

## Combating land degradation through integrated and sustainable range and livestock management to promote resilient livelihoods in Northern Punjab

### Part I: Project Information

**GEF ID**

10693

**Project Type**

FSP

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT/NGI**

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

**Project Title**

Combating land degradation through integrated and sustainable range and livestock management to promote resilient livelihoods in Northern Punjab

**Countries**

Pakistan

**Agency(ies)**

FAO

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

Ministry of Climate Change and Punjab Forest Department

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Land Degradation

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation, Influencing models, Civil Society, Type of Engagement, Stakeholders, Communications, Private Sector, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Learning, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Pasture Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approach, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Local Communities, SMEs, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Education, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Beneficiaries, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Field Visit, Conference, Capacity Development, Seminar, Training, Workshop, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change

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

Climate Change Mitigation 1

**Climate Change Adaptation**

Climate Change Adaptation 1

**Duration**

48 In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

207,395.00

**Submission Date**

9/27/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-1-1	GET	1,683,105.00	10,102,100.00
LD-1-3	GET	500,000.00	3,000,000.00
Total Project Cost (\$)		2,183,105.00	13,102,100.00

## B. Indicative Project description summary

### Project Objective

To conserve and restore critically important rangelands and livestock production systems and strengthen the resilience and sustainability of rangeland-dependent livelihoods in vulnerable dryland regions of northern Punjab, Pakistan

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
1. Government capacity to assess and plan for effective rangeland management	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Strengthened provincial and district policy and planning frameworks and capacities in Punjab province to implement rangeland management that reduces land degradation</p> <p><i>Indicators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>Rangeland Management Policy for Punjab</i></li> <li>· <i>New Provincial (1) and district (3) sustainable land and resource management plans include concepts of land degradation neutrality</i></li> <li>· <i>1 provincial and 3 district mechanisms (forums) in place for cross sectoral collaboration to implement / support sustainable land and resource management plans</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Local expertise in place to support and monitor climate-sensitive sustainable management of rangelands (at least 200 staff of government agencies, NGOs and CSOs have with skills in sustainable rangeland monitoring, management planning and restoration)</i></p>	<p>1.1.1 - Provincial rangeland management policy developed</p> <p>1.1.2 - Comprehensive assessment of the status of all rangelands in the project area</p> <p>1.1.3 - Provincial and district sustainable land and resource management plans developed and under implementation</p> <p>1.1.4 - Land and resource information, monitoring and decision support systems established</p> <p>1.1.5 – Capacities of provincial and district stakeholders for sustainable</p>	GET	450,000.00	1,950,000.00



rangeland  
management  
strengthened

1.1.6 - Provincial  
and district  
mechanisms for  
cross-sectoral  
collaboration  
established and  
operating

2. Community led livestock management to reduce land degradation	Technical Assistance	<p>2.1 Community rangeland - livestock management systems in place to reduce land and water degradation and ensure sustainable production</p> <p><i>Indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>At least 6 community rangeland and livestock management plans that mainstream land degradation neutrality principles</i></li> <li>· <i>8,000 ha of moderately degraded grasslands managed under a system of periodic closures</i></li> <li>· <i>15,000 ha of rangeland under regulated grazing management systems (pargorh[1])</i></li> </ul> <p>2.2 Rangeland ecosystems, livestock production and livelihoods in three target districts benefitting from sustainable management, restoration, and production activities</p> <p><i>Indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· <i>50 ha (5 sites) supported by new water distribution systems</i></li> </ul>	<p>2.1.1 - Capacities of communities / community groups to implement sustainable rangeland and livestock management strengthened</p> <p>2.1.2 – Community-level rangeland and livestock management plans developed and under implementation</p> <p>2.1.3 – Mechanisms in place to support the participation of women in rangeland and livestock management</p> <p>2.2.1 - Rangeland areas conserved through improved</p>	GET	1,459,148.00	10,025,000.00
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· 175,000 livestock with improved health through provision of quality fodder and feed supplementation

· 100 ha of agricultural farming systems planted with fodder crops

· 200 ha planted with fodder trees

· 5,000 ha rangeland reseeded with local grass/fodder species

1,000 direct beneficiaries with improved livelihoods from livestock raising or sustainable harvesting of forest products (of which at least 300 are women)

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[1] Rotational grazing and resting of rangelands

management / production approaches

2.2.2 – Degraded rangeland areas restored and supporting improved productivity

2.2.3 – Productivity and health of livestock herds improved

2.2.4 - Increased availability of sustainably grown fodder for livestock production

2.2.5 – Livelihoods opportunities from livestock raising strengthened

2.2.6 – Livelihoods opportunities from sustainable harvesting of forest products strengthened

3. Knowledge management and M&E	Technical Assistance	3.1 Effective knowledge management, communications and project M&E	3.1.1 Increased local awareness and understanding of problems and opportunities associated with rangelands and livestock	GET	170,000.00	500,000.00
			3.1.2 Project knowledge management plan developed and under implementation			
			3.1.3 Effective project M&E plan in place			
Sub Total (\$)					2,079,148.00	12,475,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET					103,957.00	627,100.00
Sub Total(\$)					103,957.00	627,100.00
Total Project Cost(\$)					2,183,105.00	13,102,100.00

**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	Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan	Grant	Investment mobilized	12,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Punjab Provincial Forestry, Environment and Wildlife Department	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	850,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	52,100.00
Beneficiaries	Local communities	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>				<b>13,102,100.00</b>

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

The Ministry of Climate Change, Government of Pakistan's grant investment mobilized is from its 10 Billion Trees Project (10 million USD) and Public Sector Development Program, Government of Pakistan (2 million). These are considered to be investment mobilized, as "recurrent expenditure" of the government is considered to be year to year "normal" expenses such as salaries etc. that has been budgeted and spent over for a long time through its national budgeting process. The two government projects listed are considered investment mobilized as they are special government initiatives funded from Federal and Provincial governments as well as donors, and do not fall within "normal" working budget of the government. The estimated cofinance currently only accounts for anticipated funds for these programmes over the lifetime of the GEF project from federal government and provincial government sources. These will be further verified and detailed during the PPG phase.

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(\$)
FAO	GET	Pakistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,183,105	207,395	2,390,500.00
Total GEF Resources(\$)					2,183,105.00	207,395.00	2,390,500.00

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)  
PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)			
100,000				9,500			
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Pakistan	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	100,000	9,500	109,500.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					100,000.00	9,500.00	109,500.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3000.00	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)

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)
3,000.00			

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
28000.00	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)
28,000.00			

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

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	157066	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (direct)	157,066			

Expected metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> e (indirect)	
Anticipated start year of accounting	2021
Duration of accounting	20

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

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

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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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	10,000			
Male	10,000			
Total	20000	0	0	0

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### Overview

Much of Pakistan consists of arid, semi-arid and sub-humid zones in which poverty levels are acute, vegetative cover is limited, and extensive areas of rangelands / pastures are subjected to grazing pressure beyond their carrying capacities, resulting in ecosystem retrogression (including loss of vegetative cover and palatable species, as well as declining productivity and nutrient cycling), land degradation and even desertification. These rangelands are vitally important, not only because they provide forage for livestock, but also because they contribute to soil conservation, the conservation of surface water and groundwater, and the provision of various ecosystem services including wildlife habitat, fuelwood, minerals, recreation, and various products such as mushrooms, medicinal plants and honey. These important rangelands are continuing to decline rapidly, and to date sustainable rangeland management has received only minimal attention and support in Pakistan from both government and donor agencies.

Pakistan has a population of 213 million persons, as well as 202 million head of livestock<sup>[1]</sup>. The country's GDP is US\$ 304.4 billion, but 39% of the population lives below the poverty line<sup>[2]</sup>. The majority of the rural population draw its livelihoods from subsistence agriculture and/or pastoralism. The raising of livestock, which takes place predominantly in rangelands, constitutes 11.2% of Pakistan's GDP and 3.1% of its export earnings<sup>[3]</sup>. The livestock sector is increasingly important to the national economy; over last 45 years, the population of cattle has increased by 219%, sheep by 299%, and goats by 650%<sup>[4]</sup>. Pakistani livestock herders engage in sedentary, migratory and transhumant grazing practices; in addition, various groups from neighbouring Afghanistan (e.g. the Pawindas) bring substantial livestock herds into western Pakistan (including the project target areas) for seasonal grazing.

Punjab province contains approximately 18% of the country's rangelands, covering 8.2 million ha or 40% of the province; these rangelands vary from largely temperate in the North, Mediterranean in the Western mountains of the Suleiman Range, and arid and semi-arid desert in the region of Cholistan. Although the northern temperate areas contain the most productive rangeland areas, the extensive semi-desert and desert rangelands of the Punjab are also an important resource that needs to be developed (many of the deserts in the province are man-made and have resulted from a long history of overgrazing and other forms of mismanagement). Most of the forests and rangelands in the Punjab are in the public sector and are managed under the Forest Act of 1927 (some private/community owned rangelands also exists in the area). On public lands, local populations have rights of way, the right to collect water and fuelwood for domestic use, and livestock grazing rights (in some cases, grazing rights require partial or full payment of grazing fees). There are some minor conflicts over the use of rangelands, usually between local and migratory livestock herders.

**Table 1: Information on three districts in the project area**

District	Total Area (ha)	Area of rangeland[5]		Livestock Population[6]		
		Hectares	% of District	Livestock*	Poultry	Total
Attock	678,168	200,788	29.6	1,375,062	952,432	<b>2,327,494</b>
Chakwal	655,586	200,561	30.6	1,402,459	818,951	<b>2,221,410</b>
Jehlum	131,720	131,720	36.3	713,339	329,776	<b>1,043,115</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,696,426</b>	<b>533,069</b>		<b>3,490,860</b>	<b>2,101,159</b>	<b>5,592,019</b>

\* Cattle, Buffalo, Sheep, Goats, Camels, Horses, Mules, Asses

## Target Landscape

The project area consists of three adjoining districts of in northern Punjab province: Attock, Chakwal, and Jehlum. This part of Punjab province was targeted because of the high degree of land degradation in the area (due to overgrazing); the poverty of local communities; the lack of effective rangeland management systems; the mix of rainfed and irrigation agriculture in the area that will allow for testing of different approaches to rangeland management; and the relatively high level of accessibility of this area, which will facilitate replication and up-scaling of project activities and lessons learnt. The three specific districts were selected based on the following criteria: 1) high percentage of rangeland in the district; 2) high percentage of rainfed area in the district; 3) high livestock density levels; 4) high vulnerability to droughts; and 5) high percentage of small farmers. Rangelands and livestock play a vitally important role in these three districts; 80-90% of the population in the districts is directly or indirectly involved in livestock related activities, and the people of the area have a strong cultural attachment to livestock, so that even rich households will frequently keep some livestock in their homes. Major vegetative species include: Phulai (*Acacia modesta*), Dhak (*Butea frondosa*), Kao (*Olea ferruginea*), Mallah (*Zizyphus nummularia*), Garanda (*Carrisa spinarum*), Patakhi (*Gymnospora royaliana*), Pharion (*Digitaria bicornis*) and Lumb (*Aristida depressa*).

- Attock District: Attock district, situated on the left bank of Indus River, consists primarily of hills, plateaus, and dissected plains ranging from 596-946 meters above sea level. Approximately 36.1% of the district is rangeland, which is heavily used for grazing and highly important for local livelihoods; these grazing lands are also utilized by nomadic graziers during the winter. The district is a subtropical sub-humid region, with annual rainfall from 750 to 875 mm, over 70% of which occurs during the summer monsoon (meaning that there are frequent shortages of livestock forage during the winter and spring).

- Chakwal District: Chakwal District, which is located at the base of the Potohar Plateau and the Salt Range, ranges from 300 to 1,500 meters in elevation and consists of scrub forest covered hills in the southwest and level plains interspaced with dry rocky patches in the north and northeast. Rangelands and forests cover 39% of the district area and are primarily used for the grazing of sheep and goats. Rainfed agriculture is widely practiced in this district; wheat, maize, millets, groundnut, gram, mustard, sunflower, and soybean are major agricultural crops. The district is sub-tropical, semiarid to sub-humid zone; annual rainfall varies from 400 mm in the southern part of the Salt Range to nearly over 890 mm at Kharian. Many areas of the district are subject to heavy soil

erosion and gully formation due to excessive land use and subsequent removal of vegetative cover. The scrub forests in the district are gradually disappearing due to excessive exploitation for firewood and grazing by livestock, and the carrying capacity of grazing areas in general has been greatly diminished and much of the area is now covered with unpalatable plant and grass species.

· Jehlum District: The Jehlum River passes through the eastern and southern part of Jehlum district; the lands along the river are generally flat, alluvial and quite fertile and produce numerous crops. However, the northern part of the district is primarily rough and broken upland, and contains the Khwera salt mines, which are one of the largest salt mines in the world. Rangelands and forests cover 44% of the district area and support large numbers of livestock, and local livelihoods are highly dependent on livestock grazing; nomadic herders also come here from the hilly areas of Kashmir and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Most grazing lands consist of dry, deciduous scrub vegetation or some open forest areas.

## Threats

Most communities in the project area are primarily pastoral and derive the majority of their livelihoods from livestock rearing. Over the past several decades, pasturelands (including grasslands and scrub forests) in the project target area have suffered from significant degradation due to overgrazing and lack of proper pasture management systems. Historically, livestock ranges in the project area had vegetative cover of over 50%, but decades of over-grazing and recurrent droughts have resulted in devastating declines in rangeland health and productivity. Social changes have eroded cultural norms and traditional production methods that prevented degradation and/or facilitated pasture recovery (communal herding, rotational - seasonal grazing areas, drought reserves, etc.). In addition, the arrival of large numbers of Afghan refugees and their livestock herds in early the 1980s, as well as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in more recent years, has pushed many rangelands beyond their carrying capacities. As a result, today the vegetative cover in considerable areas of these districts has been completely eliminated, while the remaining grazing areas are significantly degraded with shrinking numbers of nutritious and palatable plant species. With the loss of vegetative cover, soil erosion has increased dramatically, contributing to the degradation of downstream areas and declines in water quality. The loss of native vegetation has also allowed invasive alien species to spread widely in some areas, including for example *Parthenium hysterophorus* in Attock District. Other threats to rangelands in the project area include construction of housing, roads and mines in Attock District, and coal mining and oil and gas exploration in Jehlum District.

Climate change is also producing profound negative impacts on the rangelands of Pakistan. Due to its geographic location and heavy dependence on agriculture for livelihoods, Pakistan has been ranked as the 8<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country in the world to climate change impacts[7]. The project area in north-western Pakistan is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as it is primarily arid and semi-arid and livelihoods are predominantly agro-pastoral. Furthermore, overall aridity and the frequency of recurrent droughts have increased, resulting in higher rates of crop failures. If the process of land degradation and crop failures cannot be arrested and reversed, it is feared that the practice of subsistence agriculture will continue to diminish, and pastoralism will increase, leading to further deterioration of already depleted rangelands, and possibly even climate-forced migration. Preliminary climate risk assessment undertaken of this project at concept stage is rated as high (on a scale of low, moderate, high and very high). This assessment has been uploaded in the project document section for this project.

**The project targets the following barriers:**

Inadequate information and government capacities and frameworks to support sustainable rangeland management: A lack of clear policy guidelines and institutional arrangements greatly constrains the management of rangelands and livestock in Pakistan. For example, although a draft national rangeland policy exists, it has not received support from provincial authorities and therefore has yet to be finalized and adopted. In addition, responsibilities for rangeland management are spread among several agencies at the provincial level, with the Forestry, Environment and Wildlife Department responsible for rangeland forest resources, the Agriculture Department responsible for fodder production on agricultural lands, and the Livestock Department responsible for livestock raising and health. At present, there are no coordination mechanisms to enable the effective integration of these rangeland management, livestock management and fodder production policies and activities. The lack of clear policies and mandates also means that disputes between tribal groups and the government over rangeland management occur on a frequent basis. In addition to policy constraints, government agencies have insufficient capacities to effectively implement sustainable and resilient rangeland management. Though government agencies have theoretical and academic knowledge on the management of rangelands and livestock, the number of staff with practical and on-the-ground skills to translate knowledge into action is very limited. In addition, decision-makers and planners responsible for rangelands and the livestock sector have little knowledge, understanding or experience with sustainable rangeland management approaches or of strategies for integrating climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into relevant policies, development programs, and management in the field. Finally, Pakistan generally has very low levels of data and information regarding the extent and health of rangelands and trends in rangeland conditions, including information on different types of rangeland ecosystems, species composition, productivity and biomass, fodder resources (including which species are palatable for livestock), and the extent and degree of rangeland degradation. **Land degradation issues are the responsibility of various government agencies, and within each province the Planning and Development Department is tasked with ensuring inter-sectoral coordination on land degradation. In terms of LDN indicators, global indicators such as soil organic carbon, land productivity, and land cover are measured under the UN REDD+ initiative in Pakistan. However, there have been no significant assessments carried out in the country of land degradation conditions and trends; there is no existing system of land degradation classification in Pakistan; and very few programs / projects to address land degradation have been implemented to date.** The carrying capacities of rangelands in Pakistan have never been assessed, and as a result every year the provincial forest departments issue permits to livestock herders with no real idea of the sustainability of the allowed grazing levels. There is also insufficient information on livestock grazing patterns or the size and composition of livestock herds. This lack of information prevents rangeland managers and local communities from making effective decisions on rangeland and livestock grazing management, and from mobilizing programs and support for the most critical areas and interventions.

Limited understanding, technical support and market mechanisms, and capacities of local stakeholders to participate in rangeland management and to adopt sustainable rangeland and livestock management practices: In the districts in northern Punjab targeted by the project, livestock rearing is characterized by large flocks of sheep and goats managed by sedentary, nomadic and transhumant pastoralists. Traditionally, the rangelands, which are primarily managed under open access systems, were able to sustain these patterns of livestock grazing, including the seasonal movements of herds and the people who tend them. However, in recent decades, significant increases in the numbers of the livestock in the area (including the addition of significant herds belonging to IDPs and Afghan refugees) have overwhelmed the carrying capacity of the landscape under an open access grazing regime, leading to significant ecosystem degradation, reduced animal productivity, and increasing levels of disease among livestock herds. Furthermore, traditional local grazing systems such as *pargorh* (deferred rotational grazing) have largely declined during this period, although they continue to be used in a few locales. Rangeland ecosystems in the project area are also threatened by the lack of any land classification system and legal / policy barriers or other restrictions to land conversion, including the conversion of rangelands to other uses. As a result, rangelands in the project area are being converted to other, more profitable land uses, including housing estates, orchards and agricultural fields (especially in areas where irrigation is possible). More recently, significant areas of rangelands have been converted



into forests due to massive afforestation initiatives. The result of this has been to concentrate the ever-growing livestock herds into smaller and smaller grazing areas. Furthermore, local stakeholders have inadequate knowledge and capacities to effectively manage landscapes for multiple global benefits and adapt to climate change. Local pastoralists' knowledge of livestock and rangelands is mostly limited to that which has been passed on orally from generation to generation, and only very limited technical knowledge has been developed and disseminated to extension workers or herders. As a result, livestock rearing in the project area is characterized by low productivity levels, overgrazing is widespread while understanding of the impacts of overgrazing is limited, and herders continue to employ unsustainable practices that contribute to soil erosion, loss of vegetative cover, and other land degradation impacts. Livestock rearing in the area is also constrained by insufficient market mechanisms, with the value chains for sheep, goats, cattle and other livestock in the project area being underdeveloped. Most livestock herders have poor access to markets, and they receive low prices for their products as middlemen control their access to purchasers and take most of the profits for themselves. In addition, the poor health of many animals by the time they reach purchasers means that prices for livestock are very low. Finally, although there are no major conflicts over land and resources in the project area, minor conflicts do occur over the use of rangelands, especially between local and migratory livestock grazers. Although such conflicts are mostly settled eventually, there is a need for well-structured and widely accepted community-level conflict resolution platforms in the area.

Insufficient knowledge, understanding & awareness of rangeland management issues: Awareness and understanding of the importance of and options for sustainable management of rangelands and livestock in the project area is very low among policy makers, resource managers, and local communities. Generally speaking, public and private stakeholders are mostly only familiar with traditional approaches to rangeland management and livestock rearing that are no longer viable in a reality where continually increasing grazing pressure and the cumulative impacts of land degradation and climate change are pushing the activities of the livestock sector well beyond the carrying capacity of the landscape. Unfortunately, there is a general lack of knowledge regarding integrated approaches to sustainable food production that link land and water resource conservation, food security, climate resilience, and the sustainable livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists. In addition, there are no systems in place to facilitate the sharing of knowledge on best practices or lessons learnt in sustainable management of rangelands and livestock between different agencies, districts or provinces, and local communities and livestock herders generally receive very limited awareness raising regarding sustainable practices, the impacts of their activities on the rangeland, the ecological and economic importance of preserving ecosystem services, etc.

#### 1) **Baseline Scenario and associated baseline projects**

##### Baseline Scenario

A number of national and provincial policies and programs address forest and rangeland management in Pakistan. The National Forest Policy and the Provincial Forest Policy of Punjab call for measures to prevent land degradation and desertification through afforestation programmes, improved land use planning, conservation of existing forests, increased research on dryland planting, and treatment of degraded lands. The National Forest Policy provides a legal basis for the federal government to arrange and extend support to all provinces and regions towards achieving their respective targets and meeting international obligations by improving their capacity and financial gaps. In addition, the Forest Acts of each province are being amended to provide stronger regulations to reduce the cutting of trees and prohibit land use changes. The Punjab Forest Department manages 2.64 million hectares of rangelands spread

among 12 districts within 4 range management divisions (Chakwal, Bhakkar, D.G Khan and Bahawalpur). These rangelands are managed entirely for the benefit of the farming communities located within and near to the rangelands. The Government of Punjab province has engaged experts to develop and implement a Livestock Products Export strategy to cater to selected export markets that can provide high returns in a relatively short time period, and the province is also working to improve the functioning of livestock markets (i.e. by streamlining regulations in the livestock sector; improving the functioning of livestock markets; and rationalizing relevant laws and regulations)[8]. Soil Conservation units within provincial Agriculture Departments are making concerted efforts to protect watershed areas and conserve soil on fragile slopes.

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The Green Pakistan Programme is a national forestry sector programme whose main objective is to facilitate the transition towards an environmentally resilient Pakistan by mainstreaming notions of adaptation and mitigation through ecologically targeted initiatives covering afforestation, biodiversity conservation and enabling policy environment. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3.652 billion for a period of five years. The program is targeting the planting of one hundred million new indigenous plants over five years in different ecological zones, and key activities that complement the proposed GEF project include the restoration & improvement of scrub forests; conservation of watersheds and soils in hilly and river catchment areas; and the promotion of participatory forestry approaches.

Pakistan's National Rural Support Programme (NRSP) and provincial rural support programs are especially active in areas with degraded lands, focusing on alternate livelihoods and financing programs. Similarly many NGOs and CBOs are working in degraded areas to help people in diversifying the sources of income thus reducing pressure on agricultural and pasture lands. The organization SCOPE has implemented several projects to provide water infrastructure, livestock support services and vocational and marketing training in various trades. Similarly, Thardeep (NGO) is providing micro credits and vocational support to thousands of people to earn livelihoods and come out of poverty, while PVDP (NGO) has provided assets such as goats and fruit trees with water tanks to communities.

Pakistan, together with partner international organizations, is developing a number of strategic programmes for responding to the Covid 19 pandemic, and the proposed project will seek to collaborate with and learn from those programmes as they begin to be implemented (this strategy will be elaborated in more detail during the PPG phase). These programs include: FAO's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme; the UN System's framework for immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19 in Pakistan ("Covid-19: Pakistan's Socio-Economic Framework"); and the Government of Pakistan's Covid-19 Responsive Annual Plan 2020-2021.

Baseline Projects: Several recent and on-going projects in Pakistan are carrying out activities that can provide best practices and opportunities for collaboration with the proposed project:

The Billion Trees afforestation Project, which was implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, rehabilitated 627,922 hectares and increased the provincial forest area by 6.3%. Under this project, around 13,000 nursery units were established, 9,000 individuals were trained in nursery raising, forest fire fighting and grazing control, and several hundred thousand persons were employed in tree planting activities. The project significantly raised the profile of reforestation

efforts and land and forest degradation issues throughout Pakistan.

The Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme (Phase-I, Up scaling of Green Pakistan Programme) is building on the billion trees project by undertaking a national afforestation effort being implemented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Provincial Forest and Wildlife Departments from 2019-2023, with a total budget of 125 billion rupees (USD 746 million). The 10 billion trees project is relevant to the proposed GEF project as the forests of Pakistan support large numbers of livestock in terms of fodder production and grazing area. In addition, the 10 billion trees project will contribute to a number of sectoral and development objectives of the Government that are relevant to this project, including: 1) conserve and rehabilitate natural forest ecosystems and undertake tree planting and assisted natural regeneration in forests and communal and private agricultural lands so as to meet the needs of local communities for timber, firewood and fodder production; 2) increase the productivity & related services and functions of rangelands (pastures); and 3) enhance the protective functions of watersheds for regulating their water regimes, retarding soil erosion and siltation of reservoirs. The proposed GEF project will coordinate with the Ten Billion Tree program and benefit from its activities supporting rangeland ecosystems (including pastures and scrub forests), while the GEF project's activities will help the Ten Billion Tree program towards its goal of improving habitat for biodiversity and wildlife resources.

The Punjab Forest Department carried out the project Enhancing Rangeland Production and Planting of Fodder Trees for Farmer Communities from 2016-2019, with a budget of approximately USD 4.55 million. This project aimed at increasing the carrying capacity of depleted rangelands to provide sufficient fodder for livestock populations through soil conservation, pond excavation and desilting, and the reseedling of grasses over an area of 10,800 hectares and the planting of fodder trees over an area of 680 hectares. The proposed project will build on best practices developed under this project on the choice of fodder species, techniques for reseedling of grass species, and community participation

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

The Project Objective to conserve and restore critically important rangelands and livestock production systems and strengthen the resilience and sustainability of rangeland-dependent livelihoods in vulnerable dryland regions of northern Punjab, Pakistan. As shown in the Theory of Change diagram and table of assumptions (please see document uploaded in document section), the project objective will be realized by implementing a suite of interventions organized under three inter-connected components: 1) Government capacity to assess and plan for effective rangeland management; 2) Community led livestock management to reduce land degradation; and 3) Knowledge management and M&E, that together will address the identified barriers that are preventing the sustainable management and restoration of rangelands and livestock in the project area and are resulting in declining livelihoods and food security and out-migration to other parts of the country. The three components include a suite of outcomes including strengthened provincial and district policies and planning, institutional capacities, and data resources and information / decision support systems; provincial and district sustainable land and resource management plans covering the rangelands of three target districts; conserved and restored grassland and scrub forest ecosystems; and improved livelihoods opportunities based on livestock raising and harvesting of forest products. Achievement of these outcomes will result, by the end of the project, in the following fundamental change: "Land degradation processes in grassland and scrub forest ecosystems in northern Punjab province, Pakistan are prevented, mitigated and reversed, thereby conserving the ecosystem services of these arid landscapes, increasing carbon sequestration and climate resilience, strengthening local economies / livelihoods based on livestock and forest resources, and enhancing food security". The success of this approach

will depend on several key assumptions, including (*inter alia*): formal adoption of a new provincial rangeland policy; maintenance and further development of the information / decision support system post-project; broad stakeholder participation in mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration; agreement among livestock graziers and landowners on community-level rangeland and livestock management plans; support for increased participation of women in rangeland and livestock management structures; willingness of livestock graziers to adopt new practices related to animal health and productivity, and financing from provincial and district authorities to support these activities; support for support increased participation of women in market value chains for livestock products and NTFPs; and the adoption of best practices and lessons learn on sustainable rangeland and livestock management throughout the project area and by other provincial and national institutions and stakeholders.

The Theory Change has been added as a separate document in the project document section.

## **Component 1: Government and capacity to assess and plan for effective rangeland management**

**Outcome 1.1:** Strengthened provincial and district policy and planning frameworks and capacities in Punjab province to implement rangeland management that reduces land degradation

The outcome will be attained through the following Outputs:

Output 1.1.1 - Provincial rangeland management policy developed: Review of existing provincial policies on rangeland management to identify strengths and weaknesses, and development of a provincial rangeland management policy for Punjab province. The provincial policy include provisions focused on restricting the conversion of rangelands to other uses (e.g. housing, agricultural, forest areas, roads, mines, oil and gas exploration areas), as well as the adoption of integrated approaches to sustainable food production that link land and water resource conservation, food security, climate resilience, and the sustainable livelihoods of farmers and pastoralists. The policy will be aligned with the existing National Forest Policy (which to some extent covers rangelands), and with any national rangeland policy if and when such a policy is finalized; the policy will also be aligned with Pakistan's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) priorities and targets. The project will also support the integration of climate risks into the Provincial rangeland management policy.

Output 1.1.2 - Comprehensive assessment of the status of all rangelands in the project area: A quantitative assessment will be carried out using participatory processes and remote sensing methodologies (including CollectEarth), including trends in grazing patterns, analysis of vegetative cover, carrying capacity assessments for livestock, assessment of rangeland management practices, and the creation of a database on rangeland vegetation. In addition, Land Degradation Assessment in Dryland (LADA) global and local tools will be used to assess land degradation status, trends and drivers.

Output 1.1.3 - Provincial and district sustainable land and resource management plans developed and under implementation: Sustainable land and resource management plans that include concepts of land degradation neutrality will be developed for Punjab Province and for each of the three target districts (Attock, Chakwal and Jehlum) in a participatory process including various provincial and district officials and agencies, as well as community and livestock herder

representatives. The provincial and district plans will be developed in the context of existing provincial and district-level planning processes. **Similar to the provincial rangeland management policy, the provincial and district plans will include provisions focused on restricting the conversion of rangelands to other uses and the adoption of integrated approaches to sustainable food production.**

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Output 1.1.4 - Land and resource information, monitoring and decision support systems established: The Punjab Forest Department will establish and maintain land and resource status monitoring and information systems that will incorporate the assessments carried out under output 1.1.2, as well as additional targeted research on the impacts and cost-benefit trade-offs of rangeland management and restoration options (e.g. controlled grazing, assisted natural regeneration, etc.). The information generated through the assessments, research and on-going monitoring will be put into decision support systems developed by the project to enable resource managers and other stakeholders to base rangeland management decision-making (including the planning processes under Outputs 1.1.3 and 2.1.2) on up-to-date and well-organized information; **this information will also support Pakistan's efforts to measure and monitor achievement of its LDN targets.**

Output 1.1.5 – Capacities of provincial and district stakeholders for sustainable rangeland management strengthened: Following the completion of a cross-sectoral capacity assessment, the project will carry out a capacity building programme to support the implementation of rangeland planning, monitoring, management and restoration for provincial and district level government agencies (forestry and livestock department staff), NGOs, CSOs, and other stakeholders. Among other areas, this output will strengthen the capacities of forestry and livestock extension officers in supporting animal health, improved fodder production, assisted natural regeneration of rangelands, management of water distribution systems, and strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Training manuals will be developed to cover these resource management issues, and the project will support training of trainers to facilitate replication and up scaling throughout Punjab Province and other provinces facing similar challenges. The project will promote regular coordination with the Meteorological Department and the use of early warning systems to assist livestock range managers (e.g. Forest Department; grazer associations) in adapting to climate change related events / conditions.

Output 1.1.6 - Provincial and district mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration established and operating: The project will support the creation of forums and/or other mechanisms to strengthen rangeland management among key actors, including the Forestry, Environment and Wildlife Department (responsible for rangeland forest resources), the Agriculture Department (responsible for fodder production on agricultural lands), and the Livestock Department (responsible for livestock raising and health), as well as local community organizations and livestock owners and herders. The project will undertake a stakeholder analysis and mobilization of local communities, and will ensure that at least 30% of participants in the forums are women.

## **Component 2: Community led livestock management to reduce land degradation**

Under this component, the project will include two Outcomes.

## **Outcome 2.1:** Community rangeland - livestock management systems in place to reduce land and water degradation and ensure sustainable production

The outcome will be attained through the following Outputs:

Output 2.1.1 - Capacities of communities / community groups to implement sustainable rangeland and livestock management strengthened: Building on a detailed assessment of the capacities of communities and community groups to be carried out during the PPG phase, the project will implement a capacity building program for grazier and community groups to participate in the planning and implementation of activities under the community rangeland management plans as well as other activities under Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2. These stakeholders also will be trained in the use of tools such as LADA and WOCAT (World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) to identify suitable SLM interventions on local rangelands. Capacity building will also focus on training local inhabitants in the use of conflict resolution mechanisms to address existing or potential conflicts over issues such as access to rangelands for grazing among different groups, fees imposed by rangeland owners for the use of grazing lands, seasonal restrictions, etc. Communities will also be made aware of predicted climate risks in the project areas and participatory plans will integrate relevant approaches that are climate resilient in face of predicted climatic variability and changes.

Output 2.1.2 – Community-level rangeland and livestock management plans developed and under implementation: Community-level plans to manage and restore rangelands and livestock will be developed, endorsed by government, and implemented in a participatory manner by graziers, local community leaders, and local resource management agencies. Among other approaches, the plans will promote the use of rotational grazing systems (including the re-adoption of the traditional pargorh system), as well as a system of periodic closures of rangeland areas, based on level of degradation, sufficient area available to practice rotational grazing, and the commitment of livestock owners to closures and to participating in jointly planned herding systems. **Similar to the provincial policy and provincial and district plans, the community plans will include provisions focused on restricting the conversion of rangelands to other uses and the adoption of integrated approaches to sustainable food production.** The community plans will be aligned with the provincial and district plans developed under Output 1.1.3, and will guide the implementation of activities under Outcome 2.2.

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Output 2.1.3 – Mechanisms in place to support the participation of women in rangeland and livestock management: The project will carry out an assessment of the existing roles and potential opportunities for women in rangeland and livestock management in Punjab Province. Based on this, the project will implement targeted capacity building activities for women in rangeland and livestock management and will establish targets for women's participation in management structures.

**Outcome 2.2:** Rangeland ecosystems, livestock production and livelihoods in three target districts benefitting from sustainable management, restoration, and production activities

The outcome will be attained through the following Outputs, (all of which will be implemented within the context of the community-level rangeland and livestock management plans developed under Output 2.1.2):

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Output 2.2.1 - Rangeland areas conserved through improved management / production approaches: Under this output, the project will support local communities in adopting soil conservation practices and climate resilient approaches to resource management on rangelands; and in establishing water retention and distribution systems (diversion bunds; small ponds; dikes) in rangeland areas, **as well as livestock watering points that are spaced so as to support a more uniform distribution of livestock in the landscape.**

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Output 2.2.2 – Degraded rangeland areas restored and supporting improved productivity: To date, no restoration of degraded rangeland ecosystems has been attempted in the project area. The project will demonstrate approaches for assisted natural regeneration of degraded rangelands, including the re-seeding of rangelands **currently covered in non-native grasses/shrubs** with **native** grass and fodder species **(such as *Cenchrus spp*, *Quercus spp*. and native olive species)** in order to increase overall vegetative cover, reduce land degradation processes, and expand areas with grass and fodder species that are palatable for livestock. **Re-seeding of rangelands will be carried out collaboratively by the Punjab Forest Department and local communities, with a focus on areas of high intensity use such as riparian zones, animal resting areas, and other areas where heavy grazing is taking place. In implementing rangeland restoration activities, the project will build upon best practices developed by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), including planting suitable multipurpose trees and reseeding with improved grass and legumes in areas of steep slopes; using forage grasses and legumes that have been identified as appropriate for different ecological regions of Pakistan, and applying suitable sowing methods and times.**

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Output 2.2.3 – Productivity and health of livestock herds improved: Under this output, the project will support the introduction and facilitation of stall feeding in order to reduce pressure on the rangeland resources, and various community-based programs for livestock health and improvement, including vaccination programmes, veterinary services (e.g. de-worming), livestock feed supplements, breed improvements, etc.

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Output 2.2.4 - Increased availability of sustainably grown fodder for livestock production: The project will support the planting of fodder species for livestock on both community-owned and privately operated rangeland areas. Pakistan's National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) has tested various grass species that appear to be very suitable for the target districts, and the project will work with NARC to provide support for local residents to increase their production of grass species suitable for livestock fodder. The project also will work with community and private owners of rangeland areas to increase their production of fodder from appropriate tree species. In both cases, the project will provide local residents with improved (high-yielding and climate resilient) seed / seedling varieties, training in cultivation / harvesting, and assistance with selling fodder to graziers. In addition, the project will develop and promote fodder selection and production methodologies that meet the needs of local livestock, provide income opportunities for the cultivators, and pose little risk to native ecosystems.

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Output 2.2.5 – Livelihoods opportunities from livestock raising strengthened: In addition to strengthening opportunities for improved livelihoods and increased incomes for local inhabitants by improving livestock raising practices / health and increasing feed availability (Outputs 2.2.3 - 2.2.4), under this output the project will support the strengthening of value chains for livestock products in the three target districts. The project will support the production and marketing of wool, meat and milk into market-ready products, for example through training on hygienic processing practices (including the use of appropriate equipment and containers) so that products can be stored for longer periods and/or shipped longer distances. The project will also implement pilot activities to assess the potential for solar-powered cold storage structures for local consumption or solar-powered cold transport options to enable producers to transport and sell goods in more distant markets. The specific value chains will be assessed using criteria on environmental and socio-economic sustainability, including potential impacts on sustainable land use. This output also will include a focus on training of women in business management, marketing, storage and processing activities along the value chains.

Output 2.2.6 – Livelihoods opportunities from sustainable harvesting of forest products strengthened: The project will support local communities in the cultivation, harvesting, processing and marketing of select Non-Timber Forest Products (e.g. mushrooms, medicinal plants, honey) in conserved and newly restored forest / scrubland ecosystems. Markets exist already in Punjab Province for these products, but many harvesters of NTFPs (which are typically poorer farmers and women) require training and equipment in order to improve their harvesting, drying, cleaning and storage practices so that the value of the NTFPs is maximized. The project will implement a training program for women entrepreneurs in business planning and practices, **and will support them in working with traders and buyers to strengthen their respective NTFP value chains.** The project will ensure that this output supports government and local initiatives for building back better for COVID-impacted households and communities as an initial priority. The project will also build local capacities to access other government and non-government programmes to mitigate COVID19 related impacts.

### **Component 3: Knowledge management and M&E**

#### **Outcome 3.1: Effective knowledge management, communications and project M&E**

The outcome will be attained through the following Outputs:

Output 3.1.1 – Increased local awareness and understanding of problems and opportunities associated with rangelands and livestock: The project will develop gender-focused awareness raising and extension materials on the key drivers of rangeland degradation, the importance of sustainable grazing management approaches, **the impacts of livestock grazing on rangeland ecosystems, the ecological and economic importance of preserving ecosystem services,** and the need for communal conflict resolution mechanisms to prevent or mitigate conflicts over rangeland resource use issues. The project will disseminate these materials through various media, targeting sedentary, transhumant and migratory pastoralists.



Output 3.1.2 - Project knowledge management plan developed and under implementation: A knowledge management plan will be established to document and disseminate at both the provincial and national levels the lessons learnt and best practices from implementation of the project. Activities will include the development of project reports with lesson learnt related to SLM best practices, training modules on SLM, and data generated by the land and resource information, monitoring and decision support systems established under Component 1.

Output 3.1.3 - Effective project M&E plan in place: The project will develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation system to track project progress and support adaptive management. This will include monitoring of global environmental benefits generated by the project, as well as the project mid-term and final evaluations.

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

The proposed project will contribute to the GEF Land Degradation focal area, and specifically program LD 1-1 - Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and LD 1-3 **LD-1-3 Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)**. The project will arrest land degradation, rehabilitate and improve range ecosystems, and improve institutional capacities to promote sustainable management of rangelands, thereby increasing livestock and other productive and protective services. Furthermore, the project will contribute to the sustainable use of land and water resources in production landscapes by supporting community-based natural resource management. In addition, the project will indirectly contribute to the GEF Climate Change focal area, by contributing to GHG emission reductions and by improving the climate resilience of local rangeland ecosystems and livestock production systems. In line with LD 1-3, some work will also be done to support local shrub/tree conservation and planting in the communities where the project will operate.

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

The proposed project aims at arresting land degradation, restoring degraded rangelands to improve their productivity, and improving livestock management in a sustainable manner. Without the proposed GEF intervention, rangeland landscapes in northern Punjab province will continue to become more degraded, resulting in loss of topsoil, increased sedimentation problems in aquatic ecosystems, continued out-migration from rural areas, and a reduced supply of livestock products that will negatively impact food security and industries that depend on livestock and associated raw materials. Continue degradation of the rangelands in the project target area will also contribute to carbon emissions and reduce the ability of local communities to adapt to climate change. With support from the GEF, the project will generate global environmental benefits in the areas of sustainable land management and climate change mitigation, including reduced land and water degradation through the establishment of provincial, district and community-level rangeland and livestock policies and plans, as well as the implementation of community rangeland - livestock management systems to sustainably manage rangeland (grassland and scrub forest) resources; the restoration of rangelands through planting of grass and tree species and improved soil conservation and water resource management, which will also contribute to carbon sequestration. The project also will build sustainable livelihoods through SLM practices and improved market value chains in

partnership with local livestock and forest resource producers and private sector partners. The project will promote innovative approaches to rangeland management and restoration (rotational grazing, bioengineering, water harvesting) and strive to mainstream innovations and promote upscaling of best practices for the large-scale implementation of restoration and sustainable management of degraded landscapes, capacity development, and knowledge management and sharing. Finally, the project is aligned with and will build on both provincial and local government programs, and is positively related to the development activities of FAO.

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

The project will generate a range of global environmental benefits in the land degradation focal area with co-benefits related to climate change mitigation through improved land use and land restoration. The global environmental benefits include:

- 28,000 ha of grasslands that will improve from moderately degraded- to non-degraded (8,000 ha under a system of periodic closures, and 15,000 ha under regulated grazing management systems)
- 3,000 ha of rangeland that will be reseeded with local grass/fodder species
- 553,069 hectares managed under new district-level sustainable land and resource management plans that include concepts of land degradation neutrality, including the following direct on-the-ground SLM interventions
- Project carbon-balance of 157066 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (see ExAct calculations in Documents section)

The project also will contribute to socioeconomic benefits to 10,000 persons (of which at least 5000 are women) through the support provided to improving their rangelands and supporting environmentally friendly value chains for their products. The support from the project on improving rangeland and wider ecosystem management is also expected to contribute to strengthened resilience of local landscapes to climate variability and change; as well resilience of local livelihoods.

6) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

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Innovation: The project will contribute to designing and testing innovative rangeland rehabilitation approaches such as rotational grazing, bioengineering (e.g. check dams made from stone and mud and planted with vegetation), and water spreading and surface water harvesting that will be tailored and upscaled directly at the provincial level through institutional partners and policies, and indirectly at the national level through sharing information and best practices. Furthermore, the project will introduce an integrated approach that combines sustainable range and livestock management activities with rangeland restoration at the landscape level, resulting in increased and more secure food production and reduced land degradation.

Sustainability: By developing and supporting implementation of a new provincial rangeland management policy and district-level rangeland management plans, the project will help to establish the policy and planning mechanisms that will direct provincial and local institutions to continue sustainable rangeland management post-project, as well as to provide support for rangeland management forums (Output 1.1.5) and mechanisms to support the participation of women in rangeland and livestock management (Output 2.1.3). On-going management of the land and resource status monitoring and information systems established under the project (Output 1.1.3) will be carried out by the Punjab Forest Department, which will also develop the training manuals and training of trainers for forestry and livestock department staff, extension officers, NGOs, CSOs, etc. (Output 1.1.4) that will facilitate replication and up-scaling throughout Punjab Province and other provinces facing similar challenges. Furthermore, project interventions in partnership with local communities (Outcome 2.2) will be gradually taken over by graziers and local communities and hence will be sustained and replicated after the project ends, particularly those project activities such as improving livestock and fodder production and strengthening markets for NTFPs, which are intended to sustain livelihoods and increase incomes for local communities, who will therefore be incentivized to continue these activities over the long-term.

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Potential for Scaling Up: By improving local incomes and reducing the negative impacts of land degradation on livestock raising and local living conditions, the project will incentivize other communities to adopt similar measures. In addition, the community centred approach to integrated and participatory range management will establish a model that can be easily adopted by local and provincial authorities throughout Pakistan. Reports on best practices as well as relevant training manuals will be shared with other districts in Punjab Province and other provinces with similar conditions, and best practices will be institutionalized in the Punjab Rangeland Management Policy developed with support from the project.

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[1] Pakistan Economic Survey 2018-2019; Finance Division, Government of Pakistan. p. 57

[2] MPI, 2014-2015 and Economic Survey 2015-16

[3] *ibid*, p. 56

[4] Livestock population census 1976, with projected estimates for 2020. Wikipedia.

[5] Rangelands include pasture as well as sub-tropical thorn forests

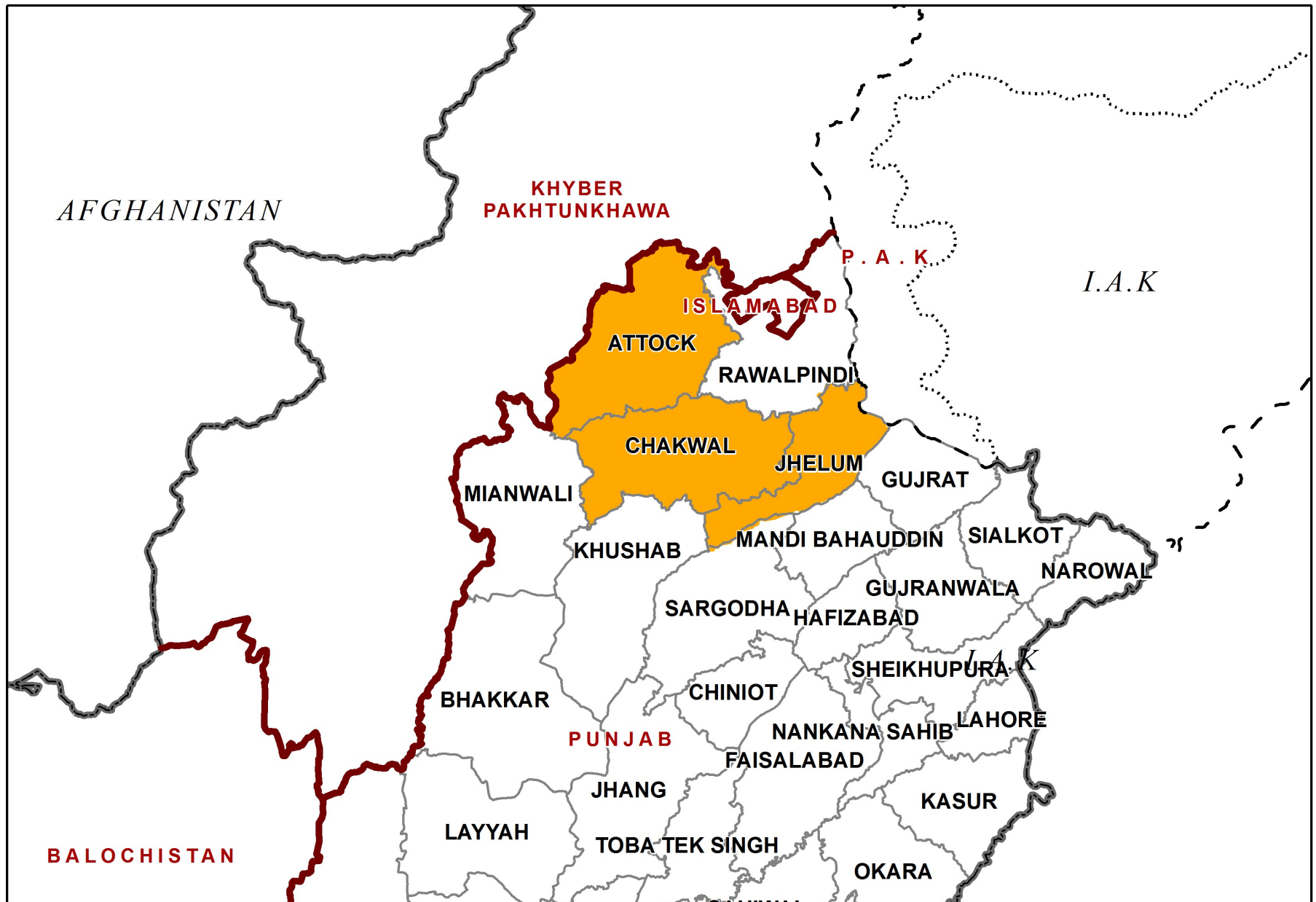
[6] Punjab Livestock census report- Bureau of Statistics Pakistan<sup>4</sup>

[7] Global Climate Risk Index 2019; German Watch

[8] Punjab Growth Strategy 2018: Accelerating Economic Growth and Improving Social Outcomes. Government of the Punjab. Final Version – March 2015

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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





Geographic coordinates of the three districts

- Attock Forest Division: 33.7660° N and 72.3609° E
- Chakwal Forest Division: 32.9328° N and 72.8630° E
- Jehlum Forest Division: 32.9425° N, and 73.7257° E

## 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:

A number of key stakeholders have been consulted in the preparation of this PIF. The Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC) and provincial and district level staff of the Punjab Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries department and the Livestock and Dairy Development department were consulted on rangeland management priorities and strategies. Local communities and grazer associations in the three target districts participated in district-level focus group discussions on the proposed project. A number of meetings were carried out with local officials in the three target districts, in particular with District Forest Officers, Conservators of Forests and Forest Extension Officers. These stakeholders identified a number of priority objectives for the project, including:

- Proper monitoring of vegetation and carrying capacities of rangelands
- Rangeland restoration activities (no such work has been done previously)
- Livestock health improvement, vaccination and deworming
- Capacity building of staff, livestock graziers and farmers
- Introduction of improved fodder species (using species already identified as suitable in these areas)
- Expanded stall feeding in order to reduce pressure on the rangeland resources
- Soil conservation and bioengineering works

In addition, site visits were carried out to assess rangeland conditions and to meet with livestock graziers, farmers and other local residents. Focus group discussions were conducted in each district, and identified a number of rangeland and livestock management related issues, including:

- The need for livestock vaccination facilities and local training in vaccination
- The increasingly poor condition of most rangelands and the need for soil conservation and re-seeding
- The need for improved fodder species and food supplements
- The need for rotational grazing systems
- The need for private rangeland areas

- The need for additional water ponds
- The problems posed by huge grazing fees and fines from the Department
- The increasing numbers of nomads with huge livestock herds

During further project preparation, institutional stakeholders and local communities will be effectively engaged, including in particular the involvement of women in designing interventions for the project.

**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.**

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. During further project preparation, institutional stakeholders and local communities will be effectively engaged, including in particular the involvement of women in designing interventions for the project. Details of the stakeholders and their potential role in project design and implementation are given in the following table.

Name of Institution	Role
Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)	MoCC will be the project lead executing agency, supporting linkages with national and sub-national entities / stakeholders for better and coordinated implementation, knowledge management, up scaling, and replication. MoCC also will undertake monitoring visits and fulfil all required reporting on project activities and outcomes.
Ministry of National Food Security & Research	The Ministry of National Food Security & Research is responsible for the livestock sector in Pakistan, and will participate on the project steering committee, providing strategic direction and linkages with various sub-sectors.
Punjab Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department	The Punjab Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department has the primary responsibility in Punjab Province for rangeland management. The department will support implementation of project in Punjab Province as per GEF guidelines, and will play a leading role in monitoring and providing technical support to local communities in rangeland management and the application of innovative approaches and technologies.
Punjab Livestock and Dairy Development Department	This department will be involved in the project by participating in capacity building activities, providing technical inputs on animal health care, providing extension services, etc.
Grazier Organizations	Grazier organizations will be strengthened so that they can effectively participate and lead in the sustainable management of rangeland resources both during the project and post-project.
CSOs / NGOs	The Punjab Rural Support Programme (PRSP) will facilitate collaboration with livestock herders, participants in NTFP activities, etc.
Private Sector	Private sector partners will participate in project activities related to non-timber forest products (including medicinal companies), animal vaccination, dairy farming, and wool production.



### 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).

Women in the project target area are not typically involved in managing livestock grazing, but they are involved in household livestock management activities such as milking and collecting fodder, and they often have a role in decisions on the sale and purchase of livestock. In addition, some women have traditional knowledge of ethno-veterinary practices and they treat livestock with local medicinal plants found in the rangelands. There is some variation in the participation of women in livestock production; women in nomadic communities tend to have a larger role in managing livestock in the field and processing of livestock products. In addition, while **some women** are generally prohibited from engaging in agriculture-related activities outside of the domestic compound (unless the family is too poor to hire labour), **others** have greater freedom and undertake a large range of livestock-related work. Women in the project area are also important participants in the cultivation, harvesting and sale of non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, honey and medicinal plants. Project activities to support livestock raising, health and rangeland management (Outputs 2.1.1 – 2.1.4) will seek to include women as feasible, and activities to support NTFPs (Output 2.1.5) will target women and poor farmers in particular. Generally speaking, women in the project area do not have a significant role in decision-making on natural resource management issues. The project will work to increase the role of women in decision-making and in actual management of natural resources by ensuring that they are included in training activities (Outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.3) and decision-making forums (Output 1.1.5), where specific roles and targets for women will be established.

The project also will seek to collaborate with the Women's Development Department of the Government of the Punjab, and in particular with its Women CAUCUS program, to provide capacity building for women in the project's intervention area. This capacity building will seek to enhance opportunities for women to participate in local and provincial decision-making on issues related to rangeland and livestock management, to increase the dissemination of information on opportunities for women in this sector (including through this project), and to enhance understanding of the need to emancipate women from stereotypes and taboos about their roles in natural resource management and livelihoods activities.

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;

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.

The private sector is an important actor in sustainable rangeland management; the Punjab Growth Strategy 2018 identifies “private enterprise development to optimally realize potential of livestock assets” as one of five key drivers for growth of the livestock sector. Key private sector actors will be mobilized to participate in the project and support various objectives related to sustainable rangeland management. Private sector traders and purchasers of livestock and livestock products will participate in the strengthening of information exchanges and market linkages with livestock herders, so that herders can more effectively access markets and ensure that they meet market standards for quality (e.g. in terms of animal health; wool quality; etc.). The project also will establish improved linkages between farmers and livestock herders so that fodder availability for livestock is improved, in particular during times of drought when livestock losses may otherwise increase. In addition, the project will support community-based entrepreneurs in the NTFP marketplace by assisting them with collecting, processing (drying, cleaning, storage, etc.), branding and packaging of their products, and by establishing market linkages between these entrepreneurs and potential buyers along relevant value chains. The project also will partner with the Women’s Business Incubation Centers (WBIC) and ‘One-Stop’ platforms for women-led businesses being established by the Women’s Development Department of the Government of the Punjab in order to identify and strengthen opportunities for women to play an active role in private sector activities along the livestock product and NTFP value chains. Finally, the project will work with the provincial government and private sector partners to jointly implement strategies identified in the Punjab Growth Strategy 2018 to improve the functioning of livestock markets, namely: streamline regulations in the livestock sector to enable higher growth; improve the functioning of livestock markets to the benefit of farmers; and rationalize relevant laws and regulations, including: cattle market rules (such as removing inefficient price caps on meat and milk; improving the auction process; certifying livestock health; etc.); develop standards for milk and meat quality, and provide a framework that will ensure the monitoring of this quality; and work with the private sector to strengthen the market of livestock semen production and supply. During the PPG phase, the project partners will engage with private sector actors (grazier organizations, market buyers, and others along the livestock and NTFP value chains) to ensure that they have a significant role in the project once it starts; this will include the organization of private sector forums, the hiring of an expert to address private sector engagement, and other outreach to these actors.

## 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)

The following table identifies and assesses important risks to the project implementation and proposes mitigation strategies to address the risks. The project presents an overall “medium” level of risk. During full project preparation, a socio-environmental risk analysis, including climate risks, will be developed.

Description of Risk	Type	Level	Trend	Proposed Mitigation Strategy
Increased frequency and severity of droughts and floods due to climate change, resulting in increased land degradation and shortages of fodder and water for livestock. Preliminary climate risk assessment at concept stage is attached in document section	Environmental	Medium	Increasing	Project interventions will increase the resilience of rangeland ecosystems and production systems to climate change impacts by increasing vegetative cover, reducing grazing pressure, and providing increased fodder and water resources. The project also will promote regular coordination with the Meteorological Department and the use of early warning systems to assist livestock range managers (e.g. Forest Department; grazer associations) in adapting to climate change related events / conditions. Recommendations from climate risk screening have been integrated into project design and will be further elaborated during full proposal development stage.
Conflicts over resource use rights and practices in open access rangelands (i.e. conflicts between different groups of graziers over rangeland use, and between graziers and rangeland owners over fees for rangeland use)	Social	Medium	Decreasing	Conflicts over rangeland resource use may involve access, fees, seasonal restrictions, etc. However, such conflicts are uncommon in areas with well-established land settlement / tenure systems. In addition, <b>traditional community structures such as local Punchats (groups of elders with responsibility at the village level to approve local programs/activities), will help to prevent and resolve these conflicts.</b> Nevertheless, the project will support conflict resolution mechanisms, social mobilization, awareness raising and capacity building of communities to further mitigate these issues.
Difficulties in gender mainstreaming due to cultural barriers	Social	Medium	Decreasing	Challenges to gender mainstreaming will be identified during the PPG phase, and culturally appropriate ways to eliminate such challenges and enhance the roles and opportunities for women in rangeland / livestock management will be developed and implemented in consultation with communities.

				veloped and implemented in consultation with communities.
Impacts on project implementation from restriction measures established by national and local authorities related to the Covid 19 pandemic	Social	Medium	Increasing	<p>In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the project will develop measures to increase the flexibility of project management, taking account of the possible continuation (or reinstatement) of Covid-19 containment measures. For example, FAO may sign letters of agreement with CSO / NGOs who have field staff in areas targeted by the project to carry out various project activities, which can help to mitigate restrictions on the mobility of staff of FAO, MoCC, Punjab Forest Department, and other partners. <b>The project will also seek to collaborate with planned and existing Government of Pakistan, FAO, and UN systems programmatic responses to Covid 19 (see baseline for details).</b> FAO will also assist the project team, and key project partners, in developing, planning and executing virtual meetings and working groups as needed, and in otherwise working effectively if containment measures are in effect and travel and in-person consultations are not possible. Finally, the project design will include contingency planning for the possibility of changes in baseline and/or co-financing resources due to Covid-19 impacts on the budgets of project partners.</p>

## 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.

### Project Institutional Structure

The Ministry of Climate Change will execute the project and will be responsible for project results, including overall coordination, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project. The Punjab Forest Department will be the main executing partner in Punjab Province, and will provide technical support to local communities in rangeland management. Other stakeholders will support project implementation as described in the stakeholder section above. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established, chaired by a representative of MoCC. The PSC will be the main decision making body and responsible for oversight. The PSC will be responsible for the approval of all work plans, budgets (and budget adjustments), approval of outputs, adherence to Project Results Framework, etc. A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established, including a National Project Coordinator and support staff within the MOCC. FAO will provide its support to project implementation, as per GEF's policies related to its implementing agency functions.

### Coordination with other GEF projects

Coordination with the following projects will be managed by FAO, MoCC and the project management unit:

- UNDP-GEF Sustainable Land Management Project II: This project, which commenced implementation in March 2015 with USD 3,791,000 in GEF funding, has the objective of "sustainable land and natural resource management in the arid and semi-arid regions of Pakistan alleviates environmental degradation and maintains the continuous flow of ecosystem services, while increasing resilience to climate change". The project is an up-scaling of the SLMP pilot phase project and is being implemented in the provinces of Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, & Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The project has a broad approach to SLM activities, including interventions in both agricultural and rangeland ecosystem, with a significant focus on soil erosion and soil stabilization activities. Several activities of the SLMP-II project are relevant to this proposed project, including: participatory rangeland management plans to reduce grazing pressures; establishment of community tree nurseries and re-afforestation programmes, and re-seeding and re-afforestation of rangelands; and establishment of on-farm energy plantations to help restore degraded dryland forests. Both projects are being executed by the Ministry of Climate Change, and the ministry will ensure that lessons learned, training and awareness materials, etc. from the SLMP II project are used to guide activities under this project.
- UNDP-GEF Sustainable Forest Management Project: This project, which commenced implementation in 2016 with USD 8,338,000 in GEF funding, has the objective "to promote sustainable forest management in Pakistan's West Himalayan Coniferous, Scrub and Riverine forests for biodiversity conservation, mitigation of climate change and securing of forest ecosystem services". The project will focus on Temperate Coniferous forests in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Scrub forests in the Salt Range in Punjab province, and Riverine forests in Punjab and Sindh provinces. Some of the activities of the SFM project, including the development of strategies for reducing firewood collection and grazing pressures in forests, and the management of grazing within forest areas integrated into community forest management programs, may provide important models or best practices for similar initiatives in the rangeland areas of the three districts in Punjab Province targeted by this proposed project.



## 7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

Yes

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

The project is aligned with the priorities of the UNCCD and SDG targets 2.4, 12.2 and 15.3, as well as Pakistan's National Action Programme under the UNCCD (2002). The project is aligned as well with the following Strategic Objectives for implementation of the UNCCD NAP in Pakistan, as detailed in the country's 2018 Report to the UNCCD: Strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality; Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations; and Strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems. In addition, the project is aligned with and supports the achievement of a number of Pakistan's voluntary LDN targets, as shown in the table below:

Relevant National LDN Targets	Aligned Project Activities / Targets
Target 1.1: Attain Land Degradation Neutrality in at least 30% of degraded forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· 200 ha planted with fodder trees</li></ul>
Target 1.3: Attain Land Degradation Neutrality in at least 6% of degraded grassland (rangeland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· 5,000 ha rangeland reseeded with local grass/fodder species</li><li>· 8,000 ha of moderately degraded grasslands managed under a system of periodic closures</li><li>· 15,000 ha of rangeland under regulated grazing management systems (pargorh)</li></ul>
Target 3: Converting Other lands (Bare lands) into croplands and productive lands to avoid soil loss / erosion and reverse land degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· 50 ha (5 sites) supported by new water distribution systems</li></ul>
Target 5: Enforcement of Land Use Plans and sustainable management practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· New Provincial (1) and district (3) sustainable land and resource management plans include concepts of land degradation neutrality</li><li>· 6 community rangeland and livestock management plans covering 3,000 ha mainstream land degradation neutrality principles</li></ul>
Target 7: Shift to Green Economy through Social Enterprise and Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· 1,000 direct beneficiaries with improved livelihoods from livestock raising or sustainable harvesting of forest products (of which at least 300 are women)</li></ul>

The proposed project is in line and is supportive of existing national strategies and priorities. The project is in line with the National Conservation Strategy (NCS; 1992), which remains the primary document guiding the management and development of natural resources in Pakistan. The proposed project will directly contribute to two of three primary objectives of the NCS, namely: 1) Conservation of natural resources; and 2) Improved efficiency in the use and management of resources. The project directly contributes to the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 14 Programme Areas for Priority Implementation i.e. “Restoring Range Lands and Improving Livestock”, which recommends periodic closures of rangelands for restoration through community self-management. The NCS also recommends addressing the issues of overstocking, overgrazing and over harvesting so that rangelands are not degraded.

The draft National Rangeland Policy recognizes the essential need to have baseline data on the extent and location of rangelands, as well as information on prevailing trends and conditions and analysis of underlying factors. The policy also calls for significant programs to rehabilitate and improve management of rangeland resources through the active involvement of local communities. The proposed project will support these objectives of the draft National Rangeland Policy in the three target districts of Punjab province.

Other relevant policy documents that will guide the development and implementation of this project include the National Forest Policy (2017), the National Climate Change Policy (2012), the Green Growth Initiative (2014), and the Clean and Green Pakistan Initiative (2019).

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The project is aligned with the priorities of the UNCCD and SDG 15.3 target on LDN, as well as a number of Pakistan's voluntary LDN targets, namely: Target 1.1: Attain Land Degradation Neutrality in at least 30% of degraded forest; Target 1.3: Attain Land Degradation Neutrality in at least 6% of degraded grassland (rangeland); and Target 5: Enforcement of Land Use Plans and sustainable management practices.

Other relevant policy documents that will guide the development and implementation of this project include Pakistan's National Action Programme under the UNCCD (2002), the National Forest Policy (2017), the National Climate Change Policy (2012), the Green Growth Initiative (2014), and the Clean and Green Pakistan Initiative (2019).



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.

The project’s Component 3 is focused on effective knowledge management, communication and M&E. Global best practice knowledge will be integrated into the design and implementation of the full project by FAO through its team of experts. In addition, the project will ensure that relevant experiences and approaches are shared from ongoing and past GEF projects in Pakistan and from other partners. The project will document and disseminate traditional knowledge and newly developed best practices for rangeland restoration, improved livestock management, and alternate livelihood opportunities to graziers, farmers, community institutions, civil society, private sector and local governments to enable them to effectively conserve and restore rangelands, sustain livelihoods based on livestock production and non-timber forest products, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the project outcomes. Information generated by the project will strengthen the capacity of women to maintain livestock health and engage in processing of livestock products, and to generate market opportunities based on cultivation / harvesting / processing of NTFPs, as well as changing attitudes and practices that restrict women from playing a fuller role in natural resource management in rangeland ecosystems. Different tools will be used to document and disseminate knowledge – such as workshops, seminars, publications, web stories, videos etc. Under the project, a knowledge management strategy will be developed and implemented with the help of local communities and respective government line departments. Knowledge will also be obtained and disseminated through the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. In addition, lessons from this project will be fed into national, local and global levels through dissemination of stories, publications and visual documentation both through the government system as well as FAO and the GEF.

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
Low			

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.

*In line with FAO's Environmental and Social Safeguards, the project has been screened against Environmental and Social risks and rated as **low risk** (see certification in annex) . No FAO safeguards were triggered. The risk level will be further re-confirmed at PPG in line following FAO's stakeholder engagement processes. The Agency will make sure that all mitigation measures vis a vis any potential adverse impact are duly considered in the CEO-endorsement package*

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted
FAO ES Screening Checklist	

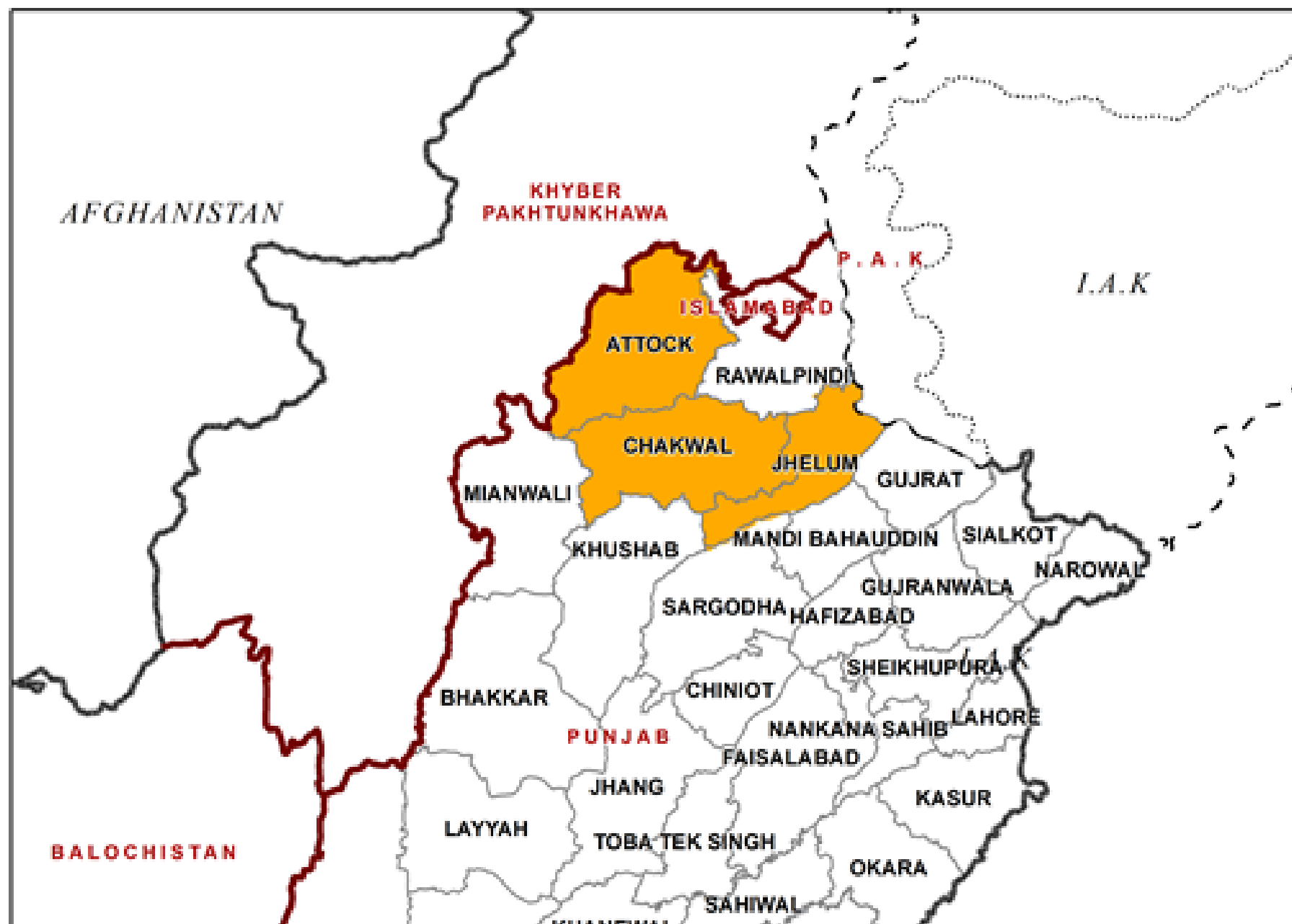
### Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

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
Naheed S. Durrani	Federal Secretary/ GEF OFP	Ministry of Climate Change	2/11/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

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





Geographic coordinates of the three districts

- Attock Forest Division: 33.7660° N and 72.3609° E
- Chakwal Forest Division: 32.9328° N and 72.8630° E
- Jehlum Forest Division: 32.9425° N, and 73.7257° E

