



Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

9806

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Title

Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes

Countries

Algeria

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s):

Directorate-General for Forests (DGF), Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (MADRP)

Executing Partner Type

GEF Agency

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Certification -National Standards, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Livelihoods, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Participation, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Beneficiaries, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Adaptive management, Knowledge Exchange, Peer-to-Peer, Knowledge Generation, Training

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

324,106

A. Focal Area Strategy Framework and Program

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-2_P3	Programme 3	GET	852,911	8,565,749
BD-4_P9	Programme 9	GET	2,558,733	15,907,822
			Total Project Cost(\$)	3,411,644
				24,473,571

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Project Objective: Conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria’s globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems • Area of unprotected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 4). o Target: 18,530 ha • Area of protected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1). o Target: 4,000 ha • Number of small and medium-size enterprises (SMSEs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services. o Target: 60 SMSEs (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1. Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest	Technical Assistance	<p>1. Three sites are under renewed participatory sustainable management that includes biodiversity conservation and the perpetuation of ecosystem services as well as socio-economic benefits</p> <p>Indicator: Number of sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders and implemented</p> <p>Target: 3 SFM plans</p>	<p>Output 1.1: Local and national diagnostics and census of biodiversity are completed and provide a basis for sustainable management (Training on long term germplasm conservation at international standards and on propagation at national scale will be provided by the RBG Kew This will help ensure that suitable genetic material of high value cork oak species and varieties remain available for forest regeneration in the long term. This output will also benefit from the involvement of a consortium of Universities (including the Universities of Bejaia, Tlemcen and Jijel) who have</p>	GET	1,150,400	3,378,571

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2. Sustainably creating value from cork oak ecosystem products, goods and services	Investment	<p>2. Value chains for priority (non-cork) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) strengthened at both local and national level</p> <p>Indicator: Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.</p> <p>Target: 60 small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites^[1])</p> <p>_____</p> <p>^[1] Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered.</p>	<p>Output 2.1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes in three sites.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Local operators and enterprises are strengthened and benefit from an enabling environment.</p> <p>Output 2.3: A traceability system for at least two NTFPs, including cork, is operational.</p> <p>Output 2.4: Economic value-adding tools (e.g. labels, certificates) are in place for cork and one other NTFP value chain</p>	GET	1,501,500	2,795,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3. Replication and upscaling of successful approaches	Technical Assistance	<p>3.Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans are initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria</p> <p>Indicator: Number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.</p> <p>Target: 350,000 ha</p> <p>4.Project results are captured and lessons learned are widely disseminated by National government stakeholders.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of good practices identified and upscaled nationally.</p> <p>Target: 3 good practices</p>	<p>Output 3.1: Policy and technical mechanisms for upscaling good practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity</p> <p>Output 4.1: An upscaling strategy is developed that is informed by project monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management</p>	GET	605,050	17,100,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			Sub Total (\$)		3,256,950	23,273,571
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
			GET		154,694	1,200,000
			Sub Total(\$)		154,694	1,200,000
			Total Project Cost(\$)		3,411,644	24,473,571

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount(\$)
Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries	In-kind	4,200,000
Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries	Grant	19,800,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	473,571
Total Co-Financing(\$)			24,473,571

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	NGI	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Algeria	Land Degradation		No	863,242	82,008
FAO	GET	Algeria	Biodiversity		No	2,548,402	242,098
Total Grant Resources(\$)						3,411,644	324,106

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Amount (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	NGI	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
FAO	GET	Algeria	Biodiversity		No	100,000	9,500
FAO	GET	Algeria	Land Degradation		No	50,000	4,750
Total Project Costs(\$)						150,000	14,250

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Akula National Park Tlemcen National Park	125689	Strict Nature Reserve National Park		4,000.00					

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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0.00	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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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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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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0.00	18530.00	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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	18,530.00		
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Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)

Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Ha (Achieved at MTR)

Ha (Achieved at TE)

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)

Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Ha (Achieved at MTR)

Ha (Achieved at TE)

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

Title

Submitted

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

Number (Expected at PIF)

Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)

Number (Achieved at MTR)

Number (Achieved at TE)

Female

800

Male

1,200

Total

0

2000

0

0

PART II: Project JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Description

1) Global environmental & adaptation problems:

Algeria lost over 2 million ha of forest during the French colonial period, with increased damage during the 1990s. Less than 1% of the total country consists in forest cover, estimated at a total of 4 million ha, with an approximate 40,000 ha being lost annually. Of this forest cover, an estimated 440,000 ha (10%) was historically cork oak forest (COF) and remains ecologically suitable for the cork oak forest. This ongoing deforestation creates impacts on land, biodiversity and carbon sinks. COFs have high economic and cultural relevance. In Algeria, it is estimated that 350,000 ha were standing COFs in 2008, of which 229,000 ha were considered 'productive' forests. In total, 25 Algerian Wilayas^[1] contain COFs – especially in northern Algeria –, although some Wilayas have seen their COFs nearly disappear.

Sustainably-managed COFs provide ecosystem services that include hydrological regulation, carbon offsetting, habitat for many unique species, hunting and eco-tourism. Well-managed COFs can protect against erosion, particularly in mountainous areas that may become subject to drought and increased intensity of precipitation events, as well as against desertification. Healthy COFs with adult trees act as a barrier against fire, due to the weak combustibility of cork, and have an important role in the regulation of the hydrological cycle. In addition to providing water, climate and protective ecological services, Algerian COFs are considered a particularly rich habitat for flora and fauna species.

Algerian COFs are threatened by: i) fire; ii) the unsustainable use of cork oak stands; iii) unsustainable or excessive grazing; iv) the inappropriate harvesting of some non-timber forest products (NTFPs); and v) climate change. Climate change in northern Algeria is expected to lead to: i) more intense hot seasons; ii) increased average temperatures; iii) more intense and extensive dry periods; and iv) fewer cool days and nights. Each of these phenomena can affect the cork oak, its productivity, and the health of many of the other species in COF ecosystems. Furthermore, climate change is known to be an exacerbating factor for other threats such as fire, diseases, alien species invasion and fragmentation.

Root causes:

· **Governance and management:** there is little consultation of local populations who derive livelihoods from COF products. Local populations in and around COFs remain among the poorest in the country and are often isolated in small villages, with little opportunity other than to use the forest for their livelihoods. This situation has intensified in recent years as people have gradually returned to rural areas that were left behind during the 1990s. In addition, there remains inadequate practices in the management of COFs, namely a lack of transparency, participatory engagement and monitoring.

· **Undervalued cork value chain:** despite its high economic value, the cork value chain remains undervalued, as are the ecosystem services provided by COF. The cork sector – harvesting, processing, distribution and sales – is particularly undervalued in Algeria. The current revenue from cork could be greatly increased, with corresponding increases in

income for local residents, thereby providing strong incentives to protect and sustainably manage the forests. This perspective is constrained by the fact that, although resources would exist to invest or reinvest in the modernization of cork production facilities, there has not yet been a full demonstration of the benefits of better management of COF ecosystems and development associated value chains.

· **Undervalued value chains of other COF NTFPs:** this undervaluing is also true for non-cork NTFPs originating from COF landscapes. Since these are used and produced strictly on an artisanal and informal basis, they are not well integrated into local, regional or national markets, let alone tapping into international market opportunities – implying that their value on the market is greatly underestimated. There is little documented data and evidence on the level and modes of production, and producers are not well organized, leading to lost opportunities for higher added-value and sustainable income locally. Furthermore, there is a need to clarify access and tenure rules for those products.

Barriers:

· **Obsolete management systems** and frameworks continue to be enforced in many forest Wilayas, which is partly due to a lack of technical capacity among forest conservation staff, but also to outdated cultural approaches to forest governance. Forests are still very much seen as areas to be conserved without intervention, in isolation from stakeholder groups and with little authorized use or access. Public tenure has led this view to be implemented as a control-based management system, rather than as a collaborative system, which runs contrary to the most recent global best practices.

· **Shortage of up-to-date information** on the state of forests, forestry value chains and ecosystem services, particularly on the state and value of biodiversity in COFs. This information, which would be vital to the creation of well-informed, targeted management plans, is dated and dispersed.

· **The lack of a structured and recognized framework for the exploitation for NTFPs** has also led to missed opportunities for better inclusion of rural households in forest stewardship, leading villagers to conduct illicit and artisanal exploitation – often unsustainable and barely profitable.

· **Policy and regulatory reforms are needed** to create an enabling environment for the continued sustainable exploitation of cork oak forests in Algeria, which would lead to the dual objectives of conservation and economic growth. These policy reforms include the development of a traceability system for cork forest products, the organization and revitalization of the cork production value chain – for better quality and prices – as well as the structuring of semi-commercial value chains for non-cork NTFPs and agricultural products, and a review of the current practices governing state-owned rural enterprises

Note: no significant changes can be observed as compared to the approved PIF. The description of the environmental problems has been further detailed and specified for the 3 selected project sites.

2) The baseline scenario has been updated since PIF design. New investments have been identified with respect to those mentioned in the PIF as they appear to be more relevant to the expected outcomes. In addition, some investment listed under the PIF are now outdated. **The following baseline investments are considered.**

Name of project	Financing, partners, implementation period	Objectives	Barriers overcome and link to objective of FAO-GEF project
<p>“Soutenir, améliorer, développer et moderniser des filières d’exportation de plusieurs produits dont le liège“.</p> <p>(Support, improve, develop and modernize export value chains, including cork)</p>	<p>USD 2,000,000 World Bank (2016-2019)</p>	<p>The project consists in four components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Simplification of customs and portuary procedure for foreign trade; · Strengthening the development of agricultural exports; · Strengthening the development of public-private dialogues for the development of export sectors; · Technical support for the new exports strategy. 	<p>The project will complement the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the sustainable creation of value from the NTFP and ecosystem services derived from COFs (Component 2).</p>
<p>“Améliorer la contribution du secteur forestier à l’économie nationale, au niveau de vie des populations forestières algériennes, à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à la gestion durable des forêts. “</p> <p>(Strengthen the contribution of forests to the national economy, the livelihoods of Algerian forest populations, the fight against poverty and the sustainable management of forests)</p>	<p>USD 295,000 FAO (2018-2020)</p>	<p>This project is part of the Regional Initiative in support of small-scale agriculture, and the support programme for member states for to build capacity in sustainable forest management.</p> <p>This project is the expression of Algeria’s political willingness to improve the contribution of forests to food safety, health and rural development.</p> <p>In this context, the technical support provided will help the DGF to identify and promote the opportunities associated with selected NTFPs, including rosemary, carob and pinion pine. A participatory process for the management of forests will also be promoted.</p>	<p>The project complements the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the management, monitoring, restoration and valuation of forest resources at the pilot sites and across Algerian COFs (Components 2 and 3).</p>

<p>“Réduire le risque de catastrophe naturelle, renforcer la sécurité alimentaire des populations rurales et renforcer la stabilité sociale.”</p> <p>(Reduce the risks of natural disasters, strengthen food safety of rural populations and enhance social stability)</p>	<p>USD 178,571 Funded by Japan Executed by FAO (2019-2020)</p>	<p>In a context of increased risks of fires in Algeria, this project aims to improve the management of forest fires through the elaboration of a five-year national action plan for fire management and its implementation at selected pilot sites. The understanding of the root causes of fires and the establishment of norms adapted to the management of forest fires will be targeted.</p> <p>A monitoring methodology will be developed at the pilot sites in order to reduce the risks. Partners to the project include the DGF, the General Direction of Civil Protection, the National Gendarmerie, the meteorological services, the Algerian Spatial Agency, the National School of Forests of Batna and the National Institute for Forest Research.</p>	<p>The project complements the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the prevention and the monitoring of fires. Therefore, it will be linked to Components 1 and 3.</p>
<p>“Amélioration de la transparence et de l'exhaustivité des données sur l'utilisation des terres dans les rapports NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) “</p> <p>(Strengthening the transparency and the exhaustivity of data on landuse in Nationally Determined Contributions)</p>	<p>USD 3,786,031 FAO (2018-2021)</p>	<p>This regional project aims to help countries strengthen their capacities in to establish reports for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It will also support the acquisition of knowledge on climate change mitigation, including in a South-South cooperation perspective. The database to be developed through the project will be a key deliverable.</p>	<p>The project complements the activities under Component 1 (increase of the knowledge base for the establishment of sustainable management plans).</p>

The table below summarises the change from the baseline situation presented in the PIF.

Baseline investment in PIF	Comment
<p>Technical Assistance for forest fire management (TCP/ALG/3501- Baby 1)</p>	<p>The project is no longer a baseline investment (initiative completed in March 2017), but its results will inform fire management activities under the project.</p>

Technical Assistance to promote organic olive oil production in Algeria (TCP/ALG/3603)	The project was completed; however, lessons learned from the strengthening of the olive oil sector will be considered when developing COF-associated value chains under the project.
Promoting Decent Agricultural Employment for the Rural Youth Population in the Maghreb (Regional project - TCP/SNE/3502)	The project is no longer a baseline investment (initiative completed in December 2017), but the mainstreaming of rural development in strategies and programmes achieved under this initiative will benefit the present project by generating an enabling environment.
Social Innovation in Marginalized Rural Areas (SIMRA) (global project - GCP /SNE/004/EC)	This project is no longer listed as a baseline project, as other initiatives are better aligned with the proposed outcomes. However, coordination will be sought with activities implemented in Algeria.
Baseline investment in CER	Comment
“Soutenir, améliorer, développer et moderniser des filières d’exportation de plusieurs produits dont le liège.” (Support, improve, develop and modernize export value chains, including cork)	The project will complement the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the sustainable creation of value from the NTFP and ecosystem services derived from COFs (Component 2).
“Améliorer la contribution du secteur forestier à l’économie nationale, au niveau de vie des populations forestières algériennes, à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à la gestion durable des forêts.” (Strengthen the contribution of forests to the national economy, the livelihoods of Algerian forest populations, the fight against poverty and the sustainable management of forests)	The project complements the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the management, monitoring, restoration and valuation of forest resources at the pilot sites and across Algerian COFs (Component 2).
“Réduire le risque de catastrophe naturelle, renforcer la sécurité alimentaire des populations rurales et renforcer la stabilité sociale.” (Reduce the risks of natural disasters, strengthen food safety of rural populations and enhance social stability)	The project complements the activities linked to sustainable land management by focusing on the prevention and the monitoring of fires. Therefore, it will be linked to Component 1.

“Amélioration de la transparence et de l'exhaustivité des données sur l'utilisation des terres dans les rapports NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) ”

(Strengthening the transparency and the exhaustivity of data on landuse in Nationally Determined Contributions)

The project complements the activities under Component 1 (increase of the knowledge base for the establishment of sustainable management plans).

3) Alternative scenario:

The objective of the proposed project is to to conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria’s globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems. The overall project’s approach is to seek to address the breadth of issues affecting how cork forests are managed and used in an integrated manner, while sequencing interventions to ensure long-term sustainability. Work in each of the three project sites will adopt a productive landscape approach that will consider not only cork, but also all the (competing) uses of the forest, to arrive at a balanced management system that promotes conservation. This involves working first in three sites to address management and use issues, with local partners and local administrative authorities. In its upscaling phase, the project will support central authorities and policy makers in initiating a broader reform of the governance system of cork forests, to be able to scale up local outcomes and ensure sustainability of results.

Note: adjustments made reflect the alignment of the project to the GEF-7 core indicators, at the objective and outcome levels. Furthermore, two gender-sensitive indicators have been added (at the objective level and under Component 2).

Results matrix in PIF	Results matrix in CER	Comment
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Project Objective: Sustainably manage, conserve and sustainably harvest Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems.

Indicators: # of ha of cork oak forest production landscapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management and use proven SLM practices. Target: 20,000 (direct) – 350,000 ha (indirect).

Project Objective: Conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems

Indicators:

- Area of unprotected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 4).

- o Target: 18,530 ha

- Area of protected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1).

- o Target: 4,000 ha

- Number of small and medium-size enterprises (SMSEs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.

- o Target: 60 SMSEs (benefitting 40% women and 60% men, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites)

The objective has not changed, though the indicators of progress have been revisited in order to align them to the GEF-7 core indicators. The target of 350,000 ha under improved practices (indirect) has been moved to Component 3.

Component 1: Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria's globally significant cork oak forests.

<p>Outcome 1: At three globally significant and diverse sites, sustainable forest management systems developed and implemented that conserve biodiversity and provide sustainable revenue for local populations</p> <p>Indicator: # of sustainable forest management systems developed.</p> <p>Target: 3 (for Taouririt Ighil Forest in Bejaia Wilaya, Beni Idder forest in Jijel Wilaya, and Hafir forest in Tlemcen Wilaya).</p>	<p>Outcome 1: Three sites are under renewed participatory sustainable management that includes biodiversity conservation and the perpetuation of ecosystem services as well as socio-economic benefits</p> <p>Indicator: Number of sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders and implemented</p> <p>Target: 3 SFM plans</p>	<p>Outcome 1 and the indicator remained basically unchanged but have undergone a slight rewording to better reflect the project intervention logic.</p> <p>The outputs have been refined slightly, as there was a certain degree of overlap and to better align the project activities with the baseline situation. The refined outputs are:</p> <p>Output 1.1: Local and national diagnostics and census of biodiversity are completed and provide a basis for sustainable management.</p> <p>Output 1.2: Sustainable conservation-oriented forest management plans are developed and implemented in three sites</p>
<p>Component 2: Sustainably creating value from cork oak ecosystem products, goods and services.</p>		
<p>Outcome 2.1: Value chains strengthened for priority Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in cork oak forests.</p> <p>Indicator: increased value of market for 2 selected NTFPs.</p> <p>Target: to be determined during PPG</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Value chains for priority (non-cork) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) are strengthened at both local and national levels.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.</p> <p>Target: 60 small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites[2]²)</p>	<p>In the PIF, two outcomes were bundled under Component 2. This has been changed to clarify the link between the four outputs under Component 2. These outputs are:</p> <p>Output 2.1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes in three pilot sites.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Local operators and enterprises are strengthened and benefit from an enabling environment.</p> <p>Output 2.3: A traceability system for at least two NTFPs, including cork, is operational.</p> <p>Output 2.4: Economic value-adding tools (e.g. labels, certificates) are in place for cork and one other NTFP value chain.</p> <p>The indicator has been changed after further discussions during the PPG phase. It appeared that the original indicator under Outcome 2.2 was not “SMART”[3]³ enough, since establishing the baseline would prove technically challenging.</p>

<p>Outcome 2.2: A basis for the development and implementation of incentives for forest ecosystem services (IFES).</p> <p>Indicator: increase of value of resources flowing to SFM from IFES</p> <p>Target: TBD during PPG</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Cf. comment above.</p>
<p>Component 3: Replication and upscaling of successful approaches.</p>		
<p>Outcome 3.1: Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria.</p> <p>Indicator: # of hectares of cork forest with integrated management plans.</p> <p>Target: 350,000 hectares, of which 229,000 hectares is rich in biodiversity.</p>	<p>Outcome 3: Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans are initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.</p> <p>Target: 350,000 ha</p>	<p>The indicator has remained unchanged. The mention to biodiversity-rich areas was deleted to avoid any confusion in the monitoring of the indicator. However, the biodiversity value of the areas has been stressed again in the project document (Section 1.1.1).</p> <p>The output structure was changed, with some outputs deemed more appropriate under Component 1. One output was retained under Outcome 3, namely: Output 3.1: Output 3.1: Policy and technical mechanisms for upscaling good practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity.</p>
<p>Outcome 3.2: Project monitored and Project results captured and lessons learnt widely disseminated.</p> <p>Indicator: An M&E plan and a communication strategy developed and implemented</p> <p>Target: 1 M&E Plan, 1 Strategy.</p>	<p>Outcome 4: Project results are captured and lessons learned are widely disseminated by National government stakeholders.</p> <p>Indicator: Number of good practices identified and upscaled nationally.</p> <p>Target: 3 good practices</p>	<p>The original outputs were streamlined into one output, namely:</p> <p>Output 4.1: An upscaling strategy is developed that is informed by project monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.</p> <p>The indicator was revised to better align with the new output structure. However, the M&E plan and the communications and public awareness strategy will remain as key deliverables.</p>

It should be noted that adjustments have been made with respect to the GEF grant distribution over the different technical components and PMC. The table summarises these changes, which are the result of a detailed costing of activities (cf. Annex IV of the project document).

Component	GEF Project Financing at PIF stage (USD)	GEF Project Financing at CER stage (USD)
Component 1: Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria's globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems – at diverse and representative sites.	1,500,000	1,150,400
Component 2: Sustainably creating value from cork oak ecosystem products, goods and services.	600,000	1,501,500
Component 3: Replication and upscaling of successful approaches	1,149,644	605,050
PMC	162,000	154,694

4) Incremental cost reasoning:

Component 1: in the baseline, the forestry actions will follow the traditional approaches to forestry. The baseline support is the support of DGF to the Forest Conservation Officers (Conservateurs des Forêts, CF) and Forest Ward activities at the three pilot sites during the five years of the project. GEF will provide the technical support at the three selected pilot sites to ensure that forestry is planned and implemented in an integrated and sustainable manner that leads to both biodiversity conservation and increasing revenues for local communities. GEF will also support some pilot activities related to biodiversity conservation (including capacity building) as well as income-generating activities for local communities (especially women). This GEF support and activities are entirely innovative in Algeria and contribute to reversing ecosystem degradation and conserving biodiversity.

Component 2: the baseline support is the support of DGF to the development of ecosystem goods and services, through developing the traceability system for various NTFP products, supporting the development of value chains and initiating action to facilitate IFES. DGF has already initiated some actions and will continue in the baseline. This will be in the form of staff, material, and facilities and in recruiting experts and institutes to support with studies and training. In the baseline, this DGF action will focus primarily on generating revenue for local people, but will not benefit from global experience, nor focus significantly on biodiversity or on land degradation. GEF will notably provide two innovative and additional dimensions to baseline processes: i) international experience related to value chain development and IFES (Incentives for Forest Ecosystem Services), as this component is innovative to Algeria and the international experience is vital to ensure lesson learning; and ii) technical support to ensure that the development of goods and services leads to the conservation of biodiversity and to reversal of ecosystem degradation.

Component 3: the baseline is the planned actions of DGF, CF and Forest Ward staff at all the COF sites across Algeria during the five years of the project. GEF will provide technical support to ensure that all the lessons from Outcome 1 are disseminated and mainstreamed into forest management at all the Forest Wards with COFs across the country. This will mainstream biodiversity conservation and forest ecosystem restoration into standard forest management in Algeria. Actions will include the preparation of a comprehensive

monitoring and evaluation matrix, the establishment of a national typology of COF ecosystems and the creation of an inter-ministerial technical platform on COFs to steer the development and implementation of appropriate SFM policies. In addition, an awareness-raising strategy aimed at COF aimed at forestry officers, local communities and the general public will be designed and implemented. This will effect a rolling out of the integrated, participatory approach to sustainable forest management and harvesting.

Note: co-financing amounts have been updated from the PIF to reflect the baseline situation, exact co-financing plan and revised logical framework. FAO will contribute USD 473,571 in grant co-financing to Components 1 and 2.

Component	Incremental cost-reasoning at PIF stage	Incremental cost-reasoning at CER stage
Component 1	MARDF co-financing: USD 3,000,000	MARDF co-financing: USD 3,200,000 · in kind: USD 200,000 · in-cash: USD 3,000,000
Component 2	MARDF co-financing: USD 4,174,462	MARDF co-financing: USD 2,500,000 · in kind: USD 1,200,000 · in-cash: USD 1,300,000
Component 3	MARDF co-financing: USD 1,149,644	MARDF co-financing: USD 17,100,000 · in kind: USD 1,600,000 · in-cash: USD 15,500,000

5) Global Environmental Benefits have been changed since the PIF to align with GEF-7 Core Indicators.

Biodiversity: Component 1 will directly ensure that approximately 22,530 hectares^[4] of high biodiversity cork oak forests are placed under sustainable management regimes, thereby securing the conservation of the globally significant biodiversity. Subsequently, Components 2 and 3 will indirectly and directly replicate and disseminate the successful practices developed under Component 1 to all good quality cork oak forests across the country that currently are globally significant in terms of biodiversity – covering approximately 229,000 hectares

Land degradation: the target area in COFs will include some land which is highly degraded and will require replanting and/or regeneration. Total coverage of land degradation addressed will therefore be approximately 350,000 hectares. Landscapes under improved practices (besides protected areas) are estimated at approximately 314,000 hectares.

Climate change mitigation: sustainable forest management will lead to increased sequestration of carbon and therefore contribute to mitigating global climate change. This potential will be explored and quantified during the Project implementation.

Sustainable Development Goals: this Project will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and in particular to Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.

In addition, the main indirect target listed as GEB in the PIF (i.e. 350,000 ha under Corporate Result 2 “Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)”) has been moved to Component 3 (Indicator: number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.)

6) **Innovativeness:** this project demonstrates innovativeness in that it is targeting opportunities for leveraging cork and other non-timber resources for environmental benefit and socioeconomic advancement. While the Algerian government has used the Important Plant Area (ZIP) as a means to determine and prioritize cork forests, the practical-level management structures have not yet been established. Historical studies and economic analyses in other parts of the world suggest that, the sustainable utilization of cork forests in a biodiversity-friendly manner, over the medium-long term, is the most economically effective utilization of the ecosystem – that is conservation makes more economic sense than conversion or degradation. While the research is known, this project provides the opportunity for innovation in this sector in Algeria. The project will make advances both on the management part (Component 1), but also on economically developing and strengthening related green value chains (Component 2).

Sustainability: sustainability will be built into the management of the resources in cork forests to ensure that they are harvested with a long-term vision, and that appropriate sustainability practices are disseminated to appropriate stakeholders. The goal is for individual stakeholders to have an incentive to protect these valuable natural resources. On a technical level for example, training on long-term germplasm conservation at international standards and on propagation at national scale will be provided by the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew. This will help ensure that suitable genetic material of high value cork oak species and varieties remain available for forest regeneration in the long term. The solutions (factors, approaches and practices) offered by the project do not have a sole environment focus, as explained in its Theory of Change (Annex XVI of the project document), but also consider social and economic and cultural issues, thereby striving to achieve sustainability of project results, which are primarily interested in benefiting the global environment.

Potential for scaling up: 440,000 hectares in Algeria are historical cork oak forest. When the management plans are effectively implemented, they can serve as templates for managing other zones than the pilot sites. There are also opportunities for scaling up economic work. Effective production and use of non-timber products can provide more reliable/predictable supply of resources for production, can strengthen those transforming the products and help dynamize industry in this sector. The project's intervention strategy is to demonstrate the feasibility and efficiency of the sustainable management of COF at three pilot sites, thereby setting the conditions for the upscaling of best practices at the national scale. Given the limited resources available at this stage, this upscaling phase will consist in the design and adoption of national-level management plans under Component 3, based on the lessons learned from Component 1 and 2. It is therefore not envisaged to use the project's resources to implement the nation-wide plan, which will be done upon termination of the project with the regular resources of the DGF and other relevant national partners, as this is part of their mandate.

As described in the Workplan (Annex III of the ProDoc), the proposed activities to achieve this upscaling under Output 3.1 are:

- create a national technical platform to support cork oak forest ecosystems;
- finalize the typology of cork oak forest ecosystems;
- develop and implement a database on Algeria cork oak forest ecosystems;
- based on lessons from Outcomes 1 and 2, develop guidelines on approaches to participatory, integrated management of cork oak forests that conserve biodiversity;
- train all forestry staff in all Forest Wards across Algeria with cork oak forests; and
- develop management plans for all Wards in Algeria with cork oak forests.

In addition, the reports, leaflets, scientific contributions and other information pieces from the project will be disseminated regionally, including through the Silva Mediterranea network.

[1] Wilaya is the first administrative sub-division of the country. Each Wilaya is led by a Governor, the Wali.

[2] Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered.

[3] Specific, Measurable, Acceptable, Realistic, Time-bound.

[4] Shared between 18,500 ha of unprotected areas and 4,000 ha of protected areas.

A.2. Child Project?

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

N/A

A.3. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Section 1.4.1 of the project document zooms in on stakeholder engagement. It is complementing the stakeholder engagement matrix reported below, and has a detailed description of the grievance mechanism and disclosure arrangements. The section describes how stakeholders can provide feedback and complaints, and how and when project information had been made available during PPG and will be further available during project execution. The project document also refers to the environmental and social screening (medium risk project), and budgeted monitoring plan. Furthermore, it zooms in on relevant partnerships, as follows:

Institutions/Organizations	Mandate	Role in the project
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)	GEF political focal point	The MFA will be involved in monitoring and follow-up.
Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies (MEER)	GEF & CBD operational focal point	The MWRE will notably be involved in project monitoring and follow-up.
Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (MARDF)		The MARDP will ensure that production areas buffering the forests are sustainably managed to secure biodiversity conservation, whilst contributing to sustainable livelihoods for the communities.

<p>The various ministries responsible for: Trade, Handicrafts, Tourism, Industry.</p>		<p>These ministries will most notably support revenue generation activities from forest goods and services. They will also support efforts to involve marginalized and vulnerable sections of the community. Overall, they will be engaged by the Forest Sector in the management planning as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · the MRWE, as there are several dams near the pilot areas and water is considered to be an important ecosystem service; · the Ministry of Industry and Mines, as they will collaborate on value chain development of cork and other products; · the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security and its agencies (e.g. ANSEJ, CNAC). They will collaborate with the development of NTFP value chains through SME creation and skills development – especially for youth and women; and · the Ministry of Tourism and Craft will support the development eco-tourism activities.
<p>National Parks</p>	<p>Protection of designated natural areas</p>	<p>The management of National Parks will be project partners at a technical level, as 36,904 ha of COFs lie within protected areas. The National Park of Tlemcen will be especially involved from the onset, as part of the Hafir site is under its protection.</p>
<p>National Forest Research Institute (Institut National pour les ressources forestière, INRF).</p>	<p>Research on forestry</p>	<p>The INRF will provide technical support to the project, especially through its research on cork quality.</p>
<p>Universities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · University of Bejaia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Department of Vegetal Biotechnology and Ethnobotanic; o Department of Ecology and Environment; and o Department of Environmental Management. · University of Tlemcen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Department of Water, Soil and Forest Conservation and the Sustainable Development of the Tlemcen Mountainous Area; and o Department of Ecology and Management of Natural Ecosystems. · University of Jijel: Department of Biotechnology, Environment and Health 	<p>Research and higher education</p>	<p>Universities will be associated to the scientific monitoring of COF ecosystems throughout the project. In addition, the project will build on relevant undergoing research in national universities to foster best practices in SLM. For example, the University of Bejaia is currently conducting a research project entitled “Contribution to the analysis of forest fires, their impact on ecosystems and the restoration of degraded environment”^[1].</p>

Capacity-building institutions (e.g. CFATSF under MADRP)	Capacity building	These institutions will be partners in developing and providing capacity development activities. In particular, the DGF hosts the Training Centres for Technical Officers Specialized in Forestry (Centres de Formation pour les Agents Techniques Spécialisés en Foresterie, CFATSF). The CFATSF organize training sessions according to the annual Programme of Technical Assistance- and Capacity-Building (Programme de Renforcement des Capacités Humaines et Assistance Technique, PRCHAT).
Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew	Botanical research and education (based in the United Kingdom)	Under Component 1, a biodiversity census will be conducted and native species of flora COFs that are candidates for conservation and propagation will be identified. Based on these results, RBGK will then partner with the project to set up a conservation program through a central indexed herbarium housed in Algeria.

[1] “Contribution à l’analyse des incendies, à la connaissance de leur impact sur les écosystèmes et à la restauration des milieux perturbés”

Documents

Title

Submitted

Reports

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

The table below summarizes whom and how main stakeholders have been involved during PPG and what the consultation findings have been, as well as how and when the stakeholders will be engaged during project execution. The budget foresees a costing of stakeholder consultation workshops/meetings, including PSC and CTC meetings, and travel for field visits. This complements the co-financing provided by project partners.

Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Consultation Methodology	Consultation Findings	Expected timing (for Stakeholder Engagement Plans Only)	Comments
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DGF (Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries)	<i>Partner</i>	<i>National Government Institution body</i>	Joint field visits, workshops and consultations	The DGF is a key executing partner to the project.	<i>Rolling through the National Project Director</i>	DGF will also be a beneficiary of the results under Components 1 and 3.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<i>Partner</i>	<i>National Government Institution body</i>	Workshops and consultations	The proposed project is aligned with Algeria's willingness to foster international technical cooperation and collaborate with FAO.	<i>Bi-annually through the PSC and CTC meetings</i>	
Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies	<i>Partner</i>	<i>National Government Institution body</i>	Consultations, validation workshop	Ready to provide support to raise awareness and share best practices	<i>Bi-annually through the PSC and CTC meetings</i>	
Ministry of Industry and Mines	<i>Partner</i>	<i>National Government Institution body</i>	Consultations, validation workshop	Supportive of the project idea and how it developed during the PPG, supportive of the perspective of strengthening value chains and exports	<i>Bi-annually through the CTC meetings</i>	
Ministry of Tourism and Craft	<i>Partner</i>	<i>National Government Institution body</i>	Consultations, validation workshop	Supportive of project idea, esp. catalyzing of eco-tourism potential	<i>Bi-annually through the PSC and CTC meetings</i>	
Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security	<i>Partner</i>	<i>National Government Institution body</i>	Consultations, validation workshop	Supportive of expected project contribution to rural employment and the conservation of traditional competences (e.g. debarking)	<i>Bi-annually through the PSC and CTC meetings</i>	
Conservateurs des Forêts & Forest Wards	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Local Government Institution/body</i>	Joint field visits, workshops and consultations	Willing to adopt best practices for the sustainable management of COFs	<i>Rolling through the project (beneficiary & main stakeholder of several activities across the three components)</i>	CFs and Forest Wards will also be beneficiaries

Association femme rurale of Bejaia-Afad, Association Assikem Gouraya, Association Arc-en-ciel (Taourirt Ighil), Association Forêt Modèle (Tlemcen)	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>	Joint field visits, consultations	Willing to participate to Local Project Committees and to act as local contact groups	<i>From Year 1, Quarter 2</i>	
ERGR	<i>Indirect Beneficiary</i>	<i>Other: public companies</i>	Joint field visits, workshops and consultations	Willing to take part in the collective approach to adopt new, sustainable management practices of COFs and strengthen associated value chains	<i>From Year 2, Quarter 2 and through the Local</i>	ERGRs will also be beneficiaries
Private companies involved in the value chains of cork, verbena, beauty products, essential oils etc.	<i>Indirect Beneficiary</i>	<i>Other: private company</i>	Consultations	Willing to take part in the collective approach to adopt new, sustainable management practices of COFs and strengthen associated value chains	<i>From Year 1, Quarter 4</i>	
Institut National de la Recherche Forestière (National Institute of Research on Forestry, INRF)	<i>Partner</i>	<i>Other: research institute</i>	Consultations	Existing research at the national level on cork quality can be capitalized on during the project	<i>From Year 1, Quarter 2</i>	
National Park of Tlemcen	<i>Indirect Beneficiary</i>	<i>Local Government Institution/body</i>	Joint field visits, consultations	Willing to collaborate to improve the management of COFs and explore the potential of eco-tourism	<i>From Year 1, Quarter 2</i>	

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

During PPG, the socio-economic study looked into gender equality and women empowerment potentials in COF ecosystems. The report is available only in French, and it is not a fully fledged gender analysis (not yet mandatory at the time of project design) and is therefore not uploaded. Nevertheless, the socio-economic study provided useful information and insights on the present role and potential contribution of women in COF ecosystem management, use and conservation, and this for a number of different NTFPs.

Documents

Title

Submitted

Reports

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

Yes

If yes, please upload document or equivalent here

Aligning itself to the GEF Gender Mainstreaming Policy, the project has a do-good approach rather than a do-no-harm approach when it comes to gender mainstreaming into project design, implementation and monitoring. The why and how has been described throughout the project document, and is summarised below.

While national employment statistics are generally sparse and outdated^[1], the activity of women is particularly badly known. This is because rural Algerian communities are characterized by a strong informal activity of women, which is therefore not recorded in official statistics and lacks recognition in terms of public policies but also socially (Annex

VIII of the project document). However, studies[2],[3] have shown that this traditional setting is shifting towards a less patriarchal model, with rural women increasingly gaining access to higher education and formal employment. In this context, the project will accompany and encourage this social transition by promoting selected value chains with a relatively high involvement of women (e.g. verbena, essential oil) and fostering capacity-building for rural women[4].

As presented in Annexes VII (Boxes 1 & 10) and VIII of the project document, rural women at the three pilot sites are diversely involved in specific value chains. However, these activities have an unexploited potential that can be further harnessed by strengthening the associated value chains, for example through the establishment of women's cooperatives. This will increase the economic profitability of these NTFP-based activities, thereby increasing the income derived by women.

Throughout the project, a gender-positive participatory approach will be sought, whereby women's organizations will be invited to actively contribute to the Local Project Committees. Although the degrees to which women's organizations are structured differs across the pilot sites (), the Social and Gender Assessment (Annex VIII of the project document) conducted during the PPG phase allowed to identify and engage with some associations that expressed a strong willingness to be involved in the projects. Such associations include the "Association femme rurale" of Bejaia-Afad, and the "Association Forêt Modèle" (Tlemcen).

In addition, a co-benefit of the project will be the conservation of cultural practices associated with NTFPs in COFs, and passed by women. An example of such cultural practice is the use of oak acorn to prepare the traditional couscous, a cultural specificity of the region of Jijel, which is being lost because of the degradation of COFs.

[1] The last comprehensive national census dates back to 2008.

[2] Economic Commission for Africa. 2013. Améliorer l'accès au financement pour renforcer l'autonomisation des femmes rurales en Afrique du Nord, bonnes pratiques et leçons à tirer, cas de l'Algérie.

[3] M-B Tahon. 2014. L'emploi des femmes en Algérie. Canadian Journal of African Studies.

[4] This transition, and particularly its capacity-building dimension, is promoted through the National Plan for the Integration and Institutionalization of the Gender Approach, adopted in June 2018 by the Government of Algeria.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

A specific indicator has been built in into the results matrix of the project in order to measure the do-good approach: Indicator 3 - Number of beneficiaries benefiting from improved capacity to manage cork oak forest landscapes, dis-aggregated by gender.

A.5. Risks

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

Risk description	Worst case consequence for the project	Risk Score		Mitigating action	Action owner
		Impact	Likelihood		
Erratic or low prices of cork on the international market.	<p>Erratic prices of cork on the international market threaten the visibility of Algerian producers and transformers, thereby eroding their willingness to get involved and invest in the optimization of the cork value chain, and ultimately discourage them to with the project.</p> <p>Low prices of cork on the international market limits the profitability of the cork industry, thereby discouraging SMEs and other actors to strengthen the cork value chain.</p>	M	H	The feasibility of certification and traceability systems for Algerian cork will be assessed under Component 2. By guaranteeing the quality of Algerian cork, such systems should mitigate the impact of low and erratic prices on the profitability of high-quality Algerian cork exports.	Structural mitigation measure (through project design)

<p>Security issues lead to delays in activities and undermine efforts to develop sustainable activities (e.g. ecotourism, harvesting).</p>	<p>Project activities are not implemented as per the expected workplan (Annex III), leading to beneficiaries and partners losing trust in the project.</p> <p>Some activities cannot be implemented.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>Security has improved greatly in recent years and the government is committed to maintaining security. Furthermore, tourism is not expected to be a major economic sector in the medium term, so this is not a mainstay for the project success.</p> <p>Most on-the-ground activities will take place at three pilot sites; should activities be delayed at one of them, the project will accelerate activities at the other two sites.</p>	<p>PMU</p>
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<p>Decreased project ownership and support from governmental agencies.</p>	<p>The project loses its multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach, resulting in weaker outcomes (especially under Component 3).</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>DGF and other national and local government agencies have been extremely supportive throughout the project identification and preparation grant phases.</p> <p>This involvement will be maintained through a participatory project design (several public agencies and institutions will partner with the project). In addition, the National Project Advisory Committee (NPAC) will include representatives of a wide range of stakeholders, thereby ensuring a continued involvement.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project design takes into consideration the need of achieving results in the short-term (at pilot sites) in order to demonstrate the relevance of the project objectives, results, and activities to local and national governmental agencies. CFs from all 25 Wilayas with COFs will be invited to visit pilot sites on a regular basis in order to showcase these results and generate momentum for the upscaling phase (Component 3).</p>	<p>Structural through project design / NPAC</p>
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<p>Climate change may lead to increased threats to forest, through fire, pests, diseases and changing climatic conditions (temperature, precipitation). Some forests are currently vulnerable to pests and diseases, i.e. two vectors that are likely to be exacerbated by the impacts of climate change.</p>	<p>Despite new sustainable management plans, the status of COFs continues to worsen.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>The time scale for climate change should mean that it does not significantly impact forests during the project implementation. Furthermore, the project, by greatly increasing overall forest management capacity, will contribute to climate change resilience in Algeria. The ecological status of COF ecosystems will be monitored during and after the project. Should the impacts of climate change on COF become sizeable, adapted management practices will be elaborated in cooperation with research partners involved from the onset (universities, INRF).</p>	<p>Research partners, DGF</p>
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<p>Within the project timeframe, it is not possible to monetize the value of the COF ecosystem goods and services, and therefore not possible to create incentives for local people to support forest conservation.</p>	<p>An enabling economic environment for the strengthening of COF product value chains is not set up, thereby threatening efforts for the conservation of COF ecosystems.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>COF ecosystems provide sufficient goods and services to justify their conservation. However, these need to be monetized, and a significant proportion of the benefits need to flow to local communities and forest conservation authorities, so that communities understand the need to conserve the forest and local conservation authorities have the resources to do so.</p> <p>It does take time to construct such value chains and incentive mechanisms. Acknowledging this, Component 2 adopts a pilot approach, through which some (not all) goods and services will be monetized during the project lifetime. Once the benefits start to materialize, these will be documented and lessons learned will be disseminated to secure the long-term commitment of concerned stakeholders. (Component 3).</p> <p>Progress will be monitored during project implementation and the project approach will be refined if necessary.</p>	<p>PMU, PSC</p>
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<p>Low involvement and participation of local communities and institutions in planning and monitoring mechanisms.</p>		<p>H</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>The project will encourage local participation, empowerment and ownership by supporting multi-stakeholder processes for the development of sustainable harvesting and for the coordination of project activities.</p> <p>Local Project Committees (LPC) will be set up to ensure local engagement, and will build on the successful Projects of Local Rural Development (Projects de Proximité de Développement Rural, PPDR).</p>	<p>LPCs, PMU</p>
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A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

The main features of the project's institutional arrangements are reported below. A full description can be found in Section 2 and relevant annexes of the project document.

The main Executing Partner will be the General Directorate for Forests under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries. At the request of the DRC, FAO will provide support services to the project management, including support for procurement, tendering, and enter into agreements with service providers. A National Project Director (NPD) will be designated and hosted by the DGF. The NPD will be responsible for the daily management and decision-making of the project, within the limits of the mandate determined by the Project Steering Committee. In addition, a National Project Coordinator will be tasked to support the NPD in the operational management of the project, according to the project document and agreed processes.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Agency for the proposed project, and as such, will provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. FAO will be responsible for providing oversight, technical backstopping and supervision of project implementation to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements. Technical backstopping will be provided by FAO in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee.

A quadripartite Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established^[1]. It will be comprised of: i) the Director of the DGF (representing the MARDF); ii) a representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (GEF political focal point); iii) the resident representative of FAO in Algeria; and iv) a representative from the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies (GEF operational focal point).

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be created and funded by the GEF. The main function of the PMU, following the guidelines of the Project Steering Committee, is to ensure the coordination and execution of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be comprised of: i) a National

Project Director; ii) a National Project Coordinator; iii) a Financial and Administrative Assistant; and iv) an M&E consultant. In addition, Project Focal Points will be determined at each of the three pilot sites. Finally, a Chief Technical Advisor will be recruited.

The anchor of the project at the local level will be the Local Development Committees. These consist of smallholder farmers volunteering to participate in decision-making through planning and monitoring of natural resources management plans. They operate under the supervision of a local leader (elderly farmer, local administrator, ...), and where possible spin off from existing forms of voluntary association of farmers. From the PPG assessments, it seems farmers are only voluntarily associated for the management and maintenance of the water wells, and therefore, particularly in the El Moneera site, this water management associations could grow into a committee that looks into land, agro-biodiversity and other issues as well.

A Consultative National Project Committee (CNPC) will be established. It will be comprised of representatives of all parties relevant to the conservation of COFs and the sustainable use of its products, including representatives of the civil society, private sector and academia (the full list is provided in the project document). The roles of the CNPC will be to advise on project deliverables, identify further capacity gaps to be targeted by capacity-building activities and facilitate the dissemination of communication material and lessons learned. The CNPC will meet bi-annually or as required.

The anchor of the project at the local level will be the Local Project Committees (LPC) to be established in each of the three pilot sites. Depending on the specificities of local contexts, the composition of the LPCs may vary. For example, formal village committees are particularly active in Taourirt Ighil – and often collaborate with local forest conservation authorities –, while informal representatives of local social groups are traditional contact persons for public authorities in Beni Idder (cf. Social Assessment, Annex VIII of the project document).

The project will coordinate with a range of ongoing initiatives in Algeria related to sustainable forest management and the development of the value chains for natural resources. The proposed project will coordinate with all these initiatives to ensure that best practices are incorporated into the project (see Section 1.1.2 of the project document).

[1] Indicative Terms of References for the Project Steering Committee, the Consultative National Project Committee and the National Project Coordinator are provided in Annex XII of the project document.

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7. Benefits

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

In 2015, agriculture ranked first and third as the sector with the highest potential of job creations in projects supported by the CNAC[1] and the ANSEJ, respectively[2]. The early economic studies conducted during the PPG phase (Annexes VII and IX of the project document) were not in a position to quantify the potential of job creations in the value chains of cork and other NTFPs supported by the project. However, it is anticipated that the development of these activities will foster employment at the local level (communities in the vicinity of COFs) as well as downstream of the value chains (transformation, exportation etc.).

As presented in Annex VIII of the project document, women's employment is relatively low in rural Algeria. Despite gaps in national statistics, studies have shown that the overall rate of employment of women in Algeria (16.5%) is the lowest in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region[3]. Some of the value chains pre-selected for the implementation of the project are strategic to improve women's employment. In particular, the production and transformation of verbena in Taourirt Ighil holds considerable potential in this respect. Indeed, this product is locally recognized as a "women's sector" (Annex VII of the project document, case study n°10) with strong development perspectives. Such a development will necessitate capacity building for stakeholders involved, thereby contributing to women's upliftment in the area. The results of these pilot interventions will be closely monitored, and the feasibility of their upscaling carefully assessed.

Some of the value chains supported by the project involve traditional know-hows that have been threatened by rural exodus and the decay of cork production (e.g. debarking). The development of selected value chains at the local level will be an opportunity to revive these competencies, as well as train beneficiaries on other skills for which capacity gaps have been identified. ANSEJ, universities and the INRF will partner with the project to harness this potential. A special focus will be placed on the youths, for which the unemployment rate reaches 26.5%.[4]

The expected economic benefits associated with the development of selected NTFP value chains will be further increased by the upscaling measures to be adopted under Components 2 and 3. In particular, the feasibility of a certification system for Algerian cork and other products (e.g. verbena) will be assessed. Such a system will have the potential to improve the economic value of the products for which value chains will be strengthened.

The technical assessment on the status of COFs in Algeria conducted during the PPG phase highlighted the health risks for workers in cork transformation sector, because of outdated facilities. Even though GEF funding will not be earmarked for the modernization of transformation facilities, it is expected that the project will demonstrate the profitability of enhanced quality of cork products, that will require upgrading investments. This will eventually enhance the working conditions and health safety in cork transformation.

Local development benefits will be measured as follows:

- Indicator: Number of beneficiaries benefiting from improved capacity to manage cork oak forest landscapes, disaggregated by gender.
 - o Target: 200 beneficiaries, at least 50% women.
 - Indicator: Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.
 - o Target: at least 60 households and/or small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites[5]⁵).
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[1] CNAC: Caisse Nationale d'Assurance Chômage.

[2] Source: Ministry of Industry and Mines. May 2016. Bulletin de la PME n°28.

[3] Source: M.C. Belmihoub. 2016. Etude exploratoire sur l'accès des femmes au marché du travail en Algérie.

[4] Source: Office National de la Statistique, 2018.

[5] Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered.

A.8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate on the Knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention areas through existing information sharing networks and forums (any venues related to the government, the FAO, and partner institutions). In addition, the project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based, and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned.

Information and knowledge sharing will be an integral part of the project activities and results. Knowledge sharing and dissemination is central to empowering smallholders, NTFP entrepreneurs and rural communities with demonstrations of use and applications of best practices and technologies. Key elements of knowledge generation and sharing, envisaged in the project include the following important tasks:

- mapping biodiversity in the three sites and identifying priority species for conservation;
- analyses of value chains of NTFPs (local and national); and
- characterization and valuation of services in healthy COFs.

The Environment Directorates at the Wilaya level are tasked to promote to raise awareness, share information and educate the population on environmental matters. In addition, they are in charge of supporting school projects and experiments in the field of environmental conservation, and to further promote the understanding of ecosystem services. Therefore, any relevant material produced by the project will be shared with the Environment Directorates at the Wilaya level, for it to be disseminated to relevant fora (including schools and local environmental associations).

Lessons learned

For the development of the PIF and during the PPG phase, a number of previous projects and programmes have been studied in order to: i) understand the barriers, threats, baseline situation (cf. Annex XV of the project document) and opportunities; ii) gain insights into risks and success factors of similar technical projects (both GEF and non-GEF); and iii) complete the stakeholder mapping and obtain detailed information on the strength and weaknesses of project partners.

Overall, the project design team learnt that there are institutional challenges when it comes to implementing national-level, integrated, multi-sector, multi-level and multi-stakeholder projects. Therefore, a consensus emerged on the need to test improved management plans of COFs and the strengthening of strategic value chains at selected pilot sites. The Theory of Change of the project (cf. Annex XVI of the project document) was designed in this perspective, with Components 1 and 2 setting an enabling environment and testing pilot interventions, and Component 3 taking up the lessons learned at a pilot level and upscaling them country-wide.

From a technical point of view, a thorough study on international best practices was produced during the PPG phase (Annex IX of the project document). The study was conducted by assessing the current status of Algerian COFs and their utilisation, and drawing from lessons learned in other Mediterranean countries to issue technical recommendations. These recommendations will be followed during the project implementation to inform new sustainable forest management plans.

B. Description of the consistency of the project with:

B.1. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with nation strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The proposed project is fully consistent with the relevant national development programmes and sector plans adopted by the Government of Algeria, as well as with the various programmes and action plans formulated by the Algerian Government under the relevant international Environmental Conventions.

With respect to national strategy and development programmes, the proposed project is in direct conformity with the following national programmes and sector plans:

- The Five-Year Growth Plan (2015-2019) presents the green economy as a fulcrum for development and technological progress in Algeria through strengthened employment, sustainable economic growth, enhanced innovation and reduced poverty.[1] The proposed project is fully aligned with the development of the green economy through the promotion of sustainable value chains for selected NTFP associated with COFs.

- The National Strategy for Land-Use Planning 2030 (Schéma National d'Aménagement du Territoire, SNAT) is the main guiding document for land-use planning. It acknowledges the importance of protecting and restoring forests as a means to fight land degradation, erosion and the deterioration of water catchments. As a result, an ambitious objective of 1,050,000 hectares of restored forests is set for 2030. The proposed Project is fully aligned with several “Programmes of action” (Programmes d’Action Territoriale, PAT) of the SNAT, namely:

- o PAT 2: fight against land degradation;

- o PAT 3: protection and sustainable management of ecosystems; and
- o PAT 19: rural renewal (through improved rural livelihoods).

· The Policy of Agricultural and Rural Renewal (Politique de Renouveau Agricole et Rural) is the Algerian national policy in the agriculture sector, launched in 2009 and revised periodically through the Five-Year Agricultural Plans. The second pillar of the current Five-Year Agricultural Plan (2014-2019) focuses on rural development, notably through two programmes of actions: i) the management and extension of forested areas; and ii) the conservation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. The mid-term objectives are: i) the protection and sustainable use of natural resources; and ii) the improvement of rural livelihoods through the strengthening of value chains. The proposed Project will directly contribute towards the objectives set forth in the Policy of Agricultural and Rural Renewal.

· The Master Plans for Coastal Development (Plan d'Aménagement Côtier) promote the conservation and recovery of fragile coastal areas. In particular, the use of indigenous cork oaks is recommended to stabilize slopes and prevent erosion[2].

· The National Reforestation Plan (1998, updated in 2015 through a five-year plan for 2015-2019) guides reforestation objectives and associated resources in Algeria. In particular, it sets objectives of a 50% increase in cork production and 40% increase in the value of cork exports by 2019. The formulation of the proposed Project is the direct result of the targets set in the Reforestation National Plan, and duly includes all the components evoked in the Plan: i) capacity-building for the sustainable management of COFs; ii) enhancement of value chains for selected NTFPs; and iii) dissemination of global best practices for the management of COFs (including fire control measures).

· Forestry policy in Algeria was updated in 2017 the issuance of Forest Strategy Until 2035 (Stratégie des Forêts à l'Horizon 2035). The proposed Project presents an excellent opportunity to turn this Strategy into action, and has been designed to do so. First, this proposed Project is designed to contribute to the Forest Strategy's vision to "serve the social, economic and environmental needs of the country, creating sustainable employment and income while contributing to improving the resilience of the natural environment to climate change". In addition, the proposed Project will contribute directly to five of the six Strategic Directions of the Forest Strategy:

- o A1 - Sustainable management of the forest ecosystem and esparto grass (alfa);
- o A2 - Water and soil conservation and combating desertification;
- o B2 - Conservation and rehabilitation of wildlife, development of the practice of hunting and hunting activities;
- o C1 - Economic valuation of forest products; and
- o C2 - Economic valuation of ecosystem services.

o

· Algeria's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was last updated in 2016. The proposed project contributes directly to objectives 12, 14, 17 and 19 in the NBSAP, as further described in Section 1.2.1 of the project document.

· Algeria is one of 14 countries to have piloted the preparation of a national land degradation neutrality (LDN) report with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 2016). This report can be considered as the national policy on land degradation. The development of the proposed Project has been informed by Algeria's LDN and especially aligns with two of its objectives:

- o Objective 1: Integrated management of dam watersheds, with the aim of an integrated watershed management programme upstream of the reservoirs, that will contribute to the conservation of soils and waters and the improvement of the living standards of the populations; and
 - o Objective 2: National Reforestation Plan (cf. above).
-

[1] United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Office for North Africa. 2015. The Green Economy in Algeria: An Opportunity to Diversify and Stimulate Domestic Production. Available online at: https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/uploaded-documents/SROs/NA/AHEGM-isdge/egm_ge_algeria.pdf

[2] United Environment Programme, Government of Algeria. 2006. Programme d'Aménagement Côtier (PAC) "Zone côtière algéroise".

C. Describe The Budgeted M & E Plan:

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

The FAO GEF Unit and HQ Technical Units will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

Project monitoring will be carried out by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the FAO budget holder. Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception, the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the M&E specialist.

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Inception Workshop	FAO Country Office	Within two months of project document signature	10,000
Project Inception Report	Project Manager	Within two weeks of inception workshop	None
Supervision visits	FAO country office	Annually	None
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	Project manager and M&E officer	Annually	None
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	Project manager	Annually (July)	None

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Co-financing Reports	FAO Country office	Annually	None
Mid-Term evaluation	FAO Country office	Once, after mid-point of project	30,000
Final evaluation	Office of Evaluation (OED)	At least three months before operational closure	50,000 (coordinated by OED)
Terminal Report	Project Manager	Within two months of project closure	6,800
Total Budget			96,800

PART III: Certification by GEF partner agency(ies)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

GEF Agency Coordinator

Date

Project Contact Person

Telephone

Email

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

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
<p>Project objective: To conserve, sustainably harvest and sustainably manage Algeria’s globally significant cork oak forest ecosystems.</p>	1. Area of unprotected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 4)	0 ha	10,000 ha	18,530 ha	GIS maps	The target corresponds to the 22,530 ha of COFs at the three sites, minus 4,000 ha of protected area accounted for under Indicator 2.
	2. Area of protected landscapes under improved practices (GEF-7 Core Indicator 1)	0 ha	2,000 ha	4,000 ha within Tlemcen National Park	GIS maps	
	3. Number of small and medium-size enterprises and community-based organizations deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services	0	10 SMSEs	60 SMSEs (with at least 40% women)	Project reports	
Component 1: Piloting of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable harvesting of Algeria’s globally significant cork oak forests.						

<p>Outcome 1: Three sites are under renewed participatory sustainable management that includes biodiversity conservation and the perpetuation of ecosystem services as well as socio-economic benefits.</p>	<p>4. Number of sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders and implemented.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 SFM plans</p>	<p>SFM documents & project reports documenting the participatory process for the elaboration and adoption of SFMs</p>	<p>A comprehensive management plan for the three pilot sites will be prepared in a participatory fashion. The engagement of local organizations and communities will be facilitated by the establishment of Local Project Committees, building on the successful Projects of Local Rural Development (Projects de Proximité de Développement Rural, PPDR).</p>
<p>Output 1.1: Local and national diagnostics and census of biodiversity are completed and provide a basis for sustainable management. Output 1.2 Sustainable forest management plans for biodiversity conservation and income generation for local populations are developed and implemented in three sites.</p>						
<p>Component 2: Sustainably creating value from cork oak ecosystem products, goods and services.</p>						
<p>Outcome 2: Value chains for priority (non-cork) Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) are strengthened at both local and national levels.</p>	<p>5. Number of SMSEs and CBOs deriving income from sustainable commercialization of NTFPs, making use of a traceability system in the context of operational incentives for ecosystem services.</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>60 small and medium-size enterprises (with at least 40% women, representing the gender distribution in the pilot sites^[1])</p>	<p>Household surveys of beneficiaries</p>	<p>Gender dynamics relative to registered professional activities differ across the three sites (Section 3.4; Annex VIII). Therefore, the target percentage of women will be measured as an average across the three sites.</p>
<p>Output 2.1: Restored and regenerated productive forest landscapes in three pilot sites. Output 2.2: Local operators and enterprises are strengthened and benefit from an enabling environment. Output 2.3: A traceability system for at least two NTFPs, including cork, is operational. Output 2.4: Economic value-adding tools (e.g. labels, certificates) are in place for cork and one other NTFP value chain.</p>						
<p>Component 3: Replication and upscaling of successful approaches.</p>						

Outcome 3: Sustainable management and sustainable harvesting plans are initiated at all cork oak forest ecosystem sites across Algeria.	6. Number of hectares of cork oak forest with integrated management plans at end of project.	0	10,000 ha	350,000 ha	GIS maps, updated national management plans	The project is designed to facilitate the upscaling of successful approaches tested at the pilot sites from the onset. The DGF will coordinate the organization of field visits and training for all relevant CFs and forestry staff early in the project implementation phase to pave the way for Component 3.
Output 3.1: Policy and technical mechanisms for upscaling good practice are in place, including data management, policy platforms and institutional/technical capacity.						
Outcome 4: Project results are captured and lessons learned are widely disseminated by National government stakeholders.	7. Number of good practices identified and upscaled nationally.	0	0	3 good practices	Updated national forest programme (policy and legislative framework)	The DGF is willing to facilitate the upscaling process through the updating of national management plans and guidelines. This will be critical to avoid that lessons learned under Components 1 and 2 do not benefit only the local, pilot level.
Output 4.1: An upscaling strategy is developed that is informed by project monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.						

[1] Source: National Census, 2008. For SMSEs, the gender of the head of the enterprise will be considered.

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

Comments GEFSEC at PIF clearance	Answer at CEO ER stage
<p>Component 3: The communication strategy is important to share best practices and lessons learned. In addition to FAO FRA and GFLRM, please consider also using the Silva Mediterranea Committee and relevant research networks for that output in the proposal.</p>	<p>Silva Mediterranea has been involved at the PPG phase, as one of the coordinator of the Silva Mediterranea working group on Cork Oak (Maria Carolina Varela) was contracted to produce an “Assessment of cork oak in terms of regeneration, plantation, valuation of cork and associated plants” (Annex IX of the project document). The recommendations from the assessment have directly informed the activity plan.</p> <p>In addition, the use of existing regional fora will be sought to disseminate the information gathered through Component 3, as specified in the project document.</p> <p>Please note that, besides Component 3, partnerships with academic institutions have been strengthened since the PIF stage. These will include the participation of the Royal Kew Gardens (United Kingdom) under Component 1, as well as the Algerian National Institute for Research on Forestry and the universities of Bejaia, Tlemcen and Jijel across Components 1 and 2.</p>
Comments STAP	Answer at CEO ER stage

1. STAP notes that Algeria participated in the UNCCD's LDN pilot target setting approach, and is currently participating in the UNCCD's LDN target setting program. Algeria is well-placed to draw from its LDN target setting efforts to pursue integrated approaches on land use planning, as well as to identify land management indicators. Doing so will strengthen the global environmental benefits on land degradation. The "Scientific conceptual framework on LDN" can assist the project developers identify the appropriate land indicators:

http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/documents/2017-08/LDN_CF_report_web-english.pdf

The alignment of the project with Algerian efforts towards land degradation neutrality is presented in the project document (Section 1.2.1). In particular, it is understood that the national land degradation neutrality report developed with the support of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in 2016 can be considered as the national strategy on land degradation. As described in the ProDoc, the restoration of COF will have a positive impact on regulating ecosystem services such as soil conservation, water retention, watershed protection, erosion control and soil formation.

The table below presents how the proposed project will contribute to the national objectives in terms of land degradation neutrality (LDN).

National LDN objectives	Contribution of proposed project	Relevant outputs of proposed project
<p><u>Objective 1:</u> Integrated management of dam watersheds, with the aim of an integrated watershed management programme upstream of the reservoirs, that will contribute to the conservation of soils and waters and the improvement of the living standards of the populations</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 48 watersheds restored by 2030.</p>	<p>Under Component 1, the proposed project will directly contribute to the restoration of 3 watersheds.</p> <p>Under Component 3, the upscaling of the restoration of COF across 25 Wilayas will be prepared. Although it is difficult to assess how any watersheds equipped with dams will thus be concerned (as one COF site can be part of more than one watershed, and one watershed can comprise several COF sites), it can be projected that many watersheds will be benefit from the sustainable management of COFs.</p>	Outputs 1.2, 2.1 & 4.1.
<p><u>Objective 2:</u> National Reforestation Plan</p> <p><u>Target:</u> 475,000 ha reforested by 2025 (remaining target as of 2016, down from 1,245,800 ha as of 2000 when the National Reforestation Plan was officially adopted)</p>	<p>The project will directly restore 22,530 ha of COF during its implementation period, and pave the way (through the development and establishment of integrated management plans) for the restoration of another 350,000 ha. The proposed project will thus contribute very significantly to Objective 2 of the national LDN strategy.</p>	Outputs 1.2, 2.1 & 4.1.

Some of the indicators in the results framework are inspired by the ""Scientific conceptual framework on LDN":

- Outcome 1: Indicator: Number of active sustainable forest management plans agreed collectively by local stakeholders and implemented; and

- Outcome 2: Indicator: Number of hectares of oak forest with integrated management plans at end of

2. STAP appreciates the comprehensive problem and barrier analysis, and the strategies to address them so the outcomes can be achieved. This information is presented in a clear and succinct manner (page 20-21). STAP recommends defining the assumptions associated with the expected results, or citing references that validate the information. For example, it would be valuable to support statements in the table that suggest that improved value chains for NTFPs and payment for forest ecosystem services will increase stakeholders' appreciation for forests, and thereby lead to improved forest conservation.

The problem and barrier analysis has been further strengthened and presented in the Theory of Change. A problem tree diagram has been added in the project document (Annexes XV and XVI). In particular, the problem tree was jointly refined with a vast diversity of national stakeholders during the validation workshop (see Annex X).

The table below summarizes the assumptions with the arguments and references that support them.

Assumption	Arguments & references in support
At the national level, there is a strong willingness to improve the governance of COFs.	<p>This is evident from the strong demand from the various national stakeholders involved during the development phase of the project. In particular, the DGF – the main actor in charge of the management of COFs in Algeria – has been extremely supportive of an intervention strategy that will question the core principles of the DGF’s management of COFs (e.g. limited participatory processes, limited reference to international best practices).</p> <p>The strong attendance across institutions and sectors to the validation workshop (see attendance sheet in Annex X of the ProDoc) also demonstrates the keen interest of national-level stakeholders for a project that seeks, <i>inter alia</i>, to improve the governance of COFs.</p>
At the local level, populations are ready to engage in the participatory management of resources associated with COFs	<p>This is evident from other past and ongoing initiatives in Algeria, such as the FAO project “Strengthen the contribution of forests to the national economy, the livelihoods of Algerian forest populations, the fight against poverty and the sustainable management of forests” (cited as a baseline project). In addition, the World Bank project “Support, improve, develop and modernize export value chains, including cork” has found a strong interest of local populations to engage in the participatory management of natural resources once they are convinced of the associated benefits – including economic benefits.</p> <p>Finally, during the PPG phase, several visits were conducted at the sites to undertake local consultations and assess the populations’ readiness and appetite to engage in such a participatory management. The findings – summarized in Annexes VII and IX – conclude that populations are ready to engage in the participatory management of resources associated with COFs. It should also be noted that, throughout the</p>

3. STAP also appreciates the intention of the project to undertake stakeholder analysis (Output 2.2.2). It would be best if the analysis traces not only beneficiaries of the cork oak forest but also stakeholders with decision-making and advisory roles, in order to map convincingly the interconnections, power and role of all relevant stakeholders. This may also include gender differentiation and the role of indigenous technical knowledge. One of the objectives of stakeholder analysis should also be to assess the strength of economic incentives – see ODI Forestry Bulletin (May 2003) ‘Economic Stakeholder Analysis’ for Participatory Forest Management, by Michael Richards, Jonathan Davies and Gil Yaron. See <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/810.pdf>

The stakeholder analysis conducted during the PPG phase has been threefold. Firstly, a social and gender assessment was carried out to further characterize the social profile of beneficiaries at the local level (Annex VIII of the project document) and identify the main local authorities and decision-makers that will need to be involved in the governance of the project activities. These findings have been reflected in the structure and composition of the various committees to be established. Secondly, an economic analysis of key NTFP value chains was conducted. This analysis focused on the various stakeholders involved at each step of the NTFP value chains, and identified the traditional knowledge and know-hows, differentiated by gender where relevant (e.g. harvesting and transformation of verbena by women in Jijel; Annex VII of the project document). Thirdly, the validation workshop informed the stakeholder engagement matrix presented in Annex II of the project document, and further determined the composition of the Consultative National Project Committee (see Section 2.1.1 of the project document), so that all relevant stakeholders can be involved in the decision-making processes throughout the project.

In addition, the stakeholder analysis showed that there is a need for a deeper, long-term reform of the governance system for cork oak forests, and that project now hopes to initiate that policy discussion at the national level, using lessons and information generated from the three sites.

4. STAP recognizes the project's effort in strengthening the value of forests. STAP proposes that FAO and Algeria consider natural capital accounting, or similar valuation approaches, for documenting the value of forests. This would facilitate methods for valuing forest ecosystems, mainstreaming forest management and planning in Algeria's economic accounts, and the development of policies across ministries to support forests' contributions to the economy and livelihoods. STAP recommends considering efforts made by the UN Statistical Commission of the System for Environmental and Economic Accounts (SEEA) to develop a methodology for capturing forest values (e.g. NTFPs): <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/default.asp>

This approach was assessed and discussed with different stakeholders during the PPG phase, and deemed premature in the case of Algerian COFs. This is because a comprehensive assessment of the biodiversity status of these ecosystems remains to be done, as well as a full study of the economic situation of the income-generating activities associated with COFs. Both these assessments will be carried out during the project implementation phase, and will lay the basis of future natural capital accounting exercises. The project will seek to undertake a characterization and valuation of ecosystem services of the project, but the choice of the method to be used for such an analysis was left to be discussed by the national consultative forum during the project, on the basis of the initial census and baseline study (which will bridge information gaps).

All involved actors agree that mainstreaming the development of NTFP value chains at the national scale will require some advocacy on the economic and social benefits of doing so. This point has been discussed and reasserted during the validation workshop in the presence of representatives of several ministries. Therefore, a strong emphasis will be placed on showcasing the benefits of the NTFP value chains that will be developed at the three pilot sites. Documenting these benefits will greatly facilitate the establishment of a national framework to develop NTFP value chains, and consequently the mainstreaming of good forest conservation practices in national policies

5. STAP also is cognizant of the need to improve the evidence base of the value provided by forests in order to influence policy-making. The following paper on estimating the economic benefits of NTFPs may benefit the design of the project, in particular on how to collect, monitor and assess data so it strengthens the evidence base on NTFP's impacts on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods:
Wahlen, C. (2017). "Opportunities for making the invisible visible: Towards an improved understanding of the economic contributions of NTFPs". *Forest Policy and Economics* 84 (2017) 11–19.

As described above, the early economic assessment of NTFP value chains conducted during the PPG phase will be complemented during the project implementation, starting with the Baseline assessment. The indicative Terms of Reference for the Baseline assessment are included in Annex XI of the project document, and include a reference to the suggested paper.

6. In addition to the participatory processes when the project will implement the assessment of the social-ecological context of each site, STAP encourages the project proponents to consider embedding policies and arrangements on governance. Governance will influence management, harvesting, trade and use of NTFPs. Governance is essential for creating win-win outcomes for NTFP production, biodiversity conservation, and improved forest livelihoods. In addition, STAP encourages FAO to monitor the effectiveness of NTFP governance in order to draw lessons and identify learning for the stakeholders involved, as well as for broader application beyond the project. STAP recommends this book as a resource on NTFP governance: Laird, et al. 2010. Finding policies that work for non-timber forest products". Earthscan.

Policies and governance arrangements are embedded within the project design, as they are seen as the tool to institutionalize the good practices that will be tested at the pilot scale. This will be done through several avenues, including the following.

- An informal group of the 25 Forest Conservation Officers (Conservateur des Forêts, CF) of the Wilayas with COFs will be established at the beginning of the project. Managed through the Sub-Directorate of Planning and Inventory (Sous-direction de l'Aménagement et de l'Inventaire) of the DGF, this group will attend the capacity-building events organised at the national level and will participate in field visits of the pilot sites. The purpose of this group will be to build a link between the pilot sites and the national scale from the onset of the project, thereby paving the way for the upscaling of best practices and dissemination of lessons learned through Component 3.
- The DGF will spearhead the establishment of a national inter-ministerial technical platform in support of COFs, whose role will be to assess project findings and outcomes and to steer discussions on the broader policy reforms that may be required to sustainably manage cork oak forest landscapes in the long term. This would include considering recommendations stemming from studies and assessments on the governance of forests, the role and responsibilities of various stakeholders such as Forest Wards, DGF, ERGRs, private sector, and the technical options put forward for better management of forests. This platform will be active from the start of the project and will continue to exist after the project under DGF leadership, to manage the upscaling strategy to other sites. To ensure adequate upscaling and replication of good methods, forestry staff in all cork-related Forest Wards across Algeria will be trained on sustainable management of cork oak forests.

FAO will closely monitor the governance and policy aspects of the project, with a view to document them and inform future initiatives beyond the project – including in other countries. To do so, FAO will be able to rely on its extensive experience in the formulation and implementation of forest policies, programs and projects.

The networking capacity of FAO is further described in Section 1.3 of the project document, and includes:

- biennial sessions of the Committee on Forest (COFO) which bring together heads of forest services and senior government officials to identify emerging forest policy and technical issues, seek solutions and advice on appropriate actions;
- the Collaborative Partnership on Forests which bring together 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial forest programmes to streamline and align their work, collaborate and share experiences, and develop new solutions;
- FAO-European Union (EU)'s Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) programme, that provides technical support and resources to government, civil society and private sector in nearly 40 countries to support forest Small and Medium-Size Enterprises (SMEs) to trade only in legal timber products and participate in the governance of forest resources, large forest enterprises to reduce commodity driven deforestation and variety of stakeholders to engage in forest governance.

Comment from Germany	Answer at CEO ER stage
<p>This proposal can greatly benefit during formulation phase from clearly stating the following: Strengthening the analytical part: Reference to the reasons why earlier attempts to management of cork forests including regeneration have fallen short would be an asset, as well as further explanation in which regard this new approach will be different from earlier attempts and overcome past barriers;</p> <p>The full proposal should be explicit with regard to forest governance aspects vis-à-vis the expected behavioural changes (e.g. limitation of access of cattle, goats, sheep to forests);</p> <p>Furthermore, an explicit and detailed strategy for gender differentiation with regard to future forest use, protection and shared benefits is suggested</p>	<p>So far, there has not been significant attempts to improve the management of COFs in Algeria. The proposed project will make use of global practices in terms of COF management, regeneration and sustainable use. A comprehensive technical assessment of current pitfalls and suggested changes in the management of COFs in Algeria has been carried out during the PPG phase by a team of national and international expert (Annex IX of the project document: “Assessment of cork oak in terms of regeneration, plantation, valuation of cork and associated plants” and Annex VIII analyse socio-économique). The current framework and practices are inadequate to conserve and sustainably manage COFs. The baseline situation in terms of governance is further developed in the project document (Section 1.1.1), and can be summarized as follows. The current management of COFs does not involve local communities, and solely focuses on cork, and not on NTFPs. COFs are solely managed by the DGF and through time-bound concessions for debarking. The private sector is not involved in the management of resources upstream of harvesting and transformation stages; therefore, small and medium-size enterprises are not feeling responsible for the forest resources. In this context, the revised management plans to be developed under Component 1 of the project will propose an improved governance of COFs.</p> <p>The expected behavioral changes are described in the project document, and consist mostly in having communities consider COF as a source of valuable NTFPs that needs to be managed sustainably. Examples of behavioral changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · adopting adequate debarking practices that do not harm cork oaks; · limiting cattle grazing in forest areas damaged by fires; and · suspending unsustainable harvesting practices of mushrooms and medicinal and aromatic plants. <p>Given the nature of forest governance in Algeria (almost entirely public), other changes will be less behavioral and more in terms of governance and management practices from the Directorate General for Forests’ side. A broader discussion on governance of cork oak forests is also expected to be launched during the project.</p> <p>The gender differentiation of benefits to be expected from the sustainable use of NTFPs has been described in the project document and its annexes (Annexes VII and VIII). This will reflect on the governance differentiation, with some professional associations involved in the participatory management of COF being mostly composed of women (see Section 3.4 of the project document). These aspects will be further detailed throughout the project, and monitored specifically by the full-time M&E officer.</p>
Comments from Canada	Answer at CEO ER stage

Canada concurs with the STAP analysis that “in the project stakeholder analysis [output], not only beneficiaries of the cork oak forest but also stakeholders with decision-making and advisory roles, in order to map convincingly the interconnections, power and role of all relevant stakeholders. This may also include gender differentiation and the role of indigenous technical knowledge.”

During PPG, a stakeholder analysis was conducted, particularly looking into groups involved directly and indirectly in cork forest management, interconnections between different groups, power relations and roles. This was done not only for cork, but for a number of NTFPs. The stakeholder analysis informed the project design (for instance, prioritizing NTFP value chain development so as to maximize potentials for women employment, as this is amongst the lowest in the MENA region), and the institutional arrangements for project implementation (which is very much integrated, i.e. multi-actor and multi-level).

As mentioned in response to a similar STAP comment, this analysis had 3 parts: (i) a social and gender assessment to characterize the social profile of beneficiaries at the local level (Annex VIII of the project document) and to identify the main local authorities and decision-makers that need to be involved in the governance of the project activities (feeding the structure and composition of the various committees to be established); (ii) an economic analysis of key NTFP value chains, focusing on the various stakeholders involved at each step of the NTFP value chains, also identifying traditional knowledge and know-hows, differentiated by gender where relevant (e.g. harvesting and transformation of verbena by women in Jijel; Annex VII of the project document); and (iii) a validation workshop to consolidate and further inform the analyses and project institutional arrangements.

In addition, the stakeholder analysis showed that there is a need for a deeper, long-term reform of the governance system for cork oak forests, and that project now hopes to initiate that policy discussion at the national level, using lessons and information generated from the three sites.

With respect to the role of indigenous technical knowledge, the project will re-invest in use and dissemination of traditional knowledge and know-how of communities living in and from COF ecosystems. This traditional know-how, however, has been threatened by rural exodus and the decay of cork oak forest ecosystems. The development of selected value chains at the local level will be an opportunity to revive local and traditional competencies, as well as train beneficiaries on other skills for which capacity gaps have been identified. ANSEJ, universities and the INRF will partner with the project to harness this potential.

Canada also concurs with STAP that the proponents and Algeria consider natural capital accounting, or similar valuation approaches, for documenting the value of forests. This approach is also used by Canada for our forests and natural capital.

The need for a fully conducted natural capital accounting of cork forest ecosystems was assessed and discussed with national stakeholders during the PPG phase, and deemed premature in the case of Algerian COFs. As mentioned in response to the STAP comment, a comprehensive assessment of the biodiversity status of COFs remains to be done, as well as a full study of the economic situation of the income-generating activities associated with COFs. Both these assessments will be carried out during the project implementation phase, and will lay the basis of future natural capital accounting exercises. The project will seek to undertake a characterization and valuation of ecosystem services of the project, but the choice of the method to be used for such an analysis was left to be discussed by the national consultative forum during the project, on the basis of the initial census and baseline study (which will bridge information gaps).

All involved actors agree that mainstreaming the development of NTFP value chains at the national scale will require some advocacy on the economic and social benefits of doing so. This point has been discussed and reasserted during the validation workshop in the presence of representatives of several ministries. Therefore, a strong emphasis will be placed on showcasing the benefits of the NTFP value chains that will be developed at the three pilot sites. Documenting these benefits will greatly facilitate the establishment of a national framework to develop NTFP value chains, and consequently the mainstreaming of good forest conservation practices in national policies.

Canada notes that although the project identification form indicates that security risks are low and have been mitigated by choosing three particular sites, the wilayas of Béjaïa and Jijel are located in areas where there are security threats, which could complicate project elements.

Since the approval of the PIF, the security situation in the wilayas of Bejaia and Jijel has continued to improve. Therefore, no significant threats to the project implementation are foreseeable at this stage. However, FAO-Algiers will continuously monitor the situation as per current security norms and practices and in close collaboration with the government and local project committees to address any emerging risks.

Question: How does the project propose to further mitigate this risk?

The risks also indicated that a possibly decreased ownership and support from government agencies was a risk. Overly burdensome bureaucratic procedures could also cause delays, and would inquire as to what measures would be undertaken to avoid such.

Mitigation measures to this specific risk have been further described in Annex V, Section A as follows: “DGF and other national and local government agencies have been extremely supportive throughout the project identification and preparation grant phases.

Question: What measures will be undertaken to avoid this risk?

This involvement will be maintained through a participatory project design (several public agencies and institutions will partner with the project). In addition, the National Project Advisory Committee (NPAC) will include representatives of a wide range of stakeholders, thereby ensuring a continued involvement. Furthermore, the project design takes into consideration the need of achieving results in the short-term (at pilot sites) in order to demonstrate the relevance of the project objectives, results, and activities to local and national governmental agencies. CFs from all 25 Wilayas with COFs will be invited to visit pilot sites on a regular basis in order to showcase these results and generate momentum for the upscaling phase (Component 3).”

[1] Arnold, J.EM, and Ruiz Perez, M. 1998. The role of NTFPs in Conservation and Development, in Wollenberg, E, and Ingles, A. (eds.) Incomes from the forest: methods for the development and conservation of forest products for local communities. 17-41

[2] Solomon, M.M. 2016. Importance of Non Timber Forest Production in Sustainable Forest Management and Its Implication on Carbon Storage and Biodiversity Conservation in Case of Ethiopia. J Biodivers Endanger Species 4:160. doi: 10.4172/2332-2543.1000160

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS.

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To Date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Salaries Professionals	\$ 7,143		\$ 7,143
Consultants	\$ 83,500	\$ 20,767	\$ 68,148
Contracts	\$ 3,000		\$ 8,000
Travel	\$ 30,000	\$ 6,970	\$ 327
Expendable Procurement	\$ 5,357	\$ 5,357	
Workshops	\$ 21,000	\$ 16,629	\$ 16,658
Total	\$ 150,000	\$ 49,724	\$ 100,277

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

ANNEX E: GEF 7 Core Indicator Worksheet

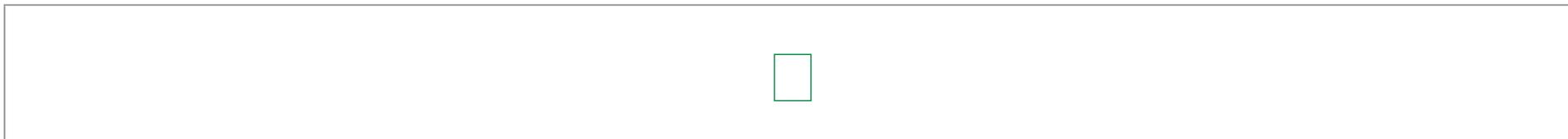
Use this Worksheet to compute those indicator values as required in Part I, Table G to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the program will be aggregated and reported at any time during the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Completed and added as a separate document.

ANNEX: Project Taxonomy Worksheet

Use this Worksheet to list down the taxonomic information required under Part1 by ticking the most relevant keywords/topics//themes that best describes the project

Completed and added as a separate document.



Submitted to GEF Secretariat Review

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