



Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10572

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project

Countries

Gambia

Agency(ies)

IFAD

Other Executing Partner(s)

Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Land Degradation

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Income

Generating Activities, Ecosystem Approach, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Fire Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Agriculture, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Communications, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Local Communities, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making

Sector

Mixed & Others

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

6/1/2022

Expected Implementation Start

9/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

8/31/2027

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

441,418.00

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 (SLM)	GET	2,663,702.00	16,231,327.00
LD-1-4	Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	GET	1,444,880.00	9,016,343.00
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	600,000.00	3,953,430.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			4,708,582.00	29,201,100.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation (LD2.5)	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Enhanced institutional capacities across sectors and governance and coordination mechanisms for SLM and LDN mainstreaming in place</p> <p><i>Indicators and targets:</i></p> <p>(i) improvement in national institutional capacities in SLM and LDN (300 staff trained of whom 50% will be women)</p> <p>(ii) number of functional new governance frameworks and Capacity development plans for SLM and LDN.</p> <p>(iii) LDN coordination mechanism, knowledge platform and monitoring system</p>	<p>1.1.1 One (1) Institutional Capacity Development Plan and program, including at least 4 training programs (participatory land-use planning, collaborative decision making, multistakeholder approaches, SLM, LDN) for 4,200 beneficiaries; 10 Farmers Field School (FFS), one vocational education center (Songhai Centre) (with at least 50% of participants being women)</p> <p>1.1.2. One (1) open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system developed for land-use decision-making, targeting, partnerships, research and resource mobilization</p> <p>1.1.3 One (1) land use management plan is developed in cooperation with relevant national and</p>	GET	600,000.00	4,010,348.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Implementation of Integrated landscape planning and management to reduce land degradation and achieve LDN (LD1.4)	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1 Improved, coordinated and collaborative management of landscapes enhancing their ecological integrity and ensuring better agricultural production and livelihoods</p> <p><i>Indicators and targets:</i></p> <p>(i) 12,000 ha of degraded production landscapes restored (contributing 11% to 109 000 ha LDN national target).</p> <p>(ii) 14,500 ha under improved management in 11 districts</p> <p>(ii) Number of people with improved livelihoods (30% women)</p> <p>(iii) Tons of carbon sequestered 2, 936, 362 Tco2eq</p>	<p>2.1.1 Five (5) Integrated Water and Soil Management practices are promoted by 700 households through dikes, and Conservation</p> <p>Agriculture, including the promotion of system of rice intensification (1,500 ha)</p> <p>2.1.2 12,000 ha of degraded agricultural production landscapes are rehabilitated and restored through assisted natural regeneration focusing on locally adapted species and- Improved bushfire management (7,500 ha); woodlots using multipurpose tree species, agro-silvopastoral multipurpose tree species, agro-silvo-pastoral practices (4,500 ha) for LDN implementation</p> <p>2.1.3 1,000 ha of woodlots are integrated into the sustainable wood and biomass energy</p>	GET	2,303,071.00	12,781,978.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Promotion of SLM for Climate-Smart Agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and Pastoral management (LD1.1)	Investment	3.1 Improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices	<p>3.1.1 5,000 ha of land under agroforestry and sustainable and diversified cropping systems.</p> <p>3.1.2. 2,000 ha of land under Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources.</p> <p>3.1.3. Participatory SLM plan developed on 15,000 ha (mixing different techniques such as soil bunds, stone lines, etc. to reduce water runoff and soil erosion in productive agricultural land, including watershed management.</p> <p>3.1.4. 1,000 Jambar cooking stoves distributed to 1,000 households to reduce the use of charcoal and fuelwoods which contribute to soil erosion and general land degradation. (with 80% beneficiaries</p>	GET	1,084,249.00	7,021,354.00
		<p><i>Targets and indicators:</i></p> <p>(i) 22,000 of landscape under improved practices</p> <p>(ii) Improved livelihoods for 4,830 people (50% women)</p> <p>(iii) Tons of carbon sequestered 2, 936, 362 Tco2eq-</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 4: Monitoring the Project's Contribution to LDN	Technical Assistance	<p>4.1 Enhanced monitoring and evaluation of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon carried out in line with project-level indicators in contribution to national LDN agenda</p> <p><i>Indicators and targets:</i></p> <p>(i) Number of people with enhanced capacity to monitor & evaluate project performance</p> <p>(ii) One LDN information hub</p> <p>(iii) % of data users satisfied with data quality and data management</p> <p>Targets include:</p> <p>-Existence of recognized M&E system</p> <p>-User access to M&E plans, data and results by project staff and EE</p>	<p>4.1.1 1 (One) monitoring plan established and agreed upon by key stakeholders, including an interpretation modality for the changes in land cover (positive, negative, stable) are established and agreed upon .</p> <p>4.1.2 1 (One) LDN information hub operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned to target audience.</p>	GET	500,000.00	4,010,348.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	4,487,320.00	27,824,028.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET		221,262.00		1,377,072.00	
Sub Total(\$)			221,262.00		1,377,072.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)			4,708,582.00		29,201,100.00	

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(\$)
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	17,020,000.00
GEF Agency	IFAD	Loans	Investment mobilized	4,255,000.00
Donor Agency	Agence Francaise de d?veloppement (AFD)	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,926,100.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				29,201,100.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilised is mixed and coming from various sources such as IFAD baseline investment and the AFD who are providing grant resources for the project. As the country has a limited capacity, grant resources were identified as the best mechanism for funding this project in alignment with Government recommendation.

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(\$)
IFAD	GET	Gambia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	4,708,582	441,418	5,150,000.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					4,708,582.00	441,418.00	5,150,000.00

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 (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
IFAD	GET	Gambia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	150,000		150,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
14500.00	12000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	12,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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 shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
4,500.00			

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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)
22000.00	36500.00	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)
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Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
22,000.00	36,500.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)	0	2936362	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	3173914	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)		2,936,362		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	3,173,914			

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Anticipated start year of accounting	2021	2022		
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 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	9,041	5,715		
Male	6,159	3,893		
Total	15200	9608	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

indicator 11: The total number of direct beneficiaries represents about 1,392 households, based on the fact that the average household size in The Gambia is 6.9

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Overview of the National Context

1. Situated in West Africa, The Gambia is almost surrounded by Senegal and has a total land area of 11,285 km². This consists mainly of riverine flats, swamps and tidal creeks which extend 500 km inland. The country is divided into 5 administrative Regions, comprising 40 districts. The population in 2020 is estimated at 2.31 million people and a population density of 204[1]¹ persons per km² making the country one of the most densely populated countries. At macro-level, The Gambia is among the Low-Income, Food Deficit Countries (LIFDC) of the world. The Gambia is faced with rising food insecurity, poverty and malnutrition, despite a promising environment for improved growth, stability and partnerships.[2]² Its GDP per capita was recorded at USD534.30 in 2017 which is only 4% of the world's average and also averaged USD512.15 from 1966 until 2017 with a Gini coefficient of 35.9 points in 2015. Its UNDP Human Development Index (HDI) was estimated at 0.460 (i.e. ranked 174th country) in 2017 with slightly increasing poverty levels. The 2010 Integrated Household Survey (IHS) indicated a poverty headcount rate of 48.4% compared to 58% of the 2008 Poverty Assessment Report with rural and urban disparities. In 2010, the rural and urban poverty headcount ratios were computed at 73.9% and 39.6%, respectively indicating that poverty is a rural phenomenon.

2. According to the World Bank, about 72% of the poor and 91% of the extremely poor are farmers. Young people are the most affected by poverty, with 60% of the poor being under the age of 20. The youth have limited access to land and other productive resources, partly explaining the unemployment particularly for rural youth representing 37% while it is 12.9% at the national level. With regard to gender, the Gambia is a patriarchal society with cultural values and roles constraining female participation in society and leadership. The 2015 Gender Inequality Index (GII) ranks The Gambia 148th out of 159 countries. Women represent 70% of the agricultural labor force. They have, however, minimal control over their own land, income and access to credit, and are vulnerable to climate change. The labor hours of women farmers are disproportionately high in comparison with men. Gender parity exists at the pre-school, primary, and secondary levels, but inequality remains in tertiary and vocational training. The literacy rate for women is only 40% compared with 64% for men. However, female-headed households are less food insecure than male-headed households, and poverty is more prevalent in male-headed households (50.9%) than in female-headed households (38.3%).[3]³

3. Poverty was highest (76.4%) among household heads working in the agriculture and fishing industries which constituted 52% of the entire population. In the subsequent survey (IHS 2015/2016),

48.6% lived below the poverty line of US\$ 1.25 with the urban areas of Banjul and Kanifing decreasing by 4.7% during the period. On the other hand, poverty in the rural areas increased by 5.3%, exacerbated by the fact that while the rural population constitute less than 50% of the population, they make up more than 60% of the total poor. These figures indicate that about 52% of the entire population is still suffering from pervasive and endemic poverty. To stem the problem of poverty, articulated and concerted macroeconomic stabilization reform measures must be re-directed at reducing the negative poverty impacts on the affected population.[4]⁴ The Gambia is a Party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and has already set its voluntary target for the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) agenda. This project is therefore, conceived within the context of supporting The Gambia to be on course in its implementation of the LDN targets as well as the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework through on-the-ground implementation of sustainable land management practices and creation of an enabling environment to support the implementation of voluntary LDN targets.

4. It is estimated that over 54% of the total land area is good quality arable land. Agriculture and natural resources (ANR) activities constitute the principal source of livelihood for most Gambians. More than 500,000 smallholder farmers participate in agriculture and natural resources production and most of them are among the poorest and also net food purchasers. About 70% of the predominantly rural labour force was employed in the ANR sector, contributing between 20% and 25% to GDP and generating 40% of total export earnings, and an estimated two-thirds of total household income (GBOs, 2017). Rice is an important crop that is mostly consumed on farm (70%). As a net importer of rice, The Gambia spends more that \$70 million to satisfy local per capita consumption of 117kg per annum - about 106% above the world average of 56.9kg, 83% being imported. The current rice consumption is about 215,000 Metric Tons (MT) of which only 36,000 MT is produced locally and 179,000 MT is imported.

The LDN national context

5. As a Party to several multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), the government of The Gambia has, over the years, demonstrated a high level of commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. At the 12th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCCD in Ankara, Turkey in 2015, the SDG target 15.3 was endorsed, and the LDN agenda accepted as a strong vehicle for driving the implementation of the Convention through to 2030. As a Party to the UNCCD, The Gambia expressed interest in the LDN Target Setting Programme and committed to setting voluntary national LDN targets in line with its international obligations. The government of The Gambia (GoTG) recognises that the LDN agenda is linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as other national-level development commitments. The implementation of LDN in the country is therefore, an effort to contribute to achieving multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits ? including fostering policy coherence, advancing both climate and biodiversity action and catalysing financing and non-financing opportunities from various other sources, including the private sector.

6. Under the auspices of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and support from various stakeholders in the country, the national LDN target setting process was successfully conducted in The Gambia from May 2016 to September 2017. During the assessment of the LDN trends and drivers (focusing on the three LDN proxy indicators ? land cover, soil organic carbon and land productivity) in The Gambia, it was revealed that several parts of the country are exposed to land degradation trends as detailed below:

? *Land cover*: Forest cover declined from 41 km² in 2000 to 37 km² in 2010, representing a decrease of 4 km². However, during the same period, shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas increased from 1,575 km² to 1,576 km², representing an increase of 1 km². Croplands also increased from 7,308 km² to 7,310 km², representing an increase of 2 km²;

? *Soil organic carbon (SOC)*: SOC levels are generally low in the country, ranging from 26.2 (ton/ha) in artificial areas to 43.6 (ton/ha) in wetlands and water bodies. Further analysis of the data revealed that a change from forest to cropland resulted in a loss of 2,412 tons of soil organic carbon. Therefore, negative land cover changes are occurring in areas of low carbon content soils; and

? *Land productivity*: All land use categories except forest and bare land and other areas, show early signs of decline and are stable but stressed. Shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas show 2.3% decline in productivity, croplands 15.7%, wetlands and water bodies 5.9% and artificial areas 36.7%. A change from forest to cropland resulted in an increase in land productivity.[5]⁵

7. In the face of these land degradation trends, The Gambia continues to face threats related to fuelwood extraction, shifting cultivation, forest degradation, overgrazing, bush burning, and oil and gas development in the country. These are detailed below.

Changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

The design of INLAMAG has benefited from a range of stakeholder consultations. During the different phases of consultations: the initial, during the PIF development stage and PPG phases, similar threats to land management, drivers of land degradation and barriers to sustainable land management were consistently highlighted. The consultations, including thematic studies identified similar focal areas of interventions were mentioned to address in order to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia land degradation in The Gambia. Broadly put, the changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF are marginal. The changes reflect the drive to be transformative, innovative and ambitious yet remaining grounded in the socioeconomic context of The Gambia, as well as the size of the financial envelop for the project. It also be noted that the changes reflect supportive comments from reviewers, including Council Members and the GEF Secretary. The following changes have been made:

No.	PIF stage	CEO Endorsement stage
1.	Component 1 with five outputs	Component 1 has four outputs
2.	Output 2.1.1 read, ?Five (5)Integrated water and soil management practices are promoted by 700 households through dikes, and conservation agriculture (1,500 ha).?	Output 2.1.1 now reads as follows: Five (5) Integrated Water and Soil Management practices are promoted by 700 households through dikes, and Conservation Agriculture, including the promotion of system of rice intensification (it includes system of rice intensification in response to Norway/Denmark?s comment)
3.	Number of direct beneficiaries = 9,608 (5,669 (59%) women; and 3,939 (41%) men	Number of direct beneficiaries = 9,608 (5,715 (59%)) women; and 3,893 (41%) men
4.	Area of land restored = 14,500 ha	Area of land restored = 12,000 ha
5.	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) = 22,000 ha	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) = 36,500 ha
6.	Total area under improved management = 36,500 ha	Total area under improved management = 48,500
7.	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO ₂ e) = 3,173,914 TCO ₂	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO ₂ e) =2, 936, 362 Tco ₂ eq
8.	No component linkage text	The document underscores the linkages and coherence of the components to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia

Threats and Barriers

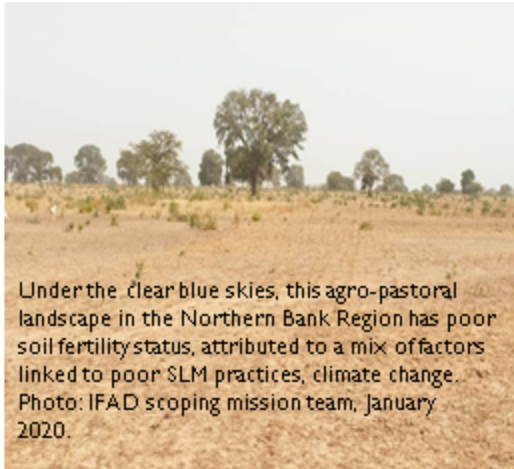
Threats

8. The integrity of land in The Gambia is threatened by natural causes as well as anthropogenic factors. For example, the country experienced droughts in 2011, 2014 and 2015; floods and wind storms in 2012 and to a lesser extent in 2016. As a result of the 2011 drought, there was massive crop losses which had negative impacts on the country?s economy. It is estimated that about 20% of the country is affected by floods annually. Agricultural productivity is hindered by reduced water infiltration, high water run-off rates and the drying of inland valleys and river tributaries. Erosion and siltation of the Gambia River have reduced water flow and resulted in increased saltwater intrusion into the marginal lands. Siltation and sedimentation continue to threaten the viability and sustainability of lowland

agriculture. These effects combined with periodic floods and epidemics place the country at risk of disasters. Regarding anthropogenic factors, the GoTG has to contend with unsustainable land-use practices such as overstocking of livestock and reliance on slash-and-burn agricultural techniques that lead to widespread land degradation and loss of soil fertility, eventually negatively impacting agricultural productivity. This also contributes to the phenomenon of migration in The Gambia.

9. *Fuelwood extraction:* The cutting of trees for fuelwood is among the leading causes of deforestation in the Gambia. It is reported that the forest in the Gambia provides 85% of the country's domestic energy needs in the form of fuelwood for over 90% of the population. As the population continues to increase, the fuelwood demand continues to increase unprecedentedly and put more pressure on the country's remaining forest resources. Currently, many parts of the country are facing shortages as the population of preferred fuel wood species decline. The market demand for certain species of fuel wood compelled wood vendors to harvest green wood. The high demand for domestic energy has resulted in indiscriminate tree felling without regard to their slow replacement. Species like *Combretum* and *Termanalia* are particularly threatened by cutting, burning, poisoning or lopping for branch wood in order to ensure a regular fuelwood supply to households and urban markets.

10. *Shifting cultivation.* Despite the fact that population growth has led to land scarcity in The Gambia, shifting cultivation is still widely practiced. The fallow periods have, as a result of population growth, been considerably reduced. Owing to population pressure and land scarcity, farmers are forced to intensively cultivate small areas of land every year. This leads to intensive soil nutrient mining and eventual decline in crop yields. Furthermore, land placed under continuous cultivation has high levels of erosion that leads to sedimentation of downstream rice fields and aquatic and marine habitats. Soil erosion and siltation from agriculture (and livestock grazing) are important processes degradation of production lands in The Gambia. Annual soil erosion is estimated at 12.5 tonnes per hectare per year for frequently cultivated soils having a slope of 2% or more. These processes have diminished soil productivity, and the eroded materials are deposited in the lowlands of the river basin, causing sedimentation in the rice growing areas with adverse impacts on aquatic life. In addition, the country faces other sources of degradation, such as over-extraction of woodland trees, uncontrolled bushfires, and production of charcoal results in a considerable loss of vegetation cover which leads to widespread soil erosion and sediment transfer into the Gambia River. This in turn affects the agricultural productivity; forest development; and livestock production with negative impacts on rural livelihoods.



11. *Forest and agricultural farming:* Agricultural production systems employed in crop farming consist of intensive land used types, characterized by low level of input. Shifting cultivation is still widely practiced in The Gambia, even though fallow periods have considerably reduced as land becomes scarce in most farming communities. The compounding effect of high population pressure and the scarcity of land have forced farmers to intensively cultivate a piece of land year after year. This exhausts the soil nutrients and ultimately leads to decline in crop yields. Land placed under continuous cultivation further becomes eroded with the eroded materials transported to low land areas resulting to sedimentation. With the recent introduction of early maturing upland rice in pursuit of food self-sufficiency policy compounds the continuing threats of agricultural activities on biodiversity.



12. *Forest degradation*: In The Gambia the rising demand for food and other agricultural products has resulted in clearing of natural habitats to make space for agricultural land; and economic, demographic and social pressures are likely to put further pressure on habitats. Wetland ecosystems are increasingly being used for rice cultivation and for dry season vegetable gardening as well as grazing for livestock. Harvesting of mangroves for fuel wood and other domestic uses has greatly reduced the area of mangrove forests. Loss of mangrove forests, along with the contamination due to pesticides and sedimentation from poor watershed management, represent serious threats to fisheries and coastal aquaculture. Demand for timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) from protected areas is high, and many areas within and adjacent to protected areas are being degraded. Between 1946 and 1998, woodland cover in the country decreased from 81% to 42%; during this period, closed woodlands disappeared almost entirely and tree density in open woodlands decreased, while the area of tree and shrub savannah increased as a result of the extensive conversion and degradation of the other forest classes. According to the 2010 National Forest Assessment (NFA), forest cover decreased from 505,300 ha (44% of the country's surface area) in 1981/82 to 423,000 ha (37%) by 2009/2010. During this period, mangrove forests alone declined from 67,000 ha to 35,700 ha. Under business-as-usual rates of deforestation (estimated at 5-7%) , more than half of the remaining forest/woodland cover in The Gambia will be lost in the next ten years.

13. *Overgrazing*: The Gambia has a large livestock population with high stocking density. Livestock is reared in an extensive free-range system in open grasslands / rangelands. Due to the high stocking density and the incidence of annual bush fires that consume most of the feed resources, there is consistent scarcity of livestock feed during the dry months of the year. The convergence and concentration of livestock in and around isolated pockets of remaining grazing areas leads to range degradation, loss of topsoil, and the proliferation of unpalatable species.

14. *Bush burning*: Bushfires have increasingly become a common phenomenon in production landscapes in The Gambia. The fires are uncontrolled, and therefore, when done at the time of the year when the production landscapes are most vulnerable to seasonal winds and sunshine, they expose the land to erosion. Bushfires are introduced as communities search for firewood, cultivation, settlements and to a lesser extent, hunting. It is therefore, urgent to curb the level of bushfires in the country with appropriate and enforceable policies that reflect people's livelihood needs.



15. *Oil and Gas development sector*: massive oil offshore reserves have been discovered in the Gambian seas. The exploration may impact the marine ecosystems and biodiversity and reduce the fish stock, pollute mangroves forests, the river and soils and water for agriculture if not well managed. Specific measures including environmental safeguards and clauses in all contracts to protect the existing natural capital, and promote social inclusion must be developed. In the long term, the reduction in ecosystem goods and services is leading to negative effects on the rural food supply, health, nutritional status, income streams and socio-economic well-being. Therefore, any actions towards mitigating those impacts must be included in policies, strategies, plans, programmes and investments.

16. Through its LDN target setting program, the GoTG has demonstrated the political will and commitment to address the threats above that affect the productive capacity of land in the country. However, the government still faces barriers in attempting to avoid, reduce or reverse the trends witnessed in land degradation. These barriers are related to policy and institutional capacities of relevant stakeholders to deal with land degradation, land-use practices related to agricultural production systems and livelihood sources that compromise the productive capacities of production landscapes, and generally, lack of alternative livelihoods that do not reduce people's dependence on the exploitation of the already vulnerable forest landscapes.

Barriers

Inadequate capacities, policy and institutional mechanisms for effective harmonization, mainstreaming and implementation of SLM to achieve the national LDN targets

17. The GoTG recognises that the country needs cross- and inter-sectoral approaches, mechanisms and platforms to successfully implement the LDN agenda. The implementation needs to reflect the wide array of stakeholders that are involved in addressing the challenges of land degradation. These stakeholders include government institutions, non-governmental organizations including the civil society, international development partners as well as the private sector. The key government institutions include the Department of Agricultural Services, the Department of Forestry, the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, the National Environment Agency, the Department of Livestock Services, the Department of Fisheries, the Department of Water Resources, the Geological Department and the National Agricultural Research Institute, together with their various line ministries.[6]⁶ At the national level, key intersectoral platforms include Agriculture and Natural Resources Working Group, the National Land Degradation Neutrality Working Group as well as the National Environmental Management Council. The country has also in place key policies and programmes relevant to LDN, including the National Water Policy (2006), the Gambia National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) on Climate Change (2007), the Forestry sub-sector Policy

(2010-2019), the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (2015), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020), the Draft Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy (2017-2026) and the the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015).

18. Despite the existence of these platforms and a number of laws, policies and regulations related to land use, land tenure and economic development, the GoTG acknowledges that there is lack of harmonization to ensure integrated and holistic implementation of the LDN agenda and SLM practices. Weak capacities, policy and institutional arrangements leads to conflicting institutional policies and gaps (e.g wildlife and tourism, forestry and agriculture, etc.), general weakness in the functioning of existing platforms and institutional arrangements (e.g committees), political interference and poor land tenure arrangements that threaten the national LDN agenda, leading to poor agricultural practices and the conversion of forests to other land uses because of competingly irreconcilable development foci and priorities.[7] Overall, at the level of capacities and institutions, the country lacks an institutional framework to propel the implementation of the national LDN agenda. The country also lacks a policy agenda to mainstream SLM and LDN into relevant development plans, including bringing together relevant stakeholders at all administrative tiers. This is partly attributed to the incipience of the LDN target setting in the country ? thus, many stakeholders are not familiar with what the LDN agenda is about and what it is supposed to achieve . Due to lack of stakeholder training in the LDN approach, there are no capacities to formulate aspirational regional-level baselines in the Gambia following the LDN global indicators.

Inappropriate land management systems exacerbated by lack of land policy

19. Given the population dynamics in the country, the land size, and agriculture being the main livelihood activity for the majority of the population, the Gambia is a complex landscape ? a landscape that has to meet the socio-economic needs of the population, while remaining resilient to anthropogenic and environmental pressures on productivity in terms of socio-economic needs and global environmental benefits. In this mix of competing socioeconomic and environmental needs, integrated landscape management practice should address underlying drivers of environmental degradation as well socioeconomic concerns of local communities. However, as noted in the first barrier, there is no policy guidance on land use and management at landscape level to establish appropriate land management practices. embedded in sound integrated landscape management practices. These practices will prove valuable in meeting socioeconomic and environmental sustainability in The Gambia that is resourceconstrained and facing serious threats of the impacted of climate-change.

20. Additionally, the Gambia does not, hitherto have a land policy to guide land use to foster socio-economic prosperity without unduly compromising the productive capacity of land. The land policy

would have been an opportunity for leveraging and mainstreaming of land degradation neutrality into land use planning at all the administrative tiers. A land policy strengthens tenure security, and potential for household investment in SLM practices. Currently, much of the land in The Gambia is used following traditional customs, with hardly any incentives to improve the management of land to ensure sustainable productivity. When land is exhausted, it is simply abandoned or given to women while men start farming more productive land. The challenges of land use planning in The Gambia have three principal dimensions: the ever increasing environmental/natural problems (e.g climate change, siltation, salinization); anthropogenic activities (e.g over-grazing, bushfire, shifting cultivation, population growth necessitating more settlements); and policy and institutional inadequacies (e.g lack of land policy, disharmonized policy and development priorities, lack of institutional capacities, weak extension services).

Lack of opportunities for SLM-related market-based alternative livelihoods

21. One of the major barriers in ensuring sustainable resource management in rural Gambia is the lack of adequate livelihood opportunities for communities living almost entirely on land and forest resources. Through consultations with communities in the target areas of this proposed project (in West Coast Region, North Bank and Lower River Bank), communities reiterated that their livelihoods are tied to the exploitation of land and forest resources (e.g non-timber forest products) because they do not have any other economically rewarding activities to depend on. In the dire and precarious situations that local communities live in, how they produce what they survive on is of secondary importance. They have to produce and eat first before they can even think about the environmental implications of their production systems.



22. Additionally, the production levels are too subsistent for them to lessen their reliance on the (unsustainable) exploitation of land. For example, communities that have engaged in vegetable production appreciate it as a sedentary activity compared to shifting cultivation, however, the scale of production still remains subsistent and therefore, it still has to be complemented by resource extraction such as cutting firewood and selling charcoal, both of them being not consistent with SLM practices.

The existing agricultural-related activities and products do not have the value chains to support the diversification of incomes and increase the economic returns for the benefit of communities. The lack of value chains has both socio-economic and environmental implications for the landscape: it increases people's reliance and overexploitation of land and forest resources for essentially home consumption? this leads to environmental degradation as the production levels per unit area are low and therefore, communities are forced to increase land size. Second, lack of value-chains also translates into lost opportunities for job creation, knowledge and technology transfer from the private sector in the food industry, food insecurity, post-harvest losses and alternative incomes from primary and secondary processing.

23. Land degradation is thus a significant threat to the Gambia's socio-economic and environmental well-being, and this project is designed to support the widespread adoption of SLM related activities in the country by supporting integrated landscape management, planning and implementation that balance development needs and environmental services, strengthen and harmonise legal and policy frameworks for land and resource management, build capacity and coordination frameworks for implementation of SLM practices, and increase public awareness of land degradation threats. At community level, in the selected districts, the project will demonstrate integrated landscape restoration, and diversification of alternative sources of income for to promote and scale up sustainable land management practices. Therefore, the project proposes a suite of both soft and hard activities to promote the integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in the Gambia. Through the proposed activities, the project will seek to address the challenges of SLM and land degradation in the Gambia, particularly those linked to deforestation, poor soil management and constraints to alternative and diversified livelihood incomes. It will bring 48,500 ha of land under improved management in contribution to the nation's 109,900 ha LDN target.
24. With the incremental GEF financing coming from the national STAR allocations, the project will promote a standardized LDN approach and promote SLM and Climate-Smart Agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management through strengthening of the enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation (LD2.5). By Climate-Smart Agriculture, tThe project will focus on supporting actions to improve agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a vulnerable and degraded agricultural production landscape in the target regions. In the context of this project, Climate-Smart Agriculture will be an important approach managing production landscapes (cropland, livestock, forests) to address the interlinked challenges of rural food security and climate change. This focus will categorically exclude the use of GMOs. The focus will on promoting landraces.
25. With more restored land, these efforts will help the country to develop and consolidate its agricultural production, including staple crops/ livestock and upgrade vegetable garden

business models built under previously funded IFAD project (NEMA) and the new investment called Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS) that the GEF project is complementing. ROOTS focuses on rice and vegetable.

The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

26. The Government of The Gambia has committed to a stronger agricultural performance since the democratic transition and has been supported by IFAD to co-finance the Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS). In addition, the Government has stressed the need to capitalize on the gains of the ongoing IFAD-funded National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development (NEMA) program and other past and ongoing investments. This GEF-7 project offer an opportunity to complement and enhance the main baseline IFAD investments and other existing projects in the medium and long term on SLM and LDN.
27. To achieve these objectives, The GoTG is committed to combat the level of land degradation in the country for national development and for maintaining and improving environmental integrity and ecosystem functions and services. It has sought to do this through interventions in specific regions to reflect environmental concerns, particularly those related to land degradation. Therefore, the GEF support will reinforce and support the main objectives of the IFAD baseline:

? *Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS)*: which this project is linked to is a nation-wide project. With the objective to increase agricultural productivity and access to markets for enhanced food security and nutrition, and resilience of family farms and farmer organizations, this project seeks to improve food security, nutrition and smallholder farmers' resilience to climate change in The Gambia. It will be implemented from 2020 to 2026, and has a resource envelop of \$80 million (IFAD: 21.3% grant and 5.3 % loan; GEF: 6.6% grant; OFID: 12.5% loan; AFD: 14% loan; GoTG: 6.8% contribution; and beneficiaries?: 7.8% contribution). The project is conceived around three components focusing on agricultural productivity and adaptation to climate change, access to markets, and project management, institutional development, and citizen engagement. The ROOTS project build on and scale up NEMA which is ending in 2020.

? *National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA)*: This was an IFAD funded project (2012 ? 2019) to reduce the poverty of rural women and youth with the objective of increasing income by improving rice and vegetable productivity based on sustainable land and water management practices. This was to be achieved through the implementation of the following three key components i) Watershed Development, ii) Agricultural Commercialisation and iii) Project Facilitation. The total project cost was estimated at US\$ 65 million with an initial IFAD financing amount of US\$20.3 million, representing 31.2% of the total cost. The Islamic Development Bank and other donors (particularly World Bank) provided co-finances in the amount to US\$15 million (representing 23.1% of the total cost) and about US\$12 million (18.5% of the total cost), respectively. GoTG and beneficiaries contributed US\$ 3.8 million (5.9% of the total cost). NEMA has mainly been active in the

setting up of horticulture gardens (33 gardens of 5 ha each) irrigated via solar pumping, thus reducing the pressure on forest land thanks to the development of alternative sources of incomes.

NEMA has received an additional component named Chosso?. Chosso was additionally financed from IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) with a grant of \$5 million to optimize the effectiveness of NEMA interventions in the face of increasing climate-related threats to smallholder agriculture, and thereby increase the capacity of smallholder farmers to expand their options in a rapidly changing environment, contribute directly to the realization of the NAPA and to complement other climate change adaptation initiatives. Chosso has contributed to the restoration of 1400 ha of mangroves and the establishment of 55 ha of woodlots and 25 ha of agroforestry.

? *Strengthening Climate Resilience of the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project* ? Chosso: The Chosso is a supplementary climate financing for the IFAD-initiated cofinanced National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project (NEMA). Chosso was additionally financed from IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) with a grant of \$5 million to optimize the effectiveness of NEMA interventions in the face of increasing climate-related threats to smallholder agriculture, and thereby increase the capacity of smallholder farmers to expand their options in a rapidly changing environment, contribute directly to the realization of the NAPA and to complement other climate change adaptation initiatives.

? *Land/Seascape planning and restoration to improve ecosystem services, and livelihoods, expand and effectively manage protected areas* (2017 ? 2023): This is a \$5.64 million UNEP/GEF project designed around four components: Improved planning and enforcement system to identify and address causes of land degradation (LD) and biodiversity (BD) loss; enabling framework for districts within Kuntaur LGA to implement SLM practices across landscapes; Implementation of ILUMPs and strengthening of PA management within Kuntaur LGA produce landscape-level management system to achieve SLM and BD objectives; and Expansion of PA estate in ecologically important areas of The Gambia. The project's objective is to create an enabling environment for The Gambia in building national capacity to lead the reform of land use and marine spatial planning policies and to implement land/seascape level management that conserves ecosystem services in productive and protected land/seascapes.

? *Improving Water Availability in The Gambia's Rural and Peri-Urban Communities for Domestic and Agricultural Use* (2019 ? 2023): This is a \$8.95 million AfDB/GEF project conceived to build resilience to climate change and variability by enhancing water supply for domestic and agricultural use, and ultimately improving livelihoods in rural and peri-urban areas of The Gambia through the following components: provision of climate resilient water supply infrastructure; enhanced institutional capacity for adaptation and hydrometeorological monitoring; Community Land and Water-based Adaptation; and knowledge and monitoring.

? *Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change in the Gambia* (2014 ? 2018): This is an FAO/GEF project designed to promote sustainable and diversified livelihood strategies for reducing the impacts of climate variability and change in the agriculture and livestock sectors. It was designed with the following five components: strengthening institutional and technical capacity for adaptation to climate

change in agriculture sector; assessment of vulnerabilities, risks and dissemination of timely risk information to users at all levels; promotion of diversification of livelihood strategies and intensification of agriculture production, processing and marketing; improved livestock production and management practices for sustaining livelihoods of local communities; and monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.

28. Additionally, this GEF project will be anchored in lessons from past projects and programs that have just been concluded. Of particular relevance are the following past projects:

? *Food and Agriculture Sector Development Project (FASDEP)*. This is an AfDB funded project (2013-2018) with a resource envelop of \$17.6 million. With components focused on improving agriculture infrastructure development and management, including the creation of 40 community land use plans and establishment of community-based agroforestry sites across the country; and improving value chains for agro-enterprises to support the production, diversification and commercialization of agriculture/natural resources, the objective of the project was to reduce rural household poverty through efficient use of arable land and water resources for agricultural production and productivity.

? *Programme to Build Resilience to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in the Sahel (P2RS)*: This project was implemented with a grant from the African Development Fund at AfDB, with The Gambia receiving \$12.85 million. The project focused on rural infrastructure development and development of value chains and regional markets. The goal was to build the resilience of vulnerable households, families, and communities? population to food and nutrition insecurity in The Gambia and the Sahel as a whole. The project in The Gambia aims to enable the beneficiaries resist shock of acute food, respond effectively, and adapt sustainably to climate change by the development of stock breeding, irrigation schemes and regional markets for agricultural and livestock inputs and products. Specifically, P2RS sought to eliminate the structural causes of acute and chronic food and nutrition crises by increasing household agricultural productivity, production and incomes, gain access to infrastructure and basic social services that build a heritage that strengthens population?s livelihoods in a sustainable manner.

? *The IFAD-funded Livestock and Horticultural Development project (LHDP)* (2009 ? 2015). This is an IFAD-funded project of \$15.94 million to reduce rural poverty sustainably by raising rural incomes through improved production and marketing of livestock and horticultural products. This would be achieved through production, processing and marketing of livestock and horticulture products; capacity building; and project coordination and monitoring and evaluation.

? *The FAO funded project ?Action against desertification?* (2016-2020), aims at contributing to the Great Green Wall in Gambia. It has set up 17 community groups who sustainably manage 1250 ha of forests, planted 82 ha of woodlots and distributed 100 mud stoves.

29. These projects have focused mainly on: mangrove restoration, forest management, community engagement, alternative sources of income such as horticulture, and rice cultivation improvement. Aligned with the ROOTS investment, this new GEF proposal explores new ways to scaling up good SLM practices to contribute to the LDN targets of the Gambia for improved rice and vegetables value chains by:

- o Scaling up of a watershed/landscape approach, rather than a focus on communities, in order to take into account both lowlands (irrigated rice) and uplands (rain fed crops) and to reduce run off and siltation leading to low soil productivity of both categories of land.
- o Promote new alternatives in terms of income generation, while improving nutrition: moringa, fonio, duck and fowls.
- o Contribution to improved knowledge management for LDN connecting Gambia to ambitious south-south initiatives regarding LDN and SLM.

2) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

30. To build on the momentum created by different development partners and IFAD-funded projects to support rural agriculture, improve food security, improve land and water management and building resilience of rural communities to the impacts of climate change, the objective of the proposed project is to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia. The project proposes an integrated landscape approach to address land degradation in 11 districts of The Gambia. These districts have faced environmental degradation due to population growth, settlements, unsustainable agricultural production systems and practices that degrade soils, excessive fuelwood harvesting, salt water intrusion, and siltation among others, particularly in areas where rice production is the main agricultural focus and monocropping is dominant. The districts are regionally distributed as below:

- o West Coast Region: Foni Berefet, Foni Bintang Karania, Foni Kansala, Foni Bondali and Foni Jarrol
- o North Bank Region: Jokadu, Lower Badibou, Central Badibou, Upper Badibou and Saba Sanja; and
- o Lower River Bank Region: Kiang West

31. It is important to note that Foni Berefet, Foni Bintang Karania, Foni Kansala, Foni Bondali and Foni Jarrol in West Coast Region and Jokadu, Lower Badibou, Central Badibou, Upper Badibou and Saba Sanjal in North Bank Region are part of the ROOTS project, an important baseline of this proposed project ? thus, synergising and scaling up best practices of the ROOTS project. By targeting the 11 afore-mentioned districts, this project is conceived to contribute to sub-regional LDN targets as below. LDN project-level indicators based on the biophysical and socioeconomic assessments will be developed to ensure national level contribution of the project vis-?-vis national targets (10% improvement on national territory). The project-level indicator will be based on the proposed LDN global indicators (change in land coverage, land productivity and soil carbon).

32. In component 4 (see component description), these will be tracked to verify the project's contribution:

- o LDN is achieved in the West Coast Region of The Gambia by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss);
- o LDN is achieved in the Lower River Region of The Gambia by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss); and
- o LDN is achieved in the North Bank Region of The Gambia by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 20% of the provincial territory has improved (net gain).[8]⁸

33. As important production landscapes, the target districts also offer potential in terms of the generation of global environmental benefits. In this project, the districts are targeted as social-ecological system consisting a mosaic of natural and human-modified ecosystems, with a characteristic configuration of topography, vegetation, land use, and settlements existing production practices (including pastoral practices), how communities interact with the environment and the prevailing institutional frameworks, or lack of thereof, regulations and land uses in them. Therefore, the rationale for an integrated approach is to more holistically address underlying drivers of environmental degradation while simultaneously, addressing socio-economic concerns of local communities in the districts. In this regard, an integrated landscape approach will be valuable in ensuring economic, social and ecological sustainability in a resource-constrained and climate-impacted environment[9]⁹ for multiple benefits, i.e. improved environmental, human well-being and livelihoods.

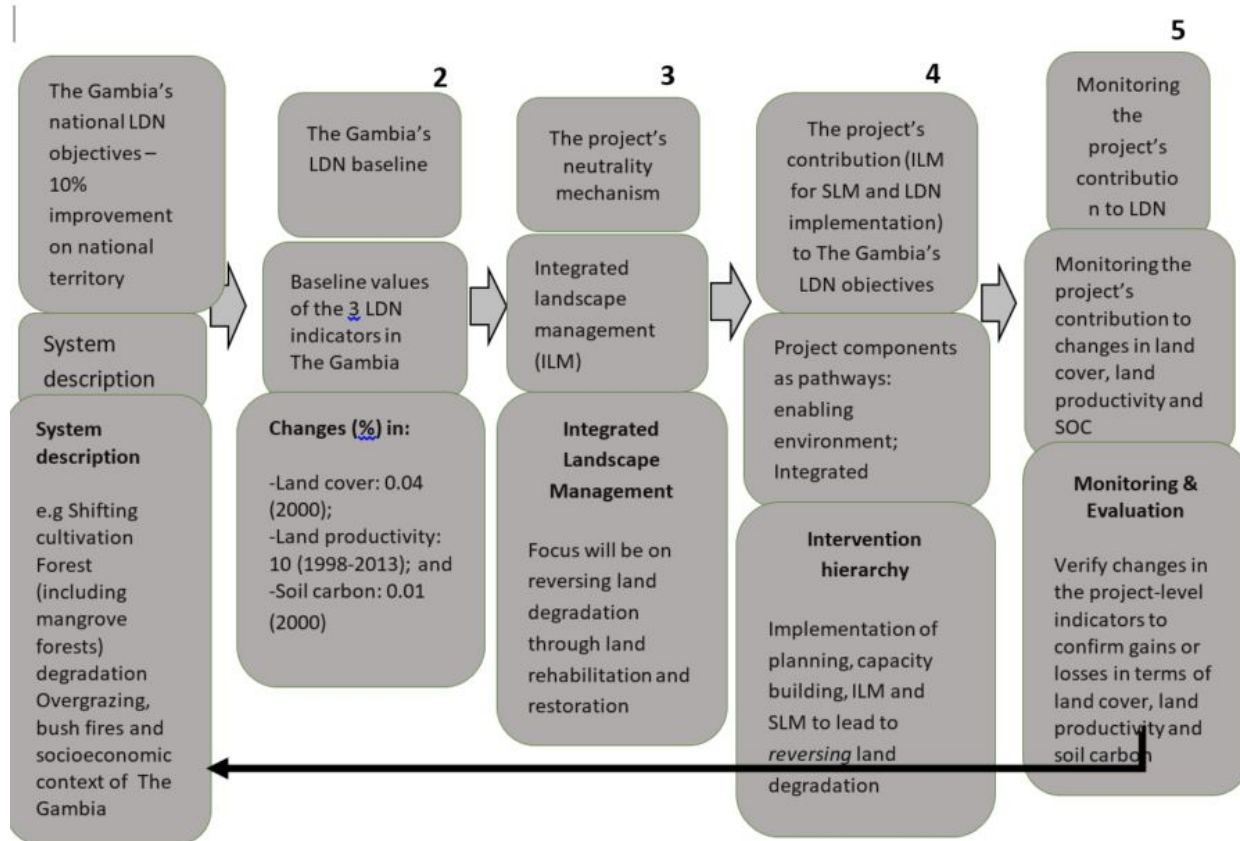
34. The target group comprises the population targeted by ROOTS and present in these catchment areas, in particular smallholders and indirectly micro-entrepreneurs, and poor rural youth and women. Approximately 9,608 (5,669 (59%) women; and 3,939 (41%) men will benefit from the project. The core of the producers are women, as well as the current demographic structure, it is expected that 59% per cent of beneficiaries will be women and 41% per cent will be youth. ROOTS will proactively facilitate access to project activities for women and youth to productive assets (land, water), financing, knowledge as well as their participation in project implementation, community representation and decision-making. As more than 10 per cent of The Gambian population are people with disabilities and as stated under ROOTS, the GEF project will seek to involve them in the most appropriate segment of the selected value chains.

35. The logic of this project on which the Theory of Change is built is that it seeks to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation in The Gambia. This is its goal. SLM is the use of land resources, including soils, water, animals and plants, for the production of goods to meet changing human needs, while simultaneously ensuring the long-term productive potential of these resources and the maintenance of their environmental functions. It is based on four common principles: land-user-driven and participatory approaches; integrated use of natural

resources at ecosystem and farming system levels; multi-level and multi-stakeholder involvement; and targeted policy and institutional support, including development of incentive mechanisms for SLM adoption and income generation at the local level.[10]¹⁰

36. In a nutshell, the theory of change recognises that if the drivers and threats of land degradation in The Gambia in terms of deforestation, shifting cultivation, fuelwood harvesting, mining activities and bushfires are managed adequately and an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach is established, then poverty levels of land users will be lowered because land productivity will increase.
 37. Addressing land degradation is however constrained by important barriers: Inadequate and unharmonized capacities, policy and institutional mechanisms for effective mainstreaming and implementation of SLM and national LDN targets; Inappropriate land management systems exacerbated by lack of land policy services; and Lack of opportunities for SLM-related market-oriented alternative livelihoods. To overcome these barriers, the project will strengthen the enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation; support Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) in crop production and pastoral systems; and promote SLM to improve livelihoods and food security, including monitoring of the Project's contribution to LDN. Through specific activities under each of these components, the project will achieve its overall objective to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia for both environmental benefits and socioeconomic opportunities for land-users in the target regions. The rationale and justification that underpin the Theory of Change are influenced by the country's social-ecological context (see Annex H for the Theory of Change).
 38. Working backwards, this goal will be achieved through supporting the creation of an enabling institutional and policy environment for SLM and LDN (building capacities of stakeholders, policy mainstreaming ? component 1); implementing SLM and LDN using an Integrated Landscape Management approach (concrete hardware activities such as agroforestry practices, assisted regeneration of socio-economically valuable species etc ? component 2); Livelihoods and food security of land users (concrete activities such as value chains of selected crops); and knowledge management through which lessons will be disseminated to stakeholder to inform scaling up and replication of good practices. Since the government led and validated the LDN voluntary targets, and has demonstrated commitment to the fight against land degradation through various national policies, the project assumes that there is enough political will to mainstream and implement the LDN agenda and SLM in the country. It is also assumed that communities will support and be involved in the decision-making processes that will lead to the identification and promotion of appropriate SLM practices. Additionally, the project is also cognizant of social, economic, political and environmental risks, which it has duly considered in the course of its development. These will be closely considered and monitored in the implementation phase.
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39. There are three principal assumptions associated with the proposed ToC. These are: (i) The drivers of land degradation in production landscapes will continue if barriers to SLM and LDN are not addressed (negative), leading to food and nutritional insecurity, further loss of soil fertility, loss of land cover and further emissions; (ii) COVID-19 and weather events will not disturb project activities to erode the impacts of the project; and (iii) Stakeholder and political will be maintained throughout project implementation, and there will be active community participatory engagement which will lead to project ownership.
40. This logic is exemplified in the graph below that follows the STAP's[3] model. The graph includes elements of the proposed project to demonstrate how the project intends to contribute to achieving the LDN targets of The Gambia. Block 1 includes the overall objective of the country's LDN as well as the system description that includes the drivers of land degradation as described in the project (environmental threats and barriers). Block 2 details the country's baseline scenario in terms of land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon. During implementation, the project will identify national indicators that correspond to land cover, land productivity and soil organic carbon, which will be measured and verified through M&E in Block 5. Block 3 represents the description of how the planned interventions will respond to the country's LDN priorities and challenges as detailed in the system description ? that is, how the project will counter the baseline scenario. Block 4 represents the actual implementation of planned interventions through proposed components and their associated activities. Finally, Block 5 represents the processes and mechanisms of verification of the project's contribution to the LDN agenda in The Gambia ? to verify losses or gains following the hierarchy of interventions, that is, *avoid -> reduce -> reverse*.



41. It is also important to note the strategic catalytic role of this proposed project (INLAMAG) to the Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture (ROOTS) Project that has provided \$28.2 million in cofinancing. INLAMAG will restore degraded lands and support institutions as well as livelihoods. ROOTs will facilitate infrastructure development (both market and road), capacity development of farmer organisations through business plan and financing development, citizen engagement, among others. Therefore, INLAMAG synergizes well with ROOTs in terms supporting complementary activities to yield sustainable environmental as well as socioeconomic benefits.

42. Conceptually, the project recognises that rural livelihoods are tied to the use of land and forests as natural resources, and the sustainability of goods and services land and forests depends on how they are managed. The project also recognises that both natural and anthropogenic activities continue to compromise the ability of Gambian land and forests to provide for the people. The project, therefore, proposes an alternative scenario that embraces different elements of the socio-ecological system of production landscapes in the target regions as being integrated at scale. To ensure an integrated landscape approach to support the implementation of SLM, the project will address capacity, policy and institutional

inadequacies, weak land use planning and extension services and support the diversification of livelihoods that have thus been partly hampered by lack of opportunities for market-oriented alternative livelihoods. As detailed below, the project will address these barriers through four components.

Component 1: Enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation

43. As LDN is a relatively new concept, there is an increasing need for evidence on the potential socio-economic and environmental benefits of LDN as well as how an enabling environment for implementing LDN measures can be developed. For the LDN agenda and SLM to be mainstreamed and implemented, the project recognises that institutional capacities, including the appropriate policy, legal and regulatory frameworks are required. Under component 1, the project acknowledges the LDN principles for good governance underpin the whole LDN process and are integral to its overall success. They promote the establishment of mechanisms and policies at the national and sub-national levels that guarantee the long-term sustainability of LDN achievements and the sustainable and participatory management of land. Principles related to an appropriate enabling environment and linked to good governance include efficiency, effectiveness, trust and engagement, sustainability and local responsiveness, legitimacy and equity, transparency, accountability and predictability and integrity.[11]¹¹ To create and sustain an enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation, the project under component 1, will support capacity building and institutional strengthening of relevant national and local institutions.

44. Component 1 outcome 1.1: Increased institutional capacities, and enhanced cross sectors and governance mechanisms for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation by: (i) improved in national institutions capacities for SLM and LDN; (ii) number of functional new governance frameworks and plans for SLM and LDN. To achieve this outcome and create an enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implement, this project under component 1 envisages four (4) outputs, as detailed below:

o *Output 1.1.1 One (1) Institutional Capacity Development Plan and program, including at least 4 training programs (participatory land-use planning, collaborative decision making, multistakeholder approaches, SLM, LDN) for 4200 beneficiaries; 10 Farmers Field School (FFS), one vocational education center (Songhai Centre) (with at least 50% of participants being women):* After setting the LDN agenda and validating it by various stakeholders, this project will seek to build capacities for the LDN technical knowledge and data management, collaborative land-use decision-making and management through provision of tools and targeted training, focusing on SLM and LDN with multisector coordination. To ensure that the appropriate levels and right institutional capacities are

built, under this component, the project will conduct an institutional and capacity analysis of current capacities and institutional arrangement so as to tailor capacity building and institutional strengthening for LDN implementation in The Gambia for all stakeholders, including smallholder farmers, farmer's organizations involved in the exploitation of land. This will lead to the much needed efforts to raise awareness of LDN, educate core stakeholders in its concepts, enablers and benefits of LDN, raise its political profile, and provide evidence on national measures that will support implementation of LDN[12]¹² among key stakeholders.

The multistakeholder approaches will increase knowledge and LDN awareness and promote solutions for environmental, health including pandemic and social effects of deforestation and land degradation: The institutional and capacity analysis in output 1.1.1 above will be critical in informing vocational education strategies and trainings tools targeting local communities, trainings center like Songhai Centre, Farmers Field School (FFS), and relevant sectors to increase knowledge and LDN awareness and promote solutions for environmental, health including pandemic and social effects of deforestation and land degradation. Under this output the project recognises that community-based SLM initiatives can make a relevant contribution to addressing land degradation and achieving LDN. Therefore, the vocational education strategies to benefit local communities, the Songhai Centre and FFs will support creating enabling conditions for community-based initiatives to develop including: knowledge development by scientists, local communities and policy makers, inclusive land governance (land tenure security, strengthening institutions and the recognition of local knowledge), and access to technical and financial resources.[13]¹³

o *Output 1.1.2. One open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system is developed for land-use decision-making, targeting, partnerships, research and resource mobilization:* The creation of an open-access knowledge platform will be critical in bringing various stakeholders together around the LDN agenda to contribute to achieving national targets. With project-level indicators directly linked to LDN indicators on land cover change, land productivity and soil organic carbon, the open-access knowledge platform will be a one stop-shop for LDN implementation in The Gambia. o As a knowledge platform, it will offer an opportunity to national stakeholders to share lessons and developing tools and learning materials for scaling up and mainstreaming sustainable land management (SLM) into development planning and relevant sectoral and investment plans, portfolios and policy frameworks. It will involve the building of a knowledge management system for landscape planning across the country, reflecting the different development priorities at national and subnational levels, with due consideration to environmental challenges and predominant drivers of land degradation. The building of this knowledge platform architecture will be a participatory process to ensure that local voices and their local development priorities are duly reflected in the landscape planning process and owned. In this regard, the output is consistent with the government of The Gambia's aspiration to strengthen the management and governance of land resources which is currently fragmented and uncoordinated.[1] To ensure sustainability, the platform will be mainstreamed, managed and anchored within the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, building on and involving the activities of the LDN working group of The Gambia.

[1] In the LDN Report, The Gambian government acknowledges that environment, wildlife, geology, forestry, disaster management, fisheries, lands and surveys, physical planning, water resources sectoral laws are not harmonized and therefore, for the LDN agenda to success across relevant sectors, leveraging and mainstreaming land degradation neutrality into land use planning systems is critically important. See LDN Report [here](#)

o *Output 1.1.3 One (1) land use management plan developed in cooperation with relevant national and international partners, leading to its effective implementation in support of SLM and LDN:* The LDN scientific conceptual framework underscores that LDN planning and implementation should be integrated into existing planning processes and supported by an enabling policy environment. Land-use planning, which requires the integration of different policy goals across various sectors concerned with land-use, can be an effective mechanism through which decisions with respect to LDN can be coordinated.[14]¹⁴ Therefore, under this output, the project will strengthen LDN integration in land-use management plan, with the participation of different stakeholders. It should be noted that in the context of The Gambia, there has not been any land use plan produced since 1985. Capacity has been lost overtime, and the institutional infrastructure for planning has not been given much attention. This has been accentuated by the lack of a functional land policy in the country. Moreover, land use planning and management is a multi-sectoral exercise: it requires an integrated and interdisciplinary approach that should include the public and private sectors, civil society, and community leaders.[1] This has so far been absent in the consideration of land use issues in the country. Therefore, the land use management plan at national level will support to close the capacity gap while remaining consistent with achieving LDN objectives.

[1] See the World Bank report: [Issues and Options for Improved Land Sector Governance in The Gambia](#)

45. Through the implementation of component 2, the overall impact will be: Increased institutional capacities, and enhanced cross sectors and governance mechanisms for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation by: (i) improved in national institutions capacities for SLM and LDN (ii) number of functional new governance frameworks and plans for SLM and LDN.

Component 2: Implementation of integrated landscape planning and management to reduce land degradation and achieve LDN

46. Production landscapes in The Gambia are exposed to varying degrees of land degradation due to the expansion of agricultural lands, unsustainable extraction of woodfuel and overgrazing in grassland areas. These trends are accelerated by population pressure, the associated demand for food and other ecosystem services, the expansion of settlements, and the impacts of
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climate change are important. Thus, the project recognises that production landscapes in The Gambia are socio-ecological systems consisting a mosaic of natural and/or human-modified ecosystems, with a characteristic configuration of topography, vegetation, land use, and settlements that are influenced by the ecological, historical, economic and cultural processes and activities of the scapes.[15]¹⁵ Under this component, the project will seek to strengthen long-term collaborations among different groups of land managers and stakeholders to achieve the multiple objectives required from the target 11 regional landscapes to contribute to agricultural production, provision of ecosystem services; protection of biodiversity; and local livelihoods, human health and well-being, among others. Acknowledging that there are different entry points to integrated landscape management, this project under component will be include the following four outputs:

o *Output 2.1.1 Five integrated water and soil management practices are promoted by 700 households[16]¹⁶ through dikes, and conservation agriculture, including the promotion of system of rice intensification (1,500 ha):* In The Gambia, land uses and processes such as soil erosion caused by wind and/ or water have contributed to the deterioration of the physical, chemical, biological, or economic properties of soil, leading to long-term loss of natural vegetation in some regions. Soil management has an important role in LDN. Better management of soils can offset 5?20% of current global anthropogenic GHG emissions.[17]¹⁷ The project, under this output, will support 700 households to improve soil management using dikes and practice conservation, including the promotion of the system of rice intensification on 1,500 ha of land. The system of rice intensification increases rice yields significantly while reducing requirements of seeds, the management of soil salinity, contribute to reducing GHG emission from flooded rice fields, better water management and chemical inputs.[18]¹⁸ The project will therefore contribute to addressing land degradation in the 11 target regions through integrated water and soil management practices on 1,500 ha , with 700 households (4,830 people) adopting SLM practices.

o *Output 2.1.2 12,000 ha of degraded agricultural production landscapes are rehabilitated and restored through assisted natural regeneration focusing on locally adapted species and- Improved bushfire management (7,500 ha); woodlots using multipurpose tree species, agro-silvo- pastoral practices (4,500 ha):* As concrete actions to contribute to SLM and LDN, a total of 14,500 ha of land will brought under improved management in 11 districts, and 12,000 ha restored - contributing about 11% towards the 109,000 ha national LDN target. The focus on locally adapted species is to ensure that restoration efforts contribute to maintaining or improving the structural and floristic composition of vegetation cover in the target regions. Additionally, under this output, working with local traditional authorities, the project will contribute to improving bushfire management on 7,500 ha ? bushfires are a huge problem in The Gambia contributing to soil erosion and loss of biodiversity in some cases because it is sporodically done, and some plants are able to regrow.

o *Output 2.1.3 1,000 ha of woodlots are integrated into the sustainable wood and biomass energy supply chain leading to improved community forestry and indigenous community conservation management:* As the population grows, so does the demand for settlements, but also for fuelwood in a country where only 59.9% of people have access to electricity.[19]¹⁹ The heavy reliance on fuelwood by the 40% contributes to land degradation as communities continue to fell indigenous trees. To reduce the pressure on indigenous forests, the project will therefore, support the establishment of woodlots on 1,000 ha using using multipurpose tree species, and agrosilvopastoral practices. The project will also integrate woodlots in community forestry and indigenous community conservation management for the sustainable supply of wood and biomass energy.

o *Output 2.1.4. Community monitoring system for soil erosion and vegetation cover is established using the 3 project-level indicators (land cover change, land productivity and SOC) and inform the open-access knowledge platform:* Under this output, the project will establish community monitoring system for soil erosion and vegetation cover to inform the 3 project level indicators (land cover change, land productivity and SOC) and inform the open-access knowledge platform. The output will be consistent with principle 13 that underpins LDN implementation, namely; include stakeholders, especially land users, in designing, implementing and monitoring interventions to achieve LDN.[20]²⁰ It will encourage the participation of key stakeholders in establishing three project-level indicators for assessing the project's contribution to the LDN national agenda in The Gambia.

47. This project under component 2 will therefore contribute to improving the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality,[21]²¹ and to supporting Integrated Landscape Management approaches to 'reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape.'^[22]²²

48. Through the implementation of component 2, the overall impact (Outcome 2.1) will be: improved, coordinated and collaborative management of landscapes (12,000 ha of degraded restored productive landscapes in 11 districts, contributing 11% to 109 000 ha LDN national target while bringing 14,500 ha under improved management) enhancing their ecological integrity and ensuring better agricultural production and livelihoods.

Component 3: Promotion of SLM for Climate-smart Agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management

49. Land degradation reduces ecosystem function, and in particular soil quantity and fertility, and this decreases ecosystem resilience. This vulnerable context undermines livelihoods, including food, water, human health, and energy supply, with further implications for poverty. Therefore, this perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty and land degradation, given the high level of dependence on natural resource exploitation by poorer and vulnerable communities.[23]²³ In this regard, land management and livelihoods and food security are linked. Thus, under component 3, the project will seek to improve the living conditions of affected populations by addressing their socio-economic needs.[24]²⁴ It will address the implementation of SLM practices to positively impact affected communities' livelihoods while contributing to reducing their dependence on the exploitation of land and forest resources. The project will, therefore, contribute to the generation of global environmental benefits. Under this component, the project will ensure that livelihoods of land degradation affected communities are improved and diversified through alternative income generating activities that are compatible with sustainable use of land resources. The component has been designed around the following five outputs:

- o *Output 3.1.1 5,000 ha of land under agroforestry and sustainable and diversified cropping systems.* This will focus on promoting Agroforestry through the integration of woody perennials into agricultural crops and/or animals. The project recognises that agroforestry is an important climate-smart solution with many important co-benefits (including positive economic and social impacts, improving soil quality, increasing soil carbon sequestration).[25]²⁵ It has potential to improve social and economic conditions in production landscapes where it is practiced. It can improve soil quality and mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration. This project will therefore, support alley cropping (planting single rows of trees and growing crops in the alley ways in between), silvopasture (combining trees with pasture or livestock grazing areas), forest farming (the cultivation of shade-tolerant crops under the protection of a managed forest), and others. While contributing to improving the soil productivity, this will also contribute to food security for the local communities.

 - o *Output 3.1.2. 2,000 ha of land under Integrated Crop- Livestock Systems to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources.* This will aim at integrating Crop-Livestock Systems to optimize, promote and scale-up the uses of crop and livestock resources. Communities in the degraded production landscapes keep ruminants and produce crops as well. Crop production and animal grazing both contribute to land degradation, yet the activities constitute important socioeconomic livelihood bases. It should be noted that adverse effects of livestock on the environment are caused by the way animal husbandry is practiced, in no small part because animals are not integrated with other agricultural and forestry-based practices. Under this output, the project recognises that separating raising of livestock from cultivating seasonal crops and perennial trees has decoupled the biogeochemical or biogeophysical cycling of carbon, water, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sulfur. This decoupling is a causative factor of the increase in emissions of N₂O and CH₄, eutrophication and
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contamination of water resources, degradation of rangelands, and decline in its biodiversity.[26]²⁶ Based on local circumstances, the project will promote integrated farming systems such as incorporating pastures/forages in the rotation cycle along with controlled grazing to reduce the environmental footprint of crop and animal production as they are currently practiced. Through the activities under output 3.1.2, the project will support and promote integrated Crop-Livestock Systems to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources for the benefit of 700 households (or 4,830 people). The logic is to support the building of livelihoods of affected communities - to improve the living conditions of affected populations.[27]²⁷

o *Output 3.1.3. Participatory SLM plan developed on 15,000 ha (mixing different techniques such as soil bunds, stone lines, etc. to reduce water runoff and soil erosion in productive agricultural land, including watershed management.* This will focus on implementing structural barriers including natural barriers on sloping lands in the form of earth or soil bunds, stone lines, etc. for reducing runoff velocity and soil erosion in productive agricultural land. The combined effects of drought, increasing anthropogenic pressure on the limited natural resources available, deforestation and degradation of wood resources, reduced fallow period, intensification of cropping, overexploitation of water and pasture resources have led to the decline in the productivity of the agro-silvo-pastoral land use systems in The Gambia. In this context, identifying land management practices that enhance on-site sediment management and crop productivity is crucial for the prevention, reduction, and restoration of **land degradation** and contributing to achieving LDN.[28]²⁸ The project will therefore support and promote practices such as contour stone bunds, stone lines, permeable rock dams, Zai/Tassa planting pits, Semi-circular bunds for crops and forest/ rangeland, contour bunds for crops and forest/ rangeland, among others. These practices are known in the Sahelian regions, including The Gambia, and therefore will be promoted and scaled-up in regions where they are likely to have the greatest impact.

Additionally, under this output, the project will seek to improve watershed management, particularly in project areas where rice is produced. Among other aspects, this will provide policy guidance at local level in terms of identifying specific issues related to sustaining the quality of water and land resource uses within production landscapes that support community-level livelihoods - including to restore and protect the resources water, biomass, soil, energy and human in given watersheds within INLAMAG target regions.

o *Output 3.1.4. 1,000 Jambar cooking stoves distributed to 1,000 households to reduce the use of charcoal and fuelwoods which contribute to soil erosion and general land degradation ? with 80% beneficiaries being women:* Consistent with the logic and rationale of reducing pressure on the land resources, particularly the indiscriminate felling of trees for charcoal and fuelwood, the project will support 1,000 households with one Jambar cooking stove each.

This activity will build on the Biomass Energy Initiative for Africa (BEIA), an effort implemented by the World Bank's Africa Energy Team to test innovative and promising biomass energy initiatives.

The Gambia participated in the Initiative to create enabling market conditions for high-quality and high performance modern cooking stoves; to modernize the charcoal industry; to demonstrate the feasibility of social biofuels; to increasing power capacity with bioelectricity; to build capacity; and to strengthen leadership in biomass energy. Therefore, output 3.1.4 will catalyse the WB's investments in the aforementioned activities. Currently, GreenTech[1] is active in The Gambia supplying affordable high quality solid biomass fuel for cooking and heating to a high diversity of industries and households. Under this output, INLAMAG will be able to collaborate with the private sector while building on BEIA. Though there is no specific policy regarding jambar cooking stoves in the country, this output is consistent and will contribute to the country's implementation second milestone of the NBSAP which states that, "by 2020, provisions of alternative livelihoods, including jobs and alternative energy sources and use of energy efficient technologies for local communities are improved." [2] The distribution the jambar cooking stoves, proposed during the stakeholder consultations, will therefore, have an institutional backing and sustainability within the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources.

[1] GreenTech is a private business response to the actual poverty situation, the up-winding energy crises and the environmental challenges in The [Gambia](#)

[2] Government of Gambia (2015). National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)

o *Output 3.1.5. Communities (7), 50 women associations and technical services, 150 extension services workers in 11 districts* capacity is enhanced on SLM for climate resilient and low emission agriculture leading to improved agricultural, agroforestry and livestock production: Under this output, the project acknowledges that providing adequate funding for supporting and promoting practices in output 3.1.4 is important ? but it also acknowledges that building capacity for implementing them in order to allow stakeholders to better monitor land resource uses and changes and to transfer knowledge necessary for sustaining post-project impact is equally important - thereby contributing to greater adoption of viable SLM/climate-smart land, water and forest management practices. In this regard, the project under output 3.15 will build capacities of 7 communities, 50 women associations and technical services and 150 extension service workers in the target 11 districts.

50. Through output 3.1.5, cooperatives will be strengthened to support their ability to adopt SLM practices to better take care of the gender needs of women, the youth and the vulnerable. It is noted here that working with cooperatives will be part of the capacity development strategy for SLM at community level ? thus, ensuring the sustainability of the project at local level. The determination of the income generating activities and modes of intervention will be done through participative processes with local communities in the target districts. The project will deliberately seek mechanisms of engaging women and youth, and mainstreaming gender considerations in activity identification, implementation and all decision-making processes at every level. Thus, under this component, this project will contribute to maintaining and improving the flow of agroecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods

through SLM in agriculture and rangeland systems.[29]²⁹ Using participatory approaches, the project will take advantage of existing female-led agricultural cooperatives at community-levels.

51. Through the implementation of component 3, the overall impact will be: there will be improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management for better livelihoods 700 households (or 4,830 people).

Component 4: Monitoring the Project's Contribution to Land Degradation Neutrality

52. The project has been conceived as an LDN project, the first ever in The Gambia. Component 4 builds and results from components 1 to 3. Based on project-level indicators in component 2, component 4 will focus on verifying the project's contribution to the country's LDN target. Component 4 will monitor changes in the values of LDN indicators to assess 'gains' and 'losses.' This will fit within the national-level assessment of the level of achievement of LDN targets. This will make it possible for the country to communicate its progress towards LDN at appropriate levels. Component 4 will therefore track the project's contribution to the changes relative to the baseline scenario in the selected project areas that will be established as indicated in component 2. To this effect, component 4 is designed around three outputs, as described below, that together contribute to achieving Outcome 4.1 Enhanced monitoring and evaluation of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon carried out in line with project-level indicators in contribution to the national LDN agenda:

o *Output 4.1.1 1 (one) monitoring plan established and agreed upon by key stakeholders, including an interpretation modality for the changes in land cover (positive, negative, stable) are established and agreed upon:* Building on output 4.1.1, this output will establish a monitoring plan that will provide guidance in terms of monitoring the changes as positive, negative or stable. Based on the indicators developed, decisions will be made regarding how the changes will be interpreted as positive, negative or stable. Given the life of the project (5 years), some of the indicators will be process-based. The interpretation of changes will involve a mix of different mechanisms including on-ground observations or high-resolution imagery and participatory approaches involving local communities particularly where interpretation is somewhat subjective, and/or trade-offs are involved.[30]³⁰

o *Output 4.1.2 1 (One) LDN information hub operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned to target audience:* The output will be linked to the established knowledge management hub in component 1 as a repository and mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data to support and enable the dissemination of lessons learned to stakeholders. Under this output, the project will therefore operationalise the first ever information hub in The Gambia dedicated to the national LDN agenda.

The information hub will be critical in understanding and assessing the country's performance in terms of implementing LDN activities consistent with the three LDN indicators, namely: land cover change, soil organic carbon and land productivity. The assessment of national performance will be critical at three levels: national report to the UNCCD; to support, stimulate and prioritise investments in land rehabilitation in the country; and to integrate lessons about what is working and not working in SLM practices across the country in support of the LDN agenda. The information hub will be part and parcel of the mandate of the National Land Degradation Neutrality Working Group as well as the National Environmental Management Council in The Gambia and will be overseen by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources, and anchored within the National Environment Agency. The actual operationalization of the LDN information hub will be complemented by outcome 1 that will seek to enhance institutional capacities across sectors and governance and coordination mechanisms for SLM and LDN mainstreaming in the country. Therefore, building on the already existing LDN-relevant institutional arrangements (LDN working group, National Environmental Management Council, National Environment Agency) and capacity development for LDN under this project, sustainability will be ensured.

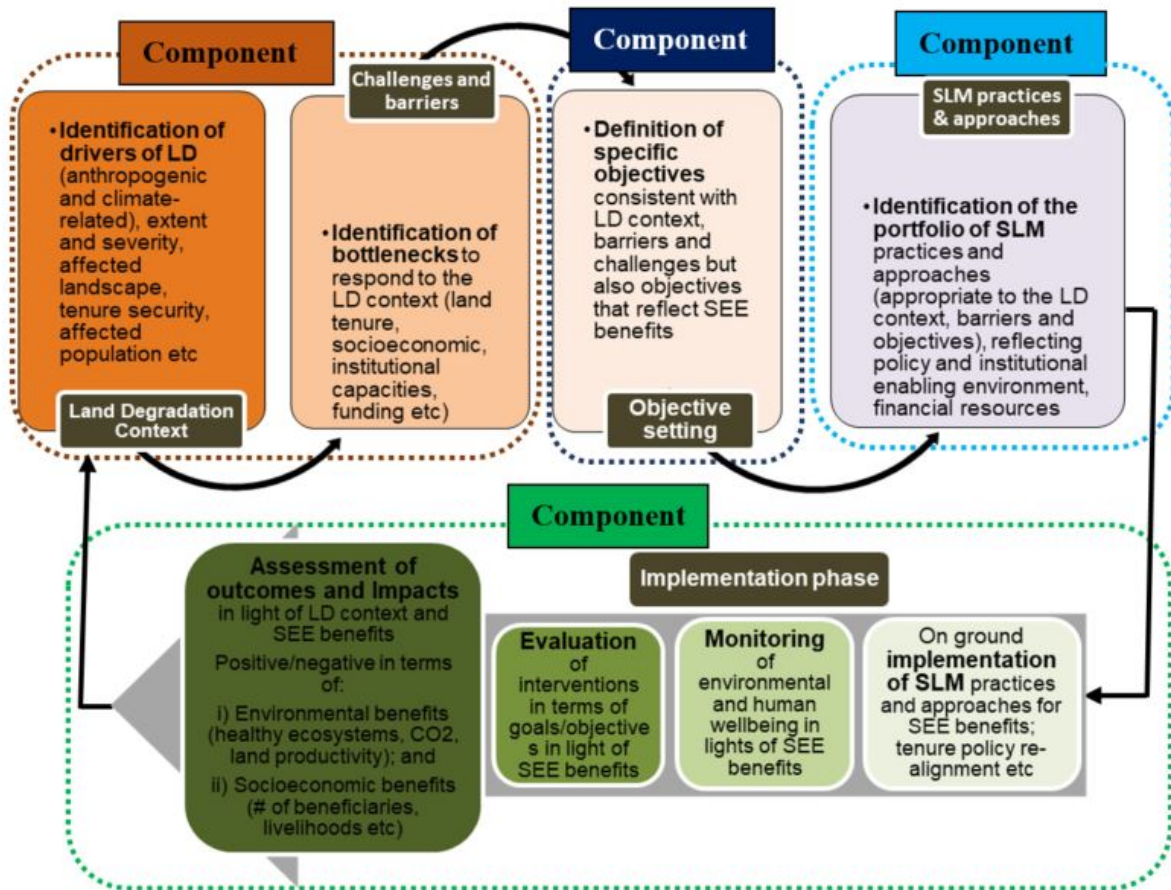
53. Additionally, to support the execution of component 4, the project through the Project Support Unit (PSU) will conduct an inception workshop and ensure that the Project Management Unit receives appropriate training to enhance project management and implementation. This activity will also serve as a method of alignment and coordination with IFAD main baseline investment- ROOTS project.
54. Through the implementation of component 4, the overall impact will be: the monitoring of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon is carried out in line with project-level indicators in contribution to national LDN agenda.
55. To ensure improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices, and ensure enhanced monitoring and evaluation of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon under components 3 and 4, respectively, the proposed activities will be guided by the principles of land use that ensure: i) protection of community agricultural production landscapes; ii) improvement of land use efficiency (given land scarcity in The Gambia); iii) comprehensive mechanisms for managing various aspects of land use; iv) environmental protection and improvement, and ensuring sustainable land use; and v) balancing the demand for land between the various competing uses such as infrastructure development, biodiversity conservation for eco-tourism, agricultural production, among others.

How components are linked

56. The project is conceived to deliver on socioeconomic and environmental (SEE) benefits. The project is designed to address the enabling environment to support a comprehensive integration and implementation of SLM and LDN in relevant sectors, recognizing the drivers but also the bottlenecks of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia (component 1). Once the enabling environment is

supported, the logical next step is concrete steps to target integrated landscape management in relevant production systems where drivers of land degradation are a challenge, but also where investments will have the highest returns in terms of generation of global environmental benefits and supporting socioeconomic wellbeing of land users. For The Gambia, the project will target crop production and pastoral production systems that were informed by thematic studies and stakeholder consultations in 11 districts (component 2).

57. Consistently, in targeting crop and pastoral production systems, the project will seek to promote SLM to improve livelihoods and food security in recognition of the fact that social aspects are critical to successful land rehabilitation and land restoration efforts. The focus on SLM to improve livelihoods and food security is critically important to maintain or improve environment sustainability (component 3). In The Gambia, food insecurity has risen from 5 to 8% over the past five years as a result of weak food production systems and the effects of successive shocks such as drought and floods. In 2018, The Gambia suffered another drought leading to a food security emergency in country.^[31]³¹ The project has been conceived around the proposed heuristic structure of the LDN agenda. The final step will be to track the contribution of this project to SLM and LDN ? which will be captured in component 4. Therefore, the components are sequentially conceived to address institutional gaps, considering the specific drivers of land degradation in target production landscapes and the needs of land-users and their interactions with the landscapes through the prevailing production systems, how the project's contribution to avoiding, reducing or reversing trends in land degradation can be monitored and linked to the country context. The link of components is summarised in the conceptual figure below of land restoration:



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

58. This is an integrated landscape management project that seeks to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support to rural communities adopt and scale up of the implementation of SLM and LDN in The Gambia. The integrated landscape approach recognises the interplay between natural elements, existing institutional arrangements and mechanisms of resource governance, and livelihoods from the environmental affordances of the same landscape. The Gambia faces both natural and anthropogenic challenges for a 'harmonious' landscape where natural elements and economic ends are sustainably managed at landscape level. As has already been noted, these challenges are linked to inadequate harmonized capacities, policy and institutional mechanisms for effective implementation of SLM and national LDN targets, weak land use planning and extension services to strengthen SLM/integrated landscape management, and lack of opportunities for market-oriented alternative livelihoods.

59. This project proposes strengthening institutional capacities and frameworks (software

interventions), but also concrete interventions to directly and indirectly positively impact land as well as rural communities that depend on land (hardware interventions). In this way, this project has proposed a comprehensive landscape approach as the best way to address the multi-faceted nature of land degradation in the agro-ecological zones in the target regions in The Gambia. For this project therefore, the GEF investments will focus on production landscapes where agricultural and rangeland management practices support livelihoods of communities in the West Coast Region, the North Bank Region and the Lower River Region. Thus, this project is aligned with:

- o *LD-1-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agroecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through SLM*
- o *LD-1-4: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape*
- o *LD-2-5: Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN*

60. Besides the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area Objectives, the project is aligned and conceived to contribute to the following UNCCD 2018 ? 2030 Strategic Framework:

- o *Strategic Objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality;*
- o *Strategic Objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations;*
- o *Strategic Objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; and*
- o *Strategic Objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD*

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

61. *Baseline scenario without the GEF investments:* The baseline scenario is characterised by accentuated levels of land degradation in the target regions of The Gambia. ROOTS investment aim at increasing agricultural productivity and access to markets for enhanced food security and nutrition, and resilience of family farms and farmer organizations. To achieve its objective, ROOTS will support targeted investments in infrastructure, and the technical and organizational capacities of farmers? organizations, particularly youth and women and other stakeholders along the rice and horticulture value chains. The continued levels of land degradation will continue to compromise the environmental stocks and flows from ecosystems in the regions that will affect the livelihood of rural communities targeted by ROOTS and NEMA which the new IFAD investment is building on. In the current

scenario, The Gambia does not have the appropriate level of institutional, policy and regulatory instruments and mechanisms to support the implementation of the country's LDN targets.

62. Relevant stakeholders do not have the adequate and appropriate capacities, and the level of institutional awareness of SLM and LDN, including among rural communities will remain critically low to inspire concrete actions. This is despite having participated in the LDN target-setting phase in support of the implementation of the UNCCD. Environmental threats linked to Shifting cultivation, ecosystem (forest, mangrove forests, forests) degradation and conversion, overgrazing, bushfires and pressure on coastal rice areas will continue to be critical challenges to the production landscapes. Additionally, siltation and sedimentation due to water runoff from denuded uplands will persist. In a nutshell, in the baseline scenario without the GEF investment, the implementation of SLM and the country's LDN targets to contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD 2018 - 2030 Strategic Framework will prove to be a mirage, the opportunity for synergising, consolidating NEMA and scaling up of the ROOTS intervention will be missed.

63. *Scenario with the GEF investments:* With the GEF investments, The Gambia will have the appropriate level of institutional capacities and policy frameworks that will mainstream SLM and LDN in development plans to support the implementation of the country's LDN targets. Besides the institutional arrangements, there will be an upscaling of concrete actions on the ground to support rural communities in the adoption and implementation of SLM and water management practices in support of LDN target achievement on agricultural and rangeland systems (GDT). Also, there will be concrete actions that will aim at improving the livelihoods of populations affected by land degradation in the West Coast, North Bank and Lower River Regions of The Gambia. Therefore, the GEF investments will propel The Gambia on a path to implement SLM practices to support the LDN targets achievement, and contribute to other sustainable development goals particularly: poverty; hunger; gender equality; peace, justice and strong institutions; climate action; and life on land.

64. In addition co-financing from the Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) grants already mobilized on IFAD baseline project ROOTS to support land degradation will be leveraged to scale up this work. With the expected results to be generated by the GEF, it is expected that IFAD main investment integrate them during the lifecycle of the project as a way to inform IFAD investment with good practices generated by GEF funded projects.

65. The incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline is summarised in the table below.

Outcome	Baseline (1)	Alternative (2)	Increment (2) - (1)
Component 1: Enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation (LD2.5)			

<p>1.1 Increased institutional capacities, and enhanced cross sectors and governance mechanisms for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation by: (i) improved in national institutions capacities for SLM and LDN (ii) number of functional new governance frameworks and plans for SLM and LDN.</p>	<p>Despite having established LDN targets, The Gambia does not have inadequate harmonized capacities, policy and institutional mechanisms for effective mainstreaming and implementation of SLM and national LDN targets.</p>	<p>? Stakeholder capacity strengthened for collaborative land-use decision-making and management; ? Vocational education strategies and trainings tools developed and implemented; ? One open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system is developed for land-use decision-making; ? One land use management plan is developed in cooperation with relevant national and international partners; ? One (1) Integrated watershed plan is developed for SLM and LDN;</p>	<p>? Stakeholder collaboration around the LDN agenda in the country is strengthened; ? LDN awareness and environmental health including pandemic and social effects of deforestation and land degradation conducted among 600 communities members, integrated in Farmers Field Schools and Songhai Centre; ? The one open-access knowledge platform strengthens The Gambia's ambition to reduce, avoid and reverse land degradation and monitors it using at least three (3) project-level indicators - land cover change, land productivity and SOC); ? SLM and LDN policy integration is strengthened by the development of a land use management plan; and ? At local levels in watershed areas, the implementation of SLM and LDN is guided by an Integrated watershed plan clear cross-sectoral governance, implementation structures.</p>
<p>Component 2: Implementation of Integrated landscape planning and management to reduce land degradation (LD1.4)</p>			

<p>2.1 Improved, coordinated and collaborative management of Landscape (12,000 ha of restored degraded productive landscapes in 11 districts, contributing 11% to 109 000 ha LDN national target, while bringing 14,500 ha under improved management) enhancing their ecological integrity and ensuring better agricultural production and livelihoods.</p>	<p>Linked to institutional gaps highlighted above, land management systems in The Gambia are weakened by lack of land policy which hampers more coordinated and collaborative landscape management in the country.</p>	<p>?Five Integrated water and soil management practices are promoted by 700 households ? Support towards assisted natural regeneration (using locally adapted species); improved bushfire management; woodlots using multipurpose tree species; and agro-silvo-pastoral practices; ?Improved community forestry and indigenous community conservation management; and ?Establishing Community monitoring system for soil erosion and vegetation cover is established using the 3 project-level indicators</p>	<p>?1,500 ha under conservation agriculture; ?12,000 ha of degraded agricultural production landscapes are rehabilitated and restored; ?1,000 ha of woodlots are integrated into the sustainable wood and biomass energy supply chain; and ? Communities, direct land-users and project beneficiaries are integrated and participate in the LDN agenda; contributing to tracking the project?s contribution to the LDN national agenda.</p>
<p>Component 3: Promote SLM for Climate Resilient and Low Emission Agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management (LD1.1)</p>			

<p>3.1 Improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management for better livelihoods 700 households (or 4,830 people).[32]³²</p>	<p>Shifting cultivation, fuelwood extraction and deforestation are important threats exacerbating land degradation in The Gambia. These are linked to lack of opportunities for SLM-related market-oriented alternative livelihoods among smallholder producers and direct land-users. Pressure on land is therefore, huge.</p>	<p>?Agroforestry is promoted through the integration of woody perennials into agricultural crops and/or animals; ?Crop-livestock systems are promoted and integrated to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources is promoted and scaled up; ?Structural barriers including natural barriers on sloping lands are implemented in the form of earth or soil bunds, stone lines; ?1,000 <i>Jambar</i> cooking stoves distributed to 1,000 households; and ? Capacity in SLM for climate resilient and low emission agriculture is enhanced of the following: 7 Communities, 50 women-led associations and technical services,150 Extension services workers in 11 districts.</p>	<p>?Production systems improve and contribute to food security, soil fertility status and land cover; ?Crop and livestock resources become more resilient, but also contribute to improving livelihood base of land-users; ? Structural barriers contribute to SLM ? improving soil fertility status and reducing soil erosion in productive agricultural land; ? Pressure on land due to the use of charcoal and fuelwood reduces, contributing to reducing soil erosion and generally, land degradation; ?Enhanced capacity lead to improved and resilient agricultural and livestock production systems, contributing to livelihoods and environment.</p>
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Component 4: Project Monitoring the Project's Contribution to Neutrality			
4.1 Monitoring of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon carried out in line with project-level indicators in contribution to national LDN agenda	Despite the established LDN targets in The Gambia, the project pioneers the implementation of SLM and the LDN agenda in The Gambia, and therefore, there is currently no participatory monitoring mechanism to assess project contribution to LDN national targets.	? Two (2) interpretation modalities for the changes in land cover (positive, negative, stable) established; ? One (1) monitoring plan established and agreed upon by key stakeholders; ? One (1) LDN information hub operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned to target audience	?Participatory stakeholder engagement in LDN monitoring in The Gambia, contributing to LDN agenda ownership; ?Participatory stakeholder engagement in LDN monitoring in The Gambia, contributing to LDN agenda ownership; ?Standard mechanism for monitoring LDN at national level in The Gambia is established and operationalised.

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

66. As highlighted in the theoretical logic above, the project proposes a suite of interventions that will build capacities, ensure policy alignments, engage different stakeholders (including women at community level) to prepare ground for effective implementation of an integrated landscape approach and SLM practices to reverse the trending case of land degradation. In the hierarchy of interventions, from the prioritised 11 districts, the project will focus on reversing land degradation. The GEF investments will support the rehabilitation and restoration of important production landscapes that are degraded due to climate change-related factors as well as anthropogenic pressures. Consistent with the GEF Land Degradation Focal Areas, the project will support interventions that to adopt SLM practices to lead to improved livelihoods and nutrition status of land degradation affected communities (LD1.1). The project will also support integrated landscape management approach that will lead to improving productive capacity of 14,500 ha of degraded agrosilvopastoral production landscapes in 11 districts of The Gambia, and restoring 12,000 ha of degraded production landscapes ? thereby contributing 11% to 109 000 ha LDN national target, including a reduction in 2, 936, 362 Tco2eq in carbon emissions. The project envisages a suite of interventions through building the required institutional capacities at

different levels, and national regulatory and legal instruments to facilitate implementation of SLM and the LDN agenda in The Gambia. Thus, in relation to the GEF-7 core indicators, the GEF investment will lead to the generations of the following global environmental benefits in the table below:

?

Component	GEB activity-related details	GEB (ha)
Component 2	2.1.1: Area under Five (5) Integrated Water and Soil Management practices promoted by 700 households through dikes, and Conservation Agriculture	1,500
	2.1.2: a. Area of degraded agricultural production landscapes rehabilitated and restored through assisted natural regeneration focusing on locally adapted species (12,000 ha); b. Area of land under improved bushfire management (7,500 ha) c. Area of land for woodlots using multipurpose tree species, agro-silvopastoral multipurpose tree species, agro-silvo-pastoral practices (4,500 ha)	24,000
	2.1.3 Area of woodlots integrated into the sustainable wood and biomass energy supply chain leading to improved community forestry and indigenous community conservation management	1,000
	Tons of carbon sequestered	2, 936, 362 Tco2eq
Subtotal		26,500
Component 3	3.1.1: Area under agroforestry and sustainable and diversified cropping systems	5,000
	3.1.2: Area under integrated crop-livestock systems to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources	2,000
	3.1.3: Area under participatory SLM plan (mixing different techniques such as soil bunds, stone lines, etc. to reduce water runoff and soil erosion in productive agricultural land), including watershed management	15,000
Subtotal		22,000
Grand total		48,500

67. From the table above and consistent with Table B, ?Project Description Summary,? activities related to restoration will be on 12,000 ha (component 2). Activities related to bringing land under improved land management, including those expanding socioeconomic opportunities for land users will be on 36,500 ha (from components 2 and 3), giving a total of 48,500 ha.

7) Innovativeness, Sustainability and Potential for scaling up

Innovation

68. With the support and in partnerships with development partners, The Gambia has implemented SLM-related practices, particularly in the agriculture sector and biodiversity conservation ? aspects broadly important to the LDN agenda. However, following the successful LDN target setting exercise in 2017, this is the pioneer LDN-focused project to support the country?s course towards the implementation but also assessment of the LDN agenda ? putting the specifics of the LDN agenda at

the centre of the project design. Through this project, The Gambia will be able to, in a deliberate manner, understand the country's performance in terms of achieving its LDN targets, make informed decisions regarding SLM-practices for the LDN agenda and build a portfolio of lessons to inform decisions for scaling up and out SLM practices for the LDN national agenda. . To ensure an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia, the project strategically proposes interventions at institutional level, SLM concrete actions on the ground and concrete actions in support of livelihoods. Additionally, the proposed project interventions for community livelihoods are informed by community practices which offer potential for reducing pressure on the resource base. The project, therefore, gives space to different stakeholder at different administrative tiers and community level to be part of the LDN agenda implementation in the Gambia, ensuring that gender concerns are also factored into the implementation equation. Therefore, deliberately, the project raises the profile of the specifics of the LDN agenda in The Gambia to avoid, reduce or reverse the trends in land degradation through land cover change, soil organic carbon and land productivity ? contributing to both global environmental benefits and socioeconomic well-being of land resources-dependent countries in the target regions.

Sustainability

69. The sustainability aspect of this project is based on the following three main points: first, the project will seek to create partnerships around themes of the LDN agenda ? it will bring different stakeholders together. This will ensure that the project gets institutionalised and the integrated landscape management and SLM practices that it will be promoting become an agenda in many institutions. Some of the institutions are likely to mobilise additional funding to not only scale up but also sustain SLM practices. Second, the project will work with community-level farmer groups, including Farmer Field Schools which will ensure sustainability of project outputs. Third, through assessing national-level policies, the project will support the GoTG to align and mainstream the LDN agenda in national, sector and local policies. This will rationalise the implementation of an integrated landscape management and SLM practices in response to the country's LDN agenda. This means that the LDN agenda will become part of the development agenda in the country and investment plans. This will ensure sustainability. National institutions are enduring, and therefore, there is no better way to ensure sustainability than embedding the project's interventions within institutions that have a legal backing as well as a political will. This will be complemented, as already alluded to above, by the involvement of a large range of actors, among them, rural communities, farmer organizations and the private sector, will also enhance the sustainability of the activities, particularly the investments in alternative income activities that respond to the daily challenges of food security.

70. In sum, INLAMAG's sustainability is embedded in its engagement of various stakeholders in its design (Create legitimate engagement, ongoing partnerships, with and among appropriate stakeholders); adaptive management practices that recognise the need to remain flexible in the implementation in response to changing circumstances (that is, responsiveness to diverse inputs, flexibility in project implementation with structured flexibility as barriers and enablers change, and due consideration of the policy and institutional context); and system thinking that duly gives space to on-

going monitoring, reflection and learning. Consistent with STAP,[1] these aspects are reflected in the overall design of this project.

[1] STAP (2019). Achieving enduring outcomes from [GEF investment](#)

Scaling up

71. The project seeks to scale up SLM practices scaled up by restoring the productive capacity of 14,500 ha of degraded production landscapes in 11 districts of The Gambia. Mainstreamed into the national development plan, this will catalyse additional investments from other partners to make additional investments in agricultural development in the districts. For example, the ROOTs project that has provided cofinance will multiply the effects of this project. Other additional investments are likely to come from the Agence Francaise de Developpement that has equally provided cofinancing. Therefore, the first line of scaling up is that the rehabilitation of land will attract investments for additional financing of SLM practices and integrated landscape approaches. As described in component 1, scaling up will be facilitated by bringing together relevant stakeholders around the common themes of LDN, including capacity development, research and financing. Additionally, the implementation of SLM practices in support of the LDN agenda in the country will focus on West Coast Region, the North Bank Region and the Lower River Region. However, the LDN agenda is a national development agenda to combat land degradation by improving land cover, improving the productive capacity of production landscapes and improving carbon stocks. Therefore, lessons learned from the three target regions will be disseminated to the national level, and inform SLM interventions in other regions. In terms of hectares, the project will contribute to 11 % of the Gambia LDN framework target of 109, 900 ha restored until 2030.

[1] Quick facts about the population of Gambia <https://countrymeters.info/en/Gambia>

[2] WFP The Gambia (September 2020). Country [Brief](#)

[3] WFP-CFSVA, 2016; Joint Gambia Government/FAO/CILSS and WFP Pre-harvest Assessment, 2018.

[4] 2019-2026 Second Generation National Agricultural Investment Plan-Food and Nutrition Security (GNAIP II-FNS) for The Gambia

[5] The Gambia Land Degradation Neutrality National Report, 2018

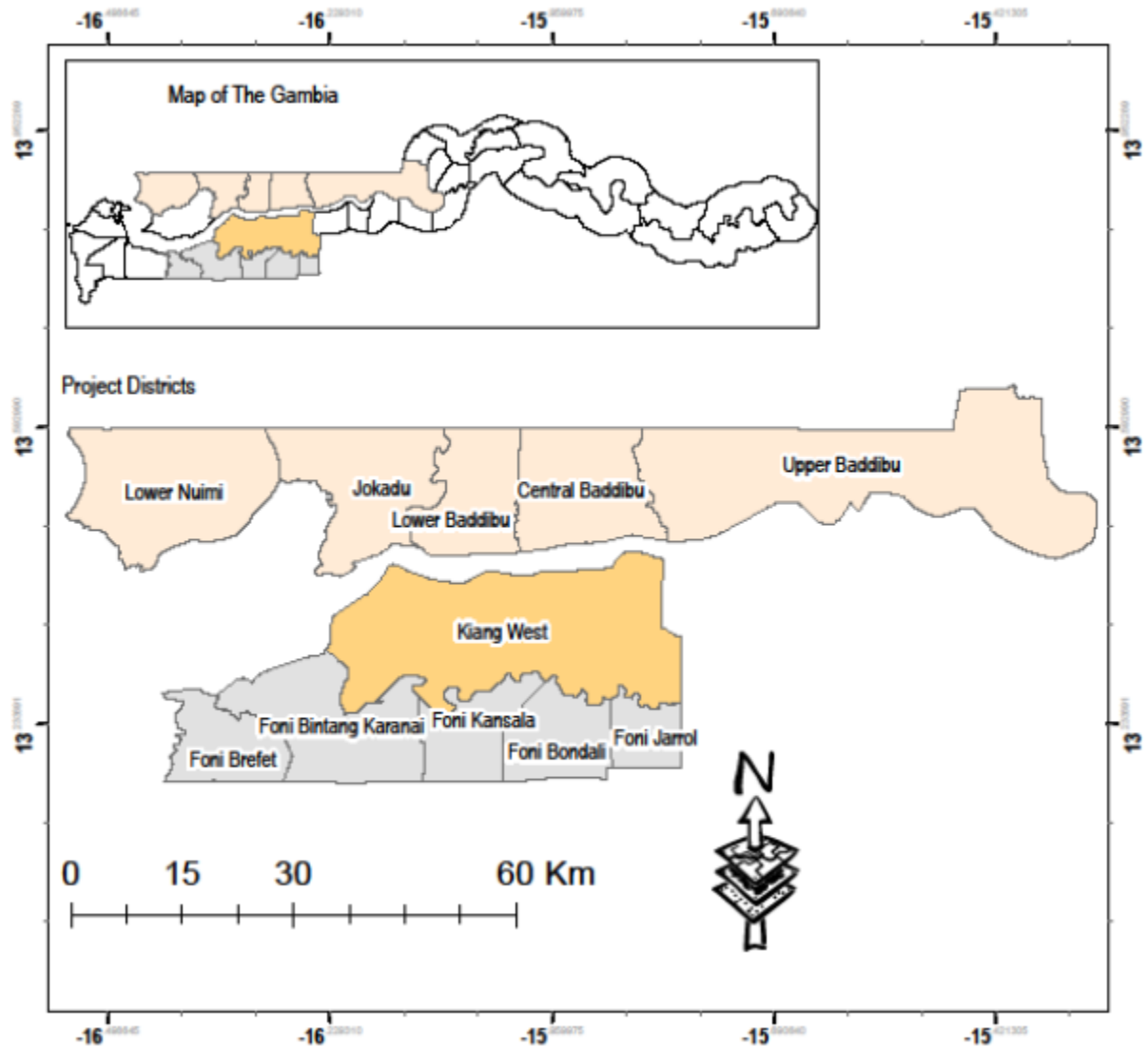
[6] The Gambia Land Degradation Neutrality National Report, 2018

- [7] The Gambia Land Degradation Neutrality National Report, 2018
- [8] The Gambia Land Degradation Neutrality National Report, 2018
- [9] Sara J. Scherr, Seth Shames and Rachel Friedman. (2013). Defining Integrated Landscape Management for Policy Makers
- [10] UNCCD. (2016): Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting ? A Technical [Guide](#)
- [11] UNCCD. (2016). The land degradation neutrality principles related to good [governance](#)
- [12] Allen, C. *et al.* (2020). Delivering an enabling environment and multiple benefits for land degradation neutrality: Stakeholder perceptions and progress. *Journal of Environment Science and Policy*
- [13] Van Haren, N. *et al.* (2019). Contribution of community-based initiatives to the sustainable development goal of Land Degradation Neutrality. *Journal of Environment Science and Policy*
- [14] Gichenje, H. *et al.* (2019). Opportunities and Limitations for Achieving Land Degradation-Neutrality through the Current Land-Use Policy Framework in [Kenya](#)
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- [16] Representing about 50% of the target number of direct beneficiaries (i.e 9,608 people or 1,392 households)
- [17] Olsson, L., *et al.* (2019). Land Degradation. In: Climate Change and Land: an [IPCC](#) special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems.
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- [21] UNCCD 2018 ? 2030 Strategic Framework Strategic Objective one
- [22] GEF. (2019). Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

- [23] Chilombo, A and van der Horst. (2021). Livelihoods and coping strategies of local communities on previous customary land in limbo of commercial agricultural development: Lessons from the farm block program in Zambia. *Journal of Land Use Policy*
- [24] UNCCD 2018 - 2030 Strategic Framework Strategic Objective two
- [25] Christina, O. (2017). Climate and economic benefits of agroforestry systems. A publication of the Climate Institute
- [26] Lal, R. (2020). Integrating animal husbandry with Crops and trees. *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems*
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- [28] Desta, G. (2021). Effects of land management practices and land cover types on soil loss and crop productivity in Ethiopia: A review. *International Soil and Water Conservation Research*
- [29] GEF. (2019). Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- [30] STAP. (2019). Land Degradation Neutrality: Guidelines for GEF projects
- [31] WFP Gambia <https://www.wfp.org/countries/gambia>
- [32] Based on the role and representation of women in the proposed project activities

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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



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.

1. The design process of this process has been informed by an active stakeholder engagement. From the initial PIF consultations up until now in the preparation of the CEO endorsement stage, key stakeholders have been engaged and consulted (see Annex J). During the PIF development stage, an IFAD team was in The Gambia to consult with government agencies, development partners as well as other key stakeholders who included civil society organisations and research institutions. After the thematic studies were completed, a validation workshop was organised where the government of The Gambia was represented by the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Environment. In attendance were other government officials such as Directors, development partners, civil society organisations, research institutions and sub-national level representatives from the project target regions. At the validation workshop, partners were again invited to give additional inputs and to refine and update project objectives and core indicators. Moving forward during the implementation phase, the project will continue involving these and other stakeholders, principally government and quasi-government institutions at national and regional levels, research institutions, civil society organisations.
2. The table summarises important stakeholders associated with the implementation of the project. The stakeholders are directly or indirectly involved in the thematic focus of the project in their functions. During the implementation phase, they will be engaged to provide the required support - and some of them will be part of the Project Steering Committee.

Table of stakeholders

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Role in the project
Government and quasi-government institutions	? National Environment Agency (NEA)	? NEA, as a coordinator of all environmental projects and programs in the country, will facilitate the bringing together of all relevant stakeholders to build consensus on the project aspects. It will also ensure that due diligence is exercised regarding any potential environmental implications of the project.
	? Department of Parks and Wildlife	? Provide services on wetland restoration through mangrove planting, delineation of community protected areas. The Department will work closely with the Departments of Forestry and Agriculture to implement SLM practices and Conservation Agriculture activities.

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Role in the project
	? Department of Forestry	? With the mandate to protect and manage the forest cover, the Department will promote woodlot management and agroforestry, and enhance awareness of communities in forest fire prevention and management. The Department will work closely with the Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Agriculture to implement SLM practices and Conservation Agriculture activities.
	? Department of Agriculture	? The Department will ensure coordination of the project, and implement SLM practices and Conservation Agriculture activities. In these activities, the Department will work closely with the Departments of Forestry and Parks and Wildlife.
	? National Agricultural Research Institute	? To provide expert advice on the ecology and production of findi rice, including providing adaptive research for other improved food crop varieties.
	? National Seed Secretariat	? Responsible for production of improved seed varieties.
	? Gambia Chamber of Commerce	? To support with the regulatory frameworks for the marketing of tomatoes and pepper.
? Development Partners	? FAO	? In partnership with the GoTG, support the execution of agricultural-related activities, particularly where FAO has on-going projects to scale up best practices.
Civil Society Organisations	? Sahel Wetland, WABSA and KOMFORA	? Provide technical support in tree planting, coastal area rehabilitation with mangrove planting, and establishment of woodlots.
	? National Beekeepers Association	? Technical support in bee-keeping production, processing and marketing activities.
	? STAYGREEN foundation	? To provide seedlings for afforestation activities.
	? National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA)	? Support the functional literacy and awareness raising of SLM and LDN in women farmer groups.
? Private Sector	? National Food Processors and Tropical Fruits	? Offer technical support on the value chains, including processing of tomatoes and pepper for marketing.

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Role in the project
	? Gambia Horticultural Enterprise	? Offer technical support on production and the value chains of tomatoes and pepper to comply with national production standard and quality.
	? National Cooperative of Vegetable Growers/Marketers	? Platform for women producers to be engaged in the project, and support with links to markets
	? Gambia Hotel Association	? Offer marketing linkages to hotels and supermarkets for tomatoes and pepper.

Private sector

3. Tourism is an important economic activity in The Gambia. The private sector therefore, have a critical role to play in sustainable food production to meet the standards of the clientele dominated by foreigners in the country. Through the value chain interaction platforms set up by ROOTS, which enables Public-Private Producers? Partnerships (4Ps), the involvement of the private sector will be made through the development of agricultural and pastoral value chains. Vegetation dominated by women groups and the young people will be particularly favored ? focusing on activities to reduce shifting cultivation that places undue pressure on land, leading to land degradation. The main private sector actors involved in the project activities include among others: National Food Processors and Tropical Fruits; Gambia Horticultural Enterprise; National Cooperative of Vegetable Growers/Marketers; Gambia Hotel Association Farmers? organizations and grassroots community organizations. In addition, the project will benefit from the financing innovations and mechanisms established by the IFAD ROOTs baseline investment.

Local authorities

4. Local institutions and traditional leaders of villages are important stakeholders in sustainable land management, and play an important role in sustainable management of resources and custodian of customary rights. Their representation is based on legitimacy as agreed upon by community members. They are usually the first points of contact and entry when mobilizing community for their participation. For example, they are responsible for settling land disputes at village level. Through traditional authorities, bush fires can and are regulated, thereby reducing threats to soil erosion due to burning during wrong seasons, and burning indiscriminately. For this project, and its focus on sustainable land management, local authorities will be engaged to support community mobilization and community-level participation and ownership of project activities. With the support of local authorities, project implementation of activities at community will be more collaborative.

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

Mode of stakeholder engagement

1. As has been above, the development of this project has engaged and consulted various various stakeholders at different administrative national levels - ranging from government and government-quasi agencies, civil society organisations, research institutions, communities themselves in target regions to private sector. The project recognises that the successful implementation of the project, in terms of achieving its objective, largely depends on the support, the buy-in, collaboration and engagement with the key stakeholders. Therefore, during the implementation phase, the project will continue engaging stakeholders, building on consultations with them that have already been undertaken - to among others, further discuss risks and refine mitigation measures, intervention strategies, design and revise adaptative management strategies and implementation modalities as may be needed.
2. The primary mode of stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle will be focused on consultations at appropriate levels, depending on the stakeholders and the role they are meant to play. In this regard, consultations will remain part of the project preparation, but also implementation at national, regional and local levels. Field visits, meetings, and where possible and as appropriate, workshops and trainings, will constitute means of keeping stakeholders engaged. As noted, the exact mechanism of engagement will partly depend on the stakeholders concerned and their specific role or function they have to play in the project implementation. The underpinning rationale is that all key stakeholders are engaged in a manner that enables them to effectively play their role to ensure that the project achieves its objective to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia.
3. Additionally, other modes of engagement with stakeholders will be based on information dissemination, partnerships and participation. The project will develop a robust information dissemination mechanisms to ensure that relevant stakeholders have access to the project information, particularly the information intended to encourage behaviour change in the management of natural resources in the project catchment area. Information will also be disseminated to stakeholders for policy reform to improve resource management in The Gambia. These modes of engagement will be underpinned by principles of commitment that will recognize the need to understand, engage and identify the stakeholders and consult them during the implementation phase.
4. The modes of engagement will reflect the value system embedded in integrity, trust and transparency to ensure that consultations and engagement are conducted in a manner that fosters mutual respect and trust among all stakeholders concerned ? supporting meaningful and respectful dialogues that are sensitive to local stakeholder socio-cultural environment. The principle of respect of rights, cultural beliefs, values and interests of stakeholders and affected communities will remain cardinal to recognise stakeholder socio-cultural differences and modes of interpersonal interactions. Inclusiveness will be upheld to ensure that broad

participation is encouraged and supported in all participation opportunities, including unrestricted access to consultation meetings and information that will benefit concerned stakeholders and the implementation phase of the project.

- The table below details the project's stakeholder engagement plan. It is noted here that the planned stakeholder plan is likely to be affected by the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in The Gambia. Therefore, the plan includes virtual/on-line meetings to ensure an appreciable level of stakeholder engagement in the project during its implementation stage so that key and strategic partners play their role to the extent possible. The engagement mechanisms will therefore include: virtual meetings; information boards; print media and radio; one-on-one interviews; formal meetings; public meetings; workshops; focus group meetings; and surveys. These are detailed in the table of stakeholder engagement plan. It should be reiterated here that the engagement strategy will be influenced by circumstances such as COVID-19, the stakeholder category, purpose of the engagement and envisaged role in the project.

Table of stakeholder engagement plan

Engagement technique	Stakeholders and partners	Purpose of engagement
Virtual/on-line meetings	? Government officials ? NGO's and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? National institutional partners, including national research institutions	Depending on the evolution of COVID-19 in The Gambia, virtual meetings may be very important in: ? Project information distribution to key and strategic stakeholders and partners ? To gather views from key and strategic stakeholders and partners in the project ? Project adaptive management measures, if necessary
Information Centre and Information Boards	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO's and conservation organisations ? Local communities	? Establish Information Boards in each project community area.

Engagement technique	Stakeholders and partners	Purpose of engagement
Correspondence by phone, email, text, and instant messaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Government officials ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? National institutional partners, including national research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Distribute project information to government officials, organizations, agencies and companies ? Invite stakeholders to meetings
Print media and radio announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Disseminate project information to large audiences, and illiterate stakeholders ? Inform stakeholders about consultation meetings
One-on-one interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO?s and conservation organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Solicit views and opinions ? Enable stakeholders to speak freely and confidentially about controversial and sensitive issues ? Build personal relations with stakeholders ? Recording of interviews
Formal meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Government officials ? NGO?s and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? National institutional partners, including national research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Present project information to a group of stakeholders ? Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Build impersonal relations with high level stakeholders ? Distribute technical documents ? Facilitate meetings using PowerPoint presentations Record discussions, comments/questions raised and responses

Engagement technique	Stakeholders and partners	Purpose of engagement
Public meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO's and conservation Organisations ? Private sector ? Local communities ? National institutional partners, including national research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Present project information to a large audience of stakeholders, and in particular communities ? Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Build relationships with neighbouring communities ? Distribute non-technical project information ? Facilitate meetings using PowerPoint presentations, posters, models, videos and pamphlets or project information documents ? Record discussions, comments/questions raised and responses
Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO's and conservation organisations ? Local communities ? National institutional partners, including national research institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Present project information to a group of stakeholders Allow the group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions ? Use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, brainstorm issues, analyse information, and develop recommendations and strategies ? Recording of responses
Focus group meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ? NGO's and conservation organisations ? Local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Allow a smaller group of between 8 and 15 people to provide their views and opinions of targeted baseline information ? Build relationships with neighbouring communities ? Use a focus group interview guideline to facilitate discussions ? Record responses

Engagement technique	Stakeholders and partners	Purpose of engagement
Surveys	? Neighbouring communities ? Vulnerable Groups ?NGO?s and conservation organisations ? Local communities	?Gather opinions and views from individual stakeholders ? Gather baseline data ? Record data ? Develop a baseline database for monitoring impacts

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; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

1. The population of women in The Gambia is marginally higher (50.41%) than that of men (49.49%),[1] however, women constitute by far the vast majority of the population that is active in agricultural activities. Women are experiencing low level of literacy rate (40%), compared to men (64%), in addition to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). According to The Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2018, 75 percent of girls between the ages of 15 to 19 have undergone Female Genital Mutilation. According to the same MICS survey, 44 percent of girls between the ages of 15-19 think the practice should continue, while 49 percent think it should stop. 67 percent of girls at the age of 18-19 believed that a man should beat his wife. According to the national gender profile published by FAO and ECOWAS[2], women account for around 50 percent of the total labour force in the country and 70 percent of unskilled labourers, and 42 percent of female employment is in agriculture against 22 percent of male employment. In addition, 84.6 percent of women are considered in vulnerable employment against 71 percent of males, and only 14

percent as wage- and salary-workers against 29 percent of male. Gender differentials shows that females constitute a slightly higher percentage of the working age population than males with 78.4 and 76.4 percent, respectively. Women are involved in food and horticultural production and raising small ruminants and poultry. However, the economic activities based on the use of land for agriculture are not financially rewarding, and therefore, do not appreciably improve women's socioeconomic conditions.

2. In Agriculture, most of the work is done by women, even if the majority of women farmers are unskilled. Crops are grown according to gendered division of labour, where men primarily grow sorghum, millet, maize and groundnuts in the high lands, while women primarily grow lowland rice and vegetables[3]. Rice, which is the main staple crop and the most labour-intensive crop, is mostly produced by women but more in a subsistence than commercial basis. Women are also active in horticultural production, but in a small scale between consumption and sale in the local markets, and the income is often invested in sustaining the household. Their limited capacity and skills to embark on viable agro-based and entrepreneurial activities, lack of ownership and control over resources such as land and modern agricultural equipment, coupled with the triple roles of women, impede all efforts for rural women to graduate into the mainstream livelihood economy[4]. Most are involved in the production of non-cash crops for subsistence, with low levels of productivity due to limited control and ownership of productive resources such as land, inputs, credit and technology, as well as markets.
 3. To ensure women participation and particularly, women empowerment, the project will build on experiences in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Nigeria and Togo that have showed that interactive rural learning approaches (such as farmer-to-farmer interactions) are effective in improving the ability of marginalized poor to adopt and or innovate with local or limited resources regarding access to natural resources.[1] The approach to involve women as leaders in engaging other women in the project may be complemented with the use of ICT where possible and appropriate to improve communication but also knowledge transfer, particularly if physical interactions are impeded due to COVID-19. Another important aspect towards promoting women empowerment is that ROOTS, to which INLAMAG is aligned, will implement the Gender Action Learning System (GALS) methodology which aims at addressing the root causes rather than the symptoms of inequality and disempowerment, and change power relations with a focus on sustainability. Indeed, the gender strategy of this project intend to expanding women's economic empowerment through access to and control over household and productive assets, in particular land. It also focuses on gender awareness and women empowerment measures, including GALS training. Therefore, INLAMAG can take this opportunity, given that the GALS is already finalized and is going to be implemented effectively across all levels. In addition, strategic partnerships have to be developed with NAWFA and key organisations working on women's empowerment (Women's Bureau) for successful implementation of activities contributing to women empowerment.
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[1] Zossou E, et al. (2019). Learning agriculture in rural areas: the drivers of knowledge acquisition and farming practices by rice farmers in West Africa." The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension (2019): 1-16

4. There is no equal access to land between men and women. Access to land ownership is much reduced, with 30.7% of men owning land against 20.7% of women, among which only 4% of women own land alone, 15% own land jointly, the rest do not own any land[5]. The country's Women's Act which states that "women shall have the right to equal treatment in land and agrarian reform, as well as in land resettlement schemes", however there is no explicit protection of women's rights to control or own land. There are challenges that women face in The Gambia that account for this. For example, the low production and productivity of horticultural production is associated with poorly-organized production systems, inadequate horticultural inputs, marketing and processing facilities, low value addition as well as horticultural information, education and communication systems.[6] This is despite national policy provision to improve access to inputs, financing and markets for smallholder women farmers as well as to improve the value chains of agricultural products.[7]

Table of female and male rural employment in The Gambia

Category	1998	2007	2017
Employment in agriculture, female (% of female employment)	57.4	48.9	42.4
Employment in agriculture, male (% of male employment)	37.5	27.9	21.7
Employment in industry, female (% of female employment)	1.3	2.1	3.0
Employment in industry, male (% of male employment)	10.1	16.0	22.6
Employment in services, female (% of female employment)	41.3	49.0	54.6
Employment in services, male (% of male employment)	52.4	56.1	55.7

4. In the Gambian society patriarchal system, male hegemony and other socio-cultural factors interplay to influence the interactions between the genders and social groups. These inequalities have resulted in some cases, the exclusion of women, girls, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups from actively participating in certain sectors and at certain levels of the development process of the country.[8] During stakeholder consultations,

it emerged that cultural practices are also a barrier to women access and use of productive land and forests. Men hold land, and women do not. Instead, men tend to leave degraded lands to women, as the former move on to more productive lands for use. This relegation of women to users of exhausted and degraded land is exacerbated by the fact that there is no land policy in force now to lawfully protect the interest of women in the use and access of land. Finally, land in rural areas is traditional land, therefore has no economic value in markets, and cannot be used as collateral to allow its users to access financial services. To address gender-responsive measures and support closing gender gaps, the project will deliberately involve women in both SLM practices and diversification of alternative livelihoods as well as decision-making processes so that the planning and implementation reflect gender balance and interests. For example, women groups doing vegetable gardening have informed the choice of some of the proposed activities. The women were duly consulted, and voiced their priorities in this proposed project. Awareness-raising, capacity development and strengthening, SLM/LDN activities and project implementation will all involve women. Working with women groups such as the National Cooperative of Vegetable Growers/Marketers and other women groups will support the cause to integrate women in the project design and implementation to help close the gender gaps.

Women integration in the project

5. About 60% of the population lives in the rural areas and 52.1% of those are women. Women constitute 51% of the total population. A critical analysis of the Gambian society shows that there are strong traditional and cultural forces that impinge on the participation of women in development endeavors. Disparities still exist between men and women in power sharing, participation and control over decision-making processes at all levels of society.[9] Based on this recognition, the project will be proactive in ensuring an equitable participation of women in the project activities, including decision-making processes.

? The project will adopt a gender and development approach that engages men and women to promote gender equality and transform gender relations in project activities and decision-making process. Using a win-win approach in which men and women perceive gains in shifting gender norms is also important to support sustainable change. This is likely to promote women participation in sustainable land management practices; leading to improved food security and access to productive resources at household level.

? There are socio-cultural aspects that stifle efforts to improve gender mainstreaming in The Gambia. While respecting the socio-cultural and traditional practices, the project will engage relevant stakeholders to support the promotion of practices that are gender-sensitive and encourage equal access to resources and exercise of decision-making power among both men and women. Therefore, information dissemination using radio programs involving traditional leaders, development practitioners, local level policy-makers and religious leaders will prove useful. These programs will also address issues regarding sexual and gender-based violence as these influence the ability of women to participate in project activities and processes.

Finally, the project will ensure a gender-inclusive approach in decision-making processes at all levels. In this regard, the project will be sensitive to gender inclusion in the organisational structure of the project. Thus, qualified women will be given equal opportunities to serve in the Project Steering Committee, the Project Management Unit, or as Project Technical Coordinators or in any other positions of the project organisational structure.

[1] Gambia Demographics: <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/gambia-population/>

[2] FAO and ECOWAS Commission. 2019. National Gender Profile of Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods ? The Gambia. Country Gender Assessment Series, Banjul.
<http://www.fao.org/3/ca3222en/ca3222en.pdf>

[3] FAO and ECOWAS. 2019

[4] <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3222en/ca3222en.pdf>

[5] <http://www.fao.org/3/ca3222en/ca3222en.pdf>

[6] The Women?s Bureau, Ministry of Women Affairs, Social Welfare and Children. National Cooperatives for Vegetable Growers and Marketers Five Year-Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

[7] The National Gender and Women?s Empowerment Policy 2010-2020

[8] The National Gender and Women?s Empowerment Policy 2010-2020

[9] The National Gender and Women?s Empowerment Policy 2010-2020

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.

. Private Sector Engagement. Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

1. Agriculture remains a very important socioeconomic sector in The Gambia. The sector contributes about 30% to The Gambia's GDP, and 70% of the people are employed in the sector. Currently, there is effort being made to improve the value of agricultural products, introducing high value products apart from the raw products and make the private sector engagement more vibrant in the agricultural sector. Through the IFAD funded projects ROOTs that this GEF investment is linked, various interventions will address key barriers related to access to markets and private sector development. These actions are youth based services to ensure that trained youth interested in starting or growing an agri-business receive the necessary business development and financial support including climate finance; and to complement extension with other services, in particular mechanization, digital technologies and basic on-farm processing. Additionally, ROOTS which is the baseline investment will sponsor viable and sustainable 4P business ideas with a focus on post-harvest and value-addition with a specific focus on women and youth. The private sector will be engaged to provide technical expertise regarding the outputs generated through sustainable land and water management; processing, marketing and other information regarding the production of selected products. With the flourishing tourism sector and high local demand, there is potential for collaboration with the private sector in the way that improves local economy as well as reducing overexploitation of natural resources.

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):

1. West Africa is generally volatile on the security front. The impacts of security threats on project implementation cannot be ignored. Security sector reforms (SSR) have been implemented in The Gambia since 2017, including in the military, police and intelligence services. Policy frameworks have also been developed.[1]
2. In the absence of political instability, there are other risks that can impede the successful implementation of the project. In the table below are principal assumptions/risks, their relative severity and the mitigating approaches that will be considered to mitigate the risks to ensure the project is successfully implemented.

3. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused enormous socioeconomic stress and strained health systems globally. Despite all the efforts and strategies that are being considered in preparation to the implementation of this project, the uncertainty surrounding the potential evolution of the spread of COVID-19 and the need to comply with all the health measures set by the government in The Gambia, the activities particularly those that need physical interactions such as workshops, capacity development/trainings sessions especially with communities with hardly access to technology - might adversely impact project activities.

4. The UN environment is very conscious of impact of COVID-19 in the social, environmental and economic dimensions of our lives, acknowledging that: "The transmission of diseases, like the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19, between animals and humans (zoonoses) threatens economic development, animal and human well-being, and ecosystem integrity. The United Nations Environment Programme supports global efforts to protect biodiversity, to put an end to the illegal trade in wildlife, to safeguard the handling of chemicals and waste and to promote economic recovery plans that take nature and the climate emergency into account".[2]

5. Recognising the threats of COVID-19, IFAD's strategic response to the COVID-19 crisis is centred on a coordinated range of activities that address immediate impacts, prevent the erosion of results from past and ongoing operations, and put in place the building blocks to support post-crisis recovery. IFAD's response is organised into four categories, focusing on identifying immediate solutions, scaling up solutions, advising and supporting, and looking to the long term.[3]

6. In the context of the implementation of this project, saving people lives while ensuring the attainment of the project's results is the principle that will guide its overall implementation. While the impact of COVID-19 on our lives has been severe and the potential of the pandemic to affect this project remains real but this cannot deter the organisations involved in this project to make it a success. COVID-19 should equally be seen as an opportunity for the project like this one which seeks to rehabilitate land and improve socioeconomic opportunities of communities affected by land degradation. The project will contribute to fixing broken ecological systems that are the cause of COVID-19.

7.

Risks	Level (Low, Moderate, High)	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized or eliminated?)
Weak and poor coordination with ongoing SLM/LDN processes	Medium	Coordination and consultation mechanisms with relevant institutions and stakeholders will be established to ensure ownership of the process and engagement by all stakeholders.
Technical risk: Inadequate private sector interest in the project	Medium	Broad level consultations will be undertaken involving the appropriate Ministry and other quasi-government institutions such as the Chamber of Commerce to encourage the involvement of the private sector in the project.

Environmental risks: Climate Change affects agricultural production, particularly with the recurrent droughts in the country	Medium	Improving agricultural production will include the promotion of landraces such as <i>findi</i> rice. In addition the project will build on the successes of ongoing initiatives that have established irrigation systems to ensure continued production of food crops, including vegetable gardening. Concerning indigenous species that will be promoted under component 2, specific recommendations particularly on invasive species will be included in the safeguards
Political risks: Changes in political circumstances and government priorities	Low	Broad stakeholder engagement and aligning the project to broader government development goals embedded in government institutions will support the management of changes in political circumstances in The Gambia.
Social risks: Communities turn down the project and refuse to be engaged	Low	The project will incorporate awareness raising, and community members will be consulted and engaged so that they appreciate the benefits SLM/LDN and the socio-economic benefits that will be accruing. The communities' involvement in alternative income generating activities and capacity building will eliminate the social risk. Finally, the project will not involve any involuntary displacements of communities.
Lack of technical and institutional capacities for the promotion of SLM/LDN and improved management of natural resources in The Gambia	Low	Capacity building is part of this project design, and therefore, capacity needs will be identified to ensure that the required policy and institutional capacities are in place
Cultural practices prevent particularly women from participating in SLM/LDN practices.	Medium	This project will seek to raise awareness using a participatory approach to involve both men and women all in decision making processes to ensure voices of men and women are fairly and equitably represented.
Local communities within Indigenous Community Conservation Area (ICCA) not receptive to integrated landscape management and the implementation of SLM practices	Medium	Capacity development of relevant stakeholder, including community-based organisations is part of the proposed suites of interventions of this project. Additionally, extension services will be supported to ensure community awareness raising. Therefore, communities will be part and parcel of activity identification and decision-making processes in the implementation, including verification of LDN indicators that might need traditional knowledge and experience to confirm.

<p>COVID-19 pandemic continues during implementation</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>COVID-19 has generally been taken as a health humanitarian crisis than an environment one. As a crisis, resources are more likely to be taken to responding to it restoring degraded environment. In this regard, there is risk to lose co-financing and technical support from potential partners.</p> <p>COVID-19 infections are decreasing in Gambia, with 7 new infections reported on average each day. That's 5% of the peak ? the highest daily average reported on August 9, 2021. There have been 9,900 infections and 334 coronavirus-related deaths reported in the country since the pandemic began.[4]</p> <p>Should the pandemic continue and escalate in The Gambia and trigger a lockdown or restrict movements and physical meetings, the implementation of activities that require physical presence on the ground, and interactions with community members will be suspended.</p> <p>Additionally, should the COVID-19 situation trigger strict lock-down during project implementation, the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focus on the desk-based work of developing training packages at start-up in preparation for training events; - if necessary, and if travel remains restricted longer than expected, the project will develop materials for and conduct some meetings and training virtually; and - undertake desk research and conference interviews where needed and appropriate.
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8. In sum, the risks on the implementation of the project are rated, medium, overall. The project risk analysis has taken into consideration risks and expected long term impacts of the global pandemic COVID-19 in the implementation. Restrictions on personal interactions are expected to continue and the situation has created economic pressures on communities and stakeholder engagement. As the fourth wave starts, most likely characterised by the Omicron B1.1.1 259, it is difficult to predict the extent to which the pandemic will affect the project implementation ? nonetheless, as has been detailed in the analysis and presented in the table of risks, rating and mitigation measures above, country sanitary protocols against the pandemic, including IFAD proposed measures will be adhered to.

9. The current analysis places institutional, technical, environmental, local community engagement, COVID-19, cultural practice risks on medium, and political and social risks on low.

10. Classification of project social and environmental risks: The project aims at creating an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia. To achieve this aim, the project will focus on supporting a policy environment for mainstreaming and implementing the LDN agenda; promoting and implementing integrated landscape planning and management to reduce land degradation; implementing SLM to improve agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management; and monitoring how project activities will contribute to the LDN agenda. The proposed set of activities under each component will contribute to the generation of environmental benefits while directly or indirectly supporting to expand the socioeconomic opportunities of land users. Any unintended negative impacts of project activities on the environment and social structures of communities are estimated to be minimal and localized. In this regard, the overall environmental and social safeguard category is low/medium.

11. Measures to tackle and mitigate environmental challenges will be informed by IFAD's Environmental and Social Safeguards, which are consistent with the GEF's standards. Since INLAMAG builds on ROOTS, INLAMAG will use the Environmental and Social Management Framework developed for ROOTS, annexed to INLAMAG's ProDoc.

The Gambia's vulnerability to climate change

12. The Gambia is ranked 145 on the ND-Gain Country Index rank, and it is the 29th most vulnerable country and the 44th least ready with regards to climate change. According to historical observations related to climate change, the country is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change given the : (i) decreased average rainfall and duration of the rainy season; (ii) increased frequency and length of droughts; (iii) increased temperatures; and (iv) increased frequency and severity of flashfloods. The coastal and lowland regions of the country are the locations where the observed reduction in mean annual rainfall is the most significant, with a decrease of ~200mm of the volume of rainfall received in the July-September wet season . Furthermore, rainfall over the country has decreased in recent decades, at about 8.8 mm per month per decade between 1960 and 2006[5]. The length of the rainy season has also been decreasing with increasing variability in inter-annual rainfall. The mean annual temperatures have increased by 1.0°C since 1960, an average rate of 0.21°C per decade, and the rate of increase has been most rapid in the months of October, November and December at 0.32°C per decade[6]. Moreover, observed data indicate that minimum temperatures across the country have increased steadily at the rate of 0.4°C to 0.67°C per decade. The country experienced droughts and floods, causing a lot of damages. The 2011 and 2014 droughts in The Gambia led to a 50% drop in crop output while the 2016 short rainy season led to a drop of crop production, boosting food price inflation. In 2021, heavy flood and windstorms have occurred during the rainy season, affecting 50,101 people and causing 11 deaths[7]. The Gambia is in the top three countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of the proportion of the total population affected by annual flooding, the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) indicates that at least 40,000 people are affected each year by floods, predominantly in the Greater Banjul Area. This includes tidal flooding of low-lying areas along the open coast and up the river, with potential loss of important urban areas, port infrastructure, roads, fish landing sites, farmland, forestry and significant natural habitats.

13. In terms of projections, according to the Second Nationally Determined Contribution of The Gambia[8] and the Third National Communication[9], annual mean temperatures are projected to increase,

relative to the year 2000, between 1.7°C and 2.1°C in 2050, and between 3.1°C and 3.9°C in 2100. Warming is projected to be faster in the interior regions of the country, compared to those not far from the Coast. Temperatures in The Gambia are projected to increase by up to 7°C in the interior by the end of the century, under the RCP8.5[10]. However, unlike the changes in temperature, rainfall projections are less certain and the current state of knowledge calls for caution and sensitivity analyses. Indeed, the annual rainfall is projected to decrease by less than 1% in 2020 to about 54% in 2100 depending on the emissions scenario, according to the Third National Communication. Projections of mean annual rainfall averaged over the country from different models in the ensemble project a wide range of increases and decreases in precipitation, but tend towards decreases, particularly in the wet season (July-September)[11]. The changes during this period range from -53% to +74% by 2090, with ensemble mean between -7% and -20%. All models predict an increase in evapotranspiration, resulting from the combined effects of reduced humidity and increased temperature, irrespective of the projected net decrease in rainfall. Furthermore, mean sea level in Gambian coastal areas is projected to lie within 20% of the global mean sea level rise of 26cm to 98cm by 2100, the latter estimate corresponding to RCP8.5, and on a pro rata basis that puts expected sea level rise in the country between 19cm and 43cm by 2050[12].

14. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries are among the sectors most vulnerable to the predicted effects of climate change, according to the Second National Communication. The combined impact of climate change effects such as: i) reduced soil water content caused by increased evapotranspiration resulting from warmer air temperature; ii) increased frequency and severity of droughts; iii) reduced availability and quality of fresh ground water; and iv) increased erosion of fertile topsoil during intense rainfall events; are anticipated to result in decreased productivity of the aforementioned sectors thereby reducing household income and food security.

15. For the agricultural sector, as highlighted in the Third and Second National Communications, several studies conclude that climate change has negative effects on yields for major crops, such as millet, sorghum, maize and groundnuts. The following changes are expected in crop yields: -17 to 0% (millet), -25% to -15% (sorghum), -22 to 0% (maize), -18% (groundnuts), with the possibility of losses being amplified by nitrogen stress. The impacts of climate change on sesame are less clear, due to limited research, with yield changes of -23% to 33% exhibiting dependence on sowing date. A couple of assessments on the performance of millet and groundnut under a wetter climate future report 26% yield increases for millet and 9 to 25% yield increases for groundnuts. Conversely, under a drier climate future, millet and groundnut are expected to suffer production losses ranging from 1 to 24%, whereas sorghum production is likely to slump even further by 16 to 30%.

Furthermore, the productivity of other vulnerable sectors such as livestock and forestry is also threatened by climate change impacts, with reduced biomass production, vegetation cover and biodiversity. For livestock, increased warming is likely to depress animal production, reproduction and growth, and in certain conditions large-scale animal mortalities could be observed. According to the Third National Communication, productive forest is projected to significantly shrink in size, down from the current estimate of 51.8% to between 30% and 46.7% of land area by 2030, and waning still further to between 20% and 42.7% by 2050. Consequently, the expected volume of roundwood and fuelwood production from

Gambian forests ranges between 694,850 m³ (i.e. -68% relative to 2013) and 3,392,293 m³ (i.e. +53% relative to 2013) by 2030, and low and high estimates of wood production by 2050 lie within the range of 463,233m³ (i.e. -79% relative to 2013) and 3,043,087 m³ (i.e. +37% relative to 2013).

[1] Chido Mutangadura. (November 2020). Security sector reform in The Gambia: what is at stake? [Report](#)

[2] <https://www.unenvironment.org/covid-19-updates>

[3] IFAD (April 2020).IFAD's [response](#) to the COVID-19 crisis - protecting and enhancing rural resilience

[4] Reuters COVID-19 Tracker: The [Gambia](#)

[5] McSweeney et al., 2012

[6] <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/gambia/climate-data-historical>

[7]https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/wca_2021_flooding_snapshot_20210729.pdf

[8]<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Gambia%20Second%20NDC/Second%20NDC%20of%20The%20Republic%20of%20The%20Gambia.pdf>

[9]

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/The%20Gambia%20Third%20National%20Communication.pdf>

[10] IPCC Fifth Assessment (AR5)

[11] <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/gambia/climate-data-projections>

[12]

<https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/The%20Gambia%20Third%20National%20Communication.pdf>

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.

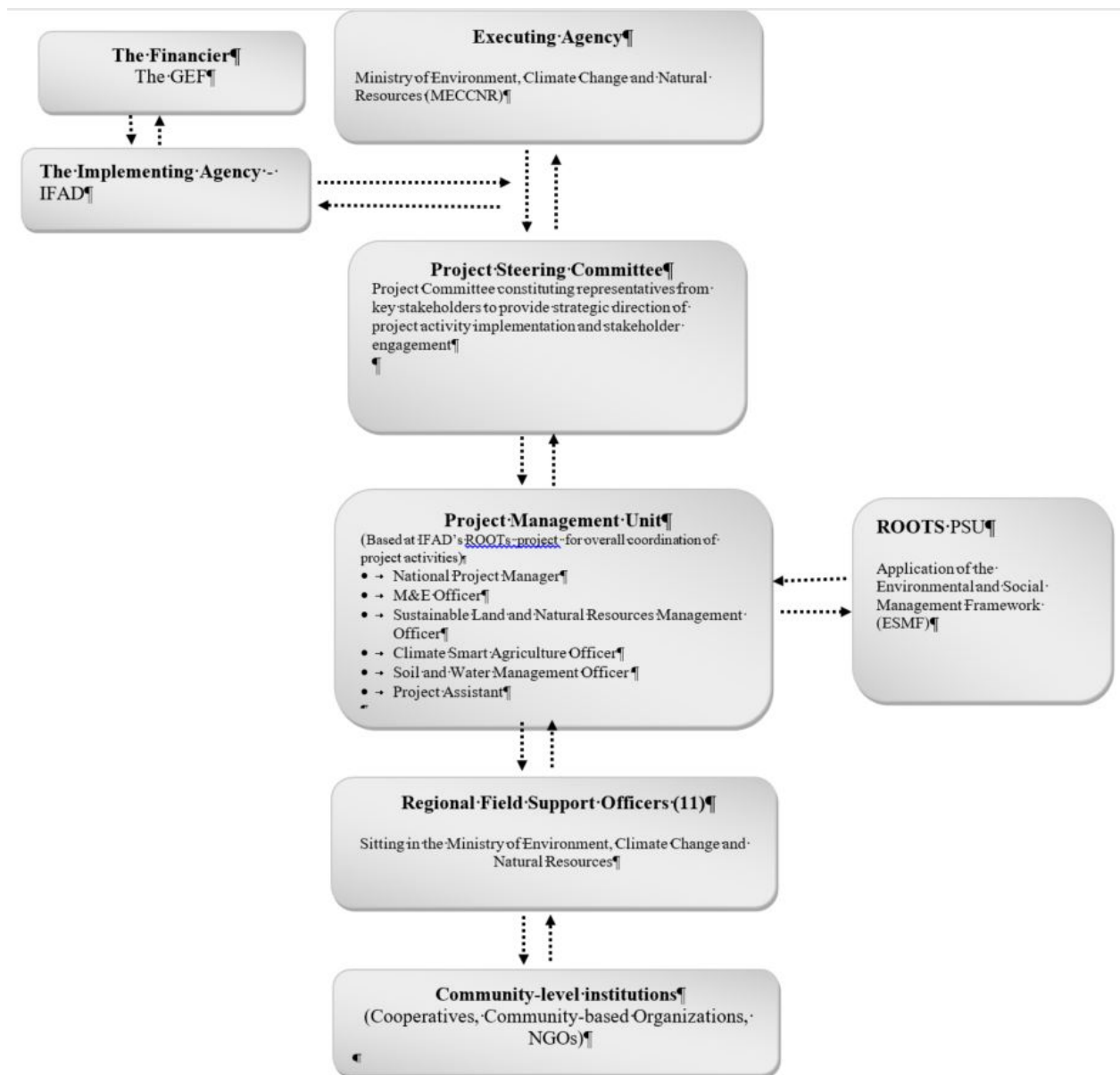
1. IFAD will play its role as the Implementation Agency of this project to provide overall project oversight to ensure that the GEF project implementation institutional requirements are adhered to so that project can achieve its objective and expected outcomes. The National Project Manager will be embedded into the ROOTS central PSU which have in each of the five regions a Regional Coordination Units (RCUs). This will help both the IFAD investment and GEF project to reduce the transaction and project

management. The GEF project manager will ensure that there is a smooth alignment of INLAMAG's with those of ROOTS on which the former is building. In the same regard, the Manager will work closely with the ROOTS steering unit. Additionally, the Manager will ensure political support for the project by working closely with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources. This ministry is already part of the ROOTS steering committee.

2. The ROOTS PSU will be also responsible for the application of safeguards, which are defined, by the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will apply during project implementation. The ESMF will ensure compliance with SECAP, including the application of a grievance redress mechanism at the local level, and the compliance of sound labour standards during the implementation of the GEF project.

The project will have an M&E Officer and a Project Assistant who will benefit from the ROOTS M&E Officer and Financial Controller management experiences to provide support to the GEF Project Manager. As identified to support the implementation of the project activities (such as the relevant private sector entities), other Partners will be integrated in the implementation of project activities. These will be clarified in the development phase of the project after additional consultations. The GEF Project Manager will take responsibility for project execution, ensuring that the project is implemented in accordance with the agreed objectives, activities and budget to achieve project objective. The GEF Project Manager, in close collaboration with the ROOTS PSU, will also be responsible for timely reporting on the progress of the project that will feed into the annual GEF Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), the mid-term review and terminal evaluation that will be submitted to the GEF Secretariat.

Project Organizational Chart



3. The proposed project will seek to synergize and coordinate with other GEF funded projects. This is important because SLM and the LDN agenda are a national priority and therefore, this project can learn be informed by other projects that have similar focus on capacity development, livelihoods, agriculture and land rehabilitation and land restoration. Coordination with other project will take various forms including meetings, field visits, consultations, information exchange, and collaboration in the execution with other development partners in The Gambia. These projects are:

? *Land/Seascape planning and restoration to improve ecosystem services, and livelihoods, expand and effectively manage protected areas (2017 ? 2023)*: This is a \$5.64 million UNEP/GEF project designed around four components: Improved planning and enforcement system to identify and address causes of land degradation (LD) and biodiversity (BD) loss; enabling framework for districts within Kuntaur LGA to implement SLM practices across landscapes; Implementation of ILUMPs and strengthening of PA management within Kuntaur LGA produce landscape-level management system to achieve SLM and BD objectives; and Expansion of PA estate in ecologically important areas of The Gambia. The project's objective is to create an enabling environment for The Gambia in building national capacity to lead the reform of land use and marine spatial planning policies and to implement land/seascape level management that conserves ecosystem services in productive and protected land/seascapes.

This project will be important for INLAMAG which will build on activities particularly those related to planning systems, institutional capacities and lessons from community engagement to implement in SLM practices across landscapes. Additionally, INLAMAG will seek to collaborate and benefit from the institutional arrangements in place within the National Environment Authority, the executing entity of the GEF/UNEP project.

? *Improving Water Availability in The Gambia's Rural and Peri-Urban Communities for Domestic and Agricultural Use (2019 ? 2023)*: This is a \$8.95 million AfDB/GEF project conceived to build resilience to climate change and variability by enhancing water supply for domestic and agricultural use, and ultimately improving livelihoods in rural and peri-urban areas of The Gambia through the following components: provision of climate resilient water supply infrastructure; enhanced institutional capacity for adaptation and hydrometeorological monitoring; Community Land and Water-based Adaptation; and knowledge and monitoring.

INLAMAG will create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia through enhancing institutional capacities, the management of landscapes, improving agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices, and enhancing monitoring and evaluation of LDN implementation. This focus of the project will build on lessons particularly those related to enhanced institutional capacity for adaptation, community land and water-based adaptation and knowledge and monitoring.

? *Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change in the Gambia (2014 ? 2018)*: This is an FAO/GEF project designed to promote sustainable and diversified livelihood strategies for reducing the impacts of climate variability and change in the agriculture and livestock sectors. It was designed with the following five components: strengthening institutional and technical capacity for adaptation to climate change in agriculture sector; assessment of vulnerabilities, risks and dissemination of timely risk information to users at all levels; promotion of diversification of livelihood strategies and intensification of agriculture production, processing and marketing; improved livestock production and management practices for sustaining livelihoods of local communities; and monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management. While the FAO-GEF project has an agricultural focus, INLAMAG will build on institutional arrangements and livelihoods strategies ? activities relevant to INLAMAG. The current project will integrate lessons regarding what worked well and what did not in community mobilization around the diversification and sustaining livelihoods in agricultural production landscapes.

? *Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Areas and Communities to Climate Change in the Republic of Gambia (2011 ? 2015)*: This is a \$8.9 million UNDP/GEF project designed to reduce Gambia's vulnerability to sea-level rise and associated impacts of climate change by improving coastal defences and enhancing adaptive capacities of coastal communities. It was designed around the following three components: policy and institutional development for climate risk management in coastal zones; physical investments in coastal protection against climate change risks; and strengthening livelihoods of coastal communities at risk from climate change.

Some of the communities that will be directly impacted by INLAMAG are coastal communities who are not necessarily involved in fisheries, but rather in the exploitation of land and forest resources. Therefore, the GEF/UNDP project will be critical in INLAMAG's engagement and mobilization of coastal communities in the project's activities ? building on community-level institutional arrangements and government priority attention to coastal areas and environmental challenges.

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.

1. The project is consistent with a number of national strategies, plans, reports and assessments under various MEAs. These include the following:

? **The National Environmental Management Act (NEMA):** It was enacted in 1994 and provides the legal framework for the control and management of the environment. NEMA makes provisions for the overall management of the coastal zone and all other wetlands. The priorities identified for a sound environmental management can be summarized as: (i) improvement and strengthening the institutional framework for environmental management; (ii) mainstreaming environment issues in policy and planning processes; (iii) strengthening environmental regulatory framework and enforcing the regulatory codes, and environmental regulations fully; (iv) Ensuring the functioning of institutional and legal frameworks for sustainable management and protection of the coastal zone and its resources; (v) strengthening environmental advocacy and sensitization for sustainable development; (vi) ensuring the participation of the private sector, CSO, Non-Governmental Organization, and youth and women's groups in sustainable natural resource consumption; (vii) supporting decentralization and Local Government Reform for community based natural resource management and sustainable development planning; and (viii) improving environmental quality monitoring and enforcement and solid waste management.

? **The Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs):** It focuses on implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) approaches within a well-managed afforestation and reforestation programme, including restoration of degraded mangrove systems, to reduce soil degradation, erosion risks and enhancement of CO2 sinks; and mainstreaming of climate change risks into key decision making processes on land use and forestry, contributing to improved sustainable forest management. More so, The Gambia's forestry sector strategic priorities include implementation of strategies for reducing the demand for firewood including improved fuel-efficient cook stoves and alternative fuels and techniques for cooking, which may also have a significant impact on GHG emissions.

? **A Climate Change Priority Action Plan (PAP) 2012-2015:** It was developed as an annex to the PAGE; however, not all the priority actions identified in this have been implemented. Climate change

adaptation is fully mainstreamed into the policy framework for disaster management, including through the National Disaster Management Policy and The National Disaster Management Act. In addition, climate change has been mainstreamed into some sectoral policies and strategies, namely the Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy, the Forest Policy and the Fisheries Strategic Action Plan.

? **The Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE):** This is the current medium-term development strategy and investment programme for 2012 to 2015. The principal objective of the PAGE is to accelerate growth and employment in order to sustain economic growth and reinforce gains in welfare. Climate change is fully integrated into all of the five pillars in the PAGE that encourages and promotes sustainable development and low carbon pathways.

? **The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Policy (2009 ? 2015) (GOTG/ANR, 2009).** This is the medium term policy for the Agriculture (Crops, Livestock, Horticulture, etc.) and Natural Resources (Environment, Fisheries, Forestry, Parks and Wildlife and Water Resources) sectors. It combines policy, institutional, infrastructure and technology related measures to address the multiplicity of supply-side constraints of Gambian agriculture. The overall objective of the ANR is to increase the agriculture sector's contribution to the national economy by increasing productivity through commercialization and greater private sector participation predicated on a sound macroeconomic framework aimed at enhanced growth and employment creation. In 2014, *climate change was integrated into the ANR Policy and efforts are underway to revise the Policy.*

? **Nationally Determined Contributions:** The Gambia offers to conditionally reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, excluding the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector, by 1.4 MtCO_{2e} in 2025 compared to business-as-usual (BAU). This is equivalent to a 44.4% reduction below a 'low BAU' scenario excluding LULUCF in 2025. The Gambia is offering to reduce emissions by 0.08 MtCO_{2e} in 2025 (or 2.4%) below BAU unconditionally; the additional emission reductions are conditional on international finance and technical support.

In addition to the emission reduction targets for 2025, The Gambia's NDC submission also mentions its emission reduction ambition for 2030, namely to unconditionally reduce emissions by 0.10 MtCO_{2e} (or 2.7%) below BAU excluding LULUCF and to conditionally reduce emissions by 1.8 MtCO_{2e} (or 45.4%) below BAU excluding LULUCF. The Gambia's NDC also includes abatement in the LULUCF and agriculture sectors: it plans to unconditionally abate 0.28 MtCO_{2e} by 2025 and 0.33 MtCO_{2e} by 2030 through afforestation as well as 0.69 MtCO_{2e} in 2025 and 0.67 MtCO_{2e} in 2030 by replacing flooded rice fields by dry upland ones, and by using efficient cook stoves to reduce the overuse of forest resources, conditional on international support.

? **Paris Agreement:** The Gambia signed the Paris Agreement on 26 April 2016, and is bound to implement its objectives and aims. The Gambia ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Articles 4 paragraph 1 (a) and (b) and 12 of the Convention commits all parties to the UNFCCC to prepare and submit an inventory of GHGs, mitigation options of GHG emissions, an assessment of its vulnerability to adverse effects of climate change and adaptation measures to the Conference of Parties through the UNFCCC Secretariat.

Sustainable development goals: The Gambia is a member of the United Nations, and subscribes to the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In the context of this project, it should be noted that land

degradation is a complicating factor in reaching many of the SDGs, not only SDG 15 but many of the others such as the elimination of hunger, the provision of biodiversity, clean water and renewable energy, climate change mitigation and sustainable urban environments that all depend on healthy land resources. Through its effect on individual SDGs, land degradation can have systemic effects on others, both land and not land-related SDGs. For example, land degradation that reduces food security in rural areas of The Gambia contributes to increasing national inequalities territorially but also across gender dimensions, job security etc.

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.

1. Knowledge management is an important part of this project. Through component 1, the project will invest in LDN technical knowledge and data management, the provision of tools and targeted training for collaborative land-use decision-making and management, the development of an open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system for land-use decision-making, targeting, partnerships, research and resource mobilization and LDN monitoring. The project will provide learning opportunities for sharing information, networking amongst stakeholders, develop cutting-edge training modules to train key stakeholders on LDN and SLM. Therefore, knowledge products will be generated and disseminated, and a knowledge management plan elaborated. Furthermore, best practices and knowledge materials will be disseminated during workshop and other relevant events.
2. This is the first project to be proposed to purposely implement SLM practices in support of the LDN agenda after the country set its national targets. The project proposes a deliberate integration of SLM practices and the LDN agenda in development plans, accompanied by institutional capacity building and strengthening the existing policy infrastructure. Therefore, there will be lessons to be learned and knowledge co-production with different stakeholders. Knowledge management and M&E will play an important role to ensure lessons learned are documented and disseminated to the target audience to potentially inform future interventions. The lessons will also serve as basis for adaptive management of scaling up interventions in other regions of the country.
3. It should be noted that knowledge management is reflective of the objective of the project but also the Theory of Change. To create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation in The Gambia that is transformational, generated knowledge needs to reach the appropriate audience (including policy makers) to effect the required policy environment and capacity and institutional arrangements to ensure policy implementation. Additionally, beyond the spheres of policy influence, lessons and knowledge need to reach community members at subnational levels to inform their livelihood options and manner of resource use to avert environmental degradation through deforestation, shifting cultivation, fuelwood harvesting, (illegal) mining activities and bushfires. The process of using lessons and knowledge generated to influence policy and behaviour to contribute to achieve the project's objective will be interactive, and periodic reports and missions will play a critical role in informing the implementation of project activities to ensure that knowledge generated improves project delivery, the potential for scaling up and learning from other projects.

4. As the project is linked to ROOTS, The KM Officer of ROOTS will be responsible for knowledge management and communication activities of the GEF project. Based on the needs and activities planned, the CD/KM officer will develop each year an annual capacity-building plan. This plan will be fully part of the project annual work plan and budget submitted for approval.

5. For external and internal communication, the project will consider the diversity of communication objectives according to the stakeholders to be reached (e.g., beneficiaries, implementing partners, policy makers) and to use the most appropriate communication channels for exchange, sharing and learning purposes (e.g., radio, brochures, studies, articles, newsletter, television and social media). A ROOTS website will be designed and operationalized and the GEF will pay particular attention to the communication on cross-cutting themes promoted by the project, such as social inclusion, gender mainstreaming, youth inclusion and adaptation to climate change.

6. A adapted and gender responsive M&E strategy will be part of the implementation package to ensure, (i) lessons learned more accurately reflect the project progress; (ii) adaptive project management is informed by what the project is achieving or is not achieving; (iii) gender concerns are accounted for in the implementation (with data being gender-disaggregated); (iv) periodic reports as required for IFAD internal review and further submission to the GEF Secretariat are prepared in a timely fashion; and (v) corrective measures, where deemed necessary, are done to so that the project remains on course to achieve its targets and development objective.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

1. The project will follow standard processes and procedures for monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The conditions and reporting templates are integral part of the related legal instruments that must be signed. The project monitoring and evaluation plan is in line with GEF monitoring and evaluation policy. The project outcome framework includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as end-of-project objectives. These indicators in Annex A constitute the main basis for the assessment of the progress accomplished in project implementation and determination of whether the project results are achieved or not. The monitoring-evaluation costs are also presented in the costed monitoring - evaluation plan and are fully integrated into the overall project budget. The monitoring - evaluation plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project's launching workshop to ensure that the stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in the processes of monitoring and evaluation.

2. The implementation of the M&E plan will overall, be overseen by the GEF National Project Manager who will be supported by the M&E Officer, who will, in turn, be supported by the Office Assistant and Regional Field Support Officers (refer to the roles and responsibilities of the Project Management Unit in annex J). Regional Field Support Officers, while representing a decentralised level of project management, they will be critical in the implementation of the M&E at local level ? thus, ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in project delivery. The M&E Officer will also be part of the Project Steering Committee that will constitute important key stakeholders to provide oversight in the implementation of project activities. The M&E Officer will be an important link within the implementation of the M&E plan between community-level structures and project activities and national level structures to support the integration of

the social and environmental standards and gender considerations in the project ? consistent with The Gambian national standards and IFAD's SECAP modalities.

3. In this regard, the implementation of INLAMAG's M&E plan will ensure that the project contributes to the country's LDN agenda; bringing together a broad range of stakeholders to implement SLM practices and improve the socioeconomic opportunities of communities that depend on the exploitation of land and forest resources for their survival.

4. For IFAD's internal processes in support and alignment with the GEF operational modalities, a robust and user-friendly planning, monitoring, evaluation, learning and communication system (PM&E) will be established in line with the IFAD's ORMS and GRIPS. The main objectives of the PM&E are to: (i) assess the project's achievements at the level of outcomes and impact, and compliance with the COSOP results management framework; (ii) provide timely and accurate information of project implementation progress, with an emphasis to monitor performance, based on outputs delivery; (iii) provide reliable and relevant information to all the stakeholders to improve transparency; (iv) define and assign tasks, manage workflow on a timely basis and track the various components and milestone deadlines; and (v) evaluate the performance of implementing agencies and service providers. This system will include citizen engagement/ Third Party Monitoring (TPM) in order to involve beneficiaries and frontline actors in data collection and validation. Impacts will be evaluated against a baseline study, a mid-term evaluation and an ex post evaluation, which will use key indicators in line with the ORMS. The PM&E system will be developed to verify targeting performance and reflect gender and youth perspectives of impact.

5. The proposed indicators and their means of verification will be reviewed and validated at the launching workshop. The project management team (consisting of a GEF National Project Manager, M&E Officer, Regional Field Officers, etc.) will manage the day-to-day monitoring of the project, but other project partners may be assigned to collect specific information, including engaging consultants where deemed necessary. The GEF National Project Manager will inform IFAD, as the GEF Agency, of any delays or difficulties encountered during implementation, so that appropriate support or corrective measures can be taken in a timely manner. The Project Steering Committee will review progress achieved, provide guidance and make recommendations to the project team and IFAD on the need to revise any aspects of the outcomes in the framework or the monitoring - evaluation plan. The GEF Project Manager will continuously monitor project implementation and review the quality of preliminary project results, provide feedback to project partners and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of the outputs and scientific and technical publications. IFAD will carry out annual project supervision missions to monitor project progress and the quality of outputs produced, as well as ensure the project's compliance with IFAD and GEF policies and procedures.

6. Project supervision will adopt an adaptive management approach. The GEF Project Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the beginning of the project, which will be communicated to the project partners during the launching workshop. The GEF Project Manager will focus on the monitoring project implementation, timely delivery of project inputs and output, and ensure sound financial management of the project. Progress made in achieving the overall environmental benefits of the project will be assessed and reported to the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Risks and assumptions of the project will be regularly monitored by the project partners, and the IFAD. Risk assessment and rating will be fully integrated in the project implementation review (PIR). Key financial parameters will be monitored

quarterly to ensure cost-effectiveness in the use of financial resources and reported to IFAD. A mid-term review will be carried out at the end of the second year of the project. Both the MTR will include all the parameters recommended by the GEF and IFAD Evaluation Offices.

7. Additionally, project adaptive management will be applied to the management of climate risks (such as floods and droughts) ? likely to call for the involvement of different scenarios (or impact pathways) than what is originally conceived in INLAMAG. This rationale will equally be extended to the peaks and lows of COVID-19 which is a potential threat to the overall implementation of the project.

8. The review will be conducted using a participatory approach. This will entail consulting the potential project beneficiaries or the parties affected by the project. These parties are identified during the review and mapping of stakeholders.

9. The project steering committee will be involved in the mid-term review and will prepare the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation as well as an implementation plan. Also, the GEF Project Manager at will have the responsibility to monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations.

10. An independent final evaluation will take place at the end of the project implementation. IFAD will oversee the final evaluation process. A report on the quality of the evaluation report will be made by the IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) and submitted with the report to GEF Evaluation Office no later than six months after the end of the evaluation. GEF monitoring tools will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project. These will be transmitted to GEF Secretariat along with the project's PIR report. As mentioned above, the mid-term review and the final evaluation will check the information provided by the monitoring tool.

Table of the budgeted M&E plan

Type of Monitoring & Evaluation activity	Responsible	Budget US\$ (Excluding project staff's time)	Frequency
Project inception workshop	National Project Manager M&E Officer IFAD/GEF Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNR)	40,000	Within three months after project initiation

Preparation of the Inception Report (initial report)	Project Team IFAD/ MECCNR	0	Immediately after launching workshop
Establishment of ?user-friendly planning, monitoring, evaluation, learning and communication system?	Project Team	30,000	Within one year of project start
		0	
Capacity building on M&E: Tools: e.g. Ex Act tool	M&E Officer IFAD External consultant (if necessary)		Within 18 months of project launch
Annual assessment of project progress	Steering Committee National Project Manager Project Team	40,000	Every year before annual progress report
Quarterly dashboard and periodic implementation monitoring reports	Project Team	8,000	According to the periodicity of production
Annual progress reports and dissemination	National Project Manager IFAD/ GEF	8,000	Annually
Steering committee and minutes of the meetings	MECCNR + relevant Ministries IFAD/GEF Project Team	0	Every year, after reception of the annual progress report
Annual GEF Project Implementation Report	IFAD, Project Team	0	Covered by Agency Fee

Mid-term evaluation of the project	National Project Manager IFAD/GEF External evaluator	20,000	Midway of the project implementation
Final external evaluation of the project	National Project Manager IFAD/ GEF External evaluator	25,000	At the end of the Phase
Project closing report	Project team MECCNR IFAD/GEF	0	Available at least one month before the end of the Phase
Various publications on project outcomes and experiences	Project team IFAD/GEF	0	As needed and according to opportunities
Field visits	IFAD/GEF MECCNR MECCNR regional level Regional council	64,000	Every year
Total Indicative Costs		235,000	

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)?

1. The objective of the project is to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia, and directly benefit 9,608 people (5,715 (59%) women; and 3,893 (41%) men. Generally, land degradation threatens the livelihoods of billions of people around the world, particularly the rural populations, 80% of whom live extreme poverty, and 65% among them work in the agricultural sector.[1] For rural communities, land is a key asset for the

livelihoods, as it provides key resources such as food, energy, shelter, and fodder, among others. Land degradation, however, constrains the supply of these ecosystem services and negatively impacts household income and consumption in many parts of the world, worsening poverty and widening inequalities.[2] Thus, land degradation negatively impacts on human wellbeing as it leads to a decrease in food availability, energy provision, groundwater recharge, soil fertility, carbon sequestration capacity, biodiversity and construction materials, among others.[3] Physical declines in ecosystem services have a direct impact on the capacity of households to generate income due to reductions in labour, livestock and land productivity, as well as on the capacity of households to harvest products from nature for their own livelihoods.

2. This project will invest in SLM and LDN to improve the productivity of production landscapes in targeted regions in The Gambia. The project acknowledges that land improvements support rural populations to generate income, contributing to the prosperity and equality of those at the bottom of the income distribution ladder through mechanisms such as sustaining the income of households largely dependent on land for their subsistence, increasing labour, livestock and land productivity and enabling resources for economic growth in the agricultural sector.[4]

3. The project recognises the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation. As has already been noted, The Gambia's poverty rate remains at 48%, while food insecurity has risen from 5 to 8% over the past five years as a result of weak food production systems and the effects of successive shocks such as drought and floods. Due to COVID-19, poverty expected to increase by 9.6% percent in 2020.[5] Poverty rates remain highest in rural areas, where the poor typically work in the low-productivity agricultural sector, while in urban areas they work in the lowproductivity informal service sectors. In addressing the challenges of land degradation, the projects also seeks to address the poverty levels which remain stubbornly in rural Gambia.

4. The socioeconomic benefits for direct beneficiaires are trifurcated into capacity development, access to improved resource base, and direct handouts in form of equipment that will support them to reduce their exploitation of natural resources. The benefits include the following:

? The project seeks to build the capacity of stakeholders through vocational education strategies and trainings tools that will benefit 4,200 people. Capacity development will also include the Songhai Centre and Farmers Field Schools. Additionally, the capacity of 7 communities; 50 women associations and technical services; and 150 extension services workers in 11 districts will be enhanced on SLM for climate resilient and low emission agriculture leading to improved agricultural and livestock production. The socioeconomic benefit in capacity development lies in the adage that knowledge is power. The project, through capacity development, will therefore empower beneficiaries.

? The project will support 700 households to improve water and soil management practices that will have overall benefits in terms of food and nutrition security on 1,500 ha. Additionally, the productivity of more land (12,000 ha) will be improved, and bushfires controlled on 7,500 ha ? further contributing to the provisions of ecosystem services that underpin livelihoods. Furthermore, the creation of woodlots using multipurpose tree species will be crucial in the provisioning of traditional medicines and fuelwood which they would otherwise have to fetch far away;

? The project will distribute 1,000 *Jambar* cooking stoves distributed to 1,000 households to reduce the use of charcoal and fuelwoods which contribute to soil erosion and general land degradation. *Jambar* cooking stoves as improved biomass cooking stoves, as the name suggests, improves the consumption of firewood, and therefore, saves on the collection time of fuelwood.

5. It is reiterated here that, for rural communities that are financially constrained, the balance between land management and poverty is delicate because the wellbeing of resource users is not only a function of the productivity of those resources, but the socioeconomic wellbeing also depends those resources. Thus, avoiding and reducing the negative impacts on land, as well as restoring land resources, will be crucial to conserve and protect biodiversity and maintain vital ecosystem services, while also ensuring shared prosperity and well-being. Generally, healthy and productive land plays an important role as an engine of economic growth and a source of livelihoods for billions worldwide, including the most vulnerable populations.[6]

[1] Global Mechanism of the [UNCCD](#), Conservation International, DIE. 2019. Land Degradation, Poverty and Inequality. Bonn, Germany

[2] Idem

[3] IPBES (2018): The IPBES assessment report on land degradation and restoration. Montanarella, L., Scholes, R., and Brainich, A. (eds.). Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bonn, Germany

[4] Global Mechanism of the [UNCCD](#), Conservation International, DIE. 2019. Land Degradation, Poverty and Inequality. Bonn, Germany

[5] World Bank. (2020). Poverty and Equity Brief: Africa Western & Central - The [Gambia](#)

[6] UNCCD. (2019). [Land](#) and Sustainable Development Goals

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

1. In sum, the risks on the implementation of the project are rated, medium, overall. The project risk analysis has taken into consideration risks and expected long term impacts of the global pandemic COVID-19 in the implementation. Restrictions on personal interactions are expected to continue and the situation has created economic pressures on communities and stakeholder engagement. As the fourth wave starts, most likely characterised by the Omicron B1.1.1 259, it is difficult to predict the extent to which the pandemic will affect the project implementation ? nonetheless, as has been detailed in the analysis and presented in the table of risks, rating and mitigation measures above, country sanitary protocols against the pandemic, including IFAD proposed measures will be adhered to.

2. The current analysis places institutional, technical, environmental, local community engagement, COVID-19, cultural practice risks on **medium**, and political and social risks on **low**.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
GEF10572-IFAD-Gambia-ESMF-1Dec21	CEO Endorsement 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).

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>							
	<i>Indicator</i>		<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
Project objective To create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN implementation in The Gambia	Total area under improved management (48,500 Hectares)						-The COVID-19 pandemic won't halt the project activities, particularly those requiring physical presence and physical interactions among stakeholders -Political stability in the country will continue -Cofinancing secured as planned -Key stakeholders maintain their interest and engagement in the project and its proposed
			<i>0 ha</i>	<i>24,250 ha</i>	<i>48,500 ha</i>		
	Area of degraded agricultural production landscapes rehabilitated and restored through assisted natural regeneration focusing on locally adapted species (component 2)		0 ha	6000 ha	12,000 ha	Project progress reports; Evaluation report; GIS, and field supervision mission reports	
	Total land rehabilitated and restored through ANR				12,000 ha		
	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)	Integrated Water and Soil Management practices promoted by 700 households through dikes, and Conservation Agriculture (component 2)	0ha	750 ha	1,500 ha	Project progress reports; Evaluation report; and field supervision mission reports	
Area of land under improved bushfire management (component 2)		0 ha	3,750 ha	7,500 ha			

Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	Area of land for woodlots using multipurpose tree species, agro-silvopastoral multipurpose tree species, agro-silvo-pastoral practices (component 2)	0 ha	2,250 ha	4,500 ha		activities, including local communities - Communities will be willing to learn and adopt improved crop and animal production methods, including behavioural change regarding particularly bushfire management and establishment of woodlots
	Area of woodlots are integrated into the sustainable wood and biomass energy supply chain leading to improved community forestry and indigenous community conservation management	0 ha	500 ha	1,000 ha		

Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project

	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	Area under agroforestry and sustainable and diversified cropping systems (component 3)	0 ha	2,500 ha	5,000 ha		
	Area under integrated crop-livestock systems to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources (component 3)	0 ha	1,000 ha	2,000 ha		
	Area under participatory SLM plan (mixing different techniques such as soil bunds, stone lines, etc. to reduce water runoff and soil erosion in productive agricultural land) (component 3)	0 ha	7,500 ha	15,000 ha		

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas)(Hectares)			36,500 ha		
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO ₂ e)	0 metric tons of CO ₂ eq	1,468,181 TCO ₂ eq	2, 936, 362 TCO ₂ eq	Project progress reports; Evaluation report; and field supervision mission reports	Activities leading to water and soil management practices, CA and system of rice intensification on 1,500 ha; rehabilitation of 12,000 ha of degraded agricultural production; improved bushfire management on 7,500 ha; woodlots using multipurpose tree species, agro-silvopastoral multipurpose tree species, agro-silvopastoral practices on 4,500 ha and 1,000 ha of woodlots are successfully implemented. Finally, capacity is available to measure the amount of carbon sequestered.

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	0	2,850	5,715 women	Project progress reports; Evaluation report; and field supervision mission reports	Communities will be sensitized and will gain full awareness of the socioeconomic benefits of the GEF investments ? they will remain committed to project activities in which they will be involved in a participatory manner.
			1,940	3,893 men		
Component 1: Enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation (LD2.5)						

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
Outcome 1.1. Increased institutional capacities, and enhanced cross sectors and governance mechanisms for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation by: by: (i) improved in national institutions capacities for SLM and LDN (ii) number of functional new governance	Consolidated Institutional Capacity Development Plan	No consolidated Institutional Capacity Development Plan exists for multi-stakeholder approaches for SLM/LDN-implementation	Initial draft of the Institutional Capacity Development Plan ready and piloted among concerned stakeholders	Institutional Capacity Development Plan complete and validated by key stakeholders	Lists of participants and Project progress report	-Political will is maintained and subnational levels exercise autonomy and commit to the development and implementation of the consolidated Institutional Capacity Development Plan; and - Communities will be engaged through participatory means so that the Plan reflects local voices.

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
frameworks and plans for SLM and LDN	# of beneficiaries of training sessions in SLM and LDN	No trainings have been conducted for Farmers Field School and Songhai Centre in the context of LDN implementation	2,100 beneficiaries - 50% (1,050) women; and -50% (1,050) men	4,200 beneficiaries - 50% (2,100) women; and -50% (2,100) men	Lists of participants and Project progress and Evaluation reports	- Communities will be willing to learn, but also to engage in SLM and pro-LDN activities - Sensitisation regarding women involvement in project activities will be accepted, without impeded by sociocultural barriers.
	One open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system to support SLM/LDN implementation	0 open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system to support SLM/LDN implementation	Initial model of the open-access knowledge platform ready, and consultants engaged	The open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system to support SLM/LDN set up and approved by government and other stakeholders demonstrate LDN implementation	Project progress report and Evaluation report	-Stakeholder engagement to support the development of the open-access knowledge platform; -Platform approved and institutionalized to ensure its use but also sustainability; -Capacity to develop the platform is found.

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	1.1.1 One (1) Institutional Capacity Development Plan and program, including at least 4 training programs (participatory land-use planning, collaborative decision making, multistakeholder approaches, SLM, LDN) for 4,200 beneficiaries; 10 Farmers Field School (FFS), one vocational education center (Songhai Centre) (with at least 50% of participants being women)					
	1.1.2. One (1) open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system developed for land-use decision-making, targeting, partnerships, research and resource mobilization					
	1.1.3 One (1) land use management plan is developed in cooperation with relevant national and international partners, leading to its effective implementation in support of SLM and LDN					
Component 2: Implementation of Integrated landscape planning and management to reduce land degradation (LD1.4)						
Outcome 2.1 Improved, coordinated and collaborative management of Landscape (12,000 ha of degraded productive landscapes in 11 districts, contributing 11% to 109 000 ha LDN national target while bringing 14,500 ha under improved management) enhancing their ecological integrity and ensuring better agricultural production and livelihoods.	# of integrated water and soil management practices promoted through dikes, and conservation agriculture	0	2 practices	5 practices	Project progress report and Evaluation report	- Communities will be willing to learn and adopt improved integrated water and soil management practices promoted through dikes, and conservation agriculture.
	# of districts with improved, coordinated and collaborative landscape management	No district is involved in improved, coordinated and collaborative landscape management	5 districts	11 districts	Project progress report, IMPs and evaluation report	-District-level formal structures and institutions will be willing to collaborate and involve other key stakeholders in landscape management

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	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	# of CO ₂ eq sequestered	0	719, 587 Tco ₂ eq	2, 936, 362 Tco ₂ eq	Project reports, Ex Act tool	Capacity available to measure amount of carbon sequestered, and SLM practices are implemented to lead to Carbon sequestration.
Output 2.1.1 Five (5) Integrated Water and Soil Management practices are promoted by 700 households through dikes, and Conservation Agriculture, including the promotion of system of rice intensification (1,500 ha)						
Output 2.1.2 12,000 ha of degraded agricultural production landscapes are rehabilitated and restored through assisted natural regeneration focusing on locally adapted species and- Improved bushfire management (7,500 ha); woodlots using multipurpose tree species, agro- silvopastoral multipurpose tree species, agro-silvo-pastoral practices (4,500 ha) for LDN implementation						
Output 2.1.3 1,000 ha of woodlots are integrated into the sustainable wood and biomass energy supply chain leading to improved community forestry and indigenous community conservation management						
Output 2.1.4. Community monitoring system for soil erosion and vegetation cover is established using 3 project-level indicators (land cover change, land productivity and SOC) and inform the open-access knowledge platform.						
Component 3: Promote SLM for Climate-Resilient and low emission agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and Pastoral management (LD1.1)						
Outcome 3.1 Improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management on 22,000 ha for better livelihoods for 700 households (or 4,830 people).	# of households with improved livelihoods	None	350 households	700 households	List of trainees, Project progress report and Evaluation report	Smallholder producers are willing to participate in SLM activities for livelihoods, and COVID-19 does not prevent interactions with communities.
	# of ha under agroforestry and sustainable and diversified cropping systems	0 hectares	2,500 ha	5,000 ha	Project progress report and Evaluation report	Communities are willing to use irrigation systems on their land

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	# of ha under integrated crop- livestock systems to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources	0 ha	1,000 ha	2,000 ha	Field visits, Project progress report and Evaluation report	In consultation with communities , land is secured for infrastructure development
	# of ha under participatory SLM plan	0 ha	7,500 ha	15,000 ha	Project progress report and Evaluation report	Smallholder producers are willing to adopt improved marketing systems, including the use of storage facilities
	# of jambar cooking stoves distributed to target household beneficiaries	None	500 jambar cooking stoves	1,000 jambar cooking stoves	Field visits, Project progress report and Evaluation report	Target households are
Output 3.1.1 5,000 ha of land under agroforestry and sustainable and diversified cropping systems.						
Output 3.1.2. 2,000 ha of land under Integrated Crop - Livestock Systems to optimize the uses of crop and livestock resources.						
Output 3.1.3: Participatory SLM plan developed on 15,000 ha (mixing different techniques such as soil bunds, stone lines, etc. to reduce water runoff and soil erosion in productive agricultural land, including watershed management.						
Output 3.1.4. 1,000 Jambar cooking stoves distributed to 1,000 households to reduce the use of charcoal and fuelwoods which contribute to soil erosion and general land degradation. (with 80% beneficiaries being women).						
Output 3.1.5. Communities (7), 50 women associations and Technical services, 150 Extension services workers in 11 districts capacity is enhanced on SLM for climate resilient and low emission agriculture leading to improved Agricultural, agroforestry and livestock production.						
Component 4: Monitoring the Project's Contribution to Neutrality						
Outcome 4.1. Monitoring of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon	Monitoring plan	No participatory monitoring plan currently exists to assess LDN-related indicators	Initial draft of a monitoring plan ready and piloted	Monitoring plan complete and validated by key stakeholders	Project progress report and Evaluation report	Communities are sensitized, buy into and participate in land- use plans

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
carried out in line with project-level indicators in contribution to national LDN agenda	# of project districts where the monitoring plan is piloted for assessing land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon project activities	No participatory monitoring plan currently exists to assess LDN-related indicators	Monitoring plan piloted in five project districts	Monitoring plan rolled out in all project districts	List of trainees, Project progress report and Evaluation report	Farming households willing to participate in training sessions and COVID-19 does not prevent physical meetings
	Number of knowledge products for policy makers and communities	No knowledge products specific to the LDN indicators for communities and policy makers	3 knowledge products	3 knowledge products	List of trainees, Project progress report and Evaluation report	Policy makers and communities continue buying into the project objectives
	Land Degradation Neutrality information hub	0 information hub for LDN implementation	2 Stakeholder consultation meetings conducted, and consultants engaged	One (1) LDN set up and government-approved to showcase LDN implementation	List of trainees, Project progress report and Evaluation report	Smallholder producers are willing to participate in training sessions and COVID-19 does not prevent physical meetings
	Number of data collection protocol for M&E	No data collection protocol for biodiversity conservation and land rehabilitation in Dallol Bosso	Initial draft of a protocol ready for data collection	1 operational protocol developed for data collection for M&E	Protocol ready, and data collected for M&E	Competent capacity identified to develop the protocol, and key stakeholders validate and adopt the protocol

<i>Project title : Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>End of project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	Number of community-level meetings for community participation in land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon monitoring.	No participatory meetings are held for community participation in land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon monitoring.	10 meetings	20 meetings	Meeting reports, Project progress report and Evaluation report	Communities are sensitized, buy into and participate in process monitoring of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon
4.1.1 1 (One) monitoring Plan established and agreed upon by key stakeholders, including an interpretation modality for the changes in land cover (positive, negative, stable) are established and agreed upon.						
4.1.2 1 (One) LDN information hub operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned to target audience.						

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).

Responses to STAP's comments

STAP guidelines for screening GEF projects

Council member comments			
No.	Country	Comments	Responses

1.	France	<p>Favorable opinion. Clarification on what is meant by Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) would be helpful. As CSA essentially opens the door to using GMOs (a red line for France), we generally prefer, with respect to resilient or climate-friendly and biodiversity-friendly agriculture, to focus on the promotion of agroecological practices, which could include ?climate-smart agriculture? as a tool, provided it does not involve the use of GMOs.</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks the concern raised by France regarding CSA and GMOs. In response, it has been clarified in the project that the term used by IFAD is climate resilient and low emission agriculture . It refers to best adapdation practices including agroforestry, sustainable land management with low emission of Carbon . It excludes any activities related of the use of GMO . The project will focus supporting actions to improve agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a vulnerable and degraded agricultural production landscape in the target regions. In the context of this project, Climate Resilient and low emission carbone agriculture - will be an important approach managing production landscapes (cropland, livestock, forests) to address the interlinked challenges of rural food security and climate change. This focus will categorically exclude the use of GMOs.</p>
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2.	Canada	<p>? Overall, this initial proposal contains minimal information on what the project will actually do/seek to do ? we recommend that the project proponent better flesh out the proposal before it can be approved.</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Canada?s observation and suggestion. In response, IFAD has endeavoured to clarify what the project will do by including additional and detailed information in describing the components, outputs and socioeconomic benefits following the various consultations at country level</p>
		<p>? Additionally, the proposal contains little information on how the project will address gender equality issues ? this should be addressed. Given that climatesmart agriculture is mentioned within the project objectives section, food security should be considered as an area of focus.</p>	<p>See above. The project includes a targeting mechanism and gender inclusion and specific section on gender with targets under the logframe . It is expected that 59% per cent of beneficiaries will be women and 41% per cent will be youth Additionally, more additional information has been added to highlight how the project will contribute to food security through SLM practices.</p>
3.	Norway/Denmark	<p>The key concept underlying the proposal is Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). The concept has been defined by the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification as: ?A state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.?</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Norway/Denmark?s comment</p>

	<p>The LDN was launched in 2017 at the 13th COP and as such is a relatively new concept but based on a number of different pilots around the world. Only a small handful was established in Africa, including Ethiopia and Namibia</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Norway/Denmark's additional information</p>
	<p>Specific guidelines for the LDN have been published recently.</p>	<p>Thanks for the comments These guidelines have been reviewed during the design of this project to inform the formulation</p>
	<p>Many of the planned interventions are well tested technologies like agroforestry, conservation agriculture, etc. It helps with the monitoring if the concepts are well defined in the final project document. In the PIF both conservation agriculture (CA) and climate are used. It includes a large variety of different technologies from organic agriculture to use of GMOs. Important to be clear on what exactly are the particular activities to be supported.</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Norway/Denmark's comment. Please, see the response above to France's concern on GMOs, and the additional information given in the description of project components and corresponding outputs. This project does not intend to use GMOs at all.</p>
	<p>If it is a rice growing area it would be useful to introduce System of Rice Intensification (SRI). It was launched in The Gambia in 2014 as a part of a regional World Bank project.</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Norway/Denmark's suggestion. In response, SRI has been included in component 2, under output 2.1.1. It is a common technique being used in the Gambia on rice production</p>

		<p>It appears that free handouts (cooking stoves) will be distributed. Experience indicates that as a general principle, free handouts lead to dependency and inaction after the project closes. This should in general be avoided.</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Norway/Denmark's concern over the Jambar cooking stoves. Extensive consultations were done with communities and key stakeholder during the PPG process ? the socioeconomic, cultural and access to fuelwood/cutting trees vs access to electricity were all taken into account. The consensus was that given the design of the project and its objective, distributing jambars has been maintained as part of the project design. It stimulates the local business market and many rural households use them in The Gambia</p>
4.	Germany	<p>Complete the missing content in Part II. Project Justification, esp. 1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 in order to allow for a complete understanding of the proposal.</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Germany's comment. Additional information has been provided in the different sections as requested.</p>

		In addition, Germany strongly suggests revising the costs linked to the first project objective referring to the institutional framework and capacity development for LDN (and SLM). Also, is recommended to further clarify the connection between the different objectives with regard to the underlying theory of change and the overall outcome of the project	IFAD notes with thanks Germany's suggestion to revise the cost associated with component 1. As The Gambia is a fragile country with limited capacity, International Technical Assistance is required to support the component on the institutional framework and capacity development for LDN (and SLM). The costing has been maintained as it corresponds to the proposed activities. Regarding the second part of the comment, a fairly long text with a figure have been added to illustrate how components are linked and reflected in the overall theory of change ? the text and figure are after the component description section.
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Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
GEF ID	10572		
Project Title	Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project		
Date of Screening	May 5, 2020		
STAP member screener	Graciela Metternicht		

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Respons es
STAP secretariat screener	Guadalupe Duron		

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
STAP Overall Assessment and Rating	<p>Minor issues to be considered during project design.</p> <p>STAP welcomes IFAD's project ?Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMA G). The project seeks to create an enabling environment in The Gambia to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Pursuing a landscape approach will help address the root causes and drivers of environmental degradation (e.g. shifting cultivation, river siltation, overgrazing) and deforestation in the regions of the West Coast, North Bank, and Lower River Bank.</p>		<p>The STAP minor issues are well noted with thanks.</p> <p>To the extent possible, the issues have been responded to with additional information provided to the document. The inclusion of information has taken into account outcomes of consultations with country key stakeholders, and the constraints of the LD financial envelope for the project ? that is, ensuring that the project remains, as much as possible, consistent with</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
Part I: Project Information B. Indicative Project Description Summary	What STAP looks for	Response	
Project Objective	Is the objective clearly defined, and consistently related to the problem diagnosis?	Yes, the objective is defined clearly, and consistently linked to the problem statement.	Noted with thanks
Project components	A brief description of the planned activities. Do these support the project's objectives?	Yes, the activities support the project objective. For activities related to components #3 and #4 STAP recommends using principles of spatial land use planning, where the "spatial" component guides the prioritization of areas to be intervened. This facilitates connectivity, an analysis of access to markets, among other factors. STAP recommends the recent Primer on EO as an overall guidance	Noted with thanks, and a paragraph has been added at the end of component description to highlight the fact that activities under components 3 and 4 will be informed by land use planning as articulated by Metternicht in Land Use and Spatial Planning

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
Outcomes	A description of the expected short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention. Do the planned outcomes encompass important global environmental benefits?	Yes, the outcomes focus on global environmental outcomes.	Noted with thanks
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated?	The benefits are likely to be generated with careful monitoring. See comments below on the definition of indicators that are locally relevant, to complement the three core indicators of the LDN that the project proposes.	Noted with thanks.
Outputs	A description of the products and services which are expected to result from the project. Is the sum of the outputs likely to contribute to the outcomes?	Yes, outputs are likely to contribute to outcomes. On page 33, STAP notes the project will "promote agroforestry through the integration of woody perennials into agricultural crops?" STAP encourages the team to use native species in that task, and to rely on prior knowledge synthesized in this recent paper: Félix, Georges F., Johannes MS Scholberg, Cathy Clermont-Dauphin, Laurent Cournac, and Pablo Tittonell. "Enhancing agroecosystem productivity with woody perennials in semi-arid West Africa. A meta-analysis." (2018): 57.	Noted with thanks.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
Part II: Project justification	A simple narrative explaining the project's logic, i.e. a theory of change.		
1. Project description. Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)	Is the problem statement well-defined?	<p>Yes, the problem analysis is well defined. The drivers of degradation and deforestation in The Gambia are described thoroughly. However, it is unclear whether this problem analysis is specific to the project site or to the country. In the final project document, STAP suggests narrowing the problem context to the project sites if this is not already the case. Additionally, STAP recommends describing the climate change projections for the country, or for the target sites if this information is available. Climate information will contribute to describing the context influencing the problems.</p> <p>Some research that could be relevant to that end: Amuzu, J., Jallow, B.P., Kabo-Bah, A.T. and Yaffa, S., 2018. The climate change vulnerability and risk management matrix for the coastal zone of the Gambia. <i>Hydrology</i>, 5(1), p.14. Bojang, Fatou, Seydou Traore, Adama Togola, and Yacouba Diallo. "Farmers Perceptions about Climate Change, Management Practice and Their On-Farm Adoption Strategies at Rice Fields in Sapu and Kuntaur of the Gambia, West Africa." <i>American Journal of Climate Change</i> 9, no. 01 (2020): 1.</p>	Comment and suggestion well noted. As requested, the document does contain a section on The Gambia's vulnerability to climate change that articulates the requested information. See paras 99-102.
	Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references?	Yes, the PIF describes comprehensively the barriers. The project developers provide examples of how the barriers will prevent meeting the project objective while acknowledging communities' socio-economic realities.	Noted with thanks.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective well-defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs?	Does not apply.	n/a
2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects	Is the baseline identified clearly?	Yes, the PIF includes a narrative baseline, describing on-going, future, and past initiatives which this project will build on, including ROOTS and NEMA.	Noted with thanks.
	Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project's benefits?	Core indicators will be assigned during the project design. The project team rightly identifies in pg 33 -component #4??some of the indicators will be process-based?. STAP welcomes this idea and encourages to use these indicators as complementary to the three core indicators of LDN. The LDN Conceptual framework (pgs 100-101) makes a point on ??countries using complementary LDN indicators, to be selected for locally relevant ecosystem services that are not covered by SOC, NPP or land cover change.?	The document includes process-based indicators as promised at PIF.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Respons es
	Is the baseline sufficiently robust to support the incremental (additional cost) reasoning for the project?	Yes, the baseline is sufficiently robust at this stage.	Noted with thanks.
	For multiple focal area projects:		
	are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators;	Does not apply.	n/a
	are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; and	Partly. In addition to the description of the associated baseline projects, it would be valuable to specify how learning from designing and implementing, as well as the achieved outcomes, of each project will contribute to this GEF project. This applies specifically to the ROOTS and NEMA projects which are more directly linked to this project.	Additional information has been provided to highlight the link but also lessons to be drawn from the portfolio of related projects.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	how did these lessons inform the design of this project?	The PIF states that three broad lessons influenced the design of this project: i) Scaling up of a watershed/landscape approach, rather than a focus on communities to take into account both lowlands (irrigated rice) and uplands (rain fed crops) and to reduce run off and siltation leading to low soil productivity of both categories; ii) Promote new alternatives in terms of incomes; iii) Contribute to improved knowledge management on LDN and SLM.?	Noted with thanks.
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project	What is the theory of change?	The PIF includes the following theory of change: ?The theoretical logic of this project on which the Theory of Change will be built is that it seeks to create an enabling environment for an integrated landscape approach in support of SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation in The Gambia. This is its goal. Working backwards, this goal will be achieved through supporting the creation of an enabling institutional and policy environment for SLM and LDN (building capacities of stakeholders, policy mainstreaming ? component 1); implementing SLM and LDN using an Integrated Landscape Management approach (concrete hardware activities such as agroforestry practices, assisted regeneration of socioeconomically valuable species etc ?component 2); Livelihoods and food security of land users (concrete hardware activities such as value chains of selected crops); and knowledge management through which lessons will be disseminated to stakeholder to inform scaling up and replication of good practices. Since the government led and validated the LDN voluntary targets, and has demonstrated commitment to fight against land degradation through various national policies, the project assumes that there is enough political will to mainstream and implement the LDN agenda and SLM in the country. It is also assumed that communities will support and be involved in the decision-making processes that will lead to the identification and promotion of appropriate SLM practices. Additionally, the project is also cognizant of social, economic, political and environmental risks, which it will duly consider in the course of its development.?	Noted with thanks.
	What is the sequence of events (required or expected) that will lead to the desired outcomes?	See above.	See above.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	What is the set of linked activities, outputs, and outcomes to address the project's objectives?	See above.	See above.
	Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	<p>STAP is pleased that a theory of change narrative and figure, explaining the causal link between the long-term outcomes is provided in the PIF. To manage the risks and barriers to achieving LDN, STAP recommends identifying the assumptions in the theory of change.</p> <p>Furthermore, in support of the landscape planning and multiple benefits resulting from LDN, which The Gambia seeks to achieve, it will be valuable to use systems analysis to identify the cross-scale linkages and connections between sectors (e.g. agriculture, livestock, forestry, and policies) as the theory of change is developed. Refer to the LDN technical guidelines and STAP's theory of change primer: https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p>	Noted with thanks. Please, note that a section on how components are linked? has been provided to demonstrate how the components are support each other and reflected in the Theory of Change to achieve the project objective.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Responses
	Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes?	The project recognizes that adaptive management may be needed, and will be managed through the monitoring and evaluation component. In addition to this text, STAP recommends specifying in the project document that managing for climate risks (floods and droughts) will require adaptations to the project, which is likely to involve different scenarios (or impact pathways) than what is originally conceived.	Noted with thanks. Please, note that a paragraph has been added to reflect adaptive management of climate change risks, including the peaks and lows of COVID-19. See para 119.
5) incremental/ additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF trust fund, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing	GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits?	Yes, with careful monitoring and a good theory of change.	Noted with thanks.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	LDCF/SC CF: will the proposed incremental activities lead to adaptation which reduces vulnerability, builds adaptive capacity, and increases resilience to climate change?	Does not apply.	n/a

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Responses
<p>6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)</p>	<p>Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable?</p>	<p>Yes, the global environmental benefits are articulated clearly. Indicators will be provided in the final project document.</p> <p>As previously stated, STAP recommends for the assumptions, along with the underlying drivers, and risks to be identified in the theory of change.</p> <p>Planning for the effects of climate hazards (river flooding and water scarcity) is important to the design of the project, particularly for component 2 and 3. STAP recommends planning for climate change in the design of the project, and recognizing that multiple scenarios will be needed to deal with the high risks of uncertainty to the social-ecological systems.</p> <p>The project team is recommended to think about the different climate stressors related to drought (e.g. how could the increasing frequency and duration of drought affect water and food availability, crop production, fodder, woodlots) flooding (e.g. affect communities, agrosilvopastoral systems), and possibly to storm surge (e.g. groundwater quality, potable water quality) during the design of the project, and the theory of change.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p> <p>Please, note that to the extent possible, within the provisions of the funding window of this project as an LD project, information on climate change has been added.</p> <p>As proponents, we judge that the level of inclusion of climate change related activities need to be limited to the extent that they are related to LD because there are no climate change resources for the project.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Respons es
	Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment ?	Unclear. Suggest identifying the barriers and enablers to scaling in the theory of change.	Please, refer to the key of the Theory of Change for the barriers and enablers relevant to the project.
	Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits explicitly defined?	Yes, global environmental benefits are defined.	Noted with thanks.
	Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation?	Indicators will be provided in the final project document. In addition to listing the GEF core indicators related to sustainable land management (i.e. area under improved management and greenhouse gas mitigation), STAP suggests identifying indicators to monitor and track progress of the causal links in the theory of change.	Indicators have been included and reflected in the project's logframe .

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	What activities will be implemented to increase the project's resilience to climate change?	The project plans to put in place contingency measures, including multiple scenarios, to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.	Noted with thanks.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
<p>7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up</p>	<p>Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning?</p>	<p>The project is innovative in applying the concept of land degradation neutrality, which on its own is an integrated land use planning approach ? a practice that The Gambia strives to implement to tackle degradation and deforestation.</p> <p>To design LDN interventions, STAP would like to draw attention to the technical LDN guidelines from April 2020: https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/LDN%20Technical%20Report_web%20version.pdf</p> <p>The assumption is that applying LDN (i.e. an integrated landscape approach), combined with capacity building to implement this practice, will generate the knowledge and institutional conditions to scale across temporal and spatial scales. STAP recommends its paper on durability and theory of change - where it lists principles that need attention to achieve scaling: https://www.stapgef.org/achieving-enduring-outcomes-gef-investment; https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p> <p>Given the project points that ?cultural practices are a barrier to women?s access and use of productive land and forests (pg 47), STAP recommends paying attention to activities that could enable scaling deep? (cultural changes) as part of the project.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p> <p>Please, note that as suggested, additional information has been added consistent with STAP?s proposal for achieving enduring outcomes.</p> <p>The comment on cultural barrier was noted and the project has a gender mainstreaming strategy to ensure that a gender responsive plan is in place for engagement of women in the project activities.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	<p>Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors?</p>	<p>In addition to scaling up (impacting policies and laws, and scaling out (impacting greater numbers), STAP recommends thinking how to influence rules, decisions, values (among other factors) in the targeted social-ecological systems.</p> <p>To achieve project's large-scale change, this will involve influencing the complexity and variety that characterize social systems. Thus, considering how to scale deep will be important. The project team can refer to STAP's durability paper and the theory of change primer for guidance.</p>	<p>Suggestion well noted.</p> <p>In response, INLAM AG's strategy in influencing rules and decisions is through stakeholder engagement at every stage of project design and implementation, including the proposed adaptive management strategies. These aspects are reflected in the project document.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Respons es
	Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability?	<p>It is possible that both adaptation and transformational change will be required due to the high risk of river flooding and drought. STAP encourages the project team to consider uncertainty to cope with the level of change that may take place. This requires considering systematically time scales and spatial scales when planning the interventions.</p> <p>The theory of change can do this if it is designed to assess how the targeted social-ecological system functions across scales, while focusing on what is 'necessary and sufficient' to achieve the project objective. Refer to STAP?'s theory of change primer, which is a good resource for developing a theory of change based on systems analysis: https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer</p>	<p>Suggestion well noted.</p> <p>As noted above, INLAM AG?'s adaptive management to climate risks will respond adaptation and transformational change due to high risk of flooding and drought particularly in agricultural production landscapes.</p>
<p>1b. Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.</p>		<p>A map of the target sites is provided. Suggest specifying the location with stakeholders during the project design. STAP?'s guidance on earth observation systems can assist during project preparation in delineating boundaries and learning how to use data (e.g. land use cover) for LDN monitoring: https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/Earth%20Observation%20and%20the%20GEF%20primer_0_0.pdf</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>As guided by the GEF for a map with coordinates, a map has been included for the target regions of the project.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
<p>2. Stakeholders. Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase: Indigenous people and local communities; Civil society organizations; Private sector entities. If none of the above, please explain why. In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.</p>	<p>Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers?</p>	<p>STAP is pleased with the detailed description of how stakeholders were involved in the pre-design of the project. Stakeholders revealed conflicting interests, or trade-offs, (e.g. ??developing the agricultural sector but at the same time managing sustainability landscapes and ecosystems??), which should be taken into account in the project design. The technical LDN guidelines emphasize how to manage trade-offs in the design and implementation of interventions.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	<p>What are the stakeholders' roles, and how will their combined roles contribute to robust project design, to achieving global environmental outcomes, and to lessons learned and knowledge?</p>	<p>Some key stakeholders have been identified while others will be defined once a stakeholder mapping takes place. Stakeholders' roles and responsibilities in relation to achieving the global environmental outcomes will be provided in the final project document.</p>	<p>In the document, relevant stakeholders and their roles identified, and their participation and role in project design explained.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
<p>3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Please briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis). Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment? Yes/no/ tbd. If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality: access to and control over resources; participation and decision-making; and/or economic benefits or services. Will the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?</p>	<p>Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences?</p>	<p>The project will address barriers to women's access to and use of productive land and forests. These barriers (and enablers) should form part of the theory of change, as well as other gender constraints that inhibit reaching the project objective, and scaling.</p> <p>STAP recommends the project explores the use of ICT and peers (particularly women) for building capacity and technology transfer (refer to page 47). Recent literature suggests that, for instance, farmers of West Africa rely heavily on personal experiences and fellow farmers to adopt technologies. Zossou, Espérance, Aminou Arouna, Aliou Diagne, and Rita Afiavi Agboh-Noameshie. "Learning agriculture in rural areas: the drivers of knowledge acquisition and farming practices by rice farmers in West Africa." <i>The Journal of Agricultural Education and Extension</i> (2019): 1-16.</p> <p>Likewise, emerging evidence point to the potential of ICT for empowering rural populations in terms of access to knowledge and information. Examples are: McCormack, Caitlin, 2018. Key factors in the use of Agricultural Extension Services by women farmers in Babati District, Tanzania : the role of societal gender norms. Second cycle, A2E. Uppsala: SLU, Dept. of Urban and Rural Development Tijjani, A. R., Anaeto, F. C., & Emerhirhi, E. (2017). Analysis of the Roles of Information and Communications Technologies in Rural Women Farmers' Empowerment in Rivers State, Nigeria. <i>Library Philosophy & Practice</i>. Gumucio, Tatiana, James Hansen, Sophia Huyer, Tiff van Huysen, and Saroja Schwager. "Identifying pathways for more gender-sensitive communication channels in climate services." (2018). Lawal, A., Alabi, O. and Oladele, A., 2017. Elements of Rural Economics: Access to Agricultural Information among Rural Women Farmers in Abuja, Nigeria. <i>Journal of Agricultural Sciences</i>?Sri Lanka, 12(2).</p>	<p>Comment well noted. As suggested, information has been included to learn from women engagement to motivate and improve knowledge transfer and communication with other women beneficiaries.</p> <p>The project implementation will build on the momentum created during the design process that involved women as stakeholders. As proponents, and in consultation with stakeholders, we have judged the</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Respons es
	Do gender considerations hinder full participation of an important stakeholder group (or groups)? If so, how will these obstacles be addressed?	Unsure. During the process of assessing gender issues, STAP recommends considering whether the full participation of an important stakeholder group is hindered as a result, and describing how will the project address these obstacles.	See response above (women to women interaction).

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
<p>5. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design</p>	<p>Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project's control? Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project? For climate risk, and climate resilience measures: ? How will the project's objectives or outputs be affected by climate risks over the period 2020 to 2050, and have the impact of these risks been addressed adequately? ? Has the sensitivity to climate change, and its impacts, been assessed? ? Have resilience practices and measures to address</p>	<p>The PIF summarizes the risks the project may face, including risks from climate change, inadequate private sector engagement, political risks, COVID-19 risks to the project design, among others. In addition to the climate risks identified in the PIF, STAP recommends addressing the climate resilience measures described to the left. STAP also encourages the project developers to continually test causal links, assumptions, and risks in the theory of change. 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. Additionally, the project team may find it useful to look at the following resources: STAP's screening guidelines: https://www.stapgef.org/sites/default/files/documents/GEF%20AGENCY%20RETREAT%20Mar-Apr%202020.pdf World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal: https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/ U.S. Agency for International Development Climate Risk Screening and Management Tools: https://www.climatelinks.org/resources/climate-risk-screening-management-tool</p>	<p>Comment addressed ? see response regarding adaptive management above.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
<p>6. Coordination . Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other related initiatives</p>	<p>Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects?</p>	<p>Yes, the project will build on the knowledge of other projects based on the baseline projects listed in the PIF, and described in the coordination section.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p>
	<p>Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them?</p>	<p>See above.</p>	<p>See above.</p>
	<p>Have specific lessons learned from previous projects been cited?</p>	<p>Yes, lessons from other projects will be used to develop this proposal.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p>
	<p>How have these lessons informed the project's formulation?</p>	<p>See above.</p>	<p>See above.</p>

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD's Responses
	Is there an adequate mechanism to feed the lessons learned from earlier projects into this project, and to share lessons learned from it into future projects?	Yes, the project includes a component on monitoring. The theory of change can also serve as a monitoring tool.	Noted with thanks.

Part I: Project Information	Response		IFAD?'s Respons es
<p>8. Knowledge management. Outline the ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project, and how it will contribute to the project?'s overall impact, including plans to learn from relevant projects, initiatives and evaluations.</p>	<p>What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used?</p>	<p>The monitoring component will be used to generate knowledge. STAP recommends considering knowledge management metrics, and specifying how the knowledge generated will influence scaling of results. In addition, it would be valuable to link the knowledge strategy to the theory of change.</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>The logframe has knowledge management indicators, and a paragraph has been added under Knowledge Management Section that highlight the link between KM and ToC, including specifying how generated knowledge will influence scaling up of results.</p>
	<p>What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience ?</p>	<p>The project describes several methods to disseminate results and lessons. Detailed plans will be described in the project document.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</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:**

The PPG resources were instrumental in the project development. The resources supported activities were required to enable the elaboration of the PIF to advance it into the Project Document which has been the basis for the CEO Endorsement document. In the course of the project preparation, there have been meetings that have been held to smoothen the project preparation process in terms of engaging with the government of The Gambia, engaging other project partners and engaging of consultants to conduct thematic studies to support the elaboration of the Project Document. Specifically, the following consultants have been engaged to support the development of the Project Document: Natural Resources Management Specialist; Land Specialist; Gender Specialist; and two International Project Document Drafters. Some of the PPG activities have been affected by the COVID-19 in the region, but also in The Gambia ? for example, some physical meetings with the IFAD team and stakeholders in the country could only be had virtually. Movements have been restricted to a large extent, and therefore, partners have heavily relied on the use of virtual platforms to conduct meetings. The table below summarises the manner in which the PPG funds have been utilized.

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 150,000			
<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>
Natural Resources Management Specialist	28,800	23,364	5436
Land Specialist	10,000	1844	8156
Gender Specialist	24,000	3901	20099
International Project Document Drafter 1	26,000	25,838	162
International Project Document Drafter 2	26,200	25,708	492
Workshop for stakeholders consultations	15,000	13,082	1918
Inception workshop	20,000	0	20,000
Total	150,000	93,737	56,263

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

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

Works										
	Construction of dikes for soil and water management		85 000			85 000			85 000	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
Goods										
	Communication equipment to facilitate information collection and dissemination, computers, printers etc		15 000			15 000		5 200	67 000	Project Implementation Unit
Grants/ Sub-grants										
Sub-contract to Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Natural Resources	Promotion of water and soil management practices, restoration and rehabilitation of 12,000 ha of land, Improving bushfire management, woodlots integration into sustainable wood and biomass		1 444 171			1 444 171			1 444 171	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources
Sub-contract to Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Natural Resources	Community Monitoring system for soil erosion and vegetation cover		625 000			625 000			625 000	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources

International Consultants										
	Development of institutional Capacity development plan including 4 training for 4200 benef etc..	50 000				50 000			50 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Development of open access knowledge platform for landscape planning	42 900				42 900			42 900	Project Implementation Unit
	Development of Participatory SLM PLAN			80 000		80 000			80 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Development of Monitoring plan				100 000	100 000			100 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Development of LDN information hub				90 000	90 000			90 000	Project Implementation Unit
Local Consultants									0	Project Implementation Unit
	Development of land use and management plan	45 000				45 000			45 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Development of Integrated watershed plan	45 000				45 000			45 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Mid Term review						20 000		20 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Terminal Evaluation						25 000		25 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Establishment of user friendly monitoring system						30 000		30 000	Project Implementation Unit

	Assessment of Land of land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon					50 000	50 000		50 000	Project Implementation Unit
Salary and benefits / Staff costs										
	3 project officer (including Sustainable Land and Natural Resource Management Officer, Soil and Water Management Officer, Climate Smart Agriculture Officer) See TORS	117 100	133 900	125 500		376 500			376 500	Project Implementation Unit
	Project Assistant							5 000	5 000	Project Implementation Unit
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings										
	4 capacity building training for 4200 beneficiaries	115 000				115 000			115 000	Project Implementation Unit
	10 Farmers field School	30 000				30 000			30 000	Project Implementation Unit
	1 vocational Education center	20 000				20 000			20 000	Project Implementation Unit

	Capacity development of 7 communities, 50 women associations and technical services, on SLM for climate smart agriculture, improved Agricultural and livestock production									70 000	70 000	70 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Capacity Development of 150 Extension services workers in 11 district on SLM for climate smart agriculture, improved Agricultural and livestock production									75 000	75 000	75 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Capacity Building for PSU to enhance project management and implementation				25 000					25 000	25 000	25 000	Project Implementation Unit
												0	
	Project Steering Committee Meeting & Annual project Progress assessment									40 000	40 000	40 000	Project Implementation Unit
	Quarterly Dashboard and periodic implementation report									8 000	8 000	8 000	Project Implementation Unit

	Inception workshops						40 00 0		40 000	Project Implement ation Unit
	Field visits						64 00 0		64 000	Project Implement ation Unit
	Annual Progress Reports and Dissemination						8 00 0		8 000	Project Implement ation Unit
Travel										
	Travel							4 4 2 6 2	44 262	Project Implement ation Unit
Office Supplies										
	Office supplies, computers, other equipment..					0		2 2 5 0 0	22 500	Project Implement ation Unit
Operating Costs										
	Audit							5 2 5 0 0	52 500	Project Implement ation Unit
Grand Total		600 000	2 303 071	1 084 249	265 000	4 252 320	23 5 2 0 0	2 2 1 6 2	4 708 582	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

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

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

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