



## **Part I: Project Information**

### **GEF ID**

10874

### **Project Type**

FSP

### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

### **CBIT/NGI**

CBIT **No**

NGI **No**

### **Project Title**

Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in the Day and Mabla Mountains

### **Countries**

Djibouti

### **Agency(ies)**

UNDP

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

Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development, Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development

### **Executing Partner Type**

Government

### **GEF Focal Area**

Multi Focal Area

### **Sector**

### **Taxonomy**

Forest, Drylands, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Food Security, Land Degradation, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Forest, Focal Areas, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Private Sector, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Gender Equality, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Biomes, Tropical Dry Forests, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Pasture Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Income Generating Activities, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Least Developed Countries, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Climate resilience, Community-based adaptation, Livelihoods, Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Communications, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Education, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Consultation, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

No Contribution 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Significant Objective 1

**Biodiversity**

Significant Objective 1

**Land Degradation**

Principal Objective 2

**Submission Date**

6/23/2023

**Expected Implementation Start**

3/1/2024

**Expected Completion Date**

2/28/2029

**Duration**

72In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

310,558.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
BD-2-7	Improving Financial Sustainability, Effective Management, and Ecosystem Coverage of the Global Protected Area Estate	GET	902,837.00	3,060,000.00
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	GET	2,366,191.00	7,000,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>3,269,028.00</b>	<b>10,060,000.00</b>

## **B. Project description summary**

### **Project Objective**

To protect and restore biodiversity, forests and ecosystem functions and enhance the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the degraded mountain landscapes in Djibouti.

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Financi ng Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Tru st Fu nd</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing (\$)</b>	<b>Confirme d Co- Financing (\$)</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 1) Enhance the PA terrestrial sub-system's operational framework and emplace management in Day Forest National Park	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1) Enhanced PA terrestrial sub-system management capacity and finance  Outcome 1.2) Increased management effectiveness in 11,000ha of terrestrial PAs	Output 1.1) National Terrestrial PA regulatory and planning frameworks developed  Output 1.2) Domestic finance for the planning and management of the national terrestrial PA sub-system is sought increased  Output 1.3) PA demarcated on the ground by staff of DEDD and communities  Output 1.4) PA management enhanced to ensure at basic operations and management in collaboration with community cooperatives, including those led by women and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment  Output 1.5) PA management training workshops held for DEDD staff, local ecoguards and locally-led	GE T	736,589.00	2,375,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
			land and water user management committees, ensuring strong, if not equal, female participation			



Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 2) Safeguarding and rehabilitation of rangeland and forest ecosystem through collaborative SLM	Investment	<p>Outcome 2.1) Concerted Land Use Planning (LUP) and SLM practices applied across the Day Forest Wider Landscapes</p> <p><i>(totaling 29,000 ha and including 11,000 ha in PA land use) for: (i) recuperating native forests in critical areas within the PA (100 ha) and (ii) restoring/rehabilitating vegetation cover, ecosystem function and productivity in degraded pastures and rangelands within the Landscapes (area estimated at 18,000 ha)</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.2) Improved livelihoods and benefits for local population living and sustainably using the Day Forest Wider Landscapes, women included</p>	<p>Output 2.1) Participatory landscape management committees established</p> <p>Output 2.2) Land Use Planning (LUP) prepared in a gender-sensitive and participatory manner as Integrated PA &amp; watershed/landscape management plans are adopted by communities and regulating authorities</p> <p>Output 2.3) Community-based, gender-sensitive sustainable grazing agreements are adopted to enhance natural regeneration</p> <p>Output 2.4) The operationalization of various applicable gender-sensitive SLM techniques on the ground is supported for the benefit of communities living in the Day Forest area, including</p>	GE T	1,831,580.00	6,650,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
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among them women

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 3A) Knowledge Management, Safeguards and Gender	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3.1) All safeguards standards met throughout project</p> <p>Outcome 3.3) Knowledge Management and Outreach ensured for gender-sensitive and evidence-based decision-making and scaling up of best practices</p>	<p>Output 3.1) Training provided to key stakeholders in DEDD, Ministry of Agriculture, and participating NGOs on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements</p> <p>Output 3.2) Gender equity and women empowerment issues are mainstreamed into project implementation activities and indicators, and monitored based on the Gender Action Plan (developed in PPG phase)</p> <p>Output 3.4) Knowledge Management Plan developed and implemented</p> <p>Output 3.5) Effective dissemination and mutual sharing of best practices and lessons learned for regional and</p>	GE T	373,080.00	190,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
			national stakeholders, including women facilitated and documented			
Component 3B) M&E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.2) M&E duly implemented	Output 3.3) M&E products (MTR, TE, PIRs) prepared with all tracking tools, core indicators and other indicators duly assessed with adaptive management practices incorporated	GET	172,481.00	
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>3,113,730.00</b>	<b>9,215,000.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
			GET			845,000.00
			<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>155,298.00</b>		<b>845,000.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>				<b>3,269,028.00</b>		<b>10,060,000.00</b>

Please provide justification

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

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	MEDD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,560,000.00
Recipient Country Government	MAEPE-RH (Directions Elevage, Forets, Agriculture)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Donor Agency	World Bank	Other	Investment mobilized	4,500,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>10,060,000.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

The World Bank is financing the Social Protection Emergency Crisis Response through an Investment Project Financing mechanism to the government of Djibouti. The bank will co-finance the project with an amount of USD 4,500,000 through its interventions contributing to enhanced livelihood, financial inclusion, cash-for-work for emergency and recovery leading to strengthened resilience of vulnerable populations in the Tadjourah region including Day Forest area. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), through its budget, will contribute to the co-financing of the administration of the project. The co-financing budget will cover the salaries of the National Project Director (NPD), monitoring missions, office space, project meeting costs, utilities of the PMSU, the intersectoral coordination, the follow-up of the actions planned by the project and the contribution of the beneficiary communities. The amount is USD 2,560,000 (details in the table below). The Ministry of Agriculture will support the project through its e sector experts and technicians who will work alongside the project staff, MEDD and the short-term consultants funded by the project. The Ministry of Agriculture technical staff, particularly from the Directorates of livestock, forests and agriculture will be involved in the implementation and monitoring of the project interventions mainly the water mobilization, reforestation and livelihood development activities during the life of the project, mobilization of the Ministry of Agriculture's regional staff and focal points and facilities, and the community groups.

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNDP	GET	Djibouti	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	902,837	85,770	988,607.00
UNDP	GET	Djibouti	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,366,191	224,788	2,590,979.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>3,269,028.00</b>	<b>310,558.00</b>	<b>3,579,586.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

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

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

125,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

11,875

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNDP	GET	Djibouti	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	25,000	2,375	<b>27,375.00</b>
UNDP	GET	Djibouti	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	100,000	9,500	<b>109,500.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>125,000.00</b>	<b>11,875.00</b>	<b>136,875.00</b>



## Core Indicators

### Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	11,000.00	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	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

### 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)
10,000.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A 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)
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>		6,000.00	11,000.00					

Name of the Protected Area	WDA 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)
Mabla Forest			4,000.00	0.00					

**Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration**

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

**Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200.00	100.00		

**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration**

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
14000.00	18000.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	1,000.00		

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations**

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
14,000.00	17,000.00		

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

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

**Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported**

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

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

Title Submitted

**Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments**

	<b>Number (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at TE)</b>
<b>Female</b>	2,000	500		
<b>Male</b>	2,000	500		
<b>Total</b>	4000	1000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Note on CI1): ?The area for a potential National Park in Day Forest is now estimated between 10,000 and 11,000 ha (the latter was considered for Core Indicator purposes). The proposed polygon for Day Forest National Park (yet to be created) corresponds approximately to the National Park that there existed during the French colonial times, and as assessed from old maps and literature ? albeit with imprecision. ?Unlike what had been reported for CI1 at PIF stage, UNDP is no longer reporting the area of Mabla Forest under Core Indicator 1. This is because there were doubts about the conservation value of Mabla Forest during the PPG (see e.g. PRODOC Figure 2, which shows the average biomass per unit area in both sites.). In addition, the viability of having the project operate on both Day Forest and Mable forest sites was questionable from a cost-effectiveness point of view. Therefore, decision was made, in full consultation with the government, to have a differentiated approach to Mabla and concentrate efforts in Day Forest. Note on CI3): ?The area that are proposed for restoration needs to be kept modest and focused. At PIF stage the proposed target was 200 ha (half in Mabla and half in Day) were later considered overly ambitions. ?During the PPG, some potential perimeters for ecosystem rehabilitation were indicatively proposed, but more like zones where these activities can take place, rather than a firm target. ?Currently a comprehensive forest assessment and mapping for both Day and Mabla are missing. One such study is planned for the project?s year 1 (Activity 1.1.1) and noting that it could not be conducted during the PPG because of it expected scope and budget. ?For now a target of 100 ha for CI2 is considered adequate by subject matter experts. Note on CI4): ?The area proposed for CI4 corresponds with level of approximation to the Day Forest Wider landscape, which has 29,000 ha less the area of 11,000 ha that corresponds to the PA (reported under CI1) ? hence 18,000 ha. ?Refer to PRODOC Figure 2 for a more information on the polygons. The figure is reproduced further down in the CEO Endorsement Request PART II, section 1a-1. Note on CI11): ?At PIF stage, the number of beneficiaries suggested reached 4,000 (50% women; 50% men) and by also suggesting that 2,000 people would correspond to beneficiaries in Day Forest and the other 2,000 in Mabla Forest. ?During the PPG, these estimates proved to be quite unrealistic. ?To start with, the notional area for Mabla Forest, which has some 20,000 ha and very few access roads is sparsely populated, likely with some 500 people living within the mentioned polygon. ?For

Day Forest, a thorough assessment of the number of households was conducted during the PPG. It concluded that "The [Day Forest] area supports 350 households (~1750 people) who have approximately 1000 livestock (largely goats and sheep, followed by cows, and a small number of mules and camels)." "Therefore, proposing that the present GEF project targets 1000 people in Day Forest area is considered adequate.

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

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

#### The Global Environmental Problem

Djibouti is a dryland coastal country in the Horn of Africa with a total land area of 23,180 sq km and home to a population of 976,143 people, two thirds of which live in Djibouti City. The climate is predominantly arid, with pockets of semi-arid landscapes, with very limited arable land available (0.1-0.5% of the land surface). Most of the rural population depend therefore on livestock rearing. Djibouti is a member of the regional body Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Although Djibouti is relatively stable from a political point of view, the country faces nonetheless similar economic and environmental challenges to those of other countries in the Horn of Africa and throughout the Sahel. Those challenges are, among others: economic development that is unsustainable and inequitable; declining food security and loss biodiversity due to severe exposure to land degradation and desertification?phenomena to which significant overgrazing exacerbated by climate variability and change are important contributors. Also, Djibouti has limited technical and financial capacity to adapt to climate change and to fight the effects of land degradation.

In Djibouti, land degradation and desertification are one of the most serious environmental issues affecting the country, and it has resulted in dramatically decreased food security and limited livelihood opportunities for the population. It also means that several unique ecosystems and species are under severe threat. In this light, land degradation, loss of ecosystem services and of biodiversity are interconnected problems in Djibouti (see e.g. [PRODOC Box 1 ? reproduced here --](#) for an intertwined threat analysis).

*For additional information background information on Djibouti's National Context, refer to [PRODOC Annex 19.1](#).*

The Goda and Mabla mountains in north central Djibouti are a prime example of the extent of land degradation in the country with resulting impacts on biodiversity, land-based ecosystem services and on local livelihoods. Both are priorities for conservation ([PRODOC Figure 1 ? reproduced here](#)), but there has been limited conservation action in the sites.

The Day Forest (the country's first declared national park<sup>[2]</sup><sup>1</sup>) is an ancient *Juniperus procera* upper elevation forest. This forest once covered a much larger area but was gradually reduced over a long period, including through the effects of pastoral fires (18th century) and a nearby volcanic eruption in 1862. Based on a survey of living trees and past relics, it is believed that the Day Forest stretched over 7,500 ha two centuries ago, and was still 2,300 ha in 1949. By 2010, the Day Forest was reduced to 1,055 hectares of which 380 ha were degraded<sup>[3]</sup><sup>2</sup>. The final drastic reduction in size came 10-12 years ago when a sudden and rapid die-off of the *Juniperus procera* occurred. While a peer reviewed study of the cause of the forest death has not been published, anecdotal evidence and unpublished research suggest the death may have been caused by an outbreak of *Pyrofomes demidoffii*, a type of heart rot fungus that also forms mushrooms on the outside of the trees. The remaining 100-200 hectares of forest in Day exist primarily in isolated ravines and other terrain difficult to access by humans or animals.

East from the towns of Day and Airolaf, the local topography includes funnel-shaped watersheds with intermittent waterways running in the southeast direction towards the sea. This makes the Day Forest area a unique cloud forest, capable of absorbing and transporting moisture from the air and, under ideal conditions, retaining moisture in the landscape. These bio-geographical features stress the site's importance, both from a sustainable land use management perspective and from a biodiversity conservation one. Additionally, important settlements with reasonable accessibility are located in the plateaus overseeing the Day Forest and can potentially sustain some ecotourism activities.

The Day Forest National Park and the adjacent forest patches in the Mabla and Goda mountains support important biodiversity<sup>[4]</sup><sup>3</sup>, as well as scattered settlements of agro-pastoral communities, predominantly of Afar people. The Day Forest and the surrounding area are home to several native species. Most of them have unknown conservation status but are suspected to be critical. One of these is the endemic pheasant Djibouti Francolin (*Pternistis ochropectus*), a Djiboutian national symbol and an IUCN-classified critically endangered species. Another is the native snake *Platyceps afarensis*, named after the Afar people of this part of the country. This snake is listed as 'data deficient' in the IUCN red list.

The Afar people were once nomadic pastoralists but have gradually become sedentary in the past decades due to government incentives to give them better access to schools and healthcare. These populations live in poverty, and their primary livelihoods are still as herders. However, because the populations have grown over the decades, live in concentrated villages, and have herds that are now less mobile, the surrounding landscape has lost significant vegetative cover, due to overgrazing. This overgrazing has resulted in compacted soil, major erosion, and a presumed decrease in soil cover quality. In some areas, it has also opened the way for invasive species to take over, most notably plants of *Prosopis* spp., which thus far have been confined to lower altitudes in the Djibouti coastal plain.

In 2004, legislation was passed on the establishment of Djibouti's National Protected Area network, which consists of seven marine protected areas (MPAs) and four terrestrial sites. Those were designated by law as 'Protected Areas' (with reference to 'Loi n°45 AN/04/5' me?) but were never managed as a cohesive system of protected areas. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for managing the country's protected areas (PAs) and together with the Ministry of Agriculture, they govern land use. The former has recently created a specialized Unit for Protected Area Management (UGPA), which is already

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managing the country's seven marine protected areas (MPAs) ? sites that have historically benefitted from GEF projects. For consolidating terrestrial PAs, there are still legal and operational gaps, as well as limited experience with managing these sites, including within wider multi-use landscapes.

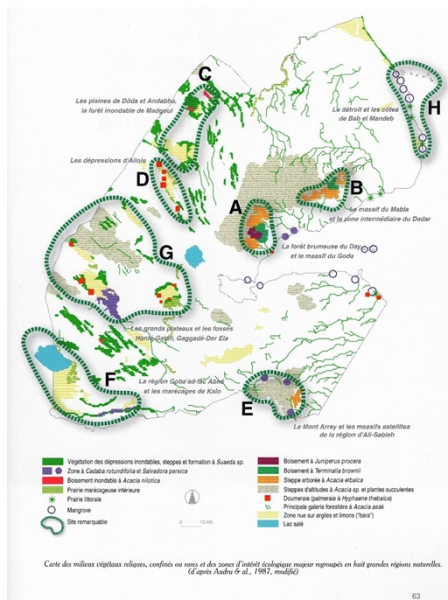
Given Djibouti's limited land area and the prevailing grazing pressure on scarce land resources, any strategy for addressing the combined land degradation and biodiversity challenges in the country must be developed by considering the existing baseline interventions on the ground and by learning lessons from previous programs related to land use.

In [PRODOC Annex 19.2](#), a thorough analysis of Lessons Learned and Baseline Initiatives has been prepared, complementing information collected during the PIF stage with an up-to-date baseline finance assessment.

### Project Justification

Most of the land in Djibouti is classified as "baren / sparse vegetation" (86%), according to international classifications<sup>7</sup>, and only 0.01% includes tree cover. **Forests in Djibouti** (i.e., tree covered areas in the national context) are rare but they play an important role in maintaining ecosystems' functions, fighting the effects of land degradation and sustaining biodiversity. They are both a priority for conservation ([PRODOC Figure 1 ? reproduced here](#)) and sustainable land management (SLM), to the extent that these areas sustain unique habitats and at the same time help retain moisture in the soil.

### PRODOC Figure 1. Map of relict plant ecosystems and areas of major ecological interest

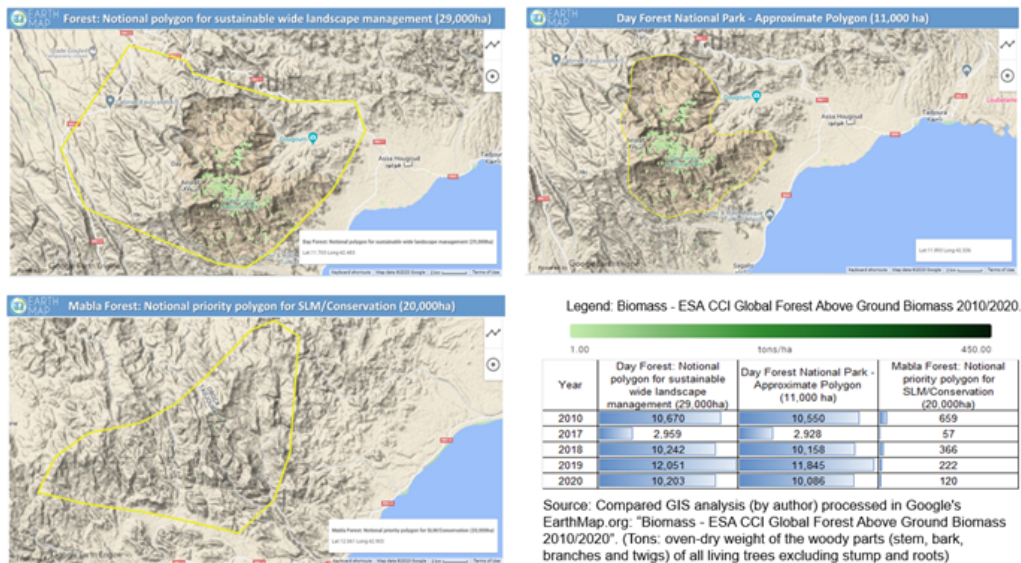




It is estimated that there are/were 2,000 ha of forests and 68,000 ha of open woodlands in Djibouti (PRODOC Figure 1 ? reproduced here), although up-to-date and downscaled assessments are missing. Forests and woodland areas include: rare and localized forests of East Africa Juniper *Juniperus procera* found on the high Goda/Day and Mabla Mountains; *Buxus hildebrandtii* and *Terminalia brownii* stands found on the high Goda/Day and Mabla Mountains, but also in lower highland areas; isolated stands of Doum Palm (*Hyphaene thebaica*) in riverine areas of central and western parts of the country; floodplain *Acacia nilotica* woodlands around Magdoul, Andaba and Guinibad; steppe *Acacia etbaica* woodlands in a few suitable locations; and further open *Acacia* woodlands and bushlands across the interior arid and semi-arid lands.

Forests / Tree covered areas also concentrate most of above-ground biomass within landscapes ? as shown in PRODOC Figure 2, reproduced here. The figure highlights that there is much more tree cover in Day Forest than in the Mabla polygons. It also shows that in Day Forest, the tree cover area is restricted to an area of approximately 10,000 ? 11,000 hectares, which could form the basis for demarcating the Day Forest National Park.

**PRODOC Figure 2. Three polygons containing forests/tree cover: Compared GIS analysis of Above Ground Biomass**



**Project sites**

The Day Forest, and to a less extent Mabla Forest, contain Djibouti's last vestiges of denser forest, harboring most of the country's terrestrial biodiversity. They are two of the seven BirdLife Important Bird Areas in the country[1]4. They are both proposed as project sites to be consolidated as areas that enjoy legal protection, followed by management and zoning plans developed. This will build on legislation that initially proclaimed these two sites as protected areas but would require more specific regulations for regulating land use, which has to date not yet been developed. Priority will be given to

the Day Forest site in this project. The conservation value of Mabla Forest site still needs to be determined through detailed studies on the ground, as not much is known about the sites' resources.

Actions to govern the land use in the proposed sites will build on legislation that initially proclaimed these two sites in 2004 as protected areas. For creating them as protected areas and for regulating land use more broadly, specific regulations are needed. These have to date not yet been developed. Evidence points to the fact that Day Forest is much more important than Mabla from a conservation point of view. The former (Day) is therefore considered a primary site[2]. Activities on the ground that promote SLM practices will also be primarily focused on the Day Forest site, in particular until a thorough assessment and mapping and resources has been conducted ? which is foreseen as a one of the first project activities.

For additional information background information on Day Forest and Mabla Forest, refer to [PRODOC Annex 19.1.2 > Characteristics of Project Sites](#).

#### Specific threats to ecosystem services and biodiversity affecting project sites

Until a few decades ago, the Day Forest used to be covered in clouds and dangling lichen epiphytes in the rainy season. Indeed, Juniper trees are very effective harvesters of cloud humidity ? adding between 25-56% of precipitation to actual annual rainfall. Today in contrast, the forest consists mostly of dead *Juniper* skeletons with dried up lichens and bare topsoil between them, lacking vegetation cover able to capture, withhold and regulate humidity and water flows. High mortality is accentuated on exposed slopes, while in gulleys healthier individuals remain. The degradation of the forest affects all characteristic woody species (*Juniperus procera*, *Olea Africana*, *Ficus vasta*, *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*, and *Buxus hildebrandtii*) and can be related to i) the recurring recent severe droughts, ii) the effect of a parasitic fungus (*Armillaria* sp.) in *Juniperus*, likely a consequence of water stress / weakened resistance; iii) pruning and logging (ongoing despite the forest's vulnerability and the legal requirement to control and regulate tree cutting in PAs), and especially decades of over-grazing that intensified in recent drought periods.

Because the Day Forest held some of the last green livestock fodder in the entire region it was opened to unrestrained exploitation after in many parts of the country fodder scarcity caused a breakdown of traditional rangelands grazing control systems. The Day Forest was previously used as part of a traditional rangeland management system that partitioned the Day Forest and the outlying plateaus for use by specific type of livestock in particular seasons. The Day was the ultimate refuge for cattle (only) during the summer period, when other rangelands dried up. Camels and goats had been prohibited from grazing in Day Forest range to avoid the destruction of the tree crowns and grass respectively. However, the recurrent prolonged droughts that have occurred in the last 10-20 years led to a loss of this control system. This resulted in severe overgrazing of most of the forest and herbaceous cover to a point that there was virtually no undergrowth in these habitats with very low natural regeneration. It has been shown that grazing activities exceed carrying capacities in many parts of the country leading to severe losses of the vegetation cover. Furthermore, cutting for livestock and firewood has led to the progressive eradication of *Acacia etbaica*.

The degradation and regression of Day Forest represents a major loss for biodiversity and the human populations that depend on it. Moreover, it undermines the value of the Goda Massif watershed, a key watershed in the country, upon which communities living in its surroundings and beyond depend; Local populations have seen the water tables at both the top and the foot of the Goda Massif dry up and flash floods become more intense and frequent when it rains.

The amount of water stored in the soil depends on soil conditions and the herbaceous and forest cover of the watershed. Without ground vegetation, land is eroded, and rainwater flows over the hardened surface of the ground without seeping in and recharging groundwater. Under the effect of excessive grazing and trampling, land cleared of its ground vegetation becomes even more vulnerable to soil erosion, notably during heavy rains that strip the soil, at the same time taking away the seeds it contains. Plant growth observed along the stone lines built on the Day certainly in past projects reflects the retention of soil and moisture, but also the capture of seeds washed away by rains. This might explain that regrowth is mostly limited to a rather narrow strip along stone lines.

## Summary of threats

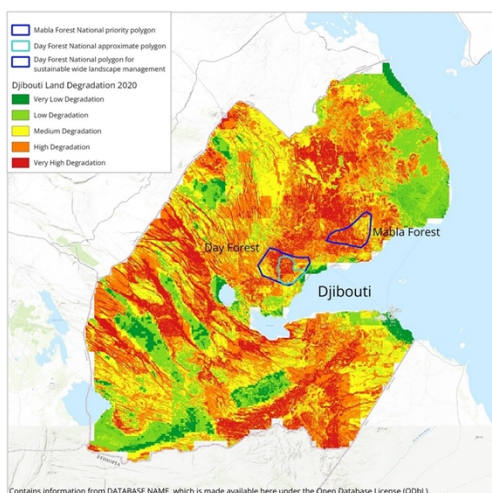
The existing threats embedded in the above narrative that are relevant for the project and target areas, can be summarized as follows:

- Loss/degradation of ground vegetation/forest remnants/biodiversity/ecosystem services from overgrazing (inadequate grazing regimes and/or excessive livestock numbers)
- Loss/degradation of (open) forest habitats/biodiversity/ecosystem services from pruning and cutting (fodder, timber, firewood, charcoal-making)
- Recent climate trends: dry spells, droughts and dropping water tables harm/kill ground vegetation and trees
- Loss/degradation of soils from wind and water erosion due to flash floods
- Reduced water infiltration and groundwater storage
- Over-extraction of groundwater resources by wells at the top and foot of the watershed (Day)
- *Armillaria* parasitic fungus killing Juniper trees
- Rural communities exposed to poverty / land degradation nexus

As land degradation advances, the threats to biodiversity will intensify. The additional threats from climate change are also relevant. [PRODOC Box 1 ? reproduced here --](#) provides a holistic threat analysis for Djibouti.

The map in [PRODOC Figure 3](#) (below) illustrates the extent of land degradation in project sites. The additional threats from climate change are also relevant.

**PRODOC Figure 3. Recent Land Degradation assessment showing the three polygons on focus in the project: Day Forest core site, Day Forest Wider Landscape and Mabla Forest notional polygon**



**PRODOC BOX 1. Intertwined causal analysis of biodiversity loss and land degradation, plus the expected impacts of climate change on terrestrial ecosystems**

*Causal analysis, including climatic, of land degradation and loss of terrestrial biodiversity in Djibouti*

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**The most prominent threats to biodiversity and land-based ecosystem services:**

Among all the threats mentioned in this Box, overgrazing stands out as a particularly significant issue for Djibouti. Given the country's predominantly arid and semi-arid landscapes and its dependence on pastoralism, the pressures from overgrazing are intensified, leading to the loss of soil productive capacity and to impacts on biodiversity. Climate variability and change are also relevant as factors that are expected to greatly exacerbate land degradation and desertification trends.

**Causes of Land Degradation:**

? *Overgrazing:* The pastoralist nature of communities in Djibouti has led to excessive grazing. Overgrazing weakens grasses and other vegetation, leading to decreased soil stability and increased

erosion. Depending on the season and on the pasture / rangelands carrying capacity, excessive grazing can be devastating and the number one cause of land degradation in inland areas of Djibouti.

? *Loss of tree cover:* (deforestation and forest / woodland degradation) Trees are mostly cut down for timber and charcoal production. This results in the loss of root systems that stabilize the soil and increased vulnerability to wind and water erosion.

? *Unsustainable agricultural practices:* Unsustainable methods of farming and inadequate use of water resources can deplete soil nutrients and cause erosion, leading to land degradation.

? *Climate change:* Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns can lead to decreased soil moisture, enhancing desertification processes.

### **Causes of Biodiversity Loss:**

? *Habitat Loss:* Unsustainable land uses lead to habitat change and loss, and it can potentially drive rare species to extinction. The shrinking habitats of *Juniperus procera* is an example.

? *Climate Change:* Altered climatic conditions can make habitats unsuitable for certain species, leading to range shifts or extinctions, although it is difficult to predict which and how.

? *Overharvesting:* Overhunting of terrestrial fauna and excessive tree cutting can lead to reductions in species populations or even extinctions. Declining trends for *Acacia etbaica* are an example.

? *Invasive Species:* The introduction and spread of non-native species can outcompete, predominate, and reduce native biodiversity. The spread of *Prosopis* spp. has been associated with overgrazing.

? *Pollution:* Although a less intense threat in inland areas, given that population pressure is lower and industrial mining rare, discharge of both industrial and household waste can potentially pollute land and water resources, affecting plant and animal life.

### **Biophysical Processes Involved:**

? *Loss of topsoil (excessive soil erosion):* The removal of vegetation cover through overgrazing and deforestation exposes the soil to both wind and water erosion.

? *Soil Salinization:* Inadequate water management, especially in agricultural practices, can lead to the accumulation of salts in the soil, reducing its fertility.

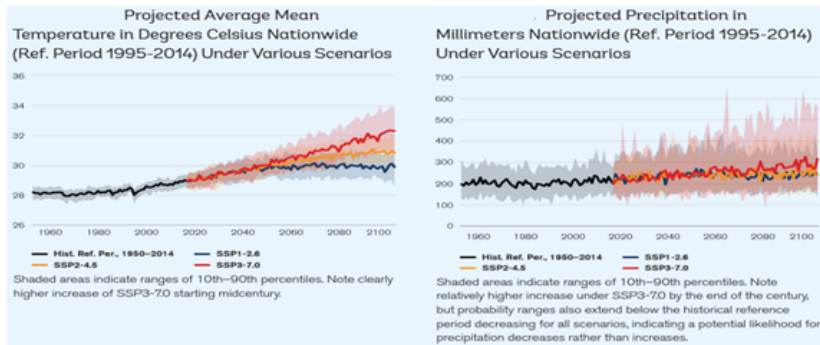
? *Alteration of Water Cycles:* Land degradation, especially deforestation, can alter local water cycles, leading to reduced rainfall and increased evaporation rates.

? *Decreased Biomass at the Landscape Level (Desertification):* The combined effects of reduced vegetation cover, soil erosion, and climate change can transform productive lands into deserts.

? *Habitat Fragmentation:* Land degradation often leads to fragmented habitats, which can isolate populations of species, reducing their genetic diversity and resilience.

### Climate Change Scenarios and Expected Impacts on Land-based Resources:

A key source of downscaled climate change scenarios for Djibouti is the [WB's Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#), including Djibouti Climate Risk Country Profile (2023), cited here and it is also the source for the figure below:



The main climate change trends for terrestrial areas in Djibouti can be thus summarized:

? *Temperature and Extreme Heat:* Under SSP3-7.0, Djibouti's temperatures are homogeneously projected to increase, especially in the interior. By midcentury, Djibouti's population is likely to experience greater extreme heat risk, but the characteristics and pace of these changes will vary between coastal and inland areas ? the latter will be more harshly affected.

? *Projected precipitation patterns:* under SSP3-7.0 nationally signal annual increases by midcentury, but divergent seasonal and regional shifts with a wide range of uncertainty.

? *Extreme Precipitation Events:* By midcentury, Djibouti is likely to more frequently experience extreme precipitation event occurrence, but there is still uncertainty over the rates of change of future return periods at the subnational level. For mountainous areas, extreme precipitation events can have a devastating effect on topsoil and recovering vegetation.

To address the above-described challenges and build on recent initiatives, the long-term solution proposed by this project is to emplace a multi-focal initiative for the conservation and restoration of important ecosystems and ecosystem functions in degraded pastoral and forest landscapes in Djibouti. Before ?unpacking? this solution through the proposed Theory of Change for the project ([Annex 3](#)), it is important to understand the current status quo of land use and support for more sustainable practices.

### 2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects:

For a structured list of current baseline finance interventions refer to the following tables in [PRODOC Annex 19.2](#):

[PRODOC Table 7. Donor funded baseline finance initiatives \(summary information\) including interventions proposed as co-financing from the baseline](#)

### **Land use management, land tenure and SLM**

Livestock resources are very important in Djibouti, with approximately 60% of the population depending on it as a source of livelihood. It is estimated that the livestock population includes 1 million head of sheep and goats and 300,000 cattle in the entire country. According to FAOSTAT, this population has been stable for the past 20+ years.[1] This seems to indicate that the problem of overgrazing, which results in land degradation, is likely linked to the land's carrying capacity in specific locations. This means that it matters where and when grazing happens, with what intensity, and if land resources in specific locations are sufficient to sustain the grazing pressure. It also means that the project's main environmental problem can be addressed through improved management of land use and improved resource allocation. It also requires interventions by several stakeholders, including land users themselves and those who regulate and govern land use.

In rural areas, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock and Fishing Resources (MAEPERH ? *Minist?re de l'Agriculture, de l'Eau, de la P?che, de l'Elevage et des Ressources Halieutiques*) is the most important government entity for regulating land use, followed by local government. MAEPERH houses the focal point for the UNCCD and has implemented various programs for promoting SLM practices, including those that involve livestock, land and water resources. The problem of land degradation is very well known by technical staff at the Ministry, who also hold the institutional memory of what has produced results and what has not.

Djibouti's National Action Program for the fight against Desertification (the UNCCD's NAP 2000) listed e.g., several SLM techniques, which had been implemented in Djibouti and evaluated over long periods of time. They include *inter alia*:

- ? Use of gabions for stabilizing land susceptible to erosion
- ? Rational development and use of water resources, which implies development of water capture and irrigation infrastructure.
- ? Installation of windbreaks
- ? Cultivation of foraging plants in local homesteads, to decrease the pressure on degraded rangelands
- ? Sylvo-pastoral projects, which have previously tried different reforestation techniques and promoted a more rational use of grazing resources
- ? Various types of 'soil & water' integrated management.

Many of the above-listed practices tend to work with varying degrees of effectiveness and according to location and context. However, they also tend to be costly and have historically depended on project finance for being implemented. They are therefore rarely sustained, unless heavily subsidized.

The MAEPERH also engages at the local level with herders in an effort to fight land degradation that overgrazing tends to cause. Where applicable, discussions are held between the pastoral communities and representatives from MAEPERH in an attempt to propose adjustments to livestock roaming paths in advance of the rainy season. In practice, pastoral practices tend to follow their own logic and herders are

quite numerous across the country. Therefore, decisions on land use are made locally and seasonally with little interference from State actors. During years of drought, the hardships faced by herders tend to multiply, while grazing and water resources are scarce.

For successfully managing land use, it is important to consider land tenure frameworks. In Djibouti, these are characterized by a juxtaposition of systems. There are formalized land ownership, leaseholds and concessions on the one hand, regulated by laws and enforced to a great extent. On the other, there are customary rights, held by some communities in rural areas, which are recognized and respected locally, but not always formally documented or acknowledged by the government. In practice, the State owns a significant portion of the land, especially in urban areas. As for rangelands (areas where livestock can graze on a seasonal basis), the areas are generally regarded as an open access resource, but with traditionally established roaming paths.

Numerous restoration projects have aimed at reversing Djibouti's degradation trend by working on forest community-based set-asides and livestock enclosures. A large IFAD GEF project that ended in 2013/4 (the PROMES-GDT project<sup>[2]</sup>) made major investments for water and soil retention. There are reports that the project gave good results on water security and soil/water conservation, including in areas near Day Forest, but not in the forest itself.

The PROMES-GDT and other projects made some investments in the regeneration of Juniper and other vegetation. However, protective measures and their effects were not sustainable due to the loss of traditional management systems, degradation of rangelands and consequent lack of alternative options for feeding the livestock during the sustained droughts.

A more recent IFAD intervention—the PROGRES Project (2016-2024)—is being implemented now in partnership with the WFP in more or less the same sites as the now closed PROMES-GDT. It counts on co-financing from the Adaptation Fund and the government.

No project to date ever proposed an integrated watershed planning approach together with the actual operationalization of the long-standing PA status of the forest, coupled with adequate enforcement of access regulations and better incentives to foster local communities' stewardship of resources in the long term.

### **Biodiversity, protected areas and information management**

The Day Forest was the first PA to be designated in Djibouti, in 1939, as a National Park. In 2004, Law 45/AN/04/5eL on the *Creation of Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas*<sup>18</sup> re-gazetted Day Forest as a national PA. The law also created 3 further terrestrial and 3 marine PAs. Article 7 stated that the 'exact limits of the PAs and their management modality [would] be detailed via regulation'. These have however not yet been prepared. In 2011, a further two terrestrial PAs were added by Decree 0236/PR/MHUE on the *Creation of two terrestrial protected areas*<sup>19</sup>. [PRODOC Table 1 \(reproduced here\)](#) lists the current PA system, which falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD - *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable*).



**PRODOC Table 1. Djibouti's Current PA estate according to Law 45/AN/04/5th on the Creation of Terrestrial and Marine PAs and other legal frameworks**

PA name	Type	Law / Year of designation	Area (ha)
1. Day Forest	Terrestrial	1939 / PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law [a]
2. Mabla Forest	Terrestrial	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law [b]
3. Lake Abh?	Terrestrial	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law
4. Lake Assal	Terrestrial	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law
5. Haramous	Marine/Coastal	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law. Delimitation and area being formalized under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)
6. Musha-Maskhali Islands	Marine/Coastal	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law. Delimitation and area being formalized under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)
7. Sept Freres Islands with Ras Syan, Khor Angar and the Godoria mangroves forest	Marine/Coastal	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law. Delimitation and area being formalized under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)
8. The Addaoua Bourale mountain range near the village of Assamo.	Terrestrial	Decree 2011	1,500 ha. <i>Le site d'Assamo correspond au massif montagneux d'Addaoua Bourale situ? ? proximit? de la localit? d'Assamo, le long de la piste d'Ali Add?, et correspondant ? la zone incluse entre les coordonn?es GPS suivantes : N 11?01'48; E 42?51'71 N 11?00'90; E 42?53'51 N 10?58'99; E 42?51'48 N 10?58'45; E 42?52'88. Le p?rim?tre est d'environ 16 km? ou 1500 hectares.</i>

PA name	Type	Law / Year of designation	Area (ha)
9. Djal?lo Valley	Terrestrial	Decree 2011	4,500 ha. <i>Le Site de Djal?lo correspond ? la zone montagneuse en r?gion de Bour Ougoul, entre le Petit Bara et Holl-Holl et correspondant ? la zone incluse entre les coordonn?es GPS suivantes : N 11?23'13; E 42?46'53 N 11?23'12; E 42?51'21 N 11?20'23; E 42?46'28 N 11?20'03; E 42?50'45. Le p?rim?tre est d'environ 28 km soit une superficie de 45 km<sup>2</sup> ou 4500 hectares.</i>
10. Douda Nature Reserve	Terrestrial	Decree 206/PR/MB of 2014	A semi-natural wildlife refuge / zoo near Djibouti capital[1]
11. New marine/coastal PAs (Arta Plage, Ghoubet, Sables Blancs, etc.)	Marine/Coastal	Gazettement planned for many years, underway under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)	Delimitation and area being formalized under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)

**Notes:**

[a] The original Day Park, created during the colonial times, had approximately 11,000ha. A map of the likely polygon is included in the PRODOC, in order to facilitate land use planning and GEF indicator calculus. However, studies that are planned under the project would be needed to define the actual park boundaries. [b] Mabl? forests remains a remote area, with limited accessibility and no outline for a PA can at this stage be proposed.

The 2004 PA Law specifies in Article 5 that PAs are not closed areas and that traditional livestock farming and artisanal fishing activities and ecotourism are allowed but regulated and controlled in order to preserve biodiversity. The Law prohibits the pruning or felling of any tree, picking or uprooting plants. Per Article 6, local communities must be closely involved in the management of protected areas.

With the notable exception of the Assamo and Djal?lo PAs, terrestrial PAs in Djibouti have not received much attention. The stipulation in Article 7 of the 2004 PA Law that the ?exact boundaries of the PAs and their management modus will be defined by regulations? has not been met yet, and they have not been operationalized on the ground.

A national workshop held in 2012 with the participation of a wide group of national and international experts identified conservation priorities for Djibouti's terrestrial fauna. The endemic and critically endangered Djibouti Francolin whose distribution is restricted to Day Forest and Mabla Forest was given the first conservation priority for birds. The workshop conclusions included the need for delimitation, operationalization of the country's PAs (demarcation, management planning, staffing, habitat restoration), including deployment and capacity building of ecoguards for Day Forest PA as a measure to counter illegal exploitation. The workshop recommended moreover the creation of a PA Agency and PA Fund, and the updating of the PA legal framework.

The operationalization of Djibouti's national PA System, which includes the 11 sites listed in [PRODOC Table 1 \(reproduced here\)](#), has been asymmetrical and dependent on project resources. Since 2010, two MEDD/UNDP/GEF projects (# 3713 and #9215 *Mitigating Key Sector Pressures on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Further Strengthening the National System of Marine Protected Areas in Djibouti*) have focused on the operationalization of the country's marine and coastal PAs. Djibouti has however not benefited from funding for the establishment of terrestrial PAs. In Project GEF ID #9215, this is described in the baseline section.

Over the years, Djibouti's terrestrial biodiversity has been the object of a few studies, including on birds, mammals, and flora. Such data collection has been rather discontinuous and dependent on external financing and expertise. For long, environmental data was either unavailable or not easily accessible, including for national stakeholders. In 2017, the MEDD finalized its 2<sup>nd</sup> NBSAP after the first dating back to the year 2000. In addition, with support from a UNDP/GEF cross-cutting capacity development project, the MEDD has put in place an environmental/biodiversity information management system.

The *National Environment Fund* (NEF) has in practice existed already for many years, in the form of an account of the MEDD under the Ministry of Finance. This was based on the Law #51/2009 (Environment Code), which in:

? Article 15 proclaimed ?The creation is foreseen of a National Environment Fund, which participates in the financing of the implementation of national environment policy programs. In case of pollution noted by the competent services of the Ministry in charge of the Environment or any other authorized structure, the polluter(s) is/are responsible for restoring the site. If the person responsible for the pollution is not identified, the Ministry in charge of the Environment will restore the site. In this case, the work is paid for out of the National Environment Fund.?

? Article 17 proclaimed ?Annual fees and taxes relating to classified installations [i.e., subject to EIA] are collected by authorized agents of the Ministry in charge of the Environment and paid to the National Environment Fund. They are made up of fixed duties calculated according to the classification of installations, surface taxes, taxes on steam pressure vessels, taxes on gas pressure vessels and pollution taxes. The rate and basis of the duties and taxes are defined by the Law on the National Environment Fund.?

The Law for the National Environmental Fund has not yet been developed, and the NEF's scope or mandate does not for now consider the financing of protected areas or biodiversity. Its present annual revenue is estimated at \$60,000 (10m DJF), with each EIA fee at about USD 6,000 (1m DJF) ? noting that, to date, only investments funded by foreign development banks are effectively required to conduct an EIA, and not the national private sector.

### The Long-term Solution and Barriers to be overcome

To address the above challenges and build on recent initiatives, the long-term solution proposed by this project is to emplace a cost-effective multi-focal initiative for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem functions in the key degraded pastoral and forest landscapes that are amongst the top priorities for Djibouti's terrestrial biodiversity: the Day Forest (primary site) and Mabla Forests (secondary).

This approach will combine the full gazette~~ment~~ and operationalization of the Day and Mabla Forest PAs with forest restoration and sustainable land management in the PAs and their peripheral areas and a shift to more sustainable rural livelihoods in affected local communities. For Mabla Forest, the approach to SLM and conservation will be determined by the results of a thorough study of its resources and conservation value.

**Five barriers** stand in the way of achieving the long-term solution:

#### **BARRIER 1) Gaps in institutional, legal/regulatory and financial framework for SLM, terrestrial biodiversity and PAs.**

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The key gap here refers to land use plans that would enable the sustainable management of rangelands, especially in areas where resources such as water or forests need to be protected.

Additionally, the lack of regulating decrees for defining the boundaries and buffer zones for Day Forest and Mabla Forest is an obvious gap hereunder. Once formally created through specific decrees, the PAs will still need to be zoned, studied and their management operationalized, typically through management plans.

The long overdue regulations specifying the boundaries, surface areas and management regimes of most terrestrial PAs, including Day and Mabla Forests, have not been prepared or adopted (with only two

exceptions for terrestrial PAs ? see [PRODOC Table 1, reproduced here](#)). There is no legal basis for PA local participatory management committees.

The Law for the National Environment Fund (NEF), anticipated since the 2009 Environment Code, has not yet been developed, and the NEF's scope or mandate does not for now consider the financing of protected areas or biodiversity.

At the institutional level, there are also important gaps. The recent creation of a new unit, the UGPA under the responsible Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DEDD), is encouraging and it can be built on. Yet, the UGPA is currently only managing MPAs. While the UGPA does have a legal mandate to also manage terrestrial PAs, it is currently not doing it. The Unit is not adequately staffed or equipped to do so, including through on-the-ground presence in terrestrial PAs.

There is a gap in terms of securing recurring government expenditure for maintaining UGPA and the recently trained ecoguards that ensured until now the management of MPAs on the ground. Additionally, the ongoing GEF-6 project #9215 is in the process of identifying suitable new financing mechanisms and will prepare a law to legally establish the National Environment Fund as a conduit for capturing and reinjecting revenue into the PA system; however, it will not be able to achieve the operationalization of the NEF nor emplace a specific financing mechanism (source of revenue). Underfunding of the (terrestrial) PA system at system and site levels therefore remains a key gap.

The IFAD's PROGRES project has installed 13 Local Steering Committees and the Water and Rangelands Management Committees to plan hydraulic and pastoral schemes in Dikhil, Tadjourah and Arta. However, these community-based institutions need to be reinforced with the national strategy to institutionalize the SLM approaches.

BARRIER 2) Weak technical capacity in government agencies, including for effective land use planning and presence on the ground.

While numerous promising initiatives have been proposed and implemented over the past decade(s) in Djibouti, government capacity for managing and regulating land use is still incipient. Therefore, it is difficult for technical agencies in key ministries to identify and effectively implement integrated solutions to the degradation of ecosystem services and biodiversity loss ? notably those within the agriculture, water and environment sectors. As a result, the outcome of interventions aimed at reversing ecosystem degradation and improving the situation of agro-pastoral communities vulnerable to land degradation and climate change, will often be weak, isolated and unsustainable.

There are two interconnected issues:

*First*, no attempts have been made to emplace an integrated landscape or watershed-level management plan in combination with protected area management. Beside the institutional issues mentioned hereunder, this is also due to weak technical capacity and limited adoption of results-based and adaptive approaches in the execution of interventions.

*Second*, there is insufficient and ineffective on-the-ground presence by government for managing designated PAs, threat reduction, community support and agricultural extension. Government agencies are not sufficiently present on the ground to support rural populations in their agro-pastoral activities, promote (sustainable) livelihoods, introduce better livestock management practices, and reduce natural resource and water over-exploitation. At the regional level, a head of the extension services, with the mission of coordinating governmental staff, does exist in theory, but is not effective in reality. Extension staff is limited (for instance, each sub-directorate of the MAEPE-RH has only one agricultural extension staff). The capacity of the Regional Council is limited, and it does not have the leadership capacity to coordinate stakeholders.

Additionally, the specific capacity of institutions in terms of monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management remains limited. This applies to both central and decentralized government entities. Inadequate knowledge management/dissemination on agropastoral and SLM experiences in Djibouti hampers adaptation and replication of the incipient national experience on several facets of SLM and agropastoralism.

The absence of systematic monitoring prevents capitalizing the few lessons learned that would guide users in the design of water mobilization and agropastoral/SLM projects and enable a replication at scale of successful practices. Interesting lessons are found in the Djama Guedi's farm in Dikhil, which linked an appropriate integration of livestock and farming practices and the systematic application of a variety of SLM techniques to restore soil, water and nutrients. The ongoing GEF-6 project #9599 *Sustainable management of water resources, rangelands and agro-pastoral perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi watershed* is expected to establish a knowledge platform to document lessons learnt from sustainable land management initiatives and promote the sharing and use of best practices. Once established it must be applied. In addition, this does not cover biodiversity and PA management, especially not in the terrestrial domain, where experience is still limited. International benchmarking is required but sometimes disregarded.

### **BARRIER 3) Lack of multi-stakeholder platforms for effective land use planning and integrated landscape-level management**

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Regulating land use, which also includes access control for areas that are designated for protection, involves an open dialogue with multiple stakeholders, so that land use conflicts can be addressed, and land use regulations can be implemented. Key stakeholders, including women, to be engaged would include relevant agencies, local communities, supporting civil society organizations and the private sector. This barrier specifically refers to the fact that no multi-stakeholder platforms have been created to date, where a dialogue among these key stakeholders could take place. This is also a hindrance to adequate negotiation, coordination and execution of multi-sector interventions, including those that refer to water and land use, PAs, agriculture and pastoral activities.

For example, local rural populations and communities as well as other stakeholders using the target area in project sites are generally not aware of environmental regulations (e.g., on groundwater extraction, use of forest resources), and are not compliant. While the Day and Mabila Forest PAs are designated as PAs, their PA status has not yet been formalized through a legal framework, and institutionalization of their status as PA has yet to occur. There is no awareness, therefore, of the restrictions that the management regime will bring. Any attempts at enforcing land use regulations by responsible agents will likely fail if awareness remains low.

### **BARRIER 4) Limited mastery of SLM techniques and insufficient empowered participation by local communities and women hinder innovation**

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There is a weak historical record of local participation in dealing with the particular local problems of ecosystem degradation and vulnerable livelihoods. This includes lack of participation of stakeholders in management decisions, especially at the local level. Lack of awareness and lack of proper integration of new innovations with local knowledge has resulted in limiting local willingness to participate. Moreover, development investments and other sectoral interventions continue to leave women behind, even though they could be a key advocate for more sustainable resource use given that they suffer much of the consequences from ecosystem degradation (difficulties in water and firewood collection, feeding children).

A possible explanation for BARRIER 4 is that there are cultural and capacity barriers in local communities impeding adoption of sustainable practices (adapted or advanced livestock, water and natural resource management). Traditionally, large herd sizes project a picture of prosperity and prestige in herder communities and act as a safety net for times of penury. The roaming livestock would have

open access to grazing grounds and water sources. This was used as a risk management strategy that ensured resilience during difficult times of drought and disease.

What has been observed is that traditional rangeland grazing control systems have collapsed in most areas over the last decades, with recurrent drought and sedentarization of pastoral communities contributing to it. Without a dynamic management of rangelands, pastoral practices tend towards overgrazing, which then contributes to vegetation loss and land degradation in range and forest/wood lands.

The now dire state of resources is gradually convincing herders that alternatives must be sought. Women can play a vital role in the achievement of SLM goals, if they can be sufficiently empowered to embrace new practices ? e.g., through a more intensive management approach (e.g., smaller and healthier herds in livestock enclosures with higher turnover). However, cultural norms and beliefs keep women in traditional roles that limit their possibility of realizing their full potential.

In general, semi-sedentary herders (men and women) have a low mastery of cultivation techniques (crop planting and surveillance, irrigation, fertilization). They lack the knowledge, know-how, and models, to adapt their practices on land that has lost its productive capacity and develop agropastoral farming to ensure their subsistence through agriculture and forage cropping and to sustainably manage scarce water resources. In the past years, the number of governmental initiatives and international supported projects to address this issue has grown, many with mixed results, or failing. It may be prudent then, to increasingly learn from and understand pastoralists' own strategies for managing risks presented by environmental change and variability and integrate these into modern management policies and strategies. Ultimately, sedentarization policies end up undermining pastoral livelihood strategies that are based on mobility, and which had historically shown to be resilient.

**BARRIER 5) Lack of alternative livelihood opportunities, innovations and investments in rural communities.**

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Rural communities struggle to find viable alternatives to traditional or current livelihoods, and have limited access to government extension and livelihood development schemes. Communities seek social benefits in villages (health, education, income-generating activities and employment) together with improved natural resource management. A major barrier to the adoption of improved agropastoral practices lies in the lack of affordable and adapted credits accessible to poor rural populations, especially for women. There is also a lack of access to agricultural inputs, especially in seedlings and seed varieties adapted to arid conditions and resistant to local pests and diseases.



### Baseline Policy alignment

This project is specifically aligned with:

- ? The 2022-launched Djibouti National Development Plan (Djibouti ICI).
- ?—Vision Djibouti 2035.
- ? The UNCCD National Action Program to Fight Desertification (2000) and with the Djibouti's current efforts develop its targets for Land Degradation Neutrality under the UNCCD.
- ? Djibouti's First National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP v.1, 2020) and Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP v.2, 2017) under the CBD, as well as its Sixth National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity (2019).
- ? Regional action plans for Tadjourah region.
- ? Djibouti's commitment to the Great Green Wall (GGW) of Africa Initiative.
- ? National policies, plans and strategies for the sectors of Environment, Tourism, Agriculture, Water and Climate.

Refer to more detailed information further down in [Section 7. Consistency with National Priorities](#).

### 3) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project:

#### Theory of change

A TOC diagram is included in [PRODOC Figure 4 \(reproduced here\)](#). The TOC figure needs to be read from the bottom up. The narrative behind it follows.

Building from the descriptions in Section II (Development Challenge), **the global environmental problem addressed by the project** are the impacts on terrestrial landscapes caused by advanced land degradation and forest die-out, which also results loss of biodiversity and in increased threats to rare species.

The root causes behind this problem have been analyzed in Section II, both from a land degradation (LD) and a biodiversity (BD) point of view and they are shown in the TOC's bottom part. For **LD**, root causes include *Overgrazing, Loss of tree cover, Inadequate use of scarce water resources, and Climate variability and change*. For **BD**, they include: *Insufficient protection of rare forest habitats*. These are the prevailing threats to biodiversity and land-based ecosystem services in the project sites and they have

different biophysical manifestations, respectively for BD and LD, also as graphically represented in the TOC's boxes below the core problem.

Important drivers contribute to this situation, also as noted in the TOC's bottom part (The Core Problem), most notably: ***[Driver 1]*** *Poverty, limitations to pastoral livelihoods*; and ***[Driver 2]*** *The fact that Rangelands / woodlands in Djibouti are regarded as "open resource"*. Climate change impacts constitutes ***[Driver 4]***.

Without entering into details, the TOC's graphic representation mentions that, in the **Baseline**, there are relevant interventions in place providing finance to address various development problems in the project sites, but not necessarily the global environmental problem that the project proposes to address. The description of the relevant baseline interventions is included in Section II, and the finance attached to them is accounted for in [PRODOC Annex 19.2 > \[A\] Baseline Finance Table](#).

The TOC mentions the ***Long-term Solution***: *To emplace a cost-effective multi-focal initiative for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem functions in the key degraded pastoral and forest landscapes that are amongst the top priorities for Djibouti's terrestrial biodiversity*.

Being more specific: Centuries of overgrazing combined with recent climate change has resulted in near total desertification of parts of Djibouti that were once covered in forest. Under all predicted climate models (RCP 2.6, 4.5, 6, 8.5)[2] for this area, precipitation is expected to increase, as is the predicted mean temperature (though under RCP 2.6 it would not be significant). It is unclear if the increase in temperature would cancel out any gains made through an increase in rainfall. Regardless, the climate predictions do suggest that there will be enough rain to allow plants to grow, but urgent measures can be taken to protect forest remnants, capture rainfall and retain soil moisture through e.g. permaculture-based reforestation and rangeland rehabilitation, as well as rainwater and fog catchment techniques which are the PA and SLM solutions embedded in the project strategy.

The above means the following assumption will likely remain valid and the project strategy is sufficiently resilient in the face of climate shocks formulated as follows:

**TOC's Core Climatic Assumption**) Climate shocks will not be a hindrance for sustaining GEF investments in conservation and SLM.

Concurrently, the socioeconomic and food security situations in Day are grave. The area supports 350 households (~1750 people) who have approximately 1000 livestock (largely goats and sheep, followed

by cows, and a small number of mules and camels). Both the people and the livestock are suffering from growing food insecurity due to overgrazing combined with erratic and insufficient rain.

The insufficient/irregular precipitation means home gardens and forage do not grow. The local women do weaving and basketry with palms to support their households, but even weaving can be difficult with a lack of water (for dying the palms). The population has expressed a desire to improve livelihood activities through training on improved practices, building cooperatives and accessing micro-loans. They are also interested in learning about new livelihoods (chicken raising, cheese making, honey production), and would like to revive local tourism. They currently lack the technical training and access to subsidies to kick-start these activities.

The government, including both Ministries co-financing this project, as well as the Office of the President, have prioritized Day Forest as a focal area for economic development because of its existing tourism infrastructure (sleeping huts, toilets, an eating hall, and a hotel), as well as its unique ecosystem that is home to the endangered Djiboutian Francolin, as well as the food insecurity and poverty in the area. However, the government's strategy to promote tourism in Day Forest will only have success if the area's biodiversity values can be preserved.

The objective of the proposed project is: *To protect and restore biodiversity, forests and ecosystem functions and enhance the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the degraded mountain landscapes in Djibouti.*

The TOC identified five barriers for the long-term solution to be realized (as described in Section II under 'The Long-term Solution and Barriers to be overcome?'). Each of these barriers connects with one or more project outcome in the manner shown in PRODOC Figure 4. More specifically, the barriers are addressed by Outputs and Activities under the Outcomes that they connect to, provided that four TOC assumptions remain valid. They are:

**[TOC Assumption 1]:** Project management staff will be highly motivated to see project function well despite difficulties of working in Djibouti.

**[TOC Assumption 2]** The government is willing to pursue the gazettement of Day Forest as a National Park as a priority action before investment (including in tourism) and PA operationalization.

**[TOC Assumption 3]:** The community will enclose their animals as promised and food will be provided for the animals in the enclosures.

**[TOC Assumption 4]:** Operational, technical and strategic difficulties that may be faced during implementation (respectively linked to administrative procedures, to the smooth operation and maintenance of fogharvesters and to stakeholders' understanding of the project strategy) can be overcome and will not undermine project success.

Further to this, the main TOC logic behind this proposed GEF-7 project is that:

q *If* an adequate enabling framework for improved environmental protection laws, funding and understanding of forest PAs and rangeland management is emplaced, including the necessary gazettal, demarcation and operationalization of the Day Forest National Park (**Component 1 Outcomes 1.1 and 1.2**);

q *And if* Land use planning (LUP) can be made effective to ensure forest protection, corroborated by community enforced by-laws for managing rangelands sustainably in the Day Forest Wider Landscape (**Component 2 Outcome 2.1**);

q *And if* ecosystems can be rehabilitated using SLM techniques, among them permaculture-based ecosystem-level approaches that help retain soil moisture<sup>27</sup>, including by maximizing water capture locally through several methods and techniques, such as permaculture ditches and earthen dams, underground cisterns and other built-up structures such as fogharvesters and rooftop rainwater catchment systems (**Component 2 Outcome 2.2**); ?

q *Then* this unique ecosystem can begin to recover, and will over time continue to naturally regenerate, generating multiple global environmental benefits.

q The project objective will then be achieved.

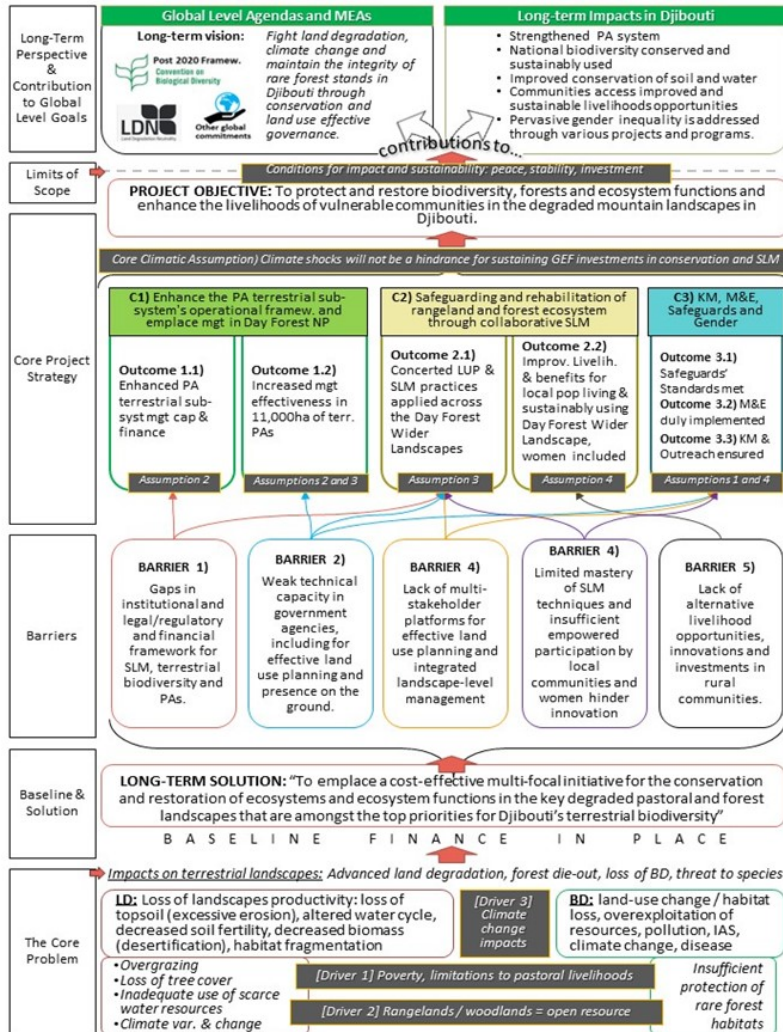
Specifically concerning the strategy and pre-conditions for the success of **Outcome 2.2**, the sustainability of the proposed ecosystem recovery will be ensured by expanding and redeveloping existing livelihood activities in the area that naturally promote and financially support forest and rangeland rehabilitation, as well as increased food and income security.

Key to this is a continued support for improved livelihoods for both men and women. Once Day Forest National Park is established and operationalized, its tourism potential should be assessed, as it may potentially bring important revenue for sustaining PA management. If successful, tourism revenue can feed into a national PA fund that will then finance continued restoration of Day National Park and ecosystem management activities long into the future.

Moving forward towards impact, the **consolidated success** of the project and its **sustainability** relies upon a small number of **?conditions?** being in place. The basic ones mentioned in the TOC figure are: peace, stability and investment. These refer to elements and events that are outside the project's scope, so they function more like drivers, that are generally monitored by UNDP at programmatic level. Other, more specific conditions (or **?implicit assumptions?**) were formulated based upon successes and failures of previous donor-funded programs, existing research and country plans. First, it is assumed that the amount of rain in the area will, as climate models suggest, stay stable or increase over the project span,

as well as in the coming years. The project also rests on the assumption that the community in Day, and the Government of Djibouti, are committed to reforesting Day Forest National Park, rehabilitating the land around it, and finding alternative livelihoods that are less dependent upon unsustainable use of rangelands resources for animal grazing. Finally, this project relies upon the assumption that the co-finance partners will undertake, and successfully complete work as outlined in their letters of co-finance.

**PRODOC Figure 4. Theory of Change Diagram**



**General Strategy**

The work will be focused on priority sites for the sustainable management of drylands in Djibouti[1], as well as for the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity: **the Day Forest and surroundings** (the project's primary site) and the **Mabla Forest Wider Landscape** (a secondary site, whose conservation value is yet to be ascertained, and the possible source of useful seedlings for the recovery of the *Juniperus procera* stands in the Day Forest area).

A comprehensive mapping and forest assessment is planned to be conducted in the forest perimeters in Day Forest and Mabla Forest with the aim of determining the two sites' actual conservation value. This is important to include it because there is uncertainty about the potential conservation value of Mabla Forest, the actual state of forest and water resources. The study is essential to inform the management planning for Day Forest National Park to be gazetted.

Depending on the results of the above-referred study, the general approach will combine the gazettelement of the two sites (legal decrees), or of Day Forest only followed by zoning and demarcation of the PA(s) and surroundings. It also implies the dissemination of sustainable land management (SLM) practices through capacity building of land users, coupled with support for SLM implementation all according to the local conditions and viability. IFAD in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture installed 13 Local Steering Committees and 107 Water and Rangelands Management Committees through its PROGRES project. The project will reinforce the existing community-based / local steering committees and Water and Rangelands Management Committees formed by ongoing IFAD project where applicable and replicate the model in Day and Mabla with technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project will attempt to remove the grazing pressure on the Day Forest area and offer the local communities that are dependent on livestock with viable sustainable land use alternatives.

#### Specifically on the strategy for the Day Forest:

In order to decrease the dependence of Afar populations on this barren and water-depleted land and allow the land to recover, and to improve the food security of the Afar, drastic steps to protect forest remnants must be taken as a priority.

Besides formalizing core areas that still sustain forests as a protected area, these steps will include forest and rangeland rehabilitation, improving water catchment and finding alternative livelihoods for the local communities that encourage them to increase home garden production, increase incomes, and promote sustainable livestock off-take and rangeland management. The last of these will be a challenge, as the Afar view large herds as a sign of wealth and livelihood security. At the same time, they do recognize the destruction these animals are causing and have expressed willingness to try any intervention that can preserve some of their herds and make them healthier.

Alternative livelihood options already exist, and many local people, women included, are already seeking support for further development of these livelihoods. They would like capacity development, access to support, and better marketing of their products[2].

Further, there is a drive within the country, led by the Office of the President, to improve sustainable tourism within the country. In the future, ecotourism could become a potential livelihoods activity in Day

Forest. A new pipeline project by the AfDB, still in early stages of development, is expected to assess the potential for tourism in Day Forest and other sites and facilitate investment.

Notably, any capacity building or marketing around alternative livelihoods, financial management or sustainable tourism needs to go hand-in-hand with capacity building around environmental protection, management and restoration. The communities have requested such capacity development, as they are well aware of the importance of sustainability beyond the end date of the project.

#### Project Objective, Components and Outcomes

**The objective of the proposed project is:** *To protect and restore biodiversity, forests, rangelands and ecosystem functions and enhance the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the degraded mountain Day Forest landscapes in Djibouti.*

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This will be done by tackling land management and governance issues, sustainably rehabilitating forests and rangelands in and around the Day Forest National Park, and helping local people develop sustainable livelihood activities

Together, these activities will support continued ecosystem improvement and food and economic security both during and after the project.

The core premise of the project is that if the government and communities are in concert to rehabilitate the land while building markets that sustainably use and improve the land and products from it, the project will not only be successful, but will be sustainable and contribute to many of Djibouti's overall national development goals.

Under that premise, the project's strategy is to empower community members and the organizations that support them to rehabilitate their landscapes using permaculture-based reforestation, improved water catchment and management, and ecosystem-based rangeland rehabilitation techniques. Communities will then be trained to implement adaptive management and economic development strategies within their landscapes that build social, economic, and ecological resilience through community-based initiatives that concurrently build up the local and national economies. In the landscape, there are opportunities to develop sustainable agricultural products and improve value chains through vocational skills training and micro-enterprise development; evident opportunities include honey, improved goat milk products, improved weaving and improved fruits and vegetables from kitchen gardens and subsequent value-added products.

The strategy is supported on four pillars: (i) working with the government to improve protected areas management; (ii) supporting participatory natural resources rehabilitation, planning and management at the landscape level, (iii) improving access to training, credit and communications platforms that promote

sustainable livelihoods which protect the land; and (iv) managing cross-cutting social safeguarding and M&E products and procedures. Knowledge management, via new and existing websites in country, databases, training programs, and related data-sharing with international databases and websites will be deeply mainstreamed through Components 1-3 of the project. The strategy is implemented by means of four interrelated project components and outcomes:

**Component 1) Enhance the PA terrestrial sub-system's operational framework and emplace management in Day Forest National Park**

**Outcome 1.1) Enhanced PA terrestrial sub-system management capacity and finance**

**Outcome 1.2) Increased management effectiveness in 11,000ha of terrestrial PAs**

**Component 2) Safeguarding and rehabilitation of rangeland and forest ecosystem through collaborative SLM**

**Outcome 2.1) Concerted Land Use Planning (LUP) and SLM practices applied across the Day Forest Wider Landscapes (totaling 29,000 ha and including 11,000 ha in PA land use) for: (i) recuperating native forests in critical areas within the PA (100 ha) and (ii) restoring/rehabilitating vegetation cover, ecosystem function and productivity in degraded pastures and rangelands within the Landscapes (area approx. 18,000 ha)**

**Outcome 2.2) Improved livelihoods and benefits for local population living and sustainably using the Day Forest Wider Landscapes, women included**

**Component 3) Knowledge Management, M&E, Safeguards and Gender**

**Outcome 3.1) All safeguards? standards met throughout project**

**Outcome 3.2) M&E duly implemented**

**Outcome 3.3) Knowledge Management and Outreach ensured for gender-sensitive and evidence-based decision-making and scaling up of best practices**

The strategy for this proposed project is fully aligned with objectives of the GEF focal areas of Biodiversity and Land Degradation, with some positive spin off positive effects for Climate Change Adaptation.

The project strategy has been designed to contribute to global level goals and agendas across the focal areas mentioned.

**Project Strategy: From UNDP PRODOC's Section IV)**

#### **A. Expected Results**

The overall goal of the project is to improve the socioeconomic situation and physical environment in and around Day Forest National Park, a site of importance for both biodiversity and the national heritage of Djibouti, through policy-level, ecological and socioeconomic direct support and capacity building. By achieving the objectives, the project will contribute to local and national conservation and



sustainable land management and climate adaptation goals, and improve local food security and local and national economic development.

The project is composed of four components: 1) Enhanced PA system policy, financing framework and physical management of the Day Forest National Park Protected Area (PA); 2) Restored and safeguarded rangeland and forest ecosystem functions through forest restoration and sustainable land management practices in and around the Day PA; 3) Improved opportunities for and profitability of alternative sustainable livelihoods in and around Day PA, and nationally, that decrease pressure on the land and support its continued rehabilitation; and 4) Cross-cutting issues for good project management: Social and Environmental Safeguards, including gender issues, and M&E are planned and executed.

## Component 1) Enhance the PA terrestrial sub-system's operational framework and emplace management in Day Forest National Park

Component 1 seeks to support the Government of Djibouti, as well as the local community in and around Day Forest PA, as they improve the legislative and policy frameworks and financial systems, and planning for and management of PAs, most specifically for Day PA, through capacity building and planning support on these topics at national and site levels.

### Project Outcome 1.1) Enhanced PA terrestrial sub-system management capacity and finance

under this outcome, work will focus on national level frameworks for the management of terrestrial PAs within its sub-system.

Outputs and activities under this outcome will ensure that greater protection is afforded to a fragile landscape that was historically rich in biodiversity and to generate ecosystem goods and services that these landscapes will be able to offer.

The entry points will be the (a) regulatory frameworks, including the decrees that are needed for formally creating the Day Forest as a PA (proposed as a National Park); (b) planning frameworks, which depend on key studies that are yet to be carried out and will be conducted as a priority activity in the initial phase of implementation, to determine and map the conservation values and assets within the targeted PAs (Day and Mabla Forests); (c) financing frameworks, which are essential for the sustainability of PA management in the foreseeable future.

Two outputs are foreseen under this Outcome and a few indicative activities under those.

Output 1.1) National Terrestrial PA regulatory and planning frameworks developed

? Activity 1.1.1) Conduct a comprehensive mapping and forest assessment in Day Forest and Mabla Forest

? Activity 1.1.2) New umbrella PA law prepared and adopted that includes the creation of a national PA agency, a terrestrial PA management plan, and participatory PA management stakeholder committees

? Activity 1.1.3) Gazettement decree for Day PA prepared, adopted, publicly disseminated, and introduced to PA users through training sessions

While the project will definitely support the creation and management of Day Forest as national park, for Mabla Forest, there is uncertainty about the site's actual conservation value. A study is needed to establish this and for adequately scoping the overall project interventions and conservation action within the terrestrial PAs sub-system.

Therefore, before the end of the project's first year, a comprehensive mapping and forest assessment will be conducted in Day Forest and Mabla forest perimeters. The aim is to determine the actual state of forest and water resources to reach out to communities, survey them and establish a baseline for managing the sites. A partnership with FAO is indicatively proposed.

As a key study, the comprehensive mapping and forest assessment has been missing and it could not be conducted during the PPG because of cost, logistical complexity and due to the time needed for concluding it (scoped for 1.5-2 years). It should indicatively cover the polygons shown in the figure below:

***PRODOC Figure 5. Indicative polygons for the mapping and comprehensive forest assessment***



The study, which will liberally use GIS and GPS technology for recording key data, is essential for the preparation of key dossiers for the gazetting and management planning for the PAs. It will combine remote sensing data, including from global and nationally owned datasets, with data collected on the ground. Maps and descriptions will be yielded from the results.

Budget permitting, the study should try to establish the conservation status of a few flagship species, or alternatively seek partnership agreement with universities and research programs for this purpose. Partnerships will be consolidated during implementation. See otherwise [PRODOC Annex 14: Species in Targets Landscape\(s\)](#).

Depending on the results of the above-referred study, the general approach will either proceed with the gazetting of Day Forest and Mabla Forest through specific legal decrees, or for Day Forest only for now.

The Project will work with MEDD/DEDD to amend existing PA Law that defines how a PA management agency will function, in part through revenue generated through mandatory fees paid by visitors to each PA. The governing structure of the PA agency will be defined, a schedule for introducing checkpoints/guard boxes and a visitor accounting system for PAs will be created, and the structure, function and schedule of participatory PA management committees will be defined. Many models exist both globally and in neighboring countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, etc.) for how these function, and can be used to model the PA management system for Djibouti. While the focus will be on defining specifically how these will function in Day, it is expected that the Day modality can and will be replicated nationally, however, supporting that replication is outside the scope of this project.

The Project will support, as needed, MEDD/DEDD as they prepare a gazetting decree for Day PA. This gazetting should include existing wooded areas in Day PA, the areas newly reforested by the proposed project, as well as a reasonable area (able to be patrolled) around these areas. The exact limits of the Day PA will have to be defined by the government, with the aid of national or international expert advice, but should account for future aspirations for the PA, and thus include land that was once forested and will be able to be reforested again. The project will not facilitate reforestation or rehabilitation of more land than committed to in this project, but if the proposed project is successful, techniques used can be replicated by the government, the community and future projects.

Output 1.2) Domestic finance for the planning and management of the national terrestrial PA sub-system is sought increased

? Activity 1.2.1) National Environment Fund and tourism (park fees) financing source operationalized for capturing and reinjecting additional revenue into PAs and the new PA agency.

A national workshop held in 2012 with the participation of a wide group of national and international experts identified conservation priorities for Djibouti's terrestrial fauna. The workshop conclusions included the need for delimitation, operationalization of the country's PAs (demarcation, management planning, staffing, habitat restoration), including deployment and capacity building of ecoguards for Day Forest PA as a measure to counter illegal exploitation. The workshop recommended the creation of a PA Agency and PA Fund, and the updating of the PA legal framework.

With the third activity under this component of the project, the project will support capacity building and organization within MEDD to create and manage a PA Fund. This activity will be very closely linked to Activity 2.2, as once checkpoints/entry points for PAs (with a focus on Day) are created, entrance guards will be trained to collect fees, electronically transfer them to a central PA fund, and MEDD/DEDD will be trained in fund management so they can use it to pay ecoguards, and any other PA rehabilitation efforts. Additional revenues generated from offering guide services, tours, and higher food and housing revenues can be added to this fund. Models for this can be found globally and can be used to define the model appropriate for Djibouti.

## Project Outcome 1.2) Increased management effectiveness in 11,000ha of terrestrial PAs

While the scope of the previous Outcome under Component 1 was at the national level, this one (1.2) focuses on activities at the site level.

A number of activities are required to achieve a reasonable level of PA operationalization in Day Forest National Park. The PA needs to be staffed and equipped, and infrastructure made adequate. To the extent possible, PA staff—especially the ecoguards—will be recruited in the community. They will also be trained to fulfil their duties.

Noting that a number of community cooperatives are active and present in and around the Day Forest site, they are expected to be engaged. Training will be focused on entrance fee collection, good park management and ecological monitoring and data collection, ecosystem rehabilitation management.

Three outputs are foreseen under this Outcome.

### Output 1.3) PA demarcated on the ground by staff of DEDD and communities

After the area of the protected area is defined by MEDD/DEDD staff, it will need to be physically demarcated. With support from the PMU as needed, MEDD/DEDD staff, along with community members, and local experts, will walk the perimeter of the protected area with devices that can note GPS coordinates, and will demarcate the edges of the PA with signs every 500m, as well as weather resistant dashes of paint on rocks and trees every 20m between the signs. The edges of the PA will be carefully noted with GPS coordinates and catalogued at MEDD within the newly-created PA agency, and will be made available via a Google Earth map on the Day Forest National Park website (discussed under Component 3 below). Information on the PA, including its polygon, area, category, etc., will also be uploaded to the World Database on Protected Areas ([protectedplanet.net](http://protectedplanet.net)) and a WDPA ID generated and reported to the GEF at the first available opportunity (i.e., first PIR).

The PAs must be clearly demarcated because the PAs will be patrolled for illegal activity within them (felling of trees, illegal grazing as defined by terms of new cooperative land management plans) under the Protected Area Law n°45/AN/04/5?me L revised in May 2023.

The project will support the MEDD (custodian of the PA Law), local prefecture and tribal leaders to determine the land management plans and procedures. Women and female leadership will need to be included among the stakeholders. The legal aspects of the PA law and effectiveness of the enactment of the plans and procedures will need to garner local support, particularly from the local tribal leaders. While the law prescribes special protection measures to preserve the integrity of the PAs and delegates the responsibilities and authorities to MEDD to manage protected areas, the law also encourages active participation of local communities in the management of protected areas.

The project will also support the MEDD and the newly formed PA Agency in its efforts to develop participatory land use and management plans in and around PA

? Activity 1.3.1) PA cartographical and physical demarcation

? Activity 1.3.2) Support to MEDD for PA management planning and LUP

Output 1.4) PA management enhanced to ensure at basic operations and management in collaboration with community cooperatives, including those led by women and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment

Currently, there are no signs, entrance gates or any other markers that alert a visitor to being in the Day Forest National Park or PA, nor are there any signs on roads in the area pointing visitors to the park. There are also no fees collected upon entrance to the PA, and thus there is no funding to support patrolling, improvements, or upkeep of the PA. There are also no ecoguards/forest rangers or official and regular rehabilitation and preservation plans for the park. This is obviously a missed opportunity for Djibouti, both in terms of biodiversity protection as well as income generation for both the local communities, women included, and the national government.

Many, if not most countries globally charge entrance fees into national parks and protected areas, both terrestrial and marine. Just a few examples are: the United States National Park System, which charges 10-35USD per vehicle (different prices for single person entry or motorcycles) for a single time entry, in addition to hotel and camping fees once in the park; Zimbabwe National Parks, which charge between 10-30USD in ?conservation fees? per international visitor per day (with different pricing schemes for citizens, residents and regional citizens); Tanzania national parks, which charge between ~12-82USD per day; and Indonesia which charges as much as 40EUR per marine protected area entrance (and additional if sailing through a protected area for several days).

In all of these examples, these fees are either managed directly by the parks themselves and used for conservation efforts within that park or are managed by a national parks/protected areas fund based out

of the appropriate environmental ministry. The fees are used to pay park guards, do restoration work, build trails, and repair camping and hiking infrastructure. As noted, many charge additional camping fees, and charge fees for special tours with guides within the park. These fees are typically paid at an entrance gate upon entering the park.

? Activity 1.4.1) PA park gate infrastructure

? Activity 1.4.2) PA staffing (ecoguards) and support at the PA terrestrial sub-system level

Output 1.5) PA management training workshops held for DEDD staff, local ecoguards and locally-led land and water user management committees, ensuring strong, if not equal, female participation

Because the Day National Forest is cooperatively used by the community, community-based land and water management will be key to having it successfully managed. The community, and government staff who work on PAs, will need to understand how to create rules and plans for cooperative land and water use that facilitate park rehabilitation, they will have to agree upon those plans in a fully-informed, transparent manner, and they will have to assign roles within the community for oversight of these plans. The community will also learn how to set up transparent, fair, participatory land and water management committees. These committees will have a governing structure, a process for electing leaders and determining the tenure period of incumbent leaders, and a regular planning schedule.

During capacity building training events, the community will be presented with ideas/best practices of how to set up these committees, but ultimately the structure and function will be determined by the local participants.

Under this output of the project, a total of 200 DEDD staff and locals will be trained in the following topics: 1) the principles and practices of ecoguarding and fining for misuse; 2) entrance fee collection, visitor welcoming and transfer of funds via electronic means into central National Environmental Fund; 3) rehabilitation planning and management; and, 4) participatory land and water use, community forestry, and land and water use planning.

A targeted and active participation of women will be pursued.

? Activity 1.5.1) Series of PA management training to different audiences and in different formats

## Component 2) Safeguarding and rehabilitation of rangeland and forest ecosystem through collaborative SLM

Under Component 2, the total area to be targeted for improved land use governance will encompass 29,000ha including therein the area of 11,000ha that is slated to officially become the Day Forest National Park.

The work at hand under this Outcome will include: (i) recuperating native forests in critical areas within the NP (100 ha) and (ii) restoring/rehabilitating vegetation cover, ecosystem function and productivity in degraded pastures and rangelands within the landscapes. The area for the latter is still to be defined.

Two Outcomes are proposed. The first one has a core focus on landscape level planning and the implementation of SLM on the ground. The second one is connected with these practices but focuses on the development of livelihoods activities for local communities.

### Project Outcome 2.1) Concerted Land Use Planning (LUP) and SLM practices applied across the Day Forest Wider Landscapes

Land Use Planning (LUP) is the systematic assessment and organization of how land is to be utilized and managed, considering both the natural characteristics of the land and the long-term interests and needs of the community. This process aims to balance environmental, social, economic, and political considerations to guide sustainable and optimal use of land to prevent conflicts and ensure efficient resource management.

Sustainable Land Management (SLM) refers to practices and technologies that aim to integrate the management of land, water, biodiversity, and other environmental resources to meet human needs while simultaneously ensuring the long-term sustainability of ecosystem services and livelihoods.

SLM is closely connected with LUP, to the extent that it provides a critical framework for applying sustainable practices. LUP takes into account the principles of SLM to ensure that land-use decisions contribute to the sustainable development of an area, balancing economic growth, environmental protection, and social equity. Effective LUP incorporates SLM strategies to avoid land degradation, preserve natural resources, and support sustainable agricultural or livestock rearing practices and rural development more broadly.

For this project, two main types of positive land-use change will be contemplated in the LUP: (i) recuperating native forests in critical areas within the PA; and (ii) restoring/rehabilitating vegetation cover, ecosystem function and productivity in degraded pastures and rangelands within the Landscapes.

In terms of targeted areas, LUP will apply to the 'Day Forest Wider Landscape' (also known as 'Goda Massif') with an indicative land surface of 29,000ha (PRODOC Figure 2, area A). The Wider Landscape includes Day Forest as core area with 11,000ha (PRODOC Figure 2, area C, slated to become a PA) and adjacent to it a 2,000ha-perimeter (PRODOC Figure 2, area B). The latter area is located high on the plateau and has been prioritized for ecosystem restoration/rehabilitation because it is source of intermittent waterways that either run in the southeast direction towards the sea or in the northwest direction into inland rangelands, and further north, towards Ethiopia. This 'area B' in PRODOC Figure 2 is not the only area where ecosystem restoration/rehabilitation should take place. Other areas remain to be zoned and mapped.

Two outputs are proposed under Outcome 2.1. The first one will support the necessary collective organization of communities for landscape management?including by ensuring hereunder the effective participation of women as key protagonists, side by side with men. The second Output encompasses the implementation of LUP.

The approach will initially attempt to divide the Day Forest Wider Landscape into watersheds to be managed, upon which LUP will apply and SLM will be implemented.

Output 2.1) Participatory landscape management committees established, ensuring strong, if not equal, female participation

The project will emplace participatory committees, including through a balanced female representation, and for the management and restoration of landscapes/watersheds, their natural resources and biodiversity, an approach that both integrates PA areas and their buffer zone rangelands.

Through these committees, relevant stakeholders, including local populations and women, will participate in the planning and management of land uses, understanding the stakes and negotiating key interest through an interactive process. LUP will be the key vehicle for the design and execution of the water and sustainable land management and restoration measures across the PA and buffer zone landscapes.

A targeted and active participation of women will be pursued.

? Activity 2.1.1) Participatory committees established



? Activity 2.1.2) Ensure a gender-sensitive approach in the landscape management committees to be established

Output 2.2) Land Use Planning (LUP) prepared in a gender-sensitive and participatory manner as Integrated PA & watershed/landscape management plans are adopted by communities and regulating authorities

By integrating local inputs and international benchmarking, the project will prepare integrated PA & watershed/landscape management and restoration plans under the broad umbrella of LUPs for SLM. The objectives of these plans will by default be the long-term management planning for both the PAs and their buffer zones.

The LUP will help define PA infrastructure and staffing needs, PA financing needs and plans, community engagement, zoning and management regimes, signage, natural resource use, sustainable rangeland management, soil and water conservation, water management, forest restoration including any irrigation systems, surveillance, enforcement, M&E, livelihood interventions, etc. ? and noting that a specific PA management plan will be required for the Day Forest National Park as a consolidated PA.

The LUP will specifically introduce and support sustainable rangeland management measures across the Day Forest Wider Landscape. These will help restore ground vegetation and related ecosystem services, including water availability and the conditions necessary to recover degraded habitats.

Enclosures within the Day Forest National Park will also be established to protect extant trees and areas under ecosystem rehabilitation.

Enclosures within a landscape refer to areas where certain activities, like grazing or woodcutting, are excluded to allow vegetation to recover from overuse or to protect certain areas for conservation purposes. They are often used in ecological restoration efforts to help restore ecosystems to a more natural state without human interference, particularly in regions prone to overgrazing, erosion, or biodiversity loss.

The term "mise en d?fens" (or "mis-en-d?f?nce")<sup>[6]</sup> in French has a similar meaning. It is a conservation practice used especially in the context of pasture management, where an area is protected from grazing and other forms of exploitation to allow for the regeneration of vegetation.

Useful techniques to be recommended will be those generically known by managing authorities as "Conservation de l'Eau et du Sol (CES)" [water and soil conservation] in Djibouti and in other countries in the Sahel.

A key source for SLM practices is the [WOCAT](#) -- a global network on SLM that promotes the documentation, sharing and use of knowledge to support adaptation, innovation and decision-making in SLM.

Finally, key indicators for the health of landscapes will be regularly monitored, including a combination of GIS products and analysis on the one hand, and ground-truthing of data on the other.

- ? Activity 2.2.1) Prepare LUP for Day Forest Wider Landscape with communities and authorities
- ? Activity 2.2.2) Establish and enforce exclosures within landscapes (?mis en d?fence?)
- ? Activity 2.2.3) Selection and prioritization of practices "Conservation de l'Eau et du Sol (CES)" [water and soil conservation].
- ? Activity 2.2.4) Monitor landscape health

## Project Outcome 2.2) Improved livelihoods and benefits for local population living and sustainably using the Day Forest Wider Landscapes, women included

This outcome foresees two outputs, both of which focus on activities on the ground. They will be implemented together, through a series of technical activities on the ground that will lead to the desired outputs and outcome.

Three foundational activities under both outputs 2.3 and 2.4 relate to training and capacity building for the mastery of technique and approaches in view of value chain development, as well as the provision of supplies:

### ? Foundational Activities under Outcome 2.2)

(i) Capacity building given to at least 500 local people on alternative sustainable livelihood-based micro and small scale enterprises (some combination of: preserve-making, honey production, weaving/basketry improvements, agroecological community and home gardening, dairy improvements, composting, poultry rearing), and women's empowerment.

(ii) Training given on cooperative building, business management and access to microfinance, via CPEC, for rural communities (women included) to support chosen livelihoods.

(iii) Supplies procured to support livelihoods in i) agro-ecological community and family gardens, including poultry; and ii) development, packaging, production equipment, storage equipment and marketing of new and existing local-product value chains (honey, dairy products, preserves, weaving/basketry)

(iv) Facilitating access to Islamic financing for the formalized micro and small-scale enterprises via CPEC and Center for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (CLE) programs.

*[More details on the above is provided under Activities 2.4.6 through 2.4.8]*

Output 2.3) Community-based sustainable grazing agreements are adopted to enhance natural regeneration

Indicative activities will include: i) community-based sustainable grazing agreements (seasonality, reduced grazing stock, set-asides) to enhance natural regeneration, in combination with ii) a project-supported partial shift from free-roaming to livestock rearing using enclosures, which will be based on the provision of forage from local drip-fertigated feedstock plantations.

The project will also provide technical assistance for herd size management, improved veterinary care and increased animal turnover.

? Activity 2.3.1) Small scale feed mill set up in Tadjourah, using Prosopis-based feed with extra added nutrients and grasses, to produce sufficient feed for animals of Day

? Activity 2.3.2) Livestock are enclosed and fed with forage from local feedstock plantations or feed mills, or otherwise sustainably managed, based on community agreement through participatory PA and land management committees.

? Activity 2.3.3) Sustainable rangeland rehabilitation measures implemented across 1000 ha of PA buffer zones to restore ground vegetation and related ecosystem services, through terraforming using demi-lunes, za? holes and other ditch technology to capture water and then plant drought-tolerant forage species during the rainy season.

Output 2.4) The operationalization of various applicable gender-sensitive SLM techniques on the ground is supported for the benefit of communities living in the Day Forest area, including among them women

As noted by the community, the government, and all stakeholders interviewed in the preparation of this project, the lack of water is the primary issue facing Day. With the elevation Day village is at, drilling wells is impractical to impossible. It does rain (30cm/year on average), but when it does it is intense and causes erosion on the severely degraded land. None of this rainwater is captured or controlled, which means that in addition to causing erosion, it does not have time to sink into the ground to rewet the soil, nor is it available for drinking or home consumption.

The conditions at Day appear ideal for fogharvesters: every/most morning there is intense fog with winds, and this is at times combined with a light rain during the night. There is no official meteorological records of this, as the country does not collect site level data. However, historical and current observations from visitors, the views of the community and the project developers are that the area is sufficiently foggy and windy so as to be suitable for fogharvesters. This technology has proven to be exceptionally useful in dry mountainous areas that have the correct combination of fog and wind. Fogharvesters run passively without power, can be handmade, but can also be purchased pre-fabricated. The former are less expensive, but also tend to capture less water and need more constant repair. For this reason, commercially-made fogharvesters are recommended; these are available for purchase by a limited number of suppliers.

Before purchase of a full set, mini-fogharvesters must be purchased and tested in several locations in both Day and Mabla villages. Testers are placed in areas with no obstructions from the wind, and the manufacturer recommends a minimum of six months of trials in different places to ensure they will be effective. A consultant from the manufacturer will set up and train locals and government staff to monitor these devices. It is expected that the conditions will be good and a full set will be purchased; if it turns out that the conditions are not correct, full scale fogharvesters will not be part of the project's investment.

At the same time, rooftop rainwater harvesting systems will be set up in the former governor's house, hydroponics facility, eligible households and other potential infrastructures. Only one will be set up to test their efficacy; given the overall lack of rain, it is not clear if they will be. However, if they prove effective, the project may shift funds in the equipment budget to buy more. These systems attach troughs to a sloped roof, and then channel this water into an underground storage facility. The household and smaller rainwater harvesting technologies will have smaller storage tanks. Depending upon the rainwater harvesting capacity, the project will explore the possibility of connecting the storage tank to support permaculture activities. This will be set up on the roof of a building in Day that has an appropriately sloped and large roof: the hotel or the sports center might be obvious choices, as they are publicly-owned and large; this water could then be shared with households via the water management committee directions. If fogharvesters turn out to be less appropriate, funding for them can be directed into more rainwater harvesting systems.

? Activity 2.4.1) Mini fogharvesters and one rooftop rainwater catchment system purchased and locations tested; if successful, full systems/fogharvesters are purchased, and local people are trained to maintain

? Activity 2.4.2) Plots totaling 300 ha (3km squared) in the newly-defined Day protected area are reforested via agro-ecological and permaculture techniques with a climate-resilient mix of native species.

Over the last decades, much has been learned about good reforestation techniques, allowing land rehabilitation specialists to avoid the pitfalls of past work ([PRODOC Figure 6](#)).

One of the lessons learned is to avoid single species reforestation. This is not only because single species reforestation does not tend to mimic the natural state, but also because single species reforestation makes all trees more vulnerable to disease. Another lesson learned is that simply planting trees does not work. Trees must be planted at the right density, be raised as seedlings at the same altitude and in the same conditions, must be cared for after planting, and must be planted in ecologically-appropriate conformations.

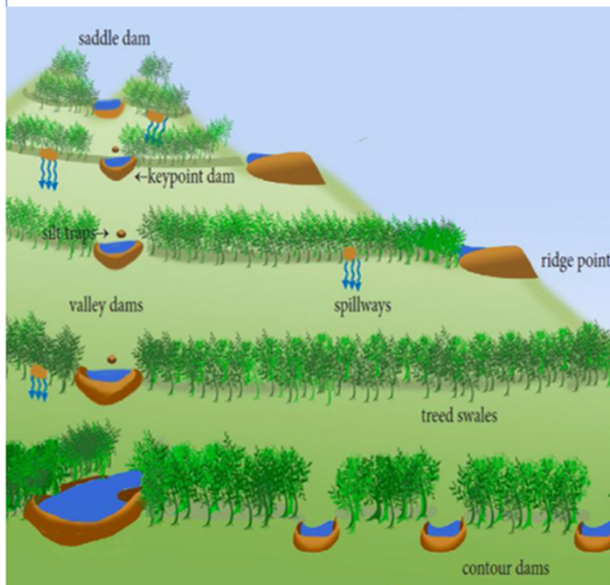
Permaculture techniques have long been shown to be a successful way of land rehabilitation. These techniques, not all of which are necessarily considered 'permaculture' take into account the soil type, soil needs, land shape, precipitation patterns, water flow patterns, appropriate trees and shrubs, as well as land users' needs for gardens or fruit trees. Permaculture techniques are especially useful at recharging soil moisture and aerating soil, using techniques like swales (contour ditches), check dams, land sloping. They are expected to be useful in Day due to the infrequent, but intense rains that tend to wash away and compact topsoil and small plants on the current barren ground.

Day could be challenging to reforest through ecological restoration interventions, with limited management seeking to return the ecosystem to its original state. That is because Day historically was a mostly single species *Juniperus procera* forest. Reforesting with this single species will likely not be recommended by plant experts because the species went through a sudden die-off about a decade ago, undocumented, but likely due to *Pyrofomes demidoffii*, a type of heart rot fungus that this species is susceptible to. Right choice of species to introduce for Day Forest reforestation will be made in close consultation with the Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, aligned with National Reforestation Programme, and expert forestry and botany advisors.

In this part of the project, experts and local communities, coordinated by the MEDD and the Ministry of Agriculture (Directorate for Agriculture and Forestry), will carry out permaculture-based reforestation works. This will include building swales (contour ditches that capture water) and check-dams to capture excess water, using mulch and compost to keep water in the soil, and using techniques like food forests, escalier fruit trees and herb spirals as needed. While the idea is to support Day's forest ecology to return as close to its historic trajectory (not its historic condition) as possible, the forest needs to be made useful to the community so that they are incentivized to protect it. Permaculture planning, led by the Ministry of Agriculture with technical assistance from the international experts, will be done in full consultation with the community so that their food productivity needs can be met while the forest is rehabilitated. At least 100 community members and DEDD staff (half men, half women) will be trained in permaculture techniques. The intention should be to work with the communities to adopt appropriate landscape restoration approaches and technologies that they will be able to maintain and replicate beyond the life of the project.

**PRODOC Figure 6. Permaculture: definition and example**

- Permaculture is an approach to land management and the design of settlements that adopts arrangements observed in flourishing natural ecosystems. It includes a set of design principles derived from holistic systems thinking. It is also based on the three ethics of care for the earth, care for the people, and fair share.
- The care of the earth primarily refers to the soil. The attention paid to people refers to the fact that humans take responsibility for their own situation.
- Fair share refers to the reuse of surpluses and the limitation of consumption; people are responsible for ensuring the sustainability and long-term profitability of their forest and/or permaculture farm.



? Activity 2.4.3) Plant nursery set up in Day to produce 3000 seedlings for reforestation with a mix of native species, as well as to prepare or store seeds as needed for feedstock planting.

In this component a nursery will be setup in Day village to grow the trees needed to support reforestation. Greenhouse structures exist in Day from a past project. The metal supports are in place, though the plastic sheeting has been torn away. PMU staff will work in conjunction with national and local government to get permission to re-cover a portion of the existing greenhouses and use them as a plant nursery. With the aid of a local plant expert, a nursery expert and the permaculture experts, a selection of climate and ecosystem appropriate seedlings will be planted and grown by local community members (half men, half women). These seedlings chosen will primarily be trees meant to rehabilitate the natural forest, but also might include seedlings for fruit trees or home vegetable gardens. Water for the nursery will be taken from fog harvesters and/or rainwater harvesting systems and/or permaculture ditches.

? Activity 2.4.4) National, subnational trainings held to strengthen institutional capacities of relevant government agencies on water recovery, catchment and management (fog harvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.

In this activity, which will be complementary to the above activities, national and subnational training workshops will be held with government staff and local officials so that they are able to support community members who are implementing these practices on the ground. These trainings can be given

concurrently with community trainings, but, because they will be in different languages (Afar and French) and will be aimed at people with different levels of education and experience, these trainings will be held separately from community trainings. However, the practical training for operating the fog-harvesters, rainwater harvesting system, agroecological and permaculture techniques, afforestation and reforestation in Day Forest PA will be conducted both for the government and communities. The training for the government officials will be provided in the form of Training for Trainers format to build their capacity in replicating the trainings in other PAs and for the other community members in the Day Forest PA. Trainers will be the same individuals ? other government staff with the knowledge, and local and national consultants. The trainings will aim to teach men and women equally, all depending upon their interests and local needs.

? Activity 2.4.5) Training provided to 500 local community members on sustainable land management, soil/water conservation, sustainable grazing agreements, water catchment (using fogharvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring. This links closely to Activity 2.4.4.

This activity will be a set of training activities that will be held in conjunction with and support all of the above activities under this component. In total, at least 500 local people (half male and half female) will be trained in:

? The installation, maintenance and repair of fogharvesters. Training events would cover site selection, set-up, and repair work.

? The installation, maintenance and repair of the rooftop rainwater catchment system. Training events would cover site selection set-up, and repair work.

? Equitable sharing of water and water management planning, dictated by land and water management associations.

? Strategic behavioral change around the topic of the ecological dangers of large animal herds in a desert environment and climate change. The goal of these training events will be to help the communities develop more sustainable grazing plans that allow for rotational grazing every month or season, as appropriate.

? Nursery care, including how to grow and prune seedlings, how to select the best substrate and wrap for the substrate, the appropriate watering regime, and size selection. They will also be taught how to repair and regulate the greenhouse.

? How to do rangeland rehabilitation by digging demi-lunes, za? holes, and other ditch techniques. The training will contribute to enhancing the existing knowledge of and practices undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture. They will be taught about different forage grasses, low water techniques, and will be supported as they build walls around rehabilitation plots.

? Permaculture techniques. This will include how to align and dig contour ditches and check dams, how to appropriately space and water trees and bushes, how to build water holding ponds (if used), and any other permaculture techniques used.

The goal is to create a community that collectively is armed with the knowledge and skills it needs to support project implementation and to carry on project activities beyond the end of the project. During the scoping phase, the community noted repeatedly that it needed training, and that many past development projects in the community had failed because insufficient training on upkeep of the project was given. Therefore, this activity will be a key activity for project sustainability.

? Activity 2.4.6) Capacity building given to at least 500 local people on alternative sustainable livelihoods (some combination of: preserve-making, honey production, weaving/basketry improvements,

agroecological community and home gardening, dairy improvements, composting, poultry rearing), and women's empowerment.

To be sustainable the project must also provide communities with sustainable sources of income outside of livestock grazing. The community in Day and other rural areas around Djibouti already engage in a number of small-scale artisanal enterprises, and they have expressed interest improving the quality and profitability of these activities. In Day the women do weaving, basketry and home gardening. They have asked for help in improving their weaving and basketry techniques (new forms, new objects, new colors) as well as for help with home gardening. For example, they are aware of compost and know it helps garden plants grow, but they have never created it. Local officials have observed that farmers often tend to overwater plants, wasting the precious resource. To ameliorate this, the project will set up test plots in home gardens to demonstrate proper plant care techniques.

In Mabila Forest, there have been limited attempts at beekeeping and honey production. The honey fetches a high market rate, and if honey production could be established in Day, it could be an excellent sustainable source of income. This, however, will only be possible once more plants are growing so that bees have sources of nectar. Poultry rearing is another livelihood activity that has been proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Poultry need less water than livestock and can be fed from kitchen scraps. They are therefore easier to rear and still provide a source of protein for households and can also be sold in local markets. Furthermore, other parts of the country have had success on teaching women to make jams and preserves.

If home gardens and fruit tree plantings are successful, this is another livelihood activity that could be developed. Around all of these topics, training will be given in conjunction with women's empowerment training. A dedicated training on women's empowerment will be given to women and men, and then within each livelihood activity training, special attention will be given to women's needs, how to negotiate for those needs and bring social power to the women of Day Forest area.

The Center for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (CLE), a government entity under the Ministry of Digital Economy and Innovation leading the entrepreneurship support program, including the business development training for micro and small-scale enterprises, is already working on improving the weaving and basketry value chain in the country, and improvements for the weavers of Day can be done in partnership with CLE, and/or can build off of their work. The PMU and MEDD will present all of these ideas to the community and will ask them to choose which livelihood activities they prefer. Training will be given on at least three of these topics, and more if the project time and budget allows it. A community champion will be elected to manage the processes and work with the PMU as more capacity building is needed.

#### ? Activity 2.4.7) Training on cooperative building

Along with the specific training on how to improve livelihoods, training will be provided on how to build cooperatives, manage businesses, and access and manage finance.



Business plan development and access to microfinance and a microfinance platform established, via CPEC, a government micro-finance body, for rural communities and herders, to support chosen livelihoods.

CPEC is a micro-finance wing under the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Affairs constituted to support poverty alleviation program of the government. It has branch offices in Tadjourah, and while they currently do not provide microfinance to the Day community, they are able and willing to.[1]

Along with providing access to microfinance, CPEC provides training on how to manage and repay the finance, which can be done electronically. MEDD and the PMU will manage training on cooperative building and business management and will facilitate access to and training by CPEC. The community has already expressed a desire and willingness to access and learn how to use microfinance for business improvement.

? Activity 2.4.8) Supplies procured to support livelihoods

This will include supplies for i) agro-ecological community and family gardens, including poultry; and ii) development, packaging, production equipment, storage equipment and marketing of new and existing local-product value chains (honey, dairy products, jams, weaving/basketry).

Training alone will not be sufficient to build new, alternative and sustainable livelihoods for Day. Supplies must also be provided to the communities.

To the degree possible within the project budget, initial supplies will be bought for the chosen livelihoods. This means beehives will be procured (if chosen), and better bottling, inputs, labelling and storage accessories will be given to those who choose to work in weaving, honey, jam, dairy products or poultry production and sales.

The PMU and MEDD will facilitate links to local markets in Tadjourah to sell products, and in the case of weaving (and possibly other industries) will work with CLE to get the products into national-level value chains. This activity, along with the previous two, will increase the quality and quantity of sustainable and marketable products produced by Day locals, contributing to their incomes, allowing them to reduce herd sizes, continue land rehabilitation and ensure the sustainability of project results.

## Component 3) Knowledge Management, M&E, Safeguards and Gender

Component 3 includes a mix of the three or four separate but interrelated aspects: (i) the Knowledge Management aspect of the project, which includes specific activities; (ii) ensuring the M&E mechanism

can have a distinct budget; and (iii) a continued application of social environmental safeguards, including hereunder the gender targeting aspect, which is important and highlighted as a separate element.

Three Outcomes are foreseen with several outputs and activities under them.

## Project Outcome 3.1) All safeguards? standards met throughout project

Output 3.1) Training provided to key stakeholders in DEDD, Ministry of Agriculture, and participating NGOs on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements

In this final project component, all of the cross-cutting safeguards and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) work will be done. Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed (building on the existing one in the PRODOC) and key stakeholders in DEDD, Ministry of Agriculture, and participating NGOs will be trained on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements.

In this activity, all project partners (government staff and implementing NGOs) who have not undergone UNDP and GEF social and environmental safeguards and management requirements training will do a day long in-person training on these topics. This training will be given by UNDP Djibouti staff or a local consultant who is expert in these topics. This training will be done shortly after or concurrently with the project inception workshop, so as to ensure that from the start that all safeguards are adhered to, and all PMU and MEDD staff are aware of expectations.

? Activity 3.1.1) Livelihood Action Plan prepared in compliance with the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment developed for PA restoration and rangeland rehabilitation

A Livelihood Action Plan will be prepared in compliance with the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment developed for PA restoration and rangeland rehabilitation.

The project will support the local communities by developing alternative livelihood measures, which will be co-designed through participatory approach with the local communities, local authorities and the CPEC (national micro-credit entity under the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Affairs). To ensure that the livelihood initiatives are inclusive and environmentally friendly, the project will support the MEDD in developing the Livelihood Action Plan. The national Safeguards consultant will support the MEDD and the project in ensuring that the Livelihood Action Plan is in compliance with the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment developed for the PA restoration and rangeland rehabilitation. The Livelihood Action Plan will contain generic elements that could be applicable for other PAs as well as specific to the Day PA to guide the alternative livelihood measures designed in consultation with the local communities to cater to their specific needs.

? Activity 3.1.2) Social and environmental safeguards risk mitigation and management plans prepared and implemented, and SES mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-3, necessary management measures implemented and monitored

Following the social and environmental safeguards plans, the Project Manager working with staff, will ensure that as each new project activity begins, all social and environmental safeguarding activities take place. This will include development and implementation of a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, that all environmental risks are assessed if they have not already been done, and that all new consultants or staff are aware of the social and environmental safeguarding plan and adhere to it as they implement or lead their parts of the project.

Output 3.2) Gender equality and women empowerment issues are mainstreamed into project implementation activities and indicators, and monitored based on the Gender Action Plan (developed in PPG phase)

? Activity 3.2.1) Embedding gender targeting approaches into the project strategy on a rolling basis

UNDP considers that **Gender targeting** typically refers to strategies and actions designed to address and integrate gender-specific concerns and to promote equality between genders within development programs and policies. The organization recognizes that women and men experience poverty differently and that interventions must be designed with an understanding of these differences to be effective.

In the project's context and in light of its Gender Action Plan (included in Annex 12), *gender targeting* will involve the following:

? *Designing Projects and Programs with Women in Mind*: Ensuring that development initiatives deliberately focus on women to improve their access to resources, services, and decision-making. This has been done in the PRODOC to a great extent, especially in the current version.

? *Addressing Gender Disparities*: Recognizing and aiming to reduce the disparities between men and women in various sectors such as education, health, employment, and in the political arena.

? *Empowerment*: Creating conditions for women to increase their autonomy and self-determination to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority.

? *Capacity Building and Access to funding*: Providing women with the tools, resources, and knowledge they need to overcome barriers to equality. Equal opportunities for training, capacity building and access to funding are an important embedded strategy in the project.

? *Policy Influence*: Advocating for policies that acknowledge gender disparities and working to ensure that gender considerations are integrated into all stages of policy-making processes. This will be especially important in all fora that includes decision-makers in Djibouti, who are in their majority men.

? *Monitoring and Evaluation*: Using gender-sensitive indicators to monitor and evaluate programs and adjust them as necessary to ensure they are effectively targeting and benefiting all genders.

The UNDP's approach to gender targeting is part of a larger effort to mainstream gender in development and to work toward achieving gender equality, which is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Gender targeting is not just about focusing on women; it is about considering the varied needs and contributions of all genders to ensure equitable opportunities and outcomes.

The key activity under this output, like in the previous ones, will be overseen by the Project Manager, working with staff, and will ensure that as each new project activity begins, all gender equity and women's empowerment activities take place.

More specifically, this will include women's empowerment trainings for women and men in Day Forest and in the capital, as well as ensuring that all social safeguard procedures are gender inclusive.

The project will also support the training of the project team on gender and its integration into environmental projects so as to ensure that gender equality principles and objectives are systematically taken into account during the implementation of project activities.

## Project Outcome 3.2) M&E duly implemented

Output 3.3) M&E products (MTR, TE, PIRs) prepared with all tracking tools, core indicators and other indicators duly assessed with adaptive management practices incorporated

? Activity 3.3.1) Sustainability and Replication Strategy developed

? Activity 3.3.2) M&E reflected in adaptive management

## Project Outcome 3.3) Knowledge Management (KM) and Outreach ensured for gender-sensitive and evidence-based decision-making and scaling up of best practices

Output 3.4) Knowledge Management Plan developed and implemented

? Activity 3.5.1) Developing the KM Plan

A brief KM strategy has been included in the GEF's updated CEO Endorsement Request Document, as per requirement.

During the project's inception, a knowledge management consultant with web development skills will be hired to design a KM plan, which will include a schedule for collecting project data, a list of types of data needed, the creation and sharing of databases, training on how to analyze data and how to share the results with stakeholders.

? Activity 3.5.2) The MEDD website is modernized and improved

The revamped website will include information on national PAs, sustainable land management practices, in which the Day Forest National Park will feature, preferably through an independent domain.

The KM plan will also include the development/improvement of websites for MEDD and will include strategies for documenting and incentivizing nature-based livelihood solutions, areas for active engagement of the local steering committees and water and rangeland management committees and other potential sustainable activities in Day Forest National Park (such as eco-tourism). The KM Plan will also include mechanisms for capture, storage and dissemination of the best practices that can be adopted by the project and also the success stories from the project. This will facilitate easy access to the information, data and replicable models of sustainable land management, rangeland management, and PA management in other terrestrial ecosystems of Djibouti and similar geo-ecological areas.

While all of these activities will support the project's success and replicability, some of those are key activities for sustaining the results of the project after its end will be the improvement and two existing websites.

During the project's year 1, the KM consultant will train the PMU in all aspects of KM so that the PMU can support KM during subsequent years. The KM consultant will return in the sub-final and final years of the project to ensure all KM plans and activities have been followed, make adjustments as needed, and ensure that a post-project data sharing plan is in place.

As for the websites, the KM consultant will oversee a web developer who will work with MEDD to improve an existing MEDD website<sup>[2]</sup> that contains information on the environment in Djibouti. This website will be edited so that it contains information on protected areas. The site will also be migrated to a different host and search engine optimized so that it is easier to access and shows up high in search results.

The KM plan, along with these websites in particular, will be replicable national, PAs, and they will ultimately contribute to improved tourism and environmental management in PAs across Djibouti.

? Activity 3.5.3) Knowledge products showcasing the best practices and lessons learned developed

Several activities proposed under Components 2 and 3 are innovative and designed to be supported by the policy reforms and other foundational activities proposed under Component 1. Activities, such installation of fog harvesters and others, will be piloted for the first time in Djibouti, whereas the failures of some innovations piloted in the past such as the Prosopsis-based animal feed mill will be improvised by building on the past lessons and adopting the best available and most appropriate technologies.

Similarly, engaging government officials and experts in the field-based practical training on permaculture and agro-ecological approaches, rainwater harvesting based drip irrigation, participatory PA and rangeland management plans and entrepreneurship development skills for the local community-based

cooperatives will be an innovative approach to demonstrate whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach for nature-based solutions in ecosystem restoration.

The project has a reasonable potential to create many best practices, which can be adopted as home-grown solutions for the other PAs. One of the key outputs of the projects would be institutional, political and on-site ecosystem restoration and reforestation efforts contributing towards enlisting Day Forest in the global PA list.

Under this output, the project will support the government in developing a compendium of best practices and lessons learned to document and demonstrate the knowledge generated through multi-faceted project interventions.

Output 3.5) Effective dissemination and mutual sharing of best practices and lessons learned for regional and national stakeholders, including women facilitated and documented

Under this Output, the project will support the government, mainly the MEDD and Ministry of Agriculture in disseminating the best practices to inspire the government to replicate or adopt nature-based solutions and the alternative livelihood measures for sustainable ecosystem restoration and reforestation.

The dissemination of the lessons learned and best practices at the regional level and national level is important to inform the partners and key stakeholders to help build upon the results achieved from the project and scale it up further in Day Forest and other similar terrestrial ecosystems elsewhere in the country/region. These will be shared through the MEDD website, through other fora at national levels (e.g., radio, TV).

Refer to PRODOC Box 3 reproduced further down.

**What was included in the above sections were summaries. For additional descriptions of activities refer to the PRODOC.**

**4) Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program strategies:**

**The project is aligned with the following GEF-7 Objectives and Programmes:**

**Objective LD-1 Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN, Program LD 1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM).**

Objective BD-2 Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species, Program BD 2-7 Improving Financial Sustainability, Effective Management, and Ecosystem Coverage of the Global Protected Area Estate.

Elaboration on the above follows:

***Concerning GEF Objective LD-1 Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN***

*GEF Program LD 1-1 Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM).*

GEF's Land Degradation Focal Area strategy in GEF-7 has the overarching goal of aligning GEF support to promote UNCCD's LDN concept through an appropriate mix of investments.<sup>[3]</sup>

This project is a 'stand-alone' GEF7 project, meaning that it is not part of any GEF Impact Program in GEF7, which otherwise seek *integration* and multiple benefits as important elements in the GEF7 Strategy. Nevertheless, the project is slated to generate multiple benefits and can help Djibouti leverage support investments in sustainable land management in cooperation with partners.

The last recorded reporting to the UNCCD dates from 2000: Djibouti's National Action Program for the fight against Desertification (the UNCCD's NAP 2000, or 'PANA' in French). Currently, Djibouti is preparing to develop its targets for Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) under the UNCCD. A consultancy is on-going for this purpose with support from the UNCCD. Therefore, it is not possible to align the project against LDN targets.

Even in the absence of an up-to-date policy guidance for the fight against land degradation, including the adoption of LDN targets, the project can be said to be fully aligned with the first objective of the GEF7 strategy for the LD focal area: (1) Supporting on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN for the following reasons:

? The project's Component 2 focuses on safeguarding and rehabilitating rangeland and forest ecosystem through collaborative SLM. It will make use of well tested methodologies and techniques for implementing SLM on the ground and also introduce a few that are innovative in the national context.

? Among the said methodologies, it is worth mentioning Land Use Planning (LUP), which will be prepared in a participatory manner and priming Integrated PA & watershed / landscape management plans, which are expected adopted by communities and regulating authorities (Output 2.2)

? The project will support the establishment of participatory landscape management committees (Output 2.1)

? A suite of SLM techniques will be implemented on the ground through the various outputs under Outcome 2.2, which focuses on improved livelihoods and benefits for local population living and sustainably using the Day Forest Wider Landscapes.

? Component 3 includes a solid strategy for KM and communication which will corroborate the adoption of SLM methodologies and techniques and enhance national capacity do so.

***Concerning GEF Objective BD-2 Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species***

*GEF Program BD 2-7 Improving Financial Sustainability, Effective Management, and Ecosystem Coverage of the Global Protected Area Estate.*

*Including, the following relevant programming options available to countries against the priorities and outcomes of each objective as identified by COP-13:*

*Expected Outcome 8: The area of protected areas under effective and equitable management is significantly increased, including development of sustainable financing.*

*Expected Outcome 9: The ecological representativeness of protected area systems, and their coverage of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, of particular importance for biodiversity is increased, especially habitats for threatened species.*

The project is fully aligned with the second objective of the GEF7 strategy for the BD focal area: (2) address direct drivers to protect habitats and species.

The project will specifically focus on the terrestrial PA sub-system in Djibouti, which has not to date received sufficient attention, funding and support for capacity development. Protected areas remain a cornerstone of strategies aimed at conserving biodiversity assets and this is well recognized by the GEF7 strategy for the BD focal area, which has prioritized support for a sustainable protected area system. In the case of Djibouti, this is particularly important because the marine PA sub-system and the terrestrial have witnessed over the years a very asymmetrical development ? the latter being very much behind the former.

The focal area fit is further elaborated as follows:

? The project prioritizes the effective protection of ecologically viable and climate-resilient representative samples of the country's ecosystems and adequate coverage of threatened species at a sufficient scale to ensure their long-term persistence. The biodiversity values of Day Forest have been presented in this project document. It is home to several threatened species, some of which are critically endangered.

? Establishing Day Forest as a PA (likely as National Park) have long been an unrealized priority for terrestrial biodiversity conservation in Djibouti. The project will cater for it under Component 1, which seeks to enhance the PA terrestrial sub-system's operational framework and emplace management.

? Along the lines of the above, specific activities under Component 1 will also cater for advancing on the leveraging of sufficient and predictable financial resources for PA management, including external funding, to support protected area management costs.

? The project will equally support the enhancement of PA management capacity, including at the institutional level, so that PAs can achieve their conservation objectives. It will do so through Component 1 activities and also through Component 3, which includes a solid strategy for KM and communication. Together these combined strategies will corroborate the establishment and management of the terrestrial PA subsystem and enhance national capacity to do so.

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

### **Without the project:**

The trend towards the degradation of land resources and forests in sites that are priority for biodiversity conservation in Djibouti will continue. The ancient *Juniperus procera* upper elevation forest that characterizes the Day Forest area will tend to disappear, as the tree stands are already vulnerable and affected by an ongoing outbreak of *Pyrofomes demidoffii*, a type of heart rot fungus that also forms mushrooms on the outside of the trees.



Biodiversity and ecosystem services in project sites will continue to be threatened by overgrazing, loss of tree cover and sub-optimal use of scarce water resources. Woody biomass will continue to be excessively cut, impeding the recuperation of forest resources. Climate variability and climate change poses an additional threat, exacerbating drought tendencies, at least through increased temperatures. Precipitation patterns will become less predictable, also affecting people who depend on rainfall for agriculture or transhumance.

Without the project, the existence values, option values and future use values enjoyed by the global community that might otherwise be forfeited, given that Djibouti's terrestrial PA estate will continue to be constituted mostly by paper parks that fail to provide an effective buffer against anthropogenic threats prevalent at the landscape level.

Local communities living in the Day Forest Area and surroundings--women included--will continue to lack viable livelihood alternatives to the overgrazing of scarce livestock feed and water resources.

The terrestrial PA sub-system in Djibouti will remain incomplete, with key sites lacking adequate regulations to effectively contribute to conservation as storehouses of important terrestrial biodiversity.

### ***With the project***

Two forest areas that are priorities for conservation in Djibouti, and also two of the seven BirdLife Important Bird Areas in the country will receive conservation attention and sustainable management of surrounding landscapes: (A) The Day Cloud Forest and the Goda Mountain Range (as last Afro-Mediterranean relict forest on the northern edge of the Gulf of Tadjourah and a very strong and visible avian endemism; followed by (B) The Mabila Mountain Range and the Intermediary Dadar Zone.

The project will focus on institutional capacity building and strengthening of local community's participation and decision-making process to foster participatory planning, and execution of the government's PA conservation interventions.

Land Use Planning (LUP) for the Day Forest Wider Landscape developed, approved (as a locally accepted community by-law) and enforced on the ground in an area covering 29,000 ha, of which 11,000 ha represent the PA and 18,000 ha the surrounding mixed-use landscapes (rangelands, settlements and a few scattered agricultural perimeters).

A total of 11,000 ha will be gazetted as PAs (Day Forest National Park), expanding and consolidating the Terrestrial PA sub-system. The site will benefit from improved management for conservation and sustainable use.

At least 100 ha of native forests in critical areas within the Day Forest National Park will be rehabilitated/restored.

A total of 1,000 people (50% men, 50% women) are expected to directly benefit from the project through improved livelihoods activities.

### **6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF):**

? **By establishing a PA in the Day Forest area**, operationalizing it and by additionally regulating land use in the area and in surrounding landscapes, the project will ensure the protection of globally important ecosystems in Djibouti, of the species that it harbors and it will safeguard the sustainable flow of land-based ecosystem services in a drylands settings linked to soil, water, biomass, nutrients and other natural assets ? ecosystem services that are crucial for the survival of people, livestock and biodiversity.

? **By affording protection to the Day Forest** (the project's primary site), with an indicative area of 11,000 ha, the project will help protect globally important and representative biodiversity, given that the site has the following outstanding values:

- o Day forest is home to 60% of Djibouti terrestrial biodiversity, including 70% of the country's floral diversity<sup>31</sup>;

- o Day forest is one of the three biodiversity hotspot areas of the country and a priority for forest-based conservation (see [PRODOC Figure 1, reproduced herein](#)) providing habitat to species such as Egyptian Vulture, *Dracaena ombet* and *Livistona carinensis* and the Djibouti Francolin, which are classified by IUCN as critically endangered.<sup>[4]</sup>;

- o Day forest provides habitat to 360 plant species have been recorded in the area, including the Gebel Elba Dragon Tree *Dracaena ombet* EN occurring on steep slopes, the Bankoual? Palm *Livistona carinensis* VU (known only from the Goda/Day and c. 12 sites in northern Somalia and Yemen), *Mimusops degan* and *Searsia glutinosa* LC.

- o Day forest harbors an ancient *Juniperus procera* upper elevation forest, which is a rare formation within the country's terrestrial landscapes and a highly threatened one, which needs assisted ecosystem rehabilitation to avoid collapse and forest die-out.

|

? **By assessing the conservation values in both Mabla and Day forest sites**, the status of forests, natural assets and of important species that they harbor in those sites will be known. **And by eventually also extending protection to Mabla Forest** (with target area for gazettal still to be defined), two of the seven Important Bird Areas in Djibouti (as classified by BirdLife) will be protected<sup>33</sup> -- and noting that both Day and Mabla forests support the country's only endemic bird species, the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin *Pternistis ochropectus*.

? **Landscapes surrounding the Day Forest site (an area estimated at 18,000ha, sustains mostly rangelands and but also other land uses) will become more productive.** These areas will benefit from improved land use practices, including improved land governance facilitated by collaborative Land Use Planning (LUP). More specifically, by sustainably managing the **Day Forest Wider Landscape**, which extends over 29,000ha and that includes in it the area of 11,000ha slated to be gazetted as PA (and thereby subject to stricter land use and access), the project will restore the flow of essential ecosystem services across the entire landscape. The wider area includes the cloud forest landscape that characterizes the Day Forest area, and which depends on improved management in the surrounding areas so as to reduce the pressure on its resources.

? **Ecosystem restoration interventions will be implemented in various small critical habitats, whose area add together to indicatively to 100ha.** Restoration sites include areas located both inside the Day Forest core area (clusters of *Juniperus procera* that require passive recovery or active recuperation, among other critical habitats) and a few areas outside Day Forest perimeter. Among the latter, we mention an area in the Airolaf plateau that appears to be the source of various intermittent rivers, which both that run east towards the sea and also run inland in the westerly direction ? extending the benefits far beyond the Day Forest area.

? **Water services will be improved in the Day Forest area.** Together, actions for establishing the PA in core areas, the improved management of the Day Forest Wider Landscape and the specific ecosystem restoration actions will enhance the Day's unique cloud forest function, which in its prime is capable of absorbing and transporting moisture from the air and retaining moisture in the landscape. This will allow biodiversity to flourish and the continued flow of ecosystem services.

? **There will be improved flow of agro-ecosystem services for sustaining food production and livelihoods** for local communities (among them women) and their livestock, who depend on these services for a living, and who experience first-hand the effects of desertification, climate shocks and dwindling land-based resources (fertile soil, woody biomass); will count on implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices across vast areas.

## 7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Beyond the drive to bring about innovation, it is equally important to replicate with improvements what has been attempted before, either in Djibouti or in other parts of the world, and achieved successfully, in order to cater for sustainability. Therefore, innovativeness, sustainability and up-scaling must be pursued in a balanced way.

### **Innovation:**

Innovation in the PRODOC comes from doing something that previous development projects did not do, or scaling down the geographic scope while scaling up activities and their impact in one area. The project will do this, while it carefully links all activities and geared towards generating income from them will ideally allow full or near full project success in Day PA.

Beyond the drive to bring about innovation, it is equally important to replicate with improvements what has been attempted before, either in Djibouti or in other parts of the world, and achieved successfully, in order to cater for sustainability. Therefore, innovativeness, sustainability and up-scaling must be pursued in a balanced way.

Project design caters for innovation and replication on several fronts:

? **The consolidation of a PA agency that also caters for the terrestrial PA sub-system,** consolidating past attempts and providing a more appropriate institutional structure to deliver PA planning and management for the entire estate;

? **A first, ambitious attempt in Djibouti to implement an integrated landscape or watershed-level management plan through LUPs,** plans that will combine on the one hand, the establishment and operationalization of a protected area, and on the other, the management of landscapes and habitats, which include climate-resilient forest restoration and sustainable land management across vast areas;

? **Support for more sustainable rural livelihoods in local communities**, which will be tied to the adherence to LUP and the PA management plan;

? **The creation of a multi-stakeholder platform** to coordinate, plan and support implementation of the project ? in particular the LUPs;

? **The implementation on the ground of an explicit behavioral change strategy** to tackle the six levers of change as appropriate in SLM and PA management, which are:

1. *Material incentives*: green jobs in the project (reforestation, nursery, ecoguards), livelihood support, microfinance platform

2. *Rules and regulations*: the operationalization of the PA, presence of PA staff, increased enforcement, sustainable grazing agreements

3. *Information*: increasing awareness of the importance of the Day Forest, building capacity on sustainable management and alternative livelihoods

4. *Emotional appeals*: by involving and mobilizing support at the highest government level, e.g., by publicly proclaiming the Day Forest (and potentially also Mabila Forest) ? including the rare stands of *Juniperus procera* and the endemic pheasant Djibouti Francolin (*Pternistis ochropectus*) ? as a national heritage and public good by the President of Djibouti, ministers, regional governments and traditional leaders.

5. *Social influences*: by adding a dedicated focus on women participation and empowerment, by promoting alternative livelihoods not compatible with rangeland degradation (honey, milk, tourism), by mobilizing private sector stakeholders.

6. *Considering context in which choices are made*: the severity of the rangeland degradation in recent years has led to a growing understanding amongst local herders that a new approach to livestock management was needed because current and traditional systems regarding herd sizes and open-access grazing have become inadequate.

? **Reforestation using native species, aided by fogharvesters and micro-irrigation support systems** to maximize initial survival levels; and

? **The introduction of intensified livestock management**, implying the establishment of enclosures and feedstock production centers to enable exclosures to work, and reducing thereby the grazing intensity by free-roaming livestock in the targeted landscapes.

## Sustainability:

Djibouti is a Least Developed desert country with harsh landscapes that have few other terrestrial landscape rehabilitation projects that are successful. During the PPG phase, only two successful landscape and livelihoods improvements projects were identified ? two small-scale grassland rehabilitation projects financed by wealthy private citizens. The people of Day and surrounding areas expressed concern that this project would be another widespread development project that would come in and fail after the project ended.

For this reason, the project will concentrate efforts primarily in Day Forest and on activities that can generate income and ecosystem goods and services. Learning from the previously introduced interventions, such as the FAO-supported animal feed production, the proposed project integrates training and private sector engagement from the outset to ensure that the innovative nature-based solutions are developed in a participatory manner.

At the management and governance level, setting up a dedicated PA Agency with a self-sustaining financing mechanism in addition to the national budget allocations is deemed to be a new approach to sustainable conservation of the national parks.

A dedicated PA entity with a well-defined governance structure and mechanism in the existing government structure is expected to accelerate and facilitate the conservation and sustainable management of the country's protected areas ? including the terrestrial sub-system ? contributing thereby to SLM and biodiversity conservation, as well as to the country's sustainable development more broadly.

Also, in terms of sustainability, the Government of Djibouti, via the Ministry of the Environment, will be in charge of the functioning of the agency. The project will support the government in rolling out a model, which can be adopted or replicated in other protected areas in the country with further improvements based on the learnings of the Day Forest.

As with all GEF-financed projects, sustainability is one of the primary goals.

Environmental sustainability of this project will come about through improved, permanent water catchment structures and formations, which are designed to support successful reforestation and land rehabilitation during the project's lifespan.

Additional sustainability will come about through intensive and extensive trainings of the local community in Day as well as government staff members in water catchment management, water harvesting, sustainable small-scale business development, holistic livestock management and sustainable land management practices, sustained by livelihoods support. It is expected that by the project end, most of the project components will have met their goals and the community will have benefitted from improved livelihoods and an improved environment.

## Potential for Scaling Up:

Djibouti is a Least Developed desert country with harsh landscapes that have few other terrestrial landscape rehabilitation projects that are successful. During the PPG phase, only two successful landscape and livelihoods improvements projects were identified ? two small-scale grassland rehabilitation projects financed by wealthy private citizens. The people of Day and surrounding areas expressed concern that this project would be another widespread development project that would come in and fail after the project ended.

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

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

Map of Djibouti

The project will be implemented in and around the small green area of Day in the larger pink area of Tadjourah.



Spatial coordinates of central project are (as per the 2004 Law on PAs):

Landscape	Geospatial Coordinates
Day Forest	11°45'46.7208"N; 42°29' 5.2152"E
Mabla Forest	11°55'33.59"N; 42°58'51.95"E

Map with topographic features in Google Earth Format



photos taken at Day Forest PA

Though not clearly shown, behind fenced enclosures, the area was filled with greenery; in particular the President has a vacation home in the PA, and has a large fenced in garden in it, filled with trees, shrubs, insects and birds. It is entirely feasible to rehabilitate this landscape by controlling grazing and implementing permaculture and other SLM techniques guided by local plant experts. Exclosures, designed to keep grazing animals out, will also be established in critical habitats.



#### 1c. Child Project?

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

#### 2. Stakeholders

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

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

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

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

In all relevant cases, indicators of engagement are included in the project results framework.



The budget for stakeholder engagement is included in the ?training? portions of the budget, as well as in PMU and consultant salary, and in some cases IP and MAEPE-RH salaries, given as in-kind contributions.

Outcome/Output	Activities	Key Partners (consultants stakeholders in all cases)	Timing	Why included?	Why/how to engage
Outcome 1.1) Enhanced PA terrestrial sub-system management capacity and finance	1: National PA enabling framework enhanced	DEDD	Y1	IP, ultimately owners of PA framework	DEDD will be engaged as IP of project
	2: Gazettement decree prepared, adopted, disseminated and introduced	DEDD, local community	Y1	IP, owners of gazette decree, community must understand to abide	DEDD will be engaged as IP; Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed to ensure effective and meaningful participation of communities; communities will be engaged in introduction and dissemination; local community was engaged during PPG phase
	3: National Environment Fund and tourism financing source operationalized	DEDD, tourists, National Office of Tourism (NOT)	Y1	IP and owner of fund, NOT to advertise, tourists will be paying	DEDD is owner of fund and will manage it; NOT will play a role in advertising and promoting Day PA and costs of entering to tourists.
<b>Outcome 1.2)</b> <b>Increased management effectiveness in 11,000ha of terrestrial PAs</b>	1: PA demarcated on the ground by staff of DEDD	DEDD, local community	Y1	IP to mark with aid of community	DEDD will be engaged and manage this as IP; community members will take part so as to learn upkeep and understand PA boundaries; DEDD will ensure effective and meaningful participation of local communities through the application of the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan and other consultation instruments as required.

Outcome/Output	Activities	Key Partners (consultants stakeholders in all cases)	Timing	Why included?	Why/how to engage
	2: PA management training workshops held	DEDD, local community, park staff	Y1	IP, MAEPE-RH and community must all understand expectations to they can support them	DEDD as IP and ?owner? of PA will have to understand and direct management processes; the community, as community managers, will have to understand how to interact with DEDD and how to make management decisions.
	3: PA staffed and equipped by trained and paid locals and DEDD staff	DEDD, local community, park staff	Y1-Y5	IP, must understand PA function and management, local community must also understand function to support it in future	Local community will be asked to apply for jobs managing PA, engagement will be recorded by number of applicants. They will be chosen by DEDD and PMU in a transparent fashion, with a goal of engaging women as much as possible. Continuous monitoring and training of staff will be done by M&E specialists and field assistant to ensure adequate performance.
<b>Outcome 2.1) Concerted Land Use Planning (LUP) and SLM practices applied across the Day Forest Wider Landscapes (totaling 29,000 ha and including 11,000 ha in PA land use)</b>	1: 1 Fogharvesters and rooftop rainwater catchment system purchased, tested, and local people trained to maintain	DEDD, local community, private sector	Y1-Y2	DEDD and especially local community will ultimately be in charge of maintaining and adding additional water catchment works	Local community, MAEPE-RH and DEDD will be engaged, as all will have stake in ensuring these devices function and can be repaired and added to beyond the length of the project. Fogharvesters will be purchased from the private sector, who will also lead training on their use.

Outcome/Output	Activities	Key Partners (consultants stakeholders in all cases)	Timing	Why included?	Why/how to engage
	2: Plots totaling 300 ha in the newly-defined Day PA are reforested with a climate-resilient mix of native species	DEDD, local community	Y1-Y2	DEDD and community will benefit from this work, and will continue it after project end	The local community will have a major role in doing the work for this. A Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed at beginning of process to ensure area chosen for reforestation is both ecologically sound and fits with community needs; the community and DEDD will be responsible for maintaining new land and adding to it as needed/wanted.
	3 Plant nursery set up in Day to produce seedlings for reforestation	DEDD, local community,	Y1-Y5	DEDD and local community will ideally benefit from this long after project end and need it to support continued reforestation	This will be included in Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the Livelihoods Action Plan and other relevant plans as required. Local community will be main employees and will have to approve of size and apply for jobs through transparent process. MAEPE-RH and/or DEDD will manage after end of project.
	4 National, subnational trainings held to strengthen institutional capacities of government agencies on water recovery, land management, etc.	DEDD, MAEPE-RH	Y1-Y5	DEDD, MAEPE-RH will be entrusted with ensuring future staff and communities can continue work of project	DEDD, MAEPE-RH will need to have capacity built so that they are able to manage these processes and purchases, as well as repairs, beyond project end.

Outcome/Output	Activities	Key Partners (consultants stakeholders in all cases)	Timing	Why included?	Why/how to engage
<b>Outcome 2.2) Improved livelihoods and benefits for local population living and sustainably using the Day Forest Wider Landscapes, women included</b>	1: Sustainable rangeland rehabilitation measures implemented to restore ground vegetation and related ecosystem services.	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, local community, park staff	Y1-Y5	All of these stakeholders will have role in rehabilitation measures	This will be part of the scoped ESIA, and community will co-decide where this will be done; they will be engaged in first year from beginning and will ideally be engaged throughout the project to continue to expand the measures. PPG phase discussed with all stakeholders.
	2: Livestock are enclosed based on community agreement through participatory PA committees.	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, local community	Y1-Y3	All of these stakeholders have a role in animal health and herd sizes	This will be part of the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and community has already been engaged in PPG phase.
	3: Training provided to local community members on sustainable land management, soil/water conservation, sustainable grazing agreements, ,etc.	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, local community	Y1-Y5	All stakeholders have a role in sustainable land, water, animal management, in Day PA and throughout country.	These topics have been discussed with community during PPG. Field assistant and consultants will be careful to explain to all of community what trainings entail and why they should take them, taking care to craft reasoning about health and well-being
<b>Outcome 3.1) All safeguards standards met throughout project</b>	1 Capacity building given to local people on alternative sustainable livelihoods (and women's empowerment).	DEDD, CLE, ADDS, local community	Y2-Y5	DEDD is IP, CLE and ADDS are expected to have a role in talent development in the community	This has been discussed with community during PPG, and will be included in the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Community will be given options for alternative livelihood development, but women's empowerment training will not be an option. Community will choose jobs as they prefer.

Outcome/Output	Activities	Key Partners (consultants stakeholders in all cases)	Timing	Why included?	Why/how to engage
	2 Training given on cooperative building, business management and access to microfinance to support livelihoods.	DEDD, local community, CPEC, private sector	Y2-Y3	DEDD is IP, CPEC is the body that gives out micro-loans and does finance training	This was discussed with community during PPG and they expressed interest. In second year, once livelihood training starts, community will be given choice of livelihoods, and will be trained on cooperative management and financial management so they can sustain themselves beyond project end. They will be taught how to engage with the private sector, and to the extent possible, the private sector will be directly involved in these trainings, either through planning or delivery.
	3: Supplies procured to support livelihoods	CLE, local community, consultants; private sector marketers; NOT	Y2-Y5	DEDD is IP. MAEPE-RH will have role in agricultural production. Community will be the primary users of the products. Local marketers, including NOT will be selling	After communities have chosen livelihoods, they will be given additional training in packaging and marketing and will be given eco-friendly options for better packaging, so as to add value to products and make more sellable. Consultants will work with NOT and local private sector marketers to get products advertised and available for sale. The private sector will play a key role in helping the community access and design better product packaging

Outcome/Output	Activities	Key Partners (consultants stakeholders in all cases)	Timing	Why included?	Why/how to engage
Outcome 3.3) Knowledge Management and Outreach ensured for gender- sensitive and evidence-based decision-making and scaling up of best practices	1 Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related standards and management requirements	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, ADDS, NOT, CLE, CPEC, local community	Y1-Y5	All stakeholders must be trained in these topics to ensure fair treatment of community and project stakeholders and to uphold reputation of GEF and UNDP	All stakeholders will be trained in these topics previous to any involvement in the project. There will be a primary training session at the projects? beginning that all stakeholders must attend. This can be recorded and consultants required to watch it and answer a short quiz. If there are enough people that need it, the training can be given annually.
	2 Social and environmental safeguards risks mainstreamed across Components 1-3, adaptive management	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, ADDS, NOT, CLE, CPEC	Y1-Y5	All PMU and trainers will be involved in adaptive management so they can adjust their tactics as needed.	All stakeholders will ensure that they are adhering to the project SESP plan; it will be the responsibility of DEDD as IP and the PMU to ensure the stakeholders are aware of all requirements and it will be the job of the PMU and M&E consultants to ensure standards are adhered to and adaptive management is happening.
	3 Gender equity and women empowerment issues are mainstreamed, monitored based on Gender Action Plan	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, ADDS, NOT, CLE, CPEC	Y1-Y5	All stakeholders must be trained in these women's empowerment to ensure fair treatment of women, to promote a slow change in gender equality and to uphold reputation of GEF and UNDP	All stakeholders will ensure that they are adhering to the project Gender Action Plan; it will be the responsibility of DEDD as IP and the PMU to ensure the stakeholders are aware of all requirements and it will be the job of the PMU and M&E consultants to ensure standards are adhered to and adaptive management is happening

Outcome/Output	Activities	Key Partners (consultants stakeholders in all cases)	Timing	Why included?	Why/how to engage
	4 Sustainability and replication strategy developed	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, ADDS, NOT, CLE, CPEC, community	Y5	DEDD is the IP. The rest will be involved in making their availability known, the community will dictate what it wants to continue.	While all stakeholders from the project will be consulted in the replication and sustainability strategy, particularly with respect to sustainability, the replication part will be primarily the domain of DEDD and other government offices who will be responsible for replicating the successful parts of the project nationally.
Outcome 3.2) M&E duly implemented	1: M&E products (MTR, TE, PIRs) conducted with all tracking tools, core indicators and financial indicators assessed	DEDD, MAEPE-RH, ADDS, NOT, CLE, CPEC	Y3, Y5	DEDD is the IP, the others will have to share information about project activities and results so they can be recorded by PMU.	All stakeholders will be interviewed as part of the M&E reporting process and adaptive management. The actual incorporation of the results will be the responsibility of the PMU, with close cooperation from the IP, DEDD.
	2: M&E reflected in adaptive management	DEDD	Y1-Y5	DEDD as the IP will, along with the PMU, be primarily responsible for adaptive management.	While all project stakeholders will be involved in M&E data collection, it will be the responsibility of the PMU, in close cooperation with DEDD and any other IPs to integrate lessons into future planning and implement adaptive management.

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

At PIF stage a number of stakeholders were identified as being important for this project and their mandate described. During the PPG stage, the large majority of them were engaged and others, not cited in the PIF, were additionally engaged. Engagement of stakeholders during the PPG was thoroughly documented. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan was prepared as a result of the PPG and it is

included in Annex 10. The Plan provides an overview of the proposed roles for relevant stakeholders in the project and a plan for their engagement.

Within the public sector, key stakeholders are:

- ? Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DEDD - *Direction de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable*) under the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD - *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable*)
- ? Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Husbandry and Fisheries Resources (MAEPE-RH - *Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Eau, de la Pêche, de l'Élevage et des Ressources Halieutiques*)
- ? Djibouti Social Development Agency (ADDS - *Agence Djiboutienne de Développement Social*)
- ? Caisse populaire d'épargne et de crédit (CPEC)
- ? Tadjourah and Obock Regional Councils and Prefectures

Government institutions will be involved in the project in the ways outlined in Annex 10, which correspond with arrangements noted in the co-financing letters.

Agencies linked to government were also directly consulted and engaged, among them:

- ? Centre de Leadership et Entrepreneurship (CLE)
- ? National Office of Tourism (ONT) ? through the CEO
- ? Djibouti Social Development Agency (ADDS)
- ? Centre for Studies and Scientific Research of Djibouti (CERD)

International organizations / donors and all relevant Djiboutian CSOs (including both women and men,) were consulted in December 2022 regarding the design of this proposed project:

- ? Within the former group, they include FAO, IFAD, World Bank, WFP and the AfDB.
- ? Among the CSOs directly consulted and engaged, it is worth mentioning the Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti (UNFD) and Women Associations in Tadjourah and Obok and NGO Precious Plastics (through the Collabs Coordinator).

The above-mentioned consultations affirmed the proposed project activities and provided information on current donor and CSO activities. No objections to any proposed activities or approaches were raised. General themes in consultations included a high interest in improving the water availability and holding capacity in Day, as well as developing income generating activities there, and nationally.

Civil society organizations, including CBOs, will be involved in the project in several ways. First, the project intends to encourage the participation of relevant local NGOs in technical workshops, project-related meetings, information sharing, co-planning, and project implementation.



The local community in Day and relevant parts of the community in Tadjourah will be involved in the project as implementers (doing much of the work), trainees (going through the capacity building workshops/trainings described in the project strategy), and ultimately as beneficiaries.

All potential stakeholders will be consulted through the application of the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan and related processes during the project, and all stakeholders will be involved with the project by choice and at their chosen level of engagement.

Project personnel will work with community champions or self-selected liaisons within NGOs or the government to manage the engagement of broader teams of stakeholders.

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes**

**Co-financier;**

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

**Executor or co-executor; Yes**

**Other (Please explain)**

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

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

For the full gender Analysis, please see Annex 11 of the ProDoc. A shorter version is summarized here:

#### **Methodology for Analysis**

As a first step, a literature review was done. Literature/data was assessed from studies on gender issues in Djibouti, including: the National Gender Policy; Vision 2035; Djibouti HERE; Gender Strategy for the Marine Protected Areas; the Djibouti Gender Profile; study on the evolution of the situation of women in Djibouti from 2000 to 2018; and, a report on the national inquiry into female genital mutilation and gender-based violence. Following the literature review, interviews were done with the NGO Union des Femmes de Djibouti (UNFD), which campaigns for the defense and promotion of women's rights, and were consulted during the proposed Project design mission. The association is represented and mobilized

throughout the country and engaged in almost all actions and programs for the benefit of Djiboutian women. UNFD manages listening, information and guidance centers. Interesting discussions took place to better understand gender-based violence in the country but also economic empowerment activities for women. UNFD officials also made recommendations for better integration of women from the two villages targeted by the Project. Field visits and focus groups with the women in Day Village were conducted to understand their socio-economic situation, and the challenges and opportunities as women in their community.

### **Institutional and Legal Framework for Gender Equality**

Relevant international gender policies and strategies for this project include: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA); The United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD); The GEF Gender Policy (2017); The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; SDG 5 on Gender Equality; and, the UNDP Gender Equality Strategy (2022-2025). Several other national strategies touch on gender, including the National Family Planning Strategy (2016-2018) and the National Gender Policy (2023-2030), which aims to eliminate the gender gap at all levels of the development process while also achieving sustainable development and eradicating gender inequalities. The Constitution of the Republic of Djibouti, which entered into force on 15 September 1992, proclaims that there should be 1) Equality before the law without distinction as to language, origin, race, sex or religion; and 2) The right to life, liberty, security and integrity of the person. At the regional level, the Republic of Djibouti is part of several commitments and charters that touch on women's rights, The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women (2005), among others.

### **Socioeconomic Baseline Conditions and Gender Risk Analyses for the Proposed Project Area**

Based on data gathered in interviews, the project design team learned that in Day Village, women do not participate much in decisions that affect the community. Men consult them but their opinion is not sufficiently taken into account. The decision-making power belongs to the male leaders. The women of Day Village do not often have the opportunity to be asked about their specific needs and also do not have spaces for meetings and discussions. The establishment of a local association in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Family's ongoing women empowerment projects that would bring together women would increase the status and decision-making power of women within their community; the woman of Day also expressed an interest in having such an association. Such an association could support awareness programs about women's rights, health, child health, leadership and economic empowerment. The Union National des Femmes de Djibouti (UNFD) expressed an interest in supporting the development of a local Day Women's association during the PPG phase.

Generally, the women of Day sell handicrafts or own small stalls as a means of livelihood, in addition to being the primary caretakers of their families. The women were very concerned about how water scarcity was impacting their families' daily lives and they cited a need to have the volume of water per family increased in order to improve their living conditions. For example, since the current water shortage began many years ago, women no longer practice household gardening. They used to produce vegetables for sale and fruit for family consumption. They would like to resume this activity because it generated income; they expressed an interest in learning new farming techniques to increase production. Overall, they are genuinely interested in developing income-generating activities and are seeking support in this regard. They also noted that many young college graduates have returned to the village because they cannot find work; setting up an entrepreneurship project could open up prospects for the future of these young women and men.

### Local Community Gender Analysis

Local community	
Theme	Gender issues, gaps and possible entry points
<b>Firewood collection</b>	<p><i>Gender Issues and gaps</i></p> <p>The women of Day use wood for cooking but also to heat houses during the cool season. Fencing the forest would mean lengthening the distance they have to travel to fetch wood.</p> <p><i>Possible Entry Points</i></p> <p>The forest could have a gate so that women could access it and the dead wood within it without having to travel long distances.</p>
<b>Water collection and use</b>	<p><i>Gender Issues and gaps</i></p> <p>Because of the lack of drinking water, the women of Day have to spend more time collecting water. In addition, women cannot practice small-scale family farming because of water scarcity and therefore cannot earn income from this activity.</p> <p><i>Possible Entry Points</i></p> <p>Support communities in projects to improve water availability and storage. Introduce women to drip techniques to reduce water use in agricultural plots.</p>

<b>Agricultural livestock rearing</b>	<p><b><i>Gender Issues and gaps</i></b></p> <p>Currently, in Day, cattle are herded and graze in previously forested landscape. There is little vegetation for the animals to eat, so they are herded farther and farther out; when a bit of green appears, it is quickly eaten. The only existing forests or natural plants are in deep, impossible to access ravines, or behind fences .This way, women have to travel long distances to find pasturage for livestock, and wherever plants try to regenerate, it is quickly consumed.</p> <p><b><i>Possible Entry Points</i></b></p> <p>Partially fence the landscape to allow the forest to regenerate, but leave areas accessible to livestock for a limited period of time. Leave access paths through protected, fenced off areas so herders can access plants on other side. Purposefully create an area of pasturage adjacent to the forest using experts and expertise present in Djibouti that have achieved this in lowland areas. Provide training on holistic livestock management, including herding and enclosing, operationalization of animal feed, and inclusion of animal fodder varieties as part of the permaculture to divert the dependance on the Day Forest resources for their livestock and fuel wood requirements. In addition, creating opportunities for alternative sustainable livelihoods so that animal-keepers can manage their animals and livelihoods in a way that is ecologically sustainable.</p>
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A gender risk assessment was also conducted. The information in the following sections was gathered specifically from the field work in Day with local-level stakeholders (men, women, youths). Issues of access and control of natural resources, institutional capacity and decision-making power were addressed. Below is a summary of the key issues from the stakeholders. The results of the assessment shape the gender mainstreaming strategy for the project, which includes four main topics to be analyzed.

#### Gender risk assessment and mitigation measures for local communities

<b>Local communities</b>		
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
<b>Discrimination against women or other groups based on gender with regards to access to resources,</b>	Potential for discrimination in terms of which livelihood / enterprise activities are chosen and supported by the project for the (Development of market, value chain & livelihood activities);	Work with diverse marginalized groups, especially among women and the range of economic and cultural contexts and gradually empower them through inclusive PA planning and management approach  -

<b>Local communities</b>		
<b>Risk</b>	<b>Risk assessment</b>	<b>Mitigation measures</b>
<b>services, or benefits provided by the project</b>	Participation: Potential for discrimination in terms of participation of women in project activities e.g. capacity building activities and restoration	? Ensure that for each project activity, women are represented by setting percentages  ? Promote women's participation in decision-making, emphasizing the quality and creative nature of work, place needs over wants and foster healthy, mutually beneficial relationships among people  ? Adapt capacity building and training to different groups to enable them to improve on their crafts or learn other alternative sources of income.
	Potential for not considering women's household needs, especially water needs, when carrying out forest restoration activities.	? Restoration process should identify areas where women fetch water regularly and provide regulated access or provide access to some areas
<b>Create, exacerbate or perpetuate gender-related inequalities</b>	There is a risk of women not being included in decision-making for restoration activities  There is a risk of project livelihood interventions/ activities not including or benefiting women;	Hold discussions for men and women separately and jointly for project activities  Promote specific livelihood activities that women can carry out within their communities  Sensitise and educate the local population on the important role of women in society  Promote women-owned and women-led cooperatives and micro/small enterprises when Facilitate access to finance/micro finance for the cooperatives and micro enterprises with financial assistance to enable them to buy farm inputs, money to engage in value addition; money to buy garden equipment.
<b>Adverse impacts on the livelihood or rights of</b>	Contextual risk: women have issues with access to freshwater	Install water points to enable women to have water in their communities and reduce distance to collection sites

Local communities		
Risk	Risk assessment	Mitigation measures
women and girls, including restrictions on women's ability to use, develop or protect natural resources, considering different roles of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services.	Contextual risk: Women are economically dependent on men since men are mostly in charge of commercial activities such as livestock rearing	? Involve women in livelihood and restoration activities ? Encourage and support women to engage in small businesses ? Facilitate access to loans for women

Components / Outputs	Action	Gender Indicators	Timeline	Responsible
<b>Impact Statement:</b> Increased climate resilience and improved socio-economic conditions of women and girls from Day community through gender mainstreaming and technical and financial assistance to gender-specific activities				
Component 1) Enhance PA terrestrial sub-system				
Output 1.1) National Terrestrial PA regulatory and planning frameworks developed	Ensure that female staff of DEDD are involved in the PA enabling framework development process, and that the trainings are attended by as many female staff and stakeholders as possible.	<b>Target:</b> At least 50% of participants and trainees are women	Y1 ?Y2	PMU UNDP Consultants
[AS ABOVE]	Ensure that female DEDD staff are part of the gazettelement decree development process; ensure that women receive the dissemination about the decree and understand it	<b>Target:</b> At least 50% of participants and recipients of PA information are women	Y1 ?Y2	

<b>Components / Outputs</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Gender Indicators</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Output 1.2) Domestic finance for the planning and management of the national terrestrial PA sub-system is sought increased	Ensure that female DEDD staff are involved in the Fund development process and that women as well as men are the beneficiaries of any of the funds that may be given to the public	<b>Target:</b> Aim to have 50% of staff participating in development and collection of fund to be women; if funds are given back to community, at least 50% must benefit women	Y1 ?Y2	
Output 1.3) PA demarcated on the ground by staff of DEDD and communities	Encourage women to be involved in the demarcation design and marking process	<b>Target:</b> At least 30% of the people involved in this activity are women	Y1 ?Y2	PMU Gender Expert Consultants
Output 1.4) PA management enhanced to ensure at basic operations and site level oversight in collaboration with community cooperatives	Seek the participation of women as ecoguards and park entrance guards, and involve women in guard training even if not their chosen livelihood	<b>Target:</b> At least 30% of selected and trained participants are women	Y1 ?Y2	
Output 1.5) PA management training workshops held for DEDD staff, local ecoguards and locally-led land and water user management committees	Ensure women participate in the trainings and ensure that gender-specific concerns are incorporated into the trainings.	<b>Target:</b> At least 30% of park staff are women, and at least 50% of the attendees in community land management committee trainings are women.	Y1 ?Y2	
<b>Component 2) Safeguarding and rehabilitating ecosystems</b>				

Components / Outputs	Action	Gender Indicators	Timeline	Responsible
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1	Very important	<b>Target:</b> Strive for 50% participation in all relevant events, documented	Along implementation	PMU
Output 2.1) Participatory landscape management committees established	Consult and engage women when developing LUPs and in committees.	<b>Target:</b> At least 50% of consulted community members are women; at least 25% of paid workers are women		Consultants
<i>Activity 2.1.2) Ensure a gender-sensitive approach in the landscape management committees to be established</i>	Women must be protagonists in these processes. Encourage women to participate in the trainings and encourage women and men to ensure the committees are gender balanced			
Output 2.2) Land Use Planning (LUP) prepared in a participatory manner as Integrated PA & watershed/landscape management plans are adopted by communities and regulating authorities				



Components / Outputs	Action	Gender Indicators	Timeline	Responsible
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2</p> <p>Output 2.3) Community-based sustainable grazing agreements are adopted to enhance natural regeneration</p> <p>Output 2.4) The operationalization of various applicable gender-sensitive SLM techniques on the ground is supported for the benefit of communities living in the Day Forest area, including among them women</p> <p>With several activities on the ground under these</p>	<p>Consult women when placing the testers and full-scale harvesters so as to ensure water is located conveniently, to the degree possible.</p> <p>Train women in maintenance.</p>	<p><b>Target:</b> At least 30% of selected and trained participants are women</p>	Y1 ?Y2	PMU Consultants
<p><i>Activity 2.4.1) Mini fogharvesters and one rooftop rainwater catchment system purchased and locations tested; if successful, full systems/fogharvesters are purchased, and local people are trained to maintain</i></p>	<p>Consult women when placing the testers and full-scale harvesters so as to ensure water is located conveniently, to the degree possible.</p> <p>Train women in maintenance.</p>	<p><b>Target:</b> At least 30% of selected and trained participants are women</p>	Y1 ?Y2	PMU Consultants
<p><i>Activity 2.4.2) Plots totaling 300 ha (3km squared) in the newly-defined Day protected area are reforested via agro-ecological and permaculture techniques with a climate-resilient mix of native species.</i></p>	<p>Consult women when choosing plot areas to ensure chosen areas will not cause livelihood burdens and involve women in all trainings and work</p>	<p><b>Target:</b> At least 50% of participants in permaculture trainings and terraforming work are women</p>	Y1-Y5	PMU International and local Consultants

<b>Components / Outputs</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Gender Indicators</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<i>Activity 2.4.3) Plant nursery set up in Day to produce 3000 seedlings for reforestation with a mix of native species, as well as to prepare or store seeds as needed for feedstock planting.</i>	Encourage women to participate in trainings and nursery care work.	<b>Target:</b> At least 50% of participants in those trainings are women	Y1 ?Y2	Consultants
<i>Activity 2.4.4) National, subnational trainings held to strengthen institutional capacities of relevant government agencies on water recovery, catchment and management (fog harvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.</i>	Encourage female staff members of the agencies to come to the trainings.	<b>Target:</b> At least 30% of selected and trained participants are women	Y2 ? Y3	PMU Consultants Government Agencies
<i>Activity 2.3.3) Sustainable rangeland rehabilitation measures implemented across 1000 ha of PA buffer zones to restore ground vegetation and related ecosystem services, through terraforming using demi-lunes, za? holes and other ditch technology to capture water and then plant drought-tolerant forage species during the rainy season.</i>	Women are consulted when the areas to rehabilitate are chosen; women are encouraged to take part in the digging and planting work as paid employees	<b>Target:</b> At least 50% of consulted community members are women; at least 25% of paid workers are women	Y2 ?Y5	PMU Consultants

Components / Outputs	Action	Gender Indicators	Timeline	Responsible
<p><i>Activity 2.4.4) National, subnational trainings held to strengthen institutional capacities of relevant government agencies on water recovery, catchment and management (fog harvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.</i></p> <p><i>Activity 2.4.5) Training provided to 500 local community members on sustainable land management, soil/water conservation, sustainable grazing agreements, water catchment (using fog harvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.</i></p> <p><i>Activity 2.4.7) Training on cooperative building</i></p>	<p>Heavily encourage women to take part in the trainings, and encourage men to allow women to take part. Ensure trainings touch on gender relevant issues.</p> <p>Promote women's economic participation to men and women as key to community development; design trainings with gender-specific issues highlighted.</p>	<p><b>Target:</b> At least 50% of selected and trained participants are women</p> <p><b>Target:</b> At least 50% of selected and trained microentrepreneurs are women; At least 40% of the women in Day's village attend these women's leadership development programmes</p>	<p>Y1 ?Y5</p>	<p>PMU, Gender Expert, Consultants</p>
<p><b>Component 3A) KM, Safeguards and Gender</b>  <b>Component 3B) M&amp;E</b></p>				

Components / Outputs	Action	Gender Indicators	Timeline	Responsible
<p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1</p> <p>Output 3.1) Training provided to key stakeholders in DEDD, Ministry of Agriculture, and participating NGOs on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements</p> <p>Output 3.2) Gender equity and women empowerment issues are mainstreamed into project implementation activities and indicators, and monitored based on the Gender Action Plan (developed in PPG phase)</p> <p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2</p> <p>Output 3.3) M&amp;E products (MTR, TE, PIRs) prepared with all tracking tools, core indicators and other indicators duly assessed with adaptive management practices incorporated</p> <p>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.3</p> <p>Output 3.4) Knowledge Management Plan developed and implemented</p> <p>Output 3.5) Effective dissemination and mutual sharing of best practices and lessons learned for regional and national stakeholders, including women facilitated and documented</p> <p>Several activities under those ? as below:</p>	<p>Aim to have 50% of the PMU staff be women and recruit a gender expert who will work part time to ensure gender goals met</p> <p>Disaggregate data in database on gender, as appropriate; capture women?s participation in the narratives about the PAs</p>	<p><b>Target:</b> A gender Expert position is defined as part of the project management team; A national gender specialist is recruited at project inception; 50% of staff are women</p> <p><b>Target:</b> Information relevant to women?s needs are presented clearly in the database; information is disaggregated by gender as appropriate.</p>	Y1	<p>PMU</p> <p>Consultants</p>

Components / Outputs	Action	Gender Indicators	Timeline	Responsible
Training and capacity building activities	<p>Promote women's economic participation to men and women as key to community development; design trainings with gender-specific issues highlighted.</p> <p>Strongly encourage women to take part in the trainings; ensure the trainings are designed to be gender sensitive and have specific components designed for gender-differentiated issues.</p>	<p><b>Target:</b> At least 50% of selected and trained microentrepreneurs are women; At least 40% of the women in Day's village attend these women's leadership development programmes</p> <p><b>Target:</b> At least 50% of the participants selected and trained on microfinance, cooperative structuring and IGA management are women; At least 50% of micro-enterprises trained are women-led</p>	Y3-Y4	PMU, Gender Expert, Consultants
Supplies procured to support chosen alternative livelihoods	Procure supplies to support women's livelihoods at a rate equal to or surpassing the supplies purchased for men's livelihoods	<b>Target:</b> At least 50% of individuals supported with equipment are women.	Y3 ? Y4	PMU
<b>Other aspects of the project</b>				
PMU leads the implementation of activities; Defines project positions and their roles and responsibilities; Launches and finalize staff recruitment	Aim to have 50% of the PMU staff be women and recruit a gender expert who will work part time to ensure gender goals met	<b>Target:</b> A gender Expert position is defined as part of the project management team; A national gender specialist is recruited at project inception; 50% of staff are women	Y1	PMU
Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Target women in invites for trainings and encourage their participation for professional growth.	<b>Target:</b> At least 40% of selected and trained participants are women	Y1 ?Y5	PMU DEDD Ministry of Agric NGOs
Sustainability and Replication Strategy	Consider women's work and needs when designing the sustainability and replication strategy and ensure they remain as 50% of beneficiaries.	Target: At least 50% of the replication and sustainability plan is dedicated to supporting ongoing activities that benefit women	Y5	PMU Gender Expert

Components / Outputs	Action	Gender Indicators	Timeline	Responsible
M&E products (MTR, TE, PIRs)	Design and do all required M&E with respect to gender	Target: Gender is fully integrated in the monitoring, reporting, evaluation systems; Gender activities and outputs are integrated in the project annual workplans and budget is allocated for their implementation	Y1-Y5	Gender Expert, PMU, M&E Expert, Consultants
Adaptive management approach	When gender issues/concerns are discovered, incorporate them into the management plan, adaptively managing	<b>Target:</b> Gender lessons are disseminated and used for continuous improvement	Y1-Y5	
Knowledge Management	Consider role of women, importance of women's empowerment and approaches to ensure women's active participation in the planning and decision making processes of the participatory governance mechanisms  Ensure that the knowledge products have adequate coverage of gender results in a gender-sensitive language and messages	<b>Target:</b> Gender responsive approaches, tools and the data collection methods are included in the Knowledge Management Plan  <b>Target:</b> At least one knowledge product exclusive and in the remainder of the knowledge products at least 50% coverage is dedicated to the women's empowerment results and lessons	Y1-Y2	PMU Gender Expert KM Consultant
Sharing and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned	Ensure meaningful representation of women from different technical, geographical and socio-economical background in each dissemination workshops	<b>Target:</b> Women represent at least 50% of the dissemination activities	Y2-Y5	PMU Gender Expert KM Consultant

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

Yes

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

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women** Yes

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

Yes

#### **4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

The project does not have a detailed private sector engagement strategy; however, the private sector will be engaged, in several aspects of the project. Because there are so few nationally-owned large private sector entities in Djibouti, they are not being asked to be a part of co-financing or play a major role in the project. However, several activities will engage smaller-scale private sector actors. They are:

Activity 3.1: 1 Fogharvesters and rooftop rainwater catchment system purchased, tested, and local people trained to maintain. In this activity, an international commercial producer of fogharvesters will be engaged to both supply and train DEDD staff and locals on fogharvester setup and maintenance. The country will be able to learn best practices from similar countries from this producer, and ideally will gain significant technical knowledge in the function and design of fogharvesters, that can then be replicated manually (without the need to purchase commercial fogharvesters) in other areas as needed.

Activity 5.2 Training given on cooperative building, business management and access to microfinance to support livelihoods. In the second year, once livelihood training starts, communities will be given a choice of livelihoods activities/strategies and will be trained on cooperative management and financial management so they can sustain themselves beyond project end. They will be taught how to engage with the private sector, and to the extent possible, the private sector will be directly involved in these training courses, either through planning or delivery.

Activity 5.3: Supplies procured to support livelihoods. After communities have chosen livelihoods activities, they will be given additional training in packaging and marketing and will be supported eco-friendly alternatives for better packaging, so as to add value to products and make them more attractive in the market. Consultants will work with NOT and local private sector marketers to get products advertised and available for sale. The private sector will play a key role in helping the community access and design better products and product packaging.

#### **5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives**

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

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
1	Social or resource exclusion. Project implementation could potentially favour one group over another, exclude one group from decision making, exacerbate conflict within and between communities, impact cultural expressions and traditional livelihoods including of vulnerable groups, and restrict availability, quality of and access to basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups.	Social	I = 4 L = 3  Substantial	? Apply a human rights-based approach and actively engage stakeholders at all levels, establish conflict resolution mechanisms, and set up a grievance redress mechanism ? Based on the findings of the additional stakeholder analysis, the current Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be strengthened and developed into a Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan. ? Under Output 2.2, locally led land and water user and management committees will be created. These specific committees will involve local stakeholders for on-site coordination, monitoring and decision-making body regarding PA and land management. The project will provide capacity enhancement support.	MEDD
2	Women's discrimination. Given the prevailing cultural and religious context, the project could potentially directly or indirectly reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, regarding participation, implementation or access to opportunities and benefits; this includes also a potentially increased risk of gender-based violence and a more severe impact on women from changes in access to natural resources promoted by the project (increased labour in firewood or water collection, reduced revenue from these sources, etc.)	Social	I = 3 L = 3  Moderate	? Address gender issues and enhance women empowerment and active involvement in the implementation of the project through the implementation of a Gender Action Plan, ensuring through monitoring that any discrimination of women is not tolerated by project stakeholders including beneficiaries.	MEDD



#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
3	<p><b>Harm to natural habitats.</b>  The project could cause harm to natural habitats, biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural resources and also to human health in and around the Day PA, by i) ill-chosen or ill-placed economic activities or SLM interventions inconsistent with biodiversity conservation and rangeland restoration objectives such as increasing herd size in overgrazed pastures (ii) reforestation activities that could replace natural ecosystems or even include the use of invasive species; ii) the provision of waterpoints for livestock in key biodiversity areas that are currently inaccessible; iii) the use of vulture-killing drugs (diclofenac) in livestock veterinary care; iv) the use of banned pesticides in horticulture plots.</p>	Social and Environmental	I = 4 L = 3  Substantial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Develop a scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) to assess the risks to natural habitats and biodiversity from project activities.</li> <li>? Engage with local communities to ensure that economic activities or SLM interventions remain aligned with biodiversity and rangeland restoration activities. The project will consult with the local communities in view to explore the option of community members rearing their animals in an enclosed space or having them to temporarily avoid grazing their animals in areas where forest and rangeland rehabilitation will be carried out.</li> <li>? Prevent the unintended introduction of invasive species, by giving due attention to the use of suitable native species in nursery establishment and planting/ reforestation schemes (IAS safeguards will be applied) and avoiding harmful ecological impacts.</li> <li>? Prevent the creation of waterpoints for livestock that could lead to unsustainable ecosystem impacts</li> <li>? Obtain water through the use fog harvesters and rainwater catchment as opposed to drilling wells and boreholes.</li> </ul>	MEDD

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
4	<p>Economic Displacement. The project will involve changes to land use and access to natural resources in Day , most notably through the operationalisation of the PAs, restricted access to pastures, changes to grazing regimes, and it may involve changes to land access and tenure (customary or not), all of which could harm local livelihoods and lead to economic displacement in some parts of the population, including local community; in this sense, the project could affect the development priorities and cultural heritage (transhumance, value systems, wealth management) of some groups of local community; as a result of project activities some traditional livelihoods and places (e.g. the Day refuge pasture) may experience changes.</p>	Social	<p>I = 4 L = 4  Substantial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Apply social safeguards throughout the project.</li> <li>? A Livelihoods Action Plan (LAP) will be developed according to the provisions under Standard 5 and following the Process Framework; an approach for UNDP-supported projects that may cause restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks and protected areas. Indicative outlines for both the LAP and the Process Framework are included in the ESMF.</li> <li>? Prepare and implement a Livelihood Action Plan throughout project implementation, to include equitably distributed livelihood and income-generating activities.</li> <li>? The elaborated ESMF makes reference to the conduction of SESA for upstream work that may potentially impact communities under component 1.</li> <li>? Build and monitor capacity to ensure that all partners respect rights-holders? access to and sustainable use of natural resources.</li> <li>? Ensure that the native community (Afar) rights, culture and traditions are duly considered throughout project implementation.</li> <li>? Respect applicable rights and claims to natural resources while working closely together with targeted communities to protect biodiversity and strengthen livelihoods.</li> <li>? Establish PA and rangeland management committees in a participatory way and operationalize these through capacity enhancement, the committees will include herders, local authorities and religious leaders (imams) and ensure adequate representation of women.</li> <li>? Establish and implement a grievance mechanism in line with UNDP policies, as indicated in the project comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</li> </ul>	MEDD

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
5	Poor enforcement of rules. Following the demarcation of the PA on the ground in Day, PA staff and guards will be recruited and trained. PA staff and guards may impose/enforce rules in an inappropriate manner that can include discrimination and may lead to violence and human rights violations	Social	I = 4 L = 3  Substantial	? Conduct a risk assessment on the use of forest guards ? Allow zero tolerance to misbehaviour by PA management staff/guards ? Provide human rights training to PA staff including guards ? Pre-empt such risks through a review and adjustment of the PA legal framework (under Output 1.1.), through the PA management plans and through the local PA committees	MEDD
6	Community health hazard. The creation of surface water management structures may offer new breeding areas for disease-bearing vectors especially mosquitoes (malaria is present), and poor water storage or treatment for drinking purposes may cause waterborne disease.	Social and Environmental	I = 3 L = 3  Moderate	? As part of the scoped Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) that will be conducted for the restoration and rangeland rehabilitation activities under Component 2, the impacts on community health will be assessed in a participatory manner considering the views and concerns of local communities. ? Ensure that risks are minimised through due planning and oversight of construction ? Ensure that beneficiaries are made aware of the risks of stagnant water through health awareness campaigns.	MEDD
7	Workers' health and safety. Engagement of community workers in the rehabilitation of the visitor's centre, building of swales, new trails, and tourists' encampments, may involve working conditions that do not meet national labour laws or international commitments and may involve occupational health and safety risks due to physical hazards.	Social	I = 3 L = 3  Moderate	? The ESMF provides orientation on the need for Labour Management Procedures during project implementation ? Ensure that risks are minimised through due planning and oversight of construction ? Ensure that workers and beneficiaries are made aware of the risks during construction, with unqualified/unauthorised personnel not allowed on site	MEDD

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
8	<p>Success leads to new pressures. Successful investments in the target area might attract additional populations, increasing pressure on local natural resources and potentially undermining project success. Successful livelihood interventions could offer beneficiaries the resources needed to acquire new technologies/ equipment/ pesticides and greater livestock numbers with consequential environmental impacts. In addition, upscaling of the project's SLM interventions in other areas in Djibouti could replicate the same risks in these areas in an indirect manner</p>	Social	<p>I = 3 L = 3  Moderate</p>	<p>? The scoped ESIA will screen potential cumulative risks associated with additional pressures and induced development.</p> <p>? Government and project team will monitor for such trends and intervene especially where significant immigration and behavioural or wealth changes could undermine project success</p> <p>? In replication efforts, which is linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks.</p>	MEDD

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
9	<p>Climate-induced hazards. Climate change is a major driver of ecosystem change and is expected to lead to more extreme and unpredictable weather patterns in the Horn of Africa, most notably increased temperatures and more irregular rainfall patterns. Project success could hence be directly affected, and over the long term, climate change may undo social and environmental outcomes of the project (e.g., sustained drought preventing success in ecosystem restoration and reducing livelihood options). In addition, an investment in local development and water infrastructures could be wasted if the target areas become uninhabitable due to drought or heat.</p>	Environmental	<p>I = 3 L = 3  Moderate</p>	<p>? As part of the ESIA, a Climate Risk Analysis (following STAP Guidance, or similar) must be undertaken to: identify likely climate change trends and scenarios, assess risk exposure of project components and outcomes, identify and evaluate project impacts on community exposure and vulnerability; and identify measures that can be taken to avoid, adapt to or reduce the projected impacts and risks (e.g. through siting of activities in least vulnerable areas; risk-proofing project interventions; and building risk-preparedness plans and measures into the design of project outputs).</p> <p>? The restoration will therefore integrate climate resilience considerations.</p> <p>? All project interventions must integrate climate change scenarios and will be screened for the risk of maladaptive investments/practices; this applies especially to measures to boost rural development over the short-term and to the risk of unsustainable water extraction (addressed under Risk 4 above).</p> <p>? The establishment of a long-term monitoring system of terrestrial ecosystems in and around the two targeted PAs will enable the adoption of an adaptive management approach that will contribute to take into account the effects of climate change.</p> <p>? The project will promote climate-resilient crops and native species for reforestation to reduce the vulnerability of farmers, agro-pastoralists and herders.</p> <p>? The project will collaborate with climate change adaptation projects.</p>	MEDD

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
10	Project staff will be disengaged or even ill-motivated, and parts of project will fail or never start.	Financial	I = 3 L = 3  Moderate	<p>Three mitigation measures should be put in place to mitigate this risk:</p> <p>? First, the overall project plan has been simplified from the initial PIF stage, so that the majority of activities can be focused on one site, and the project strategy has been streamlined. This should make implementation easier.</p> <p>? Second, when hiring for this project, the IP and UNDP will ensure to select highly motivated people, particularly for the project manager and field staff, who are committed to environmental remediation projects and community capacity building and economic development. The staff must equally be committed to gender equality and ensure that gender issues are mainstreamed throughout their work.</p> <p>? Additionally, UNDP will work with MEDD to devise an appropriate way of recording funds generated from tourism and transferring the same into a central PA fund. This should e.g. avoid the risk of e.g. swindling of revenue generated from tourism by PA staff stationed at the entrance gate of the Day PA, which had been suggested as a possibility during the PPG Validation Workshop.</p>	MEDD, UNDP
11	Limited political support to amend existing PA law and create a national PA agency	Political	I = 4 L = 3  Substantial	<p>The following measures will be implemented / have been embedded in project design:</p> <p>? The overall project plan has been simplified and streamlined, so that activities can be focused on one site (Day Forest).</p> <p>? A key study has been proposed to assess the conservation value of Mabla Forest and to map key resources in Day Forest area.</p> <p>? The two above measures should help remove any resistance against the needed gazettal of the PA and the necessary engagement of the government to support the PA and SLM agenda.</p> <p>? Additionally, UNDP will maintain smooth communication and engagement with high-level officials (Minister, Secretary General, etc.) at the Ministry of Environment.</p>	PMU, UNDP

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
12	<p>Reluctance of community members to respect the demarcated PA and their commitment of not accessing the areas under restoration, meaning e.g. that community members will be unwilling to enclose their animals. Note: This risk may become critical if prolonged drought sets in before livelihood activities can yield results.</p>	Operational	<p>I = 4 L = 3  Substantial</p>	<p>? Site selection for restoration activities will happen with due consultation of community members.  ? A Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed before start of activities and implemented during the restoration activities.  ? A Livelihoods Action Plan will be developed following a participatory Process Framework.  ? Early on in the project, one of the first community training courses will be on climate change impacts and the severe negative impact of overgrazing on the environment. These trainings will be designed using strategic behavioral change techniques and hopefully will be sufficient to convince most of the community, particularly leaders, that not only do animal herds need to be enclosed, but they also must be reduced, as they are not sustainable at the current sizes. The second mitigation measure, if commercially available feed is unavailable or outside of project costs, is that farmers will be allowed to graze in areas not being restored by the project or will be assisted as they go out and manually collect fodder from unprotected areas.</p>	PMU
13	<p>Local communities will not be supportive of the new activities and will not help the project as expected, and/or will perpetuate gender discrimination bias that characterize current livelihoods.</p>	Strategic	<p>I = 3 L = 3  Moderate</p>	<p>All local communities, including women, have been consulted during the PPG phase (primarily through their leader) and have given their agreement. They will also be consulted again at project inception through the planned consultation process as part of the Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Everyone will be able to choose those activities they prefer, and they will be compensated for their work time initially through project funds, and the subsequently through money raised from increased tourism revenues. It is expected that if they see the positive benefits, in terms of more water, more productive land, and more food and cash, they will be motivated to work.</p>	PMU

#	Description	Risk Category	Impact & Probability	Risk Treatment / Management Measures	Risk Owner
14	Execution problems caused by complex administrative procedures for delivering on the ground, limited understanding of the project strategy by key stakeholder (e.g. due to frequent changes of authorities) and difficulties in operating and maintaining technical equipment (e.g. fogharvesters).	Operational, Technical and Strategic	I = 3 L = 3  Moderate	<p>? Ensure that the project document is translated into French and presented to key stakeholders during the FSP inception.</p> <p>? Train project personnel in procedures, including UNDP's, based on the Capacity Development Plan developed by the UNDP GEF team for the IP.</p> <p>? Empower them to embrace the project's strategy and its agenda.</p> <p>? Maintain smooth communication and information to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. It will be ensured that the project team is stable and protected from undue political interference.</p> <p>Specifically on the management of fogharvesters, which are a sensitive equipment and important for the functioning of water dependent SLM activities, the following mitigation measure will apply:</p> <p>? Mini-fogharvesters will be purchased and tested in several locations before purchase of a full set. The fogharvesters will be installed in suitable sites with no obstructions to the wind that will blow into them, and as per the manufacturer's recommendation, a minimum of six months of trials will be conducted in order to find the optimum location. In the event fogharvesters turn out to be inappropriate for the area, the funds dedicated for their purchase will be directed into the establishment of rainwater harvesting systems if they work.</p>	PMU UNDP

#### 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.

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



**Implementing Partner:** The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD). The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document. The Implementing Partner for this project is the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development, Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DEDD). They were already subjected to the partner capacity assessment tool and the HACT.

The HACT micro-assessment of the Implementing Partner (MEDD) dated 26 February 2021 identified several weaknesses related to procurement and financial management. The overall risk rating is considered Moderate. However, with respect specifically to financial management, the risk is deemed significant. The HACT report provides recommendations to strengthen financial management within the DEDD and more generally within MEDD. Based on findings and recommendations of the HACT assessment, previous and ongoing GEF funded projects, though nationally implemented, receive execution support from UNDP. The Implementer Partner does not manage the funds and UNDP has been providing financial management support including payroll management support to facilitate the execution of the project activities.

During the PPG phase, UNDP used Partner Capacity Assessment Tool to assess the MEDD's capacity. The assessment was undertaken to assess the procurement, administration, financial management, and monitoring capacities of the IP. The Overall Risk Rating (including Qualitative and Quantitative) was Very High Risk. For both the HACT and PCAT, they highlighted that the partner does not have a digitalized and clear procurement system. The Partner does not keep an up-to-date register of suppliers and does not perform nor monitor their performance. Based on the findings of the PCAT assessment, a costed Capacity Development Plan was developed recommending that an integrated Project Management Unit (PMU) be established to provide better operational support to the existing and upcoming projects. The integrated PMU will support the Implementing Partner and build its capacity, especially in the procurement, financial management, gender mainstreaming, and monitoring and evaluation. The PCAT assessment resulted in a Capacity Development Plan, which will be implemented through the contribution of each project. The integrated PMU will be equipped with a full-fledged team including a Procurement officer, Procurement Assistant, Administration and Finance Officer, Administration and Finance Assistant, Gender Expert, and Monitoring and Evaluation Expert to implement the Capacity Development Plan. Each project under the Integrated Programme will have its dedicated Project Manager to provide technical inputs to the project, strategic guidance to the project consultants, coordinate the stakeholders, coordinate and collaborate with the co-financing institutions to synchronize the activities indicated under the co-financing approach, and ensure that the project is compliant with the project objectives and principles.

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

- Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is

undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.

- Overseeing the management of project risks as included in this project document and new risks that may emerge during project implementation.
- Procurement of goods and services, including human resources.
- Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets.
- Approving and signing the multiyear workplan and combined year-end delivery report; and,
- Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures;

MEDD has agreed to provide office and conference space to the proposed project. They will also offer staff time that will focus on Component 1: setting up a PA agency, creating a better enabling environment for PA management, releasing a gazette decree for Day, introducing the PA to users through training sessions, and setting up a National Environmental fund, which will, among other things, first be financed through tourism fees collected at the entrance to Day and for any additional guide fees earned. DEDD staff will also demarcate the extent of the Day PA using a combination of paint and signs, and they will interview and select locals who can work as entrance guards, ecoguards and rehabilitation managers. To the extent possible, DEDD staff may choose to fill some of these roles themselves, depending upon their capacity, however, given that most staff are working at capacity, it is recommended that locals be transparently selected for this process, as a way of creating jobs in the community. UNDP will support the DEDD/MEDD to organize PA management training workshops, via capable national or international consultants (if required, and can be done remote via video), which MEDD staff will participate in and facilitate. Finally, MEDD staff will participate in all parts of Component 2, in order to build their capacity. UNDP and consultants it hires however will lead these activities, and MEDD staff will participate for capacity building purposes so that it can replicate work done in Day in other protected areas, and support the management of the processes and activities at Day as needed.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Livestock (MAEPE), will be used to provide expertise on livestock and rangeland management, as well as feed mill development and marketing. MAEPE specifically requested this latter part of the project, and will be trained to understand and manage operations so that they can replicate elsewhere ? even if passing if off to a private sector entrepreneur makes more sense. MAEPE will also be highly encouraged to take part in all trainings on permaculture, zai holes and rangeland rehabilitation, and dairy products and honey improvement courses.

**Project Management Unit (PMU):** DEDD will also be responsible for the creation of an Integrated PMU (based at DEDD), where a minimum of three fulltime staff members will be hired to fill the positions of Project Manager and Regional Technical Officers. As per the recommendations of the Capacity Development Plan developed for the IP in consultation with the MEDD, the project will contribute to and benefit from a joint PMU for an integrated programme. The Project will contribute partial salary of the full-Administrative/Financial Assistant, Procurement Assistant, Gender Expert and M& E Expert. The PMU will supervise the long term consultants namely the Safeguards Consultant, M&E consultant and Knowledge

Management Consultant. The Joint PMU will recruit a full time Safeguards officer and Communications officer that will support the proposed project as well. For quality assurance, M&E missions will be conducted at MTR and TE by independent (third-party) consultants, however, the PMU will be responsible for the issuance of regular progress reports to the UNDP CO. Furthermore, the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor (RTA) will provide an additional layer of project oversight and will participate in regular project team calls to monitor progress and advise on project implementation.

The PMU will be responsible for overseeing all implementation of the project, including hiring and managing international and national consultants, procuring all supplies, arranging for and co-managing work delivered by MEDD/DEDD and also coordinating, to the degree possible, work done by other co-financing partners. UNDP will have oversight of the PMU, provide technical guidance, provide quality assurance to the key technical interventions facilitate the mid-term and terminal evaluation processes, engage in the project implementation reporting procedures and support the PMU in preparing the quarterly and annual workplans to be approved by the project steering committees.

The PMU will also be responsible for liaising with the National Office of Tourism, Ministry of Women and Family, Regional and local governments, CLE, CPEC, ADDS and other national NGOs that are expected to be involved in project implementation. It will also be responsible for staying up to date with progress on ongoing projects that are related to PA development and land rehabilitation in Djibouti and liaising with focal points to ensure proper collaboration and complementarity. This includes close follow up of the progress on other GEF-7 projects and other GEF-funded projects in Djibouti. The PMU will also strive to make information on their progress available for others to build upon when embarking on the design of new projects. The PMU is directly accountable to the MEDD/DEDD in accordance with the terms of their agreement with the MEDD/DEDD.

#### **Project stakeholders and target groups:**

To ensure sound management of project implementation and continuous engagement of stakeholders in all project activities, MEDD/DEDD will establish the following committees at project start:

- **Steering Committee/Project Board:** Consisting of representatives from MEDD/DEDD, MAEPE-RH, UNDP CO, as well as representatives from the National Office of Tourism, ADDS and/or CLE, local CSO-Association Siriddo, the Ministry of Women and the Family, and regional authorities. The role of the Board is to oversee project implementation, support sound governance, ensure M&E procedure is followed and support continuous collaboration with the Project. Board meetings will be held every six months. Additional meetings may be scheduled if required by the PMU during implementation.
  
- **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil

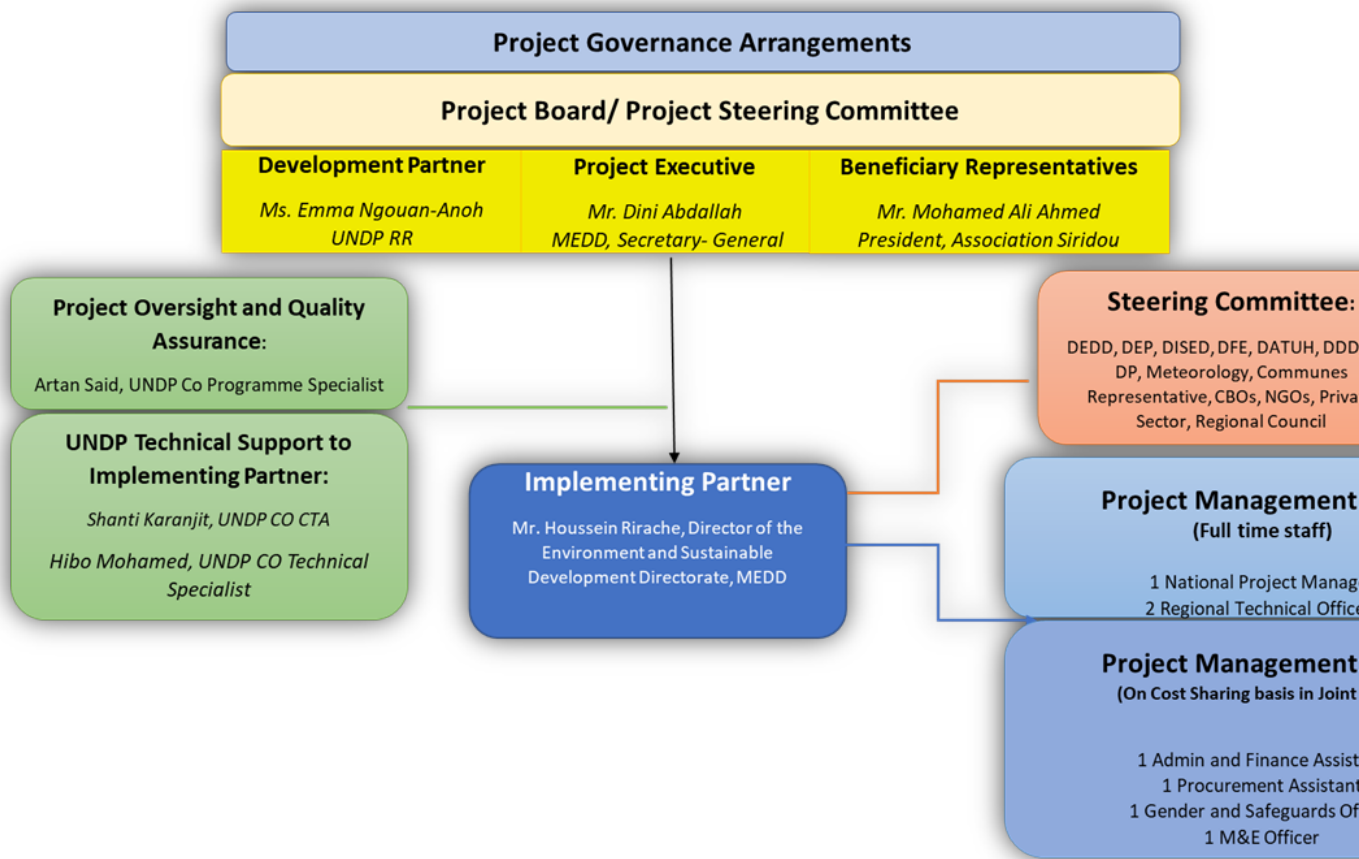
this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative is Mr. Mohamed Ali Ahmed, president de l'association Siridou ([associationsiriddo@gmail.com](mailto:associationsiriddo@gmail.com)).

- **Technical Committee:** This will be a sub-committee of the project's Steering Committee in which technical institutions related to the energy, livestock, land rehabilitation and water sector will be represented with the necessary expertise, i.e. representatives of ministries, the National Office of Tourism, private sector, academia, and NGOs. This committee is expected to meet more frequently than the Project Board, e.g. quarterly, and will be responsible for reviewing the studies and assessments which the project will generate, and advising the PMU on strategic issues and technical aspects affecting project implementation.
- **Consultancy Task Force:** Consisting of international & national experts taking the lead on specific technical assignments and collaborating to ensure the homogeneity of the overall output. The PMU Project Coordinator, supported by the consultants to be responsible for KM activities, will be responsible for bringing the consultants together and ensuring that their work is complementary.

It should be noted that members of the Steering and Technical committees representing public entities will not be paid from the project funds. The cost of their engagement will represent Government contribution to support project implementation. The target groups under this project can be divided into four categories: 1) State and local government authorities, i.e. public sector entities; 2) International tourists and private sector entities that work with them; 3) Development partners financing other land rehabilitation, PA and sustainable agriculture projects in Djibouti; and 4) Local communities. Further details on the project's strategy for engaging stakeholders and target groups in decision making processes are provided in the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), presented in Section V and Annex 10 of the Project Document.

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

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



First line of QA	Second line of QA
<p>Person providing oversight of execution support (COS) cannot report to UNDP staff providing project assurance or providing programmatic oversight support to the RR</p>	<p>I. Regional bureau oversees RR and function of UNDP compliance in project assurance</p> <p>II. BPPS NCE RTA oversees functions of technical oversight and GEF compliance in project assurance. BPPS NCE PTA oversees RTA function.</p> <p>III. UNDP GEF Executive Coordinator and Regional Bureau Deputy Director can revoke/DOA/cancel/suspend project or provide enhanced oversight.</p>

## Section 2: Project governance: Supported NIM with Government as Implementing Partner

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

**UNDP project support:** The Implementing Partner and GEF OFP have requested UNDP to provide support services for procurement of items over DJF 5,000,000 (USD 28,000) through international procurement (individual consultant or companies), processing payments, issuance of cheques, recruitment of the staff under the support to NIM modality (see Annex 2), and for the cost of these services to be charged to the project budget. The execution support services ? whether financed from the project budget or other sources - have been set out in detail and agreed between UNDP Country Office and the Implementing Partner in a Letter of Agreement (LOA). This LOA is attached to this Project Document.

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

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

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

execution functions.

In this case, UNDP's implementation oversight role in the project ? as represented in the project board and via the project assurance function ? is performed by Mr. Artan Said, Program Specialist. UNDP's execution role in the project (as requested by the implementing partner and approved by the GEF) is performed by Mr. Keswar Leelah, Operations Manager with support from the Procurement Team, Finance Team and Human Resource and Administration Support Team of UNDP Country Office's Operations Unit, who reports to Mr. Gael Ollivier, Deputy Resident Representative.

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

**a) Project Board:** All UNDP projects must be governed by a multi-stakeholder board or committee established to review performance based on monitoring and evaluation, and implementation issues to ensure

quality delivery of results. The Project Board (also called the Project Steering Committee) is the most senior, dedicated oversight body for a project.

The two main (mandatory) roles of the project board are as follows:

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

#### **Requirements to serve on the Project Board:**

- ? Agree to the Terms of Reference of the Board and the rules on protocols, quorum and minuting.
- ? Meet annually; at least once.
- ? Disclose any conflict of interest in performing the functions of a Project Board member and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest. This disclosure must be documented and kept on record by UNDP.
- ? Discharge the functions of the Project Board in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures.
- ? Ensure highest levels of transparency and ensure Project Board meeting minutes are recorded and shared with project stakeholders.

#### **Responsibilities of the Project Board:**

- ? Consensus decision making:
  - o The project board provides overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints, and providing overall oversight of the project implementation.
  - o Review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report;

- o The project board is responsible for making management decisions by consensus.
- o In order to ensure UNDP's ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition.
- o In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP representative on the board will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

? **Oversee project execution:**

- o Agree on project manager's tolerances as required, within the parameters outlined in the project document, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager's tolerances are exceeded.
- o Appraise annual work plans prepared by the Implementing Partner for the Project; review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner.
- o Address any high-level project issues as raised by the project manager and project assurance;
- o Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP and the donor and refer such proposed major and minor amendments to the UNDP BPPS Nature, Climate and Energy Executive Coordinator (and the GEF, as required by GEF policies);
- o Provide high-level direction and recommendations to the project management unit to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily and according to plans.
- o Track and monitor co-financed activities and realisation of co-financing amounts of this project.
- o Approve the Inception Report, GEF annual project implementation reports, mid-term review and terminal evaluation reports.
- o Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project.

? **Risk Management:**

- o Provide guidance on evolving or materialized project risks and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks.
- o Review and update the project risk register and associated management plans based on the information prepared by the Implementing Partner. This includes risks related that can be directly managed by this project, as well as contextual risks that may affect project delivery or continued UNDP compliance and reputation but are outside of the control of the project. For example, social and environmental risks associated



with co-financed activities or activities taking place in the project's area of influence that have implications for the project.

- o Address project-level grievances.

? Coordination:

- o Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes.

- o Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities.

**Composition of the Project Board:** The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

1. **Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is Dini Abdallah, Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD).

2. **Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative is Mr. Mohamed Ali Ahmed, president de l'association Siridou ([associationsiriddo@gmail.com](mailto:associationsiriddo@gmail.com)).

3. **Development Partner(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding, strategic guidance and/or technical expertise to the project. The Development Partner is: Ms. Emma Ngouan-Anoh UNDP RR.

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- b) **Project Assurance:** Project assurance is the responsibility of each project board member; however, UNDP has a distinct assurance role for all UNDP projects in carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring functions. UNDP performs quality assurance and supports the Project Board (and Project Management Unit) by carrying out objective and independent project oversight and monitoring

functions, including compliance with the risk management and social and environmental standards of UNDP. The Project Board cannot delegate any of its quality assurance responsibilities to the Project Manager. Project assurance is totally independent of project execution.

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

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

The PMU will consist of a Deputy National Project Director (Director of Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate) who will be the key decision-making authority of the project and Project Manager (PM hired by the project), who will be the lead coordinator for the project. The PM will be ultimately responsible for ensuring all deliverables are met and all reporting is turned into the donor and all other necessary parties. The PM will be responsible for writing and approving all consultant contracts and will provide final approval and oversight on all budget changes, and procurements. The PM will work out of MEDD/DEDD offices in Djibouti Ville.

The PMU will have two Regional Technical Officers (RTO) (full time) and on cost-sharing basis in the Joint PMU of an integrated Operational Support of PMU - an Admin and Finance Assistant, a Procurement Assistant, Gender and Safeguards Officer and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer who will be responsible for ensuring all project staff and consultants are paid on time, ensuring that procured goods and services fall within the budget, and preparing semi-annual budget reports for the donor. The RTO will be responsible for to be based in the Region and will primarily provide technical assistance, coordination at the site and stakeholder engagement support. The primary PMU representatives attending board meetings is: Mr. Houssein Rirache, Director of the Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Project Manager hired by the project.

### **Key Stakeholders:**

**MAEPE-RH**: Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Husbandry and Fisheries Resources (MAEPE-RH) is a key stakeholder of the project and a member of the Steering Committee / Project Board as well as the Technical committee of the project. MAEPE-RH is one of the two government ministries providing in-kind co-financing to the project .

**World Bank**: As an official funder of the Social Protection Emergency Crisis Response. A USD 30 million 4-year project will contribute to safety net transfers to targeted households affected by the multiple crises facing Djibouti and strengthen adaptive social protection mechanisms to respond to future crises. The project will support the horizontal scale-up of the national safety net program by providing targeted transfers in cash and in-kind to the poor and vulnerable households affected by drought, food, and fuel price increases. New coverage is expected to reach a total of 86,200 new beneficiaries 15,000 households and 2,200 students, including in Tadjourah and Day Forest area.

**The National Office of Tourism (NOT)**: NOT has plans to do many of the same renovations that are proposed in this project for Day National Park, including charging entrance fees, improving the road to access the park, putting in gift shops, a visitors center, a restaurant, marketing the park better, and offering guides and other activities. For this reason, NOT will be a project partner and will likely implement or help manage many of the tourism activities proposed in this project. The NOT will support the MEDD in ensuring the sustainability of the actions undertaken to develop tourism in the Day Forest region. Although current financial resources are limited at the tourism agency level, the MEDD and the Agency are putting in place a strategic approach to ensure the sustainability of the initiatives (2 years ago it was the same ministry).

In this context, the MEDD, in partnership with the National Tourist Office, can play a crucial role in mobilizing funds, supplementing the financing from the GEF. This specific funding will make it possible to initiate and put into practice the development of sustainable tourism in connection with the management of terrestrial areas, in particular the Day Forest, while ensuring a participative and inclusive approach, where communities will be closely involved in the development of sustainable tourism in the Day Forest region.

Their budget for 2023 is 600,000,000DJF (3,372,000 USD), which would be adequate to do much of the work proposed. However, their budget for 2022 was greater, yet no improvements were realized in the Park, and they have no budget for 2024. For this reason, many tourism improvement activities are still being proposed for this project, as it could be unlikely that NOT will be have the actual budget to do them. Where their budget does exist, UNDP will work with NOT to co-finance activities by using their staff to plan and implement. And, where budget for physical improvements exists within NOT, UNDP will adjust its work to compliment whatever physical improvements NOT can finance on its own.

**Caisse populaire d'pargne et de crédit (CPEC):** CPEC is the national microfinance agency. They typically give out loans of 600,000DJF (3,372USD) for launching activities, and up to 2,000,000DJF (11,240USD). They charge a 1.05 percent interest rate, and once the loan is paid back, the borrowers are eligible for a new loan. For women they offer individual credit and group credit; according to CPEC, women, notably, never default on their loans. They also give 30,000 DJF (168USD) every three months to women who have nothing, which is financed by WB, and they have special credits for young graduates and entrepreneurs. CPEC does not currently have any loans given out to the people of Day, but they are willing and able to, through their branch office in Tadjourah. This would require that people from Day come to Tadjourah to get the initial loan, but would be able to pay it through Djibouti's mobile banking system.

When CPEC provides credit, it not only provides financial support, but is also committed to building the capacity of borrowers. They provide training in loan management and savings skills, enabling beneficiaries to acquire the necessary skills to manage their loans effectively and optimise their financial resources. These training sessions are essential because they help borrowers develop a solid understanding of the principles of responsible financial management. Participants learn how to develop repayment plans, manage their spending and save wisely. By building their financial capacity, CPEC promotes the efficient use of funds and encourages the creation of a savings culture among borrowers. Although UNDP includes this training in its results framework, CPEC will provide this training at no additional cost to the project. This demonstrates CPEC's commitment to promoting the financial success of its clients and maximising the socio-economic benefits of their entrepreneurial activities. In addition, the project plans to train the community in cooperative creation and business management through CPEC, for rural communities to support their chosen livelihoods.

When CPEC gives out loans, they also do capacity building about how to manage loans and save money; therefore, though UNDP will count this training under its results framework, it is envisaged that this training will be given by CPEC at no additional cost to the project.

**The Center for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (CLE):** CLE is the national entity with a mandate to lead the leadership and entrepreneurship interventions in the country under the leadership of Ministry of Digital Economy and Innovation. UNDP will continue its partnership on building technical capacity of the aspiring micro and small scale entrepreneurs in the capital and regions. CLE has ongoing projects supporting the entrepreneurship and business development skills in addition to the Islamic and general micro-financing opportunities to support the micro and small scale enterprises in the regions. The project will build upon the past and ongoing partnership with CLE, particularly on the topic of basketry and weaving. CLE is already working on developing improved dyes, and new weaving techniques in other parts of Djibouti, and can be used as a project implementer for any capacity building that needs to be done around weaving. While UNDP will have to pay expenses for travel to Day for CLE staff, the capacity building trainings would be performed by CLE, so that they are in line with other national weaving and weaving cooperative building projects, and

so that CLE can ensure there is a diversity of products available and each cooperative is not repeating what others do and creating internal competition. The collaboration model proposed is that the project will recommend the cooperatives and the micro-enterprises for the ongoing CLE interventions in the region, thus, supporting CLE in fulfilling its project objectives -mainly for capacity development and micro-financing.

**Agence Djiboutienne de Développement Social (ADDS):** ADDS is Djibouti's leading social development agency under the Ministry of Social Solidarity. During the PPG scoping visit with ADDS, they expressed an interest in working with the project to help implement, as many of the tourism and sustainable alternative livelihood activities proposed here are also of great interest to ADDS, who has also already been working on this topic. The World Bank co-financing is expected to be delivered partially through ADDS in the regions. In this regard, the ADDS will function as a key collaborator in the field for the project interventions. Moreover, the ADDS has already established project delivery mechanisms and build capacities of the regional entities that the project will refer to and build upon during the course of implementation. The details of the mechanisms of collaborating in the delivery mechanisms will be determined during the project inception phase.. The exact extent of tourism, artistry, honey, poultry and dairy development projects and capacity building they will do will be determined during the project, based on the choices of the people in Day, and what ADDS will be capable of implementing on their own.

**The Tadjourah Hydroponics Project:** Just announced in 2022, the European Union (EU) financed Tadjourah Hydroponics Project will be taking place outside of Day village, within or just adjacent to the perimeter of the Day protected area (presumed, once defined). Hydroponic technology is simple to set up with locally-available materials, it does not depend on rainfall and ensures agricultural production throughout the year. It uses no energy thus no CO2 emissions, and it promotes the use of organic fertilizers, supports the cultivation of all types of plants, and uses 20 percent of the water compared to conventional gardening methods, which is ideal for a place like Day with insufficient water. The project consists of the creation of a 9200m<sup>2</sup> hydroponic perimeter at Day village that will allow agricultural producers, pastoralists (shepherds and goat and sheep breeders) and anyone interested to come and learn and/or be trained on hydroponic practices, which will also be replicated in school gardens in the Tadjourah region. There will be 10 greenhouses of 240 m<sup>2</sup> each, with a semi-automatic irrigation system, for hydroponic cultivation of vegetables, and then 6023m<sup>2</sup> of uncovered surface with an automated watering system, for the cultivation of additional vegetables and fodder. Hydroponic Africa LTD, which has experience in African desert climatic conditions, including in Sudan and Kenya. The project will be implemented by Africa Hydroponics LTD. This project will not work directly with the proposed project, but is expected to help amplify project results. If the hydroponics project is successful, it will increase the food available to the people of Day, making the production of jams and preserves more feasible, and having this extra source of income generating opportunity will be a factor in convincing the people of Day to reduce herd sizes.

**The MHUE/UNDP/GEF-6 project Mitigating Key Sector Pressures on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Further Strengthening the National System of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) in**

**Djibouti** (GEF-6 # 9215, GEF grant USD 2,822,374, 2018-2022). This project's objective was to enhance the resilience of Djibouti's marine biodiversity through increasing institutional capacity, enhancing financial sustainability and management effectiveness of the MPA system, and mainstreaming marine biodiversity into key maritime sectors. This was achieved through implementing four components that addressed the key barriers identified for effective MPA and marine ecosystem services management. One component focused on strengthening Djibouti's MPA system through enhanced capacity of all stakeholders, including dialogue to mainstream biodiversity into maritime sectors will establish a unit that is empowered to convene multi-stakeholder processes, develop policies and laws and support their enforcement, as well as to draw on best accessible scientific and technical knowledge for decision-making. A second component focused on expanding the national MPA network and strengthening MPA management at site level. The final component focused on finding a sustainable financing mechanism for marine biodiversity and the national protected areas system which was intended to support the establishment of a new funding mechanism, to provide relevant resources for MPA management and sustainable local management of marine resources. This current GEF-7 project will build off the foundational work done under this MPA project.

**The MEDD/UNDP/GEF-6 project Sustainable management of water resources, rangelands and agropastoral perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi watershed** (GEF-6 # 9599, GEF grant USD 3,215,068, 2020-2025). This project's objective is to develop an integrated model for the restoration of agropastoral ecosystem services in the Cheikhetti watershed to reduce land and water degradation, improve self-sufficiency in basic living needs of vulnerable rural communities and create conditions to enable its replication. The project will moreover set up an national knowledge management platform for SLM as well as a sustainability and replication strategy and action plan. Even though there are no geographic overlaps with the regions targeted by this proposed GEF-7 project, there are thematic similarities wherefore technical cooperation and knowledge exchanges will take place between the teams that are both hosted by the MEDD. The baseline investment is estimated to be USD 500,000 for the potential overlap period of 2023-2025. This project will be considered a partner, but not a co-financer to the this proposed GEF-7 project.

**The MEDD/UNEP/GEF project Planning and implementing Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) in Djibouti's Dikhil and Tadjourah regions** (GEF # 10180, GEF-7 LDCF grant USD 8,925,000), which has just kicked off aims to increase resilience to climate change impacts in the form of droughts and floods in rural communities in the Gobaad Plain (Dikhil Region) and floods in the city of Tadjourah. The project comprises especially the following relevant outputs: 1.2 At least 120 ha of Degraded wadi banks reforested to increase water availability, reduce soil erosion and flood risks in Dikhil (Gobaad & Hanle); 1.3 At least 213 rural households of Dikhil capacitated to implement climate-resilient agriculture that provide crops, fruits and sustainable fodder; 3.1 Two multisectoral climate change risk and vulnerability assessments and risk maps produced in Dikhil and Tadjourah regions; 3.2 Cost benefits and economic valuation analysis of project reforestation activities; 3.4 At least 10 awareness raising events and products on EbA and benefits of wadis ecosystems for behaviour change. Baseline investment is estimated to be USD 3,000,000 over the 6-year project period; this will be considered a knowledge partners, but not co-financing to the this proposed GEF-7 project.

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

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The interventions proposed under this project specifically align with:

? The 2022-launched Djibouti National Development Plan (Djibouti ICI) that aims to improve the quality of life and well-being of all Djiboutians by ensuring a better distribution of the fruits of growth, increasing social inclusion and giving a greater role to private initiatives as a lever for diversification. It also aims to ensure better national integration by increasing the connection between the regions and Djibouti. It also notes a focus on implementing programs in human capital development; environment, climate change and renewable energy, and digitalization as a catalyst for economic and social development.

? Vision Djibouti 2035, which notes goals towards sustainable development and environmental concerns (biodiversity loss, climate change), including a plans for rehabilitating and developing small agricultural and livestock areas, minimize poverty, food insecurity and unemployment.

? The UNCCD National Action Program to Fight Desertification (2000).<sup>[1]</sup> (See additional information further down.)

? Djibouti's National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP v.1, 2020) promotes a general policy to reduce pressures on biodiversity and the unsustainable exploitation of resources. It also pursues the creation of protected areas and more targeted activities on regeneration and/or protection within nurseries or agropastoral perimeters.

? Djibouti's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP v.2, 2017), including *inter alia* through prioritizing: conserving protected areas with ecoguards and grazing exclosures; in-situ revegetation; increasing available water resources; sustainable livestock management; as well as knowledge and data management, and dissemination of best practices. (See additional information further down.)

? The Sixth National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity (2019) [\[Link\]](#).

? Regional action plans for Tadjourah region, where Day is highlighted.

? Djibouti's commitment to the Great Green Wall (GGW) of Africa Initiative, which are to: conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and soil; meet domestic needs and increase revenue through more income-generating activities; and improve the living conditions of local communities.

? The still valid Master Plan 2009-2018 of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Master Plan's mission is to ensure increased food production to achieve food security and ensure agriculture contributes more to the national economy. Through better mobilization of water, an increase in plant and animal production to reduce food insecurity and fight against poverty.

? The Schema Directeur De Developpement Du Tourisme Durable De Djibouti (2019-2024), which recognizes the unique landscape and opportunities in Djibouti, and aims to, among other things, build up the sustainable tourism, the tourism value chain, and improve Day Forest National Park.

? The Djibouti Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2015) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which highlights a need for the country to adapt to a changing climate, while also reducing its GHG emissions from livestock, land use and other sectors. The NDC also proposes the promotion of green jobs and highlights the importance of attracting financing to support both

mitigation and adaptation actions. The government is currently revising the NDCs with an aim of submitting it to the UNFCCC ahead of COP 28.

? National Action Plan for the Environment 2001-2010 (PANE), which awaits update but currently includes biodiversity conservation through the establishment of protected areas, the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems and the implementation of local community awareness programs on best practices for natural resource conservation.

## National Action Program (NAP) of 2000 under UNCCD

Djibouti's NAP under the UNCCD was prepared and submitted to the Convention in 2000, and in it highlights the needs for actions including:

1. Water control and rational use measures
2. Introduction of fodder crops in gardens
3. Doing projects and programs in the field of combating desertification
4. Silvo-pastoral development projects
5. Research and development program in the field of reforestation

This project directly addresses the above priorities and is therefore in line with the 2000 NAP of the UNCCD

## National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) v. 2 under CBD

Djibouti's NBSAP (2017) outlines a general policy to reduce pressures on biodiversity and the unsustainable exploitation of resources.

The objective of integrating biodiversity across government and society (Strategic Goal A) is treated through actions on awareness-raising, education and training.

Similar to the NBSAP v. 1 of 2000, the policy document also relays of support provided by NGOs (e.g. DECAN, Djibouti Nature) as essential, with reference to the practice of establishing open steering committees for each project and including civil society not just in the governance bodies, but also in implementation of NBSAP actions



The NBSAP also stresses the importance of pursuing the creation of protected areas and more targeted activities on regeneration and/or protection within nurseries or agropastoral perimeters. Gazetting and operationally establishing the Day Forest as a PA is a long-standing priority in the NBSAPs of 2000 and 2017.

There are currently 7 national protected areas (4 terrestrial, 3 marine) in Djibouti. The MPA's sub-system has benefitted from GEF support. For the terrestrial PA sub-system, the NBSAP recognizes that there is a gap ? which this project will help fill.

This project is therefore in line with the NBSAP as it is directly supporting the official gazetting and rehabilitation of a protected area, improving PA management in general; it is also in line with the NBSAP as it is aimed to reduce pressure on biodiversity resources and raise awareness through trainings on biodiversity issues.

**PRODOC Box 2. Alignment of the project with key national policies and plans**

Land Degradation - latest national policy/plan	Biodiversity - latest national policy/plan
<p>The UNCCD's NAP for Djibouti mentions two overarching objectives: The fight against desertification and the fight against poverty. Under these, the document also mentions the following three strategic goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q the need to promote the achievements obtained within the framework of previous actions carried out to combat desertification;</li> <li>q the need to combine operational actions to combat desertification and income-generating activities with a view to combating poverty and achieve food and energy security for populations, this which could reduce the pressure they put on scarce natural resources;</li> <li>q the need to strengthen technical, organizational and operational aspects of both state actors and those of NGOs, associations and social-professional organizations of the populations.</li> </ul>	<p>Djibouti's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan from 2017 (NBSAP v.2, 2017) states the following as the country's long-term goal for biodiversity, and which are particularly relevant for this project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>q The values of biodiversity are intrinsic, ecological, economic, social, cultural and spiritual. The survival of the nomadic populations of Djibouti being centered on the use of the resources of the nature, these are of capital importance to them.</li> <li>q In situ conservation of biodiversity is the best remedy for maintaining ecosystems.</li> <li>q The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is the responsibility of all Djiboutians. They must be closely involved in decision-making at all levels.</li> <li>q Rational management and an ecosystem approach are sine qua non conditions for a better conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of biological resources.</li> <li>q Particular attention must be paid to the preservation and development of knowledge, to the innovations, traditions and practices of local communities.</li> </ul>

Land Degradation - latest national policy/plan	Biodiversity - latest national policy/plan
<p>The present project is an important contribution to the above objectives because:</p> <p>(1) The project builds on previous interventions targeting desertification in Djibouti.</p> <p>(2) It attempts to learn lessons from them.</p> <p>(3) Both income generation activities and physical SLM measures will be combined to achieve project results.</p> <p>The project vows to engage a wide range of stakeholders.</p>	<p>The present project is an important contribution to the above objectives because:</p> <p>(1) It prioritizes in situ conservation</p> <p>(2) Nomadic herders are among the main beneficiaries of the project.</p> <p>(3) It will be nationally implemented.</p> <p>(4) The project combines protection of ecosystems with its sustainable use.</p> <p>The project will provide support to local communities to enhance their sustainable practices, and also to adopt new innovative ones in terms of SLM and biodiversity conservation.</p>

## 8. Knowledge Management

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

In this project, due to the urgency of protecting the Day Forest are, coupled with the need and to alleviate the very urgent food and livelihood security situation in the area, knowledge management was integrated with other elements of the project under the Component 3. Those other elements are Monitoring & Evaluation, Gender Inclusion and Safeguards

KM is particularly important because project interventions focus on nature-based solutions and offer alternative options for animal grazing and Day forest-based natural resources to sustain livelihood. Without science and evidence-based knowledge solutions will fail. Along the same line, solutions that are divorced from local knowledge are also deemed to fail. The KM component of the project ensures that these elements are combined in an optimal and documented way. It also ensures that the project will have a potential to be replicated or adopted in other protected areas in the country, especially the terrestrial ones. All of these elements speak directly to the project's sustainability.

KM is undoubtedly important to this, and all GEF projects, hence mainstreaming KM across the project further through the trainings and workshops under each component in a way that we believe is efficient and sensible given the technical, human resource and financial limitations placed on any project running in Djibouti, particularly in remote Djibouti.

PRODOC Box 3. Key KM Elements in the Project's Strategy (matrix) ? reproduced here

KM Elements	How these elements are present in the project strategy
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**Capacity Building:** Building the capacity of various stakeholders, including recipient countries, to manage and utilize environmental resources effectively.

**Learning:** Activities that aim to institutionalize learning before, during, and after the implementation of the GEF project. This includes lessons learned from successes and failures, which are then integrated into the design and implementation of new projects.

The project has a distinct learning element in its activities, including through general and specific capacity building activities.

The following Activities under Components 1 and 2 that involve training and capacity building (and by default also learning) are worth highlighting as an example:

- ? Activity 1.1.1) Conduct a comprehensive mapping and forest assessment in Day Forest and Mabla Forest
- ? Activity 1.3.1) PA cartographical and physical demarcation
- ? Activity 1.3.2) Support to MEDD for PA management planning and LUP
- ? Output 1.5) PA management training workshops held for DEDD staff, local ecoguards and locally-led land and water user management committees, ensuring strong, if not equal, female participation
- ? Activity 1.5.1) Series of PA management training to different audiences and in different formats
- ? Activity 2.2.2) Selection and prioritization of practices "Conservation de l'Eau et du Sol (CES)" [water and soil conservation].
- ? Activity 2.2.2) Monitor landscape health
- ? Foundational Activities under Outcome 2.2) [includes training]

Activity 2.4.4) National, subnational trainings held to strengthen institutional capacities of relevant government agencies on water recovery, catchment and management (fog ? harvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.

? Activity 2.4.5) Training provided to 500 local community members on sustainable land management, soil/water conservation, sustainable grazing agreements, water catchment (using fogharvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.

? Activity 2.4.6) Capacity building given to at least 500 local people on alternative sustainable livelihoods (some combination of: preserve-making, honey production, weaving/basketry improvements, agroecological community and home gardening, dairy improvements, composting, poultry rearing), and women's empowerment.

? Activity 2.4.7) Training on cooperative building

Additionally, in the design of the project, lessons that could be learned from past initiatives and baseline projects were duly considered. The actual lessons learning activities are planned under Component 3.

By default, The Mid-Term Review and Terminal Evaluation exercises include lessons learning and their follow up. These are also M&E Activities, so their budgets serves both the KM and the M&E purposes and it is not totally possible to separate them.

<p><b>Information Management:</b> Systematically collecting, managing, and making information accessible to all stakeholders. This can include databases of project results, environmental data, and other relevant information.</p> <p><b>Knowledge Sharing:</b> GEF encourages sharing of knowledge across projects, countries, stakeholders, and partners to enhance global and local environmental outcomes. This could involve dissemination through reports, workshops, conferences, and online platforms.</p>	<p>Information Management is embedded in several of the prescribed methodologies and techniques to be implemented through the project. The approach is to gradually build national capacity to deliver conservation action and SLM?.</p> <p>Key stakeholders will be encouraged to adopt the concept of Open Data with respect to BD and SLM data of public interest and to the extent that they can be regarded as a public good. Therefore, knowledge sharing is also embedded in several activities -- especially those under Component 3, that is concerned not just with KM itself, but also with M&amp;E, Gender inclusion and Safeguards.</p> <p>The following <u>Activities</u> under Component 3 will by excellence provide the basis for Information management and knowledge sharing</p> <p>Activity 3.5.1) Developing the KM Plan</p> <p>Activity 3.5.2) The MEDD website is modernized and improved</p> <p>Activity 3.5.3) Knowledge products showcasing the best practices and lessons learned developed</p>
<p><b>Innovation:</b> Supporting the development and application of innovative solutions to environmental challenges and to sharing these innovations across its network.</p>	<p>As highlighted further up in Section 1a &gt; 7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up, innovation is an essential part of the project strategy, including for an integrated agenda involving BD and SLM objectives.</p> <p>Ensuring the innovativeness of the project's implementation strategy and activities is important to leverage greater results and promote new technologies, approaches and concepts that will help the deployment of solutions to many development's most pressing needs.</p> <p>Several activities proposed under Components 2 and 3 are innovative and were designed to be supported by the policy reforms and other foundational activities proposed under Component 1.</p> <p>Activities, such installation of fog harvesters and others, will be piloted for the first time in Djibouti, whereas the failures of some innovations piloted in the past such as the Prosopsis-based animal feed mill will be improvised by building on the past lessons and adopting the best available and most appropriate technologies.</p>
<p><b>Networks and Partnerships:</b> Establishing and maintaining networks and partnerships that facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration between different actors in the environmental sector.</p>	<p>Under the section "Stakeholder engagement" and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)" the topics of networks and partnerships are covered.</p> <p>For specific content relating to an activity, refer to its description.</p>

The approach: A KM Plan will be prepared in Year 1 to guide the consultant(s) who will be working throughout the project period. In Y1, the KM consultant/firm will create a five-year whole-of-project KM plan which will detail what sorts of data to collect, who to collect it from, where to store it, how to analyze it if necessary, what kinds of knowledge products it will be used to develop, how they will be disseminated and who those products will be disseminated to. The consultants will also produce KM plans for each long-term consultant and the project manager, who will oversee KM. The KM consultant will train all of the PMU and the long-term consultants in how to deliver on their parts of the KM plan. Using the KM as a trainer of

others, all PMU staff and consultants will gain valuable KM skills that they will be able to apply to this project and other future endeavors. In Year 4 and Year 5, the KM consultant will develop compendium of best practices in print and digital format for wider dissemination and with ready to adopt and replicate approaches for scalability of these best practices in other government and development partner projects. In Year 4, the KM consultant will take stock of the KM products developed and disseminated to determine the best approach for effective delivery of these knowledge products for Year 5. The KM consultant will also ensure that the KM products have been delivered as planned, make any necessary course corrections, and create a plan for close out and transfer of KM to DEDD and other relevant project stakeholders.

The KM plan will include, among other deliverables: types of data to collect, a schedule of when to collect it, the selection and use of a shared communication tool (such as Slack, or similar) for all project staff and consultants, a database and project management tool (such as Hubspot, nTask or similar), directions for all staff on how to store and analyze (when needed) data, marketing plans for the project, marketing plans for Day PA to attract tourism, marketing plans for products, behavioral change communication activities and trainings, high-quality photography, a schedule of project progress reports and success stories to be created and where to share them, the identification of global websites to share information on the project and Day PA, the identification and linkage to global tourism websites, and the production of two new/improved websites embedded within the existing government portals, one for Day PA, linked to an existing MEDD website that will be improved, and one for the National Office of Tourism, to aid in the promotion of Day PA as an ecotourism and voluntourism location. NOT and MEDD staff will be trained to completely take over maintenance and improvements to the websites in the final year of the project.

To enhance the visibility and promotion of the project, marketing plans will be developed, including marketing plans for Day's reserve to attract tourism, marketing plans for the products, as well as communication activities to encourage behavioural change and appropriate training. As part of these communication initiatives, social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter will be used to share information and interact with the public. The existing websites of the Ministry of the Environment and the National Tourist Office will be exploited to disseminate relevant information relating to the project and the Day reserve, rather than creating new websites. This will leverage the already established visibility and credibility of these institutional sites.

In addition, efforts will be made to improve the functionality and usability of existing websites, updating them regularly with up-to-date information about the project, the Day reserve and sustainable tourism opportunities. Social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter, will be used to share news, events and engaging content, thereby reaching a wider audience and encouraging stakeholder participation and engagement.

It should be noted that in the final phase of the project, staff from the Ministry of the Environment and the National Tourist Office will be trained to maintain and continually improve the existing websites, ensuring their long-term sustainability and scalability.

A communication strategy will be developed to support the above initiatives. The aim of this strategy is to raise the visibility of the project and of the Day reserve, and to raise public awareness of the issues of sustainable tourism and protected area management

Key deliverables will be: the KM plan itself, the shared database and communication tool, the two new/improved websites, all knowledge-sharing trainings delivered throughout the project, the Day PA tourism marketing plan, and the schedule, production and delivery of project success stories.

Contribution to overall impact: Good KM is essential for a project to have a positive and lasting impact, as information needs to be shared, analyzed, used and delivered efficiently, the project and its outcomes need to be promoted to garner social and financial support for it, and lessons from it need to be shared so that stakeholders can learn from success and failures. This project is no different.

Of particular importance in the KM approach of this project will be the effective delivery of capacity building and educational training to local community members, the records of issues and questions, and then the effective response to those questions. Community members have noted during the PPG phase that they haven't received enough capacity building training in the past, and are eager for more. Along with this, behavioral change approaches, particularly around livestock management and sustainable rangeland management will be important.

Other parts of the KM approach that will be critical for the overall project impact are the marketing, links and tools under Component 3, which includes tourism promotion and marketing, links to national and international tourism partners, marketing of products to private sector vendors both nationally and internationally, and websites that are easy to search for and provide attractive and comprehensive information on Day PA. All of these activities, if performed successfully, will contribute to the financial sustainability of project outcomes long after project end.

Budget: The KM budget indicatively includes:

- ? All fees for the KM consultant (USD 17,500)
- ? All fees for the website and database design consultant (USD 27,000)

? A portion (10 ? 50%, depending on nature of work) of fees for most other consultants, given that trainings and the delivery of KM outputs are built into their fees will be. This includes:

- o the International Protected Areas Consultant (~USD 5500)
- o the Field Operations Consultant (~USD 8000)
- o the Community Liaison Consultant (~USD 7000)
- o the Protected Areas National Specialist (~ USD 2400)
- o the Plant Specialist (~USD 200)
- o the Ecologist (~USD 2000)
- o the Fogharvester Consultant (~USD 2750)
- o the International Permaculture and Reforestation Advisors (~USD 4000)
- o the Rangeland restoration Consultant (~USD 2500)
- o the Nursery Consultant (~USD 4000)
- o the National Tourism and Marketing Consultant (~USD 6400)
- o the International Ecotourism/Voluntourism Consultant (~USD 11,000)
- o the Cooperative Development Specialist (~USD 850)
- o the Weaving Specialist (~USD 1700)
- o the Honey Specialist (~USD 4500)
- o the Home Gardening/Compost Specialist (~USD 750)
- o the Project M&E Officer (~USD 400)
- o the Social and Environmental Safeguards & Gender Officer (~USD 400)
- o Portions of the budgets for workshops: budget lines 3, 19, 23, 24 (~ USD 7000)

**In total, the budget for KM is therefore approximately USD 115,850**

**Timeline:** The timeline for KM implementation will be in line with the overall project workplan. The project workplan is shown below, with parts that are KM focused highlighted in blue to show the duration of focused KM activities. However, because KM is a continuous process, in reality, KM is ongoing through all components the entire duration of the project.

Outputs	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Activity 1.1.1) Conduct a comprehensive mapping and forest assessment in Day Forest and Mabla Forest																				
Activity 1.3.1) PA cartographical and physical demarcation																				
Activity 1.3.2) Support to MEDD for PA management planning and LUP																				
Output 1.5) PA management training workshops held for DEDD staff, local ecoguards and locally-led land and water user management committees, ensuring strong, if not equal, female participation																				
Activity 1.5.1) Series of PA management training to different audiences and in different formats																				



Outputs	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Activity 2.2.2) Selection and prioritization of practices "Conservation de l'Eau et du Sol (CES)" [water and soil conservation].																				
Activity 2.2.2) Monitor landscape health																				
Foundational Activities under Outcome 2.2) [includes training]																				
Activity 2.4.4) National, subnational trainings held to strengthen institutional capacities of relevant government agencies on water recovery, catchment and management (fog harvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.																				

Outputs	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Activity 2.4.5) Training provided to 500 local community members on sustainable land management, soil/water conservation, sustainable grazing agreements, water catchment (using fogharvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring.																				
Activity 2.4.6) Capacity building given to at least 500 local people on alternative sustainable livelihoods (some combination of: preserve-making, honey production, weaving/basketry improvements, agroecological community and home gardening, dairy improvements, composting, poultry rearing), and women's empowerment.																				

Outputs	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4				Year 5			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Activity 2.4.7) Training on cooperative building																				
Activity 3.5.1) Developing the KM Plan																				
Activity 3.5.2) The MEDD website is modernized and improved																				
Activity 3.5.3) Knowledge products showcasing the best practices and lessons learned developed																				

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### Describe the budgeted M and E plan

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

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

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

Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within 2 months from the First disbursement date, with the aim to:

1. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.
2. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.
3. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.
4. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.
5. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework (where relevant) and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.
6. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.
7. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan. Finalize the TOR of the Project Board.
8. Formally launch the Project.

#### GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. UNDP will undertake quality assurance of the PIR before submission to the GEF. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. UNDP will conduct a quality review of the PIR, and this quality review and feedback will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent annual PIR.

#### GEF Core Indicators:

The GEF Core indicators included as Annex will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent ground truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF [website](#). The required Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) has been prepared and the scores included in the GEF Core Indicators.

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR): The independent Mid-term review will be conducted no later than 36 months after CEO Endorsement. This therefore means that the expected date of completion of the midterm review would be June 2026.

The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard UNDP templates and UNDP guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Center \(ERC\)](#). The evaluation will be 'independent, impartial and rigorous'. The evaluators that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in

designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. If needed, quality assurance support will come from the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate.

The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by **1 August 2026**. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report's completion.

#### Terminal Evaluation (TE):

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Center](#). TE should be completed 3 months before the estimated operational closure date, set from the signature of the ProDoc and according to the duration of the project. Provisions should be taken to complete the TE in due time to avoid delay in project closure. Therefore, TE must start no later than 6 months to the expected date of completion of the TE (or 9 months prior to the estimated operational closure date).

The evaluation will be "independent, impartial and rigorous". The evaluators that UNDP will hire to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support may come from the BPPS/NCE-VF Directorate.

The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by **1 January 2029**. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report's completion.

#### Final Report:

The project's terminal GEF PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

Agreement on intellectual property rights and use of logo on the project's deliverables and disclosure of information: To accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF for providing grant funding, the GEF logo will appear together with the UNDP logo on all promotional materials, other written materials like publications developed by the project, and project hardware. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by the GEF will also accord proper acknowledgement to the GEF. Information will be disclosed in accordance with relevant policies notably the UNDP Disclosure Policy<sup>[1]</sup> and the GEF policy on public involvement.

The complete monitoring plan, showing indicators, targets, descriptions, data sources and methods, responsible persons, means of verification and risk and assumptions can be found in section VI of the Project Document.

Table) M&E Budget

GEF M&E requirements to be undertaken by Project Management Unit (PMU)	Indicative costs (US\$)
Inception Workshop and Report	5,000
M&E required to report on progress made in reaching GEF core indicators and project results included in the project results framework	14,000 (2,800/year)
Preparation of the annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)	0
Monitoring of Environmental and Social Management Plan, including Gender Action Plan, Livelihoods Action Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan	17,500
M&E Officers costs	60,996
Supervision missions	18,208
Learning missions	7,000
Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):	45,185
Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE):	45,300
Translation of MTR and TE reports	7,000
<b>TOTAL indicative COST</b>	<b>\$ 220,189</b>

## 10. Benefits

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

The project as written is designed to deliver substantial socioeconomic benefits to the people of the Day protected area, as well as many other national stakeholders, including the government ministries and their staff working with the project, private sector suppliers and retailers, local experts and academics, and the country as a whole through a presumed increase in GDP due to improved environmental tourism.

It will do this through several routes. First, the project is creating jobs through land rehabilitation work in both forests and rangelands. It is also creating jobs through tourist infrastructure rehabilitation work, the

PA itself (maintenance, entrance gate and guarding) and the operation of a feed mill. Finally, it is aimed to improve and expand incomes from existing livelihoods, namely those involving weaving, producing dairy products, and honey and jams. It is also increasing revenue for the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) by introducing a Day PA entrance fee system, which will not only create jobs through financing ecoguards and park managers, but ideally will also be successful enough to support continued protected area expansion and rehabilitation work.

The project was framed around ecotourism and voluntourism for the specific reason of sustainability. All of the activities proposed in the project aim to directly improve the environment in and around the Day PA and the livelihoods associated with it. But, by improving the park ecosystem, improving tourist infrastructure and marketing, and improving the products produced by locals, it is expected that significantly more tourists will visit the PA, pay the entrance fee, pay camping fees, buy more products from locals, and therefore generate both local and national revenue. If this is successful as planned, these tourist revenues will continue far beyond the end of the project. If the revenues are properly reinvested into Day PA or other PAs, these revenues can support national socioeconomic development goals, increased GDP and make Djibouti the tourist destination it should be.

Global environmental and adaptation benefits are achieved primarily through the first two components, and partially through the third component. In the first component, the project aims to improve PA governance, specifically in the Day PA, but the lessons learned can be applied to other PAs in country. Governance will include better management planning, official PA gazettement, and better on-the-ground practices, including demarcation of the PA, hiring ecoguards to patrol and manage it. These activities are designed to actually protect the PA (as of now it is designated as a PA, but nothing is enforced) and allow it to undergo some natural regeneration.

The second component achieves adaptation and environmental benefits by using permaculture and nature-based solutions to transform the land to reduce erosion, improve water retention in the soil and allow plants to grow again. This component works directly to reforest the land, which should play a role in moderating the micro-climate, and it works directly to rehabilitate rangelands with drought-resistant and locally appropriate plants. This brings adaptation benefits by helping the people of Day PA feed themselves and their animals despite the expected changes in climate. Finally this component is using water catchment structures (fogharvesters and rooftop rainwater systems); this is also a major adaptation activity given that the biggest challenge faced by the people of Day PA is a lack of water for both personal needs and agricultural purposes. Given the climate predictions for the area, it is extremely important to capture water for drinking use, and ensure the land is able to absorb and channel rains when they come.

While the final component is largely focused on the socioeconomic benefits described above, it also will deliver some environmental and adaptation benefits through encouraging sustainable livelihoods that reduce pressure on the natural resources of the Day PA. Also, if successful as planned in attracting volunteer tourists, this component will be able to expand the area that is reforested and rehabilitated beyond project goals, bringing further environmental and adaptation benefits to the land and people.

### 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

#### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification \*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
High or Substantial	High or Substantial		

#### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

<p><b>QUESTION 2:</b> What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</p> <p>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 3:</b> What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</p> <p>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</p>	<p><b>QUESTION 6:</b> Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</p>
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<i>Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)</i>	<i>Impact and Like- lihood (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)</i>	<i>Comments (optional)</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</i>
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<p>Risk 1. <u>Social or resource exclusion</u> Project implementation could potentially favour one group over another, exclude one group from decision making, exacerbate conflict within and between communities, impact cultural expressions and traditional livelihoods including of vulnerable groups, and restrict availability, quality of and access to basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: P.4, P.5 P.6, P.13, P.14, 4.3, 4.4, 7.5</i></p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>	<p>The project aims to improve resource governance through an integrated, equitable and highly participative approach that respects the right of local communities.</p> <p>It should be noted that Day National Forest is cooperatively used by communities.</p>	<p><b><u>Assessment</u></b> Initial consultations were conducted during the PPG phase involving government agencies and groups at the national, regional prefecture and council levels, as well as some of the local communities of Mabla herders. A preliminary <b>Stakeholder Engagement Plan</b> was prepared based on these consultations.</p> <p>Further <b>Stakeholder Analysis</b> is needed to identify all stakeholders and their interests on the project, stakeholder groups that might be disproportionately impacted by the project, etc._This stakeholder analysis will include a <i>conflict analysis</i> to identify the nature of the relations between different groups and communities and the impact that the project?s outputs can have on these relations.</p> <p>This risk will also be assessed as part of the <b>Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)</b> conducted for Component 1 (Enhanced PA system policy, financing framework and physical management).</p> <p>- <b><u>Management</u></b> Based on the findings of the additional stakeholder analysis, the current Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be strengthened and developed into a <b>Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</b></p> <p>- Under Output 2.2, locally led land and water user and management committees will be created. These specific committees will involve local stakeholders for on-site coordination, monitoring and decision-making body regarding PA and land management. The project will provide capacity enhancement support.</p> <p>A <b>Grievance Redress Mechanism</b> will be implemented at the inception of the project. It will culturally adapted procedures for local communities and individuals to express their complaints and grievances.</p>
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<p>Risk 2. <u>Women's discrimination.</u>  Given the prevailing cultural and religious context, the project could potentially directly or indirectly reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, regarding participation, implementation or access to opportunities and benefits; this includes also a potentially increased risk of gender-based violence and a more severe impact on women from changes in access to natural resources promoted by the project (increased labour in firewood or water collection, reduced revenue from these sources, etc.)</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: P.9, P.10, P.11</i></p>	<p><b>I = 3</b>  <b>L = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p><b><u>Assessment</u></b>  During the PPG, consultations were held with women in Day and the National Union of Women of Djibouti (UNFD). Based on these consultations and desk review, a comprehensive <b>Gender Analysis and Action Plan (GAP)</b> was completed.</p> <p><b><u>Management</u></b>  Women empowerment and active involvement in the implementation of the project is envisaged through the implementation of a <b>Gender Action Plan</b>, ensuring that any discrimination of women is not tolerated by project stakeholders including beneficiaries. The project includes gender-disaggregated targets and monitoring indicators.</p> <p>The project will use the services of a Gender-Safeguards consultant, who will support the project with delivering gender trainings, carrying out monitoring and evaluation missions, and making recommendations for adaptive management measures to ensure equal access to benefits for women are fulfilled.</p>
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<p>Risk 3. <u>Harm to natural habitats.</u> The project could cause harm to natural habitats, biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural resources and also to human health in and around the Day PA, by i) ill-chosen or ill-placed economic activities or SLM interventions inconsistent with biodiversity conservation and rangeland restoration objectives such as increasing herd size in overgrazed pastures (ii) reforestation activities that could replace natural ecosystems or even include the use of invasive species; ii) the provision of waterpoints for livestock in key biodiversity areas that are currently inaccessible; iii) the use of vulture-killing drugs (diclofenac) in livestock veterinary care; iv) the use of banned pesticides in horticulture plots.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards:</i> 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.10, 1.11, 3.6, 4.3, 4.4, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6</p>	<p>I = 4 L = 3</p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>	<p>In principle, the project intends to achieve the opposite: biodiversity conservation, PA management, soil and water conservation interventions including the restoration of native forest and rangeland. However, if poorly implemented the project could cause these impacts. The project will provide small water management infrastructures and support mobilization of surface water and even though the extraction may not be <i>significant</i> at the landscape level it may lead to hydrological changes. The government also likes to build wells in communities without consideration of water use sustainability.</p>	<p><b><u>Assessment</u></b></p> <p>As part of the scoped <b>Environmental and Social Impact Assessment</b> (ESIA) that will be conducted for the restoration and rangeland rehabilitation activities under Component 2, including the installation of fog harvesters (Output 3.1), reforestation of 300 ha (Output 3.2), setting up a plant nursery (Output 3.3), restoration of 1000 ha of pastures (Output 4.1), etc., and physical interventions Outcome 6 (construction of a visitors centre - 6.3 ? and new trails ? 6.5).</p> <p>This ESIA will include an assessment of potential risks to <i>natural habitats, biodiversity values and ecosystem services</i> because of the implementation of activities under Component 2, including the risk of introducing invasive species. This assessment will be done in collaboration with local communities, and it will also support decisions on siting certain infrastructures or project elements, like water points for livestock that could lead to ecosystem impacts if located in environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p><b><u>Management</u></b></p> <p>Based on the results of ESIA, in terms of potential impacts to biodiversity values and ecosystems, a <b>Biodiversity Action Plan</b> (BAP) will be developed with all the biodiversity-related mitigation and management measures. The BAP will be part of the project-level <b>Environmental and Social Management Plan</b> (ESMP).</p>
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<p>Risk 4. <u>Economic Displacement</u>. The project will involve changes to land use and access to natural resources in Day , most notably through the operationalisation of the PAs, restricted access to pastures, changes to grazing regimes, and it may involve changes to land access and tenure (customary or not), all of which could harm local livelihoods and lead to economic displacement in some parts of the population; in this sense, the project could affect the development priorities and cultural heritage (transhumance, value systems, wealth management) of local communities; as a result of project activities some traditional livelihoods and places (e.g. the Day refuge pasture) may experience changes.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: P.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4</i></p>	<p>I = 4 L = 4</p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>	<p>The project will be active in areas that are largely inhabited by Afar ethnic groups/ communities/ populations, which can be considered a vulnerable stakeholder group based on their socioeconomic conditions. They are traditionally nomadic or semi-nomadic, but many have settled. The project specifically aims at improving resource governance with an integrated and participative approach to guarantee fair access for local communities. However, these risks may materialise unless due care is given. PA management for biodiversity conservation may not be welcome by (all) locals.</p> <p>The project will consult with the local communities in view to explore the option of community members rearing their animals in an</p>	<p><b><u>Assessment</u></b></p> <p>As part of the scoped <b>Environmental and Social Impact Assessment</b> (ESIA) that will be conducted for the restoration and rangeland rehabilitation activities under Component 2, a <i>livelihood impacts assessment</i> will be conducted to characterize the socioeconomic profile of all affected communities and the ways in which they use the forest and forest resources.</p> <p>At a higher level of analysis, this risk will also be assessed as part of the <b>Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment</b> (SESA) conducted for Component 1 (Enhanced PA system policy, financing framework and physical management) including the evaluation of potential risks to forest (nature)-based livelihoods from a strengthened PA system.</p> <p><b><u>Management</u></b></p> <p>As part of the ESMP, a <b>Livelihoods Action Plan</b> (LAP) will be developed according to the provisions under Standard 5 and following the <b>Process Framework</b>; an approach for UNDP-supported projects that may cause restrictions in access to natural resources in legally designated parks and protected areas. Indicative outlines for both the LAP and the Process Framework are included in the ESMF. The LAP will be aligned with Outcome 5 (improved sustainable livelihoods). This plan will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Build and monitor capacity to ensure that all partners respect rights-holders? access to and sustainable use of natural resources.</li> <li>? Ensure that the native community (Afar) rights, culture and traditions are duly considered throughout project implementation.</li> <li>? Respect applicable rights and claims to natural resources while working closely together with targeted communities to protect biodiversity and strengthen livelihoods.</li> <li>? Establish PA and rangeland management committees in a participatory way and operationalize</li> </ul>
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			enclosed space or having them to temporarily avoid grazing their animals in areas where forest and rangeland rehabilitation will be carried out.	these through capacity enhancement, the committees will include herders, local authorities, and religious leaders (imams) and ensure adequate representation of women. ? Establish and implement a grievance mechanism in line with UNDP policies, as indicated in the project comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
<p><u>Risk 5. PA enhanced enforcement leading to safety and human-rights violation risks for communities.</u></p> <p>Following the demarcation of the PA on the ground in Day, PA staff and guards will be recruited and trained. PA staff and guards may impose/enforce rules in an inappropriate manner that can include discrimination and may lead to violence and human rights violations</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: 3.8</i></p>	<p><b>I = 4</b></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></p>	<b>Substantial</b>		<p><b><u>Assessment and Management</u></b></p> <p>As part of project's Outcome 2 (Increased management presence and effectiveness of the Day Forest PA over approximately 5,000 ha of landscape), there is a need to conduct an assessment of risks and impacts of using forest guard personnel (following the WB's <a href="#">Good Practice Note</a> on Assessing and Managing the Risks and Impacts of the Use of Security Personnel or similar methods).</p> <p>The project will also ensure:</p> <p>? Allow zero tolerance to misbehaviour by PA management staff/guards ? Provide human rights training to PA staff including guards ? Pre-empt such risks through a review and adjustment of the PA legal framework (under Output 1.1.), through the PA management plans and through the local PA committees</p>

<p>Risk 6. <u>Community health hazard.</u> The creation of surface water management structures may offer new breeding areas for disease-bearing vectors especially mosquitoes (malaria is present), and poor water storage or treatment for drinking purposes may cause waterborne disease.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: 3.4</i></p>	<p><b>I = 3</b> <b>L = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>		<p><b><u>Assessment and Management</u></b></p> <p>As part of the scoped <b>Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)</b> that will be conducted for the restoration and rangeland rehabilitation activities under Component 2, the impacts on community health will be assessed in a participatory manner considering the views and concerns of local communities.</p> <p>Based on the results of this health risks assessment, mitigation measures will be included in the ESMP, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Ensure that risks are minimised through due planning and oversight of construction</li> <li>? Ensure that beneficiaries are made aware of the risks of stagnant water through health awareness campaigns</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 7: <u>Workers' health and safety.</u> Engagement of community workers in the rehabilitation of the visitor's centre, building of swales, new trails, and tourists' encampments, may involve working conditions that do not meet national labour laws or international commitments and may involve occupational health and safety risks due to physical hazards.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: 3.1, 7.6</i></p>	<p><b>I = 3</b> <b>L = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Construction work under the project will be relatively small-scale</p>	<p><b><u>Assessment and management:</u></b></p> <p>As part of the ESIA, occupational hazards and risks associated with labour conditions will be assessed. The ESMP will include a <b>Labour Management Procedure</b> to manage this risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Ensure that risks are minimised through due planning and oversight of construction</li> <li>? Ensure that workers and beneficiaries are made aware of the risks during construction, with unqualified/unauthorised personnel not allowed on site</li> </ul>

<p>Risk 8. <u>Success leads to new pressures.</u> Successful investments in the target area might attract additional populations, increasing pressure on local natural resources and potentially undermining project success. Successful livelihood interventions could offer beneficiaries the resources needed to acquire new technologies/ equipment/ pesticides and greater livestock numbers with consequential environmental impacts. In addition, upscaling of the project's SLM interventions in other areas in Djibouti could replicate the same risks in these areas in an indirect manner</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 3.6, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6</i></p>	<p><b>I = 3</b> <b>L = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project seeks to promote tourism in Day Forest by developing a tourism development and marketing plan (Output 6.1), and this may attract individuals to move to Day in search of better livelihood opportunities</p>	<p><b><u>Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The <b>scoped ESIA</b> will screen potential cumulative risks associated with additional pressures and induced development. Likely development trends will be identified and potential impacts to environmental and social values in Day Forest will be assessed.</p> <p><b><u>Management</u></b></p> <p>The ESMP will integrate the results of the cumulative risks assessment and any management measure that has been identified (e.g., avoid development close to especially environmentally areas, etc.). Additionally:</p> <p>? Government and project team will monitor for such trends and intervene especially where significant immigration and behavioural or wealth changes could undermine project success</p> <p>? In replication efforts, which is linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks.</p>
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<p>Risk 9. <u>Climate-induced hazards</u>. Climate change is a major driver of ecosystem change and is expected to lead to more extreme and unpredictable weather patterns in the Horn of Africa, most notably increased temperatures, and more irregular rainfall patterns. Project success could hence be directly affected, and over the long term, climate change may undo social and environmental outcomes of the project (e.g., sustained drought preventing success in ecosystem restoration and reducing e livelihood options).. In addition, an investment in local development and water infrastructures could be wasted if the target areas become uninhabitable due to drought or heat.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: 2.2, 2.3</i></p>	<p>I = 3 L =3</p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>As explained under Risk 4, in principle the project intends to achieve the opposite: ecosystem conservation, soil and water conservation interventions with native forest and groundcover restoration to maintain soil function and facilitate groundwater recharge, which are valuable climate change adaptation measures.</p> <p>Although the project will be implemented in a short timeframe, reforestation activities and other interventions should be designed including climate resiliency considerations.</p>	<p><b><u>Assessment</u></b></p> <p>As part of the ESIA, a <b>Climate Risk Analysis</b> (following <a href="#">STAP Guidance</a>, or similar) must be undertaken to: identify likely climate change trends and scenarios, assess risk exposure of project components and outcomes, identify and evaluate project impacts on community exposure and vulnerability; and identify measures that can be taken to avoid, adapt to or reduce the projected impacts and risks (e.g. through siting of activities in least vulnerable areas; risk-proofing project interventions; and building risk-preparedness plans and measures into the design of project outputs).</p> <p><b><u>Management</u></b></p> <p>The results of the climate risk analysis will inform the design of project interventions. Additionally, specific management measures to reduced vulnerability to climate risks will be incorporated into the ESMP. Additionally, the following considerations will apply:</p> <p>? All project interventions must integrate climate change scenarios and will be screened for the risk of maladaptive investments/practices; this applies specially to measures to boost rural development over the short-term and to the risk of unsustainable water extraction (addressed under Risk 4 above).</p> <p>? The establishment of a long-term monitoring system of terrestrial ecosystems in and around the two targeted PAs will enable the adoption of an adaptive management approach that will contribute to consider the effects of climate change.</p> <p>? The project will promote climate-resilient crops and native species for reforestation to reduce the vulnerability of farmers, agro-pastoralists, and herders.</p> <p>? The project will collaborate with climate change adaptation projects.</p>
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**QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?**

<i>Low Risk</i>			
<i>Moderate Risk</i>			
<i>Substantial Risk</i>	X	<p>Overall, the risk rating for this project is Substantial (A total of 9 risks have been identified: 4 risks are rated as Substantial, 5 risks are rated as Moderate).</p> <p>The following sequencing of SES work have been conducted during the PPG (annexed to the PRODOC), to further define SES risks and management measures during project inception and implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan</li> <li>- Preparation of a Gender Analysis and Action Plan</li> <li>- Preparation of an overarching ESMF spelling out the requirements for inception and implementation (e.g., ESIA, SESA, Livelihood Action Plan, etc.)</li> </ul> <p>Throughout the duration of the project, SES work will be implemented with due oversight by IP and UNDP. Component 4 deals specifically with <i>Safeguards, Gender &amp; Knowledge Management</i> with a dedicated budget.</p>	
<i>High Risk</i>			
<b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)</b>			
Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects			
-	X	<p><u><i>Is assessment required? (check if ?yes?)</i></u></p> <p><i>If yes, indicate overall type and status</i></p>	<p><u><i>Status? (completed, planned)</i></u></p>

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	<b>X</b>	Targeted assessments  Stakeholder Analysis (conflict)  Climate Risk Analysis	Planned  Planned
	<b>X</b>	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) ? for downstream components of the project	Scoped ESIA to be developed during implementation
	<b>X</b>	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	SESA to be developed at implementation.
<b>X</b>		<i>Are management plans required? (check if ?yes). If yes, indicate overall type and status</i>	<i>Status? (completed, planned)</i>

	X	Targeted management plans: Gender Action Plan  Stakeholder Engagement Plan  Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan  Biodiversity Action Plan  Livelihood Action Plan	Completed and to be updated  Completed  Planned  Planned  Planned
	X	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed
	X	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan)	Planned for implementation (scoped)
<i>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?</i>		<b>Comments (not required)</b>	
<b>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</b>			
<b>Human Rights</b>	X		

<b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>	X	
<b>Accountability</b>	X	
<b>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>	X	
<b>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>	X	
<b>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	X	
<b>4. Cultural Heritage</b>	X	
<b>5. Displacement and Resettlement</b>	X	
<b>6. Indigenous Peoples</b>		
<b>7. Labour and Working Conditions</b>	X	
<b>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>	X	

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Submitted</b>
<b>ESMF</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Annex 7-SESP_REV</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Djibouti Pre-SESP</b>	<b>Project PIF ESS</b>	

**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).

<b>This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s):</b> <i>SDG1, SDG2, SDG5, SDG6, SDG8, SDG13, SDG15, SDG17</i>				
<b>This project will contribute to the following country outcomes (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD):</b> <i>Outcome 2: The livelihoods of poor rural and peri-urban communities are being enhanced to strengthen their resilience to climate risks, shocks and food insecurity; Outcome 3: National and local government institutions and actors ensure the effective, efficient and transparent management of public resources for inclusive and equitable development</i>				
	<b>Objective and Outcome Indicators</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Mid-term Target</b>	<b>End of Project Target</b>
<b>Project Objective</b>	<i>To protect and restore biodiversity, forests and ecosystem functions and enhance the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in the degraded mountain landscapes in Djibouti.</i>			
	<b>Mandatory Indicator 1:</b> <i>Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment [GEF Core indicator 11]</i>	0 beneficiaries	500 beneficiaries	1,000 beneficiaries (50% men, 50% women)
	<b>Mandatory GEF Core Indicators:</b> <i>Indicator 2: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (hectares) [GEF Core indicator 1]</i>	0 ha	11,000 ha	11,000 ha
	<i>Indicator 3: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas). [GEF Core indicator 4]</i>	0 ha	6,000 ha	18,000 ha
	<i>Indicator 4: Area of (range) land restored (hectares) [GEF Core indicator 3]</i>	0 ha	50 ha	100 ha
<b>Project component</b>	<i>Component 1) Enhance the PA terrestrial sub-system's operational framework and emplace management in Day Forest National Park</i>			
<b>Project Outcome 1.1) Enhanced PA terrestrial sub-system management capacity and finance</b>				

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<i>Indicator 5: PA agency established and operational</i>	No PA agency exists	PA agency created	PA agency operational
	<i>Indicator 6: National budget for PA system increased</i>	60,000USD/year	150 ,000 USD/year	300,000 USD/year
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.1</b>				
<i>Output 1.1) National Terrestrial PA regulatory and planning frameworks developed</i>				
<i>Output 1.2) Domestic finance for the planning and management of the national terrestrial PA sub-system is sought increased</i>				
<b>Project Outcome 1.2) Increased management effectiveness in 11,000ha of terrestrial PAs</b>				
	<i>Indicator 7: METT scores for Day Forest National Park</i>	20	30	40
	<i>Indicator 8: Improved Day Forest PA operational management system with (a) trained human resources and (b) well-defined result-oriented PA management plan</i>	(a) 0 park staff; (b) no PA management plan for Day Forest National Park	(a) 10 park staff trained in PA operational management; (b) management plan for Day Forest National Park drafted and under discussion with key stakeholders	(a) 20 park staff trained in PA operational management; (b) management plan for Day Forest National Park approved and under implementation
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 1.2</b>				
<i>Output 1.3) PA demarcated on the ground by staff of DEDD and communities</i>				
<i>Output 1.4) PA management enhanced to ensure at basic operations and management in collaboration with community cooperatives, including those led by women and promoting gender equality and women's empowerment</i>				
<i>Output 1.5) PA management training workshops held for DEDD staff, local ecoguards and locally-led land and water user management committees, ensuring strong, if not equal, female participation</i>				
<b>Project component</b>	<b>Component 2) Safeguarding and rehabilitation of rangeland and forest ecosystem through collaborative SLM</b>			
<b>Project Outcome 2.1) Concerted Land Use Planning (LUP) and SLM practices applied across the Day Forest Wider Landscapes (totaling 29,000 ha and including 11,000 ha in PA land use) for: (i) recuperating native forests in critical areas within the NP (100 ha) and (ii) restoring/rehabilitating vegetation cover, ecosystem function and productivity in degraded pastures and rangelands within the Landscapes (area tbd)</b>				
	<i>Indicator 9: Land Use Planning (LUP) for the Day Forest Wider Landscape developed, approved (as a locally accepted community by-law) and enforced on the ground</i>	No LUP for the Day Forest Wider Landscape	LUP developed and approved for the Day Forest Wider Landscape (covering at least 18,000 ha)	LUP under implementation in the Day Forest Wider Landscape (covering at least 18,000 ha)

	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<i>Indicator 10: Community members have increased capacity around at least one area of sustainable water and land use and recovery</i>	0 people trained	200 people in/around Day PA (at least 50% women) understand and practice sustainable water and land use and recovery	400 people in/around Day PA (at least 50% women) understand and practice sustainable water and land use and recovery
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.1</b>				
<i>Output 2.1) Participatory landscape management committees established</i>				
<i>Output 2.2) Land Use Planning (LUP) prepared in a participatory manner as Integrated PA &amp; watershed/landscape management plans are adopted by communities and regulating authorities</i>				
<b>Outcome 2.2) Improved livelihoods and benefits for local population living and sustainably using the Day Forest Wider Landscapes, women included</b>				
	<i>Indicator 11: Number, extent (ha) and diversity (types) of SLM practices adopted by community members directly benefitting from the project, women included and targeted at 50% among beneficiaries</i>	0 SLM practices 0 ha with agro-sylvo-pastoral intense SLM practices adopted 0 community members benefitting	3 SLM practices 50 ha with agro-sylvo-pastoral intense SLM practices adopted 300 community members benefitting directly	8 SLM practices 100 ha with agro-sylvo-pastoral intense SLM practices adopted 500 community members benefitting directly
	<i>Indicator 12: Number of people in the project site that benefitted from new or improved livelihoods supported by the project (disaggregated by gender)</i>	0 improved livelihoods	200 people benefitted by new/improved livelihoods (50% women)	500 people benefitted by new/improved livelihoods (50% women)
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 2.2</b>				
<i>Output 2.3) Community-based, gender-sensitive sustainable grazing agreements are adopted to enhance natural regeneration</i>				
<i>Output 2.4) The operationalization of various applicable gender-sensitive SLM techniques on the ground is supported for the benefit of communities living in the Day Forest area, including among them women</i>				
<b>Project component</b>	<b>Component 3) Safeguards, Gender &amp; Knowledge Management</b>			
<b>Outcome 3.1) All safeguards standards met throughout project</b>				
	<i>Indicator 13: &gt;80% of Gender Action Plan targets met</i>	No gender targets	50% of targets met	80% of targets met



	Objective and Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term Target	End of Project Target
	<i>Indicator 14: Key government/CSO staff have a clear understanding of GEF and UNDP social and environmental safeguards</i>	<i>No understanding of safeguards</i>	<i>At least 10 key government/CSO staff can describe and implement social and environmental safeguards</i>	<i>At least 20 key government/CSO staff can describe and implement social and environmental safeguard procedures</i>
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.1</b>				
<i>Output 3.1) Training provided to key stakeholders in DEDD, Ministry of Agriculture, and participating NGOs on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements</i>				
<i>Output 3.2) Gender equity and women empowerment issues are mainstreamed into project implementation activities and indicators, and monitored based on the Gender Action Plan (developed in PPG phase)</i>				
<b>Outcome 3.2) M&amp;E duly implemented</b>				
	<i>Indicator 15: MTR, TE and PIR independent quality ratings S or better</i>	<i>No reviews done</i>	<i>Rating of S or better on MTR</i>	<i>Rating of S or better on TE</i>
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.2</b>				
<i>Output 3.3) M&amp;E products (MTR, TE, PIRs) prepared with all tracking tools, core indicators and other indicators duly assessed with adaptive management practices incorporated</i>				
<b>Outcome 3.3) Knowledge Management and Outreach ensured for gender-sensitive and evidence-based decision-making and scaling up of best practices</b>				
	<i>Indicator 16: Knowledge Products developed and disseminated</i>	<i>Knowledge Products do not exist</i>	<i>At least 3 Training Manuals and PA Gazette developed and disseminated</i>	<i>At least 1 Knowledge Product for each Innovative Nature-Based Solution is developed and disseminated through print, web-based and social media</i>
<b>Outputs to achieve Outcome 3.3</b>				
<i>Output 3.4) Knowledge Management Plan developed and implemented</i>				
<i>Output 3.5) Effective dissemination and mutual sharing of best practices and lessons learned for regional and national stakeholders, including women facilitated and documented</i>				

**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).**

STAP Review Comments and Responses

Comments from GEF Secretariat	UNDP Response
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Theory of Change, framework, and reformulation: Thanks for the proposed ToC and the revised framework that seems more realistic with 21 outputs (against 34 in the last submission). However, we invite the GEF Agency to develop the assumptions that are needed to justify the proposed pathways. For instance, the level of national capacities, the country ownership and commitment (with domestic finance at one point for instance) seem recurrent difficulties in NRM projects. Another possible assumption is the level of climate change and risks that will impact the proposed interventions. Lastly, the synergy with other partners seems an imperative for a continuity of action and sustainability. Please, adjust.

## 2. Comments on the table B:

### - Component 2:

- Please, detail the expected activities under the output 2.1 related to the advocacy and behavioral strategy.

- About the output 2.1, during the PPG, please use a broad definition of extension services to find the right partners on the ground (extension services, research center, NGO, farmer organizations, Farmer Field Schools...).

- Output 2.9: "water extraction management emplaced": the formulation is not clear and we are not sure the proposed activities are welcome. You need to put any water management activity in the context of SLM. Please, complete.

Theory of Change provided in the PIF is elaborated further to demonstrate better linkage to the project objectives. The project design is adjusted based on the assumptions presented in the Theory of Change (Annex 3) and taken into account the risks. The project activities have been curated based on the extensive field work, including the gender analysis, socio-economic analysis, market research and consultations with the key stakeholders. In an attempt to address the key development challenge aligned with the project objective ? a) ecosystem degradation, b) limited access to water, c) inadequate political framework, d) insufficient alternative livelihood options, and e) unsustainable agro-pastoral practices, the project design deviated from the proposed components in the PIF and split the Component 2 into two. This deviation allowed the project design to develop further into the key field interventions and focus on the ecosystem restoration and sustainable livelihood measures

in their dedicated components.

The definition of extension services? is broadened by organizing the proposed interventions in two outputs under Component 2? Output 3.4 ? National, subnational trainings held to strengthen institutional capacities of relevant government agencies on water recovery, catchment and management (fogharvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring? and Output 4.3 ? Training provided to 500 local community members on sustainable land management, soil/water conservation, sustainable grazing agreements, water catchment (using fogharvesters, rainwater harvesting, permaculture and nature-based solutions), and forest restoration, and related monitoring?.

Output 2.9 has been changed because: there is no well in Day, and drilling one would require groundwater studies and expensive work outside of the budget

of this project. It also may not be feasible given the suspected lowering of the groundwater table. Surface water will be controlled and harnessed through Outputs 3.2 and 4.1.

### General comments

The project is designed under four components, including 34 outputs, with a very different level of accuracy. There is obviously a problem of strategic reasoning and formulation.

- We recommend including a Theory of Change.
- We recommend taking inspiration from the OECD glossary on key terms in evaluation and result based management (<https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/2754804.pdf>) in view of better formulating the outputs and providing specific, measurable formulation, reflecting the expected results and the value for money.

You need to propose a more coherent result framework with a lower number of outputs, reformulated, simplified, and move the details to the description of the alternative scenario.

### Component 1

The project's contribution to the financial sustainability of the national PA system or at least the two PA specifically targeted by this project is unclear. Output 1.1 states it will address the creation of a central PA agency and PA financing mechanism, but no details are provided and it is unclear how, with the limited funding dedicated to component 1, a PA agency and a financing mechanism would be created. Different section of the PIF also allude to what could be the creation of a PES mechanism (section on sustainability and on private sector) but it is not included in the project itself. Besides, output 1.1 appears to duplicate what is planned under the GEF-6 project GEF ID 9215 *Mitigating Key Sector Pressures on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Further Strengthening the National System of Marine Protected Areas in Djibouti* (UNDP). While this GEF-6 project is focused on MPAs, it is set to conduct an assessment of the policy and institutional context for PA financing, and of the financial needs for the national PA system, following UNDP's BIOFIN methodology; develop a strategy to mobilize new PA financing; operationalize the National Environment Fund or of a substitute mechanism with implementation of one PA finance solution, and build capacity on PA finance and institutionalization; which are all relevant beyond MPAs.

### Component 2

- Output 2.1: project launch and communications, etc? is not an acceptable output. Revise the formulation and the contents.
- Output 2.2: Please, revise the formulation as an output, reflecting the expected result and the nature of activities.
- Output 2.3: assessment of water extraction and hydrological data? sounds as a baseline activity. To be revised.
- Output 2.4: Integrated watershed/landscape restoration and management plans? are potentially welcome, but please, revise and simplify the formulation in a concise manner reflecting the expected results; transfer the rest of the text in the description of activities in the text.
- There seems to be no explicit output related to sustainable or alternative livelihood interventions, when the stakeholder section of the PIF mentions the development of green income-generating activities?. Please clarify if these refer simply to 2.13 - 2.14 (agro-ecological intensification of livestock farming) and 2.15 (community gardens) and explain how they would be sufficient to incentivize a general shift to PA acceptance and sustainable practices.

### Component 3

Output 3.4: Please clarify the project's plans/strategy to institutionalize the training that will be developed so that they will be replicated, upscaled beyond the project lifetime.

### General comments

Theory of Change is explained on page 8 and elaborated in Annex 3. The project is organized into four components, eight outcomes, and 27 outputs based on consultation with stakeholders including local communities.

The coherent results framework is presented under Section 5 and page 27 indicating the baseline (determined during the PPG phase), target and indicators at the outcome level.

### Component 1

Further to the Output specific comments addressed during the PIF phase, the Output 1.1 has been elaborated further to address the comments on the financing mechanisms. The three elements to support enabling environment and instruments to support PA financing mechanisms and PA policy environment.

a) New umbrella PA law prepared and adopted that includes the creation of a national PA agency, a PA

management plan and participatory PA management stakeholder committees;

b) Gazettement decree for PA prepared, adopted, publicly disseminated, and introduced to PA users through training sessions  
Gazettement decree for PA prepared, adopted, publicly disseminated, and introduced to PA users through trainings;

c) National Environment Fund and tourism (park fees) financing source operationalized for capturing revenue for PA agency.

#### Component 2

Further to the output specific comments addressed during the PIF stage, there have been additional changes to the Outputs 2.3, Output 2.4 ad Output 2.10.

The changes were made to reflect the more elaborate analyses and proposals emerging from the PPG and a need for more concentrated, logically coherent and financially sustainable approach.

The Output 2.3 (revised during PIF stage as per the comments received) and Output 2.4 are removed from Component 2 and moved to Component 1 for logical coherence.

Output 2.10 ? an umbrella output - Alternative sustainable livelihood, women empowerment programme, microfinance platform was re-arranged into Component 3 with 8 livelihood specific outputs. This expansion is a logical separation of environmental remediation measures and livelihood/income generating measures and is absolutely essential for project sustainability; in addition, it was requested by the government and communities.

### Component 3

Output 3.4 of the PIF on Knowledge Management (KM) was further elaborated to emphasize the importance. Integration of the KM across the components and addition of activities such development of KM Plan, inclusion of data collection, organization and

dissemination, reinforcement of the existing knowledge platforms including the UNDP/MEDD website by including dedicated portal space on PAs, linked to an improved NOT website, and the Day Forest National Park website and linking to existing international voluntourism/ecotourism websites.



3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

Addressed at PIF stage. To be confirmed at CEO endorsement.

- The explanation of how investment mobilized was identified is insufficient. Please describe the definition/ approach used to differentiate between "investment mobilized" and "recurrent expenditures". For further details, please refer to the Co-Financing Guidelines ([http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cofinancing\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Cofinancing_Guidelines.pdf))

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(€)
Recipient Country Government	MEDD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,800,000.00
Recipient Country Government	MEDD/Ministère (Directions Storage, Forests, Agriculture)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,200,000.00
Donor Agency	WFP - Fund for Assets	Grant	Investment Mobilized	1,200,000.00
			<b>Total Project Cost(€)</b>	<b>6,200,000.00</b>

Describe how the "Investment Mobilized" was identified

- We take note of the relatively low cofinancing but welcome the cofinancing from the WFP.  
 - Is there any chance to increase this cofinancing, including from UNDP?

Co-financing from the World Food Programme was revoked due to the programmatic change in the agency. However, the total co-financing amount has not changed. Collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture at the central and local level across all the components forms a new stream of co-financing for the project (see page - 21, 23, Section VIII on page 47, and Annex 18 on page 130).

Furthermore, the World Bank's co-financing project changed with a higher amount. At the PIF stage, the co-financing amount was USD 4.5 million, whereas as per the co-financing letter (see Annex 18 on page 132), the co-financing through its project ? Social Protection Emergency Crisis Response ? will be USD 30 million. Thus, making the total co-financing from the government of Djibouti and the World Bank USD 35,048,000.

<p>7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?</p> <p>To be revised after revision of the ToC and the result framework, notably on innovation.</p>	<p>The section on ?innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up? elaborates the innovativeness of the proposed intervention (see page 25). The noteworthy innovation proposed in the project are: a) nature-based tourism and volunteering abroad tourism ? ?voluntourism? (Output 6. 1 under the Component 3 dedicated to alternative sustainable livelihood options on pages 8, 30, 94), b) installation of solar powered fog-harvesters (Output 3.1 on pages 12, 28-29), c) community-based PA management (Outputs 3.4 on page 28 and Output 4.3 on page 29).</p>
<p>8. Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project?s/program?s intended location?</p> <p>Yes, tentative and approximative areas are mapped from a Google Earth map, including geographical coordinates.</p> <p>To be confirmed at CEO endorsement</p>	<p>Annex 4: Project map and Geospatial Coordinates of Project Site provides the map of the country with the project sites zoomed in with geospatial coordinates on page 68. On page 69, a snapshot of Google Earth imagery is provided showing the PA along with landmarks embedded on the image through ground-truthing.</p>

10. Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?  
Insufficient.

- Some further indicative details should be provided in terms of how the project intends to contributing to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment as indicated, including (i) closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; (ii) improving women's participation and decision-making and (iii) generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

- We understand that gender issues will be improved at PPG, but except the section 3, gender and especially inequality issues are absent of the reasoning, the result framework. To be revised.

A gender and climate change consultant was recruited to undertake a thorough gender analysis. The narrative on the impact of climate change on the women and the role of women in restoring the degraded Day Forest ecosystem developed during PIF stage is further elaborated resulting in an Output 7.3 under Component 4 (page 19). Similarly, gender was thoroughly considered during the risk analysis presented in page 24. Furthermore, Project Result Framework includes gender responsive indicators across the outcomes, including at the overall project objective level.

Annex 9 UNDP Risk Register ? on page 90 presents gender-responsive analysis of social, economic, environmental and political risks facing the project.

In addition, Annex-12 on page 107 elaborates on the *Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan* with an impact statement- *?Increased climate resilience and improved socio-economic conditions of women and girls*

	<p><i>from Day community through gender mainstreaming and technical and financial assistance to gender-specific activities?.</i></p>
<p>11. Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?          Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion          OK at PIF level. to be developed during the PPG</p> <p>The name of a Water bottling company, active in the area of the Day and Mabla Mountains, is mentioned. However, if we are welcoming the idea of a partnership, there is no details about eventual contacts or mechanisms. Could it be possible to elaborate and clarify the level of discussion, beyond a simple intention?</p>	<p>Private Sector forms an integral part of the project design as can be seen in the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan ? Annex 10 on page 93. Role of private sector and collaboration with private sector during implementation is specifically highlighted under Outcome 3 (Component 2) and Outcomes 5 and 6 under Component -3 dedicated to alternative sustainable livelihood options for the communities.</p> <p>Furthermore, project will recruit enterprise development specialist to support development of private sector albeit micro and small-scale enterprises based on nature-based solutions such as eco-tourism, handicrafts and agri-businesses. The three outputs presented below provide an overview of private sector engagement in the project such Activity 5.2, 5.3 and 6.1 (page 16).</p>

12. Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

- The list of risks seems quite generic. To be completed under a revised Theory of Change.
- The climate risk assessment is not adequate. Please see STAP guidance on climate risk screening (link below) and provide at least a basic climate risk screening at PIF stage. At a minimum, at PIF stage, the climate risks should be identified, listed and described. This can include:
  - a) Outlining the key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios at the project location (or as close to it with data available), which are relevant for the type of intervention being financed (e.g. changes in temperatures, rainfalls, increased flooding, sea level rise, saltwater acquirer contamination, increased soil erosion, etc).
  - b) Time horizon if feasible/data available (e.g. up to 2050). Please refer to list of examples from STAP guidance.
  - c) Listing key potential hazards for the project that are related to the aspects of the climate scenarios listed above (describe how the climate scenarios identified above are likely to affect the project, during 2020-2050).
  - d) Describing plans for climate change risk assessment and mitigation measures during PPG.

(<https://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/Climate%20Risk%20Screening%20web%20posting.pdf>)

Annex 9 on page 90 presents a Risk log elaborating 14 different risks including the climate and natural hazards risks. Furthermore, the Theory of Change presented at the PIF stage and in the Project document on page 67 provide a snapshot of the key risks among the 14 different risks identified in the Risk Log. Harm to natural habitat (page 90), Economic Displacement (page 90), Poor enforcement of rules (page 91) and Limited political support (page 92) have been identified as the substantial risks.

A detailed **UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP)** presented as Annex 7 on page 76 discusses potential risks based on the field missions, stakeholder consultation and desk review. On the basis of the SESP, Annex ? 8 **Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF)** is prepared for the project to guide the project implementation and manage and mitigate

the risks to the extent possible.

Following mitigation measures are presented in the ESMF- Annex 8

- The potential impacts of climate change on the project's goals are vast, yet this uncertainty cannot presently be resolved. The project was designed in full recognition of this challenge, as a last attempt to save at least a part of the Day ecosystems and the livelihoods they provide, noting that projections show that the area will experience future increases and not decreases in precipitation. If annual rainfall in the target sites increases, and if the future years do not hold too severe dry spells and droughts, the ecosystems and ecosystem functions of Day ? with the livelihoods dependent on them ? can be restored more easily. If annual rainfall in the target sites decreases significantly and there are severe dry spells and droughts, a full restoration may not be possible ? in which case the project should aim to maintain or restore a reduced, modified yet still valuable ecosystem remnant (with the

greatest biodiversity in the country). The same applies to rural livelihoods. The restoration will therefore integrate climate resilience considerations.

- All project interventions integrate climate change scenarios and will be screened for the risk of maladaptive investments/practices; this applies especially to measures to boost rural development over the short-term and to the risk of unsustainable water extraction (addressed under Risk 4 above).

- The establishment of a long-term monitoring system of terrestrial ecosystems in and around the targeted PA will enable the adoption of an adaptive management approach that will contribute to take into account the effects of climate change.

- The project will promote climate-resilient crops and native species for reforestation to reduce the vulnerability of farmers, agro-pastoralists and herders.

- The project will collaborate with

	climate change adaptation projects.
<p>- Please, use the GEF terminology related to Implementing and Executing Agencies.</p> <p>- We note the execution role proposed for IA. The implementation and execution roles on GEF projects are meant to be separate per policy and guidelines. The GEFSEC will analyze any requests for dual role playing by an agency at the time of CEO endorsement and only approve those cases that it deems warranted on an "exceptional" basis. We strongly encourage the agency to look at third party options as a preferred way forward. We also strongly encourage the agency to discuss any and all options for execution that do not include the government with the GEFSEC early in the PPG phase.</p> <p>- The Audit checklist is expected at CEO endorsement. It is premature to include it, especially with recommendations related to direct execution.</p>	<p>The Executing Agency (Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development, Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development) was added to the indicated field in the GEF Portal. GEF terminology regarding the GEF Executing Agency was added.</p> <p>National NGO-Association Siridou along with cooperatives and community based organizations have been identified to execute significant segments of the Component 1 (page 49 and Budget Note 5 on page 52), Component 2 (page 50 and budget note 20 on page 53) and Component 3 (page 50 and budget note 29 on page 54)</p> <p>The Audit Checklist is attached for review.</p>



15. Is the proposed knowledge management (KM) approach in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?

- See comments on the result framework and the component 3.

Please, provide information on the following points: 1) how existing lessons informed the project concept and plan, 2) plans to learn from ongoing relevant projects and initiatives, 3) proposed tools and methods for knowledge exchange, learning and collaboration, 4) proposed knowledge outputs to be produced and shared with stakeholders, 5) a discussion on how knowledge and learning will contribute to overall project impact and sustainability, and 6) plans for strategic communications.

Knowledge management (KM) is embedded across the components; however, the KM is elaborated through dedicated outputs under Component 3, Output 6.3 (page 30).

We have integrated KM across the project in a way that we believe is efficient and sensible given the technical, human resource and financial limitations placed on any project running in Djibouti, particularly in remote Djibouti.

The approach: A KM consultant who will be working with the project in year 1 and year 4. In Y1, the KM consultant will create a five-year whole-of-project KM plan which will detail what sorts of data to collect, who to collect it from, where to store it, how to analyse it if necessary, what kinds dissemination products it will be used to make, and who those products will be delivered to. The consultant will also produce KM plans. Of particular importance in the KM approach of this project will be the effective delivery of capacity building and educational trainings to local community

	<p>members, the records of issues and questions, and then the effective response to those questions. Community members have noted during the PPG phase that they haven't received enough capacity building trainings in the past and are eager for more. Along with this, behavioural change approaches, particularly around livestock management and herd size reduction will be important.</p>
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**Comments from GEF Council members and Responses**

Comments from STAP	UNDP Responses
<p><b>STAP Overall Assessment and Rating Comment 1 received on June 10, 2022:</b></p> <p>STAP welcomes the project's focus on behavioral change to address the necessary levers for sustainable land and water management, and biodiversity conservation. The project team may wish to draw on STAP's advice on how to design behavioral change interventions in socioecological systems.</p>	<p>This advice has been integrated into the design phase of the project.</p> <p>Component 2 and Component 3 of the project have emphasized on the behavioral insights of the local communities and also the proposed inclusive natural resource governance mechanisms to facilitate the participatory socio-ecological transformations in one of the hotspots in Djibouti . The project proposes the activities particularly designed for the agropastoralists ? such as setting up animal feedmill ( Activity 3.5), engaging the local scientist-farmers and communities for the enclosed livestock farming (Activity 4.1 and 4.2) and training the local communities on the sustainable rangeland and landuse management through nature-based solutions, optimal herd sizing animal (Activity 4.3, Outcome 5). Moreover, the proposed project includes the participatory eco-tourism and voluntourism interventions in collaboration with National Tourism Office and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to engage the local communities and civil society in alternative income generating activities in support of the Day Forest rehabilitation process trough behavioural changes (Outcome 6).</p>

**STAP Overall Assessment and Rating Comment 2 received on June 10, 2022:**

STAP is also pleased by the integrated approach that is being piloted to address degradation of rangelands, forest, and biodiversity. In scaling-up this innovative approach, it will be necessary to address barriers, and consider enablers of change ? which ideally are identified in the theory of change to facilitate their monitoring and the necessary adaptive management.

As advised, the Theory of Change has been revised and reinforced through a thorough barrier identification and analysis and identification of the underlying risks and assumptions (Annex 3).

Scaling up of the innovative approaches piloted in the project is crucial to support the promulgation of Protected Area directives. As advised by STAP, the project identified the risks and analysed the assumptions for the potential replication and scaling up in the other protected areas established by the national law.

The key enablers identified are discussed under

? **Output 1.1 of Component 1** - National PA enabling framework enhanced through three new elements: a) New umbrella PA law, b) New umbrella PA law, and c) Creation of a PA Agency and PA Fund, and the updating of the PA legal framework),

? **Output 2.2 of Component 2** - PA management training workshops held for DEDD staff, local ecoguards and locally-led land and water user management committees.

? **Output 3.2 of Component 2** - Plots totaling 300 ha (3km squared) in the newly-defined Day protected area are reforested via permaculture techniques with a climate-resilient mix of native species

? **Output 4.3 of Component 2 and Output 5.1 of Component 3** which focuses on training the local community members alongside the dedicated government staff from PA Agency and line ministries on sustainable landuse management and rangeland practices with an aim of instilling whole-of-society approach (which is not common in Djibouti) to nature-based conservation solutions.

In addition to the specific activities targeted to create enablers, the project?s intension to promote participatory approach through incentive-based mechanisms and creation of alternative opportunities to the existing livelihood options putting stress on the Day Forest ecosystem are the underlying enablers for the project?s success. The project aims to develop best practices through the innovative approaches in Day Forest National Park which can be adopted or replicated in the existing or upcoming protected areas in Djibouti.

<p><b>STAP Overall Assessment and Rating Comment 3 received on June 10, 2022:</b></p> <p>STAP notes that project outcomes align with the concept of land degradation neutrality, and therefore suggests that the LDN conceptual framework may be a useful (integrated) framework to design interventions to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation, restore ecosystem functions and safeguard biodiversity while increasing resilience of the land and populations dependent on the land. The LDN framework can consider, and accommodate, the socio-ecological, political, and cultural factors identified in the project. The framework can also help deal with the potential moderate and significant social and environmental risks identified in the PIF document.</p>	<p>STAP's insights in the LDN framework and recommendations are highly welcome. Inclusive and participatory natural resource governance mechanisms integrated across the Components of the project as described in the above two responses are innovative in Djibouti's context. The political will and jurisdiction of the legal framework is expected to be strengthened through the activities envisioned under Outcome. The applicability and success of the political and institutional strengthening efforts under Outcome 1 are further reinforced through the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches described in outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 under Components 2 and 3.</p> <p>The project anticipates cultural barriers especially related to the existing agro-pastoral practices which are identified among the drivers of Day Forest degradation. The Day Forest was designated as a Protected Area after it was named one of the three terrestrial national parks of the country by national legal system in 2004. However, the anticipated restoration and rehabilitation of the forest has not occurred despite its status of a Protected Area for the last 19 years. The proposed interventions under Components 2 and 3, implemented in compliance to the Social and Environmental Safeguards Plan and frameworks developed during the Inception Phase of the project are expected to address the past and current social, cultural, and political barriers to demonstrate necessary transformative changes for Day Forest restoration.</p> <p>Potential risks and the corresponding mitigation measures are elaborated under section 5 of this document and Annex 9 of the Project Document.</p>
<p><b>STAP Overall Assessment and Rating Comment 4 received on June 10, 2022:</b></p> <p>STAP notes that activities of components #2 and #3 related to training, education and capacity building could be co-designed and delivered in collaboration with established national education institutions. Mainstreaming of training and new learning is more durable when embedded in established national education infrastructure (e.g. vocational training and professional programs).</p>	<p>STAP comment is highly appreciated.</p> <p>Centre for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (CLE), National Agency for Development of Djibouti (ADDS) and Ministry of Agriculture have been consulted to co-design the capacity building and training interventions under Components 2 and 3. During the Inception Phase, further collaboration with national educational institutions such as National Institute for Public Administration (INAP) and University of Djibouti.</p>

<p><b>Comment received on Part I:</b> Project Information B. Indicative Project Description Summary on June 10, 2022</p> <p>Possibly, if good monitoring and learning is in place, and adaptive management is applied as described in the PIF.</p>	<p>Yes, a monitoring plan is developed to support the Component 4 dedicated to learning and monitoring. To ensure proper implementation of the monitoring and learning plan, PMU capacity is strengthened through recruitment of Monitoring and Evaluation staff and Knowledge Management consultant.</p> <p>The learning component is integrated into each component through inclusion of several skill-based and PA management capacity development interventions (Outputs 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.4, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2)</p>
<p><b>Comment received on Part II:</b> The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects</p> <p>Collaboration between agencies (FAO and UNDP) on pastoral management and climate resilience will take place to build on lessons learned from FAO's programming in Djibouti.</p>	<p>During the PPG phase, the project design team worked closely with the FAO, including joint field missions to the Day Forest National Park.</p> <p>The potential agro-pastoral management options and the innovative solutions, for example <i>Prosopis-based</i> animal feed mill was already piloted by FAO in Dikhil region, however, it was not scaled up further. In addition, the nature-based solutions and the agro-pastoral practices in the arid areas, supporting access to water for livestock and agriculture purposes have been co-assessed to co-design the Outcomes under Component 2 and 3.</p>
<p><b>Comment received on Part II:</b> 3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project</p> <p>Suggest going through this list of assumptions? and identifying only 5 critical assumptions (positive conditions needed to achieve results) at the outcome, and output level.</p> <p>Suggest considering other non-climate drivers (e.g. conflict) that may influence the need for adaptation</p>	<p>The advice is followed through. Based on the assumptions identified in the Theory of Change (Annex 3), the proposed alternative scenario is further strengthened.</p> <p>Socio-cultural (poverty, traditional natural resource based agro-pastoral practices) and political drivers (insufficient political and legal enablers to enforce PA protection measures) have been identified as the non-climate drivers. The Social and Environmental Safeguards analysis, and Environmental and Social Management Framework have elaborated on the climate and non-climate drivers that influence the adaptation efforts in the area. These drivers are captured under the Risk Analysis section of the document as well.</p>

<p><b>Comment received on Part II:</b> 6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)</p> <p>The STAP suggests identifying, as needed, additional metrics, or indicators, to track short-term outputs and outcomes.</p>	<p>The Project Results Framework has elaborated on the project indicators with mid and end of project targets in Annex A. There are 18 indicators in total disaggregated at the Project Outcome and Output levels.</p>
<p><b>Comment received on Part II:</b> Project Map and Coordinates. Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take</p> <p>A good map is included in the PIF of the protected areas the project seeks to demarcate. Please consider including a map with the target sites in the final project document.</p>	<p>Google map delineating the project sites is added with the geographical coordinates. In addition, photos from the site taken during the field missions in December 2022 and Jan 2023 are added to provide more visual representation of the proposed project site.</p>
<p><b>Comments received on Stakeholders.</b></p> <p>STAP appreciates the comprehensive description of how stakeholders were consulted for conceptualizing the PIF. When designing and implementing the project, it might be necessary to consult different stakeholders, for example, who is necessary for scaling, and in what way? It is recommended to include the University of Djibouti and associated technical institutes; they could be valuable partners in implementing capacity building and training components</p>	<p>Technical and professional institutions were included in the project components with the expected role in supporting the implementation of the project interventions.</p> <p>An elaborate analysis of different stakeholders is presented under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p> <p>Potential collaboration with University of Djibouti will be explored further during the Inception Phase. The University of Djibouti does not have a full-fledged programme on agriculture or agro-pastoralism. The Faculty of Science and Social Sciences are the closest ones that will be explored further.</p>

**Comments on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

A gender analysis will be conducted during the project development to develop a gender action plan. In addition to this effort, STAP highly recommends viewing gender as a social structure which influences interactions and responses to land management, be it agricultural management, forest management, rangeland management, and/or biodiversity conservation. Thinking about gender as a social structure throughout the components will help identify key questions, or assumptions, on how gender is framed based on the project context. This process can then help further understanding of gender, and assist in identifying barriers, or enablers, of gender power dynamics, gaps in policies/regulations on gender, and other elements that underpin the durability of global environmental outcomes and local benefits.

Gender equality and women's empowerment aspects have been woven into the fabric of the project interventions. Gender is not treated as an addendum to the project intervention but as an enabling factor upon which the success and scalability of the innovative nature-based solutions proposed in the project rest upon. Women engagement in planning and decision-making process is an integral part of the participatory PA management and rangeland management approach. Moreover, special emphasis is given to the women's economic empowerment and capacity building interventions under Components 2 and 3. The project intends to build upon UNDP and government's best practices of empowering women's socio-economic capabilities through skill-based training, facilitating access to finance and supporting enterprise development, thus contributing in converting economically "non-contributing" members of the society into the "economical contributors".

**Comments from Canada**

**UNDP Responses**

<p>? Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) techniques have a long history of success in increasing tree and vegetation cover and land productivity in grazing lands in Niger. They may have a potential to enhance natural regrowth of shrubs and trees in Djibouti and complement the techniques that are currently included in the sustainable grazing agreements. Consider exploring FMRN techniques as one of the interventions in the agreements if they have not been considered yet.</p> <p>? The choice of solar energy to power the water pumping systems in Ouadis represents the most appropriate technological solution in the context of the GEF proposal. In addition, it reduces GHG emissions from fossil fuels in these communities and is an environmentally and economically attractive option for these communities. It's important to have increased transparency and traceability in solar panel supply chains given the link between the solar panel industry and forced labour in the Xinjiang region.</p> <p>? It's important to mention the issue of waste management from renewable energy equipment (solar panel, batteries, etc.). Without imposing all responsibility for waste management on the implementing partner, an analysis of how this will play out would be welcome.</p>	<p>? There are provisions in the budget for the engagement of a rangeland specialist. Once the person is recruited, UNDP will mention the Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) techniques and their long history of success in increasing tree and vegetation cover and land productivity in grazing lands in Niger, so that applicability in Djibouti can be considered.</p> <p>? Solar panels are under consideration as a source of energy for powering the fogharvesters. UNDP will ensure that safeguards apply to the choice of supplier, in particular if there are reports of forced labor behind the value chain. This applies not just to solar panels but also other goods that may be procured.</p> <p>? Along the same lines, UNDP's safeguards consider waste as a potential source of pollution that requires specific handling according to type ? solar panels and batteries considered. All UNDP projects include a plan for decommissioning and handing over equipment after the project ends. These considerations come obviously into play at that point.</p>
<p><b>Comments from Germany</b></p>	<p><b>UNDP Responses</b></p>



<p>? Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:</p> <p>? Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:</p> <p>? Germany welcomes the project proposal which builds on previous projects in the area. The following points for improvement are suggested:</p> <p>? The project heavily relies on country ownership and commitment, including mobilization of domestic finances. Country ownership and commitment are vital elements in the long-term success of the project itself as well as in the long-term success of sustainable PA management (in particular domestic financing, which is supposed to increase by USD 300,000 annually, and the PA agency to be created). We would like to suggest that the project proposals sets out how such long-term commitments are going to be secured (e.g. through legislative measures) and what alternatives might be used in case domestic support cannot be maintained in the long run.</p> <p>? The creation of alternative livelihoods based on livestock increased by at least 20% may also negatively impact biodiversity and ecosystem services. The project should thus consider a careful assessment of the positive and negative impacts expected from such activities.</p> <p>? One way of ensuring that biodiversity and ecosystems of PAs are protected by local communities is by applying a community-based management approach. The project proposal mentions community engagement several times, without going into the details of how such engagement will be carried out. Given the importance of fair and equitable engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities, we would like to suggest that the project evaluates the potential impacts of all community-related activities on these communities (not necessarily will each group in every community be in favor of the activities to be carried out).</p>	<p>? There are ongoing discussions with the government on the issue of how to fund PAs (terrestrial and marine) and the need to enhance investments. The targets for the indicator in question were agreed with the government. There are e.g. new initiatives that may come into fruition soon -- e.g. the Sovereign Carbon Initiative which is formed through a Presidential Decree in March 2023 and identified Port (and Maritime) and Aviation as two sectors with mandatory Carbon Contributions with an aim "to reduce GHG emissions and finance environmental and energy programs that address the challenges of climate emergency". During project implementation discussions will continue to ensure that the funds for sustaining PA management are guaranteed, including from the emerging sources of funds, such as the one mentioned.</p> <p>? The project has been scrutinized for social and environmental risks. The positive and negative impacts expected from activities such as those that seek to enhance alternative livelihoods were also screened. During implementation, screening of activities for social and environmental risks and the development of safeguards will continue to apply.</p> <p>? The concerns expressed by Germany on the community-based management approach are valid. At the same time, during the PPG, there were intense consultations with communities. The process of engaging them was thoroughly documented. All communities consulted indicated to be committed to the project and its propositions.</p>
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**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).**  
**(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:**

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

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>

<b>Technical assistance (design technical elements as well as all the required financial and administrative components of the project)</b>			
<b>Component A: Technical studies</b>			
? Social and Environmental Safeguards Specialist	28,000.00	34,018.00	
? Stakeholder Engagement and Gender Specialist			
	13,500.00	9,600.00	
<b>Component B: Formulation of ProDoc</b>			
? International PPG Team Leader			
? National PPG Support Consultant			
? Travel	42,000.00	43,659.00	
<b>Component C: Validation Workshop</b>			
	25,000.00	18,000.00	
	6,500.00	9,795.00	
	10,000.00	9,928.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>125,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>125,000.00</u></b>	<b>-</b>

#### **ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

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

Not Applicable

#### **GEO LOCATION INFORMATION**

**The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. These IDs**



		<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 1. 1</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 1. 2</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 1. 3</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 1. 4</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 1. 5</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 2. 1</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 2. 2</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 2. 3</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 2. 4</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 3. 1</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 3. 2</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 3. 3</i>	<i>Su b- co m po ne nt 3. 4</i>					
<b>Eq ui p m e n t</b>	Fuel cost for the field mission s under Compo nents 1, includin g supervis ion mission	3 20 0													3 2 0 0			3 2 0 0	M E D D

<b>Equipment</b>	The missions require stronger 4x4 car to reach remote and mountainous areas of the project sites where the road conditions are dilapidated, car rental will be required (@ USD 260 per day for 15 days under Component 1 = USD 260*15 = USD 3,900			3 90 0										3 9 0 0			3 9 0 0	MED
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<b>Eq ui p me nt</b>	The mission s require stronger 4x4 car to reach remote and mountai nous areas of the project sites where the road conditio ns are dilapida ted, car rental will be required (@ USD 260 per day for 40 days under Compo nent 2 = USD 260*40 = USD 10,400						10 40 0							1 0 4 0 0		1 0 4 0 0	M E D D
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<b>Equipment</b>	Fuel cost for the field missions under Component 2= USD 2,000 for supervision Fuel cost for the field missions under Component 2 USD 2,000 for Y2 for supervision																	MED
<b>Equipment</b>	Fuel cost for the field missions under Component 3A = USD 11,008 including for supervision field mission																	MED

<b>Equipment</b>	The missions require stronger 4x4 car to reach remote and mountainous areas of the project sites where the road conditions are dilapidated, car rental will be required (@ USD 260 per day for 37 days under Component 4 = USD 260*37 = 9,620																MED
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<b>Equipment</b>	2 Laptops for the PMU Staff @ USD 1,500/la ptop= USD 1,500 *2 = USD 3,000 Pr inters and IT equipm ent for the Regiona l Technic al Officers = USD 1,500															4 5 0 0	4 5 0 0	M ED D
<b>Equipment</b>	Telepho ne, internet, and commu nication services , pro rata															2 5 9 6	2 5 9 6	M ED D

<b>Grants</b>	A grant mechanism will be established to select and train a Local CSO / PA protection cooperative to support community land and water management committees and to facilitate the functions of the PA Agency once established. The CSOs will be selected through a competitive process. Total amount for the grant will be USD 25,000.					25 00 0								2 5 0 0 0		2 5 0 0 0	M E D D
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care.  
Cooperatives will be selected based on the competitive procurement process. Total grant amount = USD 250,000  
\* Local cooperatives / Community Based Organizations to train and employ local community members to support the DEDD in operationalization of the PA in its initial years. The local cooperatives and associations will be engaged to build the park and

<p>people relationships and collaborative governance approaches. During the transition phase, the local cooperatives/CBOs will work as park managers, ecoguards, park entrance guard to help the PA bolster. Cooperatives will be selected based on the competitive procurement process. Total grant amount = USD 200,000 *Local cooperatives / Community Based Organizations to train and</p>																		
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<p>training on alternative livelihoods, in particular nature-based solutions that include vetted SLM techniques.</p> <p>USD 80,000  </p> <p>Y3-Y5: Grants for women-owned MSMEs and cooperatives to bring ecosystem regeneration to scale.   USD 80,000 in Y3, USD 52,000 in Y4 and USD 46,200 in Y5</p>																
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<b>Contractual Services? Company</b>	A service provider to set up and support establishment of the PA infrastructure: Paint and painting supplies to mark out edges of protected area, 100 signs to post at regular intervals around the extent of the protected area; materials for construction of guard rest hut, toilet, gate and entrance signs; uniforms for guards. 1 contract issued based on a competitive procurement process (Reques	50000													50000		50000	MED
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	t for Proposa l) of USD 50,000																		
<b>Co ntr act ual Ser vic es ? Co mp any</b>	Archite cture and interior design and renovat e and refurbis h existing park entrance infrastru cture. A firm will be selected through a competi tive procure ment process. The threshol d for the contract value is USD 175,000 .		17 5 00 0										1 7 5 0 0 0				1 7 5 0 0 0		M ED D

<b>Contractual Services? Company</b>	Comprehensive mapping and forest assessment planned conducted in the forest polygons of Day Forest and Mabla Forest. Engage an international consulting company for conducting the study described in Activity 1.1.1.			17 8 00 0										1 7 8 0 0 0			1 7 8 0 0 0	M E D D
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<p>Agriculture to conduct /facilitate the assessment, design, and installation of rainwater harvesting systems USD 30,000.] 1 firm to design, supply, install a solar powered demonstration unit of feedmill supply and train the regional office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Council and sub-Prefecture of Tadjourah along with local communities and operators, USD</p>																
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<p>the Knowledge Management Plan (USD 10,000)  Company to provide translation services during the field missions for trilingual translations for the consultants (English - French-Afar) including for the MTR band TE (USD 10,000)   The Company will also support in preparing Compendium of Best Practices with support from the PMU, Regional government and partner</p>																
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	CSOs (USD 12,000). 																	
<b>Co ntr act ual Ser vic es ? Co mp any</b>	Translat ion and printing of MTR and TE reports (USD 7,000)													7 0 0 0		7 0 0 0		M ED D

<p><b>Contractual Services ? individuals</b></p>	<p>Project Manager to facilitate implementation of project activities under PA management outputs  2 Regional Technical Officers to support technical related matters at the regional level. The Regional Technical Officers will support field missions and maintain close coordination with the Regional Council, prefecture, regional offices of ADDS, Ministry of</p>	<p>70 77 6</p>													<p>7 0 7 7 6</p>			<p>7 0 7 7 6</p>	<p>M ED D</p>
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<p>Agriculture and micro-finance division of the government. 3 months for each Regional Technical Officer (RTO) @ USD1794/month (Y2-Y5) = USD 1794*3 = USD 5,382 per year per RTO. USD 5,382*2 *4= USD 43,056 for 2 RTOs for 4 years</p>																
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<b>Contractual Services? individuals</b>	Project Manager to provide technical assistance to project activities under Component 1. The PM will provide technical support (i.e. peer review of technical deliverables under - reports, studies, management plan/s etc.) the MEDD in stakeholder meetings, bilateral meetings with the line ministries and regional governments, and support the selection of the PA experts				16 1 60 4									1 6 1 6 0 4		1 6 1 6 0 4	MEDD
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(e.g., prepare TORs, prepare Calls for EOIs, review bids) to support the development of PA Agency. The PM will prepare the PA decree dissemination plan and collaborate with the relevant Ministries (Environment, Agriculture etc.) and regional governments in the PA delineation processes. The PM will provide technical assistance with the international and national safeguards consultants and

Gender specialist to ensure that the SES considerations are duly integrated into the PA establishment and in the establishment and operationalization plan of PA Funds. 7 months for PM @ USD2772/month for Y1-Y5 = USD 2772\*7 = USD 19,404 per year and USD 97,020 for 5 years. 2 Regional Technical Officers (RTO) to provide technical assistance during stakehol

der engagement and coordination at the regional level and at the project sites under Component 1. The Regional Technical Officers will work closely with the regional and local governments as well as the communities to facilitate the operationalization of the PA decree. 6 months for @ USD1794/month/RTO for Y1 = USD 1794\*6\*2 = USD 21,528 for Y1 and



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Y5 =  
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1794\*3  
\*2 =  
USD  
10,764  
per year  
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USD  
43,056  
for Y2-  
Y5 for 2  
RTOs.



the ecosystem restoration techniques and sustainable land use management practices. The PM's role will be crucial to provide strategic guidance to the consultants to ensure that the trainings provided to the local communities, park managers, eco-guards are contextualized and sustainable. The PM will coordinate and seek collaboration with the partners, mainly the FAO, for the

<p> installat  ion of  feed  mill,  agricult  ure  greenho  uses and  rainwat  er  harvesti  ng  facilitie  s at the  project  sites.  The PM  will  play an  instrum  ental  role in  designin  g the  grant  mechani  sm for  the  CSOs.  Y1-Y5:  3  months'  salary  for PM  @USD  2772/m  onth =  USD  2772*3  = USD  8,316  per year  and  USD  8,316 *  5= USD  41,580  for 5  years on  Compo  nent 2 3  months'  salary  for 2  Regiona  l </p>																
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Technical Officers (RTO) @ USD 1794/month/Regional Technical Officer, who will provide technical guidance to the local communities during the implementation of the reforestation and rehabilitation techniques, greenhouse farming techniques and rainwater harvesting to ensure that the lessons learned during the training are utilized properly. Moreover, the Regional









<p><b>Contractual Services ? individuals</b></p>	<p>National M&amp;E officer for 6 months in Y1, 7 months in Y2-Y5 on cost sharing basis with other GEF and GCF projects in the Integrated PMU as per the Capacity Development Plan prepared following the Capacity Assessment of the Implementing Partner @ USD 1794 per month = USD 1,794*6 = USD 10,764 (Y1), USD 1,794*7*4 = USD 50,232 (Y2-Y5).</p>																	<p>M E D D</p>
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<p><b>Contractual Services ? individuals</b></p>	<p>This budget is reserved for recruitment of individuals to handle technical and non-technical aspects of project implementation, including the following: Procurement Assistant to prepare ToRs, bidding and technical related matters to support the project on cost sharing basis with other GEF and GCF projects in the integrated PMU as per the Capacity Development</p>																<p>1 2 3 8 7 6</p>	<p>1 2 3 8 7 6</p>	<p>M E D D</p>
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<p>Plan prepared following the Capacity Assessment of the Implementing Partner @ USD1200/month for 7.53 months between Y1-Y5 = USD 1200*7.53=USD 9,032  Admin and finance Assistant to support finance and budget matters (processing travel and DSA) on cost sharing basis with other GEF and GCF projects in the integrated PMU as per the</p>																
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<b>International Consultants</b>	International consultant PA expert to support the DEDD/ Ministry to establish a PA agency, create PA fund, write gazette decree and plan dissemination of it, write PA management plans and operationalize PA fund, and provide capacity development trainings on these topics, one month in country, the rest remote advance planning and final planning @	39000																MEDD
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<b>International Consultants</b>	<p>Int. Consultants: 1 International rangela and rehabilitation specialist, yearly visits x 3 years @USD 700/day for 30 days = USD 700*30 = USD 21,000 x 3 (Y1, Y2, Y3) 1 international feed mill specialist @ USD 700/day for 30 days to guide and enhance the capacity of the local animal feed mill specialist = USD 700*30 =USD 21,000  1 international trainer and</p>																	M ED D
										94 50 0				9 4 5 0 0			9 4 5 0 0	



<p>demonstrator of nursery setup and care to direct rebuilding of greenhouse, determine procurement needs for greenhouse, plan internal setup, work with national plant expert to obtain locally appropriate seedlings/seeds, establish growth conditions, and train DEDD and Day local staff on proper care  @USD 700/day for 15 days = USD 700*15 = USD 10,500</p>																
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<b>International Consultants</b>	1 International consultant to develop SESA and ESIA/E SMP @ USD600/day for 40 days = approx. USD 600*40 = USD 24,000																M ED D
<b>International Consultants</b>	1 International consultant for MTR @USD 700 for 42 days = USD 700*42 = USD 29,400  1 International consultant for TE @USD 700 for 42 days = USD 700*42 = USD 29,400																M ED D

<b>Local Consultants</b>	National consultant to support gazette ment decree writing and guide dissemination, to support legal writing with respect to decree and PA management plan, to support fund development, and to support capacity development trainings on these topics @ USD 350/day for 20 days= USD 7,000	7 00 0												7 0 0 0			7 0 0 0	MED
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<p>ble harvesting, access to microfinance= USD 5,000 ' Logistics for five trainings to support marketing of local sustainable produce , honey production and related activities, and other trainings as requested by the community and government to support this component of the project. Rooms for meetings to be provided by MEDD/DEDD (IP).= USD 4,000*5 = USD 20,000 </p>																
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	USD 300*75 = USD 22,500 for Y2 and 22,500 for Y3 1 National consultant to train on basket weaving @ USD 350 / day for 50 days = USD 350*50 = USD 17,500																	
<b>Local Consultants</b>	1 national website developer to redevelop existing MEDD website, migrate it to an easy manageable platform and increase google ranking @ USD 350/day for 30 days, USD 350*30 = 10,500									10500			10500			10500	MED	



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<p><b>Local Consultants</b></p>	<p>Y1-Y5: one local M&amp;E consultant to support M&amp;E specialist of the integrated PMU to work 4 weeks of each year to collect M&amp;E data and produce comprehensive and clear reports with recommendations @USD 350 for 8 days a year for five years = USD 350*8*5= USD 14,000   1 National Consultant for MTR @ USD 350 for 30 days = USD 350*30 = USD 10,500   1 National Consultant</p>															<p>35000</p>	<p>35000</p>	<p>MED</p>
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	ant for TE @ USD 350 for 30 days= USD 350*30 = USD 10,500																
<b>Office        Supplies</b>	Office supplies such as printing papers, stationa- ry, etc = USD 4,326 for Y1- Y5, pro rata														4 3 2 6	4 3 2 6	M E D D

<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>	Four days of workshops given by international consultants with support from the DEDD on setting up PA agency, PA fund, PA management plan; two days of workshops facilitated by national consultant on finalizing PA agency, gazette decree, dissemination of decree and plan, PA management planning in Y1 (USD 4,000) and M&E training in Y2	7000													7000		7000	MEDD
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<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>	Travel of International beehive management consultant including USD2,250/round trip = USD 2,50 *1 = USD 2,250  DSA for international consultant @USD 250/day for 9 days = USD 250*10 = USD 2,250 Mission to the regions for the national consultants to train at least 500 local people on alternative sustainable livelihoods, business management, sustainable														55000		55000	MED
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<p>2,000  *2 =  USD  4,000  5  Stakeho  lder  meeting  s during  the  implem  entation  of the  Compre  hensive  Stakeho  lder  Engage  ment  Plan  and  develop  ment of  the  Liveliho  ods  Action  Plan  (Process  Framew  ork) and  project  Grievan  ce  Redress  Mechan  ism @  USD  2,000  per  meeting  = USD  2,000*5  = USD  10,000   Final  review  and  lessons  learned  dissemi  nation  worksh  op =  USD  4,000 </p>																
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<p><b>Tra vel</b></p>	<p>International Consultant PA expert return airfare @USD 2,410 per round trip = USD 2,410. DSA International Consultant @ 221/day for 10 days DSA = USD 2,210 4 Missions to the field for PMU staff (3 staff) and national PA consultant @ USD 115/day for 5 days per mission = USD 115*4* 5*4= USD 9,200.</p>	<p>13 82 0</p>													<p>1 3 8 2 0</p>		<p>1 3 8 2 0</p>	<p>M E D D</p>
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<p>= USD 2,500 for Y3 DS A for internati onal consulta nts @ USD 221/day for 10 days in total for 1 person = USD 221*10 = USD 2,210 in Y3 Fiel d mission s for the local permac ulture speciali st, Local rangela nd manage ment and plant speciali st, local animal feed speciali st, Local ecosyste m restorati on speciali st / ecologis t, PMU staff @ USD 115/day for 30 days each in</p>																	
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Y1 for 6  
person  
= USD  
115\*30  
\*6 =  
USD  
20,700  
for Y1,  
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Local  
ecosyste  
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on  
speciali  
st /  
ecologis  
t, PMU  
staff @  
USD  
115/day  
for 30  
days  
each in  
Y2 for 6  
person  
= USD  
115\*30  
\*6 =  
USD  
20,700  
for Y2,  
|Field  
mission  
s for  
Local

<p>rangela  and  manage  ment  and  plant  speciali  st, local  animal  feed  speciali  st,  Local  ecosyste  m  restorati  on  speciali  st /  ecologis  t, PMU  staff @  USD  115/day  for 30  days  each in  Y3 for 5  person  = USD  115*30  *5 =  USD  17,250  for Y3,  Field  mission  s for  Local  rangela  nd  manage  ment  and  plant  speciali  st, local  animal  feed  speciali  st,  Local  ecosyste  m  restorati  on</p>																		
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specialist / ecologist, PMU staff @ USD 115/day for 20 days each in Y4 for 5 person = USD 115\*20\*5 = USD 11,500 for Y4, ||Field missions for Local rangeland management and plant specialist, local animal feed specialist, Local ecosystem restoration specialist / ecologist, PMU staff @ USD 115/day for 20 days each in Y4 for 5 person = USD 115\*20\*5 = USD



<b>Travel</b>	Mission for Safeguards consultant, Gender and Safeguards Officer, M&E Officer and M&E consultants @ USD 115/day per person 12 days per year for 5 years = USD 115*12*5 = USD 6,900																M E D D
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Travel</b></p>	<p>International MTR Consultant Mission-round trip airfare @ USD 2,500 = USD 2,500 D SA for 10 days @ USD 221/day = USD 221*10 = USD 2,210   Mission of national MTR consultant @ USD 115/day for 5 days = USD 115*5 = USD 575   International TE Consultant Mission-round trip airfare @ USD 2,500 = USD 2,500 D SA for 10 days @ USD 221/day = USD 221*10 = USD 2,210   Mission</p>																
															1 0 6 8 5	1 0 6 8 5	M E D D

	of national TE consultant @ USD 115/day for 6 days = USD 115*6 = USD 690																		
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	Audio visual and printing costs for dissemination of editing the guide and the documenting the prioritization process.	2000												2000				2000	MED
<b>Other Operating Costs</b>	Unforeseen programme cost, such as FX gain and loss, bank charges etc., which is unrelated to implementation /service fee (Components 1)				289									289				289	MED





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

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

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