



## **Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project**

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

#### **GEF ID**

10572

#### **Project Type**

FSP

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

GET

#### **CBIT/NGI**

CBIT

NGI

#### **Project Title**

Integrated Landscape Management Gambia (INLAMAG) Project

#### **Countries**

Gambia

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

IFAD

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

#### **Executing Partner Type**

**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, Sustainable Land Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Beneficiaries, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Capacity Development

**Rio Markers****Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 2

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 2

**Duration**

60 In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

441,418

**Submission Date**

4/21/2020

**A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements**

<b>Programming Directions</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
LD-1-1	GET	2,663,702	8,658,389
LD-1-4	GET	1,444,880	15,962,134
LD-2-5	GET	600,000	3,595,477
	<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>4,708,582</b>	<b>28,216,000</b>

**B. Indicative 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

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Project Outcomes</b>	<b>Project Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 1: Enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation (LD2.5)	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Increased institutional capacities, and enhanced cross sectors and governance mechanisms for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation by:</p> <p>by: (i) improved in national institutions capacities for SLM and LDN</p> <p>(ii) number of functional new governance frameworks and plans for SLM and LDN</p>	<p>1.1.1 Develop one Institutional Capacity Development Plan, including at least 4 training (collaborative land-use decision planning, multi-stakeholder approaches, SLM, LDN) for 4200 beneficiaries; 10 Farmers Field School (FFS), one vocational education center (Songhai Centre)</p> <p>1.1.2. One open-access knowledge platform for landscape planning system is developed for</p>	GET	600,000	3,036,263

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 2: Implementation of Integrated landscape planning and management to reduce land degradation (LD1.4)	Investment	Improved, coordinated and collaborative management of Landscape (14,500 ha of degraded productive landscapes in 11 districts, contributing 13.3% to 109 000 ha LDN national target ) enhancing their ecological integrity and ensuring better agricultural production and livelihoods	<p>2.1.1 Five (5)Integrated water and soil management practices are promoted by 700 households through dikes, and conservation agriculture (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-silvo-pastoral</p>	GET	2,303,071	13,763,512

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
Component 3: Promote SLM for Climate Smart Agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management (LD1.1)	Investment	<p>3.1 Improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management on 22,000 ha for better livelihoods for 700 households (or 4,830 people), contributing 20.2% to 109 000 ha LDN national target</p> <p>[1]</p> <hr/> <p>[1] Based on the role and representation of women in the proposed project activities</p>	<p>3.1.1 5,000 ha are under agroforestry and sustainable and diversified cropping systems</p> <p>3.1.2. 2,000 ha are under Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems to optimizes 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</p>	GET	1,084,249	7,002,889

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Project Outcomes</b>	<b>Project Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
Component 4: Project Monitoring the Project's Contribution to Neutrality	Technical Assistance	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	4.1.1 1 (one) monitoring plan established and agreed upon by key stakeholders  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	GET	500,000	3,036,264
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>4,487,320</b>	<b>26,838,928</b>

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

	GET	221,262	1,377,072
	<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>221,262</b>	<b>1,377,072</b>
	<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>4,708,582</b>	<b>28,216,000</b>

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

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	17,016,000
Donor Agency	Agence Francaise de développement (AFD)	Grant	Investment mobilized	11,200,000
			<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>28,216,000</b>

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
IFAD	GET	Gambia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	4,708,582	441,418	5,150,000
<b>Total GEF Resources(\$)</b>					<b>4,708,582</b>	<b>441,418</b>	<b>5,150,000</b>

**E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required

**PPG Amount (\$)**

150,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
IFAD	GET	Gambia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	150,000		<b>150,000</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>150,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150,000</b>

## 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)
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14500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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### 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)
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10,000.00			
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### 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)
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### 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)
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4,500.00			
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### 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)
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### 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)
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22000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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### 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)

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
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22,000.00

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

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
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**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Submitted</b>
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

<b>Total Target Benefit</b>	<b>(At PIF)</b>	<b>(At CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>(Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>(Achieved at TE)</b>
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Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	3173914	0	0	0

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

<b>Total Target Benefit</b>	<b>(At PIF)</b>	<b>(At CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>(Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>(Achieved at TE)</b>
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Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	3,173,914
Anticipated start year of accounting	2021
Duration of accounting	20

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

<b>Total Target Benefit</b>	<b>(At PIF)</b>	<b>(At CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>(Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>(Achieved at TE)</b>
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Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> 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)
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Target Energy Saved (MJ)				
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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)
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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			
Male	6,159			
<b>Total</b>	15200	0	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

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

##### National context - overview

Situated in West Africa, The Gambia is almost surrounded by Senegal and has a total land area of 11,285 km<sup>2</sup>. 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 for 2020 is estimated at 2.31 million people and a population density of 204<sup>[1]</sup> persons per km<sup>2</sup>, 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. 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. According to the World Bank, about 72% of the poor and 91% of the extreme poor are farmers. Young people are the most affected by poverty, with 60% of the poor being under the age of 20. In addition, 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 148<sup>th</sup> 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 preschool, primary, and secondary levels, but inequality remains in tertiary and vocational training. The literacy rate for women is only 40 per cent 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%).<sup>[2]</sup>

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

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poor. These figures indicate that about 52% of the entire population is still suffering from pervasive and endemic poverty. To stem against this poverty menace, articulated and concerted macroeconomic stabilization reform measures must be re-directed at reducing the negative poverty impacts on the affected population.[3]<sup>3</sup> 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 and the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework through on-the-ground implementation of sustainable land management practices and creating an enabling environment to support the implementation of voluntary LDN targets.

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 than \$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 MT of which only 36,000 MT is produced locally and 179,000 MT is imported.

### **The LDN national context**

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

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:

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- *Land cover:* Forest cover declined from 41 km<sup>2</sup> in 2000 to 37 km<sup>2</sup> in 2010, representing a decrease of 4 km<sup>2</sup>. However, during the same period, shrubs, grasslands and sparsely vegetated areas increased from 1575 km<sup>2</sup> to 1,576 km<sup>2</sup>, representing an increase of 1 km<sup>2</sup>. Croplands also increased from 7,308 km<sup>2</sup> to 7310 km<sup>2</sup>, representing an increase of 2 km<sup>2</sup>;
- *Soil organic carbon:* Soil organic carbon is 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 declining, early signs of decline and 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.[1]

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

## **Threats and Barriers**

### ***Threats***

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, which have been observed. 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 to 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 depletion of land degradation and loss of soil fertility, eventually negatively impacting agricultural productivity – this also contributes to the phenomenon of migration in The Gambia.



**Under the clear blue skies, this agro-pastoral landscape in Northern Bank Region has poor soil fertility status, attributed to a mix of factors linked to poor SLM practices, climate change.**

**Photo: IFAD scoping mission team, January 2020**

*Fuelwood extraction:* The cutting of trees for fuel wood is among the leading causes of deforestation in the Gambia. It is reported that forest in the Gambia provides 85% of the country's domestic energy needs in the form of fuel wood for over 90% of the population. As the population continues to increase, the fuel wood demand continues to increase unprecedentedly and put more pressure on the country's remaining forest resources. Currently, many parts of the country are facing shortage 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.

*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 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 produce 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 and 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 impact on rural livelihoods.



**In The Gambia shifting cultivation, fuelwood and charcoal both sold on roadsides are common features in agro-pastoral landscapes (Northern Bank Region)**

**Photo: IFAD scoping mission team, February 2020**

*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.

*Forest degradation:* In The Gambia the rising demand for food and other agricultural products, among others, 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 products 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 woodland 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.

*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.

*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 landscape 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 enforceable policies that reflect people's livelihood needs.



**Bushfires, a common practice in production landscapes in The Gambia (Northern Bank Region)**

**Photo: IFAD scoping mission team, January 2020**

*Oil and Gas development sector:* massive oil offshore reserves have been discovered in the Gambian seas. The exploration and exploitation may impact the marine ecosystems and biodiversity and reduce the fish stock, pollute mangroves forests and the river and pollution of soils and water for agriculture if not well managed. Specific measures including environmental safeguards, clauses in all contracts to protect existing natural capital base, promote social inclusion must be developed. On the long term, the reduction in ecosystem goods and services is leading to negative effects on rural Gambia's 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.

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 land and forests.

***Barriers***

*Inadequate harmonized capacities, policy and institutional mechanisms for effective mainstreaming and implementation of SLM and national LDN targets*

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 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.[1] 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 related to LDN which include 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 National Contribution to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015).

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 no adequate harmonization to ensure integrated and holistic implementation of the LDN agenda and SLM practices. The lack of adequate harmonized 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, and poor agricultural practices and the conversion of forests to other land uses because of competing irreconcilable development foci and priorities.[2] 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 harmoniously mainstream SLM and LDN in 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 in the country. Due to lack of stakeholder training in LDN process, despite regional-level trends, there are no capacities to formulate aspirational regional-level baselines following the LDN global indicators.

#### *Inappropriate land management systems exacerbated by lack of land policy services*

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 at the same time, one that needs to remain resilient to anthropogenic and environmental pressures to remain productive in terms of socio-economic needs and the generation of global environmental benefits. In this mix of competing socioeconomic and environmental needs like this, integrated landscape management practice 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 resource-constrained and climate-impacted.

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 its sustainable productivity. When land is exhausted, it is simply abandoned or given to women while men start 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-oriented alternative livelihoods*

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 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. 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 not SLM-compatible. The existing agricultural-related activities and products do not have the value chains to the point of diversifying incomes and increase on the economic returns on them for the benefit of communities. In this respect, the lack of value chains has both socioeconomic and environmental implications on 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.



**Despite their involvement in vegetable gardening, producers in Darsilami, West Coast Region, who are mainly women, lack opportunities for value addition and marketing of their products.**

**Photo: IFAD scoping mission team, January 2020**

It is reiterated here that land degradation is a significant threat to The Gambia's socio-economic and environmental wellbeing, and this project is designed to support the widespread adoption of SLM related activities in the country by supporting integrated landscape management planning that balances development needs and environmental services, strengthening and harmonising legal and policy frameworks for land and resource management, building capacity and coordination frameworks to undertake SLM practices, and increasing public awareness on land degradation threats. At community level in the selected districts, the project will demonstrate integrated landscape rehabilitation and restoration as well as diversifying alternative sources of income for communities in the bid to promote and scale up sustainable land management practices. Therefore, the project proposes a suite of both software and hardware activities to promote 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 of alternative and diversified livelihood incomes that would strengthen the already vulnerable socioeconomic and ecological context of the country. It will bring 36,500 ha of land under improved management in contribution to the nation's 109,900 ha LDN target, as well as  $3,173,914 t CO_2$ .

With the incremental GEF financing coming both from the national STAR allocations, the project will promote operational use of standardized LDN and Promote SLM for Climate Smart Agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management in an enabled environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation (LD2.5)

With more restored land, these efforts will help the country to develop and consolidate agricultural production including staple crops/ livestock and upgrade vegetable garden business models built under IFAD previous funded project (NEMA) and the new investment called Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS) of which the GEF project is complementing. ROOTs focuses on rice and vegetable.

### **The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects**

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 main baseline IFAD investments and existing other projects in the medium and long term on SLM and LDN.

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 the environmental integrity. It has sought to do this through interventions in specific regions to reflect environmental concerns, particularly those related to land degradation. Therefore, the GEF investments for this proposed project will reinforce and support the main IFAD baseline investment main objectives:

- *Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS)*: which this project is linked and 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 productivities 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 been mainly 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.

Additionally, this GEF project will be anchored in lessons from past projects and programs 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.

These projects have focused mainly on: mangrove restoration, forest management, community engagement, alternative sources of income such as horticulture, and rice cultivation improvement. Aligned on the ROOTS investment, this new GEF proposal explores new ways and scaling up good practices of contributing to the LDN targets of 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.
- o Promote new alternatives in terms of incomes, contributing at the same time to nutrition: moringa, fonio, duck and fowls.
- o Contribution to improved knowledge management regarding 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

To build on the momentum built by different development partners and IFAD funded projects in the afore-mentioned projects to support rural agriculture, improve food security, 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 and strengthen an enabling environment for upscaling an integrated landscape approach to support the implementation of the LDN agenda 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, agricultural production systems and practices that degrade soils, fuelwood harvesting, salt water intrusion, and siltation among others particularly in areas where rice production is the main agricultural focus and monocropping. 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
- o Lower River Bank Region: Kiang West

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. At PPG, LDN project-level indicators based on the biophysical and socioeconomic assessments will be developed to ensure national level contribution of the project vis-à-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). 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);
- 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).<sup>[1]</sup>

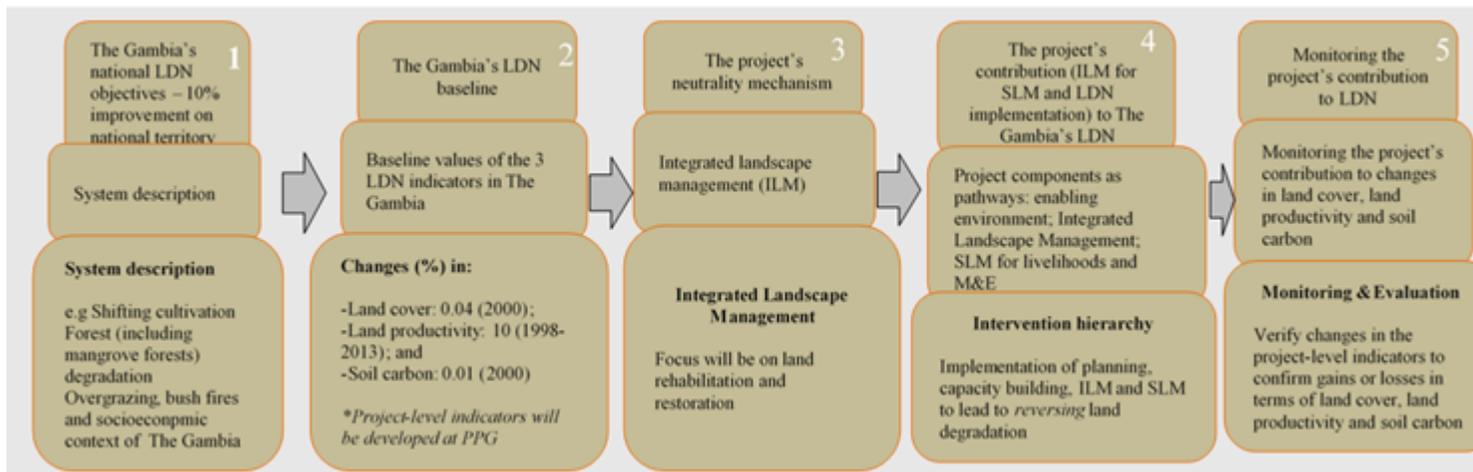
As important production landscapes, the target districts also offer potential in terms of the generation of global environmental benefits. In this project, the districts are targeted as socio-ecological system consisting a mosaic of natural and human-modified ecosystems, with a characteristic configuration 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[2] for multiple benefits, i.e. improved environmental, human well-being and livelihoods.

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 15200 (9041 (59%) women; and 6159 (41%) 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.

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 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 will duly consider in the course of its development.

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. At PPG, this project will develop indicators that correspond to land cover, land productivity and soil organic 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, and as has already been alluded to, 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.



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.

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 see to 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.

With the incremental GEF financing coming both from the national STAR allocations, the project will promote operational use of standardized LDN and SLM to support decision making and scaling up of SLM best practices in an enabling environment for SLM and LDN mainstreaming and implementation (LD2.5)

As detailed below, the project will address these barriers through four components.

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

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. Therefore, under component 1, the project will support capacity building and institutional strengthening of relevant national and local institutions in 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 (output 1.1.1). 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. The results of the analysis will inform 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 (output 1.1.2). The results will also lead to 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 (including the establishment of the project-level LDN indicators) (output 1.1.3). Under this component one land use management plan will be developed in cooperation with relevant national and international partners, leading to its effective SLM and LDN (output 1.1.4), and one integrated watershed plan for SLM and LDN, and a water user's management plan with clear cross-sectoral governance, and implementation structures (output 1.1.5). Finally, under this component, the project will develop one land use management plan in cooperation with relevant national and international partners, leading to its effective SLM and LDN (output 1.1.6). Thus, this component will contribute to creating an 'enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN.' [1]

### *Component 2: Implementation of Integrated landscape planning and management to reduce land degradation*

Consistent with component 1 which will focus on the enabling environment/institutional arrangements and capacity development, component 2 will constitute a suite of concrete actions to support the implementation of an integrated landscape management to address land degradation in the target regions through integrated water and soil management practices on 1,500 ha (output 2.1.1). 700 households (4,830 people) will adopt SLM practices, and under this component a total of 36,500 ha of land will brought under improved management in 11 districts – contributing about 33,5% towards the 109,000 ha national LDN target (output 2.1.2). Under this component, this project will rehabilitate and restore 12,000 ha of degraded land through assisted natural regeneration focusing on locally adapted species and woodlots using multipurpose tree species, and agrosilvopastoral practices (output 2.1.2). It will also integrate woodlots in community forestry and indigenous community conservation management for the sustainable supply of wood and biomass energy (output 2.1.3). Finally, the project under this component 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 (output 2.1.4). 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,[2] and to supporting Integrated Landscape Management approaches to ‘reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape.’[3]

### *Component 3: Promote SLM for Climate Smart Agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management*

Under component 3, the project will seek to promote SLM for climate smart agriculture for improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management that will contribute to improving the living conditions of affected populations by addressing their socio-economic needs.[4]<sup>4</sup> The area that will be impacted will be 14,500 ha of restored land, representing 13,5% in contribution to the 109 000 ha LDN national target. 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 project will promote agroforestry through the integration of woody perennials into agricultural crops and/or animals (output 3.1.1). This will be crucial in ensuring food security in terms of both quality and quantity for the local communities. 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) (output 3.1.2). This logic supports the building of livelihoods of affected communities - to improve the living conditions of affected populations.[5]<sup>5</sup> Under this component, the project will implement 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 (output 3.1.3). The project also plans to scale up of the more efficient *jambar* cooking stoves to benefit more than 1000 households to reduce the harvesting of fuelwood that leads to deforestation and soil erosion (output 3.1.4). Finally, the project will enhance capacities of 7 communities, 50 women associations and Technical services, 150 Extension service workers in 11 districts in SLM for climate smart agriculture leading to improved Agricultural and livestock production (output 3.1.5). The selection of these SLM-compatible practices will be through participative consultations with local communities in the target regions of The Gambia, with due consideration to gender. The participatory approaches will take advantage of existing female-led agricultural cooperatives at community-levels. Through output 3.1.5, these 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.[6]<sup>6</sup>

### *Component 4: Monitoring the Project's Contribution to Neutrality*

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Component 4 will focus on verifying the project's contribution to the country's LDN target. Based on the indicators that will be developed at PPG, component 4 will track the changes relative to the baseline scenario in the selected project areas. 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.[7] Under this component, the project will make use of the established knowledge management hub in component 1 as a repository and mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data. The hub under this component will be important for the dissemination of lessons learned to stakeholders. To support the execution of this component, the proposed project through the IFAD central project coordination unit (CPCU) will conduct inception and terminal/validation workshops and ensure that the respective reports drafted and submitted. These will ensure that the monitoring of the project activities and required remedial measures are done as deemed necessary to keep the project on course to achieve its targets. To this end, under this component, the Project Management Unit will receive 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.

### **3) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies**

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.

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:

*LD-1-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agroecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through SLM*

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*LD-1-4: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape*

*LD-2-5: Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN*

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

*Strategic Objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality;*

*Strategic Objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations;*

*Strategic Objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; and*

*Strategic Objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD*

#### **Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF TF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing**

4) *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, the project will support targeted investments in infrastructure, and the technical and organizational capacities of farmers' organizations, particularly youth and women and other stakeholders along the crop and livestock value chain systems. 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. 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.

*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.

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

## **5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

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, contributing a total of 33.5% to 109 000 ha LDN national target. 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:

- Total area under improved management (Hectares): 36,500 ha

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e) : 3,173,914 t CO<sub>2</sub>[8]<sup>8</sup>

## **6) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

### **Innovation**

With the support and in partnerships with development partners, The Gambia has implemented SLM-related practices, particularly in the agriculture sector. However, following the successful LDN target setting exercise in 2017, this is the first project to deliberately embrace an integrated landscape approach to implement SLM practices in support of the implementation of the UNCCD through the LDN agenda; promoting in The Gambia an integrated landscape approach, including watershed management at scale, embracing both lowlands and uplands. 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.

### **Sustainability**

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 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. 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

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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.

### **Scaling up**

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. 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 a total of 33.5 % of the Gambia LDN framework target of 109, 900 ha restored until 2030.

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[1] 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.

[2] UNCCD 2018 – 2030 Strategic Framework Strategic Objective one

[3] 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

[4] UNCCD 2018 – 2030 Strategic Framework Strategic Objective two

[5] UNCCD. (2014). Report of the Conference of the Parties on its fourteenth session, held in New Delhi, India, from 2 to 13 September 2019

[6] 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

[7] STAP. (2019). Land Degradation Neutrality: Guidelines for GEF projects

[8] To be confirmed and validated at PPG

The Gambia's national LDN objectives – 10% improvement on national territory

The Gambia's LDN baseline

The project's neutrality mechanism

The project's contribution (ILM for SLM and LDN implementation) to The Gambia's LDN objectives

Monitoring the project's contribution to LDN

System description

Baseline values of the 3 LDN indicators in The Gambia

Integrated landscape management (ILM)

Project components as pathways: enabling environment; Integrated Landscape Management; SLM for livelihoods and M&E

Monitoring the project's contribution to changes in land cover, land productivity and soil carbon

**System description**

-

e.g Shifting cultivation

Forest (including mangrove forests) degradation Overgrazing, bush fires and socioeconomic context of The Gambia

-

**Changes (%) in:**

- 
- Land cover: 0.04 (2000);
- Land productivity: 10 (1998-2013); and
- Soil carbon: 0.01 (2000)

-  
*\*Project-level indicators will be developed at PPG*

**Integrated Landscape Management**

-  
Focus will be on reversing land degradation through land rehabilitation and restoration

**Intervention hierarchy**

-  
Implementation of planning, capacity building, ILM and SLM to lead to *reversing* land degradation

**Monitoring & Evaluation**

-  
Verify changes in the project-level indicators to confirm gains or losses in terms of land cover, land productivity and soil carbon

1

2

3

4

5

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

[2] Sara J. Scherr, Seth Shames and Rachel Friedman. (2013). Defining Integrated Landscape Management for Policy Makers

[3] STAP. (2019). Land Degradation Neutrality: Guidelines for GEF projects

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

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

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

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

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

[3] 2019-2026 Second Generation National Agricultural Investment Plan-Food and Nutrition Security (GNAIP II-FNS) for The Gambia

#### **1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

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



#### **2. Stakeholders**

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

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** Yes

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

The consultations with the above categories of stakeholders took the form of round table meetings, presentations with questions and answer sessions, and field visits. The results from the consultations based on the stakeholder category are summarized in second table below:

Stakeholder category	Stakeholder	Role in the project
Government and quasi-government institutions	National Environment Agency (NEA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Parks and Wildlife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Forestry</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Agricultural Research Institute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide expert advice on the ecology and production of findi rice, including providing adaptive research for other improved food crop varieties.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Seed Secretariat</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for production of improved seed varieties.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gambia Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support with the regulatory frameworks for the marketing of tomatoes and pepper.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FAO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In partnership with the GoTG, support the execution of agricultural-related activities, particularly where FAO has on-going projects to scale up best practices.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil Society Organisations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sahel Wetland, WABSA and KOMFORA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical support in tree planting, coastal area rehabilitation with mangrove planting, and establishment of woodlots.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Beekeepers Association</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Technical support in bee-keeping production, processing and marketing activities.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STAYGREEN foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To provide seedlings for afforestation activities.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Women Farmers Association (NAWFA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the functional literacy and awareness raising of SLM and LDN in women farmer groups.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Private Sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Food Processors and Tropical Fruits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer technical support on the value chains, including processing of tomatoes and pepper for marketing.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gambia Horticultural Enterprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer technical support on production and the value chains of tomatoes and pepper to comply with national production standard and quality.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Cooperative of Vegetable Growers/Marketers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Platform for women producers to be engaged in the project, and support with links to markets</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gambia Hotel Association</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer marketing linkages to hotels and supermarkets for tomatoes and pepper.</li> </ul>
No	Stakeholder category	Results
1.	Government and quasi-government institutions	Guidance on the priority thematic areas and geographies for implementing the project consistent with government development plans, institutional anchoring of the project, and development of project-level indicators that reflect national indicator for measuring land cover change, land productivity and SOC
2.	Development Partners	Identification of on-going development initiatives in the selected sites, lessons that can be learned and potential synergies and collaborations
3.	Civil Society Organisations, including a select communities from proposed project sites	Initial screening of activities that reflect gender priorities, community-level needs of farmers and local institutions such as women groups, cooperatives
4.	Private Sector	Initial screening of activities where the private sector will be involved, including the promotion of jambar cookstoves, knowledge sharing on small-ruminant production and value chains of vegetables I The Gambia

**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.**

Public consultation during the preparation of the project, were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the GEF and IFAD (see in Table 1 a part of the list of people consulted). It happened during the IFAD appraisal mission to design the new IFAD ROOTS project for the Gambia. During the IFAD design mission, it was identified the need to design a development project funded by IFAD investment with co-financing from GEF and other partners like AFD to address issues related to Land degradation and ecosystems management

The main objective of this approach of information, communication and participation of stakeholders throughout the entire IFAD ROOTS design project ( 10 months) was to create a climate of mutually beneficial exchanges, favorable to an open dialogue with the aim of: (i) ownership of the project by beneficiaries at the stage of preparation and planning; (ii) the consideration of the concerns of all stakeholders including vulnerable populations (women, youth, children, etc.) in the design and implementation of the project; (iii) exchanges on financing and project sustainability; (iv) identification of environmental and social impacts and risks and appropriate mitigation, compensation and environmental and social cooperation particularly the IFAD new funded project, ROOTS. The consultative process comprised 3 weeks firstly on field trips, and partly on interviews with all stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project. These include central and local government, administrative authorities, technical services, local communities, private actors along the various agricultural value chains etc. These public consultations were held in the regions covered by the IFAD project. During these series of consultations, the gender element was very present given that women and youth are generally regarded as vulnerable groups.

A literature review was conducted to prepare both IFAD and this PIF including the Social Environment and Climate Procedures (SECAP) and the Environmental Social Management Framework given the fragility of the ecosystems. Interviews with resource persons working in different ministries and structures involved as well as main actors engaged in main agricultural value chains (rice, vegetables, other staple crops) were made. Field visits (potential sites and sites in exploitation) and interviews with the beneficiaries of perimeters in exploitation were made. This helped to establish in a participatory manner the context of project development, problems to solve, the types of adapted solutions, etc. and the consideration of the problems of vulnerable populations.

The process was conducted as follows:

Step 1: Information on content of the project: In the first stage, beneficiaries were widely informed on the objectives and activities of the project. These meetings were conducted in each area of intervention of the project by representatives of technical services (agriculture, environment, forestry regional representations of Agriculture rooms and representatives of farmers' organizations, etc.) and representatives of local authorities (districts). The first field missions happened in 2019, involving consultations with about 300 stakeholders. Another mission was organized in January 2020 involving consultations with about 260 stakeholders to better refine the information related to the GEF project. Pictures of the first field missions in 2020 are presented below:

Step 2: During the second mission of consultation in January, sessions with stakeholders were organized at local level. Thus, public meetings with local communities were organized in some major centers of groups. The approach in these consultations was also to: (i) present the project (rationale, objectives, planned activities, expected outcomes of the project, (ii) collect the views, concerns and suggestions made by beneficiaries. the animation technique used has allowed to orient the discussions towards the expression of expectations and concerns that the proposed activities could eventually raise.

It is through this approach that the concerns and expectations of the people interviewed, have mainly concerned: the difficulty in developing the agricultural sector but at the same time managing sustainability landscapes and ecosystems in the Gambia. The responses of these concerns, in the proposal, have been given to the public consulted. Several national institutions and private organizations whose mandates and activities are related to biodiversity issues at different levels are presented below. At the PPG, different ministries will be involved at different stages of this project depending on the role they are expected to play in the project. Where lists were possible, the following stakeholders include those who were met during the project identification phase.





Field missions, focus groups and consultations, the Gambia 2019

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

**Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).**

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). Regarding participation in the labour force, the rate is estimated at 73% for women against 83% for men. 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. There is no equal access to land between men and women. 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.[2] 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.[3]

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.[4] 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.

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

[2] 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)

[3] The National Gender and Women's Empowerment Policy 2010-2020

[4] 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; and/or Yes**

**generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes**

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

Yes

**4. Private sector engagement**

**Will there be private sector engagement in the project?**

Yes

**Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.**

Thirty per cent of The Gambia's GDP is agriculture, and 70 per cent of the people are employed in the area of agriculture. 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

**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 (table format acceptable)**

<b>Risks</b>	<b>Level (Low, Moderate, High)</b>	<b>Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized or eliminated?)</b>
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	The project strategically seeks to promote climate smart agriculture to help offset the environmental risks related to climate change. Therefore, communities will be sensitized and CSA will be promoted
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 organizations 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>Potential risk of the COVID -19 on the design and implementation of the project</p>	<p>Implementation of the IFAD action plan including a financing facility being established to help countries in their response to Covid-19. This includes repurposing IFAD main activities. The set of actions are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Remote and Tele-supervision</li> <li>· Trainings on safe labour practices, and transports</li> <li>· Access to more protective equipment such as masks and gloves,</li> <li>· Restrictions on workers on producer’s field,</li> <li>· Use of drones and other digital extension tools for labour and input saving practices, shared mechanization.</li> <li>· Risk sharing mechanism such as insurance including pandemic insurance,</li> <li>· Digital marketing platforms and logistics, sanitary and phyto-sanitary controls</li> <li>· Good practices gender dimension to COVID-19 to reduce women exposure and violence against women...</li> <li>· More access to finance, Agri-service centres for inputs</li> <li>· Provide inputs (seed, fertilizer, forage/fodder saplings, fingerlings, vaccines, medicines</li> <li>· increase allocation for the debt redemption fund for fishers and farmers</li> </ul> <p>Outsource the affected activities to local institutions, NGOs including executing partners such as FAO; and international NGOs</p>
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In terms of environmental and social safeguards rating, this project is overall rated as ‘medium [1] because of the COVID -19

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[1] An elaborate full scale analysis of the environmental and social safeguards screening will be provided at PPG

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[1] An elaborate full scale analysis of the environmental and social safeguards screening will be provided at PPG

**6. Coordination**

**Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

As the GEF project is a co-financing to ROOTS, 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 GEF project manager will be embedded into the ROOTS central project coordination unit (CPCU) which have in each of the five regions a Regional Coordination Units (RCUs). This will help reduce the transaction costs from IFAD existing management structure. *The GEF project manager will have dual-reporting lines; one to the Project Coordinator and another on to the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources.* This ministry is already part of the ROOTS steering committee.

The ROOTS CPCU 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, the compliance of sound labour standards during the implementation of the GEF project

The ROOTS CPCU M&E and a Project Financial Assistants will 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 coordination. 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. Also, regular reporting on the progress of the project that will feed into mid- term as well as the terminal reports submitted to the GEF Secretariat shall be coordinated at the ROOTS CPCU

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, 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.

· *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.

· *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.

## **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

### **Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions**

Yes

**If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc**

The Gambia has been striving to improve its socio-economic and environmental conditions. Besides being a Party to various Environmental Multilateral Agreements, it is also a member of multiple regional bloc and continental initiatives. These include: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); 2003 Maputo Declaration; ECOWAS Agricultural Policy (ECOWAP) Process; 2014 Malabo Declaration; Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030; the ECOWAP Strategic Framework for 2025-the RAIPFSN. The country, therefore, has momentum created around development interventions that seek to improve socioeconomic and environmental conditions as basis for sustainable development. The proposed project is embedded in the national development aspirations and is consistent with national strategies and plans of The Gambia: These include the following:

*The Gambia National Action Programme To Combat Desertification (NAP):* The Gambia NAP for the UNCCD confirms that desertification has become a felt and visible problem threatening the production base and livelihood of the Gambian population. It is perceived that degradation of the land-based resources is at the core of the problem, which includes decreasing vegetation cover, bush fires, encroachment on the remaining forests, declining soil fertility, and over-exploitation of the rangelands. Rapid population growth and its related pressure on arable and non-arable lands are seen as major causes of desertification and, at the same time, a hindrance to remedial initiatives. To address the causes of land degradation, the NAP proposes a three-pronged approach that focuses on the following: continuation of capacity building with communities and stakeholders at all levels; Intensifying pilot programmes related to land management in upland areas; and Implementation of priority measures built on proven technologies and achievements.

*The Gambia Land Degradation Neutrality:* The National LDN target setting process was successfully conducted in the Gambia from May 2016 to September 2017 under the auspices of the Global Mechanisms of the UNCCD. The target was that LDN be achieved by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 10% of the national territory be improved (net gain). The target setting process confirmed that forest cover declined from 41 km<sup>2</sup> in 2000 to 37 km<sup>2</sup> in 2010, representing a decrease of 4 km<sup>2</sup>. Soil organic carbon is generally low in the country, ranging from 26.2 (ton/ha) in artificial areas to 43.6 (ton/ha) in wetlands and water bodies. All land use categories except forest and bare land and other areas, show declining, early signs of decline and stable but stressed. The following constitute specific targets to avoid, minimize and reverse land degradation:

- o Improve productivity and SOC stocks by 50% in cropland and grasslands by 2030 as compared to 2015;
- o Rehabilitate 1099 km<sup>2</sup> (109, 900 ha) of degraded grassland and cropland with declining productivity and early signs of decline for crop production and forestry by 2030;
- o Halt the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes by 2025; and
- o Increase forest cover by 10% by 2030 as compared to 2015[1]

The proposed project seeks to contribute to these targets. The achievement of LDN requires a favorable legal and institutional environment. The analysis of the legal and institutional environment in relation to land management has resulted in the identification of policy gaps, conflicts, weaknesses and opportunities in order to create or enhance an enabling environment for the achievement of LDN. Land degradation is based on the recognition that “prevention is better than cure”. Consistent with the proposed project, it was The Gambia LDN recognised that policy measures mainly address the indirect drivers of land degradation while technical measures mainly address (on the ground, concrete actions) the direct drivers of land degradation.

*National determined contribution to the Paris Agreement (NDC):* The project will contribute to the targets of the NDC in terms of cook stoves and afforestation.

*The Gambia Vision 2020:* This is the Gambia’s socioeconomic development blueprint for the period 1996-2020. It is aimed at raising the standard of living of Gambians by transforming the country into a middle-income country by the year 2020. The Vision has been translated into a Medium-Term Plan and the MDG-based Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment – PAGE (2012-2015). The aim of the vision is to transform the Gambia into a financial center, a tourist paradise, a trading, export-oriented agricultural and manufacturing nation. Its objectives are: transform the Gambia into a dynamic middle income country, socially, economically and scientifically; recognition of the limitation of government’s role solely to the correction of market failures; provision of public goods which cannot be produced by the private sector; self-reliant and enterprising population; and reconfirming its pro-private sector stance.

*Second Generation National Agricultural Investment Plan-Food and Nutrition Security (GNAIP II-FNS) (2019 – 2026):* GNAIP II-FNS currently constitutes the main investment framework for agricultural development in The Gambia. It reflects sector priorities such as modernization and transformation with the private sector as the major catalyst for growth and development in the sector. The aim of GNAIP is to increase food and nutrition security at household level including for vulnerable households through increased agriculture and natural resource productivity based on sustainable use and management of natural resources in support of national goals of poverty reduction and improved livelihood. The framework is centered on the following six priority areas: Production and value chain promotion on food crops and vegetables sub-sector; production and value chain promotion on livestock husbandry and pastoralist sub-sector; production and value chain promotion on fishery and aquaculture sub-sector; production and value chain promotion on forestry and environment sub- sector; food and nutrition security, resilience, social protection; and promote good governance of the whole agriculture and natural resources sector. The first four priority areas include capacity building, youth employment and women empowerment, climate change adaptation, regional trade promotion. The sixth priority area includes institutional capacity, steering and coordination, monitoring and evaluation and communication.

*National Cooperatives for Vegetable Growers and Marketers Five Year-Strategic Plan (2019-2023)*: Developed at The Women's Bureau of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, the Plan seeks to bring together vegetable Growers and Marketers as a united force, to meet the challenges of the sub-sector thereby increasing their production, productivity and incomes as well as positively contribute to national development. Its vision is that empowered horticultural value chain actors fully integrated into The Gambia's national development agenda with total leadership and ownership of their respective enterprises leading the pathway to enhanced commercialization and improved livelihoods.

*Gender and Women Empowerment Policy 2010-2020*: The Policy has the goal to mainstream gender in all national and sectoral policies, programmes, plans and budgets to achieve gender, equity, equality and women empowerment in the development process. The Policy seeks to accelerate gender equity, equality and women empowerment through advocacy, capacity building, socioeconomic and political empowerment, consultative processes, as well as networking with Governmental and Civil Society Organizations, private sector, the Media, and development partners in order to achieve sustainable gender parity at all levels and in all spheres of life. Its priority areas include: capacity building for gender mainstreaming; poverty reduction, economic empowerment and livelihoods development; gender and education; gender and health and HIV/AIDS; gender human rights; gender and governance; gender and the environment; and women's empowerment.

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

## **8. Knowledge Management**

**Outline the Knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.**

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.

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.

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.

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.

**Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)**

**A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Date</b>
Lamin B Dibba	Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources	8/5/2019
ESMF			3/23/2020
PIF 1st resubmission tracked			4/17/2020
PIF 1st resubmission clean			4/17/2020
Review Sheet			4/17/2020
PIF 2nd resubmission clean-changes in green			4/20/2020
2nd Review sheet			4/20/2020
PIF 3rd resubmission clean-changes in yellow			4/21/2020
3rd Review sheet			4/21/2020
Gambia OFP endorsement letter			4/23/2020
PIF 4th resubmission			4/24/2020



**ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates**

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

