - one each for agriculture, grassland and forest)
<i>Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP)</i>	A key output of the ESIA is an ESMP, prepared within the first six months of project implementation, to further refine risk identification and mitigation strategies, as well as to establish a system for monitoring these risks. Based on the findings, required management plans (e.g. SIP) will be developed and implemented as appropriate. (3 ESMP's ? 1 per landscape]
<i>Development of specific plans</i>	In order to address specific high risks, the project's ESMP will be complemented by: ? Livelihood Action Plan (LAP) [3 LAPs - 1 per landscape] ? Social Inclusion Peoples Plan (SIP) [3 SIPs? 1 per landscape]
<i>Operationalization of a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)</i>	The full details of the GRM will be agreed upon during the ESIA phase and the project will establish a project-level GRM at the start of implementation. Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time with the Project Management Office, the government party, UNDP, or the GEF.
<i>Operationalization of the Gender Action Plan</i>	A Gender Action Plan has been developed during the project's design phase. It will guide all actions pertaining to SES implementation and gender-mainstreaming. It offers specific activities, from capacity-building to specific consultation activities, allowing all women to fully engage with the project and decision-making processes.

<i>Operationalization of the Social Inclusion Planning Framework and development of an associated FPIC protocol</i>	The SIPF will guide all actions pertaining to SES implementation. The FPIC protocol has been applied to each activity of the project, as communities will be allowed to provide their consent to part of them, ask for modifications, or withdraw their consent.
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As outlined in the climate and disaster risk screening (see **Annex 14**), hazard levels associated with flooding, water scarcity, extreme weather conditions are high in some of the project landscapes and potential short-term incidents and long-term consequences would affect local beneficiaries. In the state of Gujarat - in terms of climate hazards, Banas Kantha bears a high risk for water scarcity, extreme heat, and wild fire; and a medium risk for earthquake[1]. Kachchh bears a high risk for coastal floods, cyclone, water scarcity, extreme heat, and wild fire; and a medium risk for river flood, earthquake, tsunami[2]. In Maharashtra - Nandurbar bears a high risk for extreme heat, and wild fire; and a medium risk for earthquake, landslide, cyclone, water scarcity[3]. Aurangabad bears a high risk for extreme heat, and wild fire; and a medium risk for earthquake, cyclone, water scarcity[4]. In Karnataka - Kodagu bears a high risk for land slide, cyclone, wild fire; and a medium risk for earthquake, water scarcity, extreme heat[5]⁵. Bagalkot bears a high risk for river flood, cyclone, extreme heat, and wild fire; and a medium risk for urban flood, earthquake, water scarcity[6]⁶. The project's measures to develop land use frameworks at state and district levels, and eco-restoration plans at landscape levels, coupled with related capacity building, training-of-trainers, and demonstration of climate smart practices in production lands (agriculture, pasture, forest) will help reduce climate risks.

[1] Data from <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/17637-india-gujarat-banas-kantha>

[2] Date from <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/17643-india-gujarat-kachchh>

[3] Data from <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/70185-india-maharashtra-nandurbar>

[4] Data from <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/17786-india-maharashtra-aurangabad>

[5] Data from <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/17689-india-karnataka-kodagu>

[6] Data from <https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/70157-india-karnataka-bagalkot>

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.

Institutional arrangements

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

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

- ? Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.
- ? Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- ? Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- ? Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- ? Approving and signing the multiyear workplan.
- ? Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,
- ? Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

-

Responsible Parties: There are no Responsible Parties for the project.

-

Project stakeholders and target groups:

The project involves a wide range of government and community stakeholders and spans the sectors of rural development, forest management, agriculture, and ecosystem restoration. Stakeholders also include those in central government, state government, tribal authorities, districts, block as and villages, as a result of this broad horizontal and vertical span of influence / interest, the governance and management

arrangements are set up to facilitate involvement of a large number of stakeholders but are also designed for maximum efficiency.

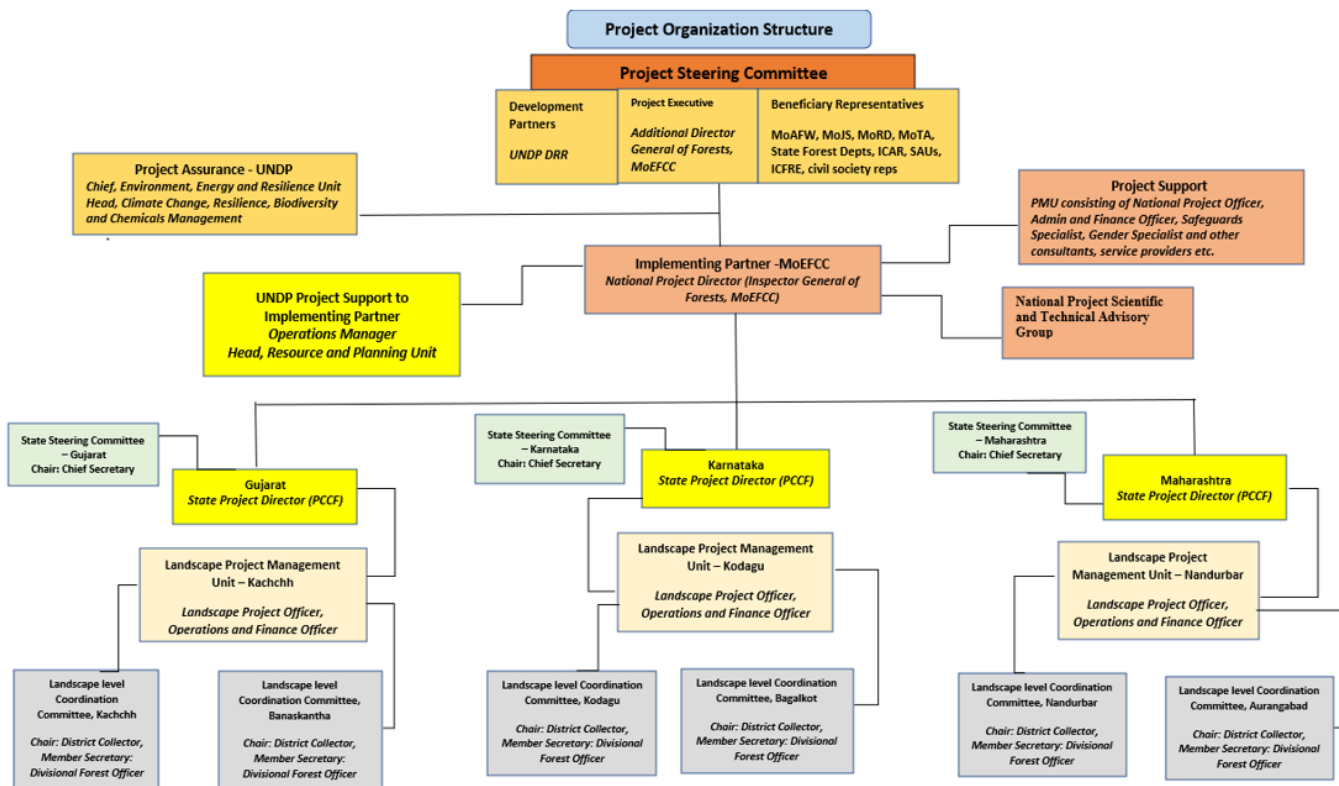
The project will facilitate establishment of landscape level, participatory, multi-stakeholder Sustainable Land Management platforms to enable the participation of wide range of stakeholders for planning, implementation and monitoring.

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

A firewall will be maintained between the delivery of project oversight and quality assurance performed by UNDP and charged to the GEF Fee and any support to project execution performed by UNDP (as requested by and agreed to by both the Implementing Partner and GEF) and may be charged to the GEF project management costs (only if approved by GEF). The segregation of functions and firewall provisions for UNDP in this case is described in the next section.

Section 2: Project governance structure

The governance structure of this project follows ?option 2: support to NIM? wherein UNDP provides country support services to the IP via the India Country Office as agreed in the LOA (**Annex 18**).



- Kachhh LMPU will cover Banaskantha, Kodagu LPMU will cover Bagalkot and Nandurbar LPMU will cover Aurangabad

First line of defense

? UNDP oversight of project support to IP cannot be UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR

Second line of defense

? Regional Bureau oversees RR and Country Office compliance at portfolio level.

? BPPS NCE RTA oversees technical quality assurance and GEF compliance. BPPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function.

? UNDP NCE Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.

The UNDP Resident Representative assumes full responsibility and accountability for oversight and quality assurance of this Project and ensures its timely implementation in compliance with the GEF-specific requirements and UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP), its Financial Regulations and Rules and Internal Control Framework. A representative of the UNDP Country

Office will assume the assurance role and will present assurance findings to the Project Board, and therefore attends Project Board meetings as a non-voting member.

UNDP project support: The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services in the amount of USD 64,117.82 for the full duration of the project, and the GEF Program Manager has been informed to provide execution support services by UNDP. The execution support services to be charged project budget have been set out in detail and agreed between UNDP Country Office and the Implementing Partner in a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This LOA is attached to this Project Document.

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

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

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

In this case, UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project ? as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function will be performed by Deputy Resident Representative

The provisions that have been taken to ensure that a proper separation of functions between staff providing oversight of the Implementing Partner executing the project and execution on behalf of the Implementing Partner is in place at the CO level:

Assurance function:

- ? Chief, Environment, Energy and Resilience Unit
- ? Head, Climate Change, Resilience, Biodiversity and Chemicals Management
- ? Head, Resource and Planning Unit

Execution support:

- ? Head, Human Resource Unit
- ? Procurement Analyst

Execution oversight:

- ? Operations Manager

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

Project Steering Committee: All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure quality delivery of results. The Project Steering Committee (also referred to as the Project Board) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project. It will meet at least once per year, during the project's five-year implementation period.

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

The two main (mandatory) roles of the Project Steering Committee are as follows:

- 1) **High-level oversight of the execution of the project by the Implementing Partner, MoEFCC** (as explained in the [?Provide Oversight?](#) section of the POPP). This is the primary function of the project board and includes annual (and as-needed) assessments of any major risks to the project, and decisions/agreements on any management actions or remedial measures to address them effectively. The Project Steering Committee reviews evidence of project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, evaluations, risk logs and the combined delivery report. The Project Steering Committee is responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.
- 2) **Approval of strategic project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner** with a view to assess and manage risks, monitor and ensure the overall achievement of projected results and impacts and ensure long term sustainability of project execution decisions of the Implementing Partner (as explained in the [?Manage Change?](#) section of the POPP).

Requirements to serve on the Project Steering Committee:

- ? Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Steering Committee and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- ? Meet annually; at least once.

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

? Discharge the functions of the Project Steering Committee in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.

? Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Steering Committee meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Project Steering Committee:

? Consensus decision making:

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

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

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

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

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

? Oversee project execution:

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

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

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

- o Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
- o Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- o Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- o Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- o Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

? Risk Management:

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

? Coordination:

- o Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.
- o Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

Composition of the Project Steering Committee: Given the cross-cutting nature of the project, the Project Steering Committee will have cross-sectoral representation led by MoEFCC, and will involve the Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Other participants can be invited as and when required to enhance the efficacy of the Project Steering Committee meetings. The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Steering Committee. In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Steering Committee. If the project

executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive and Chair of the Project Steering Committee is Additional Director General of Forest, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the Steering Committee is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Steering Committee. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are:

- ? Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoAFW)
- ? Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- ? Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)
- ? Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS)
- ? Revenue and Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra
- ? Forest Department, Government of Gujarat
- ? Forest Department, Government of Karnataka
- ? State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)
- ? Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- ? Indian Council of Forest Research and Education (ICFRE)
- ? Civil society representatives (national level)

3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner(s) is UNDP Deputy Resident Representative (UNDP DRR)

The National Steering Committee will be guided by the **National Project Scientific and Technical Advisory Group**. This Group will support the steering committee and will have members nominated by

MoEFCC. The Group will steer the project and will ensure that best practice, science and technology inform the actions (and corrections that may be needed) throughout the project lifetime, to maximize expected benefits. The Group will report to the National Project Director, and will meet at least once a year.

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

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

? Chief, Environment, Energy and Resilience Unit

? Head, Climate Change, Resilience, and Chemicals Management

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

A designated representative of the PMU is expected to attend all steering committee meetings and support board processes as a non-voting representative. The primary PMU representative attending board meetings is the Project Manager for the project (to be hired). The central Project Management Unit (PMU) will be located at the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in New Delhi, under the Inspector General of Forests, National Afforestation and Eco-development Board who is also the National Project Director for the project. The central PMU will consist of one national Project Officer/Manager, and one Procurement, Finance and Administrative Officer. They will be supported by the safeguards and gender expertise to ensure project activities comply with UNDP's SES and gender policies and will also include other consultants to be hired by the project.

Sub-national Coordination Structures

In addition to the Project Steering Committee for overall governance, and the central PMU and other nodes for project management, there are state steering committees and landscape level coordination committees, as well as the landscape project management unit.

State Steering Committees

To govern the project, a steering committee at the state level, with the chairperson of Chief Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary will be formed. The state steering committee will meet at least twice a year. This committee will be composed of - PCCF and a senior member from the Forest department (2); representatives from relevant line departments such as irrigation, revenue, agriculture, and rural development (4); and members from NGOs and research and development Institutions (2) and individual experts on restoration (2).

key function of the committee will be to take policy decisions related to program implementation, finance, human resource, and operation of the project. The State Steering Committees will support implementation and oversee annual work plans, progress, and budgets of the project in the state, provide guidance and ensure consistency, synergy and convergence of approaches with the other ongoing development projects and processes in the state, and support annual work-plan development and implementation. The steering committees would also facilitate block, district, and sector agency participation in the landscape level planning operations at village level to ensure convergence of manpower and financial resources.

State Project Management Unit

At the State level, project coordination will be the responsibility of the State Project Director, who is the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF), a senior officer of the Forest Department in the project states of Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra. He/she will provide coordination and convergence support for the project but will not be a full-time position.

Landscape level Coordination Committee

The Landscape level Coordination Committee will be the district coordination mechanism and will be set up in? Kachchh and Banaskantha (in Gujarat), Nandurbar and Aurangabad (in Maharashtra) and Kodagu and Bagalkot (in Karnataka). The committee will meet at least twice a year to guide and coordinate project activities. The Committee will be chaired by the District Collector and the Divisional Forest Officer will be the Member Secretary. Institutions / organizations to be represented are proposed to include:

- ? District representatives of State Departments, for example:
 - o Forestry Department
 - o Agriculture and /or Horticulture Department
 - o Tribal Welfare Department
 - o Women's Development Corporation

- o Additional Director, Panchayat and District Rural Development Agency
- ? Block Development Officers from relevant blocks
- ? 1 representative from participating NGOs
- ? 1 representative each of Self-Help Group federations, Eco Development Committees/Village Forest Committees
- ? 2 Representatives of non-governmental organizations supporting local planning, land restoration, and livelihoods

-

The Committee will enable convergence and synergy of other programs and activities of the different groups, and will support skills development, technology improvements, product development, marketing, product branding, linkages with financial institutions and other available government and non-government programs and resources, etc

Landscape Project Management Unit

At the landscape level, there will be a Landscape Project Management Unit (LPMU) comprising of Landscape Project Officers and Operations and Finance Officers. Operations and Finance Officers will be compensated through government co-finance funding. (Detailed TORs attached in **Annex 7**). The LPMU will be anchored in the offices of the District Administrations in Nandurbar district in Maharashtra. In Karnataka (Kodagu district) and Gujarat (Kachchh district), the project will be anchored in the forest department offices. The LPMU will be responsible for providing operation and coordination support to both districts in each state. GEF funding will finance interventions in the district where the LPMU will be anchored. In the other selected district, interventions would be supported through co-financing. The LPMU will visit this district two-three times in a month to ensure effective implementation of project activities.

The LPMU will undertake planning and implementation of project activities in the landscapes, in consultation with the line departments and community-based organizations and will help to guide and coordinate activities in all three components of the project at state and landscape level.

Site specific interventions and annual work plans (AWPs) would be executed through the well-established democratic institutions, i.e., Gram Sabhas (village councils) in close coordination with other community-based organizations such as Van Panchayat (VP), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK), NABARD, Eco-development Committees (EDCs), Joint Forest management Committees (JFMCs), Women Self Help Groups (SHGSs), etc. as appropriate depending upon their compatibility and strengths. All livelihood and resource management planning would be coordinated through the LPMU under the supervision and guidance of Landscape level Coordination Committee, involving various stakeholders, United Nations Volunteers, and community mobilizers. Community level activities agreed through bottom-up planning process and as outlined in the AWP will then be funded and operationalized under this project.

Role of NGOs, research and training Institutions, Individual experts, private institutions, line departments, financial institutions, cooperative institutions, and civil society organizations: A range of organizations and

experts including private sector companies like Jain Irrigation will be engaged in the project to get specialized services for technical support; financial support; capacity building; R&D Services, value chain management, sub-projects implementations, etc. as needed. These institutions and experts will be engaged as specialized institutions for specific assignments or subprojects in their area of specialization. As per the requirement of the project, institutions will be engaged on contract basis with clear Terms of Reference for the tasks assigned to them.

Planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives

There are a number of other GEF-financed projects working on land degradation, agricultural system transformation and sustainable land management (table below) that would have a bearing upon the proposed project, offering lessons learned, best practices for replication and for knowledge transfer during implementation. To this end, the project management unit will maintain close coordination with these initiatives.

Title	Focal Areas	Implementing Agency	GEF Agency
Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance	Land Degradation, Biodiversity	MoEFCC; MoAFW	UNEP
Transforming Rice-Wheat Food Systems in India (FOLUR)	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation	MoAFW	FAO
Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation	MoAFW; MoEFCC	FAO
Integrated SLEM Approaches for Reducing Land Degradation and Desertification	Land Degradation	MoEFCC	World Bank

AVACLIM: Agro-ecology, Ensuring Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods while Mitigating Climate Change and Restoring Land in Dryland Regions	Climate Change, Land Degradation	CARI	FAO
Building the Foundation for Forest Landscape Restoration at Scale	Land Degradation	MoEFCC; MoAFW	UNEP
Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization in Agricultural Sector to Ensure Ecosystem Services and Reduce Vulnerability	Biodiversity	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Bioversity International	UNEP

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.

The project has been designed to closely follow guidance and national strategy under the UNCCD, as detailed in the UNCCD Scientific-Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality and as summarized in the Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes (LDN TPP). Elements of alignment with the framework and guidelines are elaborated in Annex 12 (b) of the UNDP project document. With respect to plans, reports and assessments under relevant conventions, the project is consistent in broad terms including:

? The project will support national contributions to the UNCCD, through India's National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAP-CD), which is currently under revision.

? It contributes to the government's commitment to restore 26 million ha by 2030. During a national workshop co-hosted by UNCCD and MoEFCC on 4th December 2018, policy makers, researchers and representatives of civil society organizations, intergovernmental organizations (CSOs) and the private sector provided their input for developing India's national strategy on land degradation neutrality (LDN). During the workshop, the experts discussed technical issues related to setting LDN baseline, formulation of LDN targets, institutional framework and opportunities for LDN transformative projects and programs, and commitments to achieve SDGs.

? The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), as well as the CBD national report, the Cartagena protocol national report and Nagoya protocol national report: The Government of India has set twelve National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) against the twenty Aichi Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The NBTs related to LDN are as follows (NBTs will be revised to align with the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework once it is approved):

- A significant proportion of the country's population, especially the youth, is aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.
- Values of biodiversity are integrated into national and state planning processes, development programmes and poverty alleviation strategies.
- Strategies for reducing the rate of degradation, fragmentation and loss of all natural habitats are finalized and actions put in place for environmental amelioration and human well-being.
- Measures are adopted for sustainable management of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.
- Genetic diversity of cultivated plants, farm livestock, and their wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
- Ecosystem services, especially those relating to water, human health, livelihoods and well-being, are enumerated and measures to safeguard them are identified, taking into account the needs of women and local communities, particularly the poor and vulnerable sections.

? The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including UNFCCC reporting and priorities, National Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Communications and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and UNFCCC technology needs assessment. The relevant NDC targets are as follows:

- To put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation.
- To adopt a climate friendly and a cleaner path than the one followed hitherto by others at corresponding level of economic development.
- To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level.
- To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

- To better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change, particularly agriculture, water resources, Himalayan region, coastal regions, health and disaster management.
- To mobilize domestic and new & additional funds from developed countries to implement the above mitigation and adaptation actions in view of the resource required and the resource gap.

The project contributes to the following SDGs as described below:

- **SDG 1 No Poverty:** 180,000 estimated direct beneficiaries, participating in and benefitting from interventions on SLM and livelihoods augmentation, appropriate new technologies and market support. Landscape strategies provide pro-poor and gender-sensitive frameworks for accelerating development in poverty-stricken areas.
- **SDG 5 Gender Equality:** Over 50% of the envisaged direct beneficiaries are estimated to be female (72,000 individuals). Women empowerment is expected to be strengthened through increased autonomy with respect to resource management, enhanced participation in decision-making, and increased leadership through active participation in women's groups.
- **SDG 13 Climate Action:** The project will improve resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in the target landscapes. Climate change mitigation measures will be integrated into the landscape level eco-restoration plans.
- **SDG 15 Life on Land:** The project aims to improve SLM practices and facilitate restoration in agricultural, pastoral and forest lands. Biodiversity values will be integrated into the landscape level eco-restoration plans, and co-financing from government and the private sector will be mobilized to support conservation and restoration interventions.

SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals: Enhancing South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to best management approaches, specifically participatory models of agricultural, grassland and forest landscape restoration, through strengthening of a Center of Excellence.

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.

A knowledge management strategy and action plan will be developed and implemented under Component 3 (Output 3.3) of the project. The project will support the documentation and dissemination of knowledge on SLM and LDN approaches, tools, lessons learned and best practices. Project knowledge management, communications and outreach activities will be guided by a Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy (KMCS), supported by a project web-based knowledge management portal and innovative information-sharing program. The KMCS will make certain that all project knowledge, communication and awareness-raising activities are tailored to the target audience and consider the information needs and

ambitions of women and tribal groups. State and district level LDN assessment, monitoring and reporting systems and tools, including LDN knowledge platform, will be developed and operationalize, with relevant reporting to national and global level. Overall, KMCS will set out a systematic knowledge management process to capture and communicate project results, impacts, lessons learned and best practices, addressing the needs of practitioners, decision-makers and local stakeholders, making use of both traditional and new communication media and networks.

Project communication materials (culturally appropriate and in relevant local languages) will include various digital and printed knowledge products (e.g., publications, leaflets, journal articles, booklets, case studies, best practice documents, presentations and audio-visual materials), as well as social media content and an electronic project newsletter. Communication events with stakeholders may include on-farm demonstrations, local fairs, and radio programs, as well as national-level workshops and conferences. Outreach will include innovative tools such as smart-phone applications designed to engage and inform stakeholders at multiple levels (e.g., easily accessible to farmers and rural private producers), based upon best international practices. Once the baseline is established across each target district, district administration will continue monitoring process until best practices are identified and project reaches its completion. The final product (best practices, supporting knowledge and the lessons learned) will then be translated and disseminated.

A Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Sustainable Land Management will be established with the overall vision to achieve land degradation neutrality, and the mission of CoE shall be to develop scientific approaches and facilitate induction of technology, capacity building and knowledge sharing; networking among national and international institutions working on sustainable land management; identifying various sources of obtaining finance to implement projects/ schemes to achieve land degradation neutrality; providing technical support to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India and promoting South-South cooperation with various countries, under country bi-lateral and multi-later agreements. Center's key objectives includes: Remote Sensing (RS) and GIS based mapping, research on various land sectors, reporting to UNCCD on its indicators, networking with national and international stakeholders, training and capacity building, knowledge sharing and developing business models for funding.

The project will support the development of a centralized, publicly available national database system hosting LDN-related information to enhance the efficient and timely sharing (and reporting) of information between relevant sectors and agencies both at national and state levels, as well as to regional and global levels. The strengthened national knowledge management framework will help to better inform decision-making and scale out successful SLM and LDN practices to other districts of the target states and probable to other districts of the country. Within the knowledge platform, the project will create a specific dashboard that is targeted towards government decision-makers. This will include information related to best practices, monitoring of SLM and LDN indicators, project updates, and other relevant information. The

dashboard will also draw upon and help to consolidate information currently available from existing knowledge platforms in the country. The government dashboard will be designed and launched prior to the close of the project year one. It is envisioned that this dashboard will grow in sophistication throughout the project period and will be ready for complete hand-over to the MoEFCC by project close.

The project will build knowledge and skills of key stakeholder groups, from national to community level to be able to effectively assess and monitor LDN. Training programmes will include better understanding of LDN indicators, LDN baseline mapping, data quality standards and specifications, methodologies and tools for estimating and measuring LDN indicators, mechanisms for validation on the ground, and data analytics. Local knowledge and scientific-based evidences related to land management and use will be documented and knowledge sharing and capacity building resource centres will be established at state and district level. Project's innovative practices, lessons and knowledge generated will be codified, documented and disseminated under this output that will contribute to learning and facilitate replication and scaling up in other parts of the country and beyond, through Center of Excellence for South-South, in terms of mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable land use practices.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the [UNDP POPP \(including guidance on GEF project revisions\)](#) and [UNDP Evaluation Policy](#). **The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project M&E requirements including project monitoring, UNDP quality assurance requirements, quarterly risk management, and evaluation requirements.**

Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the [GEF Monitoring Policy](#) and the [GEF Evaluation Policy](#) and other [relevant GEF policies](#)[1]. The M&E plan and budget included below will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed ? including during the Project Inception Workshop - and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

The project team will regularly monitor and evaluate achievement of the performance metrics included in the project results framework, and report progress in the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) reports and other progress reports, enabling timely implementation of adaptive management measures in response to monitoring and evaluation findings. The project safeguard assessments and management plans will also be regularly reviewed and updated. These include the SESP, Gender Analysis and Gender Action

Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and any other stand-alone management plan that might be developed in the first year of project implementation.

Consistent with GEF requirements, two independent evaluations will be carried out of the project, a midterm review and terminal evaluation.

The project's monitoring and evaluation is provided in *Section VI Monitoring and Evaluation Plan* of the Project Document, summarized below.

Monitoring and Evaluation Budget for project execution			
GEF M&E Requirements	Responsible Parties	Indicative Cost (USD) - All in Outcome 3.2 of Component 3	Timeframe
Inception workshop	Implementing Partner Project Manager	National level inception workshop = USD 20,000 (Y1)	Within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project
Inception report	Project Manager	None	Within 90 days of CEO endorsement of this project
Reflections Meetings to review M&E and other data for adaptive management	Project Manager	None	Annually in preparation for the progress reports and development of the annual workplans
Monitoring of indicators in project results framework	Project Manager	USD 4,000/year= USD 20,000 (Y1-5)	Annually prior to GEF PIR excluding MTR and TE years (covered below). This will include GEF core indicators.
GEF Project Implementation Report	Project Manager UNDP Country Office	None	Annually typically between June-August
Monitoring all risks - ATLAS Risk Register	Project Manager UNDP Country Office	None	Ongoing

Monitoring of Safeguards according to UNDP SESP	Safeguards Specialist	USD 7,000/year for 4 years = USD 28,000 (Y1-4)	Ongoing
Supervision missions	Project Manager	USD 2,000/year = USD 10,000 (Y1-5)	Annually
Mid-term GEF Core Indicators	Project Manager	None	Before mid-term review mission takes place
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)	Independent evaluators	USD 60,000 (Y3)	At mid-point of project implementation (10 June 2026)
Terminal GEF Core indicators and METT	Project Manager	None	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Independent evaluators	USD 60,000 (Y5)	At least six (6) months before project closure (31 January 2028)
PSC meetings	Project Manager	None	Annually
	Total	USD 198,000	

[1] See https://www.thegef.org/gef/policies_guidelines

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 (LDCE/SCCF)?

India is the second most populated country in the world and projected to surpass China to become the world's most populous country by 2023. It is expected to become the first country to be home to more than 1.5 billion people by 2030, and its population is set to reach 1.7 billion by 2050. With nearly 195 million undernourished people, India shares a quarter of the global hunger burden. Nearly 47 million or 4 out of 10 children in India are not meeting their full human potential because of chronic undernutrition or stunting. The impacts are multi-generational as malnourished girls and women often give birth to low birth-weight infants. There has also been an increase in the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents in India, which has life-long consequences of non-communicable diseases in adulthood[1].

As mentioned in the baseline section, the government of India launched a number of programmes to double farmers' incomes by 2022. These seek to remove bottlenecks for greater agricultural productivity, especially in rain-fed areas. In support of the Government initiatives, the aim of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) programmes is to maintain land resources and their associated ecosystem functions

while, at the same time, sustaining production of goods and services, especially safe and healthy food. Effective and widespread adoption of SLM will also deliver large social and economic benefits through productivity gains and the enhanced resilience of agroecosystems.

In this context, the project will generate scientific knowledge about SLM and its contribution to combating land degradation, enhancing food security and addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation. The project outcomes are intended to inform design and implementation of SLM programs, including supporting planning for land degradation neutrality (LDN). In addition, the project will support policy actions in India on sustainable land management through scientific-based studies through: (i) determining key causes of land degradation across agro-ecological regions of India, and (ii) better understanding of economic, social and environmental costs of land degradation and net benefits resulting from taking actions against degradation compared to inaction. The project will ensure that experiences in piloting new approaches for engaging, incentivizing, mobilizing investment in, and supporting smallholders and rural community members in restoration are adequately monitored, evaluated, and developed into high-quality knowledge products that are disseminated through relevant knowledge platforms and fora, so that these experiences can inform and further support restoration efforts going forward.

Following socioeconomic benefits are expected as an outcome of this project:

- ? Improved economic productivity through sustainable management practices, including efficient use of water resources, which would lead to rise in water table, introduction of soil conservation measures to improve soil fertility, introduction of integrated management of land resources to secure sustainability of restored landscapes, and introduction of land use planning to mitigate the drivers of land degradation such as agriculture, overgrazing, wastelands, and deforestation;
- ? Conservation and enhance use of local agrobiodiversity in production systems;
- ? Best practices for engaging smallholder and rural communities in restoration, including building awareness, support and capacity for restoration, and considering socioeconomic, cultural, and environmental factors;
- ? Improved management skills at the local level through participatory learning and actions and involvement of local communities in decision-making processes for making on-the-ground investments for building social infrastructure and promoting SLM practices;
- Sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural communities, including scheduled tribes, and reduced poverty through benefits derived from ecosystem ?goods and services? associated with improvement in land management.

[1] <https://in.one.un.org/un-priority-areas-in-india/>

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
High or Substantial	High or Substantial		

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.

Project Information

<i>Project Information</i>	
1. Project Title	Sustainable management and restoration of degraded landscapes for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in India
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	PIMS 6670
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	India
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	19 September 2022

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach

The project fully considers the human rights-based approach but could, in the absence of appropriate mitigation, potentially lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, environmental, social or cultural) of any key or potential stakeholders, communities involved or wider population. The project provides a governance structure, district specific action strategies, investment and public private partnership with a human rights-based approach towards achieving land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030, free of any prejudice or discrimination. The project has engaged with all stakeholders, including marginalized individuals and groups, during all phases of project design (PPG). Extensive consultations, documented and available upon request at the CO (see the Environmental and Social Management Framework) were led by the PPG team over two months on some but not all of the different project sites, including with Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) (which fit with the definition of 'indigenous peoples' in the UNDP SES Policy) and using an FPIC approach on two project sites (Nandurbar and Kachhh). Specifically, the PPG team supported meaningful participation and inclusion of all stakeholders in processes that may impact them, including design, implementation and monitoring of the project through capacity building, creating an enabling environment for participation by public and private sector. During project implementation, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan and Social Inclusion Planning Framework will uphold the rights of the most vulnerable groups. They provide guidance, propose measures and subsequent follow-up mechanisms in order to support the PMU in adequation with the 'Leave no one behind' overarching safeguard principle. Considering the fact that there are nearly 700 million people living in rural India who are dependent on forest and agriculture for their livelihoods, including tribal communities, women and smallholder farmers, multi-stakeholder platforms for LDN with participation of responsible governmental authorities, along with private sector, academia, civil society and community-based organizations in policy formulation (through output 2.2, 2.3, 1.5, 1.3, 1.1) will be an important tool for mainstreaming the human-rights based approach. Because there is a possibility from the project to potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized or indigenous individuals or groups, the project has carefully considered and integrated safeguard measures where deemed necessary. It will also put in place a project-specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), to ensure that all stakeholders have an avenue for voicing concerns.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

Widespread land degradation in India threatens food production, water availability, biodiversity, and energy security. When land is degraded and usable land becomes scarce, women are uniquely and differentially affected due to their substantial role in agriculture and food production, their reliance on forests, their greater vulnerability to poverty, and their typically weaker legal protections and social status. In India, rural women typically work longer hours than men when accounting for paid productive and unpaid reproductive, domestic or care responsibilities. They continue to shoulder most of the unpaid and undervalued work, such as collecting water, cooking, cleaning, and caretaking, all while battling the impacts of climate change, unpredictable rainfall, natural disasters, and non-yielding gardens.

The project builds upon the various initiatives undertaken over the years by the Government of India including policy reforms, programmes and action plans at various levels for empowering women and facilitating their active participation in the social, economic and political life of the country. Some of major policy measures of Government of India include reservation of one third to half of the seats for women in the local Governments for ensuring equal representation of women and to bring gender parity. National Policy on Education (1986) provides for universal access and enrolment. National Mission for Empowerment of Women (2010) aims to strengthen and promote all round development of women. The Draft National Policy for Women (2016) is focused on encouraging women to shift from being recipients of welfare benefits towards actively participating in the development process. The mission of the policy is to create an effective framework to enable the process of developing policies, programmes and practices, which will ensure equal rights and opportunity for women in the family, community, workplace and in governance. From aforesaid, it can be concluded that the present legal and policy framework will be conducive and supportive of women's participation in the project.

A gender analysis has been conducted during the PPG phase, in accordance with standard UNDP procedure, to identify the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men as they relate to engagement in activities such as sowing, transplanting and post-harvest operations, homestead gardening, livestock and poultry rearing, selling labour, etc. Specific project activities have been developed to support the engagement of women in project activities during the PPG phase. The results of the gender analysis conducted during the PPG is integrated into the project design to ensure that gender-based differences are built into project activities as appropriate, and gender-disaggregated targets will be developed as indicators of project's success. A gender responsive analysis and the design of adaptive learning measures have been undertaken during the PPG in order to assess opportunities to enhance the status of women in respect to LDN activities, to address the gender gap in the sector and to help design project activities and indicators that will ensure women's full participation as beneficiaries (and deliverers) of technical cooperation and knowledge building efforts. Consultation sessions were held to obtain views and inputs of a wide range of local stakeholders, including women, to develop project activities and to inform a robust stakeholder involvement plan with full gender considerations. A corresponding gender mainstreaming plan for the project was completed and submitted with the project document at time of CEO Endorsement. Gender-disaggregated targets and indicators have been included within the project results framework.

The project includes a gender perspective in the analysis of select LDN related policies and legal frameworks both at the national and state level. This has entailed also examining the mechanisms and bodies that currently exist, their accountability, and assess the differential access of women and men to these mechanisms, how they experience it and are impacted differently by recourse to remedies. This provided key insights and help identify gaps for bringing about the much-required policy change and developing capabilities for gender transformative actions. It may also include an analysis of customary norms and practices on land tenure and women's rights. While there may be a commonality of practices related to land ownership across different geographies, there exist local nuances and behaviors that have been considered to develop and design strategies to promote women's role not just as beneficiaries but as active agents of change in achieving LDN targets. Given that land ownership is governed by customary norms and personal laws in India, localization of research is of paramount importance to ensure interventions respond to women's needs and promote their rights.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

The project supports implementation of national environmental sustainability priorities identified in the UNDAF, Government of India policies, and international agreements such as UNCCD, UNCBD and UNFCCC, through strengthening environmental management capacity of all partners in forest, pasture and agriculture landscapes. The project is seeking to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation / desertification in Karnataka, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. The project will work across the landscape, both strengthening the national and state-level policy frameworks, improving inclusive decision making through multi-stakeholder platforms in three districts, providing technical support packages and supporting national and international collaboration to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation and desertification.

Social sustainability and resilience will be achieved through long term engagement throughout the project cycle with all stakeholders. In particular, the project will establish and operationalize multi-stakeholder platforms at national, state and landscape levels for integrating LDN in land-use planning frameworks (output 1.3) and strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders for carrying out transformative projects resulting in land restoration, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation (output 1.4). This engagement will be further reinforced by the Social Inclusion Planning Framework which enables the project to reach out to all communities, including SCs, STs and OBCs.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

At PPG stage consultation were undertaken with communities, tribal peoples and other stakeholders to better understand their interaction and dependencies with the landscape (natural resources such as land, forests and wetland resources), their rights and interests, territories, traditional livelihoods and determine when FPIC applies in accordance with national contexts and preferences. This led to the development of a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan at PPG stage that identifies culturally appropriate means of participation of stakeholders, management and monitoring and ensure that such measures are inclusive, participatory and transparent. The project design includes identification of capacity needs of stakeholders to enhance their participation, decision-making and understanding of their rights and responsibilities. At PPG stage, a participatory framework was developed to ensure that stakeholders (mainly local communities, tribal peoples, women, and other marginalized groups) have free and fair access to information in a timely manner, can actively participate as equal partners in the design and implementation of activities, ensure transparency, provide feedbacks on the project impacts, promote inclusiveness and equity in resource and benefit sharing. The project will also develop a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to mitigate and manage potential conflicts. In addition to the project-level GRM, UNDP's Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with applicable environmental and social policies) and Stakeholder Response Mechanism (to ensure individuals, peoples, and communities affected by projects have access to appropriate grievance resolution procedures for hearing and addressing project-related complaints and disputes) remain available and stakeholders will be informed of this option to file a complaint or submit a request. UNDP recognizes that even with strong planning and stakeholder engagement, unanticipated issues can still arise. The implementation of project activities will be done under the supervision of a Project Steering Committee. Key issues will be presented to the Project Steering Committee during each committee meeting.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i></p>	<p>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i></p>			<p>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</p>
<p><i>Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)</i></p>	<p><i>Impact and Likelihood (1-5)</i></p>	<p><i>Significance (Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</i></p>	<p><i>Comments (optional)</i></p>	<p><i>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</i></p>

<p>Risk 1</p> <p>The project relies on participatory approaches. However, because of existing marginalization dynamics locally, the project could exclude both tribal peoples[1] and women from adequately participating to the multi-stakeholder platform to be established (output 1.3) and the subsequent development of Integrated land-management (ILM) plans (output 2.2)</p> <p>Overarching Principle: Leave No one Behind</p> <p>Principle: Human Rights (P.3; P.4; P.5, P.6, P.7) Principle: Accountability (P.13, P.14) Principle: Gender (P8; P9; P10; P11) Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.6, 6.8)</p>	<p>I = 4 L =3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Project demonstrations (pilots) will take place in Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Project landscapes are inhabited by tribal communities some of who might not have stable land rights arrangements and who suffer from marginalization dynamics. Agriculture is the main occupation of these communities, and it is key that they are adequately consulted as per FPIC guidelines. The Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 also known as PESA, was enacted to enable tribal self-rule in these areas. PESA gives special powers to the Gram Sabhas in scheduled areas especially for the management of natural resources. Similarly, under the</p>	<p>? During PPG, extensive consultations were conducted in all districts (documentation is available upon request at the CO, see ESMF). The PPG team, who received a Safeguards introduction training, conducted consultations at the community level, including with Tribal peoples and women. The selection of target project intervention sites has been based on ecological and technical criteria (see ESMF) and will be conditioned to community/IP agreements following consultation and consent.</p> <p>? The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) outlines all steps required in order to ensure full compliance with SES requirement during project implementation. In accordance with the ESMF three environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) ? 1 per landscape - will be carried out at project inception to assess this and all other environmental and social risks. The ESIA will be immediately followed by 3 Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) ? 1 per landscape - including targeted management plans. The ESIA process will draw upon the ESMF to assess the associated impacts, and to inform the specific management measures outlined in the ensuing Management Plans.</p> <p>? One of these targeted plans is the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), which may be referred to as ?Social Inclusion Planning Framework? (SIPF)[2], which was designed during PPG. It includes guidelines for the FPIC process and will guide the design, upon project inception, of 3 Social Inclusion Plans (SIPs) ? 1 per landscape - to be designed before any of the outputs potentially affecting Tribal peoples (namely, 1.3, 1.4 and 2.2) may commence.</p> <p>? Another targeted plan is the Gender Action Plan, which has been designed during PPG and provides guidance to mainstream gender throughout the project, and to ensure</p>
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		<p>Biological Diversity Act, 2002, the Panchayat can constitute a biodiversity management committee which will decide on matters related to access to bio-resources and traditional knowledge.</p> <p>Likewise, There are gender disparities in the target districts that need to be identified and considered in project design. There is a risk that these consultations might not fully capture or reflect views of women and girls including indigenous groups.</p>	<p>full and effective participation of women.</p> <p>? A gender-responsive and socially inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was designed during PPG</p> <p>? FPIC provisions are included in the Prodoc (i.e.1.5.2) and will apply, as per the IPPF, to all relevant outputs.</p> <p>? The Project Management Unit (PMU) will include a full time Safeguard expert and a full time Gender expert</p> <p>? As stated in the ESMF, the project will establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)</p>
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<p>Risk 2</p> <p>The design of Integrated Landscape Management Plans at the district level (2.2.1) may shift existing use of land or restrict access to land, potentially leading to adverse impacts on livelihoods, economic displacement, including of tribal communities. This in turn may exacerbate existing conflicts around land.</p> <p>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement (5.2, 5.4) Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples (6.3, 6.6)</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p>Substantial</p>	<p>Land use policies, frameworks and plans will necessarily affect land uses. If not carefully designed and implemented, all land uses could lead to access or use restrictions, affecting communities? livelihoods. Given the presence of tribal peoples in the landscape, this could also impact on lands, natural resources and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples.</p> <p>This is particularly problematic in Nandurbar, the 4th largest tribal district of Maharashtra, comprises of six talukas (Akkalkuan, Akrani, Nandurbar, Nawapur, Shahda, and Taloda).</p> <p>Land-related conflicts are rather common in all districts, and any additional pressure due to land-use shifts may exacerbate</p> <p>? PPG phase had included consultations with the potentially affected individuals and communities to assess impacts on current levels of access and use, including indigenous communities and potential need for FPIC</p> <p>? 3 Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESAs) ? built into the development of land use frameworks for each of the targeted landscapes - will be necessary in order to design the land use frameworks (one each for agriculture, grassland and forest) and the eco-restoration plans. These SESAs will build on the SIPP in order to work together with the communities and tribal peoples representatives in a participatory-based approach, and ensure their rights and interests are included in the policies and plans.</p> <p>? 3 Livelihood Action Plans (LAPs) will be developed as part of the ESMP. The LAP will be closely linked with the IPPF and will include a conflict analysis in order to propose conflict-sensitive mitigation measures.</p> <p>? The Social Inclusion Planning Framework (Annex 9b to Prodoc) sets clear steps to ensure that STs, SCs and OBCs are thoroughly consulted, and that their rights (as per national and international law) will be respected. The project will make sure that the government lets them access their traditional lands ? this will be of particular importance in Nandurbar and Kachchh to preserve key access to forest lands and pastures on which communities are highly dependent for their survival. The development of the Bihar model will be investigated where relevant, and detailed in the 3 landscape-specific SIP (Social Inclusion Plans) to be developed upon project inception as per the SIPP</p> <p>?</p>
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		<p>these conflicts. There are a number of underlying factors that exacerbate resource use conflicts. The lack of clear policy guidance and operational support for local communities has resulted in their inability to play a major role in resource management and protection as well as in developing a collaborative shared vision for its management and use amongst the key stakeholders. Limited enforcement of regulations regarding resource use coupled with patronization by socio-political elites and vested interests makes it difficult to ensure equitable access and benefits to members of the community. As a consequence, marginalized local communities that usually live in abject poverty tend to</p>	
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		<p>resort to desperate means of resource exploitation in pursuit of short-term gains in the absence of a collective long-term strategy for promotion of resource conservation and sustainable use that would benefit them. This risk of conflict is itself exacerbated by potential civil unrest linked to any future rulings on the claims of traditional forest dwellers. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognizes and vest the forest rights and occupations in forest land in forest dwelling scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded and provide a framework for recording the</p>	
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		forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land.	
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<p>Risk 3</p> <p>Project districts contain globally and locally renowned sites with cultural, historical, religious, artistic and traditional values. Land restoration and rehabilitation activities may have structural adverse impacts on these sites (output 2.2) may adversely impact traditional knowledge and practices that are part of the communities since ancient times</p> <p>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage (4.1, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5)</p> <p>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples (6.9)</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Project sites, especially but not only Nandurbar, include important heritage sites, both UNESCO sites and sites of importance at the local level.</p> <p>Ethnic minorities and indigenous population at the project sites have cultures deep-rooted in ancient India life and cultural sites that centuries old. The way life and local communities? culture ancestral link to the land and forest within the project sites. The communities? have vital connection with natural resources both culturally and economically, and therefore have been managing and protecting these resources. Due to the close dependency on land and forest, the communities have garnered traditional knowledge and their cultural have co-</p>	<p>? The ESIA / ESMP will include an assessment of local heritage sites and of traditional knowledge and adequate measures will be integrated to mitigate any negative impacts, in a Cultural Heritage Management Plan</p> <p>? The participatory approach embedded in each component of the project will allow communities to value their heritage and make sure any measure is respectful of their traditional knowledge and sites.</p> <p>? Preparation of the biodiversity registers by the biodiversity act (including traditional knowledge)</p> <p>? FPIC on Output 2.2 and exclusion of traditional sites</p>
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		<p>evolved. The project is proposing to use/reproduce traditional indigenous approaches to address land degradation. It will also support Small and Medium Enterprises to promote sustainable livelihoods. This may affect traditional knowledge and practices.</p>	
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<p>Risk 4:</p> <p>Local districts and community associations might not have the capacity to implement project activities successfully, and monitor the impacts leading to ill-adapted management decisions and poor accountability to the beneficiaries</p> <p>Principle: Human Rights (P.2)</p> <p>Principle: Gender (P9, P10)</p> <p>Principle: Accountability (P13, P14, P15)</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project will support activities with local communities, community associations and local institutions at project sites. These might not be fully capacitated to discharge project activities. Lack of capacity to implement these activities could limit success of project activities or result in unintended negative consequences. Existing marginalization dynamics may also affect the ability from duty-bearers to fully account for gender-based conflict and adequately respond to potential grievances raised by women on the project sites.</p>	<p>? In order to reinforce the capacities of the duty-bearers to conduct the project effectively and meet their obligations, output 1.4 is specifically dedicated to capacity-building. These activities will be complemented by specific capacity-building activities on Safeguards Management, Gender equity, FPIC implementation and Stakeholder Engagement, as planned in the ESMF's capacity building section (See Annex 9.b. to Prodoc)</p> <p>? Alignment of national priorities and coordination of agricultural policy between the national and the local level will be key. The project steering committee will be in charge of ensuring this alignment. It is key that that local authorities at the district level are empowered in safeguards management, as planned in the ESMF, to make sure that the SES policy is adequately applied.</p> <p>? The PMU will include professionals with expertise in administrative, social as well as technical aspects of the project. This will include both a Gender expert and a Safeguard expert to support the PMU. Thematic experts will provide technical inputs and support the project management unit in building capacities of agencies and individuals tasked with project implementation in SES. The support of consultants working on monitoring and evaluation and safeguards will be needed, but the CO will prioritize the integration of competencies within the PMU and/or at the CO level in order to ensure continuous quality of support. Project staff will be supported on a continual basis through training and refresher courses, and hand-holding during the initial part of the project, by the Safeguard officer / consultant.</p> <p>? These measures will ensure that technical staff and implementing partners are well equipped to effectively and efficiently discharge their duties and that project management and administration are handled professionally and meet both</p>
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				<p>GEF and UNDP standards and requirements</p> <p>? The GRM will be gender-sensitive and socially inclusive, and may, if deemed necessary, differ from one district to another, in order to be made accessible to all</p>
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<p>Risk 5:</p> <p>Project will engage private sector as co-financers to support LDN activities and support the development of business plans. Due diligence has not yet been completed on these companies and Small businesses to confirm there are no enhanced safeguards risks through these private sector partnerships. This may include generation of waste and use of products that may in turn affect both the environment and communities? health, or the unsustainable use of natural resources by selected value chains</p> <p><i>Principle: Human Rights (P.3)</i></p> <p><i>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and sustainable NRM (1.2, 1.8)</i></p> <p><i>Standard 3: Community health, safety and security (3.6)</i></p> <p><i>Standard 8: Pollution prevention and resource efficiency (8.5)</i></p>	<p>I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Due diligence has not yet been completed with these private sector partners to confirm they adhere to UNDP expectations on exclusionary criteria, potential controversies and commitment to ESG, and that any potential risks can be managed through conditions etc. The SESP will be updated upon project inception by the safeguard officer once private sectors partnerships are clarified.</p> <p>Pesticides, herbicides and insecticides are likely to be used in at least some of the value chains supported by the project (not yet selected). This generates a concern as to whether this usage will have any adverse impacts on the environment and on communities? health.</p>	<p>? The completion of due diligence of private sector partners including UNDP Private Sector Risk Assessment Tool should be undertaken before any activity of output 2.4 starts</p> <p>? The PMU will be in charge of updating the SESP and screening all co-financed activities, and then to ensure alignment with UNDP SES policy. Where cofinanced activities contribute directly to project results, and the funds pass through the project accounts, full compliance with UNDP?s SES Policy, and the project?s safeguards instruments, is required. Where the cofinanced activities contribute to results, but the funds do not pass through the project accounts, UNDP is responsible for ensuring consistency of the cofinancier?s safeguards policy with the UNDP standards and resolving any gaps should these occur. Where the cofinanced activities do not contribute directly to project results, the cofinanciers should apply their own safeguards policy, but UNDP will be responsible for monitoring safeguards risk management and addressing any emergent concerns through engagement with the project partners.</p> <p>? Exclusionary criteria could be designed in the ESMP in order to avoid partnerships with private sector entities which activities would be in breach of UNDP SES policy</p> <p>o The project board will track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.</p> <p>o Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated with co-financed activities or activities taking place in</p>
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			<p>the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o During the implementation of activities involving the use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides, the project will ensure that 1) no internationally or nationally banned pesticides, herbicides and insecticides are used 2) workers working with said chemical products are trained and equipped with protective.o National guidelines for chemical management and handling will be assessed for their compliance with UNDP SES requirements to identify if they are fully compliant or additional safeguard measures are needed.o The ESIA/ESMPs will define measures to ensure safe chemical and waste management, handling and use in relation to land restoration, including specific training needs to meet these standards.
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<p>Risk 6:</p> <p>Project outcomes will be vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change and ill-adapted measures included in the Landscape level eco-restoration plans could increase communities' vulnerability</p> <p><i>Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks (2.2)</i></p>	<p>I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Climate change could result in increased frequency and/or severity of extreme climatic events or natural hazards that could impede project impact in medium and long term</p> <p>Gujarat bears a high risk for river flood, coastal flood, landslide, cyclone, water scarcity, extreme heat, wild fire ; a medium risk for urban flood, earthquake and tsunami</p> <p>Maharashtra bears a high risk for urban flood, coastal flood, landslide, cyclone, extreme heat, wild fire ; a medium risk for river flood, earthquake, water scarcity, and tsunami</p> <p>Karnataka bears a high risk for urban flood, river flood, landslide, cyclone,</p>	<p>? The climate adaptation approach is meant to ensure the sustainability of this system and of the whole landscape, taking into account broader environmental and social constraints.</p> <p>? Stakeholder consultations and ESIA will be key to determine local techniques and practices and informed by local planning and landscape management approaches. This is meant to ensure sustainable use of resources and avoid adverse impacts on ecosystems and people's livelihoods.</p> <p>? Technical expertise will be required to design the measures with training to the farmers + Exchange visits planned in the projects. Technical experts will need to make sure that the measures are in line with India's disaster management planning system</p> <p>? The project will work to strengthen institutional capacities to ensure effective and efficient management of agricultural land, grasslands and forest lands in regard to climate change</p>
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			extreme heat, water scarcity, wild fire ; a medium risk for coastal flood, earthquake, and tsunami[3]	
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<p>Risk 7:</p> <p>Both eco-restoration plans developed for targeted landscapes (2.1) and gender-responsive and inclusive sustainable land and ecosystem management practices and appropriate technologies to be identified, demonstrated and upscaled by the project (2.2) could have potential negative impacts on biodiversity if they include ill-adapted measures or if they include (i) the utilization of plant genetic resources (ii) the use of pesticide, or (iii) reforestation measures which bear the risk of introduction of Alien Invasive Species. These measures may all have adverse impacts on biodiversity, including possible connecting areas adjacent to protected areas in all 6 districts</p> <p>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and sustainable NRM (1.2, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.13)</p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Risks from rehabilitation efforts could include monoculture planting, poor species selection, accidental introduction of invasive alien species (IAS), uncontrolled use of pesticides, and other activities which could negatively affect the environment. All 6 district are particularly vulnerable and include key ecosystems. Project activities may also affect protected areas, namely the Kachchh Biosphere reserve, Chhari Dhand Conservation Reserve, Banni Grasslands Reserve, Kutch Bustard Sanctuary, Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary, Wild Ass Sanctuary, Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary (in Kachchh), the Balaram Ambaji Wildlife Sanctuary, Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary (in</p>	<p>? The ESIA/ESMP will determine acceptable restoration activities and mitigation measures</p> <p>? A Biodiversity Action Plan will be designed as a SES Management Plan looking particularly at biodiversity hotspots and at sites connected through water streams to the project area.</p> <p>? The project will work to strengthen institutional capacities to ensure effective and efficient management of agricultural land, grasslands and forest lands in regard to climate change, including the mitigation of potential adverse impacts to habitats.</p> <p>? Consultations and participatory-approaches planned for the design of the eco-restoration plans and identification of ecosystem management practices will include discussions with the management units of all protected areas in the 6 districts.</p>
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			Banaskantha), the Kanha Tiger Reserve (in Nandurbar), Gautala Sanctuary (in Aurangabad), Talacauvery, Pushpagiri, and Brahmagiri sanctuaries, and Nagarhole National Park (in Kodagu), Chinkara sanctuary (in Bagalkot)	
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<p>Risk 8</p> <p>Gender-Based Violence is a prominent issue in both landscapes ? the support to women livelihoods may exacerbate GBV within the community if they create power struggles at the household or village level</p> <p><i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (P12)</i></p> <p><i>Accountability (P15)</i></p>	<p>I = 3</p> <p>L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including violence against women (VAW), sexual violence, domestic violence and intimate partner violence (IPV) are on the rise and have doubled over the last two decades in India.</p> <p>According to a National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report, around 2.24 million crimes against women have been reported between 2005-2014 which means the reporting of 26 crimes every hour or one complaint every 2 minutes.[4] NCRB also releases annual reports on crimes in India, under which a section on crimes against women sheds light on the physical and sexual crimes against women like rape, kidnapping and abduction, molestation,</p>	<p>? In line with national policies as well as UNDP and GEF guidelines, the project will adopt the following principles in its day-to-day management: (1) Demonstrate gender responsiveness in all interactions with project stakeholders; (2) No use of language or behaviour denoting bias and disrespect for any individual based on gender or ethnicity; (3) Avoid gender stereotyping in project documents, and communication outputs; (4) Support zero tolerance for sexual harassment, gender-based violence and/or sexual exploitation and abuse of men, women, girls and boys that may occur in connection with any of its supported activities.</p> <p>? The project will organise a training for the PMU on gender-integrated planning and project implementation and on risks related to gender inequalities including Gender-based Violence. There are a few courses available: NAP-Ag course focuses on adaptation planning[8], and UNDP also produced with GEF a free online course on Gender and Environment.</p> <p>? To address the risk of Gender-based Violence highlighted in the SESP and in the Gender analysis, the project will establish a process in the Stakeholder Response Mechanism to record GBV cases and related complaints and decide how to respond in collaboration with local CSOs and existing institutional mechanisms in place (if any)</p> <p>? For a project focused on land management, it is necessary to understand social dynamics in terms of GBV. To gather information, regular visits and interviews in the area would be essential, as well as the collection of data on gender (in)equalities. A dedicated Gender Focal Point within the CO should ensure data collection in a gender-responsive manner in the field (e.g. conduct key informant interviews focused on gender-related issues (i.e.</p>
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		<p>and sexual harassment. As per the report for 2016-2018, the cases of crimes against women have increased from 3.38 million in 2016 to 3.78 million in 2018.^[5] While reporting of cases have increased post the 2012 Delhi rape case which brought about amendments to the rape laws in India, there are two important points that ought to be highlighted:</p> <p>i) There is an urban bias in reporting GBV cases, as a result of which cases in rural areas are often under-reported or not reported at all.</p> <p>ii) IPV and domestic violence often top the list among the major types of crime against women. Additionally, marital rape is not recognised as a criminal offence under the Indian Penal Code. According to the recently released</p>	<p>barriers to access and control resources, sexual and reproductive health and rights, political representation and participation, gender-based violence, etc.), focus group discussions with women's groups, and with groups of people of different age and ethnicities, etc.).</p>
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National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 5 (2019-2021) report, 18% of women in India have reported not being able to say no to their husbands if they do not want to engage in sexual intercourse with them. The survey also highlights that for nearly one-fifth of India's married women, their consent in sexual relations with their husbands is compromised. [6] As a result of these insensitive societal systems and patriarchal societal norms, there is an under-reporting of cases.

These are some of the structural barriers that not only continue to deprive women and girls of their full potential and enjoyment of their human rights in India, but they also represent significant economic losses and loss of earnings for

			<p>the entire nation.</p> <p>The risk of GBV is higher for women in STs, SCs and OBCs, as women's vulnerability to violence is related to their general vulnerability in socio-economic systems[7].</p> <p>The project will provide support to women's livelihoods. In some cases (i.e. the Meghwal community in Kuchchh), the women will be the primary recipients of the livelihood support. However, this support could foster changes in social dynamics, which in turn could lead to a temporary increase in GBV.</p>	
QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?				
<i>Low Risk ?</i>				

	<i>Moderate Risk</i> ?		
	<i>Substantial Risk</i> ?	At design stage the project is categorized as substantial risk. There are 8 risks identified and 10 safeguard principles and standards are triggered.	
	<i>High Risk</i> ?		
QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)			
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects			
	<i>Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)</i>		<i>Status?</i> <i>(completed, planned)</i>
	<i>if yes, indicate overall type and status</i>	? Targeted assessment(s)	gender analysis, stakeholder analysis, Social Inclusion Planning Framework: completed
		? ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)	Planned
		? SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	Planned
	<i>Are management plans required? (check if ?yes)</i>		

	<i>If yes, indicate overall type</i>		? Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan)	Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan: completed Livelihood Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, Social Inclusion Plans: Planned Cultural Heritage Management Plan: planned
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		?	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)	Planned
		?	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed
	<i>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project- level Standards triggered?</i>		Comments (not required)	
	<i>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</i>			
	<i>Human Rights</i>	?		
	<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	?		
	<i>Accountability</i>	?		
	<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</i>	?		
	<i>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</i>	?		
	<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</i>	?		
	<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>	?		
	<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>	?		
	<i>6. Indigenous Peoples</i>	?		
	<i>7. Labour and Working Conditions</i>	?		
	<i>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	?		

[1] For purposes of UNDP Safeguard policy, standard 6 "indigenous peoples" refers to distinct collectives, regardless of the local, national and regional terms applied to them,[1] who satisfy any of the more commonly accepted definitions of indigenous peoples.[1] Standard 6 on Indigenous Peoples covers, in the context of India, Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, and Other Backward Classes. There is no one universally accepted definition of indigenous peoples.

[2] Because the term 'indigenous peoples' is not adapted to the national context and because standard 6 applies to various collectives such as Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes, the 'Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework' and of the 'Indigenous Peoples Plan' (according to UNDP SES policy requirements) were renamed 'Social Inclusion Planning Framework' and 'Social Inclusion Plan'

[3] <https://thinkhazard.org/>

[4] <https://www.indiaspend.com/crimes-against-women-reported-every-two-minutes-84240>

[5]

https://ncrb.gov.in/sites/default/files/crime_in_india_table_additional_table_chapter_reports/Table%203A.1_0.pdf

[6]<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/marital-rape-debate-government-family-health-survey-consent-issue-1948258-2022-05-11>

[7]

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/324797361_Women%27s_Asset_Ownership_and_Reduction_in_Gender-based_Violence

[8] <http://www.fao.org/in-action/naps/resources/learning/gender-training-guide/en/>

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 5_PIMS 6670_SESP_rev_28 Nov 2022	CEO Endorsement ESS	
PIMS 6670_Pre-SESP India PIF_27 Aug 2021	Project PIF ESS	

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: 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).

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): 1, 5, 13, 15 and 17				
Strategic Plan Outcome: #3 Resilience built to systemic uncertainty and risk.				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): By 2027, Government of India, state governments, communities, private sector and other actors take informed actions to address climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and restore ecological integrity through improved knowledge, capacity and mainstreaming of				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators (no more than a total of 20 indicators)	Baseline <i>Must be determined during PPG phase</i>	Mid-term Target <i>Expected level of progress before MTR process starts</i>	End of Project Target <i>Expected level when terminal evaluation undertaken</i>
Project Objective:	To achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN) through sustainable ecosystem-based management and restoration of degraded landscapes across agricultural, forest, pastoral lands and surface water bodies.			
	Indicator 1 (GEF Core Indicator 11): Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (individual people)	0	55,000 [Female: 17,000 & Male: 38,000]	180,000 [Female: 72,000 & Male: 108,000]
	Indicator 2 (GEF Core Indicator 3): Area of land restored	0	30% of the EOP targets	108,000 ha degraded land restored
	Indicator 3 (GEF Core Indicator 4): Area of landscape under improved practices (excluding protected areas)	0	75,000 ha under improved practices	209,000 ha under improved practices

	Indicator 4 (<i>GEF Core Indicator 6.1</i>): Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided over 20-years due to direct project interventions in the AFOLU sector	0	20% of the EOP target	6,793,648 tCO ₂ eq sequestered or avoided over 20 years due to direct project interventions
Project component 1	Enabling institutional, strategic frameworks and policies for integrated sustainable land management (SLM) practices and restoration of degraded production landscapes			
Outcome 1: Enhanced national, state and district-level enabling frameworks incentivizing SLM practices and supporting participatory multi-sector platforms to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate mitigation.	Indicator 5: Number of government development schemes at district level that have mainstreamed complementary measures for SLM and restoration of degraded landscape.	0	5	5
	Indicator 6: Number of persons trained as trainers to further build capacities of different stakeholder groups to achieve LDN targets (at least 40% women) - through organisation of 35 trainers-of training programmes.	0	475 Through organisation of 22 training programmes) [Female ? 265 & Male -210]	700 (through organisation of 35 training programmes) [Female -335 & Male -365]

<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.1. National and state level gender-responsive and inclusive land use framework developed for restoring land degradation, conserving biodiversity and positive climate action.</p> <p>1.2. Complementary cross-sectoral mainstreaming actions developed and demonstrated to enhance LDN, NDC and biodiversity outcomes in existing government schemes where agricultural, forestry and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists.</p> <p>1.3. Multi-stakeholder platforms established and operationalized at national, state and landscape levels for integrating LDN in land-use planning frameworks.</p> <p>1.4. Capacities of key stakeholders strengthened for carrying out transformative projects resulting in land restoration, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>1.5. Programs to enable participation of tribal groups, especially women, aimed at internalizing LDN implemented in relevant state in partnership with local agencies with State and District administration.</p>			
<p>Project component 2</p>	<p>Implementing and up-scaling landscape-wide integrated sustainable ecosystem management practices to avoid, reduce and reverse degraded production landscapes</p>			
<p>Outcome 2: Integrated participatory landscape design and financing models established in support of avoidance, reduction and reversal of land degradation, desertification, biodiversity loss and negative impacts of climate change to generates multiple sustained environmental</p>	<p>Indicator 7: Number of SLM resource management units established to demonstrate land restoration practices</p>	<p>0 unit</p>	<p>3 units established (one in each state)</p>	<p>6 units established (two in each state)</p>
	<p>Indicator 8: Number of persons benefitting from diversified and green livelihood options, disaggregated by gender</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>500 [Female ? 220 & Male ? 280]</p>	<p>2000 [Female ? 760 & Male ? 1240]</p>
	<p>Indicator 9 (GEF CI 3.1 and 4.1): Area of degraded agricultural land restored and under sustainable management</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>36,000 ha of agriculture land under improved practices</p>	<p>190,000 ha 1) 76,000 ha of agriculture degraded land restored; 2) 114,000 ha of agriculture land</p>

and economic benefits.	Indicator 10 (GEF CI 3.2 & 4.2): Area of degraded grasslands restored and grassland landscape under sustainable management	0	22,000 ha of grassland under improved practices	82,000 ha 1) 32,000 ha of grassland degraded land restored; 2) 50,000 hectares of grassland
	Indicator 11 (GEF CI 4.3): Area of forest landscape under sustainable management	0	34,000 ha 1) 17,000 ha under improved practices; 2) 8,000 ha of productive forest landscape 3) 9,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) landscape under improved practices	90,000 ha 1) 45,000 ha of forests land 2) 12,000 ha of productive forest landscape under improved practices 3) 33,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) landscape under improved practices
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	<p>2.1. Drivers of land degradation identified and participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive, landscape level eco-restoration plans developed for targeted landscapes.</p> <p>2.2. Gender-responsive and inclusive improved alternative sustainable land and ecosystem management practices and appropriate technologies identified, demonstrated and upscaled, for enhancing resilience of local communities and restoration of targeted landscapes.</p> <p>2.3. Green, resilient and inclusive recovery strategies developed and demonstrated through sustainable and gender responsive livelihood options that reduce pressures on natural resources</p> <p>2.4 Innovative and blended financing solutions demonstrated by fostering new strategic partnerships for implementation of the landscape level eco-restoration plans with enhanced resources towards achieving LDN.</p>			
Project component 3	Monitoring system for SLM and LDN indicators; gender-mainstreaming, knowledge management, evaluation and project reporting, national outreach; and South-South cooperation			

Outcome 3.1: Improved capacity for LDN monitoring, assessment and reporting to UNCCD in support of LDN target setting and evaluation of capacities of partners; allowing government institutions and other agencies to better document, analyse and disseminate effective intervention strategies for restoring productive	Indicator 12: Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation operational	0	1	1
	Indicator 13: Establishment of a real time dashboard detailing targeted interventions on water, soil and land restored using localized data, as well as mapping and assessment of existing government schemes on land degradation, and financial gap assessment data.	0	1	1

<p>landscapes and replication of best practices at national and state level, and at international level through improved South-South cooperation, knowledge and adaptive management.</p>	<p>Indicator 14: Increase in flow of knowledge and information on best practices, as measured by (a) the cumulative number of visits/downloads of knowledge products on Internet, project's website, and social media platforms, and (b) the number of people (gender disaggregated) reached through dissemination of knowledge products, participation in workshops; (c) number of knowledge products prepared and disseminated by the project.</p>		<p>a) 10,000 visits/downloads of knowledge products on Internet, project's website, and social media platforms, and (b) 10% of the total beneficiaries (of whom 50% are women) reached through dissemination of knowledge products, participation in workshops, etc.; (c) at least 10 knowledge products</p>	<p>a) 20,000 visits/downloads of knowledge products on Internet, project's website, and social media platforms, and (b) at least 20% of the beneficiaries (of whom 50% are women) reached through dissemination of knowledge products, participation in workshops, etc.; (c) 20 knowledge products.</p>
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1. Information systems to document real-time data on impacts, trade-offs, costs-benefit analysis of restoration, and identifying incremental synergies through dashboard and web portal developed and institutionalized.</p> <p>Output 3.1.2. Knowledge sharing mechanism established, and decision support and management capacities of stakeholders in the principles of agroecological intensification enhanced.</p> <p>Output 3.1.3. Communication strategies, knowledge products and tools designed and developed for collation of good practices, rewarding innovation and dissemination of success stories and project results.</p> <p>Output 3.1.4. Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management strengthened under the overall guidance and support of MoEFCC to further South-South cooperation and international alliances to address UNCCD global agenda.</p> <p>Output 3.1.5. Project M&E system, incorporating gender mainstreaming and social and environmental safeguards, implemented for adaptive project management.</p>			

[1] Baseline, mid-term and end of project target levels must be expressed in the same neutral unit of analysis as the corresponding indicator. Baseline is the current/original status or condition and needs to be quantified. The baseline can be zero when appropriate given the project has not started. The baseline must be established before the project document is submitted to the GEF for final approval. The baseline values will be used to measure the success of the project through implementation monitoring and evaluation.

[2] Target is the change in the baseline value that will be achieved by the mid-term review and then again by the terminal evaluation.

[3] Provide total number of all direct project beneficiaries expected to benefit from all project activities until project closure. Separate the total number by female and male. This indicator captures the number of individual people who receive targeted support from a given GEF project and/or who use the specific resources that the project maintains or enhances. Support is defined as direct assistance from the project. Direct beneficiaries are all individuals receiving targeted support from a given project. Targeted support is the intentional and direct assistance of a project to individuals or groups of individuals who are aware that they are receiving that support and/or who use the specific resources.

[4] Outcomes are medium term results that the project makes a contribution towards, and that are designed to help achieve the longer-term objective. Achievement of outcomes will be influenced both by project outputs and additional factors that may be outside the direct control of the project.

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).

Comments	Response	Reference in UNDP Project Document
Comments from GEF Secretariat to be considered at CEO endorsement		

<p>The planned engagement with Jain Irrigation and UPL is very welcome. We look forward to more detailed information about their involvement into the project at CEO endorsement stage.</p>	<p>Due Diligence (DD) for involvement of Jain Irrigation Systems (JIS) was completed during PPG and their role in the project implementation is described in the project document under section on 'Partnerships' of the project document.</p> <p>UNDP undertook due diligence of UPL as per its due diligence policy and, due to concerns that emerged through this process, UNDP took the decision not to pursue this partnership.</p> <p>However, during PPG stage, the project identified another opportunity to engage with Tata Trust, Lupin Foundation and Axis Bank Foundation. In addition, partnership with a philanthropy-driven conservation model for promoting production and consumption of tropical fruits was established.</p>	<p>See section on 'Partnerships' of the UNDP project document and also Output 2.2 under the 'Results' section.</p>
<p>Comments from GEF Council Members:</p>		
<p>GERMANY</p>		
<p>It is recommended to more concretely construct and scale the targeted landscapes (watershed, river basin etc.) in order to facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring of ecological resources. The proposal should provide a better overview on how landscape level plans align with administrative constructs and hence resource convergence. One useful example that has demonstrated this is the Composite Water Resource Management plans, developed by GIZ using digital tools.</p>	<p>Two of the project target districts were identified based on river basin in Karnataka (Bagalkot district in Krishna River basin; and Kodagu district in Kaveri River basis). The project coordination at district level is through district administration and during PPG consultation workshop, it was agreed that state and district administration will provide full support using provisions under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), under Ministry of Rural Development and National Water Mission, under Ministry of Jal Shakti. Both Ministries are project partners. This will provide resource convergence with state and district administration.</p>	<p>See section on 'Partnerships' of the project document, Section VII. on Governance and Management arrangements, and also Annex 12 (a).</p>

Building institutional capacities in the right manner, from communities to public institutions, is critical. Hence, the proposal should provide a good understanding of such institutions across various sectoral domains, i.e. water, forests, agriculture, land etc. and of how these capacities will be built (at various levels) for integrated planning at ecosystem levels, extension, application of SLM on farm and common areas etc.

During PPG stage, various research and development agencies were identified, who have agreed to provide capacity building of multi-stakeholders across various sectoral domains. For example: Institutions of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education for forestry landscapes; ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute and ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute were identified for capacity building for grassland landscape; ICAR-Central Institute for Agroforestry for Agroforestry sector; ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research for Hort-agro system, etc. In addition, it was also agreed that six training centers will be established at district level in partnership with ICAR-Krishi Vigan Kendra (KVK). Some of national NGOs such as BAIF have been identified during PPG for capacity building of Tribal communities.

See Annex 8. Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and also the description of Output 1.4 under the 'Results' section of the project document.

<p>It should be further explored how strategic focus is brought on LDN, as SAPCC and NDCs are primarily focussed on climate action, with LDN not really being reflected in these plans and commitments.</p>	<p>The project is being implemented by MoEFCC, who is primarily responsible to address all challenges to achieve LDN (Government of India has increased its commitment to restore degraded land from 23 to 26 million ha) in India and currently in the process to develop its new National Action Plan (NAP). Efforts were made during PPG to align its activities in line with priority set by MoEFCC.</p> <p>This project is anchored in the states and efforts to further decentralize DLDD planning through state action plans will inherently require integration with SAPCC. This project also contributes to minimising the risks of climate change through farm diversification using SLM practices (agro-forestry, agro-horticulture, Horti-silvipasture, etc.) and thus, indirectly improving sustainable management of natural resources as well as increasing productivity, income and employment in rural areas.</p>	<p>See section on Alignment with UNCCD, UNCBD, UNFCCC commitments and SDGs section and also Section VII. on Governance and Management Arrangements</p>
<p>Considering that LDN can be achieved with contextual planning and policies at state levels (agriculture being a state subject), it might be worth including considerations on how to work on state level policies and institutions to support and accelerate LDN.</p>	<p>Since agriculture being a state subject, project has been designed to focus on state and district level implementation. The implementation in each state will be through the state government. This has been detailed for each component of the project design and the outputs are accordingly developed.</p>	<p>See description of outputs that explains state and district level interventions under the ?Results? section of the project document, as well as ?Governance and Management Arrangements? section.</p>

<p>It is recommended to establish linkages between LDN and the Government's goal of doubling farming incomes and establishing 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organizations by emphasizing sustainable and viable incentive models. In this context, it is recommended to explore the role of institutions like NABARD and the governmental think-tank NITI Aayog (National Institute for Transforming India), who is a pioneer in sustainability debates of the Indian government.</p>	<p>Project outputs have been designed in line with Government of India goal of doubling farming income across all landscapes (agriculture, grassland and forest). A reference to this has been mentioned in the project document. FPOs role in the project implementation has been described, especially in the context of Component 2 for value addition and marketing. NABARD has been identified an important partner during PIF and during PPG detailed discussion held with NABARD district officers, especially in Nandurbar and Kutch districts for their close involvement in project implementation. Project has followed the guidelines from NITI Aayog Report such as: (i) XII Plan Working Group on 'Management of Natural Resources and Rainfed Farming'; (ii) 'Revitalising Rainfed Agriculture in India', and (iii) 'National Strategy for New India' prioritizes 'Doubling farmers' income' through sustainable agriculture and livelihood diversification; maintaining ecosystems and resilience to climate change and disasters.</p>	<p>See Project section on baseline on 'Policy and legislative baseline' and 'Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)', Outcome 2 and its Output 2.2.1 and sub-activities, activities under Output 2.3, and also under Annex 8. Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p>
<p>Due to India's goal of bringing two million hectares of land under organic or natural farming by 2025 it is recommended to consider agroecological approaches. Germany is preparing the establishment of an Indo-German Global Centre for Agro-ecological Research and Learning in the state of Andhra Pradesh, to enhance the scientific orientation and evidence in support of agroecology in India.</p>	<p>The project design also includes promoting organic farming and Zero Budget Natural Farming, wherever, possible under SLM practices in line with Government of India priority.</p>	<p>See Project Component 2, its output 2.2.1 and sub-activities, and also Output 2.3.</p>

<p>Germany highlights potential for exchange with ongoing projects of German development cooperation such as "Soil Protection and Rehabilitation of Degraded Soil for Food Security (ProSoil)" (2014.0156.1-005/105) and Climate Adaptation and Finance in Rural India (CAFRI) (2018.2255.0), Supporting Agroecological Transformation Processes" (SuATI), all implemented by GIZ.</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing the information of important projects being implemented/under implementation by GIZ and the project will certainly establish linkages with these projects and to adopt the best practices as an outcome from these projects. Especially the learning from "Soil Protection and Rehabilitation of Degraded Soil for Food Security (ProSoil)", which is a multi-country project, including India, will be very useful.</p> <p>Also, the knowledge systems developed by SuATI, which aims to improve the exchange and coherent application of knowledge on agroecological practices in India as well as internationally, will be a useful resource for the project implementation.</p>	<p>See section on "Partnerships" of the project document.</p>
<p>NORWAY, DENMARK</p>		
<p>The project document should refer more to issues of land, forest or other natural resources ownership. More attention to the socioeconomic context of the project sites is important.</p>	<p>During PPG consultation, socioeconomic benefits across target project sites were identified such as: livestock-based industry in Kutch, processing and harvesting of local mango varieties and processing of Chironji in Nandurbar. In the full project document, more attention to the socioeconomic context has been described, which the project will address.</p>	<p>Please refer to Annex 12 (a) for description of site-level socioeconomic context, and see section on "Socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at national and local levels" in the project document.</p>
<p>UNITED KINGDOM</p>		

<p>There is no explicit link to the farm laws on which farmers have recently been protesting. The project makes reference to the importance of understanding social dynamics and consulting local stakeholders about issues that may affect them. This will be important to ensure that the project is properly understood and is implemented smoothly.</p>	<p>Since MoEFCC is the implementing agency of the project, providing explicit link to the three farm laws, which were withdrawn by the Government of India, is out of scope of this project. However, many of recommendations of these farm laws are considered for implementations such as linkages to FPOs and FPCs for value addition and market linkages, use of sustainable water for irrigation (more crop per drop), contract farming, promoting organic farming/Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), etc.</p>	<p>See description of Component/Outcome 2 in the ?Results? section of the UNDP project document. In addition, the project has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8) to ensure continuous consultations and feedback.</p>
UNITED STATES		
<p>We have strongly opposed the use of non-voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets because Land Degradation Neutrality is only one approach of many to combat the impacts of drought and desertification. We support in a general sense the aim or aspiration of land degradation neutrality, but we want to ensure that LDN is not promoted to the exclusion of other approaches or being codified with mandatory targets. In this proposal, section 2 lays out specific targets for land degradation reversal with other targets and indicators "to be developed." We encourage the project developers to create robust other targets and indicators to complement their land degradation work.</p>	<p>The project target is both reversal and sustainable management of target landscape. Most of the target landscape will be brought under sustainable land management practices, however, the project will also target to reverse degraded landscapes, wherever possible through SLM practices.</p> <p>As suggested, the project will also develop targets and indicators to complement the work relating to land degradation such as: Output 2.3 ?Green, resilient and inclusive recovery strategies developed and demonstrated through sustainable and gender responsive livelihood options that reduce pressures on natural resources?, and Output 2.4 on ?Innovative and blended financing solutions demonstrated by fostering new strategic partnerships for implementation of the landscape level eco-restoration plans with enhanced resources towards achieving LDN?.</p>	<p>See descriptions of Outputs 2.3 and 2.4 under the ?Results? section of the project document.</p>
Comment for all UNDP projects		

<p>The Council, having considered Document GEF/C.61/04, UNDP Third Party Review of Compliance with GEF Minimum Fiduciary Standards, takes note of the Independent Third-Party Review of UNDP and decides to:</p> <p>Require that all projects included in the Work Program implemented by UNDP be circulated by e-mail for Council review at least four weeks prior to CEO endorsement / approval. This shall take place until this requirement is reconsidered by the Council at its 65th meeting in December 2023. Project reviews will take into consideration the relevant findings of the UNDP audits and the management responses and note them in the endorsement review sheet that will be made available to Council during the 4-week review period</p>	<p>UNDP fully complies to the requirement of the Council decision.</p>	<p>Please refer to Section V (M&E) plan; Section VII (Governance and Management Arrangements); and the Audit checklist prepared as a separate annex.</p>
<p>Comments from STAP at PIF</p>		
<p>STAP wishes to draw attention to the land potential assessment detailed in the guidelines. Assessing the potential of the land is necessary for planning the expected land uses, as well as generating, and maintaining, the expected ecosystem services (e.g. soil formation and retention, water regulation, climate regulation). Thus, to reduce the risk of land degradation, land uses need to be consistent with the land potential.</p>	<p>During first year of the project implementation, detailed land potential assessment across the target landscapes has been planned using GIS and remote sensing technologies. In addition, detailed baseline survey will also be undertaken. Based on the outcomes of these analyses, planning for implementation will be designed for each target landscape.</p>	<p>See description of Component 2 and its Outputs 2.1. of the project document.</p>
<p>The targeted landscapes are highly vulnerable to drought. Disaster risk is to an extent driven by social vulnerability. Knowing the socioeconomic context of the project sites is important, therefore, for understanding the nature of the threats (climate and non-climate stressors). In the project document, STAP encourages the project developers to describe extensively the communities' socioeconomic characteristics.</p>	<p>This suggestion has been taken into consideration in the project document.</p>	<p>See section on project Outcome 2 and its Outputs 2.1 and its activity 2.1.2, including sub-activities; activity 2.1.3, including its sub-activities; Also refer to Annex 12 (a) and Annex 14.</p>

<p>STAP recommends developing a systems-based theory of change. This exercise will allow the causal links between social and environmental challenges to be tested and validated. In this regard, it will be important to establish the relationships between climate stresses (declining annual precipitation, temperature increase); the environmental impacts of these stresses (desertification, wind erosion, soil degradation), and other socio-economic stresses (lack of livelihood opportunities). STAP encourages the project developers to use this learning to contribute to the evidence base of the Acceleration Labs. The learning can also be a central element of course curriculums and knowledge exchanges in the Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation</p>	<p>The project has developed a theory of change that takes into consideration various development challenges and barriers, including climate and socio-economic stresses. Social and environmental challenges have also been identified through the SESP, and the monitoring and mitigation of these risks is detailed in the Risk Register.</p> <p>The project learning will contribute to the evidence base of the UNDP India Acceleration Labs, taking advantages of its partners, especially with (i) NITI Aayog to promote innovations at grassroots through policy advocacy efforts, (ii) Honeybee network 'Grassroots Innovation Database (GRID)' have been developed with over 1400 grassroots innovations ready for deployment to benefit stakeholders in a wide range of sectors, and (iii) Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, 75 Community COVID Resilience Resource Centres has been established to deliver science, technology and innovation based interventions across diverse regions of India.</p> <p>Project will also take advantage of this learning for developing course curriculums and knowledge exchanges in the Centre of Excellence for South-South Cooperation.</p>	<p>See 'Strategy' section of the project document for description of the theory of change, Annex 5 for the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure, and Annex 6 for the Risk Register. Also see section on 'Learning from baseline' of the project document, and Output 2.2 on UNDP's newly established India Accelerator Lab.</p>
<p>Additionally, STAP recommends the aforementioned systems-based theory of change explores options for addressing uncertainty brought on by unforeseen changes (e.g. climate change and population growth are identified as large-scale drivers in the PIF), and risks to the project (e.g. limited interest in soil and water technologies). This process calls for developing pathways in the theory of change that consider alternative options to deliver the project objective so that outcomes endure long-term drivers and risks</p>	<p>Social and environmental risks (including climate risks) have been detailed in the SESP with mitigation measures.</p>	<p>See Annex 5 for the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure</p>

<p>During the project design, STAP suggests describing the socioeconomic context of the stakeholders in the targeted landscape, which appear to be absent</p>	<p>This section is now elaborated in the project document.</p>	<p>Please see Annex 12 (a).</p>
<p>Suggest ensuring the barriers are embedded in the theory of change. This will facilitate their discussion when designing the project. Also, it would be useful to provide a brief justification as to why the four barriers were selected from the list of ten barriers</p>	<p>During PPG consultations, six major barriers have been identified from the list of 10 barriers suggested in PIF, as there were some overlapping/duplications. In the Theory of Change diagram, all the six barriers are well aligned to each of the three project Components.</p>	<p>See ?Strategy? section of the project document.</p>
<p>Suggest identifying metrics on land degradation in each targeted landscape, as well as other robust indicators that complement the core indicators and that measure benefits affiliated with the SDGs.</p>	<p>The project has used data and metrics from the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India and the information provided was used for target site selection.</p>	<p>See section II. on ?development challenge? of project document and Annex 12(a).</p>
<p>Lessons are not identified in the baseline projects. STAP encourages the project team to describe the learning that each baseline initiative is expected to contribute to this project</p>	<p>Based on detailed discussion during PPG, detailed baseline has been provided in the project document. Target specific baseline projects have been identified under various Ministries, which will provide support to various project activities. Also, based on the review of baseline information, major learning were identified and are presented in section on ?Learning from Baseline?.</p>	<p>See ?Development Challenges? section, specifically sub-section on ?Learning from Baseline? of the project document</p>
<p>A theory of change figure is included in the PIF, which STAP welcomes. During the project design, STAP recommends defining further, with the appropriate stakeholders, the assumptions, barriers, and risks affiliated with achieving intermediate outcomes. Currently, the assumptions are broadly defined and relate to achieving impact, or long-term outcomes.</p>	<p>The theory of change, including assumptions, barriers, and risks, has been developed.</p>	<p>See ?Strategy? section of the project document.</p>

<p>1. Policy and planning reform to put in place incentives for sustainable land management, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation and remove disincentives, along with enhanced capacity of stakeholders at all levels to support a stronger enabling framework (Component 1);?</p> <p>STAP recommends Land Degradation Neutrality: guidelines for GEF projects A STAP document November 2019 This includes establishing the appropriate policies and conducting preparatory assessments, such as a land potential analysis, to obtain baseline information, and achieve the desired results.</p> <p>Additionally, STAP suggests drawing from the literature highlighting experiences in policy coherence for LDN implementation. Some resources include: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2018.11.017 https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/8/8/115 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2019.04.007</p>	<p>Keeping in view of Module D ?Create an enabling environment for LDN, including establishing required policies and undertaking preparatory assessments? of the LDN guidelines, project components outputs and its activities have been designed accordingly, specifically components 1 and 2. The suggested references have been consulted by the PPG team and incorporated into the relevant project outputs and activities. The literature references will be useful during project implementation especially for components 1 and 2.</p>	<p>See description section on project Outcome 1.</p>
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<p>2. ?Multi-stakeholder processes to bring together all sectors with an impact or interest in LDN, NDCs and biodiversity conservation to jointly describe the landscape, vision and LDN, NDC and conservation priorities (Component 1);?</p> <p>STAP recommends drawing from its advice on multi-stakeholder engagement (MSD) for transformational change. The advice specifies principles for robust and durable MSD.</p> <p>Component 2 describes briefly UNDP?s India Accelerator Labs. STAP would like to see the activities detailed, which the Lab will pursue. Additionally, STAP recommends linking the Lab to a systems-based theory of change. This exercise will allow the causal links between social and environmental challenges (a focus of the Lab) to be tested and validated. For example, identifying in the theory of change the various relationships between climate and the environment (e.g. climate stresses (declining annual precipitation and their impact on desertification, wind erosion, soil degradation), and other socio-economic stresses (lack of livelihood opportunities), will become more visible for project planning, implementation, monitoring, and learning purposes. For learning, the project team is encouraged to contribute to the evidence base of the Labs by testing and validating (through the theory of change) collective intelligence and co-creation approaches to achieve global environmental benefits.</p>	<p>Output 1.3 relates to MSD and the project will employ STAP guidance on multi-stakeholder engagement (MSD) for transformational change, including the specific principles for robust and durable MSD.</p> <p>India Accelerator Labs description and how the project will take advantage from this facility is described, with suitable examples.</p>	<p>See description of output 1.3 in the project document for MSD and project output 2.2 for UNDP?s India Accelerator Labs. Also see Box 17 of the project document.</p>
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<p>3. ?Technical demonstrations to support adoption of economically, ecologically and socially sensitive climate resilient sustainable land management and energy efficient practices by relevant stakeholders across agricultural, grazing and forest lands; and successful on-the-ground restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas (Component 2);?</p> <p>STAP?s LDN guidelines are a valuable resource to guide the project team in the development of LDN demonstration interventions, which includes a necessary analysis of trade-offs and positive synergies and avoidance of indirect effects, such as leakage. Additionally, STAP recommends applying the land degradation decision matrix to assist with localized land degradation assessments. The matrix provides guidance on how to determine degradation in cases of woody biomass/woody encroachment (e.g. invasive species). Scaling of sustainable land management is central to component 2. In this vein, STAP recommends developing a scaling pathway that defines how the project seeks to scale SLM and land restoration across sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, livestock, biodiversity, water management, climate mitigation and adaptation) and spatial scales (e.g. landscape, state government levels).</p>	<p>In order to achieve scaling of sustainable land management practices, detailed list of sub-activities are provided under Outputs 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 of Component 2. In addition, Output 2.1 will make use of STAP's LDN guidelines and the LD decision matrix in developing participatory, inclusive and gender-responsive, landscape level eco-restoration plans for each targeted landscape.</p>	<p>See project Component 2 and its Output 2.2 (Activities 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3), Output 2.3 and Output 2.4.</p>
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<p>4. Knowledge exchange and outreach to disseminate project approaches and lessons across project districts and with other countries facing similar challenges (Component 3).?</p> <p>Combined, the project's focus on these interventions is expected to result in greater uptake of sustainable land management practices to avoid and reduce land degradation, and to rehabilitate and restore degraded land. The project also expects to generate benefits in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and climate change resilience, as well as improved livelihoods. STAP recommends developing indicators of 'learning' as part of Component 3.</p>	<p>Based on this suggestion, the project will develop indicators of learning as part of Component 1 and 3. Specifically, activity 1.2.3 (Develop effective and comprehensive decision-support system for planning, monitoring and adapting climate-resilient SLM at the State and district levels) and Activity 3.1.1 (Review current national LDN core indicators (land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks), assessment and monitoring systems, and tools and their utility at national and sub-national (state, district, municipality, community/village) levels in order to identify improvements/standardisation, where required) will examine learning from the project's capacity building efforts and identify appropriate learning indicators.</p>	<p>See project component 1 and 3 outputs activities 1.2.3 and 3.1.1, respectively.</p>
<p>Yes, with good results monitoring of the outcomes, which can be done through the theory of change in combination with component 3. This process includes identifying assumptions affiliated with intermediate outcomes (as suggested above), as well as indicators to track how, and what, outcomes are being achieved. As the project is implemented, the project team may need to identify additional assumptions as circumstances are anticipated that could undermine the causal relationship between outcomes. Please refer to STAP's theory of change primer for further information.</p>	<p>The assumptions underlying the theory of change have been identified. These are included in the TOC description and in the Risk Register. During PPG field visit and stakeholder consultations, additional risk/assumptions to achieve each of the project Outputs have been identified and are presented in Monitoring Plan of the project document.</p>	<p>See 'Strategy' section, 'Monitoring and Evaluation' section, Annex 6 Risk Register of the project document.</p>
<p>The project acknowledges that adaptive management will be part of component 3. However, STAP also encourages the development of a systems-based theory of change to assist with this task to look for opportunities for adaptation, and/or transformational change to maintain the resilience of the social-ecological system.</p>	<p>The theory of change includes development challenges, barriers, and assumptions. These assumptions are included in the Risk Register as well, and the project manager will be responsible for monitoring and engaging with the project steering committee and other stakeholders on potential opportunities for transformational change.</p>	<p>See 'Strategy' section, and Annex 6 Risk Register of the project document.</p>

<p>Indicators will be provided in the final project document. STAP is pleased that the project will establish baselines on land cover, and land productivity ? two of the three voluntary LDN indicators. Indicators on soil carbon (the third voluntary LDN indicator) are also encouraged to be used. As the project is developed, STAP also recommends the use of national and sub-national indicators to supplement the LDN indicators. The sub-national and national indicators also could be used to monitor the local benefits identified by the project.</p>	<p>During PPG, <i>Tehsil/Block</i> level Land Use Land Cover maps were prepared and details of this analysis are presented in Annex 12 (a) on ?Profiles of target landscapes/districts? of the project document. As suggested, the project will develop sub-national/state-level and district-level LDN indicators and will include indicator on soil carbon. This has been defined under project activities 1.2.3 and 3.1.1</p>	<p>Please see description of outputs/ activities 1.2.3 and 3.1.1</p>
<p>Suggest identifying the barriers and enablers to scaling in the theory of change. STAP also proposes developing a pathway specific to scaling, which specifies who needs to be involved (e.g. what partnerships, stakeholders), what resources are needed (e.g. capacity building, financial resources, knowledge repositories, social science ? i.e. attention to power dynamics and other social constructs influencing decision making, agency and capacity), and how learning from scaling will take place (e.g. monitoring evaluation and learning).</p>	<p>The barriers and enablers are included in the TOC diagram. For scaling the project includes this in the existing pathways as partners will be invited from other states/districts outside the project?s target areas for all capacity building efforts and we also have provision for farmers exchange visits for cross-sharing learning experiences, using citizen science and crowdsourcing approach. Capacity building for partners from outside of the target landscape will also be through providing support for the functioning of Center of excellence.</p>	<p>See ?Strategy? section for the TOC. See descriptions of outputs 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3. and 3.4, which have components of capacity building of stakeholders, including outside the project landscape.</p>
<p>STAP welcomes the project's intention to generate multiple benefits. The PIF does not include methodologies for measuring and monitoring all of the benefits; thus, STAP recommends describing the methods in the final project document.</p>	<p>The monitoring plan of the project includes details on indicator measurements.</p>	<p>See ?Monitoring and Evaluation? section of the project document.</p>
<p>As aforementioned, STAP encourages the use of national and sub-national indicators to complement the LDN indicators on land cover, land productivity, and carbon sequestration.</p>	<p>The project will support the development of national and state-level indicators through Output 1.2 and its activity 1.2.2, Output 3.1 and its activity 3.1.1.</p>	<p>Please see description of outputs Output 1.2 and its activity 1.2.2, Output 3.1 and its activity 3.1.1.</p>

<p>In addition to listing the GEF core indicators related to sustainable land management (hectares of land restored, hectares of production land under improved practices), carbon sequestration benefits, and biodiversity benefits, STAP suggests identifying indicators to monitor and track progress of the causal links in the theory of change. These indicators will test the validity of the causal pathway, which requires the theory of change to be explicit about assumptions, barriers, and enablers of change.</p>	<p>The results framework of the project includes indicators to assess progress in terms of intermediate outcomes, in addition to the GEF core indicators, within limits placed by UNDP on the total number of indicators.</p>	<p>See ?Results Framework? section of the project document.</p>
<p>On the use of high-yield variety crops, STAP cautions against the use of water resources that may be in short supply.</p>	<p>The project will only promote high yielding varieties of those crops which are climate smart, such as millets, stress tolerant orphan legumes, etc. Will not include crops such as rice, which need high water requirement.</p>	<p>See Project Output 2.2.1 and its sub-activities.</p>
<p>As mentioned above, STAP recommends the project developers establish clear relationships between climate stresses, environmental degradation, and social stresses by testing the causal relationships between these variables. This process will help assess the threats under consideration, as well generate evidence and learning about the concepts underpinning UNDP?s Acceleration Labs.</p>	<p>This has been taken care in project design.</p>	<p>See Annex 12 and Annex 14.</p>
<p>On scaling, the assumption is that knowledge transfer (component 2 and 3), replication of SLM practices through SLM management centers and platforms - scaling out (component 2 and 3), and enhancing land use planning processes will generate the conditions to scale deep (i.e. influence social innovation). STAP would like to see these assumptions on scaling identified and tested in a theory of change, and for the necessary adaptive management to take place based on this learning. Once more, testing assumptions, including on scaling, is needed to help the project achieve durable outcomes. Furthermore, testing assumptions can generate learning and evidence on how to deal with complexity, and contribute to the concepts of the Acceleration Labs.</p> <p>STAP recommends its papers on durability, theory of change, and resilience - where it lists principles that need attention to achieve scaling. UNDP?s resource on scaling might also be useful.</p>	<p>The TOC includes this assumption under pathway 3.</p>	<p>See ?Strategy? section for description of TOC and assumptions.</p>

<p>However, STAP would like for the assumptions on scaling to be dealt with in a theory of change.</p>	<p>The ToC diagram has identified key enablers for scaling.</p>	<p>See ?Strategy? section of the project document.</p>
<p>Incremental, and/or transformational change, is likely to be required given that the western region of India is projected to see an increase in droughts in the future:</p> <p>Template (climatelinks.org)</p> <p>Access denied Climate Change Knowledge Portal (worldbank.org)</p> <p>STAP encourages the project team to consider uncertainty to cope with the level of change (desired and un-desired) that may take place as result of climate change, and other social and economic stressors (e.g. population changes, poor economic growth). This requires considering systematically time scales and spatial scales when planning the interventions. A few pathways could be envisioned that map alternative courses of actions. A source that is useful for developing scenarios and sequencing alternative pathways based on systems thinking is Resilience Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Approach.</p>	<p>During the PPG visit and consultations, the issue of uncertainty was considered for each landscape and across districts. The project activities have been accordingly designed to minimize the risk of climate uncertainty, especially through farm diversification, both at inter and intra species level. Specific model will be identified both for HH level food security as well as for income generation.</p>	<p>See description of Output 2.1 of the project document.</p>
<p>STAP recommends specifying further each stakeholder?s role in relation to delivering the project outcomes.</p> <p>STAP welcomes the inclusion of State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) in the various research and extension activities of the project.</p> <p>As the stakeholder engagement strategy is developed, STAP recommends thinking through the various issues: i) who will be affected</p> <p>by interventions; ii) who needs to be involved to implement activities ? this may change as learning takes places; iii) what are the values, norms, formal and informal arrangements, gender dynamics, and other considerations that influence stakeholders? capacities to enact change.</p>	<p>These suggestions were considered during preparing stakeholder engagement plan (Annex 8) of the project document.</p>	<p>See Annex 8 of the project document.</p>

<p>The project will develop its interventions based on a gender assessment that will be conducted during the PPG phase. The project will reflect gender differentiated components in the logical framework, and will include gender indicators.</p> <p>Additionally, STAP recommends considering whether the full participation of an important stakeholder group is hindered as a result of the gender analysis, and describing how will the project address these obstacles.</p> <p>STAP also recommends consulting recent literature of the UNCCD and UN Women on gender-responsive LDN, and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD's publication on Land Degradation Neutrality Interventions to Foster Gender Equality.</p>	<p>This has been considered during the PPG and the details are described in Annex 10 "Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan" of the project document.</p>	<p>See Annex 10 of the project document.</p>
<p>A comprehensive environmental and social safeguard screening was provided to complement the PIF risk section. The screening considered risks related to indigenous peoples and vulnerable groups (i.e. lack of appropriate consultation), vulnerability to access to land or displacement, gender equality, environmental sustainability, among other risks. STAP looks forward to the risk assessments, and mitigation responses being embedded in the final project document.</p>	<p>This has been considered during the PPG and detailed information is provided in Annex 5 "Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)" and Annex 9. "Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF) or other SES frameworks/plans"</p>	<p>See Annex 5 and Annex 9 of the project document.</p>
<p>In addition to the climate risks identified in the PIF and in the climate risk analysis, STAP recommends addressing the climate resilience measures described to the left. This process will enable the project team to assess for the resilience of the system ? identify how, and where, the system is weak, or strong, in its capacity to deal with disturbances.</p>	<p>Climate and disaster risk screening has been undertaken during the PPG and is presented in Annex 14.</p>	<p>Please see Annex 14.</p>
<p>Additionally, the project team may find it useful to look at the following resources: STAP's screening guidelines and the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal. STAP also recommends reviewing relevant reports of the SPI UNCCD and the GM-UNCCD, such as The Land-Drought Nexus: Enhancing the Role of Land-Based Interventions in Drought Mitigation and Risk Management. A Report of the Science-Policy Interface. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn, Germany.</p>	<p>Detailed maps for climate assessment were prepared during PPG for each state and are presented in Annex 14 of the project document.</p>	<p>See Annex 14 of the project document.</p>

<p>Given the substantial social and environmental risks identified, the STAP recommends the creation of a scientific and technical advisory committee that working closely with the Steering Committee will ensure that best practice, science and technology inform the actions (and corrections that may be needed) throughout the project lifetime, to maximise expected benefits.</p>	<p>Project will establish Scientific Advisory committee, as suggested, which will work closely with SC.</p>	<p>This is included in the governance section of the project document.</p>
<p>Yes, the project includes a component on monitoring (component 3). STAP recommends linking the theory of change (i.e. monitoring of short-term outcomes) to the monitoring component (i.e. monitoring of long-term outcomes).</p>	<p>The ToC includes a pathway with outputs and activities for monitoring long-term outcomes.</p>	<p>See ?Strategy? section of the project document and description of Component 3 under ?Results? section of the project document.</p>
<p>STAP also recommends considering knowledge management metrics, and specifying further how the knowledge generated will influence the scaling of results.</p>	<p>The project will monitor indicators selected for Component 3 such as: (i) Establishment of a real time dashboard detailing targeted interventions using localized data, as well as mapping and assessment of existing government schemes on land degradation, and financial gap assessment data; (ii) Development and/or supporting digital knowledge platform(s) and focal node for storage, management and analysis of LD and LDN-related data, practices and lessons learned from the project to provide accurate and timely information to inform decision-making; and (iii) Updating existing spatial planning/GIS-based systems/facilities, where necessary, to provide robust data and information management capacity to support the knowledge platform, and link with relevant international and regional databases and tools that can support national spatial analyses of land degradation. In addition, Center of Excellence will play a critical role in knowledge transfer and uptake to promote scaling of results.</p>	<p>See indicators in Results Framework; and description of outputs 3.1 and 3.4.</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:**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$200,000			
<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>
71200 - International Consultants	50,100	50,100	0
71300 - Local Consultants	77,626	48,466	29,160
71600 - Travel	25,000	25,000	0
71500 ? UN Volunteers	4,190	920	3,270
72100 - Contractual Services - Companies	15,084	0	15,084
74200 - Audio Visual Productions	9,000	345	8,655
75700 - Trainings, Workshops	19,000	3,409	15,591
TOTAL	200,000	128,240	71,760

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

Project target sites	Latitude	Longitude
Country - India	20.5937? N	78.9629? E
State - Gujarat	22.2587? N	71.1924? E
District - Kachchh	23.7337? N	69.8597? E

Taluka - Bhuj	23.2420? N	69.6669? E
District - Banaskantha	24.3455? N	71.7622? E
Taluka - Tharad	24.3967? N	71.6272? E
Taluka - Deesa	24.2585? N	72.1907? E
State - Maharashtra	19.7515? N	75.7139? E
District - Nandurbar	21.7469? N	74.1240? E
Taluka - Akkalkuwa	21.5546? N	74.0159? E
Taluka - Dhadgaon	21.8263? N	74.2172? E
Taluka - Taloda	21.5628? N	74.2135? E
District - Aurangabad	19.8762? N	75.3433? E
Taluka - Soegaon	20.5960? N	75.6176? E
Taluka - Khuldabad	20.0076? N	75.1925? E
State - Karnataka	15.3173? N	75.7139? E
District - Kodagu	12.3375? N	75.8069? E
Taluka - Madikeri	12.4244? N	75.7382? E
District - Bagalkot	16.1691? N	75.6615? E
Taluka - Badami	15.9186? N	75.6761? E
Taluka - Hungund	16.0576? N	76.0609? E

Project interventions will be across three selected states (Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka) of India. The target landscapes (agriculture, grassland and forest) were identified based on status of land degradation as per information available from 'Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India - Assessment and analysis of changes over 15 years based on remote sensing', which was published by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in collaboration with Space Applications Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation, Department of Space. The following maps indicate status of land degradation over a period of time i.e. for the period 2018-19, 2011-13 and 2003-05.

Map disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP

concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

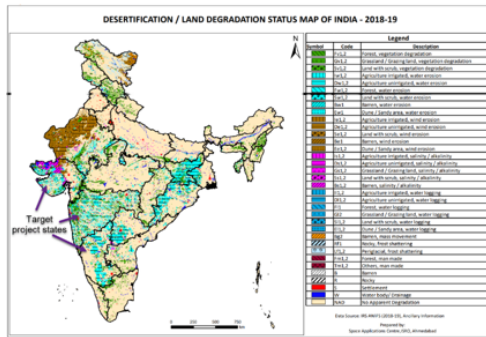


Fig 1. Status of desertification and land degradation based on estimated done during 2018-19.

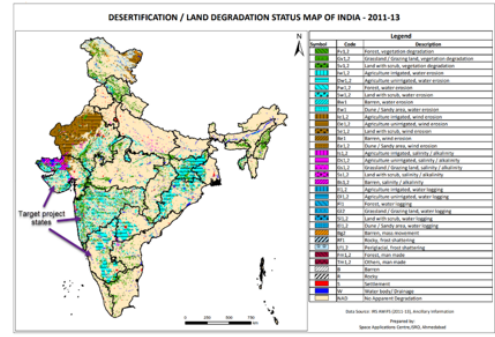


Fig 2. Status of desertification and land degradation based on estimated done during 2011-13.

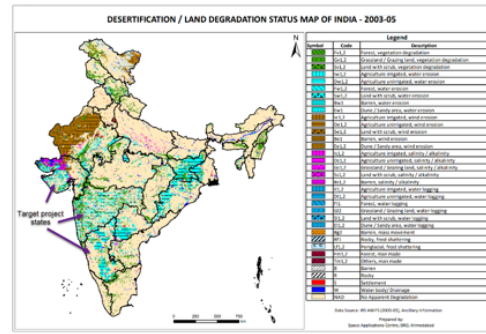


Fig 3. Status of desertification and land degradation based on estimated done during 2003-05.

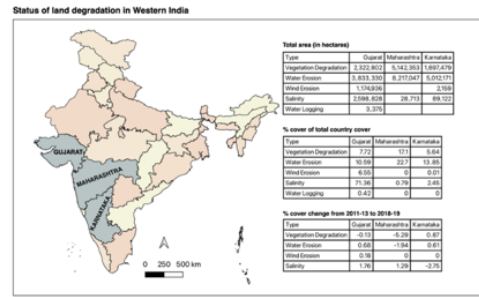


Fig 4. Major drivers of desertification and land degradation across three target status.

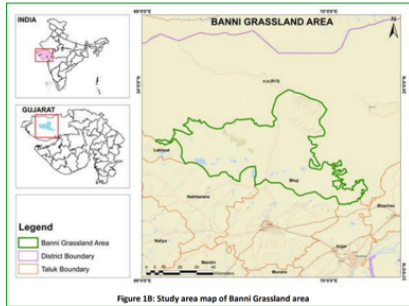


Fig 9. Map of Banni grassland, Kachchh, Gujarat.

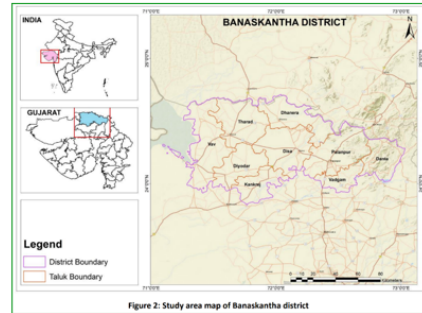


Fig 10. District map of Banaskantha, Gujarat.

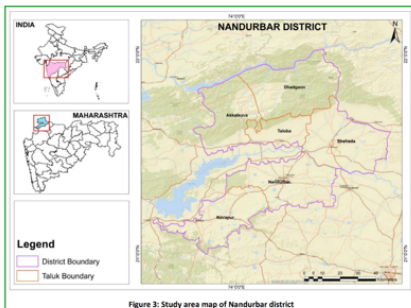


Fig 11. District map of Nandurbar, Maharashtra.

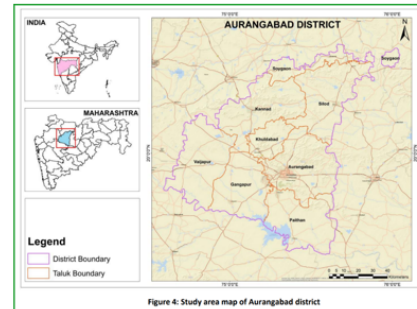


Fig 12. District map of Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

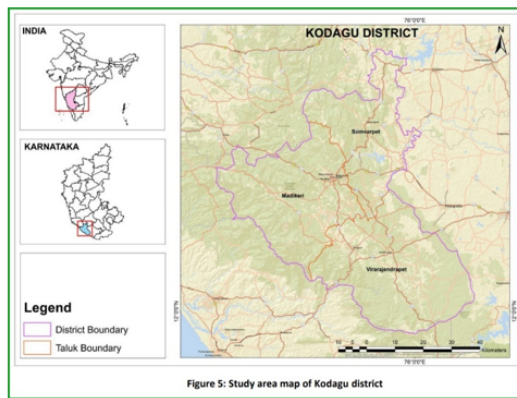


Fig 13. District map of Kodagu, Karnataka.

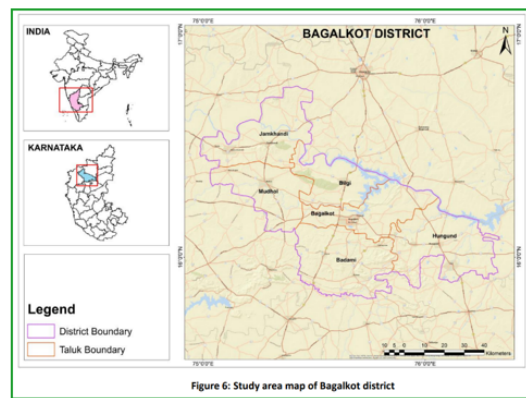


Fig 14. District map of Bagalkot, Karnataka.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (US\$eq.)					
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Sub-Total	M&E	PMC
Equipment	Laptops, tablets, and printers = USD 29,285 (Y1)				-		29,285
Sub-contract to executing partner	UNDP Services to project = USD 64,117. Refer to draft LOA (Letter of Agreement) (Annex 18) for itemized services and their associated cost				-		64,117
Contractual services-Individual	<p>1 National Project Officer = USD 13,058.6/year = USD 65,293</p> <p>1 Procurement, Finance and Admin Officer = USD 5,420/year = USD 27,100</p> <p>1 Landscape Project Officer (Gujarat) = USD 5,520/year = USD 27,600</p> <p>1 Landscape Project Officer (Maharashtra) = USD 5,520/year = USD 27,600</p> <p>1 Landscape Project Officer (Karnataka) = USD 5,520/year = USD 27,600</p> <p>Total = USD 175,193</p>				-		175,193
Contractual services-Individual	<p>3 communication specialists to develop training modules on communication (Activity 3.1.3.4) and implement a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy and associated financing plan to guide all project knowledge management, communication, and outreach activities (Activity 3.1.3.3) and synthesize all project-generated knowledge acquired (Activity 3.1.3.5) = USD 40,000 per state = USD 120,000 (Y1-5) for a period of 60 months</p> <p>1 gender specialist to undertake gender responsive capacity building programmes for key stakeholder groups on LDN assessment and monitoring (Activity 3.1.2.2) = USD 12,000 per year = USD 60,000 (Y1-5) for a period of 60 months</p> <p>1 specialist to operationalize LDN monitoring and reporting system to guide LD and SLM assessment, monitoring and decision-making in the integrated land management process (Activity 3.1.2.3) = USD 15,000 per year = USD 75,000 (Y1-5) for a period of 60 months</p> <p>Total = USD 255,000</p>			255,000.00	255,000.00		
Contractual services-Individual	<p>3 GIS (Geographic Information System) specialists to prepare GIS-based participatory landscape level land use maps to quantify status of prevailing land degradation processes (Activity 2.1.2) at USD 60,000 per state = USD 180,000 (Y2-3) for a period of 24 months</p> <p>3 livelihood specialists to provide technical support for mapping of existing Farmers Producer Organizations (FPOs) that are already engaged in value chains across project sites, and provide training in the steps necessary to formalize and/or strengthen producer groups (Activity 2.3.1) = USD 80,000 per state = USD 240,000 (Y3-4) for a period of 24 months</p> <p>Total = USD 420,000</p>		420,000.00		420,000.00		
Contractual services-Individual	<p>4 public finance specialists to assess current and future financial needs to implement the eco-restoration plans and achieve LDN targets and define a suite of financial incentives and disincentives for third parties (private enterprises, landowners, farmers, and others) for the sustenance of ecological benefits, with special efforts to identify women-specific support under budgets for gender equality (Activity 2.4.1) = USD 65,000 x 4 = USD 260,000 (Y2-3) for a period of 24 months</p> <p>Engagement of 6 community mobilizers (one mobilizer per landscape) for demonstration of sustainable management practices for restoration of grassland, forest, and agriculture lands (Activity 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3) = USD 4,560 per mobilizer per year = USD 136,800 (Y1-5) for a period of 60 months</p> <p>Total = USD 396,800</p>		396,800.00		396,800.00		

Contractual services-Company	<p>1 contract to technical agency to develop digital knowledge platform for storage, management, and analysis of LD (Land Degradation) and LDN-related data, practices, and lessons (Activity 3.1.1.2) including establishing a specific 'dashboard' within the LDN knowledge platform targeted at government decision-makers to facilitate ease of reporting (Activity 3.1.1.3) = USD 100,000 (Y2-3)</p> <p>1 contract to technical agency to develop national LDN monitoring and reporting system (Activity 3.1.2.3) and sustainability plan for the system (Activity 3.1.2.4) = USD 82,000 (Y4-5)</p> <p>Contract to the Center of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management to review activities and mandates of existing relevant national and international institutions (Activity 3.1.4.1), develop gender-aware course curriculum and training modules in consultation with national and international experts (Activity 3.1.4.2), preparing international roster of experts (Activity 3.1.4.3) and for effective South-South Cooperation (Activity 3.1.4.4) = USD 200,000 (Y1-5) Total = USD 382,000</p>			382,000.00	382,000.00		
Contractual services-Company	<p>1 contract to technical agency to review current national LDN core indicators (land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks), assessment and monitoring systems (Activity 3.1.1.1), update existing spatial planning/GIS-based systems/facilities (Activity 3.1.1.4) and develop knowledge sharing mechanism (Activity 3.1.2.1) = USD 100,000 (Y1-2)</p> <p>3 contracts to technical agencies to develop gender-aware project communication materials including web-based platform (Activity 3.1.3.1) and develop a process framework for transfer of project information (Activity 3.1.3.2) = USD 100,000 (Y1-5) Total = USD 200,000</p>			200,000.00	200,000.00		
Contractual services-Company	<p>3 contracts to technical agencies in 3 states (Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Karnataka) for development of 3 SESAs, 3 ESAs, 3 ESMPs, based on which develop gender inclusive land use frameworks for achievement of LDN (Land Degradation Neutrality) through integrated landscape management (Activity 1.1.4) = USD (US Dollar) 30,000 x 3 per state = USD 90,000 (Y1-2)</p> <p>3 contracts to technical agencies for developing gender inclusive state level action plans to mainstream SLM actions across priority sectors (Activity 1.2.2) and implement ESMPs and ESIA protocols at USD 25,000 per state for 3 states = USD 75,000 (Y2-4)</p> <p>1 contract to a technical agency for developing a framework on multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism for scaling out to other states, thereby supporting achievement of the overall national target for LDN (Activity 1.3.3) = USD 50,000 (Y3)</p> <p>3 contracts to technical agency for gap assessment (Activity 1.4.1 and 1.5.1) (Y1), develop landscape specific training modules (Activity 1.4.2) (Y2-3) and training of target stakeholders (Activity 1.4.3 and 1.4.4) (Y2-3) at USD 30,000/state = USD 90,000 Total = USD 305,000</p>	305,000.00			305,000.00		
Contractual services-Company	<p>3 contracts to technical agencies/NGOs for developing gender inclusive eco-restoration plans, including implementing the safeguards capacity building plan = USD 260,000 for three states (Activity 2.1.4) (Y2-3a); Implementation of ESMF that is development of SESAs, ESAs, ESMPs (including LAPs, SIPs) = USD 70,000 (Y1) for a period of 7 weeks over 6 months (Note: balance of ESMF budget of USD20k is reflected under BN#23), total USD 330,000</p> <p>3 contracts to technical agencies to demonstrate sustainable management practices for restoration of grassland, forest, and agriculture lands (Activity 2.2.1, 2.2.2 and 2.2.3) at USD 80,000/ state for 3 states = USD 240,000 (Y1-5)</p> <p>3 contracts to technical agencies to undertake assessments for livelihood enhancement through proposed small and medium enterprises (Activity 2.3.2) at USD 50,000 per state = USD 150,000 (Y2)</p> <p>3 contracts to technical agencies to develop business plans for value chains, based on review of existing value-added products, including market access, marketing plans, etc. (Activity 2.3.3) at USD 90,000 per state = USD 270,000 (Y3)</p> <p>4 contracts to technical agencies to identify and document sources of blended financing for scaling up of SLM (Activity 2.4.2) and develop database of private players engaged in supporting SLM practices (Activity 2.4.4) state at USD 205,000/subcontract = USD 820,000 (Y1-4)</p> <p>3 contracts to technical agencies to draft and implement a sustainable financing strategy for implementation of the eco-restoration plans (Activity 2.4.3) at USD 120,000 per state = USD 360,000 (Y3-5) Total = USD 2,170,000</p>		2,170,000.00		2,170,000.00		

<p>International Consultants</p>	<p>Engagement of 1 International Consultant for Development of 3 SESAs, 3 ESIAAs, 3 ESMPS (including LAPs, SIPs) = USD 20,000 (Y1) for a period of 7 weeks over 6 months</p> <p>Engagement of 1 International Consultant for Mid-term review = USD 20,000 (Y3) for a period of 16 weeks over 12 months</p> <p>Engagement of 1 International Consultant for Terminal Evaluation = USD 20,000 (Y5) for a period of 16 weeks over 12 months</p> <p>Total = USD 60,000</p>				-	60,000.00	
<p>Local Consultants</p>	<p>3 Land-use planning experts/national consultants for review and analyses of existing sectoral policies for LDN (Activity 1.1.1), land use planning policies (Activity 1.1.2) and identify synergies for Rio conventions (Activity 1.1.3) = USD 15,000 per state for 3 states = USD 45,000 (Y1) for a period of 13 weeks over 12 months</p> <p>3 Policy specialists to undertake a review of government schemes currently under implementation to identify opportunities for integrating SLM including mapping of existing funding sources and expenditures to identify opportunities for mainstreaming SLM (Activity 1.2.1) at USD 30,000 per state for 3 states = USD 90,000 (Y1-2) for a period of 20 weeks over 24 months</p> <p>1 national consultant for developing decision-support system for planning, monitoring and adapting climate-resilient SLM (Activity 1.2.3) = USD 65,000 (Y2) for a period of 12 weeks over 12 months</p> <p>Total = USD 200,000</p>	200,000.00			200,000.00		
<p>Local Consultants</p>	<p>Engagement of 1 Safeguards Expert for operationalization of the ESMF and Safeguards Capacity-Building Plan, and monitoring of the Environmental and Social Safeguards = USD 7,000/year for 4 years = USD 28,000 (Y1-4) for a period of 24 weeks over 48 months</p> <p>Engagement of 1 National Consultant for undertaking Mid-term review of the project (Activity 3.2.1.5) = USD 25,000 (Y3) for a period of 16 weeks over 12 months</p> <p>Engagement of 1 National Consultant for undertaking Terminal Evaluation of the project (Activity 3.2.1.5) = USD 25,000 (Year 5) for a period of 16 weeks over 12 months</p> <p>Total = USD 78,000</p>				-	78,000.00	
<p>Local Consultants</p>	<p>One consultant to review and document existing innovative models, best practices, and technologies available on SLM (Activity 2.1.3) (Y1) = USD 50,000 for a period of 8 weeks over 12 months</p> <p>One consultant to develop and initiate a replication plan for upscaling of best practices in at least 5 new districts (Activity 2.2.5) (Y4-5) = USD 60,000 for a period of 13 weeks over 24 months</p> <p>Three consultants to develop training materials and undertake the training for value-chains enhancement and business management (e.g., marketing, processing, and certification) for local communities, extension services, farmers, women groups, and youth (Activity 2.3.4) at USD 30,000 per state (Y2-3) = USD 90,000 for a period of 45 weeks over 24 months</p> <p>Total = USD 200,000</p>	200,000.00			200,000.00		
<p>Training, Workshops, Meetings</p>	<p>1 National level workshop and 3 state level workshops on existing evidence based SLM innovative models, best practices, and technologies available (Activity 2.1.3) in (Y1) = USD 20,000 per state and USD10,000 for national level = USD 70,000</p> <p>Stakeholder engagements for developing and implementing sustainable financing strategy for implementation of the eco-restoration plans (Activity 2.4.3) at USD 30,000 per state = USD 90,000 (Y3-5)</p> <p>Total = USD 160,000</p>	160,000.00			160,000.00		

Training, Workshops, Meetings	6 Stakeholder consultations to develop and present landscape level eco restoration plan including obtaining the FPIC (Activity 2.1.4) at USD 80,000 per state for 3 states = USD 240,000 (Y2-3) 6 Training programmes (one for each landscape) for staff, community members and local NGOs to monitor demonstrations being undertaken on SLM (Activity 2.2.4) USD 20,000 per training = USD 120,000 (Y3-4) 8 Trainings on strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (Activities 2.3.1) and value chain development and business management (Activity 2.3.4) at USD 15,000 per training = USD 120,000 (Y3-4) Total = USD 480,000		480,000.00		480,000.00		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Capacity building workshops (Activity 1.4.1) (Y1) and training programmes of staff, local NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), trainers, and community members in 6 landscapes (Activity 1.4.4 and 1.5.4) (Y3-5) at USD 27,500 per landscape = USD 165,000	165,000.00			165,000.00		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Deliver a training module on communication and outreach to develop the capacity of the Project Management Unit and key stakeholders to design and deliver effective social-media content (Activity 3.1.3.4) = USD 12,000 per state = USD 36,000 (Y2-4) Total = USD 36,000			36,000.00	36,000.00		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Establish knowledge sharing platforms and undertake capacity building programmes for key stakeholder groups on LDN assessment and monitoring (Activity 3.1.2.2) = USD 7,000 per state = USD 21,000 (Y2-4) Total = USD 21,000			21,000.00	21,000.00		
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Organize Inception Workshop at national (Activity 3.2.1.1) = USD 20,000 (Y1) PMUs (Project Management Unit) staff orientation, periodic training, and supervision missions for effective project management (Activity 3.2.1.2) and Monitoring of Environmental and Social Safeguards including gender and stakeholder engagement = USD 2,000/year = USD 10,000 (Y1-5) Total = USD 30,000				-	30,000.00	
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Stakeholder consultations for developing and presenting the state level SLM action plans (Activity 1.2.2) (Y2-3) and to develop the decision support system (Activity 1.2.3) (Y2) = USD 30,000 per state = USD 90,000 6 consultations in each state to establish multi-stakeholder platforms (Activity 1.3.2) at USD 2,500 per consultation (Y3) = USD 15,000 Total = USD 105,000	105,000.00			105,000.00		
Travel	7 Exposure visits of champion farmers (Activity 1.5.5) at USD 6,000 per visit = USD 42,000 (Y4-5) Total = USD 42,000	42,000.00			42,000.00		
Travel	Travel cost associated with baseline survey (Activity 2.1.1) (Y1) and preparing participatory land use plans (Activity 2.1.2) (Y2-3) = USD 85,000 Travel cost for undertaking the trainings on strengthening FPOs (Activity 2.3.1) and on value chain enhancement and business management (Activity 2.3.4) = USD 85,000 (Y3-4) Total = USD 170,000		170,000.00		170,000.00		
Travel	Travel costs to establish knowledge sharing platforms and undertake capacity building programmes for key stakeholder groups (Activity 3.1.2.2) at USD 15,000/State (Y2-4) = USD 45,000 Travel costs for operationalizing national LDN monitoring and reporting system to guide LD and SLM assessment (Activity 3.1.2.3) (Y1-4) at USD 15,000/State = USD 45,000 Travel cost to operationalize plan for the sustainability (financial, institutional, and human capacity) of the LDN monitoring and reporting system (Activity 3.1.2.4) at USD 15,000/State = USD 45,000 (Y4-5) Travel costs for participation in national, regional, and global events including Conference of Parties (Activity 3.1.3.5) = USD 20,000 (Y3-5) Total = USD 155,000			155,000.00	155,000.00		
Travel	Travel of consultants to the six landscapes to identify key stakeholders (Activity 1.3.1) across target project sites and capacity assessment of stakeholders (Activity 1.4.1) including community members (Activity 1.5.1) (Y1) at USD 6,000/landscape = USD 36,000 Travel of consultants to the six landscapes to identify champion famers using FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent) approach (Activity 1.5.2) (Y1) and undertake capacity building and awareness programmes for tribal communities across the target districts to carry out specialized training modules (Activity 1.5.3) (Y2-3) = USD 60,000 Total = USD 96,000	96,000.00			96,000.00		
Travel	Yearly visits for tracking GEF (Global Environment Facility) core indicators (Activity 3.2.1.3) and Implementation of ESMPs and ESAs report and protocols = USD 4,000/year = USD 20,000 (Y 1-5) Travel for MTR (Medium Term Review) to both the landscapes (Activity 3.2.1.5) = USD 5,000 (Y3) Travel for TE (Terminal Evaluation) to both the landscapes (Activity 3.2.1.5) = USD 5,000 (Y5) Total = USD 30,000				-	30,000.00	
Office Supplies	Stationery, printer cartridges, paper, etc = USD 4,138/year = USD 20,688 (Y1-5)				-		20,688.00

Other Operating Costs	Annual audit at USD 5,000/year for 5 years = USD 25,000 (Y1-5)				-		25,000.00
Other Operating Costs	Printing of communication materials and knowledge products (Activity 3.1.3.1) = USD 7,000 per state (for 3 states) and USD 7,915 at the national level = USD 28,915 (Y1-5) Total = USD 28,915			28,915.00	28,915.00		
Other Operating Costs	USD 30,000/state for 3 states and USD 10,000 for national level for developing and disseminating the training modules (Activity 1.4.2), translating, and distributing the land use frameworks (Activity 1.1.4) and state level action plans to decentralize DLDD planning (Activity 1.2.2) to landscape level community-based organizations (Y1-5) = USD 100,000 Total = USD 100,000	100,000.00			100,000.00		
Grand Total		1,013,000.00	3,996,800.00	1,077,915.00	6,087,715.00	198,000.00	314,285.00

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit a 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 Agencies 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).