

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title

Ecosystem Restoration in Northern & Central Savannas of Côte d'Ivoire

Region	GEF Project ID
Cote d'Ivoire	11132
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Cote d'Ivoire	FSP
GEF Agency(ies)	GEF Agency Project ID
FAO	
Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
MINEF	Government
SODEFOR	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	8/12/2024
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b)
3,767,430.00	339,069.00
PPG Amount: (c)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)
149,999.00	13,500.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
4269998	123,624,906.00
Project Sector (CCM Only)	
AFOLU	

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative,

how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project is a child project of the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program. It contributes to the overall program through piloting innovations and generating knowledge for best ecosystem restoration practices; while ensuring learning exchanges and supporting Communities of Practice as promoted under the Global Coordination Project. More precisely, this Child Project addresses key challenges affecting fragile savanna ecosystems in the Central and Northern regions of République de Côte d'Ivoire (RCI). The negative impact of ecosystem degradation, driven by unsustainable land management practices, are exacerbated by illegal mining, population displacements and conflicts around resource uses, as well as climate change impacts. These drivers will be addressed through a combination of interventions that aim to restore degraded land in selected ecosystems, to strengthen the institutional framework and local land planning for biodiversity protection, to boost local economic development through sustainable practices and to establish innovative financial mechanism for land restoration and protection in these fragile ecosystems. Together, these interventions will create an enabling environment ensuring that degraded, fragile savanna ecosystems in Northern and Central RCI are restored and sustainably managed to continuously produce goods and services that improve local biodiversity, communities' livelihoods and socio-economic well-being.

The project will promote ecosystem restoration through piloting new approaches in the target ecosystems, and carefully measuring impacts and lessons learned. Moreover, it will scale up the adoption of sustainable agroforestry systems that combine cashew nut production – a key driver of land degradation in Northern and Central RCI – with other key cash and food crops and indigenous plant species that contribute to restoring biodiversity. Productive, biodiverse agro-ecological systems will improve local livelihoods through generating increased income and improving food security, thereby reducing people's reliance on unsustainable practices like illegal mining and deforestation. Furthermore, the project will reduce existing tensions and conflicts around resource uses among settled farmers, herders or other land users. This will be done through dialogs and developing community-led land management plans that takes into account various land uses along with the needs for ecosystem restoration and protection. The project will also facilitate public support for, and incentivise private sector involvement in, sustainable land management and restoration. This will be achieved through improving existing regulatory frameworks, domestic fund and financial mechanisms, and demonstrating the benefits provided by healthy ecosystems. The strengthening of policy coherence and coordination will further encourage future public and private sector investments in land restoration.

The project directly contributes to Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), through restoring 16,000 ha of degraded land, ensuring improved practices for 400,000 ha of land, contributing to an estimated reduction of greenhouse gas emission of 1,661,175 ton of CO₂e and benefiting 100,000 people. The project will use the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring (FERM) as the platform to report and monitor restoration activities as suggested by the UN Decade and will fully align with the IP in terms of spatial analysis and monitoring and evaluation. Through all its components, and particularly Component 4, the project will ensure staff members from relevant government institutions are fully capacitated to monitor and report all progresses achieved by the project, to inform the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program. Learning exchange with other Child Projects will also be promoted under this last Component.

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

Integrated land restoration and sustainable management approach piloted on degraded, fragile savannas in RCI to continuously produce goods and services and create knowledge that contribute to improve local biodiversity, communities' livelihoods & socio-economic well-being

Project Components

1. Enabling conditions created for increased ecosystem restoration through informed, inclusive and coherent policy, planning instruments, incentives and structures

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET

GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
371,100.00	12,177,321.00

Outcome:

1. Capacity and tools available for informed decision-making on sustainable land management

Output:

1.1 Knowledge and capacity available to identify problems and best restoration practices in the target savanna ecosystems

1.2 Integrated landscape management tools and decision-making processes adopted at national and local levels

2: Innovations in ecosystem restoration resulting in transformation impacts that generate global environmental and livelihoods benefits

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,339,650.00	76,773,560.00

Outcome:

2. Integrated approach for restoration and sustainable land management implemented over 16,000 ha of degraded landscape

Output:

2.1 Reforestation, regeneration and sustainable land management practices implemented over 13,835 ha

2.2 Sustainable agroforestry systems promoted over 2,165 ha

3: Leveraged and Sustainable financing to promote & scale-up ecosystem restoration and global environmental benefit

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
284,630.00	9,339,883.00

Outcome:

3. Enhanced market access and financial mechanisms to increase domestic finance towards sustainable land management

Output:

3.1 Market access for sustainably-produced cashew nuts enhanced

3.2 Regulatory frameworks and roadmap available for sustained financing of ecosystem restoration

4. Knowledge Management and Learning

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
407,649.00	13,376,644.00

Outcome:

4. System strengthened to monitor, compile and share knowledge to improve the management of fragile savannas

Output:

4.1 Knowledge management at local, sub-national, national and regional levels is improved to support policy making and institutional learning

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
185,000.00	6,070,612.00

Outcome:

Monitoring and evaluation framework established and M&E activities conducted

Output:

Effective and participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) implemented

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Enabling conditions created for increased ecosystem restoration through informed, inclusive and coherent policy, planning instruments, incentives and structures	371,100.00	12,177,321.00
2: Innovations in ecosystem restoration resulting in transformation impacts that generate global environmental and livelihoods benefits	2,339,650.00	76,773,560.00
3: Leveraged and Sustainable financing to promote & scale-up ecosystem restoration and global environmental benefit	284,630.00	9,339,883.00
4. Knowledge Management and Learning	407,649.00	13,376,644.00
M&E	185,000.00	6,070,612.00
Subtotal	3,588,029.00	117,738,020.00
Project Management Cost	179,401.00	5,886,886.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	3,767,430.00	123,624,906.00

Please provide Justification

CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Since this is a child project under a program, please include an explanation of how the context fits within the specific program agenda. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

A.1 The baseline context

Overview

Located in West Africa, the RCI has a population of nearly 30 million people; of which ~46% live in rural areas^[1]. The country is one of the fastest, sustained, growing economies of the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate averaged 8.2% between 2012 and 2019, driven by sustained public investments, strong domestic consumptions and fiscal measures to control prices, along with key cash crop exports – notably, cocoa and cashew^[2]. Agriculture is the main economic activity in the country, contributing ~21% to the GDP and employing ~46% of the labour force^[3]. While RCI has enjoyed relative political stability in recent years, the Northern part of the country bordering Burkina Faso is facing a growing humanitarian challenge, due to the influx of refugees mainly fleeing jihadist violence in the neighbouring country.

The proposed project is the first to specifically target savanna ecosystems of the country. There are three types of savanna ecosystem in RCI (Figure 1), based on climatic factors and vegetation:

- Zone A: Sudanian savanna has a climate with two seasons. The vegetation is that of wooded and shrub savanna to grassy savanna with gallery forests along the watercourses.
- Zone B: sub-Sudanian savanna is characterised by a Sudano-Guinean climate with two seasons and the vegetation is tree savanna, wooded savanna and shrub savanna depending on the level of agricultural pressure.

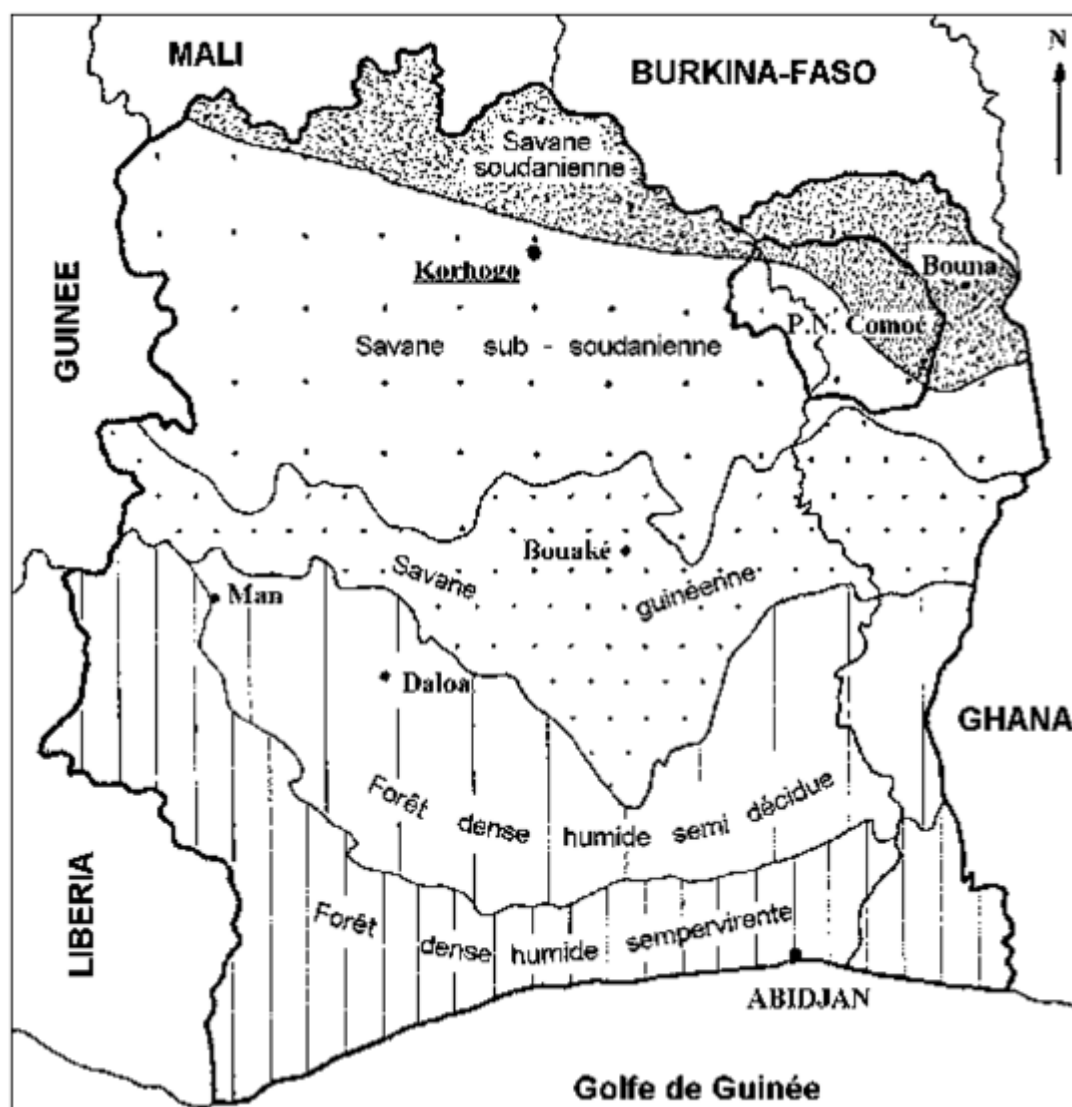
- Zone C: Guinean savanna including the V Baoulé is in a region of climatic transition which sometimes faces sub-tropical climate with four seasons (two dry seasons alternating with two rainy seasons), sometimes a humid tropical climate. The vegetation is that of preforest savannas

[1] FAO, 2018. Climate-smart agriculture in Cote d'Ivoire. <https://www.fao.org/3/ca1322en/CA1322EN.pdf>

[2] World Bank overview: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/cotedivoire/overview>

[3] FAO, 2018. Climate-smart agriculture in Cote d'Ivoire. <https://www.fao.org/3/ca1322en/CA1322EN.pdf>

FIGURE 1: TYPES OF VEGETATION IN RCI



Within these three zones, the proposed project targets the following regions: i) regions of Worodougou, Bere and Kabadougou (North-West Sub-Sudanian savannas); ii) Haut Bandama Reserve – Comoé National Park in the region of Tchologo (North-Central Sub-Sudanian savannas); iii) Comoé NP-Ghana-Burkina Faso border in the regions of Bounkani and Gontougo (North-East Sudanian savanna); and iv) the regions of N’Zi, Belier and Day (Wet savannas V Baoulé). These regions were selected based on the country’s priorities for land restoration; they also include all types of savannas and are located nearby other projects and restoration initiatives, thereby allowing economy of scale, upscale and replication of the proposed interventions. Please see Annex B for further details on the selection of project’s sites.

The rapid degradation of savanna ecosystems in Northern and Central RCI

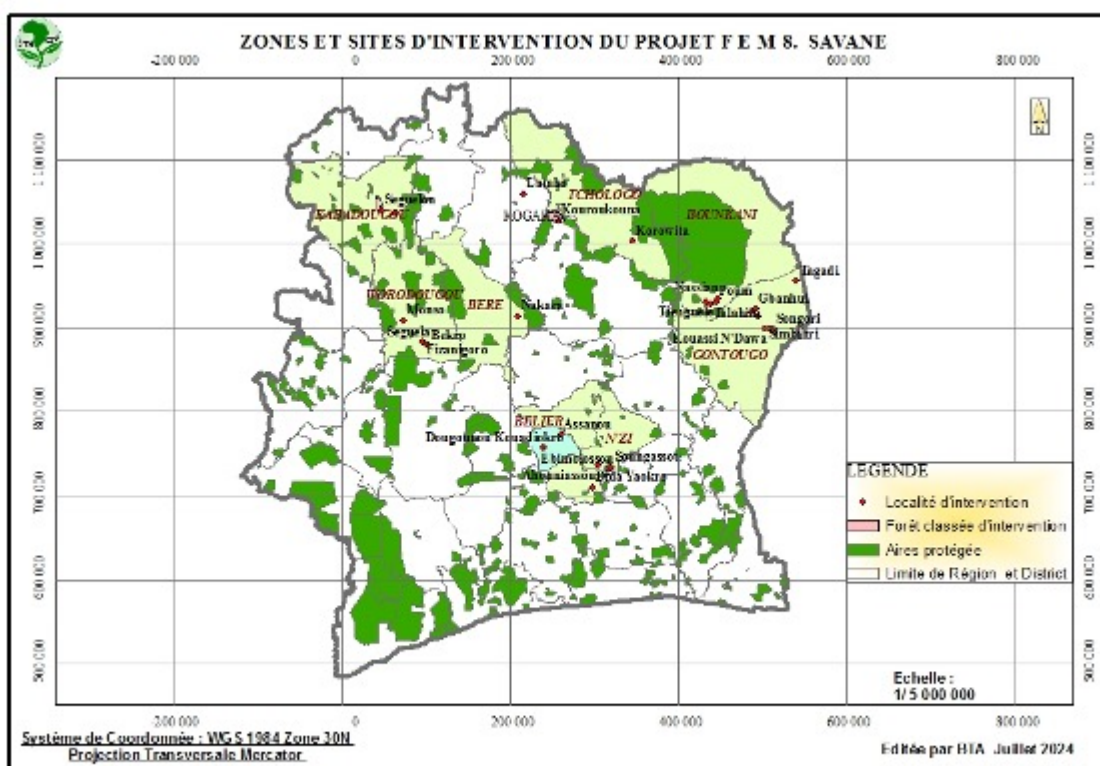
Cote d’Ivoire’s biodiversity is under threats. Since 1960, the country has lost ~80% of its forests, with the remaining coverage concentrated in small, protected areas. Degradation does not only affect natural ecosystems as almost 60% of RCI’s arable soil is also degraded. The preservation and restoration of natural ecosystems and arable soils is vital as the goods and services provided by forests, savannas, wetlands, aquatic environments, and coastal marine waters underpin the well-being of women, local communities, and poor and vulnerable populations. Furthermore, RCI is a country where subsistence farming supports two-thirds of rural households, and agriculture makes up 75% of exports, employing a large part of the active population^[1]. Yet, the World

Bank's the Changing Wealth of Nations 2021^[2] indicates that between 1990 and 2018, RCI's per capita natural capital declined by ~38%. Further to this, the country has seen a decline in the number of species linked to overexploitation of natural resources and the degradation of forest and savanna habitats. According to the Sixth National Report on Biological Diversity^[3], 15% of amphibian and batrachian species, 19% of birds, 9% of mammals, 2.2% insects, and 7.3% of higher plants in RCI are threatened. Please refer to Annex B for further details on ecosystem degradation in project sites.

The underlying causes of land degradation

Savanna ecosystems in the four project target areas (Figure 2 & 3) are under increasing threats from climate change and anthropogenic activities (see below). The country is challenged to overcome these threats because of a lack of policy coherence, limited knowledge of sustainable restoration and production practices, low market access and income opportunities for farmers, as well as persistent financial gaps to support land restoration.

Figure 2: Maps of the proposed target landscapes

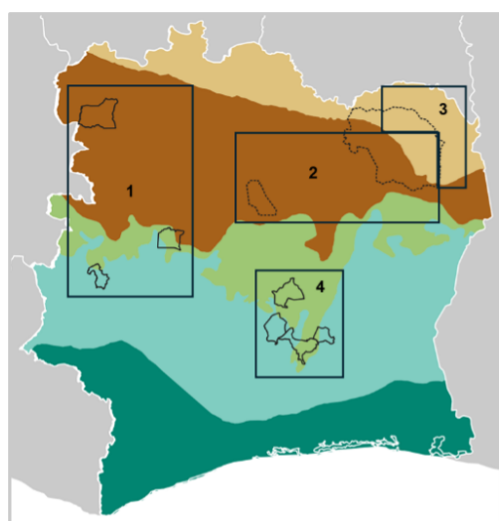


^[1] https://www.gouv.ci/_actualite-article.php?recordID=13478#

^[2] World Bank (2021) The Changing Wealth of Nations. Available online: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/changing-wealth-of-nations/report/background-papers>

^[3] Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (2018) 6ème Rapport National sur la Diversité Biologique. Available online: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-06/ci-nr-06-fr.pdf>

FIGURE 3: OVERVIEW OF PROJECT TARGET AREAS AND KEY THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY



Target area		Threats
1: Sub-Saharan savannahs of the northwest	Departments of Odienné-Man-Séguela (1 million ha), covering a forest-savanna mosaic and the sub-Saharan clear forest and savannah zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent bush fires Slash-and-burn agriculture
2: Sub-Saharan savannahs of the central-north	Haut Bandama Reserve-Comoé National Park (1 million ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent bush fires Excessive land clearing Slash-and-burn agriculture Overgrazing by livestock Cutting of wood for domestic needs (fuel, construction)
3: Savannas of north-eastern Sudan	Comoé National Park-Border between Ghana and Burkina Faso (1 million ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive land clearing Conversion for cashew plantations (monoculture) Frequent bush fires Slash-and-burn agriculture
4: Wet savannahs V Baoulé	Departments of Dimbokro-Toumodi-Yamoussoukro-Tiébissou (0.5 million ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent bush fires Slash-and-burn agriculture

Climate change threats: Central and Northern RCI have already experienced a 1°C increase in mean daily temperatures over the 1979-2019 period, with the greatest temperature increases experienced in the Northern parts of the country (see Climate Risk Assessment, Annex O). Future trends are likely to include an increase in mean daily temperatures of up to 3°C under RCP 8.5 by the end-century (2070-2099) compared to the 1976-2005 baseline period. Overall, the rate of average daily maximum temperature increase is expected to be slightly higher along the Northern areas than in the South-Central area, especially under RCP 8.5 by the end-century (2070-2099). Total annual precipitation is projected to increase in the Western areas (Savanes and Woroba) and decrease in Zanzan, and Valle du Bandama under RCP-2.6 scenario by mid-century (2040-2069). By the end of the century (2070-2099), this tendency will be more accentuated, with an increase in precipitation among the Northeastern parts of the Côte d'Ivoire (Denguele, Savanes, Woroba) between 0 to 100mm under RCP 2.6. Analysis conducted at the country level from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) also shows a slight increase in total annual precipitation until 2080 using median model projections for RCP2.6, and a stronger precipitation increase of 65mm is projected under the RCP6.0 scenario by 2080 compared to the year 2000 (PIK, 2021). These changes will impact natural systems as well as agricultural systems, as the latter are largely rainfed, with yields and quality heavily influenced by climatic conditions.

National greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are estimated at 39Mt CO₂ equivalent, with the agriculture sector contributing 12% (out of which the livestock sub-sector contributes 63%). Burning of savannas contributes 17%^[1]. In its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), RCI has set two GHG emission reduction targets: i) a reduction of 28% below the Business-As-Usual (BAU) reference scenario with support from financial partners; and ii) an additional reduction of 8% linked to capacity building, technology transfer and financial support. The NDC outlines mitigation actions in the agriculture and forestry sector, promoting, among other solutions, agroforestry. This sector is also outlined as an adaptation priority.

Human threats: Unsustainable agricultural practices with land conversion for agriculture, field expansion and slash-and-burn practices, unmanaged/overgrazing livestock, over-extraction of wood, poverty, insecurity issues (especially affecting the Northern part of the country), and illegal mining practices are key drivers of land degradation in RCI. These have already led to a significant reduction in biodiversity and increase in land degradation across RCI. As a result, the natural capital of RCI is in decline. These trends, exacerbated by climate change, pose a significant threat to the country's agricultural sector^[2]. Uncertainty in land tenure systems^[3] and land-use conflicts over the growing number of monoculture cashew plantations as direct competition with food crop production, has resulted in escalating conflicts in the agricultural sector. The influx of migrant farmers and pastoralists from Burkina Faso in the North-East part of RCI has increased tensions still further.

Threats linked to cashew production: Cashew production has undergone a rapid and ongoing expansion since the 1950s in RCI. This expansion has had positive economic impacts, increasing farmers' incomes, creating new livelihood opportunities, and facilitating access to education and health services, especially in the Northern parts of the country. Currently, it is estimated that 2.5 million people in RCI rely on cashew farming (more than 500,000 households)^[4]. Continuous expansion is driven by the global demand which has risen steadily over the past 40 years. Between 1980 and 2020, the total land area under cashew is estimated to have grown from 526,250 ha to 7,101,970 ha^[5]. Most of this expansion has taken place in Africa, particularly in RCI, which has become a leading global producer. RCI now produces more than one million tons of cashew nuts per year. In 2022, the country earned ~\$961 million from cashew nut exports – especially to the United States and Europe^[6].

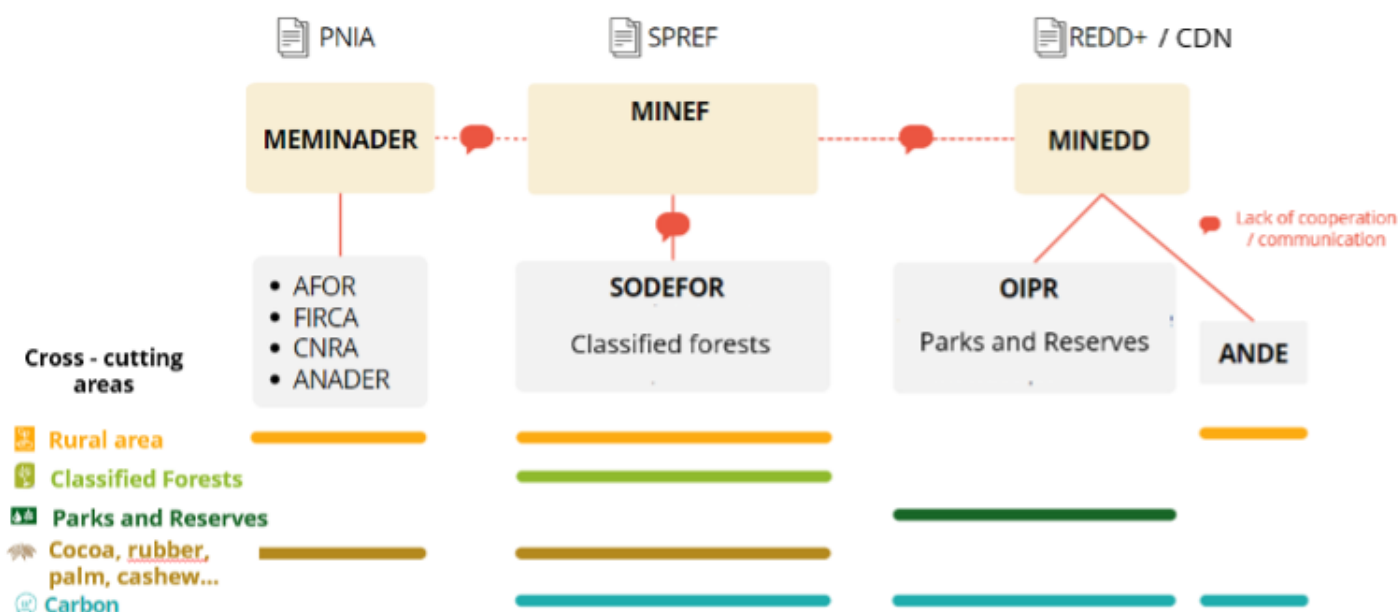
Yet, cashew cultivation in monocultural systems in particular has significantly modified the flora and fauna in the project's target areas. For example, in the Comoé National Park, cashew cultivation is threatening ecologically important tree species such as *nééré* (*Parkia biglobosa*) and *karité* (*Vitellaria paradoxa*). Land-use changes, along with encroachments in national, protected parks, driven

by cashew production, have already contributed to the loss of 54 endemic species around the world^[2]. The monoculture is also taking the place of crop diversity and food crop cultivation, transforming many regions into a single crop economy. In this context, shifts or changes in the market can have detrimental impacts on the livelihoods and food security of the rural population relying exclusively on cashew production and sale for a living. Likewise, production threats, linked to shifts in rainfall patterns, pest or diseases' outbreaks, or wildfire, are more salient in monoculture systems. Finally, the use of pesticide is also promoted to ensure densely packed cashew trees, with related risks on biodiversity and human health.

Regulatory frameworks and financial gaps for biodiversity

Biodiversity management in RCI is mainly governed by the Ministry of Water and Forests, MINEF (Ministère des Eaux et Forêts) as well as the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, MINEDD (Ministère de l'Environnement, du Développement Durable et de la Transition Ecologique). MINEF essentially acts through the Société de Développement des Forêts (Forest Development Society, SODEFOR) to implement a policy of reconstitution of forest landscapes and forest resources, including biodiversity restoration in classified forests. Likewise, through the Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR), MINEDD implements its policy of conservation of parks and reserves, and therefore of the biodiversity still existing within these protected territories. The Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et des Productions Vivrières (Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and food crop production, MINADER) is also engaged in land management interventions. These three ministries have overlapping mandates and common concerns for land management. However, to date, there is no operational platform to facilitate the coordination among these institutions for consistent decision-making (Figure 2).

Figure 4: Key ministries and land management with their mandates



^[1] World Resource Institute, 2016. Climate data explorer.

^[2] *Ibid.*

^[3] There are three types of land tenure in the target areas to be restored: Community land tenure where customary ownership is recognised a priori by holding communities (land destined to be progressively appropriated by holders through issuance of land certificates under the terms of the Rural Land Code (1998); Private land tenure on territory of classified forests (private forest domain of the State) and in the rural land domain that has already been secured; Public land tenure on the territory of national parks and reserves (public forest domain of the State), water bodies and their shores and classified communication routes.

^[4] Duguma et al. (2021) Cashew: An emerging tree commodity in African drylands for livelihoods improvement and ecosystem restoration, in Minang PA, Duguma LA, van Noordwijk M, Eds. (2021) Tree Commodities and Resilient Green Economies in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya: World Agroforestry (ICRAF).

^[5] Mighty Earth, 2023. The cashew conundrum – How global demand for superfood is driving nature loss and risking food security in Cote d'Ivoire.

^[6] *Ibid.*

^[7] *Ibid.*

The main current biodiversity-related strategies governing the sector in RCI are i) the National Strategies and Action Plans for Biodiversity 2016–2020 (NBSAP) and ii) Stratégie de Préservation, de Réhabilitation et d'Extension des Forêts (Strategy for the Preservation, Rehabilitation and Extension of Forests, SPREF, 2018). The SPREF currently includes 27 projects for the period 2019-2030 divided into five major programs. Yet, both NBSAP and SPREF lack funding to support their implementation. RCI is also part of

the REDD+ Programme, although the country's carbon market is still nascent, with a regulation that still needs to evolve to become completely adequate. Please refer to Annex B for further details on institutional frameworks for biodiversity in RCI.

A limited policy coherence and coordination, linked to the lack of ministerial coordination for biodiversity-related decision, has resulted in constrained knowledge of the public and private expenditures and needs for ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management. Yet, it is estimated that the SPREF requires significant funding (up to USD 1 billion per year) to be fully implemented, an amount not currently met. The NBSAP also showcases major weaknesses as its financing needs for implementation are not quantified, and there is no financing strategy proposed (besides punctual sources of development cooperation). While RCI opened the door to increasing private sector investments for biodiversity restoration, the limited clarity around its concession decree (2021 – see Annex B for further details) is another significant barrier to such investments. As a result, financing of biodiversity remains very scattered at the moment through projects, programs and strategies implemented in the fields of forestry, agriculture and the environment, which makes it complex to clearly trace the financing allocated to biodiversity in RCI.

Women and youth

Women and youth in RCI face specific challenges that impair livelihood development, and increase their vulnerability to the degradation of their ecosystems. While playing a central role in resource management, including the collection of non-timber forest products, women often remain excluded from access to land and decision-making processes. This is because of social norms, ancestral traditions and individual capabilities (i.e. low access to education and trainings). As a result, they would favour collection of NTFPs or wood in protected and classified forests. These natural resources are decreasing for the reasons explained before, thereby negatively impacting women's livelihoods. A limited organisation of women and youth – for example in cooperatives – also reduces their efficiency and economy of scale in the production and sale of key cash crops.

Project rationale

The key problem the proposed project seeks to address is the continuous degradation of savanna ecosystems in Northern and Central RCI, which leads to significant biodiversity losses as well as a deterioration in livelihood conditions for the local farming communities. The alarming ecosystem degradation is due to the combined impacts of climate change, unsustainable land management practices, and the over-reliance of rural populations on key ecosystems. Biodiversity losses and the degradation of livelihoods in turn lead to a reduction of ecosystem goods and services, lower land productivity and increased use of unsustainable practices, further degrading the natural environment. The proposed project will address the key problem through target interventions in four ecosystem areas of Northern and Central RCI. These are summarised in Figure 2, with additional details provided in Annex B. The proposed project areas were selected by the government, based on the priorities of the SPREF. Additional analysis of priority areas for ecosystem restoration within these target areas have been conducted during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase through internal desk review, stakeholder consultations with the SODEFOR (the project Executing Entity), focus group discussions with local communities to assess their problems and needs at the ground level. Finally, the selected project areas have the potential to pilot innovative land restoration practices and sustainable agroforestry for cashew nut production; successful practices can be replicated and scale up in similar landscapes in RCI, which will also be facilitated through building an enabling institutional, capacity and financial environment.

Stakeholders in the system

The proposed project interventions will scale up public and private sector investments in ecosystem restoration in RCI, while shifting community behaviours towards sustainable natural resource management practices. The proposed approach will combine restoration at scale in degraded savanna ecosystems with sustainable agroforestry systems, which benefit from increased ecosystem services. Land planning at the local level will be improved to accommodate the needs of various natural resource users – esp. women and youths -, as well as to improve ecosystem restoration and protection. Existing innovative financial mechanisms that blend public and private sector finance will also be strengthened to ensure the continuous protection of fragile ecosystems. Private sector companies – for example in the cashew nut industry – will be incentivised to invest in sustainable agricultural production and land restoration in the long term, while government will receive technical training, access to knowledge and relevant equipment to implement and monitor land restoration. Communities, who directly rely on their local ecosystems, will also be made aware of the need for sustainable land management and the benefits they can yield from it.

A.2 Future narratives

Without the proposed project and additional interventions in mainstreaming sustainable, climate-resilient practices for ecosystem restoration, the rapid degradation of RCI's savanna ecosystems will continue. African savannas provide water, grazing and browsing, food and fuel for tens of millions of people, and have a unique biodiversity that supports wildlife tourism. However, human impacts are causing widespread and accelerating degradation of savannas. The primary threats are land cover-change and transformation, landscape fragmentation that disrupts herbivore communities and fire regimes, climate change and rising atmospheric CO₂^[1]. In

addition to increased biodiversity losses in RCI, the degradation of savannas has tremendous negative impacts on the local communities. This is because of these communities' strong reliance on ecosystem goods and services provided by these ecosystems, such as water water filtration, soil fertility and non-timber forestry products (NTFPs). Without the proposed planned interventions to restore degraded savannas, local communities will become more and more vulnerable to food insecurity, increased poverty and risks of conflict. Climate change impacts, including increased temperatures, shifts in rainfall patterns and more frequent weather extremes, will further exacerbate these problems. In addition, without supporting dialogs between nomadic and settled communities in Northern RCI, ensuring fair and sustainable resource uses, and without the development of sustainable, income-generating activities, land use conflicts will continue to increase between pastoralists and farmers particularly in Northern RCI, as natural resources dwindle. This, in turn, will lead to further degradation of natural ecosystems and biodiversity, underpinning the vicious cycle in which the rural population increasingly turns to unsustainable practices that further degrade their local ecosystems.

Without the proposed project, barriers to restoration and sustainable management in degraded savannas will remain. These barriers include: (i) limited knowledge and policy coherence to support and scale up ecosystem restoration; (ii) lack of know-how to implement integrated sustainable production practices in fragile ecosystems; (iii) limited market access especially for small cashew nut producers; and (iv) financial gaps to support ecosystem restoration in RCI.

In sum, without the proposed project, land degradation, driven by climate change, unsustainable practices, conflicts and resource extraction, will continue to prevail in Central and Northern RCI. Consequently, the rural population will increasingly rely on unsustainable practices, eventually leading to irreversible changes in the fragile savannas. Instead, the proposed project will catalyse a virtuous cycle by restoring degraded ecosystems while reducing the socio-economic and climatic pressures causing their destruction, therefore increasing their capacity to provide key services to the rural population.

^[1] Osborne C. et al. (2018). Human impacts in African savannas are mediated by plant functional traits. *New Phytologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.15236>

B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

B.1 Theory of Change and Approach

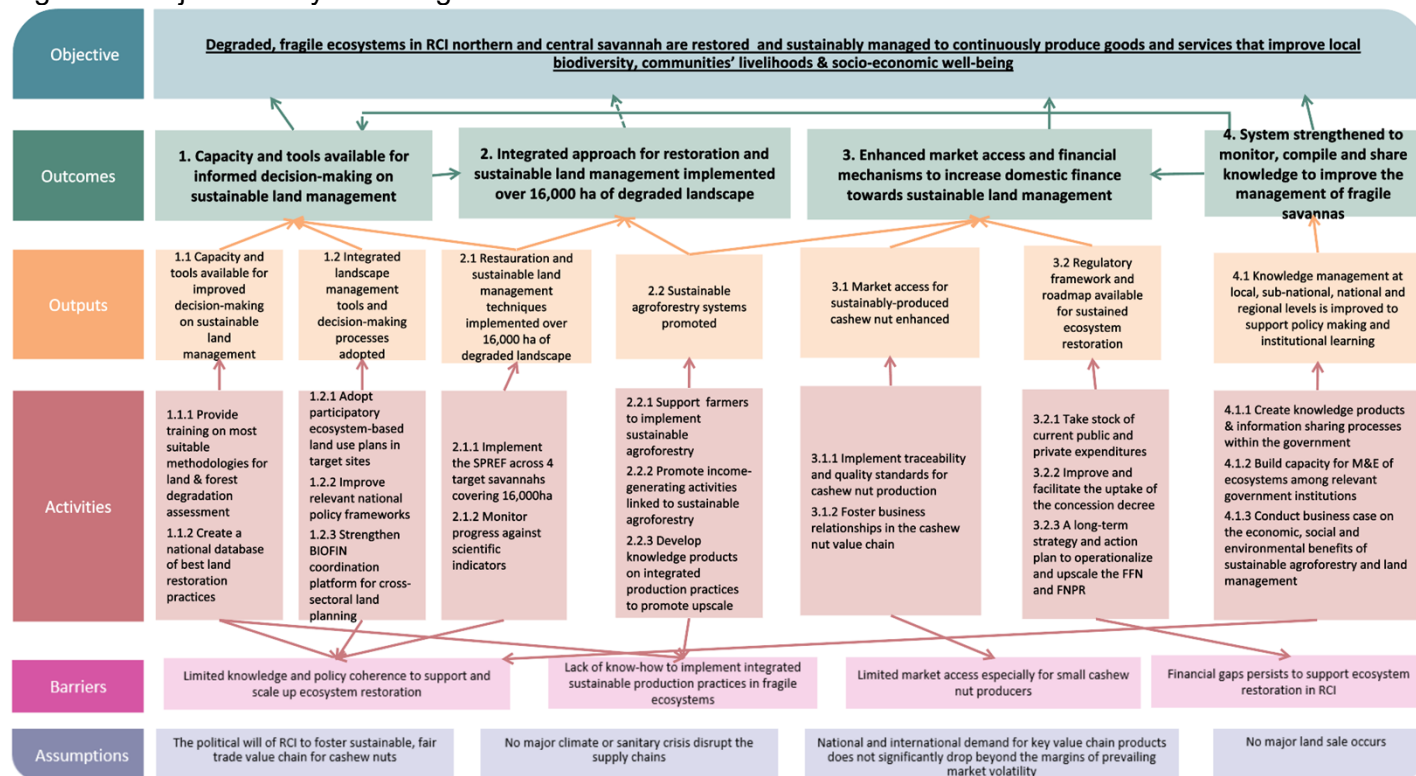
The Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program Goal (Parent Program) is to *achieve healthy and resilient ecosystems to foster green recovery and secure livelihoods*. The Program goal directly addresses the linkage between ecosystem health and environmental benefits such as supporting and provisioning ecosystem services that contribute to security of livelihoods and resilience. In line with the ToC of the Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program (ER IP), the proposed project has been designed to catalyse wide-scale adoption of regenerative innovations in land management (agroforestry for cashew production), policy, governance, financing and business innovations. Lessons learned will be sought from past and ongoing efforts. The project will allow a focus on ecosystem restoration objectives, which are not currently very advanced in Northern RCI, and generate global restoration benefits in sustainable land management and globally important biodiversity.

- The simplification and expansion of cashew monocultures^[1] will be curbed by providing more biodiverse technical and financial itineraries in favour of the restoration of ecosystems and buffer zones – including through Assisted Natural Regeneration.
- The impact of climate change will be mitigated through tree and shrub densification in production and conservation landscapes.
- Climate-resilient management methods will be adapted to changing climate conditions in a context of increasing competition for natural resources.
- As a lever of transformation, inclusive participatory land management plans will be co-developed, involving vulnerable land users (particularly women and youth) and establishing administrative systems to support sustainable and consensual prioritisation and commitment.

Reducing land-use conflicts between settled farmers and herders will also require setting up a participatory mechanism for land use and land management, along with robust dialogs between communities and local authorities, and support to income-generating activities, which rely less on unsustainable resource uses.

The proposed project includes four complementary Outcomes, depicted in the project's Theory of Change (ToC - Figure 5) and described in Annex B.

Figure 5: Project Theory of Change



¹ Tapan, 2016, Monoculture Farming: Global Practices, Ecological Impact and Benefits/drawbacks, 196 pages

Below is a summary of the project's components. Additional details on project outputs and activities are provided in Annex E.

Component 1: Enabling conditions created for increased ecosystem restoration

Currently, there is limited knowledge of best, climate-resilient land restoration techniques for savannas in RCI, while policy coherence and coordination are lacking to support consistent efforts towards biodiversity restoration in these ecosystems (**Barrier 1**). In the absence of adequate rehabilitation measures, the savanna areas of Central and Northern RCI will continue to degrade. Savanna degradation is further exacerbated by extensive agricultural practices, livestock rearing, the expansion of cashew plantations, and the deployment of unsustainable economic activities (e.g., illegal mining and wood extraction). Additional conflicts between herders and farmers, especially in the North, further contribute to the depletion of natural resources. To promote the regeneration of natural savannas, and their protection alongside sustainable land management and economic activities for local communities, the project will facilitate a complete assessment of savanna status in the proposed sites (**Figure 2**) and identify best restoration practices, based on previous experiences in similar environments. Training will be provided to agents from MINEF and SODEFOR to build their capacity in using new tools for ecosystem assessments, to ensure the approach can be replicated on other sites. Knowledge yield for the savanna assessments and best practices for sustainable rehabilitation of degraded savanna in the context of climate change will be compiled into a repository and centralised database for ease of access. Overall, the knowledge and training generated under Output 1.1 will not only support land restoration in the target sites, but also facilitate scaling up of the project's interventions. The project will also strengthen regulatory frameworks to further support land restoration at scale under Output 1.2. At the local level, community-based and gender-sensitive land management plans will be co-developed to ensure restored fragile ecosystems remain protected from unsustainable agriculture, livestock rearing and field encroachment. The community plans will include protected savannas landscape, sacred forests, buffer areas, biodiverse agricultural fields and livestock rearing corridors, for example. At the national level, the project will enhance the consistency of a key national strategy – the NBSAP, NAP, and NDC – to ensure alignment with the Global Biodiversity framework, and to mainstream key concerns pertaining to restoration in fragile savannas. Furthermore, the project will strengthen a national coordination mechanism facilitating co-decision for restoration and protection of savanna landscapes. **The proposed interventions under Outcome 1 will improve knowledge,**

capacity and regulatory frameworks, thereby contributing to creating an enabling environment to upscale, replicate and maintain ecosystem restoration in RCI.

Component 2: Innovations in ecosystem restoration resulting in transformation impacts that generate global environmental and livelihoods benefits

As indicated in the baseline, the degradation of local savannas is driven by climate change and anthropogenic pressures, conflicts on natural resources in the context of their depletion, unsustainable agriculture, migration, and poverty in the target areas. In this context, there is limited knowledge among smallholders of best production practices that can contribute to maintain soil productivity and protect key ecosystem services (**Barrier 2**). For example, fields of cashew monoculture are commonly observed in Northern RCI, with detrimental impacts on the local ecosystems. Using the best practices identified under Output 1.1, the project will develop restoration protocols adapted to each site, and taking into account anticipated climate change impacts. Based on the protocols, innovative restoration practices will be piloted over 16,000ha of degraded land under Output 2.1, with a view to replicate best successful practices. The restoration of degraded savannas will contribute to increase goods and services produced by local ecosystems, which will in turn boost agricultural productivity for the surrounding communities. Taking advantage of restored land productivity, farmers will receive support and training on how to protect and maintain the provision of these goods and services, and implement sustainable agriculture practices. The project will promote agroforestry practices through the Farmers Field School (FFS) approach; gender-sensitive training, focusing on activities in which women are actively engaged, and ensuring women's availability, will be planned. The FFS approach will shift current cashew production systems from monoculture systems, that contribute to biodiversity depletion, to biodiverse agroforestry systems that combine food and cash crops with beneficial indigenous savanna plants. It will restore soil fertility and productivity, while also increasing the provision of ecosystem goods and services. To further provide reliable and sustainable source of income for the communities living in and around fragile savanna ecosystems, additional income-generating activities (IGAs) complementing agriculture – like nere and shea nuts processing, market gardening and poultry raising – will be promoted under Output 2.2. **This, along with Output 1.1, will contribute to the project's Outcome 2, generating global environmental and livelihood benefits.** In addition, IGAs specifically targeting pastoral migrants from neighbouring countries may also be proposed in the North, based on community consultations, to reduce pressure on the natural resources.

Component 3: Sustainable financing to promote & scale-up ecosystem restoration and global environmental benefits

While the project will promote sustainable production of cashew nuts (and other complementary cultivars like shea and nere), currently farmers are facing difficulties to sell their products at a decent price (**Barrier 3**). To facilitate market access for project-supported sustainable products, it is important to meet quality and traceability market requirements. For this, farmers, associations and cooperatives will receive support through FAO's Farmers Business School (FBS) approach to: i) strengthen and regularise their organisation; ii) build their financial literacy; and iii) implement rigorous traceability and quality standards. The project will carefully provide gender-sensitive training, targeting women-led cooperatives in each target area. Furthermore, trained producers and cooperatives in the cashew nut sector will be connected to buyers during match-making fairs. Increased market access under Output 3.1 will ensure continuous cash flow for sustainable cashew producers, which can be reinvested into their sustainable production – also contributing to achieving Outcome 2. To further tackle the current financial gaps for ecosystem restoration (**Barrier 4**), additional pathways to increase financial flows towards sustainable land management will be investigated, including by engaging the private sector. Representatives of women's organizations will be engaged in private sector meetings to capture relevant gender dimensions in financial regulatory frameworks. As indicated in the baseline, RCI has a nascent framework to encourage blended finance and private companies' investments in restoration activities. Boosting existing mechanisms and initiatives (e.g. BIOFIN^[4]), the project will support dialogs between relevant public and private sector stakeholders. These dialogs will serve as basis to understand needs and concerns on both sides – private and public stakeholders –, identify matching needs, and make recommendations for updating, improving or operationalising the existing tools and frameworks like the concession decree, the FFN and FNRP. Blending and/or complementing private and public investments is key to support land restoration at scale across RCI, as foreseen under Output 3.2. **Overall, by boosting farmers' income and incentivising public and private sector investments, Outputs 3.1 and 3.2 will lead to leveraged sustainable finance at scale for land restoration, i.e. the project's Outcome 3.**

Component 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, Knowledge and Learning

Finally, in line with the GCP and to further address the lack of knowledge and capacity to restore savanna landscape sustainably (**Barrier 1**), the project will set up a robust knowledge management system to capture best practices and lessons learned to share with other initiatives lead under the Parent Project, under Output 4.1. At the national level, best practices and lessons will be shared widely through an online platform managed by MINEF to facilitate project replication and the dissemination of learnings. All knowledge products will include gender-sensitive results, showcasing how women were engaged in project's activities and how they benefited from them. In addition, the Framework for Ecosystem Restoration Monitoring will be used to upload spatially explicit data on restoration progress, as well as restoration best practices. Moreover, business cases underlining the goods and services, and the economic benefits yield from healthy savanna ecosystems, producing goods and services that boost agricultural production – in particular for cashew nuts – will be prepared. These business cases will be used to incentivise private sector institutions to invest in

land restoration, under Output 3.2. The project will fully engage in the knowledge exchange, communication activities, and participate in all meetings hosted by the GCP. The project will synthesise lessons learned from its project activities to contribute to the overarching aim to develop scalable solutions for ecosystem restoration. **The project Outcome 4's sustainable M&E system within the RCI government will overall increase knowledge on best practices and benefits for savanna restoration, thereby reinforcing conditions for increased ecosystem restoration in the country.**

M&E Component: Monitoring and evaluation framework established and M&E activities conducted

A comprehensive M&E framework will be developed and implemented – cf. Annexes C & G.

Stakeholder engagement

Key institutions engaged in restoration-related interventions are briefly presented under Section A.1; and further detailed in Annex B. With regards to the proposed project, the MINEF will be a key project partner along with SODEFOR, the proposed Executing Agency (EA) for this project.

The project will implement a participatory process with local and national level stakeholders. Participatory processes will include workshops involving all stakeholders and then pilot solutions with selected communities and where possible with CSOs/NGOs and the private sector. Participation of women and ethnic minority representatives in these processes will be assured. Policy stakeholders will be engaged to improve the institutions needed to support and sustain the new incentive mechanisms.

The main stakeholders include:

- Farming communities,
- Extension officers from MINEF, SODEFOR and MINADER
- Central government institutions (e.g. MINEF, MINADER, MINEDD),
- CSOs and Environmental NGOs, and
- Private sector.

Private sector engagement: Private sector actors will be invited into the participatory process. RCI already has a nascent regulatory framework to incentivize private sector entities' investments towards restoring and maintaining ecosystems. The proposed project will strengthen the existing regulatory frameworks and mechanisms, through extensive engagement with public and private sector entities to identify recommendations for policy improvements. In addition, business cases will be developed and shared, demonstrating the benefits private sector entities can yield from restoring and sustainably managing fragile ecosystems.

Local private sector actors will also play an important role in the restoration activities implemented by this project, including local farmer organisations and cooperatives involved in cashew nut value chain. The project will ensure that local communities directly benefit from land restoration implemented following land-use management plans co-developed with them. While the RCI does not officially recognise the existence of indigenous people, a participatory process for land management will ensure Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for any ethnic minorities living in the project areas.

Public sector engagement: Support for the project from the public sector includes MINEF, SODEFOR (the project EA), MINEDD and MINADER; and decentralised entities (Regional Councils, Districts, Communes, National Agencies^[1]). Throughout implementation, the project will benefit from working closely with civil society (including women and youth organizations), research institutions and universities (e.g. Lamto Research Station), and umbrella organisations^[2] for technical support, implementation, monitoring and scientific valorisation of achievements. Farmers' organisations (producers, breeders) will be involved in the project for awareness raising, implementation and monitoring. Finally, this project will contribute to policy coherence and inter-sectoral cooperation that is currently lacking, especially when it comes to coordinating speculation and demands on natural resources and its conservation or sustainable management.

Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF and co-financing

The baseline projects lay solid foundations for sustainable land management and agriculture, improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers, as well as peace building. However, at the moment, such initiatives are working in silos, without promoting an integrated approach combining restoration interventions in degraded savannas with solutions to reduce human pressures on natural resources. The incremental reasoning at the basis of the proposed project is that, while existing projects either focus on reforestation or the promotion of sustainable agriculture, both interventions are reinforcing and should be envisaged in complementary. On the one hand, restored, sustainably managed ecosystems provide critical ecosystem good and services that

not only provide access to natural resources like water and NTFPs – the scarcity of which can lead to conflicts –, but also boost agricultural productivity and improve livelihoods. On the other hand, sustainably managed, biodiverse agricultural produces increased quantity and improved quality products, which contribute to enhance livelihood and decrease community's needs to resort to unsustainable practices. Furthermore, most baseline projects either focus on improving agriculture or reducing conflicts through dialogs, without promoting integrated planning that considers ecosystem services and nature-based solutions as part of land management strategy.

The ecosystem-focused increment will lead to improved biodiversity goods and services both in protected areas, their buffer and surrounding zones, and cropland. This will underpin livelihood improvements (and diversification) in the target geographies. The project will overcome the current barriers hindering ecosystem restoration in RCI, which include a lack of knowledge, tools, and coherent regulatory framework, limited know-how for sustainable production at the local level, low market access underpinning income generation and significant gaps in the current financial resources for biodiversity. Overcoming these barriers will trigger a wide range of positive cobenefits (e.g. enhanced biodiversity, climate change mitigation). Furthermore, capacity gaps will be reduced and cross-sector knowledge and policy dialogue will be facilitated as part of a participatory process.

Contribution from co-financing: As described above, the proposed project directly builds on the investment from MINEF, FAO and other partners. This project will improve institutional and planning capacities for integrated ecosystem restoration and sustainable management, addressing the root causes of degradation, detailed in Annex B. The proposed project will benefit from the institutional mechanisms, stakeholder engagement, and on-the-ground investments of this project, and steer considerable investment towards savannah restoration through the program funded by the European Investment Bank and managed by MINEF.

^[1] National agencies: Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural (ANADER)^[1], SODEFOR^[1], OIPR^[1]. In addition, Agence Foncière Rurale: AFOR (AFOR)^[1], Permanent REDD+ Executive Secretariat (SEP-REDD)^[1], West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)/ African Center of Excellence on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture CEA-CCBAD (CEA-CCBAD)^[1], Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research (FIRCA)^[1], International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) may provide technical assistance.

^[2] Cashew, livestock, vegetable, cotton, mango

^[3] The Biodiversity Finance initiative in a UNDP-led initiative aiming at transformative process for biodiversity finance in all participating eligible countries. The project will help support countries to develop baseline diagnostics, capacity, institutional arrangements, and prepare a finance plan to mobilize resources at scale to implement the GBF. In RCI, the project will see if appropriate to strengthen the BIOFIN coordination platform to facilitate joint decision making on biodiversity-related matters in RCI, with a focus on consistent financing mechanisms that could support synergistic implementation of biodiversity (NBSAP), land (LDN) and climate (NDC, NAP) goals.

Global environmental benefits

The project will address the escalating degradation of the fragile savannas of Northern and Central RCI, restoring 16,000 ha of savannas to be managed as buffer zones for protected forests, protected areas and corridors (4,000 ha per landscape). This will be achieved through creating scientific knowledge and building capacity to sustainably restore degraded savannas, taking into account the impacts of climate change. In addition, the proposed project will reduce the climate change vulnerability of about 100,000 people living in or near the target restoration areas by improving ecosystems' goods and services in their area, building knowledge of climate-resilient, sustainable production practices and addressing the current sources of conflicts between farmers. Furthermore, adaptive capacity will be built among target communities (specifically at least 2500 farmers trained in FFS) to improve crop yields and income generation under changing climate conditions. This will include training on sustainable, climate-resilient agroforestry practices, which combine cash and food crops with endogenous species that contribute to boost ecosystem services. Farmers will also receive support for production and post-harvest management that meet the expectations of international buyers, and to foster business relationships (for at least 50 cooperatives). Other income-generating activities like market gardening, nere and shea production and sale, or poultry raising, will be supported by the project to improve livelihood conditions, reduce poverty and the reliance on destructive practices like illegal natural and mineral resource extraction. All activities that contribute to land restoration and sustainable management will contribute to climate change mitigation (approx. 1,661,165 tCO₂eq).

To complement these local-scale interventions, the project will improve land-use planning capacity and mechanisms at various levels. At the national scale, policy consistency will be enhanced through improving the NBSAP and other relevant strategies, and strengthening a cross-sectoral coordination mechanism to facilitate sustainable decision making for land use planning in savanna landscapes. At the local level, community-based land use plans will be developed using a participatory approach inclusive of all land users – i.e., settled farmers, nomadic herders, and other land users – and classified forest maps will be updated and improved, using GIS technologies. Improved land planning at the local level will tackle key drivers of ecosystem degradation like uncontrolled grazing and uses of natural resources like water and fodder, which currently lead to biodiversity losses at a dangerous rate.

Finally, the project will build the necessary enabling environment to catalyse a national shift towards sustainable, climate-resilient ecosystem restoration and land management in the long-term. This shift will be supported by the new scientific knowledge of best restoration practices generated by the project, which will be widely disseminated, by investing in capacity building for land assessment, sustainable planning and restoration interventions, and by strengthening policy consistency and coherence, to leverage additional financial resources to implement land restoration at scale and replicate best practices across the country.

innovation, Replication and Sustainability

The project will target four areas in Northern and Central RCI (cf. annex), selected on the basis of SPREF (Forest Conservation, Restoration and Extension Strategy^[1], which features a broad financing plan) priorities, which are globally recognized as priority areas for ecosystem restoration. These show varying degrees of degradation depending on status [e.g. areas protected either administratively (classified forests, national parks and reserves) or traditionally (sacred & cemetery forests)]^[2]:

- North-West Sub-Sudanian savannas (Odienné-Man-Seguela): 4,600 ha
- North-Central Sub-Sudanian savannas (Haut Bandama Reserve – Comoé National Park): 5,000 ha
- North-East Sudanian savanna (Comoé NP-Ghana-Burkina Faso border): 3,100 ha
- Wet savannas V Baoulé (Dimbokro-Toumodi-Yamoussoukro-Tiebissou): 3,300 ha

The selected project areas represent all type of savanna ecosystems in RCI, and have the potential to pilot innovative land restoration practices and sustainable agroforestry for cashew nut production; successful practices can be replicated and scale up in similar landscape in Cote d'Ivoire (and beyond, in Western Africa and elsewhere), which will also be facilitated through building an enabling institutional, capacity and financial environment. Pilot restoration interventions will take place in protected savannas, agroforestry fields, buffer zones of protected/sacred forests, and some of the protected areas and corridors between better conserved areas [totalling a direct intervention area of 16,000 ha, all under Sub-indicator 3.2]. Target-setting was done through GIS analysis (cf. mapping annex), refining the preliminary analysis conducted during the PIF phase. The total population benefitting from these investments was calculated based on the population living in the target sous-préfecture (where land restoration practices and sustainable agroforestry and management will be promoted by the project) as per Table 1.

^[1] Stratégie de Préservation, Restauration et Extension des Forêts. Available [here](#).

^[2] Degraded forests and natural ecosystems in the buffer zone and edges of Comoé National Park, Haut Bandama and Abokouamekro wildlife reserves and classified forests forming corridors linking the intervention sites; Areas adjacent to gallery forests, also water catchment and retention areas as well as other relict forests (sacred and cemetery forests) in rural areas; Degraded agro-ecosystems in mosaic landscapes where cashew nuts, cotton or mango predominate.

TABLE 1: EXPECTED BENEFICIARIES PER TARGET AREA

Regions	Departments	Sous-préfecture	TARGET BENEFICIARIES		
			Male	Female	Total
N'Zi	Dimbokro	Dimbokro	540	471	1011
Belier	Toumodi	Toumodi	22502	21788	44290
DAY	Yamoussoukro	Lolobo	9269	8056	17325
DAY	Yamoussoukro	Yamoussoukro	444	476	920
Total Central Area			32 755	30 791	63 546
Tchologo	Kong	Bilimono	7410	6961	14371
Hambol	Niankaramandougou	Tafiré	1645	1611	3256
Total Centre-North Area			9 055	8 572	17 627
Worodougou	Séguéla	Séguéla	305	258	563
Worodougou	Séguéla	Duala	580	601	1181
Béré	Mankono	Bouandougou	1864	1633	3497
Kabadougou	Séguélon	Séguélon	563	546	1109
Total North-West Area			3 312	3 038	6 350
Bounkani	Nassian	Nassian	898	890	1788
Gontougou	Bondoukou	Bondoukou	1419	1241	2660
Gontougou	Bondoukou	Laoudi-Ba	2778	2755	5533
Gontougou	Bondoukou	Tagadi	1493	1198	2691
Total North-East Area			6586	6083	12669

TOTAL			51 708	48 484	100 192
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Innovation: Aligned with its Parent Programme, this project embraces catalytic, innovative solutions through three inter-connected pillars: Policy, Financing, and Capacity Building that will provide for science, improved governance, and an expanded asset base for supporting GEBs. This project will support the Program significantly in each of the mentioned components and is directly aligned with the Program's Theory of Change. The project will pilot new approaches on savanna restoration, taking into account climate change impacts and other environmental threats. The project's focus on savannas is an innovation in itself, as savannas are very rarely considered in restoration efforts in RCI, contrary to forests, for example. The project will specifically tackle a key cause of savanna degradation, that is the rapid expansion of cashew cultivation in Northern and Central RCI. Best restoration approaches will be identified at project onset and tested in the selected areas of Northern and Central Ivorian savannas. The project's planned interventions to restore 16,000ha of degraded savanna across Northern and Central RCI will rely on a detailed assessment of the current state and driver of land degradation, and existing good practices for land restoration that mainstream climate change concerns. The data yielded from the ecosystem assessments (which will be conducted on a regular basis to assess restoration progress) will be carefully compiled and used to i) prepare a detailed repository and ii) update a national Central database.

Replication and scaling up: The project has a high potential for replication and scaling up, given the global extension of savannas in RCI. All lessons learned and best practices for restoration of degraded savannas and improvements in farmers' fields and surrounding areas will be carefully monitored through a robust M&E system set up within the Ivorian government (SODEFOR, MINEF and MINEDD will be trained and equipped to this mean); while lessons learned and best practices will be collected, compiled and disseminated. An online information platform will be set up for this purpose, managed and regularly updated by MINEF. This will ensure the scale up of successful interventions to support large-scale savanna restoration across Cote d'Ivoire. The project is also aligned with, and directly implementing the SPREF, which is the main vehicle for expanding its interventions. Knowledge products will be tailored to this effect, targeting governmental institutions and organisation involved in land restoration, as well as development partners, private farmers and companies. For example, proven restoration measures could be replicated by other cofinance initiatives, implemented in the four target areas. In fact, best practices for savanna restoration and sustainable production of cashew nuts could also be scaled up to other geographies, with similar landscapes and cash crops (e.g. Northern Benin) – scale up which will directly be promoted under the GCP and the various regional knowledge exchange events. The implementation of sustainable land restoration and protection across Ivorian savanna will be further supported through the development of business cases that will demonstrate the economic and environmental benefits of restored savanna, and their contribution to productive agricultural systems – in particular for cashew production. These business cases will be shared with private sector stakeholders during dedicated dialogs, to leverage their investments in land restoration, through existing regulations and fund, which the project will also improve. Overall, the project expected outcomes will contribute to an enabling institutional, knowledge, capacity and financial environment that will ensure the scalability, replicability and sustainability of the project interventions.

Sustainability: The project will strengthen institutional mechanisms along with key policies and strategies, further anchor institutional capacity and cross-sectoral collaboration launched under other initiatives, to ensure a long-term change that integrates ecosystem restoration in land management in RCI. The institutional and financial sustainability of the project outcomes will be ensured through commitments made by the Government of RCI to implement aforementioned incentive, changes, and revise policy and planning processes. In addition, the project will strengthen existing financial tools and strategies to leverage additional public and private finance towards biodiversity restoration, beyond the project's lifespan.

Knowledge Management, Regulatory and Capacity Strengthening

The project will ensure budget allocations for engagement with the Global Platform including:

- participation in GP meetings/workshops/training/technical working groups;
- contribution to best practices lessons learning, publications, global events through GP (with other projects under IP and beyond);
- collaborating in testing innovative practices that the GCP may recommend; and
- supporting joint M&E and evaluations.

The project is aligned with various national and international strategies pertaining to biodiversity protection and restoration in RCI, as well as land management and agriculture. These include international strategies such as the REDD+, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN). Nationally, the project is aligned to the goals of key strategies including the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), National Policy on Forest Preservation, Restoration and Extension Strategy (SPREF), National Action Plan for the Fight Against Desertification and Land Degradation, as well as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

Yet, the project baseline has identified gaps and lack of coherence in key strategies pertaining to, or with interest in, the biodiversity sector. Hence, the proposed project will make recommendations to strengthen the NBSAP (focusing on the savanna aspects of the

document) through, for example, costing needs for savanna restoration and strengthening its stakeholder engagement plan. Potential improvements to the current NAP and NDC will also be proposed (as recommendations) to fully align with the NBSAP – which alignment with the Global Biodiversity framework will also be enhanced. All relevant knowledge on savanna management, creating under the project, will be integrated in these policies, while the links with financial mechanisms like FFN, FNPR and the carbon market regulation, will be underlined. FFN and FNPR will also be strengthened through the project, as key funds to finance restoration.

The project will also invest in key capacity building interventions for staff members in MINEF, SODEFOR and MINEDD. This will ensure they can conduct thorough ecosystem assessments, using GIS technologies, identify and implement best restoration practices especially in fragile savannas. Such capacity building will ensure governmental institutions can implement the above-mentioned improved strategies and support the upscale of project interventions in the long-term.

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

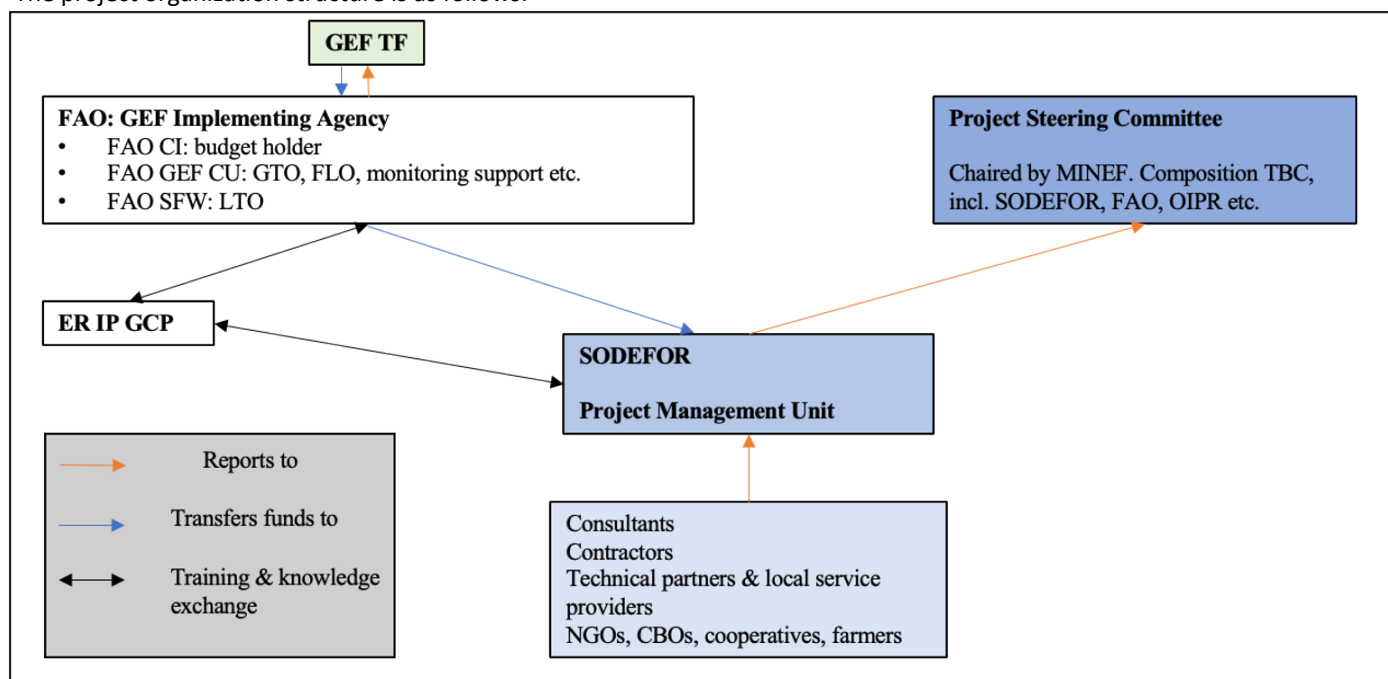
Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this child project, including framework and mechanisms for coordination, governance, financial management and procurement. This should include consideration for linking with other relevant initiatives at country-level (if a country child project) or regional/global level (for coordination platform child project). If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

SODEFOR will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO^[1]. As OP of the project, SODEFOR is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

The project organization structure is as follows:

^[1] It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the Ceo Endorsement Request

The project organization structure is as follows:



The government may designate a National Project Director (NPD). Located in SODEFOR the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. He/She will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator (see below) on the government policies and priorities.

MINEF will chair the Project Steering Committee (PSC) which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners.

The PSC composition will be discussed and validated at project onset. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

Project Management Unit. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be hosted at SODEFOR. The Project Coordinator will be supported by the PMU consisting of the following core staff recruited with GEF funds for the full duration of the project:

- National ESMP / ESIA Expert
- Administrative & Finance Officer
- International Technical Advisor

Terms of reference detailing the roles and responsibilities of the above staff are provided in Annex L. SODEFOR will support coordination in each of the four target areas through regional hubs. Staffing details for this will be discussed at inception.

The FAO will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex J for details):

- The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day to day project execution;
- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

Will the GEF Implementing Agency play an execution role on this project?

Yes **No**

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this child project?

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

N/A

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Several projects and initiatives in RCI are currently trying to address some of the identified barriers to ecosystem restoration and protection in the target areas. These projects and initiatives, upon which the project will build, constitute a solid baseline and, for some of them, co-financing sources for the proposed project as detailed in the table below.

TABLE 8: BASELINE PROJECTS

Project details	Alignment with proposed GEF project
FAO-GCF Concept Note Restoring the capacity of Ivorian forests to produce environmental goods and services	FAO CI is currently developing a GCF Concept Note aimed to promote reforestation and sustainable land management in RCI. It will focus on two areas, one of which is similar to the proposed project: Center RCI in the forest-savanna transition zone. Within this area, the proposed GCF project will implement three key components, with will contribute to support and scale up the proposed GEF-8 project: C1/ Restoration and sustainable management of forests for Development of Sustainable and low-carbon Forestry Sectors, and promotion of a bioeconomy C2/ Climate Resilient Agroforestry and Development of sustainable commodities (cocoa, rubber, cashew, etc.) C3/ Sustainable Finance and Innovative Financing Mechanisms for the Development of Sustainable Forestry and Agroforestry Sectors and for Biodiversity
BIOFIN (2023-2027) – Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans GEF-UNDP	The implementation of the new biodiversity targets under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) will require additional financial resources, increased resource efficiency, and reduced need for financial resources by reducing harmful financial flows. Reducing the biodiversity finance gap can only be achieved through transformative change across economies and society. Based on UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) experience and other relevant methodologies, this project is aiming to support a global programme that will establish a transformative process for biodiversity finance in all participating eligible countries, involving all relevant stakeholders such as Ministries of Finance and Environment, and the private and finance sectors through a socially and gender-inclusive approach. The project will help support countries to develop baseline diagnostics, capacity, institutional arrangements, and prepare a finance plan to mobilize resources at scale to implement the GBF. In RCI, the project will see if appropriate to strengthen the BIOFIN coordination platform to facilitate joint decision making on biodiversity-related matters in RCI, with a focus on consistent financing mechanisms that could support synergistic implementation of biodiversity (NBSAP), land (LDN) and climate (NDC, NAP) goals.
Project Gulf of Guinea Northern Regions Social Cohesion (COSO; 2022-2027) ^[1] World Bank Total across all target countries: USD450,000 million	This project aims to improve regional collaboration and the socioeconomic and climate resilience of border-zone communities in the target Northern regions of the Gulf of Guinea countries exposed to conflict and climate risks. To achieve this, it builds or rehabilitates socio-economic and climate resilient infrastructure and services. In RCI, the project targets the areas of Comoe Park, Odienne and Denguele.
Resilience for Peace (R4P; 2021-2026) ^[2] USAID USD19.5 million	The project builds the capacity of critical institutions, and work with willing partners to enhance political will and domestic resources that can enable lasting peace, stability, and ultimately, prosperity. SRPS will prioritize conflict prevention activities such as strengthening the capacity of regional institutions and of governments to effectively address vulnerability factors and the risks of instability, including governance challenges; strengthening social cohesion across select communities in target countries; women, peace and security interventions; addressing cross-border conflicts such as farmer-herders and transhumance; and strengthening information integrity and resilience (IIR).

<p>Pro2GRN (2020-2025; second phase to start in 2026 to 2031) - Governance and Sustainable Management Program for Natural Resources in the Comoé and Taï area (Programme de Gouvernance et Gestion durable des Ressources Naturelles dans l'espace Comoé et Taï)</p> <p>GIZ/BMZ</p>	<p>This project is implemented in the regions of Nawa (<i>espace Taï</i>), Bounkani, Hambol and Tchologo (<i>espace Comoe – similar to the proposed GEF-8 project</i>) and Indenie-Djuablin (<i>espace Bossematie</i>). It promotes integrated governance for sustainable use of natural resources, increased agricultural productivity and management of protected areas is improved</p> <p>C1_ Strengthening the capacities of the local population to sustainably manage natural resources and increase agricultural productivity</p> <p>C2_ Support for the OIPR and other actors involved in the preservation of the biodiversity of the Taï national parks (PNT), Comoé (PNC) of the Bossématié Natural Reserve (RNB) and preserve the ecosystem services that result from it</p> <p>C3_ Capitalization of experiences from bilateral cooperation in the processes of developing strategies and policies in agriculture, environment, forestry and biodiversity at the national level</p> <p>C4_ Diffusion of an agroforestry system based on Acacia in the practices of farmers in the villages of the Comoé area, with the aim of contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the improvement of the fertility of land and income from the latter.</p> <p>For its Phase 2, the project will also promote sustainable management of village forests; a preliminary study was carried out and a strategy was put in place; and provide support for rational management of fires and their monitoring in the Comoé National Park (Firemaps project).</p>
<p>Scaling up Cocoa-based Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Transformative Innovations in Côte d'Ivoire (SCOLUR-CI) (2021 – 2025)</p> <p>GEF – UNDP, FAO, ICRAF</p> <p>USD 5.3 million</p>	<p>It is a project on scaling transformative innovations in food systems, land use and cocoa-based restoration in Côte d'Ivoire, focusing on three target areas: Indenie-Djuablin/ La Me, le Cavally and le Guemon. It is being implemented through three key components: 1) Improve the productivity and resilience of agroforestry-pastoral and fisheries operations, including the promotion of climate-smart agriculture and the scaling of technical innovations and intensification and diversification pathways; 2) Strengthen the competitiveness of value chains and promote effective and inclusive healthy diets to reduce poverty and malnutrition and ensure inclusive growth in rural areas, while managing post-harvest losses; 3) Support the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national policies, plans and programs to improve the enabling environment for food and nutritional security and sustainable agriculture.</p>
<p>PIF 2 (Forestry Investment Plan – Plan d'investissement Forestier)</p> <p>World Bank</p> <p>USD148 million</p>	<p>Implemented in Nzi-Comoe and National Parc of Taï, this project supports for zero deforestation agriculture. To ensure this, it promotes the development of industrial sectors for the production of timber and wood energy; the development of small timber plantations; the restoration and protection of natural forest cover remaining in classified forests, and the strengthening the protection of Taï National Park.</p>
<p>Project to Promote the Competitiveness of the Cashew Value Chain (PPCA; 018-2023)^[3]</p> <p>World Bank</p> <p>USD200 million</p>	<p>This project will help improve the organization and governance of the sector, resulting in a reduction in marketing costs and an increase in the competitiveness and inclusion of small producers. It will aim to improve farm productivity and access to the raw nut market by promoting research and development of cashew plants, supporting extension services and technology transfer, and financing the rehabilitation and maintenance of feeder roads. Finally, the operation will support private investment in storage and post-harvest processing infrastructure in order to increase the volume and added value of locally processed cashew nuts. To this end, it will give rise to an integrated set of interventions at three levels: i) storage and processing infrastructure; (ii) access to investment capital and risk management instruments; and iii) market and trade development.</p>

Other relevant baseline projects include:

- V4C^[4] (ICRAF): support sustainable cocoa value chains

- GIZ, past and current projects for the conservation of the 'Comoé space' within and around the Comoé National Park (1,000,000 ha)
- PIDACC^[5]: GEF/AdB/MINEFF
- GEF investment for national park conservation (GEF ID 9366) & sustainable cocoa & coffee sectors (10247 & 5788)
- EU investment in sustainable livestock (PREDIP^[6]), conservation of cross-border protected areas, gold panning, decentralisation etc.
- ComCashew^[7] (EU & GIZ): strengthen cashew nut value chain across Africa
- ECOTER^[8] (AFD): strengthen the capacities of Regional Councils, including in Northern CI
- Upcoming AFD project for parks and reserves affecting, among others, the Haut Bandama reserve
- Abidjan Legacy program

This project will contribute to policy coherence/inter-sectoral cooperation that is now lacking, especially when it comes to coordinating speculation and demands on natural resources and its conservation or sustainable management.

^[1] <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P175043>

^[2] <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/USAID-SRPS-Fact-Sheet-Feb-2024.pdf>

^[3] <https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/news/press-release/2018/04/10/world-bank-approves-200-million-to-help-cote-divoire-increase-cashew-productivity-and-promote-cashew-processing-industry>

^[4] [Vision for Change](#)

^[5] [Programme Intégré de Développement et d'Adaptation au Changement Climatique dans le Bassin du Niger \(PIDACC/BN\)](#)

^[6] [Projet Régional de Dialogue et d'Investissement pour le Pastoralisme et la transhumance au Sahel et dans les Pays Côtiers de l'Afrique de l'Ouest](#)

^[7] [ComCashew](#)

^[8] [Projet d'appui au développement économique et écologique des territoires ruraux en Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Table On Core Indicators

Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
16000	16000	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
16,000.00	16,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
400000	400000	0	0

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)
400,000.00	400,000.00		

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

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

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

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 ₂ e (direct)	2982653	1661165	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ 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 CO₂e (direct)	2,982,653	1,661,165		
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025	2025		
Duration of accounting	5	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 CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (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 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	50,190	50,000		
Male	54,810	50,000		
Total	105,000	100,000	0	0

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project will target four ecosystems in northern and central RCI (cf. annex), selected on the basis of SPREF priorities, which are globally recognized as priority areas for ecosystem restoration. These show varying degrees of degradation depending on status [e.g. areas protected either administratively (classified forests, national parks and reserves) or traditionally (sacred & cemetery forests)] :

- 1) Core Indicator 3: 16,000 ha
 - a. Sub-Indicator 3.2:
 - North-West Sub-Sudanian savannahs (Odienne-Man-Seguela): 4,600 ha
 - North-Central Sub-Sudanian savannahs (Haut Bandama Reserve – Comoé National Park): 5,000 ha

- North-East Sudanian savannah (Comoé NP-Ghana-Burkina Faso border): 3,100 ha
- Wet savannahs V Baoulé (Dimbokro-Toumodi-Yamoussoukro-Tiebissou): 3,300 ha

2) Core Indicator 4: 400,000 ha

a. Sub-indicator 4.1:

- North-West Sub-Sudanian savannahs (Odienné-Man-Seguela): 100,000 ha
- North-Central Sub-Sudanian savannahs (Haut Bandama Reserve – Comoé National Park): 100,000 ha
- North-East Sudanian savannah (Comoé NP-Ghana-Burkina Faso border): 100,000 ha
- Wet savannahs V Baoulé (Dimbokro-Toumodi-Yamoussoukro-Tiebissou): 100,000 ha

These will include buffer zones of protected forests, and some of the protected areas and corridors between better conserved areas [totalling a direct intervention area of 16,000 ha (4,000 ha per landscape), all under Sub-indicator 3.2]. There will be no overlap between core indicators. Target-setting was done through GIS analysis and will be further refined through spatial M&E throughout implementation.

Core Indicator 11: The total population benefitting from these investments was calculated considering that half of the population of the target areas will benefit from the GEF investment. For the smallest sous-préfectures, the whole population was retained as the basis for calculations while only selected communes and villages were retained for the largest sous-préfectures. Figures have been rounded up.

The GHG emissions reduced were calculated following the EX-ACT methodology (please refer to EX-ACT Annex). Please note that, at this early stage, only direct emissions reductions were assessed.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	High	[See Annex O for an in-depth risk screening.] One of the motivations for the project has been the high climate change risks for the communities and ecosystems. The effectiveness of targeted land restoration and adaptation strategies (incl. regulatory frameworks) is thereby also at risk as climate change projections might misguide the design of solutions. As a risk mitigation strategy, the project will make conservative climate assumptions so that adaptation strategies can deliver sustainable benefits across a range of climate change scenarios. In addition, the potential climate impacts that may impeded the project interventions during the implementation period (e.g. extreme

		weather events hindering restoration campaigns) will be anticipated as much as possible and the restoration protocols will make provisions to account for drought episodes, extreme rain events etc.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	<p>As per the ESMG policy, the major Environmental and Social Risks and respective standards triggered include ESS 2 (BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL HABITATS) and ESS 3 (PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE). In addition, ESS 7 (DECENT WORK) and ESS 9 (INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE) may be triggered. The main objective of the proposed project is the restoration of savanna ecosystems in degraded rural areas, and possibly in classified forests. In view of the degraded state of a large proportion of classified forests, the Ivorian government has instituted the legal status of 'agroforests' by decree. This allows producers and private companies to participate in the agroforestry restoration of areas illegally occupied by agriculture. As a result, restoration activities already carried out by the administration are now open to NGOs, private companies and farmers, under agreements with precise specifications. Project actions would then support this dynamic. This does thus not create a risky activity for the ecosystem, nor for the governance of these areas held by the administration. A crucial contribution of the project, and an important risk mitigation strategy, is the project support toward the development of participatory landscape management plans. The main objective of the proposed project is the restoration of savanna ecosystems in degraded rural areas, and possibly in classified forests. In view of the degraded state of a large proportion of classified forests, the Ivorian government has instituted the legal status of 'agroforests' by decree. This allows producers and private companies to participate in the agroforestry restoration of areas illegally occupied by agriculture. As a result, restoration activities already carried out by the administration are now open to NGOs, private companies and farmers, under agreements with precise specifications. Project actions would then support this dynamic. This does thus not create a risky activity for the ecosystem, nor for the governance of these areas held by the administration. A crucial contribution of the project, and an important risk mitigation strategy, is the project support toward the development of participatory landscape management plans.</p>
Political and Governance	Low	<p>The government of RCI is strongly committed to ecosystem restoration, as indicated through the various policies, strategies and initiatives undertaken by the government. Moreover, SODEFOR, a government entity, will be the project EE. Therefore, a lack of political willingness in the project is very unlikely. To further reduce this risk, the project will strengthen an institutional coordination platform to ensure the participation of other relevant government institutions in ecosystem restoration initiatives</p>

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Low	RCI has developed a strong policy framework to guide restoration efforts and is committed to supporting investment in this field.
Technological	Moderate	The project aims to pilot new land restoration practices in degraded savannas, upon which local communities rely. This bears a risk of further degradation and overuse of the restored areas by these communities. To reduce this risk, the project will work closely with the beneficiary communities to develop local land-use plans, that combine land restoration with ecosystem protection. The plans will also contribute to reduce conflicts between different types of land users. Moreover, sustainable economic activities including agroforestry, market gardening and small poultry, will be promoted; restoration in buffer zones will also include tree species that provide NTFPs. This will ensure increased income, food security and improved livelihood for the local communities, thereby reducing pressures on the local environment. Finally, communities will be sensitised on the benefits to restore and protect their land and surrounding ecosystems
Financial and Business Model	Low	Macro-economic development in RCI has been strong and continuous, despite international crisis like COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine. Likewise, the international and regional demands for cashew nuts – which production and quality will be boosted under the project – remains important. Potential changes in import regulations from major buyers asking for enhanced traceability of products (e.g. the European Union) would actually create additional demand for a project that specifically aims to enhance the sustainability of cashew production.

EXECUTION

Capacity	Moderate	RCI's government agencies have a high institutional capacity and have experience executing similar projects – even though not through FAO's OPIM modality. The government has also repeatedly shown that solutions provided by climate change adaptation focused initiatives have been adopted, and the political will to improve policy coherence in full alignment with the objectives of the proposed project bode well for the institutional sustainability of the project's outcomes
Fiduciary	Moderate	The budget has been prepared in collaboration with the government of RCI to ensure sufficient budget for the proposed activities. A HACT assessment of the operational capacities of SODEFOR was conducted. A risk mitigation plan, especially for the aspects related to sub-contracting, will be developed in coordination with SODEFOR.
Stakeholder	Moderate	Community consultations were conducted during the PIF and PPG phases to ensure project buy-in by the target beneficiary communities. Community buy-in will further be secured by adopting a highly participatory process for example through the development of community-based land management plans, strengthening of local committees, and on-going awareness raising. However, the project aims to pilot innovative financial mechanism that rely on partnerships between the government and private sector companies. Consultations with the latter need to be further conducted at project inception.

		The project plans to first develop business cases on the benefits to invest in land restoration and sustainable land management to incentivise the participation on private sector in the proposed financial mechanism.
Other		N/A
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The moderate risk rating is based on the fact that, despite the intrinsic complexity of the project due to its integrated nature and geographic scale (working in four landscapes), it will benefit from the strong policy support from the Government of RCI for restoration initiatives based on the SPREF as well as the demonstrated experience of the main executing partner, SODEFOR.

C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies, including the specific integrated program priorities, and country and regional priorities, Describe how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements, such as through NDCs, NBSAPs, etc.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project supports, and/or is aligned with various international and national strategies and policies in RCI pertaining to ecosystem restoration, including the National Action Plan for Integrated Water Resources Management (PLANGIRE, 2021) and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) among other. Please refer to Annex B for more details.

The proposed project also supports several GEF-8 Programming Directions, in particular three of its Focal Areas: Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation^[1]. It directly tackles some of the biggest threats to earth's biodiversity as identified by the GEF, including climate change, and changes in land use. In the target sites, the proposed project will address the main drivers of environmental degradation, and promote shifts in land management, natural resource uses, and agricultural practices to support sustainable, climate-resilient savannas and adjacent ecosystems in Central and Northern Cote d'Ivoire. The proposed project has dedicated outputs to increase policy coherence and coordination for biodiversity management. Finally, the proposed project also aims at mobilizing public and private sector finance to ensure the long-term restoration and maintenance of savanna ecosystems in the country, an approach also supported by the GEF-8.

The proposed project contributes to several Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's targets, namely:

- **Target 1 Plan and Manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss:** Through its first component, and more specifically Output 1.2, the project will improve national policy frameworks and coordination to ensure the sustainable, climate-resilient of savanna ecosystems in Cote d'Ivoire. In addition, in the target project sites, community-based land use plans will be developed to include protected and buffer zones surrounding agricultural fields, water points and fodder along livestock corridors. This will ensure restored areas remain protected, thereby reducing biodiversity losses and boosting ecosystems' goods and services. The plans will ensure a balanced access and sustainable uses of natural resources for their various local users.
- **Target 2 Restore 30% of all degraded ecosystems:** The project will contribute to the achievement of this goal, by restoring degraded savannas over 16,000 ha, while ensure sustainable land use management of 400,000 ha across its four target areas.
- **Target 8 Minimise the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and build resilience:** RCI's savanna ecosystems are at high risk due to a range of factors, including climate change impacts. In this context, all land restoration practices will take into consideration climate change, to minimise its impacts and increase the resilience of savanna and agro-productive landscapes. Knowledge will be generated, carefully monitored and disseminated to promote the replication and scaleup of successful interventions in other similar landscapes.

- *Target 10 Enhance biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry & Target 11 Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contribution to people:* At the moment, fragile savanna ecosystems are under pressure through land use conflicts and clearing of land for extensive cashew tree monoculture. This significantly contributes to the depletion of biodiversity in the target project areas. To halt this progression, the project will promote setting up of biodiversity-rich, agroforestry fields, which include cashew nuts and other cash and food crops, along with indigenous plant species which contributes to land restoration and enhanced fertility. Sustainable management practices in the fields, as well as in buffer and protected areas will be promoted through training and demonstration of good practices.
- *Target 14 Integrate biodiversity in decision-making at every level:* The project will improve relevant policies pertaining to biodiversity conservation and land use to ensure the mainstreaming of biodiversity restoration and protection, taking into account climate change impacts. In particular, recommendations will be made to strengthen the NBSAP and fully align with the Global Biodiversity framework, as well as other key strategies like the NAP, LDN and NDC. In addition, the project will strengthen the coordination mechanism for land restoration which facilitate the involvement of all relevant sector such as environmental management, forestry, water and agriculture.
- *Target 19 Mobilise US\$200 billion per year for biodiversity from all sources:* The proposed project will mobilise USD 3.7 million from the GEF (international finance) in order to restore at least 16,000 ha and sustainably manage 400,000ha of degraded land across Central and Northern Cote d'Ivoire. In addition, the proposed project has mobilised co-finance towards restoration and sustainable management of savannas. Finally, the project will set up and pilot an innovative financial mechanism.
- *Target 20 Strengthen capacity-building, technology transfer, and scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity:* The proposed project includes capacity building interventions targeting staff members from SODEFOR and MINEF. In addition, it will pilot innovative land restoration techniques in degraded savannas, with a view to draw lessons learn and best practices, that will be shared to facilitate project upscale and replication, including in neighbouring countries. The proposed project will strengthen cross-sectoral coordination to facilitate sustainable decision-making for land management and restoration in Cote d'Ivoire. It will also facilitate South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange especially under Component 4 and the ERIP: regional workshops, training and other knowledge exchange events will be organised to to support this.
- *Target 21 Ensure that knowledge is available and accessible to guide biodiversity action:* The project will carefully monitor all impacts and compile all data pertaining to land restoration and sustainable agroforestry systems. These will be widely shared through various knowledge products include the one of the to be developed by the ER IP GCP, the FERM as well as an online knowledge platform managed by MINEF.

The proposed project is fully aligned with and supports the following international agreements ratified by RCI:

- REDD+;
- Convention on Biological Diversity;
- African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100);
- New York Declaration on Forests; and
- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

In addition, it supports the implementation of key national policies and strategies including, among others:

- The National REDD+ Strategy;
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP);
- National Policy on Forest Preservation, Restoration and Extension Strategy (SPREF);
- Forest Code;
- Protected Areas Management Framework Program (PCGAP);
- National Action Plan for the Fight Against Desertification and Land Degradation;
- National Adaptation Plan (NAP);
- Revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC);
- Abidjan Legacy Program;
- National Strategy for Climate Smart Agriculture (which includes agroforestry) etc.

Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and Country Programming Framework

This project targets three main FAO Programme Priority Areas (PPAs): Climate Change Mitigating and Adapted Agri-food Systems (BE.1), Bioeconomy for sustainable food and agriculture (BE.2) and Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production (BP.1). The project does this by aligning economic, social, and environmental livelihood improvements with ecosystem restoration practices. Ecosystems will be restored and agricultural systems improved, thereby achieving more productive and resilient agricultural

production, increasing community resilience to climate change and offering innovative incentives to local communities which can create jobs and stimulate environmental and climate investments.

The proposed project contributes to the achievement of SDG 15, particularly for indicator 15.1 (ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems), indicator 15.9 (integrate ecosystem values into national and local planning), and indicator 15.a (mobilize financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems). Progress towards SDG 15 will be achieved through the project's interventions that will restore degraded savannas and improve agricultural systems, generation of new knowledge on best practices and their wide dissemination. In addition, the project will improve regulatory frameworks and plans at national and local level, to mainstream sustainable management concerns in the management of savanna landscapes. Finally, the project will actively engage private sector stakeholders and launch dialogs with public institutions to improve the existing regulatory frameworks around PPP for biodiversity restoration, and identify pathways to leverage additional public and private finance towards this sector.

CPF Outcome(s) & Outputs: 1. Improve the productivity, competitiveness, sustainability and resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries farms (1.2: Innovations and technical itineraries for sustainable intensification, diversification and climate adaptation/mitigation are promoted and scaled up); 2. Improve the competitiveness of value chains and promote nutritious diets (2.1 More efficient and inclusive value chains are better structured and developed; 2.3: Tools and mechanisms for the resilience of vulnerable populations in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors are put in place); 3. Support the formulation, implementation and monitoring of national policies, plans and programmes (3.5 Support for the evaluation of national policies, plans and programmes is provided).

Lessons learned from past projects

As indicated in Section B, past and ongoing projects have mostly adopted a silo approach while dealing with land management, restoration, peace building and livelihood improvements. While existing projects either focus on reforestation or the promotion of sustainable agriculture, both interventions are reinforcing and complementary. Nonetheless the proposed project, while adopting an integrated approach for ecosystem restoration, land management and peace building, will build on several lessons learned.

- Filed visits led during the PPG phase have shown that, to be successful, reforestation and land restoration interventions must be combined with support to income-generating activities – like support to sustainable agroforestry, market gardening or poultry raising on the same area that is being restored – to ensure population understanding and buy-in. They will then understand the complementarity of both interventions, which take place in the same landscape.
- In Cameroun, project FARE-Cameroon is implemented in Sudano-Sahelian savannas. The degradation of ecosystems is notably due to the expansion of agricultural land, desertification and the intensification of droughts but also to the cutting of wood for local use. In this context, the FARE project has been successfully supporting local communities in Northern Cameroon since 2019 in the establishment of agroforestry plots, particularly using the cashew tree. These plots make it possible to increase their income, preserve soil and food crops, recreate wooded areas favourable to biodiversity and fight against periods of drought^[2].
- Setting up wood lots can contribute to reduce pressure on natural ecosystems. Such an experience exists in the V Baoulé zone between SODEFOR and a women's association in the Ahua classified forest. Timber plantations are made with *Cassia siamea*, a fast-growing species used for many years for the quality of its firewood. This model can be reproduced in the Northern zone on degraded sites, with *Acacia auriculiformis*, a legume which fosters soil regeneration and which has an interesting calorific value. These plantations can be carried out in association with local species from the Northern zone, well known to local populations, such as *Terminalia* spp., *Isoberlinia doka*, *Anogeissus leiocarpus*, *Albizzia zygia*, etc. These plantations must be carried out with strong involvement of local communities in the work.
- In RCI, the creation or strengthening of farmer organizations has constituted a lever to effectively help disseminate new practices of intensification and soil regeneration more concerned with the preservation of resources.
- Ivorian women have very little involvement in reforestation activities. This can be linked to the existing lack of land ownership among them. Projects taking place in similar context (e.g. AgriFED in Senegal^[3]) has indicated that their involvement can be promoted through the promotion of IGAs linked to reforestation. For example, the use of shea and nere tree as part of the reforestation pack can be promoted, along with support to strengthen women-led cooperatives around this value chain.
- Forestry Investment Project (Projet d'Investissement Forestier – PIF) 1 and 2 have indicated that setting up woodlot with strong participation of the community constitute a leverage to reduce pressures on the natural ecosystems.

^[1] As per: https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/2021_04_22_First_Meeting_GEF-8_PDs_Presentation.pdf

^[2] <https://planete-urgence.org/projet-fare-filiere-anacarde-restauration-decosystemes-au-cameroun/>

^[3] U.N. Women, Projet d'Appui aux Femmes dans l'Agriculture et le Développement Durable (PAF/AGRIFED)

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the child Project Description (Section B).

Yes

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

Yes

If the child project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

2) Does the child project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Child Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B “Child project description”?

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed child project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided. This includes budget for linking with and participation in knowledge exchange activities organized through the coordination platform.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the child project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

By restoring 16,000 ha degraded savannas using climate-resilient practices, and ensuring sustainable land management over 400,000 ha, the proposed project will directly benefit 100,000 people, living in or around the target savannas in the four project areas. These people will benefit from enhanced ecosystem goods and services such as access to fodder, water and soil fertility. Increased cash flow can also be expected for the project beneficiary communities, whose livelihoods will be diversified and/or improved. This will be achieved by boosting the production of food and cash crops through the adoption of sustainable, climate-resilient practices along with ecosystem restoration implemented in adjacent savannas. Furthermore, additional economic activities that rely on sustainable resource uses, will be promoted and complement agroforestry. With regards to cash crops, the project will also work with cashew nut producers to improve their product quality, meet quality and environmental demands on international markets, and increase their marketing and financial management capacity. Business relationships will be fostered to facilitate sales,

thereby increasing farmers' income, which can be reinvested in sustainable agricultural production. Increased yields and improved product quality, which leads to enhanced income, will directly result from the implementation of sustainable land management practices in fields and in the surrounding protected areas. Positive impacts on agricultural yield quantity and quality will incentivise farmers to sustainably manage their land and to protect the surrounding savannas.

To reduce other pressures on the environment linked to poverty, unsustainable livestock rearing and land use conflicts, the project will co-develop land use plans for at least five communities in the target landscapes, in a participatory way. These plans will include livestock corridors with access to fodder and water points, to keep the cattle outside of the fields and the protected areas. Finally, the project will promote other sustainable income generating activities, to improve local livelihoods and reduce actions that contribute to biodiversity degradation, namely wood extraction and illegal mining. Overall, it is expected that 100,000 people will benefit from improved livelihoods with increased ecosystem services, leading to enhanced income and food security.

By tackling the climate and non-climate root causes of land degradation in RCI's Central and Northern savannas, and by promoting improved livelihoods for the communities located in these areas, the proposed project will support ecosystem protection in the long-term; this will be reinforced by mobilising public and private finance to continuously invest in climate-resilient land restoration.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	882,302.00	79,407.00	961,709.00
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	Grant	1,943,271.00	174,895.00	2,118,166.00
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	294,100.00	26,469.00	320,569.00
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	Grant	647,757.00	58,298.00	706,055.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						3,767,430.00	339,069.00	4,106,499.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$) 149999

PPG Agency Fee (\$) 13500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
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FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: IPs	35,129.00	3,162.00	38,291.00
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: IPs	77,371.00	6,963.00	84,334.00
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD IP Matching Incentives	11,709.00	1,054.00	12,763.00
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD IP Matching Incentives	25,790.00	2,321.00	28,111.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					149,999.00	13,500.00	163,499.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,000,000.00
FAO	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,202,500.00
Total GEF Resources					3,202,500.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
Restoration IP	GET	3,767,430.00	123624906
Total Project Cost		3,767,430.00	123,624,906.00

Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Donor Agency	IOM	In-kind	Investment mobilized	836000
Recipient Government	Country Ministry of Water and Forestry	Loans	Investment mobilized	120000000

GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	2788906
Total Co-financing				123,624,906.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Confirmed cofinancing is coming from the following investment mobilized:

- 1) A loan received by the Ministry of Water and Forests from the European Investment Bank to promote forestry restoration action throughout Côte d'Ivoire. The portion of the loan cited as cofinancing corresponds to restoration activities in savannah areas.
- 2) FAO-implemented projects, including:
 - Scaling up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture, funded by the German cooperation, which addresses climate change impacts in the agriculture and land-use sectors
 - Promoting zero-deforestation cocoa production for reducing emissions in Côte d'Ivoire, funded by the GCF and the first component of which will strengthen the forestry monitoring system in Côte d'Ivoire
- 3) Investment by the International Organization for Migrations, especially through the projects "Strengthening resilience to climate change risks for peace and socio-economic stability in northeastern Côte d'Ivoire" and "Strengthening the resilience of Bounkani border communities to reduce vulnerabilities and prevent conflicts", both active in target areas of the proposed project, and that feature relevant landscape management components (esp. management of pastoral corridors).

Other sources of cofinancing were being discussed at the time of submission and may be confirmed at inception, including from Agence Française de Développement (upcoming investment that will target parks and reserves affecting, among others, the Haut Bandama reserve). In addition, active synergies will be sought with investment not cited as cofinancing but nonetheless relevant to the proposed child project. This includes World Bank investment implemented by the Conseil coton-anacarde.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Project Coordinator	8/8/2024	Pierre Béga	0033695072285	pierre.begat@fao.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Alimata Kone	Permanent Secretary	Commission Permanente du Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial	4/7/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document. For the Integrated Programs' global/regional coordination child project, please include the program-wide results framework, inclusive of results specific to the coordination child project. For any country child project, please ensure that relevant program level indicators are included.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p>Project Objective and indicators targets: Integrated land restoration and sustainable management approach piloted on degraded, fragile savannas in RCI to continuously produce goods and services and create knowledge that contribute to improve local biodiversity, communities' livelihoods & socio-economic well-being</p> <p>16,000ha of land and ecosystem under restoration</p> <p>People benefiting from GEF investments – 100,000 (50% women)</p>							
Component 1: Enabling conditions created for increased ecosystem restoration	1.1) Number of landscapes with improved planning 1.2) Number of policies that have been strengthened for restoration outcomes (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 1.1.3)	At the moment, there is a lack of robust policies, coherence and coordination to support sustainable biodiversity and land management.	1.1) Baseline assessments of the target ecosystems completed (4) 1.2) Consultations with relevant institutions engaged	1.1) At least 4 landscapes under improved land planning 1.2) At least 3 policies strengthened	1.1) Review of local land planning and GIS maps 1.2) Review of policies/ tools improved by the project	Stakeholders are willing to improve land management in fragile ecosystems	PMU
Output.1.1 Capacity and tools available for improved decision-making on sustainable land management	1.1.1) Number of people trained to conduct ecosystem assessments for restoration disaggregated by gender (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 1.1.2) 1.1.2) Number of detailed ecosystem assessments 1.1.3) Number of knowledge products/ database strengthened or created (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 1.1.2)	At the moment, there is a limited understanding within MINEF and SODEFOR of best restoration solutions for savannas	1.1.1) A diagnostic conducted to assess enabling conditions for restoration in the target areas	1.1.1) At least 5 staff members of MINEF/ SODEFOR have enhanced capacity to conduct ecosystem assessment for restoration (including 2 women) 1.1.2) 4 detailed baseline assessments of target ecosystems and GIS maps produced 1.1.3) One repository created and	1.1.1) Capacity assessment and survey 1.1.2) Review of the ecosystem assessments 1.1.3) Review of the repository and Lamto database	Ecosystem restoration remains a priority within MINEF	PMU

				one database (Lamto) updated			
<u>Output.1.2 Integrated landscape management tools and decision-making processes adopted at national and local levels</u>	<p>1.2.1) Number of plans that include spatial analysis in planning, monitoring and tracking of goods and services (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 1.1.4 and 2.1.2)</p> <p>1.2.2) Number of people aware of the benefits of restored, productive ecosystems disaggregated by gender</p> <p>1.2.3) Number of established cross-sectoral support mechanisms and regulatory frameworks to improve coherence of national biodiversity strategies (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 1.1.3 and 1.2.2)</p> <p>1.2.4) Number of people with enhanced capacity on restoration planning disaggregated by gender (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 1.1.2)</p>	<p>There is limited capacity for sustainable land planning within the government</p> <p>At the local level, there is a low awareness of the benefits yielded from healthy ecosystems</p> <p>There is no effective tool to support coordination for decision-making and coherence in national strategies pertaining to biodiversity and land management</p>	<p>1.2.1) At least 4 improved maps for classified forests and 6 community-based land management plans</p> <p>1.2.2) At least 100,000 people made aware of the benefits to restore and protect local ecosystems</p> <p>1.2.3) A roadmap to strengthen a cross-sectoral support mechanisms prepared</p> <p>1.2.4) Stakeholder engaged to improve relevant strategies</p>	<p>1.2.1) At least 4 improved maps for classified forests and at least 6 community-based land management plans</p> <p>1.2.2) At least 100,000 people made aware of the benefits to restore and protect local ecosystems (including 50% women)</p> <p>1.2.3) A fully functional cross-sectoral support mechanisms and 3 validated recommendation reports to improve coherence of national biodiversity strategies</p> <p>1.2.4) 20 staff from MINEF, MINEDD and MINADER with enhanced capacity on restoration planning (including at least 7 women)</p>	<p>1.2.1) Review of the forest maps and community-based land management plans</p> <p>1.2.2) Survey among local communities</p> <p>1.2.3) Review of the recommendation reports and coordination mechanism</p> <p>1.2.4) Capacity assessment of government staff</p>	<p>Communities at the local level are willing to manage their land more sustainably</p> <p>Government remains committed to biodiversity protection n restoration</p>	PMU
Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<u>Component 2: Innovations in ecosystem restoration resulting in transformation</u>	2.1) Number of ha under restoration (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 2.2.1)	n/a	<p>2.1) 8,000 ha under restoration</p> <p>2.2) 200,000 ha under improved practices</p>	<p>2.1) 16,000 ha under restoration</p> <p>2.2) 400,000 ha under improved practices</p>	2.1) GIS maps and ecosystem assessments of the target areas, FERM	Knowledge and capacity to implement land restoration at scale are built	PMU

on impacts that generate global environmental and livelihoods benefits	2.2) Number of ha under improved practices (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 2.2.1)					Local communities understand the benefits to protect their local ecosystems	
<u>Output 2.1 Restoration and sustainable land management techniques implemented over 16,000 ha of degraded landscape</u>	2.1.1) Area (ha.) prioritized for restoration within national and/or subnational restoration action plans (NBSAPs, LDN, etc.) informed by spatial analysis and /or prioritization tools (also contributing to programme wide indicator 2.2.1b) 2.1.2) Green House Emissions mitigated (in tCO ₂ eq)	Savannas in RCI are being degraded at an alarming pace	2.1.1) 2,000 ha prioritized for restoration; updated GIS maps showcasing improvements in ecosystem restoration (1 map per site every year) 2.1.2) N/A	2.1.1) 4,000ha prioritized for restoration in each target area (total of 16,000 ha); updated GIS maps showcasing improvements in ecosystem restoration (1 map per site every year) 2.1.2) 1,661,165 tCO ₂ eq	2.1.1) Review of GIS maps of the restored areas, FERM 2.1.2) EX-ACT assessment	Local communities understand the benefits to protect their local ecosystems	PMU
<u>Output 2.2 Sustainable agroforestry systems promoted over 2,650 ha</u>	2.2.1) Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration 2.2.2) Number of farmers benefitting from the programme interventions disaggregated by gender (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 2.2.3) 2.2.3) Number of knowledge products on sustainable production disseminated	At the moment, unsustainable practices, like cashew tree monoculture, illegal mining and wood extractions, is contributing to land degradation in Northern and Central RCI	2.2.1) Agroforestry implemented to restore 800 ha 2.2.2) 2,000 farmers benefit from the project, through support for sustainable agroforestry practices (including 30% women)	2.2.1) Agroforestry implemented to restore 2,650 ha 2.2.2) 5,625 farmers benefit from the project, through support for sustainable agroforestry practices (including 30% women) 2.2.3 At least 5 field visits and 5 video produced to disseminate best practices among additional farmers' communities	2.2.1) Field visits and GIS maps 2.2.2) Survey among training farmers 2.2.3) Review of the videos	Farmers' livelihoods and income improve through implementing sustainable agroforestry and IGAs	PMU
Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<u>Component 3: Sustainable financing to</u>	3.1) Number of farmer's organisations with increased income	n/a	n/a	3.1) 50 farmers' organisations	3.1) Surveys among	Demands for cashew nuts remain	PMU

promote & scale-up ecosystem restoration and global environmental benefits	<p>from cashew sale disaggregated men/women/Youth/Mixed organisations</p> <p>3.2) Number of fully-functional funds to increase domestic fund towards restoration</p> <p>3.3) Changes in cash flow invested in restoration</p>			<p>with increased profit (including at least 10 women-led organisations)</p> <p>3.2) At least one Fund fully functional to support biodiversity restoration</p> <p>3.3) Increased financial resources invested in restoration</p>	<p>farmers' organisations</p> <p>3.2) At least one Fund operational and reviewed</p> <p>3.3) Review of cash flow towards biodiversity restoration</p>	<p>consistent on market</p> <p>Government remains committed to increase funding for ecosystem restoration</p>	
<u>Output 3.1</u> <u>Market access for sustainably produced cashew nuts enhanced</u>	<p>3.1.1) Number of organisations and cooperatives trained in FBS disaggregated men/women/Youth/Mixed organisations</p> <p>3.1.2) Number of business partnerships developed</p>	At the moment, farmers face difficulty to access market and sell their cashew products at good prices	3.1.1) At least 15 organisations with improved financial and business skills	<p>3.1.1) At least 50 organisations with improved financial and business skills (including at least 10 women-led organisations)</p> <p>3.1.2) At least 5 organisations or cooperatives have signed sale agreements with buyers (including 1 women-led organisation)</p>	<p>3.1.1) Review of training material and attendance sheets</p> <p>3.1.2) Survey among training participants</p> <p>3.1.3) Review of the sale agreement</p>	Market demand for cashew nuts remains consistent	PMU
<u>Output 3.2</u> <u>Regulatory frameworks and roadmap available for sustained financing of ecosystem restoration</u>	<p>3.2.1) Recommendations to improve the concession decree validated</p> <p>3.2.2) Strategy to improve and scale up resources from FNRP and FFN</p> <p>3.2.3) Tracking of financing leveraged from national and international sources through improved financing mechanisms</p>	There is limited knowledge of current expenditures and needs for biodiversity restoration in RCI although gaps are noted; likewise, existing financing tools are not fully operational	<p>3.2.1) Engagement with public and private sector stakeholders is initiated</p> <p>3.2.1) Draft strategy</p> <p>3.2.3) Cash flow geared towards ecosystem restoration through FNRP and FFN tracked</p>	<p>3.2.1) A report with clear recommendations to operationalise the concession decree</p> <p>3.2.2) A FNRP strategy for ecosystem restoration financing (with focus on savanna's ecosystems) and a capitalization strategy for FFN, and definition of spending</p>	<p>3.2.1) Review of the reports</p> <p>3.2.2) Notes from the validation workshops and review of the proposed strategies</p> <p>3.2.3) Review of budget and financial flows geared towards FFN and FNRP</p>	Private sector stakeholders are willing to invest in ecosystem restoration	PMU

				<p>modalities relevant for ecosystem restoration (with focus on savanna's ecosystems)</p> <p>3.2.3) Cash flow geared towards ecosystem restoration through FNRP and FFN tracked</p>			
<p>Component 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, Knowledge and Learning</p>	<p>4.1) Number of knowledge and communication products developed and disseminated</p>	n/a	<p>4.1) 3 knowledge products (case studies, policy briefs, journal article) developed and disseminated</p>	<p>4.1) Additional 3 (total 6) knowledge products (case studies, policy briefs, journal article) developed and disseminated</p> <p>4.2) Capacity built among MINEF for spatial data analysis</p>	<p>4.1) Surveys among population, dissemination reports</p> <p>Capacity assessment of MINEF</p>	<p>The project's knowledge products are disseminated widely</p>	PMU
<p><u>Output 4.1 Knowledge management at local, sub-national, national and regional levels is improved to support policy making and institutional learning</u></p>	<p>4.1.1) Number of knowledge platforms where the project's information and best practices are disseminated</p> <p>4.1.2) Number of knowledge products developed and disseminated by the project (this will contribute to programme wide indicator 2.1.3 and 3.1.3)</p> <p>4.1.3) PSC endorsement of project M&E framework and results</p> <p>4.1.4) Number of GCP coordination events attended.</p>	<p>There is limited knowledge on ecosystem state and restoration practices (including benefits) – especially regarding savannas</p>	<p>4.1.1) A knowledge platform is built at the nation level and regular data sharing with the GCP</p> <p>4.1.2) 2 robust business prepared, showcasing the environmental, social and financial benefits of restored ecosystems; at least 4 knowledge products (blog, article, etc.) prepared and published on the</p>	<p>4.1.1) One fully functional, up-to-date knowledge platform where the project's information and best practices are disseminated nationally, and the GCP regional platform is updated with project data</p> <p>4.1.2) 5 robust business prepared, 10 knowledge products (blog, article, etc.) published</p> <p>4.1.3) PSC provided final endorsement of project M&E results</p>	<p>4.1.1) Review of the national platform and the GCP platform</p> <p>4.1.2) Review of the business cases</p> <p>4.1.3) PSC meeting notes</p> <p>4.1.4) Mission reports</p>	<p>The project's knowledge is carefully monitored and compiled into the platforms</p> <p>Ecosystem restoration across the GCP clearly yields benefits</p> <p>GCP events conducted and project team members available.</p> <p>Project management is able to elicit data</p>	PMU

			national and GCP platforms	4.1.4) Four annual GCP events attended			
			4.1.3) Project M&E designed and process commenced with first results presented to PSC				
			4.1.4) Two annual GCP events attended.				

NB: it is fully acknowledged that, during implementation, the child project is expected to report to program level indicators that are outlined in the Global Coordination Project to facilitate a programmatic M&E of the Integrated Program. This will be part of the ToRs of the M&E expert under the child project.

ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Personnel (including: Financial Analyst; Assistant to PPG Coordinator; Public Policy Expert; Landscapes restoration and management Specialist; Nature-based livelihoods, value-chains, and private sector engagement specialist; Sustainable financing and leveraging expert; Socio-environmental and gender expert; GEF Project Design Expert (PDE); PPG Coordinator; Climate risk assessment expert)	106,500.00	79,998.00	26,502.00
Contracts (5660) (including: OPIM Fiduciary Assessment; Translation)	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
Travels (5684)	14,000.00	18,317.00	0.00
Workshops (5905) (including: Local stakeholder consultations; Logframe validation workshop)	15,499.00	104.00	6,899.00
General Operating Expenses (5028)	0.00	4,179.00	0.00
Total	149,999.00	102,598.00	47,401.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dimbokro	6.7625	-4.7292	2,289,981

Location Description:

Wet savannas of the V Baoulé: Slash-and-burn agricultural practices continue to drive the reduction of natural savannas and biodiversity in this region. Furthermore, agricultural activities are exacerbating the natural cycles of bush fires, resulting in severe damage to native savanna as well as agricultural areas, particularly during November to February.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Toumodi	6.5208	-4.966	2,280,314

Location Description:

Wet savannas of the V Baoulé: Slash-and-burn agricultural practices continue to drive the reduction of natural savannas and biodiversity in this region. Furthermore, agricultural activities are exacerbating the natural cycles of bush fires, resulting in severe damage to native savanna as well as agricultural areas, particularly during November to February

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lolobo	6.9589	-5.2656	2,284,978

Location Description:

Wet savannas of the V Baoulé: Slash-and-burn agricultural practices continue to drive the reduction of natural savannas and biodiversity in this region. Furthermore, agricultural activities are exacerbating the natural cycles of bush fires, resulting in severe damage to native savanna as well as agricultural areas, particularly during November to February.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yamoussoukro	6.8519	-5.2983	2,279,753

Location Description:

Wet savannas of the V Baoulé: Slash-and-burn agricultural practices continue to drive the reduction of natural savannas and biodiversity in this region. Furthermore, agricultural activities are exacerbating the natural cycles of bush fires, resulting in severe damage to native savanna as well as agricultural areas, particularly during November to February.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bilimono	8.9219	-4.1478	2,291,596

Location Description:

Sub-Sudanian savannas of the Central-North: Population growth has led to extensive land clearing, with large areas stripped of woody cover, revealing vast bare areas in places. The slash-and-burn clearing methods used by local communities in clearing savannas results in extensive damage. Savannas in this area are being further damaged by extensive livestock breeding and over-grazing. In addition, over-extracting of wood for domestic needs (fuel, construction) has led to a significant loss of natural vegetation cover and biodiversity in this area

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tafire	9.06883	-5.16404	2,281,103

Location Description:

Sub-Sudanian savannas of the Central-North: Population growth has led to extensive land clearing, with large areas stripped of woody cover, revealing vast bare areas in places. The slash-and-burn clearing methods used by local communities in clearing savannas results in extensive damage. Savannas in this area are being further damaged by extensive livestock breeding and over-grazing. In addition, over-extracting of wood for domestic needs (fuel, construction) has led to a significant loss of natural vegetation cover and biodiversity in this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Séguéla	7.9122	-6.7111	2,281,866

Location Description:

Sub-Sudanian savannas of the North-West: The area is located in the forest-savanna contact zone with a dominance of savanna. The area is subdivided into two sub-zones from South to North: a forest-savanna mosaic and the sub-Sudanese clear forest and savanna zone. Frequent bush fires and slash-and-burn agriculture, the predominant cultivation system, contribute to the rapid land degradation in this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Dualla	8.1239	-6.5408	2,289,534

Location Description:

Sub-Saharan savannas of the North-West: The area is located in the forest-savanna contact zone with a dominance of savanna. The area is subdivided into two sub-zones from South to North: a forest-savanna mosaic and the sub-Saharan clear forest and savanna zone. Frequent bush fires and slash-and-burn agriculture, the predominant cultivation system, contribute to the rapid land degradation in this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bouandougou	8.2158	-5.6694	2,290,642

Location Description:

Sub-Saharan savannas of the North-West: The area is located in the forest-savanna contact zone with a dominance of savanna. The area is subdivided into two sub-zones from South to North: a forest-savanna mosaic and the sub-Saharan clear forest and savanna zone. Frequent bush fires and slash-and-burn agriculture, the predominant cultivation system, contribute to the rapid land degradation in this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Séguélon	9.3281	-7.1789	2,281,864

Location Description:

Sub-Saharan savannas of the North-West: The area is located in the forest-savanna contact zone with a dominance of savanna. The area is subdivided into two sub-zones from South to North: a forest-savanna mosaic and the sub-Saharan clear forest and savanna zone. Frequent bush fires and slash-and-burn agriculture, the predominant cultivation system, contribute to the rapid land degradation in this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nassian	8.3989	-3.4983	2,283,919

Location Description:

Savannas of North-Eastern Sudanese zone: The Comoé National Park straddles the Sudanian savanna to the North (towards the border with Ghana) and the sub-Sudanian savanna further South (towards the border with Burkina Faso). Outside of the Southern Comoé National Park there is rapid conversion for cashew plantations, which has led to the loss of native forest species. Bush fires are often used to clear land for cashew plantations, with spread and damage the native forests. Ongoing population growth and the limited availability of agricultural land in this area continues to drive rapid reductions in forest area and a loss of biodiversity across this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bondoukou	8.0717	-2.8156	2,291,134

Location Description:

Savannas of North-Eastern Sudanese zone: The Comoé National Park straddles the Sudanian savanna to the North (towards the border with Ghana) and the sub-Sudanian savanna further South (towards the border with Burkina Faso). Outside of the Southern Comoé National Park there is rapid conversion for cashew plantations, which has led to the loss of native forest species. Bush fires are often used to clear land for cashew plantations, with spread and damage the native forests. Ongoing population growth and the limited availability of agricultural land in this area continues to drive rapid reductions in forest area and a loss of biodiversity across this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Laoudi-Ba	8.2900	-2.9617	2,285,379

Location Description:

Savannas of North-Eastern Sudanese zone: The Comoé National Park straddles the Sudanian savanna to the North (towards the border with Ghana) and the sub-Sudanian savanna further South (towards the border with Burkina Faso). Outside of the Southern Comoé National Park there is rapid conversion for cashew plantations, which has led to the loss of native forest species. Bush fires are often used to clear land for cashew plantations, with spread and damage the native forests. Ongoing population growth and the limited availability of agricultural land in this area continues to drive rapid reductions in forest area and a loss of biodiversity across this area.

Activity Description:

TBC

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tagadi	8.6314	-2.6250	2,281,097

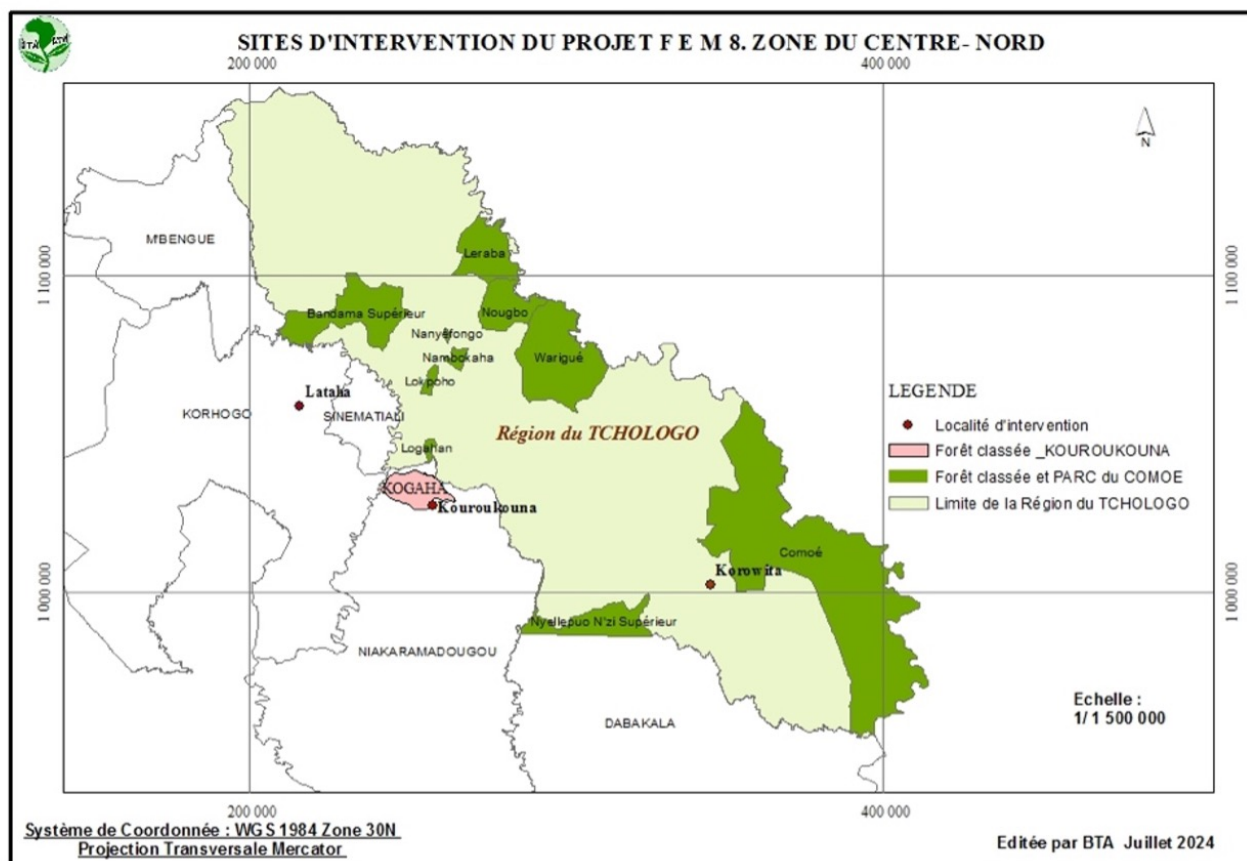
Location Description:

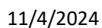
Savannas of North-Eastern Sudanese zone: The Comoé National Park straddles the Sudanian savanna to the North (towards the border with Ghana) and the sub-Sudanian savanna further South (towards the border with Burkina Faso). Outside of the Southern Comoé National Park there is rapid conversion for cashew plantations, which has led to the loss of native forest species. Bush fires are often used to clear land for cashew plantations, with spread and damage the native forests. Ongoing population growth and the limited availability of agricultural land in this area continues to drive rapid reductions in forest area and a loss of biodiversity across this area.

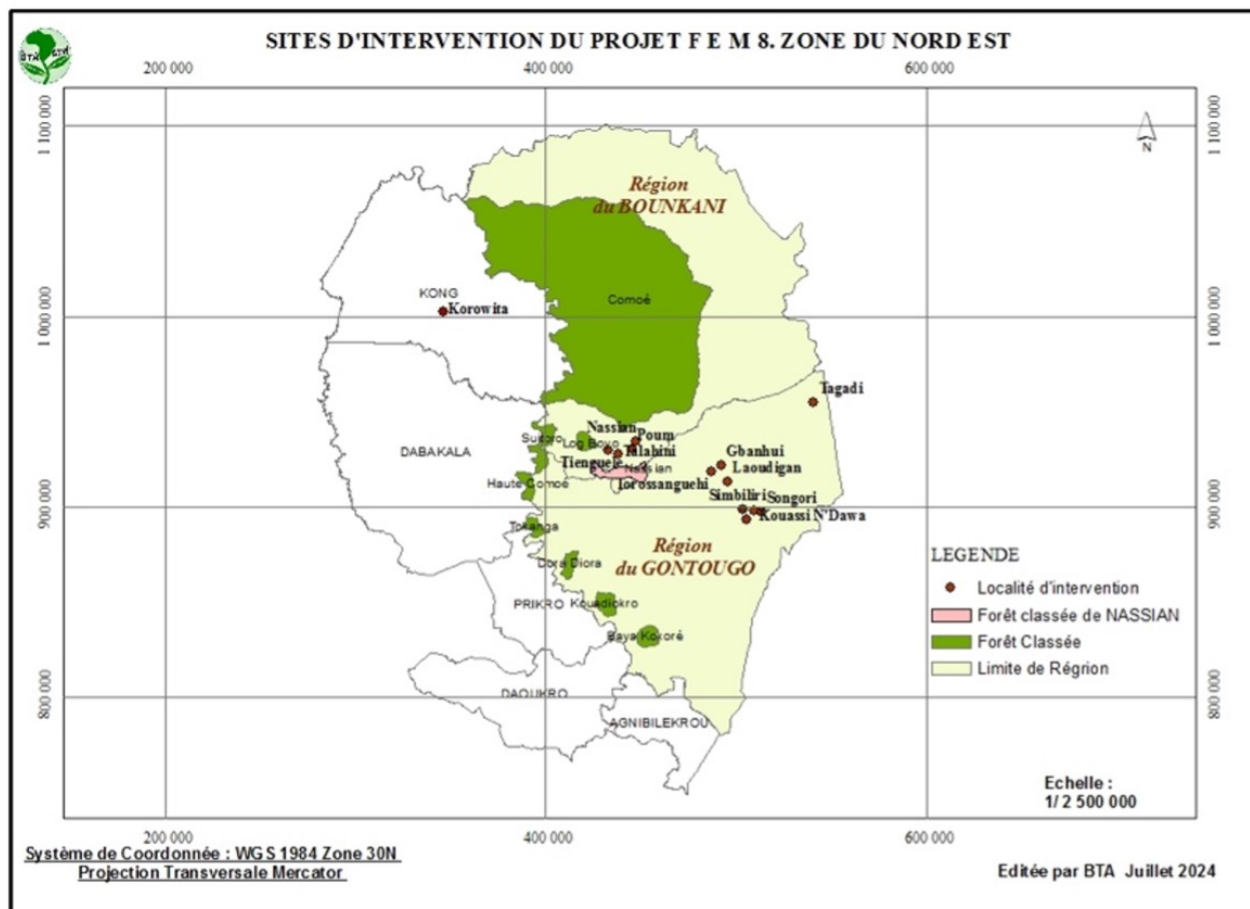
Activity Description:

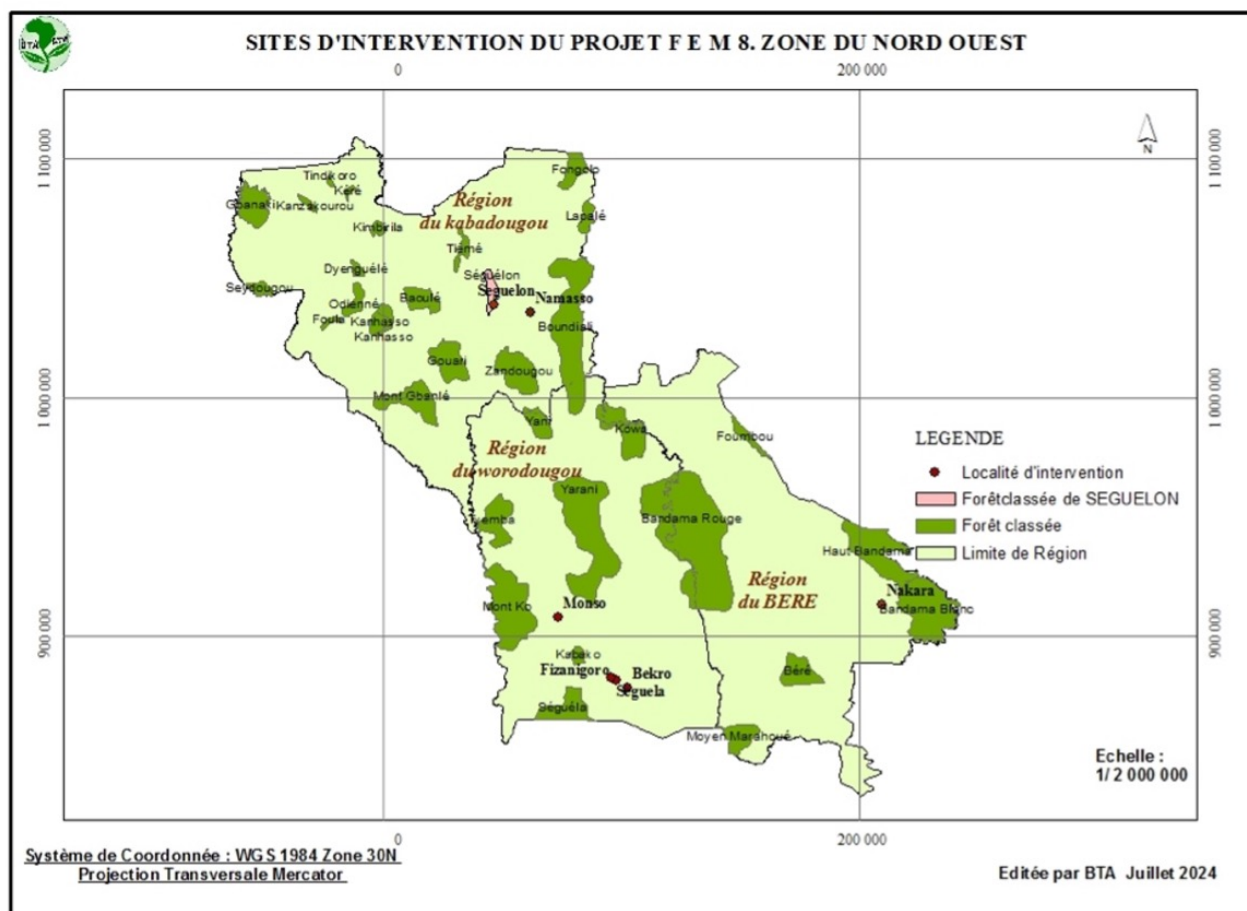
TBC

Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.









ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

Côte d'Ivoire ERIP_ESS Annex

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

FAO Cost Categories	Component 1 Total	Component 2 Total	Component 3 Total	Component 4 Total	M&E	PMC	Total GEF	Operational Partner Budget	FAO Support Services	Total GEF
5013 Consultants										
Int. Consultant Ecosystem Expert	67,500	17,500	-	-	-	-	85,000	85,000	-	85,000
Int. Consultant Biodiversity Policy	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	-	40,000
Int. Agroforestry Expert	-	85,000	-	-	-	-	85,000	85,000	-	85,000
Int. consultant cashew nut VC	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Int. Consultant Economist-ecosystem	-	-	60,000	30,000	-	-	90,000	90,000	-	90,000
Sub-total international Consultants	107,500	102,500	70,000	30,000	-	0	310,000	310,000	-	310,000
National Expert Ecosystem	19,800	39,765	13,200	-	-	-	72,765	72,765	-	72,765
Nat. GIS expert	3,300	13,200	-	-	-	-	16,500	16,500	-	16,500
National IT Expert	1,650	-	-	3,300	-	-	4,950	4,950	-	4,950
Nat. ESMP/ ESIA Expert	23,100	-	-	-	-	-	23,100	23,100	-	23,100
Nat. expert Community Engagement	9,900	16,500	-	-	-	-	26,400	26,400	-	26,400
Nat. agronomist	3,300	1,650	-	-	-	-	4,950	4,950	-	4,950
Nat. Communication expert	16,500	-	-	8,250	-	-	24,750	24,750	-	24,750
National Baseline Expert	-	6,600	-	-	-	-	6,600	6,600	-	6,600
Nat. cashew nut VC Expert	-	-	4,950	-	-	-	4,950	4,950	-	4,950
Nat. Cooperative Expert	-	-	4,950	-	-	-	4,950	4,950	-	4,950
Ecosystem Specialist	-	24,000	-	24,000	-	-	48,000	48,000	-	48,000
Gender expert	-	-	24,000	-	-	-	24,000	24,000	-	24,000
Nat. M&E Officer	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	60,000	60,000	-	60,000
National project coordinator	46,000	70,000	40,000	190,000	-	74,000	350,000	350,000	-	350,000
Administrative and finance officer	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	60,000	60,000	-	60,000
Driver	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	60,000	60,000	-	60,000
Sub-total national Consultants	143,550	191,715	83,100	198,550	60,000	134,000	771,915	771,915	-	771,915
5013 Sub-total consultants	251,050	294,215	153,100	189,550	60,000	134,000	1,081,915	1,081,915	-	1,081,915
5020 Contracts										
Service provider for land reforestation/ regeneration/ rehabilitation	-	1,100,500	-	-	-	-	1,100,500	1,100,500	-	1,100,500
Service provider to rehabilitate 5 wells	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Service provider to set up cashew-based agroforestry	-	120,000	-	-	-	-	120,000	120,000	-	120,000
Organise 100 FFS	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
Contract service to assess IGA feasibility	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
Service provider for IGA equipment	-	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	35,000	-	35,000
Dispositions for Grievance Redress Mechanism	-	-	-	-	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
Contract service to organise 10 FBS	-	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
Translation cost - Repository	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,000	-	2,000
Translation for KM products	-	-	-	12,000	-	-	12,000	12,000	-	12,000
Mid-Term Review	-	-	-	-	40,000	-	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Terminal Evaluation	-	-	-	-	40,000	-	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Terminal Report	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Spot-checks	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Audits	-	-	-	-	-	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500
5020 Sub-total Contracts	2,000	1,320,500	5,000	12,000	125,000	37,500	1,602,000	1,602,000	1,602,000	1,602,000
5021 Travel										
Lumpsum int travel for data collection - including DSA	12,500	38,500	7,000	86,000	-	-	144,000	144,000	-	144,000
Lumpsum domestic travel for data collection and M&E - including DSA	26,250	44,435	10,000	6,000	-	-	86,685	86,685	-	86,685
Annual lumpsum for PMU travel (petrol and car maintenance)	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
5021 Sub-total travel	38,750	132,935	17,000	92,000	-	-	280,685	280,685	-	280,685
5023 Training										
Inception Workshop	-	-	-	13,000	-	-	13,000	13,000	-	13,000
Project mid-year and annual meetings	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	70,000	70,000	-	70,000
Training of MINEF and SODEFOR staff on ecosystem assessment	12,500	-	-	-	-	-	12,500	12,500	-	12,500
Workshop to present results of ecosystem assessments - project beginning and end	13,400	-	-	-	-	-	13,400	13,400	-	13,400
Local workshop to validate community land use plans	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Nat. training on land restoration planning	22,400	-	-	-	-	-	22,400	22,400	-	22,400
Training of Master and Facilitators for FFS (incl. design of training curriculum)	-	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000	75,000	-	75,000
Exchange visits and learning exchange for farmers	-	16,000	-	-	-	-	16,000	16,000	-	16,000
Training of Master and Facilitators for FBS (incl. design of training curriculum)	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
Technical processing training	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
Organise match-making events for producers and buyers in cashew vc	-	-	22,500	-	-	-	22,500	22,500	-	22,500
Final workshop	-	-	-	13,000	-	-	13,000	13,000	-	13,000
5023 Sub-total training	58,300	91,000	82,500	96,000	-	-	327,800	327,800	-	327,800
5024 Expendable procurement										
Printing for sensitisation events -	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Printing and broadcasting costs for knowledge products	-	-	-	8,099	-	-	8,099	8,099	-	8,099
5 smart phones for communities to develop learning videos	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
Farmers kits for 5025 farmers	-	450,000	-	-	-	-	450,000	450,000	-	450,000
GIS equipment for MINEF	-	-	-	10,000	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	10,000
5024 Sub-total expendable	1,000	451,000	-	18,099	-	-	470,099	470,099	-	470,099
6100 Non-expendable procurement										
Equipment for Lamto center to have up to date database, and wifi connection	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	-	20,000
Equipment for 10 cooperatives to transform agri-products	-	-	27,030	-	-	-	27,030	27,030	-	27,030
Nazaries to support reforestation activities	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	50,000
Computer, laptops, peripherals	-	-	-	-	7901	-	7,901	7,901	-	7,901
6100 Sub-total non-expendable	20,000	50,000	27,030	-	-	7,901	104,931	104,931	-	104,931
5028 GOE budget										
6300 Sub-total GOE budget	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	371,100	2,339,650	284,630	407,649	185,000	175,401	3,767,430	3,607,930	159,500	3,767,430

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

NB: About USD 88,000 were budgeted for national participation to ER IP in-person events as follows.

Activity	Description	USD
4.1.1.4 Travel to IP meetings – at least 2 people for 5 yrs	Cost to attend IP meetings for 5 years	29,500
4.1.1.5 Participate to GCP study tour	Cost to attend study tours for 4 years	29,000
4.1.1.6 Attend other regional meeting from GCP	Cost to attend IP meetings for 5 years	29,500

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

From GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF.

N/A - no comment issued on the program document were found to be applicable to this specific child project.