

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

### 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

**Taxonomy**

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

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

Climate Change Mitigation 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Duration**

72 In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

310,558.00

**Submission Date**

5/12/2022

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-1-1	GET	2,366,191.00	7,200,000.00
BD-2-7	GET	902,837.00	1,800,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		3,269,028.00	9,000,000.00

## B. Indicative Project description summary

### Project Objective

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

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
1. Enhance PA system policy and financing framework and emplace management in Day and Mabla PAs	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Enhanced PA system management capacity.</p> <p><i>Indicators/Targets: PA agency created and functional; UNDP PA Capacity Development Scorecard +20%.</i></p> <p>1.2 Increased domestic financing for the planning and management of the national PA system.</p> <p><i>Indicator/Target: national budget for PA system increased by USD 300,000 annually.</i></p> <p>1.3 Increased management effectiveness of the eventually operationalised Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs, providing greater protection to globally significant species and habitats over approximately 10,000 ha<sup>[1]</sup> of landscape (Day: 6,000 ha, Mabla: 4,000 ha). <i>Indicator/Targets: METT scores + 30% (baseline tbd in PPG); good status maintenance or positive trends in globally threatened/ indicator species (tbd in PPG, but will likely include</i></p>	<p><u>At national level:</u></p> <p>1.1 National PA enabling framework enhanced: i) new umbrella PA law prepared and adopted that includes <i>inter alia</i> the creation of a national PA agency, PA stakeholder committees and participatory management; ii) gazettment decree for all designated terrestrial PAs prepared and adopted; iii) National Environment Fund and one new financing source operationalised for capturing and reinjecting additional revenue into PAs and the new PA agency.</p> <p><u>At site level in the Day and Mabla Forest PAs:</u></p> <p>1.2 PAs demarcated on the ground.</p> <p>1.3 PAs staffed and equipped to ensure at least basic operations, and management emplaced.</p>	GET	859,845.00	1,670,000.00

*Pternistis ochropectus* CR,  
*Livistona carinensis* VU, *Dracaena*  
*ombet* EN, *Gazella dorcas pelzelni*  
VU, *Gyps rueppelli* EN

1.4 PA management training  
workshops held for PA staff,  
local ecoguards and  
participatory committees.

[1] Estimates based on surface  
areas of polygons crudely drawn in  
Google Earth (Y. de Soye, 2021).  
These values are not official as the  
PAs have not yet been formally  
delineated. These tentative and  
highly approximative PA areas  
need to reassessed during PPG  
and later determined legally during  
the project.

2. Safeguard and restore rangeland and forest ecosystem functions through forest restoration and sustainable land manageme nt in and around the Day and Mabla PAs	Investme nt	<p>2.1 Native mountain forest restored over 100 ha within each PA. <i>Indicators/Targets: Sapling survival rate in plots across the 2*100 ha exceed 75% by project end; increase in ground vegetation cover (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) in reforested areas recovers from 0-20 % to above 50%; relative air and soil humidity averages increase.</i></p> <p>2.2 Vegetation cover, ecosystem function and productivity of pastures and rangelands rehabilitated across 10,000 ha of PA area and 14,000 ha (8,000 ha Day, 6,000 ha Mabla) of adjacent buffer zones.</p> <p><i>Indicators/Targets: Land area under sustainable rangeland management practices; increase in ground vegetation cover</i></p>	<p>2.1 Advocacy and behavioural change strategies implemented, targeting appropriate levers to achieve local support for PAs and SLM.</p> <p>2.2 Training workshops held to strengthen technical and institutional capacities of the agencies in charge of rangelands, forestry and environment, for identifying degraded landscapes, integrated land use planning, water management, planning and delivering sustainable land management as well as rangeland and forest restoration, and related monitoring.</p>	GET	1,917,847.00	6,720,000.00
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*(Normalized Difference Vegetation Index); herd size per household using the PAs reduced by at least 30%.*

2.3 Direct and indirect livelihood benefits for local populations.

*Indicators/Targets: # of jobs (men/women) from project; % of village households benefiting from sustainable alternative income-generating activities; income levels increased for households attributable to the development of IGAs; milk production and/or economic returns from livestock increased by at least 20%.*

For and in Day and Mabla PA and buffer zones and key communities:

2.3 Participatory landscape management committees established.

2.4 Integrated PA & watershed/landscape management and restoration plans prepared in a participatory manner.

2.5 Extension and training provided to 500+ local community members including women and herders on sustainable land management including soil and water conservation, as well as on forest restoration.

2.6 One plant nursery set up in each PA to produce seedlings for reforestation with a mix of native species and for feedstock planting.

2.7 100 ha plots in each PA reforested with a climate-resilient mix of native species through contracts with trained local community members including women, combined with physical soil and water conservation works and a drip-irrigation system

2.8 Sustainable rangeland management measures implemented across 10,000 ha of PA and 14,000 ha of buffer zones to restore ground vegetation and related ecosystem services, through i) community-based sustainable grazing agreements to enhance natural regeneration ii) a partial shift from free-roaming to livestock rearing using enclosures with forage from local feedstock plantations, herd size management, improved veterinary care and increased animal turnover.

2.9 Sustainable water resource management emplaced to enable tree/vegetation restoration: assessment of hydrological data and trends and of water extraction rates by public and private wells to inform the landscape management plan; ii) water management recommendations applied at public and private wells.

2.10 Alternative sustainable livelihood and women empowerment programmes as well as a microfinance platform established for rural communities and herders, to support *inter alia*: i) agro-

ecological community and family gardens; ii) water capture and storage means; iii) community-based ecotourism developments; iv) development, packaging and marketing of new local-product value chains (honey, dairy products, poultry).

3. Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management	Technical Assistance	<p>3.1 All safeguards standards met throughout project</p> <p>3.2 &gt;80% of Gender AP targets met</p> <p>3.3 &gt;80% of KM Plan deliverables met</p>	<p>3.1 Training provided to key stakeholders on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements.</p> <p>3.2 Social and environmental safeguards risks mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-2, necessary management measures implemented and monitored.</p> <p>3.3 Gender Action Plan to mainstream gender equity and women empowerment implemented and monitored.</p> <p>3.4 Knowledge Management Plan implemented and products delivered.</p> <p>3.5 Sustainability and Replication Strategy and Action Plan developed</p>	GET	180,000.00	80,000.00
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4. M&E	Technical Assistance	4.1 M&E duly implemented. <i>Indicators/Targets: MTR and TE delivered on time; MTR, TE and PIR independent quality ratings S or better</i>	4.1 M&E products (MTR, TE, PIRs) conducted with all tracking tools, core indicators and financial indicators assessed  4.2 M&E reflected in adaptive management	GET	155,668.00	80,000.00
Sub Total (\$)					3,113,360.00	8,550,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET					155,668.00	450,000.00
Sub Total(\$)					155,668.00	450,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)					3,269,028.00	9,000,000.00

Please provide justification

**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	MAEPE-RH (Directions Elevage, Forets, Agriculture)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
Donor Agency	WFP – Food for Assets	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,200,000.00
Donor Agency	World Bank	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	3,000,000.00
			<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>9,000,000.00</b>

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

The contribution from WFP, valued at USD 1.2m, was negotiated and pledged specifically as a new and direct contribution to the project and contributing to the achievement of its objectives, especially to leverage community support and action; without the project, no such investment in the area or topic would have taken place, wherefore they must be considered as additional “investment mobilized” by the GEF grant rather than “recurrent expenditures”.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	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
Total GEF Resources(\$)					3,269,028.00	310,558.00	3,579,586.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)  
PPG Required true

PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
125,000				11,875			
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNDP	GET	Djibouti	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	25,000	2,375	27,375.00
UNDP	GET	Djibouti	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	100,000	9,500	109,500.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					125,000.00	11,875.00	136,875.00

Core Indicators

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Day Forest			6,000.00						
Mabla Forest			4,000.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

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

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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			

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

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

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

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,000			
Male	2,000			
Total	4000	0	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

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

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

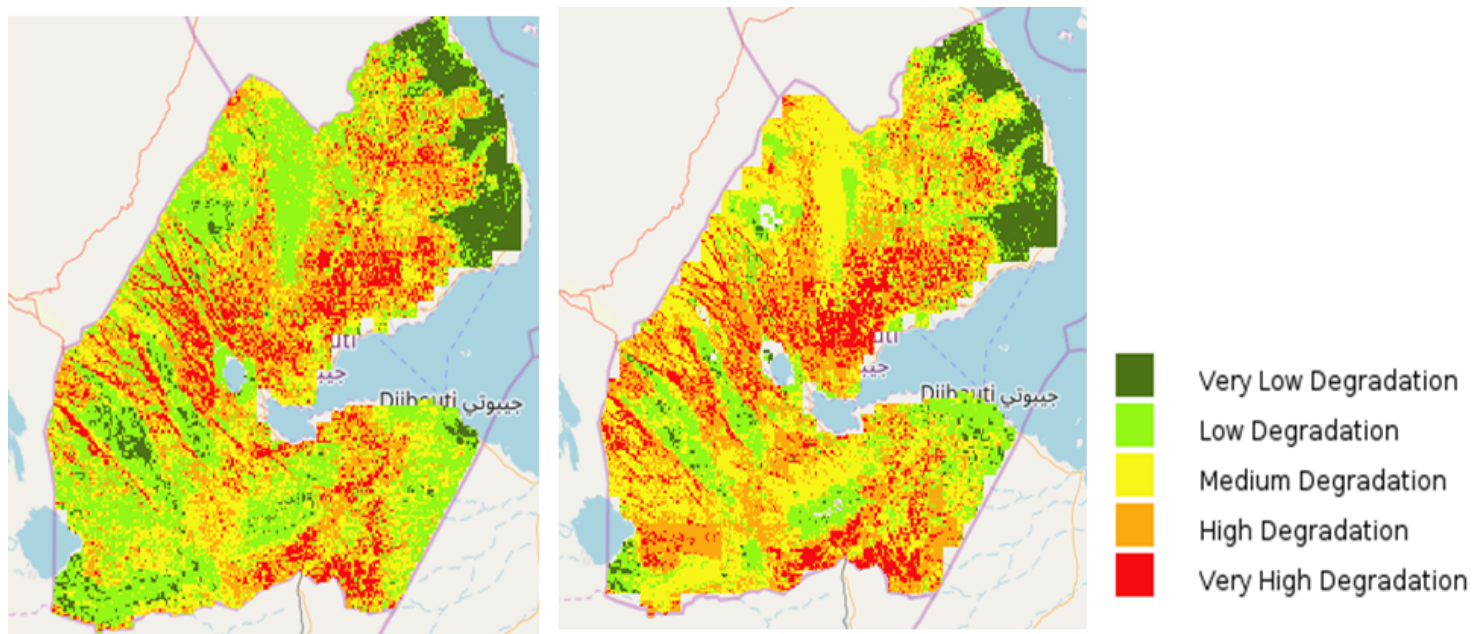
##### Overview on geography, society and economy.

1. The Republic of Djibouti is a small coastal country in the Horn of Africa, with a total land area of 23,180 km<sup>2</sup> and a coastline of between 314 and 372 km. Located at the junction of three major fault lines of the globe, the territory of Djibouti was formed by a series of successive volcanic activity and tectonic phenomena. The line of the rift formed by the Gulf of Tadjourah and Assal lake divides the country into two parts: i) the north dominated by three mountain ranges: Moussa Ali (2021 m), Goda (1783 m) and Mabla (1382 m), and ii) the South and West regions, where lower mountain ranges (Arta 756 m and Gamarré 1000 m) alternate with depressions covered with a layer of clay (the plains of Petit and Grand Bara, Gobaad and Hanlé) (see Annexes B & C).
2. Djibouti's climate ranges from arid in the northeastern coastal regions to semi-arid in the central, northern, western and southern parts of the country. Rainfall is largely regulated by the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and the climate is also susceptible to the impacts of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). Annual rainfall is very low and ranges between 50 and more than 400 mm – with an average of around 130-160 mm on the eastern seaboard and 200-400 mm in the central highlands. The climate is seasonal, but rainfall is erratic and occurs as strong showers with large intra-annual and inter-annual variations (with floods and droughts that can be catastrophic). The country therefore has limited available water resources, and rivers are temporary, flowing only for brief periods after storms.
3. Noting that descriptions in different official sources are rather inconsistent, the seasonality can be circumscribed as follows<sup>[1]</sup> (see also the diagramme in Annex G): i) a cooler season (October-April) characterised by milder temperatures, higher relative humidity and sea winds (trade winds); ii) a hot and wet period (July-August) with high precipitation and maxim temperatures averaging 38-40°C; iii) two brief hot and dry spells (May-June and September) with often violent, hot and dry sand wind (khamsin). The months of April, July, and August have the greatest amounts of precipitation, and January, June and December the smallest.
4. In 2021, the Djibouti population was estimated at 938,413 inhabitants with an annual growth rate of 2%<sup>[2]</sup>. More than 75% of the population lives in cities and towns, predominantly in the capital region<sup>[3]</sup>. Demography is characterized by a very young population: 30% of the population is less than 15 years old<sup>[4]</sup>. The unemployment rate of 40% is a major problem and the proportion of the population living below the poverty line is 21% overall with a 45% amongst the rural population (EDAM 2017). The 2019 Human Development Index (0.52) ranked the country 166<sup>th</sup> over 187 countries<sup>[5]</sup>. Djibouti's economy is largely dependent on its service sector (81% of GDP) connected with the country's strategic location as a deep-water port. The industrial (17% of GDP) and agricultural (3% of GDP) sectors are underdeveloped but constitute the main livelihoods.

##### Productive and natural ecosystems and their degradation from threats

5. Between 0.1% (2000 ha, 20 km)<sup>[6]</sup> and 0.5% (10,000 ha, 100 km<sup>2</sup>)<sup>[7]</sup> of the country's land area is classified as arable land. It is concentrated especially in the river plain of Hanlé, in addition to smaller areas near riverbeds (wadis) that provide opportunities for small-scale gardening by communities. By 2014, only 10% of arable lands were under cultivation by a total of 1,815 farms providing c. 3,600 employments<sup>[8]</sup>. The country's rural population therefore depends almost exclusively on livestock production (goat, sheep, cattle, camels), and to some extent on subsistence agriculture, for their survival and livelihood. Over 80% of this rural population were nomads who roamed about 1.7 million ha of collective rangelands (78% of Djibouti's surface area) with their livestock, feeding on the sparse vegetation.
6. Djibouti's rangelands are marginal and infertile areas highly susceptible to degradation and erosion, with little ground cover and poor water supplies. Traditionally, each tribe used to operate a well-defined territory and follow definite transhumance routes, and rangeland management rules were strictly enforced at the community level. However, following the droughts of 1983/84 and 1987/88, an increase of water points in rural areas (including boreholes) as well as the construction of roads and settlements offering education to children, many nomads have settled. This sedentarisation has concentrated the pressure around water points and nearby pastures – herds freely access with little management or control, leading to a degradation of land and natural pastures/meadows that grow there.
7. For various reasons, including this trend of sedentarization as well as the effects of repeated droughts causing the drying up of ponds used for watering livestock and pasture degradation, the respect for traditional rangeland management rules (rotational pasture use, forage reserves) has fallen, with herders increasingly driven by survival needs rather than sustainable pasture management.
8. Consequently, over the last decades, the country has been facing a significant and growing challenge to its natural, semi-natural and productive ecosystems due to severe and increasing land degradation and desertification. The underlying factors may be partly related to regional trends and severe variations in climate that can arguably be attributed to climate change. However, inappropriate land use practices such as inadequate grazing regimes and/or excessive livestock numbers, or otherwise unsustainable extraction of the mostly sparse and highly vulnerable vegetation and soil cover are an important, if not the, principal driver of this trend.
9. Moreover, in many areas, traditional tenure and grazing systems cannot provide solutions anymore. In the past, traditional (customary law) systems allowed for rangeland regeneration through rotational management and access rules. Yet, traditional systems alone do not anymore provide adequate solutions in the context of climatic extremes (drought and floods), population growth, monetarisation and changing consumption patterns. They may also be in conflict with public interest (such as the maintenance of a public good or service such as a watershed). Most rangelands are now degraded to such a degree that at times they cannot anymore provide for the resources required by opportunistic herders at the brink of survival, even if traditional systems were still in place. Vegetation is stripped of the land as soon as it emerges after rains. Forage reserves such as pruning-resistant Acacia trees are disappearing from the landscape because of over-exploitation. "Forests" and woodlands are left without undergrowth and lack regeneration.
10. In addition, the country faces poor management of pressures on scarce water resources, which is compounded by land degradation. Overgrazing leads to a rarefaction of plant cover, leaving the ground bare and exposed to water and wind erosion, and trampling by livestock leads to the physical degradation of soils. Soil conditions and the herbaceous and forest cover of the watershed are determinants of the amount of water stored in the soil. Without vegetation, land is eroded and rainwater flows over the hardened surface of the ground without seeping in and recharging groundwater. Land cleared of its vegetation cover becomes vulnerable to soil erosion, more so during heavy rains that strip the soil and impoverish seed banks. The scarce rainwater infiltrates less, causing the water table to drop and water becomes even more difficult to draw.

11. The loss of vegetation cover and ecosystem functions of rangelands and forests have precipitated many rural communities into extreme poverty, food and water insecurity and general vulnerability. Encouraged by government policy to promote the education of children, formerly nomadic groups/families have settled with their livestock which further exacerbates the loss of plant cover around settlements. The land loses its productive capacity and semi-sedentarized herders lack the knowledge to adapt their agro-pastoral practices. Herds are vulnerable and in a precarious health condition, making it difficult to sell animals, thus affecting household incomes. In the absence of viable rangelands and alternative sources of income, people turn to charcoal production to supply the needs in urban areas, which further exacerbates the pressure on already impoverished resources. This is further impacting women who devote much of their time collecting firewood and water, further increasing precariousness. This **Poverty / Land Degradation Nexus** exposes rural pastoral communities to a vicious cycle: Land degradation leads to reduced productivity, water and food insecurity, increased poverty, and again to further short-termism and degradation. It has led to a rural exodus to urban areas especially Djibouti capital, especially by young people.



*Djibouti Actual Land Degradation Index in May-Oct 2014 and Feb-May 2016 (MESA project)*

12. A further consequence of unsustainable rangeland and pasture use has been the degradation of the scarce forest resources across the country – from a loss of individual trees to a regression of the few woodlands and forests in the country. Forests are used by surrounding human populations as grazing areas impeding natural regeneration and as livestock fodder by pruning (especially in the dry season), as well as for firewood and charcoal production, the collection of fibres and woody materials for housing, fencing, rope and mat production, wild honey, gums, resins and medicines harvesting.

13. It is estimated that there are/were 2,000 ha of forests and 68,000 ha of open woodlands in Djibouti. These include: rare and localised 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 (see Annexes A-C for maps of key forest areas).

14. The Day Forest and Mabila Forest are Djibouti's last vestiges of denser forest, harbouring most of the country's terrestrial biodiversity. They are two of the seven BirdLife Important Bird Areas in the country[9].

#### *Day Forest in Goda Mountain*

15. Day Forest is a mountain forest in the Goda mountain range, located entirely in the region of Tadjourah. Reaching a maximum elevation of 1783m asl, the mountain range is rugged, with high plateaus, cliffs and steep mountain slopes, intersected by wadis.

16. In the upper stages above c. 1000 m, the most notable and originally dominant species is the East Africa Juniper *Juniperus procera* LC[10], complemented by *Olea africana*, *Buxus hildebrandtii*, and *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*. At lower elevations, *Buxus hildebrandtii*, *Terminalia brownii* and several *Acacia* species dominate. The wadis are more densely vegetated, with large *Ficus* spp. and, in a few areas, palm trees.

17. The *Juniperus procera* upper elevation forest in Day is a relic of an ancient forest that once covered a larger area and was gradually reduced over a long period, including through the effects of pastoral fires (18<sup>th</sup> century) and a nearby volcanic eruption in 1862. As evidenced by the identification of vestiges of *Juniperus* scattered between the Goda and Mabila mountains and the discovery of some living and healthy individuals in the Dadar area[11], it is understood that the Day Forest stretched over 7,500 ha two centuries ago and 2,300 ha in 1949. By 1987 it covered 900 ha[12] and is now reduced to a few hundred ha of dispersed and degraded patches especially in gulleys. Please refer to Annexes A-C for maps.

18. 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 top soil 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 overgrazing 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 and hence severe overgrazing of most of the forest and herbaceous cover to a point that there is 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[13]. Furthermore, cutting for livestock and firewood has led to the progressive eradication of *Acacia etbaica*[14].

19. The degradation and regression of this 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 required by communities living in its surroundings and beyond: 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.

20. 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.

21. Numerous restoration projects have aimed at reversing this degradation trend by working on forest community-based set-asides and livestock exclosures. The large PROMES-GDT project in Day made major investments for water and soil retention and gave good results on water security and soil/water conservation. Projects showed some regeneration of Juniper and other vegetation, however, the protective measures and their effects were not sustainable due to the loss of traditional management, degradation of rangelands and consequent lack of alternative option for feeding the livestock during the sustained drought, and the lack of community ownership of the recommended solutions which continued to see the forest exclusively as a resource to be exploited. No project to date ever proposed an integrated watershed planning approach together with an actual operationalisation of the long-standing PA status of the forest with adequate enforcement of environmental regulations and better incentives to foster local communities ownership in the long term.

22. The Day Forest is home to 60% of Djibouti terrestrial biodiversity (including 70% of floral diversity, Audru *et al.* 1998). Approximately 360 plant species have been recorded in the Day Forest, including the Gebel Elba Dragon Tree *Dracaena ombet* EN occurring on steep slopes, the Bankoualé 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. In terms of fauna, the Day and Mabla forests support the country's only endemic bird species, the Critically Endangered Djibouti Francolin *Pternistis ochropectus*. By 1985, the Francolin's population in the Mabla mountains was estimated at only c. 200 birds, so it is likely that the Day Forest area (with 500–1,000 individuals in 1999) is critical to the survival of the species. Other notable birds include a distinctive form of Green-winged Pytilia (*Pytilia melba*) and a potentially new sunbird (sp. indet.), Verreaux's Eagle *Aquila verreauxii* LC. The rare Djibouti Whip Snake *Platyceps afarensis* endemic to Djibouti is also found here. Fifty mammal species have been recorded, such as Beira Antelope *Dorcatragus megalotis* VU (only known from Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia), Soemmerring's Gazelle *Nanger soemmerringii* VU, *Gazella dorcas pelzelni* VU (subspecies only known from Djibouti and Somalia), Large-eared free-tailed bat *Otomops martiensseni* NT, Common Warthog *Phacochoerus africanus aeliani* (a subspecies only known from Djibouti and Eritrea), Hamadryas Baboon *Papio hamadryas* and Klipspringer *Oreotragus oreotragus*. The Day and Mabla mountains were at least historically frequented by Leopard *Panthera pardus* VU and possibly Caracal *Caracal caracal* LC but they may be locally extinct.

#### *Mabla Mountain Forest*

23. The Mabla Mountains (incl. Dadar Zone) straddle the regions of Obock and Tadjourah, c. 60 km to the north-east of the Day Forest. Emerging to the north of the coastal plain, the range reaches elevations of 1370 metres. The Mabla Mountains contain the second-largest area of relict montane forest in Djibouti, with remnant degraded *Juniperus procera* stands in addition to *Buxus hildebrandtii*, *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*, *Terminalia brownii*, *Olea africana*, *Acacia seyal*, *A. etbaica* and *A. mellifera*. The site is less known biologically than the Day Forest, because security problems restricted access during decades, the assemblage is however generally similar. A breeding colony of *Gyps rueppellii* EN was reported in 1998. The exact status of the forests, rangelands and biodiversity remains to be ascertained, yet satellite imagery alone shows an advanced state of degradation of ground vegetation and forest cover. Like in the Day Forest, the Juniper forest will now be reduced to a few ten or hundred ha of dispersed and degraded patches. Please refer to Annexes A-C for maps.

#### Summary of threats

24. The existing threats embedded in the above narrative that are relevant for the project and target areas, can be summarised by the following headlines:

- 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 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

25. The potential additional threats from climate change, are detailed in the risk analysis.

#### Relevant recent measures and initiatives

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

26. 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>[15]</sup> regazetted 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 will 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>[16]</sup>. The following table brings together the current PA system:

PA name	Type	Law / Year of designation	Area (ha)
1. Day Forest	Terrestrial	1939 / PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law
2. Mabla Forest	Terrestrial	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law
3. Lake Abhé	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 formalised under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)
6. Musha-Maskhali Isla	Marine/Coast	PA Law 2004	Not legally defined in the PA Law. Delimitation and

nds	al		area being formalised under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)
7. Sept Frères 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 formalised 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 situé à proximité de la localité d'Assamo, le long de la piste d'Ali Addé, et correspondant à la zone incluse entre les coordonnées 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 périmètre est d'environ 16 km soit une superficie de 15 km² ou 1500 hectares.</i>
9. Djalélo Valley	Terrestrial	Decree 2011	4,500 ha. <i>Le Site de Djalélo correspond à la zone montagneuse en région de Bour Ougoul, entre le Petit Bara et Holl-Holl et correspondant à la zone incluse entre les coordonnées 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 périmètre est d'environ 28 km soit une superficie de 45 km² ou 4500 hectares.</i>
10. Douda Nature Reserve	Terrestrial	Decree 206/PR/MB of 2014	A semi-natural wildlife refuge / zoo near Djibouti capital[17]
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 formalised under the ongoing GEF project (#9215)

27. 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. However, with the notable exception of the Assamo and Djalélo 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 operationalised on the ground.

28. A national workshop[18] 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, operationalisation 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.

29. 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 operationalisation of the country's marine and coastal PAs. These have however not benefited terrestrial PAs. #9215 is described in the baseline section, see §63.

30. Over the years, Djibouti's terrestrial biodiversity has been the object of several studies, including on birds, mammals, and flora. Such data collection has been rather discontinuous and depended on external financing and expertise. For long, environmental data was either unavailable or not easily accessible, including for national stakeholders. In 2017, the MEDD finalised 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 is currently emplacing an environmental/biodiversity information management system.

31. A further relevant recent initiative was the *Lower Awash-Lake Abbé Land and Seascape Project*, funded by the EU and implemented from 2013 to 2017 through a partnership between IGAD, IUCN, CORDIO and a national NGO, Nature Djibouti. The budget for Djibouti was EUR 1.8 million. The overall objective was to contribute to poverty reduction by improving the social and economic well-being of the populations in the IGAD region through a better regional integration of the environmental sector. The specific objective was the conservation and sustainable management of the ecosystems in the IGAD region, in order to contribute to lasting ecosystem goods and services. The IGAD-IUCN carried out biodiversity assessments and GIS-based mapping however not in the regions targeted by the GEF-7 project. The project also aimed to identify new community-managed or co-managed enterprises and conservation areas, with mixed results.

32. 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 programmes. In case of pollution noted by the competent services of the Ministry in charge of the Environment or any other authorised 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 authorised 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."

33. 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 revenue is estimated to USD 60,000 (10m DJF) annually, 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.

#### *Sustainable land and water management*

34. Under the shared leadership of the MAEPE-RH and MEDD, the Government of Djibouti and its partners have implemented a range of initiatives to stem land degradation in sites across the country. This includes most notably:
35. The objective of the *Rural Community Development and Water Mobilization Project (PRODERMO)* funded by the World Bank (total US\$ 6.13 million, 2012-2019) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, was to increase access of rural communities to water and enhance their capacity to manage water and agro-pastoral resources using a participatory approach to community-based development. The project contributed to improved water access for agropastoralists in three regions. Hydraulic works included the construction of cisterns, open reservoirs and borehole wells. 16 grazing area set-asides were established and 102 community structures created or strengthened that benefited from training sessions.
36. The objective of the MEDD/UNDP/Adaptation Fund project *Developing Agro-pastoral Shade Gardens as an Adaptation Strategy for Poor Rural Communities* (total US\$ 4.66 million, 2013-2018) was to diversify and promote climate-resilient agro-pastoral practices in the Petit-Bara and Grand-Bara plains of southern-central Djibouti. Although intervention areas are different, there are relevant lessons for the here-proposed GEF-7 project. The project developed capacities to mobilize and secure sustainable water resources for agro-pastoral communities at risk from climate change, emplace sustainable agro-pastoral systems to increase forage production and diversify agricultural production, and create micro-finance products to facilitate and promote diversified and climate-resilient agro-pastoral production systems. Relevant achievements include the establishment of climate-resilient shade gardens equipped with water reservoirs, irrigation networks and wire fencing, and the training material on cultivation techniques, crop rotation, and livestock hygiene for agropastoralists. Furthermore, several ministries/agencies cooperated successfully with the MEDD under this project. The Ministry of Higher Education contributed through studies and the identification of potential water sites suitable for agriculture. The Secretariat of State for Social Affairs intervened to setup the microcredit scheme through the CPEC.
37. FAO Country Programming Frameworks (2008-2012, 2013-2017, 2018-2022). FAO has provided support to most notably the MAEPE-RH since its representation was opened in 2008. This has included programming under the European Development Fund. FAO assistance has covered numerous areas such as access to and availability of water, food production and systems in the agricultural, livestock and fisheries sectors, including interventions targeting agro-pastoralists through the restocking of herds, fodder cultivation and veterinary assistance, and climate change resilience and sustainable development initiatives. It also included technical assistance for innovative management of *Prosopis*, aiming to turn this highly invasive tree species into a valuable resource, helping local groups including women and unemployed youths to manage and exploit the shrub's potential, including its cloves, wood and flower. These provide a source of livestock feed, wood for furniture, and products such as charcoal and honey.
38. MAEPE-RH/FAO project *Safeguard pastoral systems in Djibouti / Projet de Sécurisation des Systèmes Pastoraux a Djibouti, (PSSP)*. As part of the EU-ACP Programme to improve food security and nutrition and strengthen the resilience of pastoral communities to external shocks (EU-funded, EUR 6.5 million, 2014-2018). The project aimed to strengthen the livelihoods of pastoral communities through investments in animal health and water (construction of water infrastructure such as underground tanks, deep wells and water impoundments); strengthen the institutional capacity of state services and rural communities; and improve the productivity of the livestock sector by enhancing its ability to take advantage of market opportunities (development of value chains, securing transhumance routes).
39. The *Programme Intégré de Conservation et de Développement (PICODE)* (2008 - 201x) implemented by the NGO Ecologie du Village Association (EVA) and funded by EU, FAO, WFP and Djibouti Government. EVA worked in the Weima watershed, most notably Adailou to the north of Day Forest in the region of Tadjourah, building resilience of rural communities to climate change. PICODE's achievements include reforestation, anti-desertification measures for pastoral areas through protection by wind breaks, re-vegetation and other measures, agro-pastoral capacity building, and infrastructure improvement to increase catchment and storage of rainwater, establishment of irrigation systems, creation of pilot farms, fodder production, intensification and marketing of animal

production. This project created a pilot model of agro-pastoralism where crop yields have increased, which helped promote and expand this integrated approach. The GEF-7 project will benefit from several aspects of the expertise developed through this project mainly related to agro-pastoral systems, including fodder production and intensification of livestock, reforestation, fencing and pasture regeneration.

40. EU project *Support to agro-pastoral cooperatives / Appui aux coopératives agropastorales djiboutiennes* implemented from 2015 to 2018 by Djibouti's Association 'Paix et Lait' and the NGO 'Action contre la Faim'. Project objective was to strengthen the capacities of 6 local cooperatives related to water and soil management and to increase of biomass production in the cooperatives and perimeters producers of milk and vegetable products of the Dikhil, Tadjourah, Ali-Sabieh and Obock regions. It involved fodder cultivation including multi-purpose trees, drip irrigation systems, and the dissemination of training material on livestock management, veterinary care, breeding methods, maintenance of the irrigation system, and fertilisation techniques.

41. MUHEAT/UNEP/GEF project *Implementing NAPA Priority Interventions to Build Resilience in the most Vulnerable Coastal Zones in Djibouti* (GEF # 3408, GEF-4 LDCF grant USD 2,070,000, 2011-2016) and MUHEAT/UNEP/GEF project *Implementing Adaptation Technologies in Fragile Ecosystems of Djibouti's Central Plains* (GEF # 5021, GEF-5 LDCF grant USD 7,360,000, 2014-ongoing). Little useful information could be mobilised on these first of these two UNEP-supported LDCF projects. #3408 was originally designed in 2008, it focused on integrated coastal zone management and mangrove restoration and appears only marginally relevant to the here-proposed new project. #5021 was the successor project, implementing climate change adaptation interventions to protect human populations, maintain productive assets and enhance ecosystem resilience. It again targeted mangrove restoration in the coastal region of Tadjourah. But more importantly it also worked on farming and the production of feedstock – and on reforestation of Acacia trees (in the Hanlé plain in the region of Dikhil) for which a tree nursery producing saplings for five native Acacia species was established. Key partners of interest included the regional governments, CERD, ADDS, Association of Women in Tadjourah, local agro-pastoralism associations. The 2019 PIR rated project outcomes MU, with hard infrastructure work (water dikes, wells, farming plots) well advanced and completed to enhance water security, a recurrent observation. EbA activities had progressed with 3 ha of mangrove and 3 ha of Acacia trees replanted. The mangrove nursery was able to produce 2,500 saplings. The PIR and MTR indicated high costs and inefficiency in project management (large size of the PMU, duplicated roles and limited staff profiles/expertise). The MTR also noted i) a lack of engagement and involvement of local beneficiaries as a potential risk to project sustainability due to delays with infrastructures and trainings and in establishing or strengthening management committees and cooperatives, and ii) poor uptake of gender mainstreaming that could be resolved by ensuring equal participation of women and men in all project activities and trainings and proposing livelihood activities of special interest to women.

42. *Surface Water Mobilization and Sustainable Land Management Program (PROMES-GDT)*, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and funded by IFAD, FFEM, WFP, AfDB, UNDP, GEF, the Government of Djibouti and local communities (Phase 1: US\$ 13.83 million, 2008-2014; Phase 2: 2016-2021, this included the GEF-4 Land Degradation MSP *SIP: Harmonizing support: a national program integrating water harvesting schemes and sustainable land management* (GEF-4 # 3529, grant USD 959,500, 2011-2014). Implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, the project's main objective was to improve the living conditions of about 6,000 households in pastoral communities in different regions of Djibouti. The specific objectives were: i) to implement a surface water mobilization programme for people and livestock to fight against the thirst of populations and create a better distribution of livestock load, and ii) to strengthen organisational and management capacities at the institutional, technical and community levels. The Day Forest and surrounding area was one of the intervention areas of the project. Main achievements were in terms of surface rainwater harvesting, which included building ponds and cisterns to harvest and store rain and surface water to supply local villages, including along their transhumance corridors and for their livestock. In terms of sustainable land management and the protection and safeguarding of the Day Forest, the project created local steering committees and developed water and pastoral management plans. Livestock enclosures of different types were built: a) metal fences were installed around three plots totalling five ha, in which saplings of *Juniperus procera* and other species were planted and initially irrigated; Juniper survival rate within these enclosures was initially estimated to c. 60% yet gradually mortality increased when the plots were abandoned post-project. Larger enclosures fenced with deadwood were not effective, even if guards had

been assigned to chase away wandering livestock; Juniper seedlings planted in these exclosures, without irrigation, mostly died. The project proved that saplings of different tree species produced in a local tree nursery can survive and grow if adequately irrigated and protected from livestock. Also local communities recognised the limits of their traditional knowledge under the new climatic conditions; through involving them in the work, the project allowed them to become aware of the actions that are within their reach to help restore ecosystem functions. At the same time the existence of the Day PA ended up being deliberately ignored by the project to avoid conflict with the local community, however it is clear that the community-implemented grazing set-asides did not work. There was agreement amongst stakeholders that a more government-driven approach is needed for this area to be protected and regenerate.

43. MEDD/UNDP/GEF-LDCF/EU/IGAD project *Supporting rural community adaptation to climate change in mountain regions of Djibouti* (GEF# 5332, GEF-5 grant USD 5,379,452, 2014-2020). The objective was the reduction of climate-related vulnerabilities facing the inhabitants of mountainous regions of Djibouti through institutional strengthening, climate-smart water management and targeted investment. Interventions at the national and regional levels aiming at enhancing institutional climate-resilient coordination and planning, and financing mechanism for climate change adaptation. At the local level, in the mountain villages of Adailou and Assamo, the project aims at reducing the vulnerability of rural mountain populations to climate change by mobilizing and storing surface and groundwater resources with micro-dams, cisterns, semi-underground sills, and bank fortifications, diversifying livelihoods, enabling access to markets, and reducing erosion through reforestation and re-vegetation. The GEF-7 project will build on achievements through best practices, lessons learned and training materials, such as on: Improved water management to conserve scarce water resources and manage temporal flows to reduce flooding and erosion; irrigation and reforestation over 70 ha in Assamo and 380 hectares in Adailou; establishment of pastoral centres in each region to build capacities of pastoralists on soil conservation, seed production, veterinary medicine and animal hygiene; tree seedling nurseries set-up in each site; and creation of Catchment and Water Point Management Committees.

#### The long-term solution

44. To address the above challenges and build on recent initiatives, the long-term solution proposed by this project is to emplace an ambitious multi-focal initiative for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem functions in the two degraded pastoral and forest landscapes that are amongst the top priorities for Djibouti's terrestrial biodiversity: the Day and Mabla Forests. This approach will combine the full gazettement and operationalisation 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.

#### The barriers to achieving the long-term solution:

45. *Gaps in institutional and legal/regulatory framework for terrestrial biodiversity and PAs.* The recent creation of a new unit for marine PAs in the responsible Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DEDD) is encouraging and can be built on, but it needs to be expanded to include terrestrial PAs, and needs to be adequately staffed and equipped including with regard to on-the-ground presence. No efforts have been undertaken to set up the dedicated PA agency that was already proposed in the 1<sup>st</sup> NBSAP (2000). 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. There is no legal basis for PA local participatory management committees. The Law for the National Environment Fund, 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.

46. *Insufficient (sustainable) domestic financing for the management of the (terrestrial) PA system, threat reduction and related community support.* Some progress has been made on this issue in recent years. DEDD staffing numbers have slightly increased in recent years in reflection of more domestic resource allocation; yet resource allocation for activities on the ground remains too limited. 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 operationalisation 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 barrier.

47. *Weak technical capacity in government agencies for identifying and effectively implementing integrated solutions to ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss.* While numerous promising initiatives have been proposed and implemented over the past decade(s) that aimed to reverse ecosystem degradation and improve the situation of agro-pastoral communities vulnerable to land degradation and climate change, the outcomes have often been weak, isolated and unsustainable. Efforts to safeguard terrestrial biodiversity have been weaker yet. 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.

48. *Lack of multi-stakeholder platforms engaging relevant agencies, local communities and private sector, for integrated landscape-level management (PA, water and land use).* Related to, yet different from, the prior barrier, this here refers specifically to the fact that no such multi-stakeholder platforms have been created to date, which is a key barrier impeding adequate negotiation, coordination and execution of multi-sector interventions.

49. *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 coordination the 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. Moreover, despite their designation in the 2004 PA Law, the Day Forest and Mabila Forest PAs have not been operationalised, and there is no management on the ground. There is hence insufficient awareness, support and ownership towards these PAs at every level.

50. *Weak awareness of, compliance with, and enforcement of environmental laws (PAs, natural resources, water).* Local rural populations and communities as well as other stakeholders using the target area, are generally not aware of environmental regulations (e.g. on groundwater extraction), and are not compliant. As the Day and Mabila Forest PAs are not yet emplaced, there is no awareness of the restrictions that the management regime will bring. Enforcement by responsible agents is largely absent.

51. *Insufficient empowered participation by local communities and women.* 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).

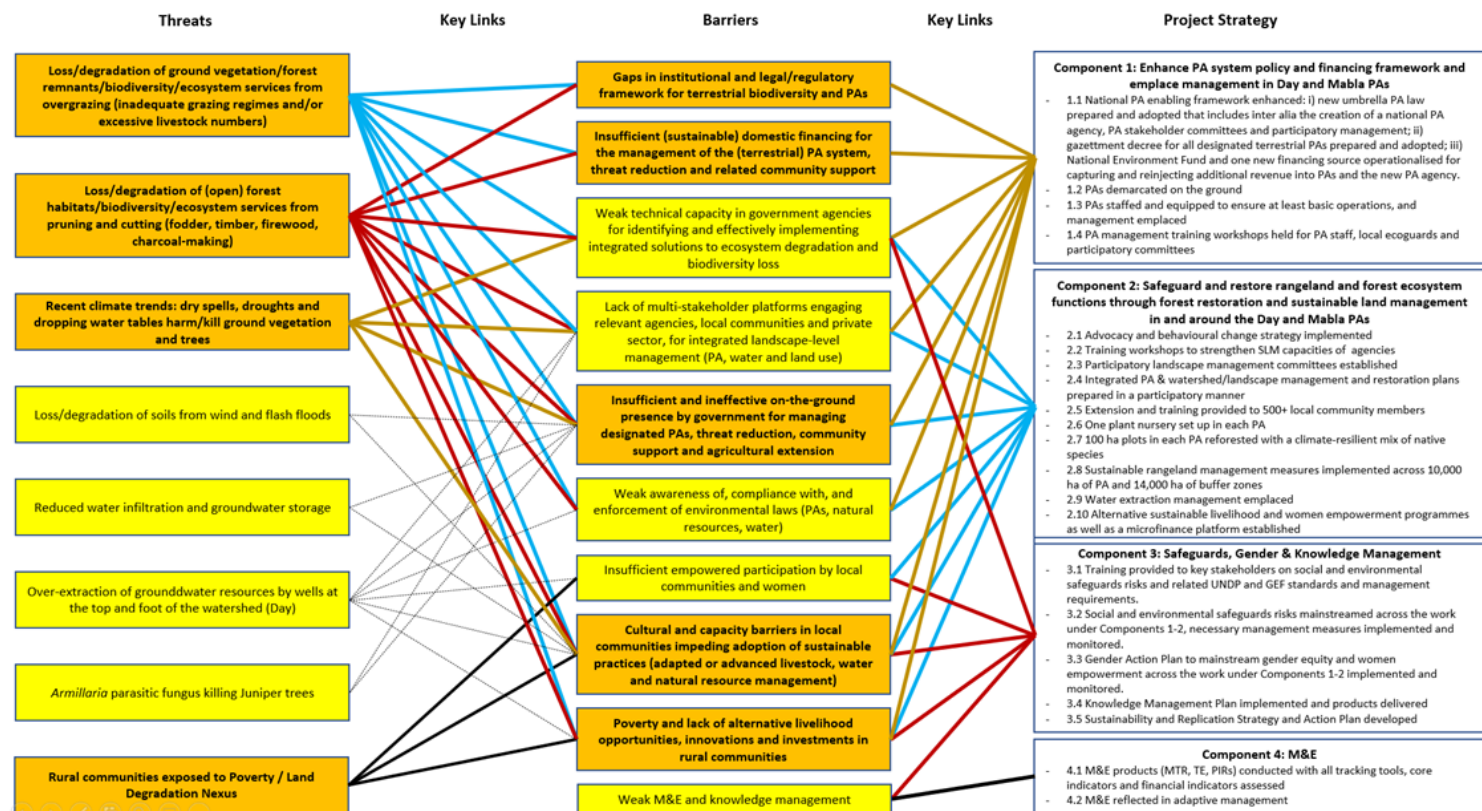
52. *Cultural and capacity barriers in local communities impeding adoption of sustainable practices (adapted or advanced livestock, water and natural resource management).* Traditionally, large herd sizes projected a picture of prosperity and prestige in herder communities, and acted as a safety net for times of penury. The roaming livestock would have open access. There will be a cultural resistance to switching this. However, traditional rangeland grazing control systems have collapsed in most areas over the last decades because of drought, sedentarisation and schooling – which has contributed heavily to vegetation loss and degradation in range and forest lands. The now dire state of resources is gradually convincing herders that alternatives must be sought, such as through a more intensive management approach (e.g. smaller and healthier herds in livestock enclosures with higher turnover). In addition, semi-sedentary herders have a low mastery of cultivation techniques (crop planting and surveillance, irrigation, fertilization), and 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, but the need remains important.

53. *Poverty and lack of alternative livelihood opportunities, innovations and investments in rural communities.* 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.

54. *Weak M&E and knowledge management.* The capacity of institutions (central and decentralized government) in terms of monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management remains limited. 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.

#### Theory of change

55. The following diagramme visualises the project's Theory of Change:



56. The primary causal pathways:

- Biodiversity loss, forest and rangeland degradation as well as rural poverty are intrinsically linked, and will be addressed in the target areas through a combination of i) protected area management, ii) climate-resilient reforestation, iii) watershed-level sustainable rangeland management, and iv) rural livelihood support interventions. It will in particular introduce a new form of intensified livestock management (enclosure, feedstock production) to reduce the grazing intensity by free-roaming livestock in the two targeted landscapes.
- Improving vegetation cover through the above integrated approach aims to anticipate and mitigate at the same time the type of impacts witnessed during recent climate events (especially droughts and floods) and reduced water infiltration.
- Institutional and financial sustainability and upscaling will be achieved through the consolidation of the national enabling framework.

57. The project will deploy the following behavioural change levers (tentative, to be further developed during the PPG) to catalyse a shift from practices that degrade the environment to the adoption of sustainable practices and the acceptance of the PAs:

- Material incentives: green jobs in the project (reforestation, nursery, ecoguards), livelihood support, microfinance platform
- Rules and regulations: the operationalisation of the PA, presence of PA staff, increased enforcement, sustainable grazing agreements
- Information: increasing awareness of the importance of the Day Forest, building capacity on sustainable management and alternative livelihoods

- Emotional appeals: by involving and mobilising support at the highest government level, such as by a public declaration the Day and Mabla forests and watersheds as a national heritage and public good by the President of Djibouti, ministers, regional governments and traditional leaders.
- 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 mobilising private sector stakeholders
- The 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.

58. A prior intervention in the Day that focused on soil and water conservation, grazing and a too-limited effort in reforestation failed, *inter alia* because there was no reference to the existence of the protected area (absence of rules and regulations), insufficient political support (absence of social influences or emotional appeals), no focus on women (absence of social influences) and too limited livelihood support not benefiting herders (material incentives).

59. Local-level sustainability of the shift will depend particularly on the success of the pilot on intensified livestock management (enclosure, feedstock production) and other livelihood interventions, and on the mobilisation of financial resources at national level to allow the continuation of government presence in the targeted areas.

#### Underlying assumptions

60. The pathways proposed by the project are based on the following assumptions:

- There will be adequate political and institutional ownership and commitment – by the implementing agency/executing partner and by national and regional government entities more widely – to ensure adequate project implementation and delivery of project goals, i.e. for the rollout of integrated management and restoration of the Day and Mabla mountain watershed ecosystems. There will also be adequate mobilisation of new domestic resources to ensure sustainability.
- The implementing agency/executing partner and its partners will have the necessary basic institutional, technical and administrative capacity to implement the project. This will be reflected in and require timely procurement and recruitment, selection of competent and dedicated project staff, appointment of a functioning project steering committee, and appropriate full-time presence (of project and government staff) on the ground in the target areas. At the same time, the implementing agency/executing partner is willing to recognise relevant capacity gaps and will complement such gaps by working with suitable partners and international experts.
- There will be adequate involvement of key stakeholders and institutions (especially MAEPE-RH, CERD, ADDS, CPEC, FAO, IFAD, World Bank, WFP), and an adequate use of synergies. This is an imperative to ensure that different project interventions are delivered by the agencies and partners with the best-suited mandate and competence. It is also important for an efficient use of donor resources and for post-project sustainability. During the PPG, the role in the project of MAEPE-RH in particular will be further detailed.
- Local communities in the target areas welcome a greater presence by government agencies. This was confirmed during the PIF design missions – at least with regard to the desire for more support from government.

- The blend of project interventions – informed by and built around the six levers for behavioural change as described above – will be able to bring about a change in perspective and behaviour in the targeted rural populations, leading to more sustainable land and water management practices, and delivering global environment benefits. Communities themselves, in local consultations during the PIF design stage, already realised their precarious situation and have shown openness to other solutions, including the reduction of herd size.
- There are indeed viable alternative livelihoods in the targeted areas that the project can advance.
- There will be sufficient surface and ground water availability to meet the irrigation demand for feedstock production and reforestation and support the restoration of perennial vegetation generation more widely.
- More sustainable water extraction rates by wells and the sustainable land management interventions will contribute to a recharging of the aquifers and enable sustained vegetation recovery.
- The *Armillaria* fungus is not the lead cause for the die-off of trees, but only a consequence of the forest degradation and desiccation that can be reversed.
- The new PA agency to be created will indeed be able to strengthen the management of the national PA system, and the laws and regulations for terrestrial biodiversity and PAs to be prepared by the project will be duly implemented.
- There will be no resurgence of the insurgency in the Mabila Forest area that could undermine project implementation.
- Direct or indirect impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and related containment measures will not (significantly) undermine project implementation.
- Impacts from climate change do not undermine the proposed interventions. The project is exposed and vulnerable to changes in temperature and, especially, precipitation, caused by the climate crisis. However, the project was designed in full recognition of this exposure and risk, as a last attempt to save the last remnants of denser and taller vegetation in Djibouti that also hosts the country's greatest share of biodiversity and key ecosystem services for rural livelihoods. In addition, the climate risk assessment conducted in the PIF (see 148-162) highlights the uncertainties regarding the exact nature of the changes. Most importantly, it is not possible to i) ascertain whether annual precipitation in Djibouti in general, and specifically in the target areas, will decrease, remain the same, or increase; ii) ascertain how the projected changes in seasonal rainfall patterns will compound existing seasonal changes such that dry seasons become drier and wet seasons wetter; or whether the opposite will occur; iii) ascertain whether there will be variation in the short-term distribution of rainfall, although observations indicate that rainfalls are less evenly distributed, but concentrated in brief intense events. If annual rainfall in the target sites increases and allow sufficient water infiltration, and if the future years do not hold too-severe dry spells and droughts, the ecosystems and ecosystem functions of the Day and Mabila can be restored more easily. If annual rainfall in the target sites decreases significantly and there are extended and/or severe dry spells and droughts, a full restoration may not be possible. 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.

## 2) the baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

61. Complementing the past interventions and initiatives listed above, the following reflects the tentative baseline of ongoing and planned future initiatives and investments immediately relevant to the here-proposed GEF-7 project:

62. *Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DEDD)*. The budget allocated by MEDD to support the development and management of protected areas as well as reforestation activities represents the salaries of relevant DEDD staff (30 staff including 3 executives), premises, electricity and water fees and operational costs. Based on the current DEDD operating budget, the baseline investment is estimated to USD 300,000 annually, hence altogether USD 1,800,000, which are also considered co-financing to the here-proposed GEF-7 project. DEDD staff do not receive any government funded training, but are able to participate in national, regional or international trainings provided by third parties on a partly self-paid basis. Annex I shows an organigramme of the recently restructured and expanded MEDD/DEDD.

63. *Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Husbandry and Water Resources (MAEPE-RH)*. The MAEPE-RH engages in activities to safeguard and restore ecosystem functions through water and soil conservation interventions, sustainable management of pasture and rangelands and animal husbandry. Considering the current operating budget (salaries, operations) of the Directorates for Animal Husbandry and Agriculture, baseline investment is estimated to be USD 500,000 per year hence altogether USD 3,000,000 over the 6-year project period, which are also considered co-financing to the here-proposed GEF-7 project.

64. The MEDD/UNDP/GEF-6 project #9215 *Mitigating Key Sector Pressures on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity and Further Strengthening the National System of Marine Protected Areas in Djibouti* (GEF-6 grant USD 2,822,374) was launched in 2018 and will remain operational until mid 2023 (unless extended). As mentioned above, the project focuses on the country's marine and coastal PAs. At the same time, the project was expected to work on sustainable finance for the PA system, by assessing the policy and institutional context for PA financing and the financial needs for the national PA system; by developing a strategy to mobilize new PA financing; by operationalising the National Environment Fund (or an alternative mechanism/ structure); and by developing capacity on PA finance. Under the GEF-6 project #9215, the operationalisation of the National Environment Fund was expected to comprise: updating/developing its legal and institutional status and mandate, regulations and procedures, revenue sources/generation, disbursement modalities, operational and business plan, preparing the use of the mechanism(s) as sinking and/or revolving funds with earmarking for the national PA system and marine biodiversity. The government now expects that the GEF-6 project will only deliver the relevant legal framework to finally legally establish the National Environment Fund with the relevant regulations and mandates, with biodiversity and protected areas explicitly included, and the identification of potential financing sources (for which a study is ongoing); but that its operationalisation and the setup of a first new PA financing mechanism will not anymore be achieved. Given its closure in mid 2023, this project will not count as baseline investment.

65. The MEDD/UNDP/GEF-6 project *Sustainable management of water resources, rangelands and agro-pastoral perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi watershed* (GEF-6 # 9599, GEF grant USD 3,215,068, 2020-2025). The 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 the here-proposed GEF-7 project, there are thematic similarities wherefore technical cooperation and knowledge exchanges will take place between the teams both hosted by the MEDD. Baseline investment is estimated to be USD 500,000 for the prospective overlap period of 2023-2025, yet this cannot be considered co-financing to the here-proposed GEF-7 project.

66. A further successor to the two UNEP CCA LDCF projects (#3408, #5021) is presently under review for GEF CEO Endorsement: 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, due to start 2022/2023), which aims to increase resilience to climate change 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 Costbenefits 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, yet this cannot be considered co-financing to the here-proposed GEF-7 project.

67. *FAO Country Programming Framework.* FAO's programming for Djibouti will continue to include interventions for pastoral development – mainly focusing on rangeland management, natural resource management t for adaptation and preservation, the utilization of flood waters (infiltration, impoundment, water diversion to irrigate perimeters), and the introduction of climate-resilient crop species and garden development. The strategy regarding livestock and pastures is to promote rural life and increase its resilience, secure rangelands to avoid sedentarization, and promote the use of drought-adapted species. Collaboration between FAO and the here-proposed GEF-7 project is envisaged. The baseline investment is estimated to USD 2,000,000, at this stage however not considered co-financing.

68. *World Food Program / Food for Assets.* WFP/FFA's vision is to support assets to increase people's resilience to drought. It targets intervention sites based on two criteria: i) most vulnerable areas, as indicated by yearly assessments of chronically vulnerable groups by regional selection committees including regional prefectures and development committees, and ii) seeking complementarity with larger projects which have identified priority intervention zones. Under the resilience component "Food for Assets", the WFP supports measures such as tree plantations around water retention structures, and establishment and maintenance of exclosures within PAs and reforestation. Collaboration between WFP/FFA and the here-proposed GEF-7 project has been agreed. Contributions towards goals of the project were not planned wherefore nothing is counted financially towards the baseline scenario. However co-financing to the height of USD 1,200,000 (USD 200,000/year) towards the here-proposed GEF-7 project will be mobilised.

69. *World Bank / Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Program.* A USD 30 million 4-year project is currently under preparation and expected to be approved in mid-2022. It will focus on the Weima (Oued Oueima) watershed located to the north of the Goda/Day and Mabla mountains targeted by the here-proposed GEF-7 project. It will operate in the same administrative regions of Djibouti (Obock and Tadjourah). Baseline investment is estimated to be USD 500,000 per year hence altogether USD 3,000,000 over the 6-year project period, which are also considered co-financing to the here-proposed GEF-7 project.

70. *SIDA Horn of Africa Environmental Sustainability & Resilience Project.* A new intervention in Djibouti under this initiative is currently under preparation. The objective of the overall regional framework is to enhance environmental sustainability and resilience through research, knowledge-based policy and development as a pathway to promoting sustainable natural resources management, conservation of biodiversity and regional integration, peace and stability in the Horn countries. Details are not yet available at this stage, but will be compiled for baseline and tentative co-financing during the PPG.

71. The **total project baseline** represents an estimated investment of USD 13,300,000, of which USD 7,800,000 will count as co-financing for the here-proposed project. With the additionally mobilised co-financing from WFP of USD 1,200,000, the total indicative co-financing amounts to USD 9,000,000 (please see Table C).

72. **Under this baseline scenario**, the Government of Djibouti and its cooperation partners will engage in further water and soil conservation efforts in the country at large, including possibly in and around the Day Forest. However, the Government will not operationalize the Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs and, as such, without planning, management, regulations, surveillance or enforcement, local and nomadic herders and their livestock will keep invading the forest pasture for lack of alternatives seeking last remains of forage, and uncontrolled logging will continue to deplete the remaining trees of this relic forest. In addition, any expected vegetation regrowth will be limited because repeated soil leaching has emptied its seed-bank, because the dry micro-climate and soil humidity do not anymore favour significant spontaneous regeneration, and because free-roaming livestock will graze any greenery as soon as it appears. Effective regeneration of juniper and other tree species will be near-absent and degradation trends currently observed over the rest of these forests will

continue and quickly reach a point of no return. Under the baseline scenario, no dedicated integrated effort at restoring the ecosystem functions of the Goda/Day watershed will be undertaken that combines soil and water management, effective reforestation, biodiversity conservation, with community development seeking a new approach to livelihoods. Without the proposed last ditch-effort to save this watershed forest, the days especially of the Day and Mabla forests are numbered and within an estimated 5-10 years few if any living trees will remain, already now in a severe state of degradation. The ongoing dynamics will lead to a degradation of habitats and a decline in species' ranges and densities, and even to the loss of threatened and endemic species. Rangeland degradation will continue with increasing occupation of space by unpalatable species, soil erosion and loss of productive capacity. Insufficient forage due to the degradation of pastures and rangelands and insufficient integration of agriculture and livestock will further accentuate the impoverishment of herders. Under this scenario, land degradation will not be controlled and threaten the livelihoods of rural populations in these two regions, and continue to undermine Djibouti's support systems for globally significant biodiversity.

### **3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components**

73. To work towards the long-term solution and address the above-mentioned barriers in conjunction with and adding value to the baseline scenario interventions, the project will work on three closely interlinked components, as follows:

#### Component 1: Enhance PA system policy and financing framework and emplace management in Day and Mabla PAs

74. This Component will deliver the following Outcomes:

- 1.1 Enhanced PA system management capacity. Indicators/Targets: PA agency created and functional; UNDP PA Capacity Development Scorecard +20%.
- 1.2 Increased domestic financing for the planning and management of the national PA system. Indicator/Target: national budget for PA system increased by USD 300,000 annually.
- 1.3 Increased management effectiveness of the eventually operationalised Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs, providing greater protection to globally significant species and habitats over approximately 10,000 ha<sup>[19]</sup> of landscape (Day: 6,000 ha, Mabla: 4,000 ha). Indicator/Targets: METT scores + 30% (baseline tbd in PPG); good status maintenance or positive trends in globally threatened/ indicator species (tbd in PPG, but will likely include *Pternistis ochropectus* CR, *Livistona carinensis* VU, *Dracaena ombet* EN, *Gazella dorcas pelzelni* VU, *Gyps rueppelli* EN).

75. To achieve this, the project will in its early stage prepare a new umbrella PA law, for adoption during the project's lifetime, following an assessment of gaps in the PA legal and regulatory framework, especially those relevant to terrestrial aspects (given the ongoing project on marine PAs). The new Law will address these gaps following consultations across stakeholders and with international benchmarking, but reflect what is already outlined in this PIF: the long-pending creation of a national PA agency (requested as far back as the 2000 NBSAP) and a legal basis for PA stakeholder committees and participatory management. The project will equally prepare and submit for adoption during the project's lifetime a decree gazetting all the terrestrial PAs merely designated by name in the 2004 PA Law (including Mabla and Day Forests), establishing their boundaries, surface areas, conservation objectives, IUCN categories and management regimes.

76. The project will furthermore continue and build on the work on PA financing under the GEF-6 project #9215, most notably on the National Environment Fund. While the ongoing project will have delivered the long-expected Law creating the NEF as well as an assessment of the PA system financing needs and potential financing solutions, the here-proposed project will facilitate the NEF's operationalisation – by facilitating the nomination of a government staff to lead the NEF and its activities, and supporting the execution of the provisions stipulated in the new NEF Law regarding the capture and release of funds –

which will cover environment purposes more widely given the broad mandate of the NEF, but comprise resources earmarked for the management of the national PA system. This will thus assign additional resources for the new PA agency and for expanded management actions on the ground across the national PA system (including Mabla and Day), as well as for continued institutional training and knowledge management.

77. In addition, the project will work on the creation of at least one specific new financing mechanism/revenue source, to add to the resources already channelled into the NEF from existing sources (see above section on NEF). This will build on the assessment of potential financing solutions to be delivered by the ongoing marine PA project, but may entail broadening the need for EIAs to national projects to increase revenue streams from that end, and the creation of a framework and contracts for concessions between government and private businesses dependent on public natural resources, most notably water bottling companies (e.g. Eau de Tadjourah, Iljano, Bio, Okar drawing from the Goda/Day watershed, but also others in Dikhil and Arta regions), which the government intends to regulate and charge fees for upstream watershed management and restoration. The PPG will assess these and further options and define a strategy to deliver tangible results during the project.

78. In parallel, the project will gradually launch the operationalisation of the Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs (altogether 10,000 ha) on the ground: The PAs will be demarcated on the ground (signage) and boundaries will be registered in relevant map databases including the World Database on Protected Areas. PAs will be staffed and equipped to ensure at least basic operations, which will include the appointment of PA management staff and of local ecoguards for community engagement, management, monitoring and enforcement; equipment for transport, surveillance and communication; basic management and education centres (in Day, the rehabilitation of the community-owned house of a former governor to that aim has been suggested). PA staff will then work on implementing the landscape management plan to be developed (see Component 2). To enhance PA management, PA staff and PA committees will be trained to inform about and enforce environmental and PA regulations, as per clearly defined respective mandates, and to have adequate capacities to contribute to environmental and biodiversity monitoring.

#### Component 2. Safeguard and restore rangeland and forest ecosystem functions through forest restoration and sustainable land management in and around the Day and Mabla PAs

79. This Component will deliver the following Outcomes:

- 2.1 Native mountain forest restored over 100 ha within each PA. Indicators/Targets: Sapling survival rate in plots across the 2\*100 ha exceed 75% by project end; increase in ground vegetation cover (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) in reforested areas recovers from 0-20 % to above 50%; relative air and soil humidity averages increase.
- 2.2 Vegetation cover, ecosystem function and productivity of pastures and rangelands rehabilitated across 10,000 ha of PA area and 14,000 ha (8,000 ha Day, 6,000 ha Mabla) of adjacent buffer zones. Indicators/Targets: Land area under sustainable rangeland management practices; increase in ground vegetation cover (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index); herd size per household using the PAs reduced by at least 30%.
- 2.3 Direct and indirect livelihood benefits for local populations. Indicators/Targets: # of jobs (men/ women) from project; % of village households benefiting from sustainable alternative income-generating activities; income levels increased for households attributable to the development of IGAs; milk production and/or economic returns from livestock increased by at least 20%.

80. To achieve these ambitious outcomes, the project will implement advocacy and behavioural change strategies that underpins project design and targets appropriate levers to achieve the necessary support and acceptance for PAs and sustainable land and water management.

81. The project's tentative approach to achieving the desired behavioural change is described in the section "Theory of Change" above. Building on these elements, a fully-developed behavioural change strategy will be prepared during the PPG. This strategy will further elaborate the behavioural change levers to be deployed by the project, informing the PPG-stage project design and defining the related activities to be implemented during the project. The latter will consist especially in the continuing identification and deployment throughout the project of further behavioural change levers that can catalyse project impact along the 5 axes of behavioural change (material incentives; rules and regulations; information; emotional appeals; and social influences).

82. To advance the "emotional appeals" and "information" levers of the behavioural change strategy, the project will deliver targeted advocacy and communication activities to enhance visibility of the project and its goals and leverage political support. Ultimately, the desired outcome is that high-level politicians and decision makers (President of Djibouti, ministers, regional governments and traditional leaders) publicly declare the Day and Mabla forests and watersheds a national heritage and public good to be safeguarded, to maximise the chances of project success and post-project sustainability. The advocacy and communication work will tentatively entail *inter alia*: targeted advocacy outreach to high-level decision makers, informed by policy briefs and leveraged by national champions; outreach events such as annual project update workshops for domestic stakeholders mentioned above; engaging media via invitations to key events and sharing press releases/press kits, etc., for radio/TV broadcasts and newspaper articles to reach broader stakeholder groups in Djibouti, mobilise support and raise awareness on project activities and relevant environmental topics; development of project website, fact sheets/flyers, posters and banners; regular web stories and video clips to highlight project activities and successes; establishing and feeding social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube/Vimeo.

83. The technical and institutional capacities of the agencies in charge of rangelands, forestry and environment will be further strengthened through training workshops, for identifying degraded landscapes, integrated land use planning, water management, planning and delivering sustainable land management as well as rangeland and forest restoration, and related monitoring.

84. The project work under this Component will then focus on the two targeted landscapes – the Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs and their respective buffer zones – and their rural communities.

85. The project will emplace participatory committees for the management and restoration of the two landscapes and their natural resources and biodiversity – integrating PA areas and buffer zone rangelands. Through these committees, relevant stakeholders including local populations will participate in the planning and management of the Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs, and in the design and execution of the water and sustainable land management and restoration measures across the PA and buffer zone landscapes.

86. Integrating local inputs and international benchmarking, the project will prepare integrated PA & watershed/landscape management and restoration plans, to define the objectives and long-term management planning for both the PAs and their buffer zones. This will 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.

87. The project will then initiate a subset of these interventions that will need to be sustained in the long term. It will provide extension services and training to 500+ local community members including women and herders on sustainable land management including soil and water conservation, as well as on forest restoration. A broad definition of extension services will be applied during the PPG, including to find the most appropriate partners on the ground (e.g. extension services, research center, NGO, farmer organizations, Farmer Field Schools).

88. The project will also set up, equip and staff one plant/tree nursery in each PA, to produce seedlings for reforestation with a mix of native species and for feedstock planting.

89. In a last-ditch effort to save and restore a section of the iconic mountain forests, the project will actively reforest one suitable 100 ha plot in each of the two PAs with a climate-resilient mix of native species (*Juniperus procera*, *Olea africana*, *Buxus hildebrandtii*, *Tarchonanthus camphoratus*, *Terminalia brownii*, *Acacia* spp.), through contracts with trained local community members (especially women) overseen by the project. The plots will be enclosed with livestock fencing and/or controlled by ecoguards to impede grazing, cutting and logging. Physical soil and water conservation works (stone walls, contour ditches, check dams) will be erected throughout these reforestation plots, to reduce soil loss and rain runoff, increase recharge of water tables and capture surface water. A drip-irrigation system (max. USD 1000/ha) fed by one or several well pumps (supplemented by surface water captured in entered cisterns, if feasible) will be installed throughout the plots, to maximise seedling survival rates. Locals will plant and maintain the seedlings. To add a further innovation, the project could moreover experiment with pilot fog catchers in the Day Forest to assess their local effectiveness.

90. In parallel, the project will introduce and support sustainable rangeland management measures across the two landscapes of altogether 10,000 ha of PA and 14,000 ha of buffer zones, to restore ground vegetation and related ecosystem services. Sustainable rangeland management will consist of and be achieved through 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. Rangeland status will be monitored using the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), a proxy for Net Primary Production (NPP) widely used in arid countries to measure the amount of green vegetation.

91. In the nationally important Day/Goda watershed/landscape, it appears the groundwater table has dropped substantially, which could be due to drought, reduced infiltration and over-extraction. Desiccation is clearly at least a contributing factor in the degradation of the perennial vegetation in the area. The project will therefore work also towards more sustainable water resources management. Water is brought to the settlements atop and around the Day/Goda Mountain by pipes from several wells drilled atop and at the base of the Goda Mountain. The project will conduct an assessment of hydrological data and trends and of water extraction rates by public and private wells, to inform the measures to be defined in the landscape management plan regarding the sustainability of water extraction. The project will then work with local and regional governments, which oversee these public wells, such that the management recommendations are applied. Private wells are operated especially by a range of water bottling companies, which the government will regulate and take concession fees from for upstream watershed management and restoration. The aim of this supporting water resource management intervention is to prevent a further fall of groundwater tables and instead initiate their replenishment, and thereby ultimately assisting the restoration of vegetation (especially trees) and avoiding further land degradation in the watershed.

92. Finally and importantly, the project will advance sustainable alternative livelihoods and women empowerment for rural communities and herders using the PAs and buffer zones, and establish a microfinance platform to that aim. This will support *inter alia* agroecological community and family gardens; water capture and storage means; community-based ecotourism developments; and the development, packaging and marketing of new local-product value chains (honey, dairy products, poultry).

### Component 3. Safeguards, Gender, Training & Knowledge Management

93. This Component will deliver the following Outcomes:

- 3.1 All safeguards standards met throughout project
- 3.2 >80% of Gender AP targets met
- 3.3 >80% of KM Plan deliverables met

94. To achieve this, the project will under this Component ensure that training on social and environmental safeguards risks and related UNDP and GEF standards and management requirements is provided to key stakeholders, that social and environmental safeguards risks are mainstreamed across the work under Components 1-2, and that the necessary management measures are duly and constantly implemented and monitored. The mainstreaming of safeguards issues should for instance ensure that local communities and indigenous tribes and others who may be affected are duly consulted and engaged and aware of their rights and obligations and that their human rights are fully respected.

95. Moreover, the project will implement a Gender Action Plan, to be developed during the PPG, to mainstream gender equity and women empowerment throughout the project, adding to the gender-sensitive outputs already defined under Components 1 and 2.

96. The project will also implement a Knowledge Management Plan that will be developed during the PPG yet should fully capture the elements in PIF Section 8. *Knowledge Management*.

97. Lastly, the project will under this component also develop a Sustainability and Replication Strategy and Action Plan to inform and guide future actions by the governments and its partners.

#### Component 4. M&E

98. This Component will deliver the following Outcomes:

- 4.1 M&E duly implemented. Indicators/Targets: MTR and TE delivered on time; MTR, TE and PIR independent quality ratings S or better

99. To achieve this, the project will under this Component ensure that the project delivers regular monitoring of its progress and that gaps and weaknesses inform adaptive management. This includes but is not limited to the timely preparation of annual PIRs that include appropriate evidence and receive S or HS independent quality ratings. It also includes full transparent support to the independent Mid Term Review and Terminal Evaluation with all required tracking tools, core indicators and financial indicators provided.

#### **4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies**

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

**5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, and co-financing; and 6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF);**

101. GEF-7 funding combining BD and LD interventions will contribute in an incremental manner to help safeguard globally globally important biodiversity, restore ecosystem functions and support rural livelihoods in two severely degraded silvo-pastoral landscapes in Djibouti.

#### Baseline / BAU scenario without GEF-7 intervention

102. Under the scenario without the GEF-7 project intervention, efforts will remain limited or absent on several fronts: the national enabling environment for protected area management and financing; the operationalisation of the Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs; the survival of the Day and Mabla forest formations; the health of ecosystem functions inside and outside the PAs, most notably with regard to watershed, soil stabilisation and grazing (rangeland) functions; and the sustainability of the related livelihoods of local populations inside and outside the PAs.

103. *On the national enabling environment for PA management and finance:* the DEDD can be expected to maintain the (marine) PA unit set up under the ongoing GEF-6 project #9215, as DEDD staffing numbers have slightly increased in recent years in reflection of more domestic resource allocation; the unit has however been focused on marine PAs and it is unlikely that there will be an expansion of the scope to terrestrial PAs, and resource allocation for activities on the ground would remain too limited; no efforts would be undertaken to set up the dedicated PA agency that was already requested in the 1st NBSAP in 2000. The long overdue regulations specifying the boundaries, surface areas and management regimes of most terrestrial PAs, including Day Forest and Mabla Forest, would not be prepared and adopted. There would also be no legal basis for PA local participatory management committees.

104. *Regarding financing for the management of the PA system, threat reduction and related community support,* the ongoing GEF-6 project #9215 was expected to operationalise the National Environment Fund by updating/developing its legal and institutional status and mandate, regulations and procedures, revenue sources/generation, disbursement modalities, operational and business plan, and by preparing the use of the mechanism as sinking and/or revolving funds with earmarking for the national PA system and marine biodiversity, etc. The GEF-6 project and government now expect that it will only manage to prepare the Law for the National Environment Fund (anticipated since the 2009 Environment Code), establishing NEF as a conduit for – *inter alia* – capturing and reinjecting revenue into the PA system, and to identify suitable potential financing sources (for which a study is ongoing); but that it will not anymore be able to achieve either the expected operationalisation of the NEF nor the expected activation of a specific financing mechanism (revenue source). The (terrestrial) PA system at system and site levels would therefore continue to be underfunded.

105. *Regarding the situation on the ground in the Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs,* the DEDD would at most be able to field an occasional monitoring visit to the area. The continued absence of the PA delimitation decrees like also insufficient resources and staffing would impede the operationalisation of the two PAs on the ground – there would be no PA management planning, no management, no surveillance or enforcement, and no community engagement in this regard. Local populations would not be aware of the existence/designation of the PAs, and continue to over-exploit their natural resources through livestock grazing and uncontrolled cutting depleting the remaining trees of this relic forest. Such over-exploitation of resources, especially over-grazing by free-roaming livestock, would also continue in the areas adjacent to the PAs including the tentative buffer zones. There would be only occasional extension outreach from the regional delegation of the MAEPE-RH to local rural populations – to promote sustainable livelihoods and introduce better livestock management practices – yet without relevant capacity development or resources, structured stakeholder engagement, and elements of women empowerment. Also very few if any water and soil conservation efforts would be carried out in and around the Day and Mabla forests, and water extraction from wells would remain uncontrolled. The trend of range and forest land degradation would continue unabated, with grazing levels exceeding carrying capacity and causing soil erosion and loss of productive capacity. The expected vegetation regrowth will be limited because repeated soil leaching has emptied its seedbank, and livestock will graze any greenery as soon as it appears (unless significantly increased rainfalls trigger significant vegetation regeneration and an increase of the carrying capacity). Moreover, insufficient availability of livestock forage (due to the degradation of rangelands and loss of pruning trees) will further accentuate poverty of the rural populations in these two regions, exposing them to a recurrent dependency on humanitarian food aid.

106. Under the baseline scenario, there would be no integrated approach to addressing the combined land degradation, biodiversity and livelihoods challenge. Degradation trends currently observed will continue and likely reach a point of no return in the near-term future, with only limited natural regeneration of juniper and other tree species. It would lead to a further degradation of these unique habitats, which are home to more than 60% of Djibouti terrestrial biodiversity, with a decline if not local or global extinction of globally threatened species of flora and fauna.

### Incremental reasoning of the alternative scenario with GEF-7 intervention and Global Environment Benefits

107. Building on the baseline scenario, the here-proposed GEF-7 project aims to protect and restore biodiversity, forests and ecosystem functions as well as promote sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable rural communities in and around the two most important yet highly degraded forest landscapes in Djibouti, and provide an enabling framework for future upscaling at the national level.

108. On the national enabling environment for PA management and finance: the project (alternative scenario) will add incremental elements not covered by baseline activities, including several that have been requested as far back as the 2000 NBSAP. This includes the preparation and adoption of a new umbrella PA law that most notably legally creates a national PA agency and rules for participatory management, adding the terrestrial scope and further capacity to the (marine) PA unit established under the ongoing GEF-6 project on marine PAs (#9215); and the detailed gazettment decree (with boundaries and management regimes) of all the terrestrial PAs designated including Mabla and Day Forests (yet without any detail) in the 2004 PA Law – and which neither the GEF-6 project #9215 nor any other baseline activity is supposed to deliver. To mobilise additional future resources for the new PA agency and expanded management actions on the ground across the national PA system (including Mabla and Day), the project will continue and build on the work on PA financing under the GEF-6 project #9215, most notably on the National Environment Fund. While the ongoing project will have delivered the long-expected Law creating the NEF as well as an assessment of the PA system financing needs and potential financing solutions, the here-proposed project will facilitate the operationalisation (staffing/oversight mandate, capture and release of funds as will have been defined in the NEF Law) and the groundwork for activating a specific financing mechanism/revenue source. The project incremental target is to generate an additional USD 300,000 for the PA agency and PA management annually, i.e. approximately double the estimated baseline investment of USD 300,000. Altogether, the project will in this way sustainably strengthen government presence on the ground for more effectively managing designated PAs across the country, and for the related reduction of threats and work with local communities.

109. Regarding the situation on the ground in the degraded Day and Mabla forest and rangeland mountain ecosystems, the project (alternative scenario) will emplace, in a first-ever for Djibouti, a fully integrated watershed/landscape-level approach that brings together PA management, forest restoration, sustainable rangeland management, water management and community livelihoods.

110. This builds on the infrequent and poorly resourced presence of regional MAEPE-RH and MEDD staff in these rural areas. The project will allow the emplacement of participatory committees for the management and restoration of the two landscapes and their natural resources and biodiversity – integrating PA areas and buffer zone rangelands. Through these committees, local populations will participate in the definition of the Day Forest and Mabla Forest PAs, respectively, and in the design and execution of the water and sustainable land management and restoration measures across the PA and buffer zone landscapes. This will be captured in the landscape management plans to be subsequently developed by the project with international technical benchmarking assistance, which will define the objectives and long-term management planning for both the PAs and the buffer zones (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, surveillance, enforcement, M&E, livelihood interventions, etc.). The project will initiate a subset of these interventions that will need to be sustained and expanded in the medium to long term.

111. The PAs will be demarcated with signage on the ground and equipped to launch at least basic operations on the ground – with PA basic management/education centres, equipment for transport, surveillance and communication, and management staff and local ecoguards that will be trained.

112. Complementing this work on PA management, the project (alternative scenario) will allocate resources for investments and technical assistance for forest restoration in selected plots within the two PAs and for sustainable rangeland and water management more widely within the PAs and adjacent buffer zones. This builds on the expertise gained in past similar interventions in Djibouti and in synergy with parallel projects in the same regions of Tadjourah and

Obock, most notably the World Bank-financed “Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Program”.

113. The project will set up, equip and staff one plant/tree nursery in each PA, to produce seedlings for reforestation with a mix of native species and for feedstock planting.

114. Reforestation activities under the project will focus on a suitable 100 ha plot within each of the two PAs and be implemented through contracts with trained local community members (especially women). The plots will be enclosed with livestock fencing and/or controlled by ecoguards to impede grazing, cutting and logging. Physical soil and water conservation works (stone walls, contour ditches, check dams) will be erected throughout these reforestation plots, to reduce soil loss and rain runoff, increase recharge of water tables and capture surface water. A drip-irrigation system fed by one or several well pumps (supplemented by surface water captured in entered cisterns, if feasible) will be installed throughout the plots, to maximise seedling survival rates. Locals will plant and maintain the seedlings. The project could experiment with pilot fog catchers in the Day Forest to assess their local effectiveness.

115. Sustainable rangeland management will be implemented across the two landscapes of altogether 10,000 ha of PA and 14,000 ha of buffer zones, to restore ground vegetation and related ecosystem services. This will be underpinned by targeted capacity development: training workshops to strengthen technical and institutional capacities of the agencies in charge of rangelands, forestry and environment, for identifying degraded landscapes, integrated land use planning, water management, planning and delivering of sustainable land management, rangeland and forest restoration, and related monitoring; and extension and training to 500+ local community members including women and herders on sustainable land and livestock management, soil and water conservation, as well as on forest restoration and sustainable livelihoods. Sustainable rangeland management will then be achieved through community-based sustainable grazing agreements (seasonality, reduced grazing stock, set-asides) to enhance natural regeneration, in combination with a project-supported partial shift from free-roaming to livestock rearing using enclosures linked to an intensified local production of drip-fertigated feedstock. The project will provide technical assistance for herd size management, improved veterinary care and increased animal turnover.

116. With regard to water management, an intervention under the project possibly limited to the nationally important Day/Goda watershed/landscape, the project will first conduct an assessment of hydrological data and trends and of water extraction rates by public and private wells, to inform the measures to be defined in the landscape management plan(s) especially regarding the sustainability of water extraction. The local and regional governments, which oversee the public wells, will apply the management recommendations. Private wells are especially from a range of water bottling companies, which the government intends to regulate and charge fees for upstream watershed management and restoration.

117. A significant part of the project (alternative scenario) will moreover advance sustainable alternative livelihoods and women empowerment for rural communities and herders using the PAs and buffer zones, and establish a microfinance platform to that aim. This will support *inter alia* agroecological community and family gardens, water capture and storage means, community-based ecotourism developments, and the development, packaging and marketing of new local-product value chains (honey, dairy products, poultry).

118. Local level support for enhanced protection and sustainable management of the Day and Mabla landscapes will be leveraged through the implementation of advocacy and behavioural change strategies targeting appropriate levers. While these will be developed at the PPG stage, the latter will entail: i) in terms of material incentives, in the form of green jobs in the project (reforestation, nursery, ecoguards) together with livelihood support and the setup of the microfinance platform; ii) in terms of rules and regulations, via the operationalisation of the PA, presence of PA staff, increased enforcement, and sustainable grazing agreements; iii) in terms of information, by increasing awareness of the importance of the Day Forest, building capacity on sustainable management and alternative livelihoods; iv) in terms of emotional appeals, by involving and mobilising support at the highest government level, such as by a

public declaration the Day and Mabla forests and watersheds as a national heritage and public good by the President of Djibouti, ministers, regional governments and traditional leaders; v) in terms of social influences, by adding a dedicated focus on women participation and empowerment, by promoting alternative livelihoods not compatible with rangeland degradation (honey, milk, tourism), and by mobilising private sector stakeholders.

119. The integrated work enabled by the GEF-7 alternative scenario will generate the following incremental **global environmental benefits** in the two targeted landscapes: i) protection and restoration of two key biodiversity sites (including the Day Forest, Djibouti's national biodiversity hotspot) over approximately 10,000 ha of PA area, and thereby the conservation of globally important species such as Gebel Elba Dragon Tree *Dracaena ombet* EN, Bankoualé Palm *Livistona carinensis* VU, Beira Gazelle *Dorcatragus megalotis* VU, Soemmerring's Gazelle *Nanger soemmerringii* VU, *Gyps rueppelli* EN, and the Critically Endangered endemic Djibouti Francolin *Pternistis ochropectus*; ii) the active restoration of altogether 200 ha of highly degraded and threatened mountain forest and associated ecosystem functions, most notably water capture and microclimate as well as soil stabilisation; iii) improved integrated management of rangelands and water across 10,000 ha of PA area and 14,000 ha of adjacent buffer zones to improve and restore ground vegetation cover and associated ecosystem services – most notably soil stabilisation preventing erosion, production of forage for sustainable livestock herds enhancing local food security and livelihoods, as well as enhanced water storage and infiltration and thereby watershed recovery. The project this hopes to break the vicious cycle of the Poverty / Land Degradation Nexus in the targeted areas.

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

120. Innovation: The project provides for innovation and replication on several fronts: i) the creation of the long-expected PA agency, to consolidate past attempts and provide a more appropriate institutional structure to deliver PA planning and management; ii) a first, ambitious attempt in Djibouti to emplace an integrated landscape or watershed-level management plan, combining the the emplacement of protected area management with climate-resilient forest restoration and sustainable land management as well as a shift to more sustainable rural livelihoods in local communities; iii) the creation of a multi-stakeholder platform to coordinate, plan and support implementation of the project; iv) formulation and implementation of an explicit behavioural change strategy to tackle the six levers of change as appropriate; v) reforestation using native species with eventual fog catchers and/or micro-irrigation support systems to maximise initial survival levels; and vi) introduction of intensified livestock management (enclosure, feedstock production) to reduce the grazing intensity by free-roaming livestock in the two targeted landscapes.

121. Potential for scaling up: Capacity development of forest and rangeland management actors including government, local communities and the private sector allows for pilot solutions that are developed and found successful in one site to be used for other areas. The creation of the PA Agency and the National Environment Fund expansion will offer opportunities potential for upscaling if successful in channelling new income. As part of its knowledge sharing /communication approach, the project will also support a system of cross-learning among the teams involved in the project activities in the two sites through constant communication and participatory assessment of the project's achievements. The project will also document each project output, new approaches and processes, main results and lessons learned, and guidance and tools developed during the project implementation will be shared once technically validated. The project will support the development of a Sustainability and Replication Strategy and Action Plan to scale-up.

122. Sustainability: The project will support the development of a Sustainability and Replication Strategy and Action Plan during the latter stages of project implementation. *Environmental sustainability* is the primary objective of the project as it is focused on protection of biodiversity and restoration of land productive capacity through reforestation, revegetation, water and soil conservation, establishment of management measures to reduce unsustainable land use and development of alternative options to improve local communities' livelihoods. *Institutional sustainability* of the PA system will be improved through the preparation and adoption of a new PA law that includes the creation of a long-requested national PA agency, the long-overdue detailed gazettement (boundaries, management regime) of all terrestrial PAs only vaguely designated in the 2004 PA law. Sustainability will also be improved by strengthening the

capacities and operationalizing protected areas in two sites, and fostering government ownership of the PA system and leadership in undertaking PA management and conservation activities, and integrating PA staff salaries in the national budget. Institutional sustainability for sustainable land management will be improved through developing an integrated watershed/ landscape restoration and management plan for intensive and climate-resilient reforestation and revegetation of the Goda Mountain/Day Forest and Mabla Forest, and strengthening the technical capacities of institutional actors in charge of forest and rangeland management to identify degraded forest landscapes, plan processes to rehabilitate ecosystem services at landscape level, monitor forest restoration. *Financial sustainability*, which underpins institutional sustainability, will be improved through a further operationalisation of the National Environment Fund. This will allow the collection of (additional) revenue (e.g. from private sector concessions) and the reinjection of revenue into the new PA agency, PA management including threat reduction and community engagement, as well as for continued institutional training and knowledge management. *Social sustainability* will be encouraged through the adoption of a participatory decision-making approach for planning and implementing such agreements, and the development of income-generating activities that will contribute to alleviate the pressures on ecosystems from detrimental or unsustainable activities that are associated with poverty, unemployment and lack of alternatives.

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- [1] Adapted after <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/djibouti/climate-data-historical>
  - [2] CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/djibouti/#people-and-society>, September 2021
  - [3] CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/djibouti/#people-and-society>, September 2021
  - [4] CIA World Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/djibouti/#people-and-society>, September 2021
  - [5] <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/DJI>
  - [6] <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.ARBL.HA?locations=DJ>
  - [7] Pers. comm., DEDD 2021
  - [8] <https://voiceofdjibouti.com/djibouti-10-arable-land-cultivated/>
  - [9] Magin G. 1999? Important Bird Areas in Africa and associated islands – Djibouti
  - [10] <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/33217/0>: formerly common yet in severe decline, the species has been logged in many areas but it is still too common to be threatened with global extinction; depletion of old growth forest groves of this species occurs in Kenya and Ethiopia so from an ecological point of view there is a conservation issue because it is the only juniper species in sub-Saharan Africa.
  - [11] Laurent, Kousra, March 1985
  - [12] CNE 1991 Blot 1987
  - [13] Kiambi D. 1999. ASSESSMENT OF THE STATUS OF AGROBIODIVERSITY IN DJIBOUTI
  - [14] Laurent A. 2012

[15] Loi n°45/AN/04/5ème L portant création des Aires Protégées Terrestres et Marines.

[16] Décret n°2011-0236/PR/MHUE portant création de deux aires protégées terrestres

[17] <https://www.decandjibouti.org/le-refuge/>

[18] Holst, B., A. Ahmed, A. A. Aouled, A. A. Mohamed, A. Laurent, A. M. Aman, A. Desbiez, B. Mulot, B. Lafrance, C. Gibault, D. Mallon, E. Ruivo, H. A. Rayaleh, K. Leus, P. Moehlmann, P. McGowan (eds.). 2013: Conserving Djibouti's Priority Land Animals – a Seminar and Conservation Workshop. Final Report. IUCN SSC.

[19] Estimates based on surface areas of polygons crudely drawn in Google Earth (Y. de Soye, 2021). These values are not official as the PAs have not yet been formally delineated. These tentative and highly approximative PA areas need to be reassessed during PPG and later determined legally during the project.

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

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

123. Please see Annex A showing the Day Forest and Mabla Forest regions, where project activities will take place in the field, in addition to those in the cities of Obock, Tadjourah and Djibouti capital.

## 2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities No

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement

124. The PIF was developed between the Government of Djibouti, the UNDP Country Office in Djibouti and two UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisors who travelled to Djibouti for meetings and discussions with stakeholders in the capital and targeted areas. On-site consultations were led by DEDD staff and RTAs and took place also in the context of RTA visits following up on the closure of the UNDP/GEF/IFAD/MED PROMES-GDT project.

125. The primary government beneficiaries and stakeholders involved were staff of the DEDD, who were consulted regularly between 2015 when the project idea was first proposed and the preparation of this PIF and its submission in late 2021. Further consultations in the capital involved personnel in other departments of the MEDD as well as of MAEPE-RH and CERD to define existing capacity, baseline investment, suggested interventions and respective roles. UNDP Djibouti engaged the WFP office in Djibouti to facilitate the pledged alignment and co-financing.

126. In terms of civil society engagement, meetings and exchanges took place with the national NGO Nature Djibouti, as well as with IUCN Nairobi and independent Djibouti expert Alain Lambert to reflect their concerns and suggestions.

127. In the targeted regions, consultations were led by the project development team (DEDD staff and RTAs). Meetings took place with the two Regional Councils and Prefectures in Obock and Tadjourah to understand their priorities, baseline investment, interest in the project, expectations and suggestions. At the local site and community level, consultation meetings were held over the course of several days with community leaders and the local sustainable rangeland management committees created by the PROMES-GDT project, and with (basic) local tourism operators. DEDD alone has maintained relations with the communities regarding the expected project since. This was built also on local consultations in Day and Mabla 2017 in the context of the development of the new NBSAP.

128. During implementation a number of stakeholders will be involved in the project. Key stakeholders will be informed of the project development and objectives and invited to participate in baseline surveys and workshops to identify priorities for interventions and to determine the project baseline for selected impact and outcome indicators and to validate the project document. These key stakeholders and their roles, in addition to the above-mentioned, are:

Stakeholder	Potential roles in project design and implementation
<b>Public sector</b>	
Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DEDD)	§ The MEDD develops and implements the government's policy on environment, notably through the design of a regional planning scheme jointly with competent ministries, the development of normative texts, control of environmental standards in the areas of infrastructure, housing, equipment, transport, energy in partnership with the concerned ministries, and the realization of environmen

Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)  <i>Direction de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable</i>  <i>Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable</i>  (see organigramme in Annex I)	<p>tal impact studies.</p> <p>§ The ministry has the national mandate over natural resources conservation and sustainable management and for the overall coordination and management of the PA system.</p> <p>§ The ministry through the DEDD is responsible for the implementation of the CBD convention and for the designation and management of protected areas.</p> <p>§ As the implementing agency of the project, the DEDD will be accountable for the project results. The Director of Environment and Sustainable Development will be the National Project Director and chair the Steering Committee, and will allocate appropriate work premises for the project management team, including water and electricity,</p> <p>§ Contribution to the identification of priorities for the development of programs / training modules in biodiversity conservation, adaptive management of PAs, rangeland and forest management,</p> <p>§ Conduct and participate the assessment of the effectiveness of the management of PAs, rangelands and forests and assessment of the impact of the project interventions (baselines)</p> <p>§ Contribution to project monitoring and evaluation, responsible for technical and financial reporting to UNDP</p> <p>§ The MEDD is in the process of setting up a database for long-term environmental monitoring including of PAs, forests and rangelands</p>
Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Husbandry and Fisheries Resources (MAEPE-RH)  <i>Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Eau, de la Pêche, de l'Élevage et des Ressources Halieutiques</i>  (see organigramme in Annex J)	<p>§ MAEPE-RH implements sectoral policies in the areas of food security, rural development and water, and is responsible for the promotion and development of animal and plant production, improvement of vegetation cover, and the study and exploitation of water resources and fish production. It is responsible for the preparation, coordination and implementation of Government policies on food security and rural development. As such, it sets up assistance measures for production, and promotion of agricultural and farming activities. It oversees the veterinary and food control and determines the health standards of national production. It is responsible for implementing the government's policy on water in both urban and rural areas. As such, it is responsible for policy and water supply projects including the design, construction, operation and maintenance of surface hydraulic structures and other work related to water resources. Last, but not least, together with the MEDD, it supports the implementation of the interventions sustainable land management fighting desertification, including those related to the Great Green Wall.</p> <p>§ The MAEPE-RH will contribute to the project with its technical expertise and rural outreach programmes, and facilitate exchanges between teams of relevant projects</p>
Djibouti Social Development Agency (ADDs) <i>Agence Djiboutienne de Développement Social</i>	<p>§ ADDS was created in 2007. Under the Secretariat of State for Social Affairs / Ministry for Social Affairs and Solidarity, ADDS is a financially autonomous public legal entity that implements the National Development Initiative for poverty reduction.</p> <p>§ ADDS will support community outreach and development activities, including by facilitating the microcredit scheme through the CPEC.</p>
Caisse populaire d'épargne et de crédit (CPEC)	<p>§ CPEC will host the livelihoods microcredit scheme</p>

gine et de credit (CPEC)	
Tadjourah and Obock Regional Councils and Prefectures	§ The regionally elected regional councils were recently established as part of the decentralization process and represent the interests of local communities. They will be fully informed about and engaged in project preparation, planning and implementation. They will be invited to participate in baseline surveys and workshops to identify priorities/ strategies for regional and local-level interventions, to participate in planning of interventions including regarding outreach to local communities and their leaders.
<b>International organisations</b>	
FAO	§ Project preparation, coordination, benchmarking, synergies
IFAD	§ Project preparation, coordination, benchmarking, synergies
World Bank	§ Project preparation, coordination, benchmarking, synergies
WFP	§ Co-financier, project design
<b>Local communities concerned by PAs and pasture/rangeland areas</b>	
Users of natural resources within local communities, herders	§ Key stakeholders and beneficiaries; § Active participation in the identification and development of green income-generating activities (IGAs) to the benefit of local communities; § Participation in defining local communities' role in PA surveillance and monitoring programs, in discussing local communities' involvement in forest restoration, SLM/pasture restoration, and water and soil conservation (WSC) in the context of WFP "Food for Assets" agreements § Participation in the assessment of the effectiveness of PA management and of the impact of the project interventions (baselines)
Local communities leaders / including representatives of elders, women and youth	
Community-based organizations	
	§ Participation in defining CBOs' role in monitoring and surveillance programs related to PA and rangeland management; § Contribution to community mobilization for the identification of green income-generating activities and level of participation to restoration works.
<b>Civil society</b>	
Associations and NGOs, including <i>inter alia</i> : Djibouti Nature, DECAN, Paix et Lait NGO	§ Contributions to awareness and communication strategy § Contributions to stakeholder and community engagement § Participation in the assessment of the effectiveness of PAs management and of the impact of the project interventions (baselines)
Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti (UNFD), Women Associations in Tadjourah and Obock	§ UNFD was created in 1970 and aims to advance women empowerment in Djibouti § It will advise and/or support actions on gender mainstreaming and women empowerment, especially those related to decision-making and development activities.
<b>Academia and scientific institutions</b>	

University of Djibouti / Faculty of Sciences / Ministry of Higher Education and Research	<p>§ Contribution to the identification of priorities for and the development and/or conduct of training programmes/modules in biodiversity conservation, adaptive management of PAs, watershed data and management, rangeland and forest management, and for their integration into the university curriculum</p> <p>§ Participation in baseline assessments and / annual / evaluation M&amp;E (e.g. remote sensing to monitor and assess vegetation cover in the targeted sites by the Geomatics and Environmental Monitoring Laboratory)</p>
Centre for Studies and Scientific Research of Djibouti (CERD) / Ministry of Higher Education and Research	<p>§ CERD is a public scientific institution. CERD includes 6 institutes, including earth sciences and life sciences. The Institute of Life Science addresses issues including soil sciences, marine biology, and plant production and protection</p> <p>§ Participation in the development and implementation of monitoring programs for biodiversity, rangeland condition and environmental parameters (e.g. remote sensing to monitor and assess vegetation cover in the targeted sites by the LAMGER laboratory), in the assessment of the effectiveness of protected areas management and in the planning of the project interventions (baselines)</p> <p>§ Development of proposals to implement long term monitoring of priority biodiversity elements</p>
<b>Private sector / Other</b>	
Water bottling companies Eau de Tadjourah, Iljano, Bio, Okar	§ The government firmly intends to liaise with these water bottling companies drawing from the Goda/Day watershed, and others in Djibouti, to regulate them and charge fees for upstream watershed management and restoration
Media (print and TV/radio media)	<p>§ Invited to events and recipients of media releases</p> <p>§ Contribution to develop an advocacy/communications strategy for the project</p>
Military (users of Juniperus dead trees in the Day Forest)	§ Informed of the project objectives and invited to participate in baseline surveys and workshops to identify strategies to reduce pressures on biodiversity

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

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

129. The analysis of the gender situation in Djibouti highlights that – despite the availability of policy and legal frameworks and commitments to ensure gender equality in Djibouti and an overall improvement in this area – important gaps remain between men and women on the one hand and between women living in urban and rural areas on the other, in terms of living conditions, status in the family and in society, access to the labor market, discrimination against women, capacity and participation in development. This situation results from a combination of historical, social and religious factors. Some of this disparity is due to poverty, which is a reality that affects traditional rural areas more than others (more than 57% of the poor live in rural areas compared to 13.1% in other urban areas - inland regions - and 10% in Djibouti City). People living in rural areas are the most affected by the lack of activity and economic opportunity - the activity rate for rural women is 23.9% compared to 50.8% for men. The unemployment rate is 47.1% at the national level. Unemployment is more common among women (74.4%) than men (42.8%) in Djibouti. This shows that women are less likely to have access to paid employment. Women perform unpaid work such as domestic and household chores and informal activities. In rural areas, the main source of water supply is from traditional wells (34.6% on average), followed by groundwater boreholes and public fountains. Women provide access to water for the household and travel miles and spend considerable time fetching water for their homes. This is the main activity of rural women. Water is a scarce commodity and the lack of clean water is a source of stress and anxiety that negatively affects the mental and physical health and therefore the well-being of women and girls. In rural areas, women and girls are also the main party responsible for collecting biomass fuels such as charcoal, wood and agricultural waste. Firewood is the main source of energy for about 75% of rural households. Commercial agricultural production is mainly the responsibility of men who are responsible for land preparation, irrigation of crops, harvesting and transport of products to market. Women do not work the land but may own small holdings, including garden plots; they may, however, use male labour. In general, women work more hours per day while men work fewer hours and/or focus more on physically demanding tasks. Women are rarely consulted and included in development projects that could improve production and their living conditions and reduce their workload. In addition, they are systematically discriminated against in their access to the resources necessary for socio-economic development. The few credit, extension, input and seed supply services available generally cater to the needs of male heads of household. Also, illiteracy is higher among women (78%) than men (58%).

130. The project will seek to strengthen women's participation and decision-making and generate socio-economic benefits by i) adopting a specific communication approach that specifically target women to ensure that messages reach them and that their concerns and priorities are heard and addressed; ii) consulting them to find ways to facilitate their participation in activities and reconcile it with their domestic chores; iii) involving them in every local planning and implementation stage regarding the location and development of agropastoral farms, identification of income-generating activities adapted to them and meeting their needs, iv) developing diversification support, training and empowerment programmes targeting women activities and fostering their involvement in new activities such as composting but also wider literacy and public speaking; vi) making locally managed credit facilities accessible to them for their specific activities.

131. Moreover, special attention will be paid during project preparation to identify means to facilitate enhanced access rights to resources and land for women, especially for female-headed households. This will look at how women voices and concerns can be better included in land use planning processes.

132. The project will at national level engage the National Union of Women of Djibouti to assure good visibility and leverage. Cooperation will also be strengthened with the UNDP portfolio on the empowerment of girls and women and the EU-funded project on women's empowerment.

133. The above will be further elaborated in a Gender Analysis and Action Plan to be elaborated during project preparation that will then be implemented throughout the project. Implementation of the Gender Action Plan will be included amongst the (gender-sensitive) indicators in the project results framework. Under Component 3 *Safeguards, Gender & Knowledge Management*, a dedicated staff and budget will be assigned for gender issues in combination with community engagement and safeguards management. The project will collect socio-economic sex-disaggregated data in baseline surveys, by adopting a communication approach that specifically target women, by developing income-generating activities adapted to women and meeting their needs. Gender responsiveness has been integrated into the different component, which will be further detailed during project preparation.

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

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

**improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes**

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

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

**Yes**

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

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

Yes

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

134. The government firmly intends to liaise with the water bottling companies Eau de Tadjourah, Iljano, Bio, Okar drawing from the Goda/Day watershed, and others in Djibouti, to regulate them and charge fees for upstream watershed management and restoration.

## 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

### Assessment of COVID Risks and Opportunities

#### *Overview of COVID impacts in Djibouti*

135. Djibouti is facing an unprecedented economic crisis due to COVID-19, threatening hard-won development gains of 20 years. Djibouti has for long struggled to grow its economy due to a largely unskilled labor force, limited resources and harsh climate conditions.

136. The pandemic and lockdown have had a significant impact.

137. The socio-economic impacts assessments and preliminary analyses show that it abruptly reduced public income and increased public expenses to provide care to the population.

138. Informal and small businesses, representing more than 70% of all jobs, have been heavily affected. It is estimated that more than 10,000 jobs have been lost, in both the formal and informal sectors, impacting at least 170,000 household members. 80% of formal businesses were negatively affected by the pandemic, 39% of businesses saw a decrease of 75% in their turnover between March and July 2020 vis-à-vis the same period last year, and 50% of business owners laid off 75% of their employees. This reality implies that the large enterprises lost their skilled and productive employees, which will result in a prolonged economic downfall for themselves and Djibouti at large. The severe economic impact trickles down from the major enterprises to local MSMEs, and most unregistered informal businesses who are more susceptible to this socioeconomic crisis. These MSMEs and informal businesses are the entities that will be targeted under this activity. For businesses and the self-employed, unfortunately, COVID-19 is adding to the multiple vulnerabilities and challenges to the country's economic resilience. In addition to the environmental and external shocks such as drought, floods and infectious diseases, the lack of basic information on the procedures for registration, tax filling, microfinancing requirements, bank account opening requirements along with the support services to open and run the businesses are very preliminary thereby posing hindrances to enterprise development and job creation opportunities. Most of the services and information available in this regard is concentrated in the city of Djibouti and almost non-existent in rural areas. On the other hand, the microfinance landscape in Djibouti is still at a low stage of development, having started to be structured and institutionalized in 2007, with the entry into force of the first law regulating this sector and the adoption of a national microfinance development strategy. Getting access to financing options including loans is a big hurdle for the MSMEs and hence the growth of MSMEs is hampered and not meeting expectations.

139. In addition, the pandemic highlighted the high degree to which Djibouti is food-insecure and vulnerable to external shocks. Djibouti imports 90% of its food and is one of the most food-insecure countries in the region. Agricultural production is almost non-existent, partly because of drought and climate risks.

140. Djibouti's rural populations including agropastoralists were already a very vulnerable population prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, exposed to extreme poverty, hunger, land degradation and climate change. COVID-19 and especially the pandemic containment measures have added an additional obstacle to economic development. Lockdowns curtailed road transports between cities and rural communities, reducing business opportunities and market access.

141. The project will during implementation aim to avoid the exposure to and spread of COVID-19 and reduce the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic measures. The project will strive to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19 by following international and WHO standards for infection prevention and will raise awareness among the target population during the various meetings and capacity building efforts under the project. Activities will be designed and implemented to ensure the protection of all stakeholders involved in the project from the spread of COVID-19 and to support the Government of Djibouti's response efforts. The project team will ensure that all activities are implemented in accordance with government advisories, which may include travel restrictions, security measures and prevention measures. Moreover, the project will seek to facilitate targeted communities support from the COVID National Solidarity Pact, prepared with UNDP support.

*Project-specific risks to successful implementation*

142. *Availability of Technical Expertise and Capacity and Changes in Timelines and Enabling Environment:* Government staff of the Implementing Partner/Executing Agency DEDD have been able to continue working in their own thematic areas. The main risks here are would be

- difficulties for international expert support required for successful implementation to be effectively mobilised, both for work on the national level enabling environment and for field work in the two project areas; this has been a recurrent challenge throughout the pandemic-related travel restrictions, and has been mitigated to some degree by the use of video call technologies to allow support from the distance, at times with better-quality online services provided by the UNDP country office, which will continue.
- difficulties for government and project staff to travel and remain in the two project areas (Day and Mabla) to deliver the on-the-ground work on PA management, forest restoration, sustainable land management and livelihoods; and therefore difficulties in meeting project timelines; these risks are hard to mitigate, however, the government and project should field a sufficient permanent presence on-site, as opposed to travel-dependent presence; and involve locals in responsible positions and train and empower them, to ensure at least a basic continuity of activities.

143. *Stakeholder Engagement Process:* The main risks here are would be

- the primary risk here is tightly linked to the second risk under the prior item above, and the risk management is the same – reliable on-site presence by project and government staff, empowerment of local staff in the project, online tools for consultations and also trainings from the distance, such as of the local PA committees but with special attention to the involvement of women and other marginalised groups such as nomadic herders.
- in addition, there is a risk that it could be more difficult to secure full buy-in of local populations into the project goals; however rural agro-pastoralists will have been less directly impacted by the pandemic measures than city-dwellers, and given that the project focuses on issues close to their primary livelihood – agro-pastoral management and potential improvements and alternatives – the additional challenge posed by COVID is considered negligible.

144. *Technical baseline and financing:*

- regarding the technical baseline, the ongoing GEF-6 project #9215 will not be able to achieve some of its outcomes relevant to this project, most notably the operationalisation of the National Environment Fund and one new financing mechanism, which can in part be attributed to COVID-related changes in priorities and difficulties in mobilising international experts.
- at present, there are no indications that other international baseline or co-financing projects will be affected; it is however envisageable that a reduced availability of public funding could lead to a reduction in national recurrent budget co-financing; should this occur, the project may need to adjust budgets to absorb additional staff, travel and investment costs, and triage priorities to focus on key outcomes.

145. *Future Risks of Similar Crises:*

- it cannot be expected that this project could inadvertently contribute to or trigger future pandemics.
- it is also not expected that there would be a migration from the cities to rural areas, because the long-term trend has been the opposite and poverty in most rural areas of Djibouti remains very high.

#### *Project-specific opportunities*

146. The entire project can be seen as contributing to a post-COVID Green Recovery, by advancing sustainable rangeland management, restoring (open) forestland and ground vegetation, generating global environmental benefits in the form of biodiversity and ecosystem services, generating alternative or additional sustainable livelihoods, and enhancing local food security. The project will also offer economic and employment opportunities for rural populations that even if temporary can alleviate any economic hardship induced by the COVID containment measures. It will also further grow the capacity of national, regional and local stakeholders in the use of communication technologies allowing for remote consultations and planning as well as remote working. The project will moreover contribute to the long-term COVID response by protecting and restoring natural capital and increasing natural and economic resilience and adaptive capacity

147. The project document to be prepared during the PPG will include a more detailed analysis of COVID-19 risks and opportunities together with a dedicated matrix to manage these.

#### Assessment of Climate Risk

148. The following table brings together the impacts from climate change expected for Djibouti, per the 2006 NAPA and 2017 National Climate Change Strategy:

Key Sectors	Climate change impacts
Water resources	<p><b>Surface water:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase in frequency and magnitude floods</li> <li>- Shift in run-off water regime</li> </ul> <p><b>Groundwater:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in aquifer natural recharge</li> <li>- Reduction in groundwater resources (from 11,650,000 m<sup>3</sup> to 9,880,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year in 2050) and increase in salinity of Djibouti's main aquifer</li> </ul>
Agriculture and forestry	<p><b>Drought:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overgrazing of shrinking rangelands</li> <li>- Loss of agricultural land due to erosion or salinity</li> <li>- Depletion of ground water used for irrigation</li> <li>- Increase in salt content of soil and irrigation water</li> <li>- Reduced yields</li> <li>- Regression in forest cover</li> <li>- Intensified human pressures on forests for firewood and construction</li> <li>- Gradual extinction of flagship endemic species</li> <li>- Invasion of <i>Prosopis sp.</i> which is growing very rapidly under increasing aridity, encroaching on cultivated land and competing with other trees and local shrubs (esp. in coastal plain of Djibouti, Tadjourah, and Hanlé Gobaad)</li> </ul> <p><b>Flooding:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Loss of agricultural land due to erosion or salinity</li> <li>- Destruction of farms located near the wadis</li> <li>- Silting of wells or destruction of crops and infrastructure</li> <li>- Multiplication of pests and insects (caterpillars, mushrooms, crickets...)</li> </ul>

149. The climatic parameters most relevant to the project are temperature, precipitation, as well as their seasonality and fluctuations.

150. However, while there are observational trends, there are no country-specific climate scenarios for Djibouti that could offer the high resolution required to make reliable national, regional (or even site-specific) assessments to fully corroborate the above generalised impacts.

151. Djibouti's 2<sup>nd</sup> National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2013 referred to climate scenarios already included in 2001. Bringing together information from the 2001/2013 UNFCCC National Communications, the 2017 National Climate Strategy as well as a review report prepared in 2018 for UNDP entitled "Downscaling Coarse Resolution Climate Projections for Djibouti" (Dr. Hussen Seid Endris), the following picture emerges:

#### *Observed trends*

152. In terms of trends observed over the last three to four decades, average temperatures have been on the increase, with an increase of 0.5-1.5 °C of maximum monthly temperatures, and an average increase of minimum temperatures of 1.5 °C with the strongest increase in June-July.

153. Djibouti has also experienced an increase in aridity across the country and increased periods of dry spells and drought over the last decades, including a severe drought in 2008-2011 that quite possibly triggered an important die-off of ground vegetation and trees of various species (*Juniperus procera*, *Buxus hildebrandtii*, *Terminalia brownii*, etc.) in the Day and Mabla areas. Rainfall events have become less frequent yet more intense, leading to more frequent and severe flash flood events, and causing reduced infiltration into groundwater tables. Since 1960, a significant decrease in rainfall has been registered for the months of April-July, and a significant increase for the months of January and October <sup>[1]</sup>.

#### *Climate scenarios*

154. Three IPCC GCM climate scenarios (CSIRO-TR, BMRC-EQ, HADCM2) with time horizon 2050, referenced in the UNFCCC National Communications and 2017 National Climate Strategy, projected that:

- average annual temperature will increase between +0.6 and +2.4 °C
- average annual precipitation will evolve from -10.9 % (CSIRO-TR) to +17.1 % (HADCM2)
- the frequency of droughts, floods and very high temperatures will increase

155. The 2<sup>nd</sup> UNFCCC National Communication specifically indicated that rising temperatures and low rainfall would “continue to negatively affect forest formations, soils, flora, fauna and social and economic activities, resulting in increased vulnerability of the Day population”; and that based on a “predicted annual regression of 3.3% in vegetation cover, the Day Forest would disappear well before 2030 with no chance of existing by 2050 if no adaptation action is taken”. Moreover, that “without vegetation cover, the food security of these sedentary pastoralists is likely to be even more deeply affected”.

156. However, the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNFCCC National Communication misinterpreted the climate projections – which was corrected in the 2017 Climate Change Strategy that instead indicated that **“the conclusions concerning rainfall trends remain uncertain as to the annual cumulative rainfall due to the country's position between two zones with opposing trends**. Further modelling, on a finer scale, integrating new data over the whole country is needed to distinguish local trends that may be in contradiction with regional trends. The findings of the **2013 IPCC report tend to predict a shift and disruption of seasonal rainfall cycles that would become more irregular, and in this case more frequent with extreme rainfall and consequent torrential flooding.”**

157. The 2018 Report “Downscaling Coarse Resolution Climate Projections for Djibouti” used three more recent GCM (HadGEM-ES, MPI-ESM-LR and GFDL-ESM2M). The projected changes in rainfall and temperature based on the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios were analysed for two periods (near future 2031-2060 and far future 2071-2100), with the period 1981-2010 as baseline. The conclusions were that

- Future seasonal rainfall will likely increase during June-September and October-December, but decrease during March-May; with no noticeable changes in overall annual rainfall in Djibouti, noting however that “projected annual rainfall shows a tendency to increase over northern part of Djibouti under the RCP8.5 scenario”.
- Future changes in temperature suggest a warmer future in all parts of Djibouti. In near future, annual surface temperature are projected to increase between 1.0 °C and 2.0 °C under RCP4.5 scenario but will likely be greater in the RCP8.5 scenario which is expected to be between 1.5 °C and 2.5 °C. By the end of the century, annual surface temperature are expected to be 2.5 to 3.5°C higher under the RCP4.5, and 3.5 to 5.0°C higher under the RCP8.5 scenario over most parts of Djibouti.”

158. Altogether, it appears that

- the projections clearly indicate that temperatures will steadily increase; this is also an observed trend.
- it is not possible to ascertain from the projections whether annual precipitation in Djibouti in general, and specifically in the target areas, will decrease, remain the same, or increase; the observed trends from the last decades are aligned with the former, but recent years have seen substantial rains in Djibouti more in line with the latter.
- the projections clearly indicate that rainfall patterns will become more irregular over the coming decades, both regarding medium-term (intra-annual) and longer-term (inter-annual, pluriannual) variability; this is also an observed trend.
- it is, however, not possible to ascertain how the projected changes in seasonal rainfall patterns align with the prevailing seasonal patterns (see Annex G)
- whether they will compound the seasonal changes such that dry seasons become drier and wet seasons wetter; or whether the opposite will occur.
- it is also not possible to ascertain from the projections whether there will be variation in the short-term distribution of rainfall; observations seem to indicate that rainfalls are less evenly distributed, but concentrated in brief intense events – causing more frequent and more severe flash floods, with dry spells in-between and also reduced water infiltration.

159. **Daily, seasonal and interannual fluctuations in precipitation therefore appear the most critical parameters. Severe and extended droughts as well as reduced water infiltration will be the lead limiting factor for natural and semi-natural ecosystems. The severity and frequency of flash floods will be the most defining climate factor for soil erosion.**

160. The potential impacts of climate change on the project's goals are vast, as described above, yet the uncertainties cannot presently be resolved. The project was designed in full recognition of this challenge, as a last attempt to safeguard at least a part of the Day and Mabila ecosystems and the livelihoods they provide.

161. If annual rainfall in the target sites increases and allow sufficient water infiltration, and if the future years do not hold too-severe dry spells and droughts, the ecosystems and ecosystem functions of the Day and Mabila – with the livelihoods dependent on them – can be restored more easily. If annual rainfall in the target sites decreases significantly and there are extended and/or 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 remnant of the ecosystem and its services. The same applies to rural livelihoods. The restoration will therefore integrate climate resilience considerations.

162. This climate risk assessment will be extended during the PPG, in cooperation with the national authorities and national or international academia active in climate projections, to assess whether newer and more reliable and detailed research and projections are available. The PPG will also further elaborate the specific climate resilience elements that need to be embedded in the project's SLM and restoration efforts to accommodate the uncertainty described hereabove.

#### Project Risk Table

163. Fully integrating the above detailed analyses of risks posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, the following table brings together i) the risks to project implementation and ii) the social and environmental risks potentially posed by the project requiring management (reflecting the risks identified in the UNDP Social and Environmental Pre-Screening completed during PIF design - Annex H).

Risk and risk type	Risk rating L/M/ S/H	Proposed measures to address risk
Risks to project implementation and success		

Risk 1. Inadequate and/or delayed implementation of the project by the Executing Agency (Implementing Partner per UNDP terminology), due to factors such as late recruitments, weak project staff selection, insufficient presence on the ground, slow or poor procurement.	Substantial	UNDP will pay special attention to these issues in its project oversight, identify and raise issues and advocate for necessary improvements including through the project board/steering committee. Please see Risk #8 for related aspects.
Risk 2. Inadequate involvement of key institutions and stakeholders relevant to particular project aspects on sustainable land management (such as MAEPE-RH and its partner agencies FAO and IFAD).	Substantial	During the PPG, the involvement of MAEPE-RH will be further explored and detailed. MAEPE-RH will be included in the project board/steering committee. Please see Risk #8 for related aspects.
Risk 3. Inadequate political commitment across national and regional government stakeholders to consider, negotiate and impose the required measures to effectively protect the two PAs and enhance forest and rangeland management.	Substantial	A key aspect will be support from high political levels in the country, as reflected in Output 2.1. Also, the project will under Output 2.5 prepare a behavioural change strategy to support this. In addition, the institutional and individual capacity development actions of the project will clarify every stakeholder's role in line with respective mandates as well as procedures to ensure the enforcement of existing legislation/ regulations and apply contingency plans, etc. This will include assigning a role to communities in the surveillance of PAs in partnership with ecoguards. The project will also ensure that key actors are provided with the necessary equipment (transportation, communication, uniforms) to play their role effectively.
Risk 4. Limited support or buy-in from local herders/ communities for sustainable practices, e.g on rangeland and water resource management, the value of livestock herd sizes as a social indicator, on adopting intensive rather than extensive livestock farming.	Substantial	The project is designed to act on most if not all of the six levers for behavioural change, and will under Output 2.5 implement a behavioural change strategy. Local communities will be involved in all decision-making through local committees. Communities themselves in local consultations during the PIF design stage already realised their precarious situation and have shown openness to other solutions, including the reduction of herd size, and will be supported in their reflections through information and awareness activities.
Risk 5. Theft or vandalism of equipment provided by the project (fences, micro-irrigation, fog catchers, pumps, etc.). Wider governance issues especially	Moderate	In Day, the project will adopt a blend of approaches. It will mobilise all levels of government up to the President (who has a house in Day village) and traditional regional leaders, to convey the importance of this public good. This will be accompanied by a participatory

y around the access to the degraded t orest pastures (exclosures).		approach where local communities will be involved in decisions re garding local interventions. As they will be key beneficiaries, includ ing through the provision of new green jobs and significant agro-p astoral improvements activities, they will have a vested interest in t he project. Also, the surveillance of these equipments could be int egrated in the PA surveillance plans to which local communities wi ll collaborate.
Risk 6. Absence of sufficient reliable fi nancial flows to maintain intervention s undermines long-term success in ec osystem restoration in and around the 2 PAs.	High	To enhance the prospect of post-project sustainability, the project will work to strengthen the national enabling environment for PA m anagement and especially financing, see Output 1.1.  In addition, the project will work to reduce the threats to biodiversit y in both targeted sites by improving the management of pastoral activities that are the underlying causes of biodiversity loss. The m ain actors in this management will be the local communities and n omadic herders that use these environments. Agreements governi ng access to PAs and pastoral resources (rangelands, water point s, pastureland, fodder) will be developed with the communities wh o will see to their implementation, recognizing the benefits that the y themselves derive from such sustainable management.
Risk 7. Access to Mabla Forest poses a challenge for project implementatio n and supervision due to remoteness and difficulty of access.	Moderate	Due to to the remoteness of this site, it might prove difficult to hire qualified project staff who will be willing to work for prolonged peri ods in this location. However, the project will support initial inform ation/ awareness / capacity building of local actors involved in ran geland management, including local communities, and supervise t he negotiation of management agreements so that management r esponsibilities may be devolved to them according to clear govern ance rules. Also, local-level activities will be facilitated by strong c oordination with locally-based CBOs.
Risk 8. Impact of COVID-19 containme nt measures undermines project impl ementation and the likelihood of succ ess: i) Availability of technical expertise an d capacity; ii) Difficulties for government and proj ect staff to travel and remain in the tw o project areas to deliver on-the-groun	Moderate	i) Use of video call technologies to allow support from the distanc e, at times with better-quality online services provided by the UND P country office, which will continue; ii) Field a sufficient permanent presence on-site, as opposed to tra vel-dependent presence; and involve locals in responsible position s and train and empower them, with special attention to the involv ement of women and other marginalised groups such as nomadic herders; iii) If necessary, adjust budgets to absorb additional staff, travel an

d work; and difficulties engaging local stakeholders; iii) Reduced availability of public funding could lead to a reduction in national recurrent budget co-financing.		d investment costs, and triage priorities to focus on key outcomes.
Risk 9. Limited capture and integration of lessons learned into project implementation.	Substantial	Knowledge Management Plan to be prepared at PPG implemented by the PMU, and linked to the KM Platform to be established under the MEDD/UNDP GEF-6 project # 9599.
Risk 10. Disruption of project implementation by extreme climate events, e.g. droughts or floods.	Substantial	Meteorological predictions will be taken into account during the planning of critical construction phases of hard infrastructure and a group of pastoral plots. Intervention sites will be chosen to minimise threats to materials and equipment.
Risk 10. Insufficient surface water availability, groundwater availability and rate of groundwater recharge to meet demand for reforestation and feedstock production.	Substantial	All available information on surface water and groundwater will be collated and project activities will be adapted if necessary. Construction of underground rainwater tanks.
Risk 11. Project management costs excessive, too many staff with duplications yet limited expertise, reducing budget for on-the-ground investments	High	Special attention will be given during the PPG to PMU team definition and TORs, and then oversight that this is adhered to during implementation.
<b>Social and environmental risks potentially created by the project</b>		
<i>Please see the Social and Environmental Safeguards risks – including the climate change risk – in the SESP in Annex H. Link the above risks to project success, these will be revised at PPG stage – and added to the UNDP Risk Log here.</i>		

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

## 6. Coordination

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

### Institutional structure

164. The project will be executed under the National Implementation modality. The **Executing Agency** (Implementing Partner per UNDP terminology) for this project will be the Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development (DEDD) of the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD). The Executing Agency will be entrusted the implementation of the project, will assume responsibility for delivering on the project objective and outcomes, and will host the Project Management Unit.

165. The **Project Board/Project Steering Committee** will be responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results.

166. **UNDP** will be accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project (oversight of project execution, GEF project cycle management services). UNDP will also be responsible for the Project Assurance role in the Project Board/Steering Committee.

### Monitoring and evaluation

167. The project entails a dedicated component and budget on M&E, which will be led by a dedicated M&E Officer with additional input provided by the Project Manager and rest of the team. UNDP will provide specific support on independent evaluations and annual PIR reporting, in addition to providing GEF agency oversight.

### Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives

168. In addition to building on and learning from the relevant lessons/best practices of the past projects outlined in §20-35, the project will coordinate with the following initiatives expected to take place during the lifetime of the here-proposed GEF-7 project:

Initiative and Objective	Coordination with project
FAO Country Programming Framework Initiatives	Coordination if not cooperation between FAO and the here-proposed GEF-7 project is envisaged, regarding approaches and best practices on pastoral development, rangeland management, natural resource management for adaptation and preservation, the utilization of flood waters (infiltration, impoundment, water diversion to irrigate perimeters), and the introduction of climate-resilient crop species and garden development, improving production and productivity in the livestock sector, and forest restoration.
World Food Program (WFP) / Cash/Food Assistance for Assets Programme in Djib	Under the Cash/Food Assistance for Assets Programme in Djibouti, the project, the WFP and relevant stakeholders will collaborate to identify eligible activities

Assistance for Assets Programme in Djibouti	et, the WFP and relevant stakeholders will collaborate to identify eligible activities on the basis of the GEF-7 project's planned activities/results and priority beneficiaries in the selected intervention sites and plan WFP's contributions towards goals of the project.
IUCN/IGAD	The GEF-7 project may take advantage of IUCN's experience with ecosystem assessments based on a methodology developed for the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems and with rapid ecological assessments to help understand the status of rare mammal species in the landscape.
MEDD/UNDP/GEF project <i>Sustainable management of water resources, rangelands and agro-pastoral perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi watershed</i> (GEF-6 # 9599, GEF grant USD 3,215,068, 2020-2025).	The 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 replication strategy and action plan. Even though there are no geographic overlaps with the regions targeted by the here-proposed GEF-7 project, there are thematic similarities wherefore technical cooperation and knowledge exchanges will take place between the teams both hosted by the MEDD.
MEDD/UNEP/GEF-LDCF project <i>Planning and implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Djibouti's Dikhil and Tadjourah regions</i> (GEF-7 # 10180, GEF grant USD 8,925,000, in PPG phase, to start in late 2021/2022).	The project's aims to increase resilience to climate change 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 Costbenefits 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. There are no site-level overlaps with the here-proposed GEF-7 project however technical cooperation and knowledge exchanges will take place between the two teams which are both hosted by the MEDD. And both projects will coordinate regarding their engagement of the Tadjourah Regional Council.
MEDD/MAEPE-RH/AFDB/GEF project <i>RLACC - Rural Livelihoods' Adaptation to Climate Change</i>	The project's objective is to increase the capacity of local communities in Gobaad Plain and Tadjourah Ville to adapt to climate change. The project aims to

<p><i>ate Change in the Horn of Africa (PROGR AM)</i> (GEF-5 # 9325, GEF grant USD 5,077, 778, under implementation).</p>	<p>o raise awareness amongst local stakeholders involved in planning pro-active adaptation measures to climate change; to integrate climate change-related adaptation measures into national and county development plans; to reduce vulnerabilities of local populations through the development and implementation of adaptation practices that respond to climate change-induced stresses in livestock in arid and semi-arid ecosystems; and to reduce vulnerabilities of targeted pastoral and agro-pastoral communities to climate risks. There are no overlaps with the regions targeted by the here-proposed GEF-7 project however technical cooperation and knowledge exchanges will take place between the teams both hosted by the MEDD.</p>
<p>World Bank / Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience Program., USD 30 million, 4 years, currently under preparation and expected to be approved in mid-2022.</p>	<p>This project will focus on the Weima (Oued Oueima) watershed located to the north of the Goda/Day and Mabila mountains targeted by the here-proposed GEF-7 project. Details are not yet available at this stage, however it will operate in the same administrative regions of Djibouti (Obock and Tadjourah) wherefore the project will coordinate with on political outreach and technical exchanges, during the PPG and beyond.</p>

## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

Yes

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

169. The project will contribute to the implementation of key relevant strategies and plans:

170. Vision Djibouti 2035. Adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2014, the main thrust of the strategy is towards infrastructure development to turn the country into a regional logistics hub, with little notion of overall sustainability. However, it also identifies actions to which the GEF-7 project will contribute directly, most notably on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development. Environmental concerns (challenges associated with biodiversity loss, climate change) are included, in a secondary section. The government plans to rehabilitate and develop small agricultural and livestock areas of family size in all regions in connection with agricultural research to contribute to the eradication of poverty, food insecurity and unemployment. The GEF-7 project responds directly to the strategy regarding the sustainable management of water / food security and climate change adaptation / risk management. In the field of environmental protection, the project contributes directly to the operationalization of protected areas and the implementation of adaptation strategies to climate change.

171. The interventions planned in the GEF-7 project are in line with the main lines of the National Action Plan for the Environment 2001-2010 (PANE), which has not yet been updated and included the promotion of 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.

172. The still valid Master Plan 2009–2018 of the Ministry of Agriculture, Husbandry and the Sea in charge of Fisheries Resources. The Master Plan's mission is to ensure increased food production to achieve food security and ensure a better contribution of the primary sector to the national economy. Expected results include: (i) better mobilization of water as the basis of the development of the primary sector; (ii) an increase in plant and animal production in order to reduce food dependency and fight against poverty. By restoring the potential of forage production, the project addresses barriers to livestock sector development notably due to the lack of forage availability.

173. Djibouti's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The GEF-7 project is in line with the 2017 NBSAP. The NBSAP is structured along six axes, and the project contributes to several of these in the following order of priority:

- Technical Axis 1 – urgency management:
  - i. Conserve potentialities, through protected areas, ecoguards and grazing exclosures
  - ii. Address urgencies in species conservation (obj. 1.2);

In-situ revegetation

- Technical Axis 2 – preventive measures:
  - i. Increase in available water resources
  - ii. Sustainable livestock management

- Institutional Axis 3:
  - i. Respect of rules (enforcement of environmental regulations in PAs and buffer zones)
- Institutional Axis 4:
  - i. Training
- Institutional Axis 5:
  - i. Knowledge and data management
- Sustainability Axis 6:
  - i. Dissemination of best practices
  - ii. Sustainable human and financial resources

174. The project is equally aligned with the UNCCD National Action Programme to Fight Desertification (2000), most notably:

- Objective 2: Strengthening of capacity of local populations and of outreach services, with sub-objectives 2.1 Awareness about desertification, 2.2 Training in the fight against desertification, and 2.3 Public financing for the fight against desertification.
- Objective 3: Improving knowledge on resource potential, with sub-objectives 3.1 Studies e.g. on water, 3.2 Research into reforestation options and dissemination of seedlings.
- Regional action plans for Tadjourah and Obock regions, that indicate Day and Mabla as targeted regions

175. The MEDD has sought USD 100,000 (USD 91,324 of project grant plus agency fees, available via GEF) to update the 2022 NAP report to UNCCD and related capacity building activities.

176. It can be expected that the new NAP will be completed and available by the time the here-proposed project will start, and that the project will contribute also to this new NAP.

177. Djibouti has made little progress on adopting the Land Degradation Neutrality framework and define LDN targets.

178. A related initiative, the Great Green Wall (GGW) is a pan-African proposal to “green” the continent from west to east in order to counter desertification. It aims to tackle poverty and the degradation of soils through an integrated ecosystem management approach, and focuses on a 15 km wide strip of land through the Sahel-Saharan region from Dakar to Djibouti. In June 2010, eleven countries including Djibouti, signed a convention to create the Great Green Wall Agency and further develop the initiative. In 2011, with support from UNEP and the African Forest Forum (AFF), the Government of Djibouti through the Ministry in charge of Environment conducted basic studies on the indicative GGW layout and developed a strategy to implement the national component of the GGW. The overall objective of the strategy in Djibouti is to create conditions for a sustainable socioeconomic and environmental development for the populations concerned by the GGW layout. The here-proposed GEF-7 project directly contributes to the following short, medium and long term objectives of Djibouti’s GGW strategy: conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity and soil; meet domestic needs and increase revenue through the promotion of income-generating activities; and improve the living conditions of local communities. The MEDD is the national focal point for GGW policy and interventions in Djibouti.

## 8. Knowledge Management

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

179. Knowledge Management under the project has three dimensions:

- how the design of the project builds on lessons and results from prior and ongoing interventions;
- how learning during the project will be captured and disseminated, and how implementation will be adapted as new lessons and results emerge from relevant parallel projects and initiatives during its lifetime; and
- how project lessons and results can be used in and contribute to future interventions as well as sustainability and upscaling past its lifetime.

180. With regard to the first dimension: the here-proposed project aims to apply generally proven solutions to the loss of terrestrial biodiversity and the degradation of forests and rangelands, combining international expert benchmarking (provided so far primarily by the UNDP-GEF RTA co-leading project design) and lessons from national interventions in Djibouti. The latter includes an understanding of the successes, results and challenges of the baseline projects – including the GEF-financed portfolio – described in two PIF sections above (*Relevant recent measures and initiatives*; and *2) the baseline scenario and associated baseline projects*). The lessons extracted and considered in the design include *inter alia*:

- A general tendency that delivery is slow, yielding incomplete results and requiring follow-up project phases; technical implementation support and benchmarking are required, from individual experts or international organisations, and mechanisms are needed for such support to be nationally owned.
- Sustainable development / environmental issues need to become more prominent in the country, and translate to greater political will to achieve changes and concurrent domestic shift in decisions and investments.
- Stakeholder engagement and participation at the earliest stages must be prioritised, especially at the local level.
- Uptake of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment can be limited, and needs dedicated attention and capacity.
- Implementation of sustainable land management and livelihood interventions in particular require involvement of several key partners, most notably the MAEPE-RH, as well as ADDS and CEPC for the setup of the livelihood microcredit scheme.
- At the same time, inter-ministerial cooperation in line with assigned mandates must be improved.
- Coordination, learning and synergies between related projects should be improved.
- The work on protected areas (under the DEDD) requires a stronger institutional setup, especially with regard to achieving on-the-ground impacts. Efforts on mobilising domestic biodiversity financing have been challenging. Both aspects require further capacity development, dedicated international implementation support, and the mobilisation of domestic political support including in ministries of justice and finance.
- Interventions in Day Forest fighting land degradation alone via a community-based grazing agreement and soil and water conservation measures without reference to the existence of the protected area, without reference to water over-extraction from the watershed, and with too weak political support were not able to halt overgrazing and forest degradation. This new project will tackle further levers of change, adding especially those based on rules and regulations, emotional appeals and social influences.

- Production of feedstock in past projects to complement free-range grazing has been successful and sustainable in some cases, but has not yet been combined with an enclosure-based livestock management scheme as a solution to reduce over-grazing.
- Production of tree saplings in nurseries for planting has been successful in some cases, but was too generally too limited in scope (a few ha only), so production volume and planting effort need a dedicated effort and be more ambitious.
- Production of feedstock to complement free-range grazing has been successful and sustainable, but has not yet been combined with an enclosure-based livestock management.

181. The latter two dimensions will be tackled via the implementation of a Knowledge Management Plan and development of a Sustainability and Replication Strategy and Action Plan, under Component 3, together with the work on M&E under Component 4 and the capacity development outputs 1.5 and 2.2. The project here can build on the knowledge management platform on sustainable land management to be developed by the recently launched MEDD/UNDP/GEF-6 project # 9599. This platform will bring together the results (successes and failures) of past and on-going sustainable land and water management interventions in Djibouti, and link with the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) database. Building on and using this platform, the here-proposed project will:

- Recruit international benchmarking experts and dedicated staff for KM, M&E & Communications into the project team.
- Technical trainings for project team and government agencies for benchmarking under Outputs 1.5 on PA management and 2.2 on sustainable land management.
- Trainings and regular exchanges between the project team and representatives of relevant past and ongoing projects, initiatives and organisations, national and regional governments and community leaders, to share and discuss approaches and lessons, plan synergies and feed into adaptive management processes.
- Exchange visits within Djibouti for selected local stakeholders.
- Annual project update workshops for domestic stakeholders.
- Summarise, publish and disseminate lessons that could inform the design and implementation of ongoing or future similar interventions. This will build and expand on the toolbox to be developed by GEF-6 project # 9599. Specific products from the project will tentatively comprise i) project summary and lessons report, ii) the two independent evaluations, and iii) thematic sheets/brochures/flyers/posters on key topics (grazing regimes, feedstock production, intensive livestock, reforestation techniques, participatory management, sustainable water management, gender, specific sustainable livelihoods, linking terrestrial management with sustainable land management, PA management planning, PA signage, **concessions**, PA rules and enforcement, etc.).
- National dissemination of printed materials will target the relevant government agencies, regional governments, organisations, academia, multilateral and bilateral donor/cooperation agencies and local communities.
- International dissemination will take place via online dissemination and submission to WOCAT, UNDP, GEF and related South-South and global platforms, such as IGAD, Africa Solutions Platform, the UN South-South Galaxy knowledge sharing platform and PANORAMA. In addition to potential participation of Djibouti stakeholders in targeted side-events during global meetings on biodiversity conservation (e.g. CBD COP) and sustainable land management (e.g. UNCCD COP), where UNDP could support engagement.

- Systematic tracking of project implementation via participatory M&E processes, and iterative adaptive management processes to address emerging technical, political or management challenges.
- The Sustainability and Replication Strategy and Action Plan to be developed in the latter stages of the project to achieve post-project instwill again integrate international benchmarking

182. Project implementation will moreover entail specific advocacy and communication activities (especially under Output 2.1) to enhance visibility of the project and its goals and leverage political support. Ultimately, the desired outcome is that high-level politicians and decision makers (president, ministers, regional governments and traditional leaders) declare the Day and Mabla forests and watersheds a national heritage and public good to be safeguarded, to maximise the changes of project success and post-project sustainability. The advocacy and communication work will tentatively entail *inter alia*:

- Targeted advocacy outreach to high-level decision makers, informed by policy briefs and leveraged by national champions.
- Outreach events such as annual project update workshops for domestic stakeholders mentioned above.
- Engaging media via invitations to key events and sharing press releases/press kits, etc., for radio/TV broadcasts and newspaper articles to reach broader stakeholder groups in Djibouti, mobilise support and raise awareness on project activities and relevant environmental topics.
- Project website, fact sheets/flyers, posters and banners.
- Regular web stories and video clips to highlight project activities and successes.
- Establishing and feeding social media accounts including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube/Vimeo, if sufficient capacity and resources are available to manage these accounts appropriately.

## 9. 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

### Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

### Annex H: UNDP SESP Pre-Screening

#### Social and Environmental Screening Template (2021 SESP Template, Version 1)

#### Project Information

<i>Project Information</i>	
Project Title	Conserving Biodiversity and Restoring Ecosystem Functions in the Day and Mabila Mountains
Project Number (Atlas Project ID, UNDP PI MS+)	PIMS+ 6331
Location	Djibouti
Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design / PIF
Date	06 Sep 2021, rev 13 Sep 2021

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

<b>QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?</b>
<i>Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach</i>
<p>This project will address the three main dimensions of the interrelationship between human rights and environmental protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· The environment as a pre-requisite for the enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation.</li><li>· Certain human rights, especially access to information, participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters, as essential to good environmental decision-making.</li><li>· The right to a safe, healthy, and ecologically balanced environment as a human right in itself.</li></ul>

The project aims to uphold human rights while improving environmental sustainability and livelihoods of local communities in and around the Day and Mabl a forests in the Tadjourah and Obock regions in Djibouti. The project will facilitate integrated and sustainable management of land and water resources, improve institutional and technical capacity of government agencies and local communities to mitigate pressures on natural resources and address land degradation, safeguard and rangelands. It will also protect key biodiversity in the protected areas and restore important degraded forests. The project will ensure the implementation of the human rights-based approach by fostering the full participation of all actors, including local communities, civil society associations and elected representatives at the regional level in the regions. The project's design explicitly upholds the principles of accountability, participation and inclusion, and equality and non-discrimination.

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

The project aims to empower women and ensure their active participation in implementation and decision-making processes by: i) adopting a targeted communication, advocacy and awareness raising approach to ensure that messages reach women and that their concerns and priorities are heard and subsequently addressed; ii) consulting women to facilitate their active participation in activities, while ensuring that this not affect other chores; iii) actively involving women in planning and implementation (e.g. identification of income-generating activities adapted to them and meeting their needs, and every aspect likely to reduce their daily burden including wood and water collection); iv) developing training programs targeting women's specific activities and fostering their involvement in new activities such as composting and seed collection. The project will pay special attention to ensuring that women have equitable access rights to resources, especially for female-headed households. The project will furthermore engage the National Union of Women of Djibouti to assure visibility and leverage. Lastly, awareness raising on gender equity will be incorporated into the training of government officials to encourage the implementation of gender-sensitive initiatives beyond the project's lifespan.

During the PPG a Gender Analysis and Action Plan will be prepared for implementation throughout the project, for which Component 3 has a standalone gender workstream. Implementation of the Gender Action Plan will be tracked in the Project Results Framework which will also include gender-sensitive indicators.

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

Environmental sustainability is the primary objective of the project as it is focused on the conservation of biodiversity in protected areas and on the restoration of range and forest land and their productive capacity, through increase of aquifer recharge, revegetation, water and soil conservation, establishment of management measures to reduce unsustainable land use and development of alternative options to improve local communities' livelihoods. The enhanced management of groundwater/ aquifer recharge areas and the development of agricultural plots on the wadi terraces will enhance rainwater recharge to support the productivity of agropastoral activities and contribute to the environmental sustainability of the project. The project openly promotes the sustainable management of natural resources by promoting environmental services that do not negatively affect the resources base. The approach is aligned with the requirement for a precautionary approach to natural resource conservation and to promote climate-resilient objectives.

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

The project will inter alia engage local communities and nomadic herders that are mostly of the Afar tribe and here considered Indigenous People. The project will consult and engage these via FPIC. The project will moreover prepare and implement a stakeholder engagement plan, gender action plan and indigenous people action plan. In addition, the project will set up a Stakeholder Response Mechanism that ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by projects have access to appropriate grievance resolution procedures for hearing and addressing project-related complaints and disputes. UNDP's Accountability Mechanism is available to all of UNDP's project stakeholders. The Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) investigates concerns about

non-compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and Screening Procedure raised by project-affected stakeholders and recommends measures to address findings of non-compliance. The Stakeholder Response Mechanism helps project-affected stakeholders, UNDP's partners (governments, NGOs, businesses) and others jointly address grievances or disputes related to the social and/or environmental impacts of UNDP-supported projects. The Project will establish a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) during the first year of implementation. The full details of the GRMs will be agreed upon during the Inception Phase. Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the Project Management Unit, the Executing Agency (UNDP), Implementing Agency (MET), or the GEF.

## Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p><b>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</b></p> <p><i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i></p>	<p><b>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</b></p> <p><i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i></p>			<p><b>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</b></p>
<p><i><b>Risk Description</b></i></p> <p><i>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</i></p>	<p><i><b>Impact and Likelihood (1-5)</b></i></p>	<p><i><b>Significance</b></i></p> <p><i>(Low, Moderate Substantial, High)</i></p>	<p><i><b>Comments (optional)</b></i></p>	<p><i><b>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</b></i></p>
<p>Risk 1. Project implementation could potentially favour one group over another, exclude one group from decision making, exacerbate conflict within and between communities and tribes, impact cultural expressions and traditional livelihoods including of indigenous peoples, and restrict availability, quality of and access to basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups; this could happen without due FPIC</p>	<p><b>I = 4</b></p> <p><b>L = 2</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>The project aims to improve resource governance through an integrated, equitable and highly participative approach that respects the right of indigenous and local communities.</p>	<p><b>OVERALL: The project risk rating is SUBSTANTIAL. Details on further risk assessment and management measures during the PPG, inception and implementation stages are provided hereunder:</b></p> <p><u>The following sequencing of SES work is expected during the PPG (to be annexed to the PRODOC), to further define SES risks and management measures during project inception and implementation:</u></p> <p>-</p>

<p>consultations and processes in place.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: P.4, P.5 P.6, P.13, P.14, 4.3, 4.4, 6.4, 7.5</i></p>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Preparation of a single overarching comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan meeting the requirements of the SES</li> <li>- Preparation of a Gender Analysis and Action Plan</li> <li>- Preparation of an overarching ESMF with an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework and Livelihood Action Plan Framework, spelling out the requirements for inception and implementation (e.g., one or several ESIA, SESA, Livelihood Action Plan, Human Rights Assessment, Resettlement Action Plan, IPP, FPIC, Labour Management Procedures, Stakeholder Engagement Framework Process, Grievance Redress Mechanism, SES capacity development, public disclosure)</li> </ul> <p>Throughout the duration of the project, SES work will be implemented with due oversight by IP and UNDP. Component 3 deals specifically with <i>Safeguards, Gender &amp; Knowledge Management</i> with a dedicated budget.</p> <p><u>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Apply a human rights-based approach and actively engage stakeholders at all levels, establish conflict resolution mechanisms, and set up a grievance redress mechanism and FPIC process where relevant.</li> <li>· Establish site-specific management committees involving local stakeholders for on-site coordination, monitoring and decision-making body regarding PA and land management. The project will provide capacity enhancement support.</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 2. There is a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights and that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations and lack sufficient political will to facilitate the required levels of transparency and accountability for biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p><b>I = 4</b></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>	<p>Stakeholder capacity is generally weak in the country, both within central ministries/ departments/ agencies and at the regional and local community level.</p>	<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· have a strong focus on increasing skills and knowledge to all stakeholder groups, to enable active and meaningful engagement in project initiatives.</li> <li>· contribute to incentivising government partners through joint accountability mechanisms.</li> <li>· ensure that rights-holders are actively engaged in relevant capacity building activities.</li> </ul>

<p>on and integrated land management to be effective</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: P.2, P.3</i></p>				<p>capacity enhancement, outreach and awareness raising activities.</p>
<p>Risk 3. 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></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>		<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· address gender issues and enhance women empowerment through the implementation of a Gender Action Plan, ensuring thorough monitoring that any discrimination of women is not tolerated by project stakeholders including beneficiaries.</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 4. The project could cause harm to natural habitats, biodiversity, ecosystem services, natural resources and also to human health in and around the Day and Mabila PAs, by i) ill-chosen or ill-placed economic activities or SLM interventions inconsistent with biodiversity conservation and rangeland restoration objectives (e.g. increasing herd sizes in overgrazed pastures, wood-cutting</p>	<p><b>I = 4</b></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></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 ground cover to maintain soil function and facilitate groundwater recharge. However i</p>	<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Engage an international advisor, to provide the necessary benchmarking to complement oversight by IP, Project Board and UNDP.</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> </ul>

<p>overgrazed pastures, wood-cutting handicraft) ii) reforestation activities that could replace natural ecosystems or even include the use of invasive species; iii) the provision of waterpoints for livestock in key biodiversity areas that are currently inaccessible; iv) water over-extraction by wells and changes in hydrology by water management infrastructures installed by the project grant or co-financing; v) the use of vulture-killing drugs (diclofenac) in livestock veterinary care; vi) the use of banned pesticides in horticulture plots.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: 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</i></p>			<p>water recharge. 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent the creation of waterpoints for livestock that could lead to unsustainable ecosystem impacts, including through an assessment of existing and required water points during the PPG</li> <li>Review hydrology and hydrogeology during the early implementation phase to assess the water resources and to manage them appropriately to ensure sustainable use; this will be aided by the establishment of a long-term monitoring system of water in the area.</li> <li>facilitate the development of an integrated management plan for the Goda Watershed, compliant with the SES.</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 5. The project will involve changes to land use and access to natural resources in the Day and Mabasites, most notably through the operationalisation of the PAs, restricted access to pastures, changes to grazing regimes and waterpoints, 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 Indigenous Peoples; in this sense, the project could affect the development priorities and cultural heritage (transhumance, valu</p>	<p><b>I = 4</b> <b>L = 4</b></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 Indigenous Peoples. 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, t</p>	<p>Please see also the entries under Risk 1 above. In addition, for this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply IP safeguards throughout the project.</li> <li>Before the start of implementation, prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and emplace a process for Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC), to be implemented throughout project implementation.</li> <li>Prepare a Livelihood Action Plan Framework during the PPG and prepare and implement a Livelihood Action Plan throughout project implementation, to include equitably distributed livelihood and income-generating activities.</li> <li>Decide in the ESMF to be prepared during the PPG, whether a SESA is required for upstream work potentially impacting communities (e.g. under Output 1.1.)</li> </ul>

<p>e systems, wealth management) or some groups of Indigenous Peoples; 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, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.9</i></p>			<p>nese risks may materialise unless due care is given. PA management for biodiversity conservation not be welcome by (all) locals.</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 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>
<p>Risk 6. Some project activities such as the construction of water management structures (micro-dams, etc), could potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement; this applies also to Indigenous Peoples in the area.</p> <p><i>SES Principles and Standards: P.4, P.5, P.13, P.14, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.7, 6.9</i></p>	<p><b>I = 5</b> <b>L = 2</b></p>	<p><b>Moderate</b></p>	<p>Water structures will be small and can be adapted to local circumstances, also population density in the area is low.</p>	<p>Please also see the entries under Risk 5 above. In addition, for this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Via the ESMF, define procedures to further screen, assess and manage the risk of physical displacement, to include the application of FPIC and the development of a Resettlement Action Plan if the risk cannot be fully avoided through site selection.</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 7. 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><b>I = 4</b> <b>L = 3</b></p>	<p><b>Substantial</b></p>		<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Assess this risk in the ESMF,</li> <li>· Allow zero tolerance to misbehaviour by PA management staff/guards</li> </ul>

SES Principles and Standards: 3.8				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Provide human rights training to PA staff including guards</li> <li>· 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</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 8. The creation of surface water management structures including tanks and mini-dams 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>SES Principles and Standards: 3.4</p>	<p><b>I = 3</b></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>		<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The risk will be assessed during the PPG by the ESMF</li> <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</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 9. Workers and community members could be at risk of accidents during construction of soil conservation and water management infrastructures, and the latter could generate important waste volumes</p> <p>SES Principles and Standards: 3.1, 7.6</p>	<p><b>I = 3</b></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	Construction work under the project will be relatively small-scale	<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The risk will be assessed during the PPG by the ESMF, which should advise of the need for Labour Management Procedures during project implementation</li> <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 10. Project support on rural livelihoods may lead to child labour (boys and girls), especially for livestock herding and farming/ gardening as well as for firewood, feedstock and water collecting</p>	<p><b>I = 3</b></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	Child labour is common especially in rural communities in Djibouti	<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The risk will be assessed during the PPG by the ESMF</li> <li>· While it is unclear how this risk can be mitigated while also maintaining additional values and cultural heritage (which can lead to such child labour in rural especially herder communities) are to be maintained or not questioned, the project will raise awareness about the issue and under its social safeguard measures monitor for</li> </ul>

SES Principles and Standards: 7.1, 7.3				child labour in particular
<p>Risk 11. Like in similar other development projects, successful investment by government and donors in the target area might attract additional populations, increasing pressure on local natural resources and potentially undermining project success in turn. 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>SES Principles and Standards: 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 3.6, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6</p>	<p><b>3 = 2</b></p> <p><b>L = 2</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>		<p>For this risk specifically, the project will be designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Government and project team will monitor for such trends and intervene especially where significant immigration and behavioural or wealth changes could undermine project success</li> <li>· In replication efforts, which is linked to knowledge management under the project, care will be given to highlight the lessons learnt on risks</li> </ul>
<p>Risk 12. 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 gains.</p>	<p><b>I = 3</b></p> <p><b>L = 3</b></p>	<b>Moderate</b>	<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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 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 and Mabla ecosystems and the livelihoods they provide, hoping that the areas 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 the Day and Mabla – with the livelihoods dependent on them – can be restored more easily. If</li> </ul>

<p>mental outcomes of the project (e.g., sustained drought preventing success in ecosystem restoration and reducing livelihood options). In addition, the installation of wells could be maladaptive if water extraction rates are or become unsustainable in spite of the project's sustainability goals. Lastly, an investment in local development and water infrastructure 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>echarge, which are valuable climate change adaptation measures.</p> <p>The Moderate risk rating is given only for the immediate project duration timeframe.</p> <p>It is not possible to ascertain at this stage whether annual precipitation in Djibouti in general, and specifically in the target areas, will decrease, remain the same, or increase. It is also not possible to ascertain how the projected changes in seasonal rainfall patterns align with the prevailing seasonal climatic patterns (see Annex G) – whether they will compound the seasonal changes such that dry seasons become drier and wet seasons wetter; or whether the opposite will occur.</p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· 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).</li> <li>· 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.</li> <li>· The project will promote climate-resilient crops and native species for reforestation to reduce the vulnerability of farmers, agro-pastoralists and herders.</li> <li>· The project will collaborate with climate change adaptation projects.</li> </ul>
QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?			
<i>Low Risk</i>			
<i>Moderate Risk</i>			
<i>Substantial Risk</i>		X	

		High Risk			
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)				
	Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects				
	-	X	Is assessment required? (check if “yes”). If yes, indicate overall type and status		Status? (completed, planned)
			X	Targeted assessments	Planned for the PPG: stakeholder analysis, gender analysis
			X	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment) – for downstream components of the project	Planned for implementation (scoped, potentially several)
			X	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	Planned for implementation
			X	Are management plans required? (check if “yes”). If yes, indicate overall type and status	Status? (completed, planned)
			X	Targeted management plans	Planned for PPG: comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan, gender action plan
			X	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Planned for PPG, including an IPPF
		X	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan)	Planned for implementation (scoped, potentially several)	
Based on identified risks, which Principles/Pr			Comments (not required)		

	<i>object-level Standards triggered?</i>		
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind		
	Human Rights	X	
	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	X	
	Accountability	X	
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	X	
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	X	
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	X	
	4. Cultural Heritage	X	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	X	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	X	
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	X	
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	X	

## Final Sign Off

*Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included*

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have “checked” to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have “cleared” the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.

### SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental <u>Risks</u>	
<b>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</b>	<b>Answer (Y/N)</b>
<b>Human Rights</b>	
P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N
P.2 Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project?	Y
P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Y
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.4 adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	Y
P.5 inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities? <a href="#">[1]</a>	Y
P.6 restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	Y
P.7 exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	N
<b>Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment</b>	
P.8 Have women’s groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N

ess, grievance processes, public statements):	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.9 adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	Y
P.10 reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	Y
P.11 limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	Y
P.12 exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence?  <i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	Y
<b>Accountability</b>	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
P.13 exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	Y
P.14 grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	Y
P.15 risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project?	N
<b>Sustainability and Resilience:</b> Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below	
<b>Project-Level Standards</b>	
<b>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
1.1 adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?  <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	Y
1.2 activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	Y

1.3	changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	Y
1.4	risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	Y
1.5	exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	N
1.6	introduction of invasive alien species?	Y
1.7	adverse impacts on soils?	Y
1.8	harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Y
1.9	significant agricultural production?	N
1.10	animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	Y
1.11	significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	Y
1.12	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? <sup>[2]</sup>	N
1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) <sup>[3]</sup>	N
1.14	adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	N
<b>Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
2.1	areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	N
2.2	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	Y
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i>	Y
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	N
<b>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security</b>		

<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	Y
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	N
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	N
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	Y
3.5	transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	N
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	Y
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	N
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	Y
<b>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	N
4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	N
4.3	adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	Y
4.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	Y
4.5	utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	N
<b>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	Y

5.2 economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	Y
5.3 risk of forced evictions? <sup>[4]</sup>	N
5.4 impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	Y
<b>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</b>	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
6.1 areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	Y
6.2 activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Y
6.3 impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?  <i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is “yes”, then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk</i>	Y
6.4 the absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	Y
6.5 the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	Y
6.6 forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?  <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above</i>	Y
6.7 adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	Y
6.8 risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	N
6.9 impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?  <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	Y
<b>Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions</b>	

<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	Y
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	N
7.3	use of child labour?	Y
7.4	use of forced labour?	N
7.5	discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	Y
7.6	occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle?	Y
<b>Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
8.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	N
8.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Y
8.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	N
8.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?  <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the <a href="#">Montreal Protocol</a>, <a href="#">Minamata Convention</a>, <a href="#">Basel Convention</a>, <a href="#">Rotterdam Convention</a>, <a href="#">Stockholm Convention</a></i>	Y
8.5	the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	Y
8.6	significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	Y

## Rating the 'Impact' of a Risk

Score	Rating	Social and environmental impacts
5	Extreme	Significant adverse impacts on human populations and/or environment. Adverse impacts of large-scale magnitude and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts, cumulative impacts) and duration (long-term, permanent and/or irreversible); areas adversely impacted include areas of high value and sensitivity (e.g. valuable ecosystems, critical habitats); adverse impacts to rights, lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; involve significant levels of displacement or resettlement; generates significant quantities of greenhouse gas emissions; impacts may give rise to significant social conflict
4	Extensive	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of considerable magnitude, spatial extent and duration, but more limited than Extreme (e.g. more predictable, mostly temporary, reversible). <i>Impacts of projects that may affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples are to be considered at a minimum potentially Extensive</i>
3	Intermediate	Impacts of medium magnitude, limited in scale (site-specific) and duration (temporary), can be avoided, managed and/or mitigated with relatively uncomplicated accepted measures
2	Minor	Very minor impacts in terms of severity and magnitude (e.g. small affected area, very low number of people affected) and duration (short), may be easily avoided, managed, mitigated
1	Negligible	Negligible or no adverse impacts on communities, individuals, and/or environment

Rating the 'Likelihood' of a Risk		Determining 'Significance' of Risk						
Score	Rating	Im pa ct	5	M	S	S	H	H
5	Expected		4	L	M	S	S	H
4	Very likely		3	L	M	M	M	S
3	Moderately likely		2	L	L	L	M	M
2	Low likelihood		1	L	L	L	L	L
1	Not likely			1	2	3	4	5
			Likelihood					
		Low, Moderate, Substantial, High						

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[1] Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to “women and men” or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender and transsexual people.

[2] See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

[3] See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

[4] Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

#### Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Submitted

Djibouti Pre-SESP

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

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Dini Abdallah Omar	Secretary General GEF OFP	Directorate for Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development	9/14/2021

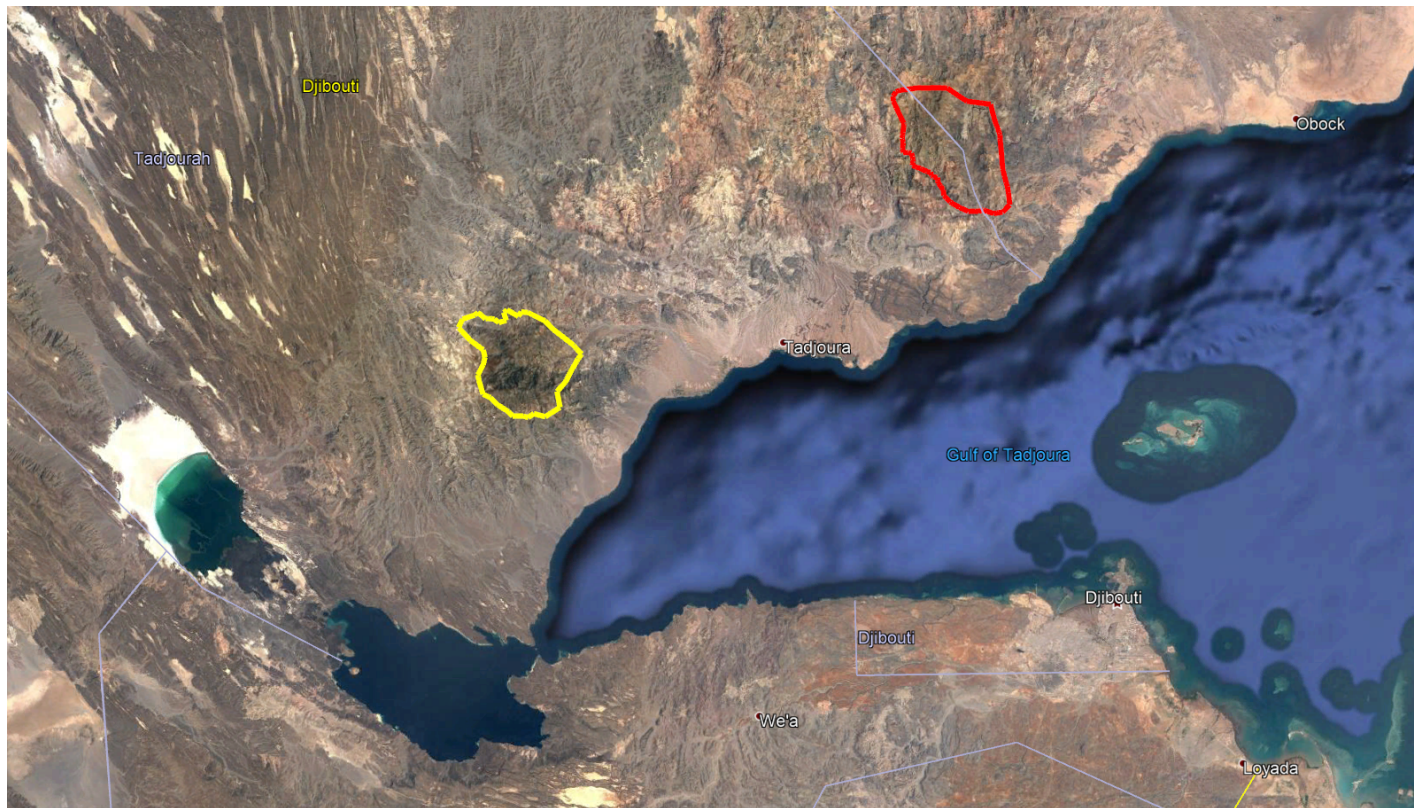
#### ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

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

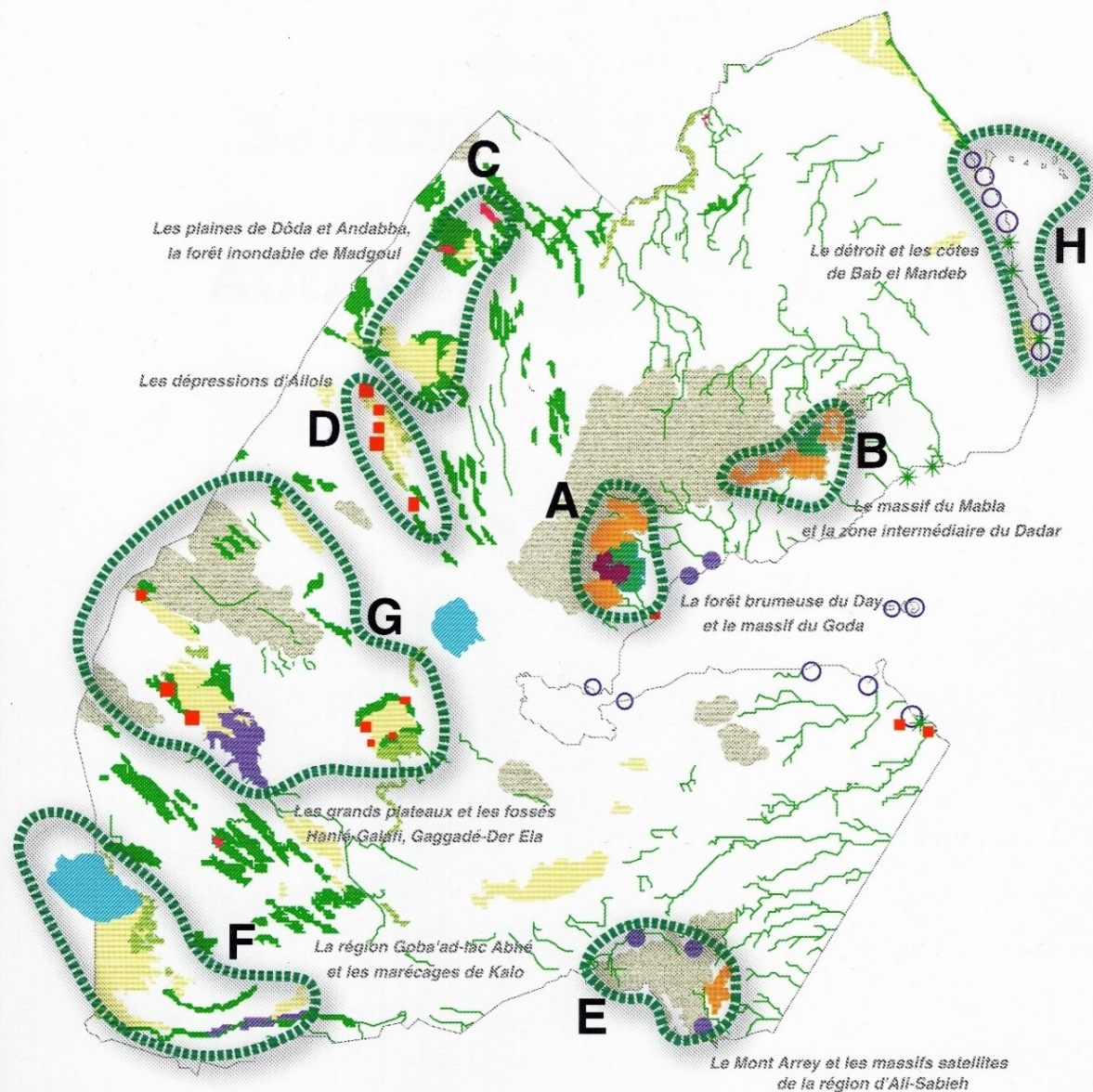
Tentative and approximative PA areas are shown in the polygons in the below Google Earth map

Day Forest PA (yellow polygon): 11°46' N, 42°40' E

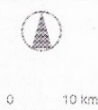
Mabla Forest PA (red polygon): 11°56' N, 43°00' E



#### Annex B: Map of relict plant ecosystems and areas of major ecological interest



- Végétation des dépressions inondables, steppes et formation à *Suaeda* sp.
- Zone à *Cadaba rotundifolia* et *Salvadora persica*
- Boisement inondable à *Acacia nilotica*
- Prairie marécageuse intérieure
- ✱ Prairie littorale
- Mangrove
- Site remarquable

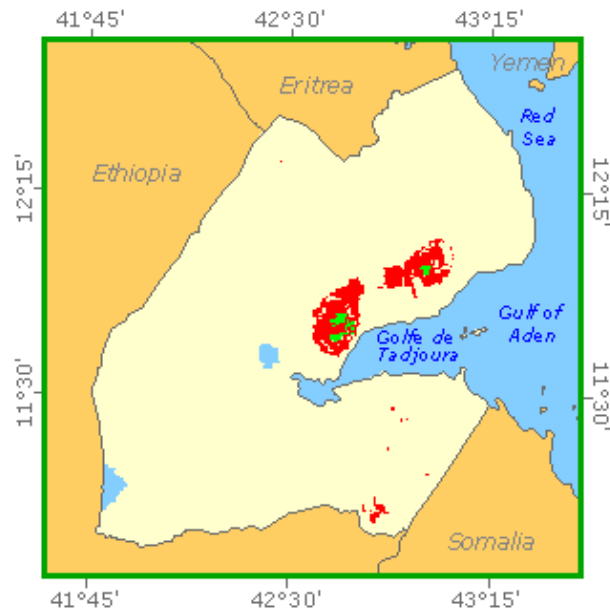


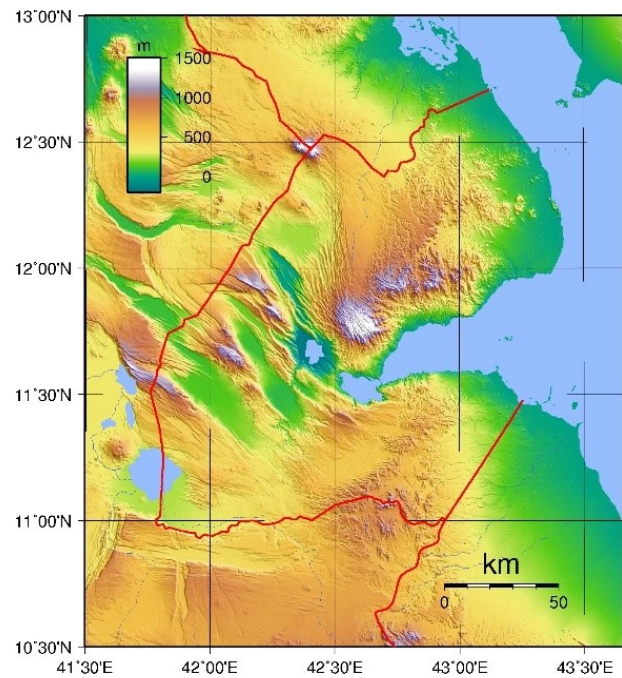
- Boisement à *Juniperus procera*
- Boisement à *Terminalia brownii*
- Steppe arborée à *Acacia etbaïca*
- Steppes d'altitudes à *Acacia* sp. et plantes succulentes
- Doumeraie (palmeraie à *Hyphaene thebaïca*)
- Principale galerie forestière à *Acacia asak*
- Zone nue sur argiles et limons ("bara")
- Lac salé

Carte des milieux végétaux reliques, confinés ou rares et des zones d'intérêt écologique majeur regroupés en huit grandes régions naturelles.  
(d'après Audru & al., 1987, modifié)

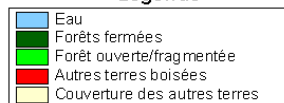
63

### Annex C: Forests and Topography of Djibouti





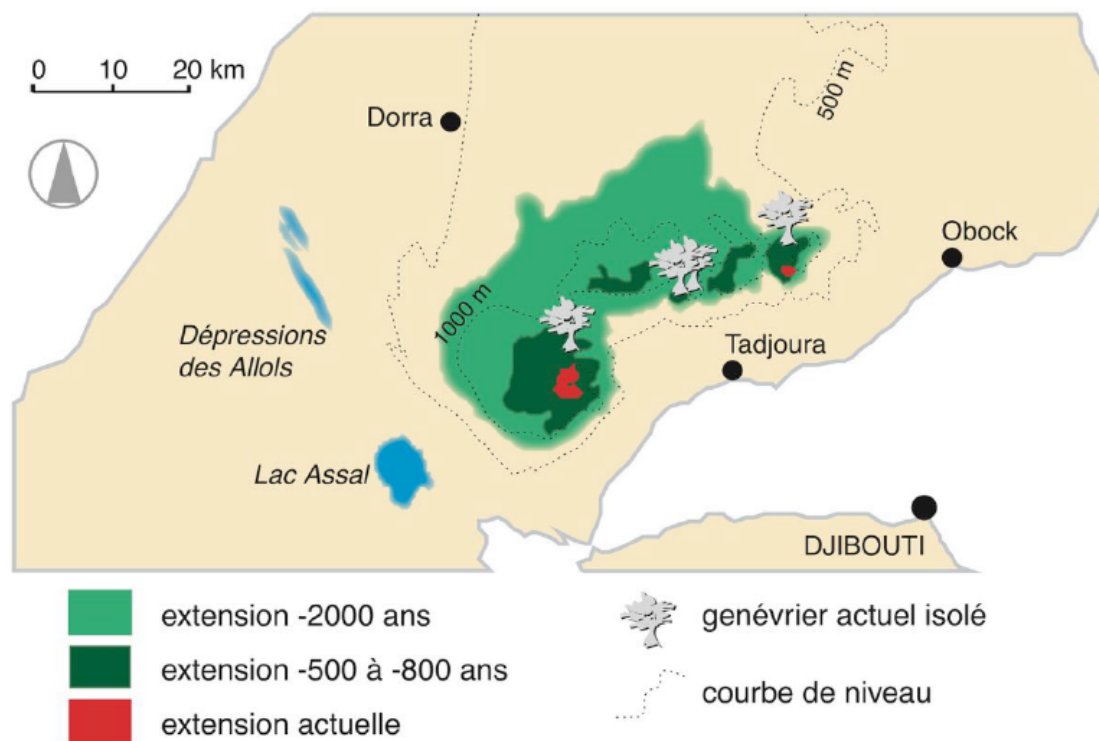
#### Légende



#### Annex D: Evolution of Day Forest over last 2000 years

Carte 3

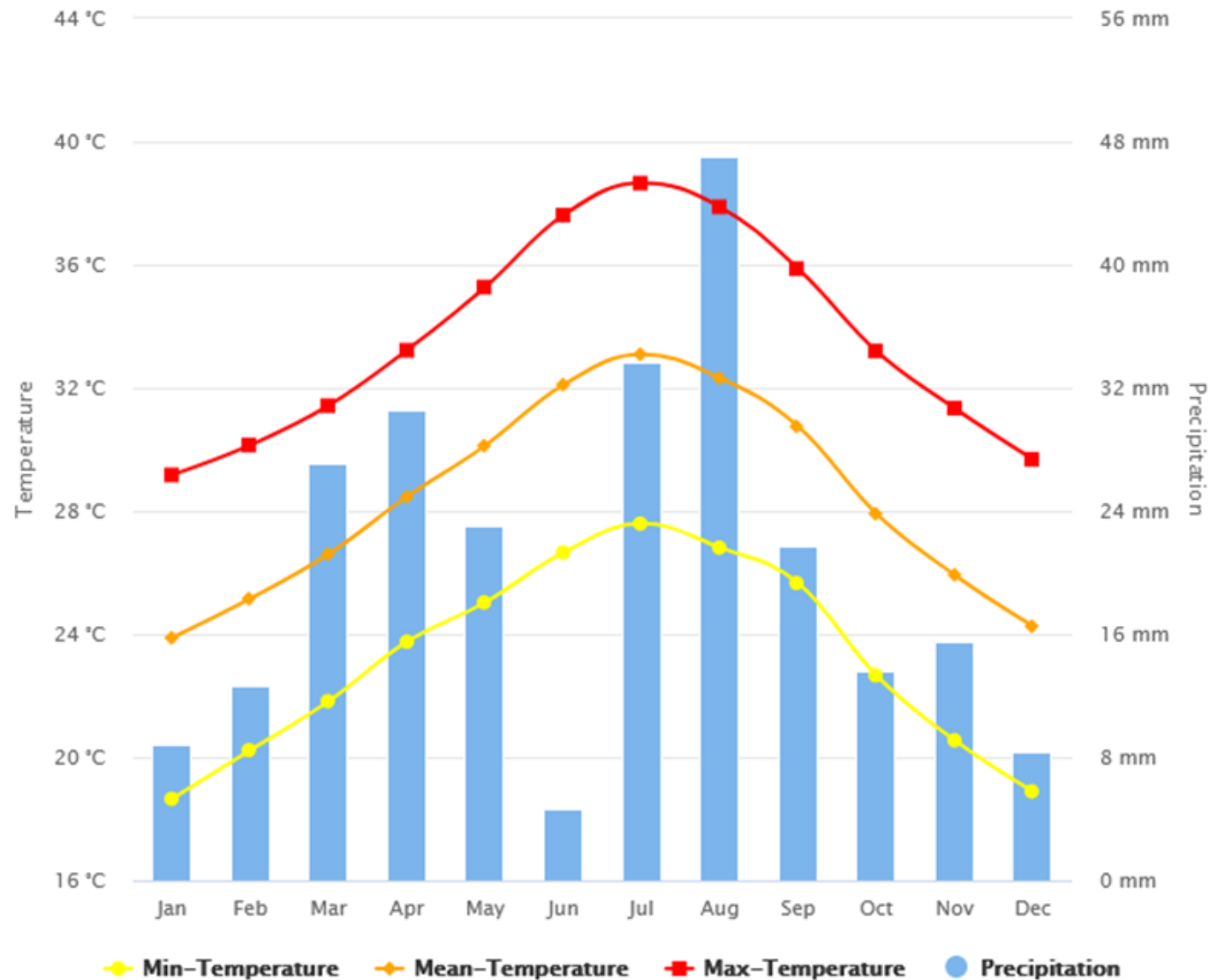
La régression du faciès à genévrier de la grande forêt du Day-Mabla depuis environ 2000 ans



Source : A. Laurent, 2002, d'après J. Blot, 1987

Annex G: Monthly climatology of Djibouti 1991-2020

# Monthly Climatology of Min-Temperature, Mean-Temperature, Max-Temperature & Precipitation 1991-2020 Djibouti



Source: <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/djibouti/climate-data-historical>

