GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title	
Strengthening the resilience of natural and agro-ecosystems and communities to climate change in Central Togo	
Region	GEF Project ID
Togo	11548
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Togo	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
UNDP	9764
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	3/20/2024
Project Sector (CCM Only)	

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Biomes, Tropical Dry Forests, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Least Developed Countries, Innovation, Livelihoods, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Ecosystem Approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Communications, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Private Sector, SMEs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Exchange, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
MTF	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
6,649,315.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
631,685.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing

7,281,000.00	68,523,913.00
PPG Amount: (e) 200,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 19,000.00
PPG total amount: (e+f) 219,000.00	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 7,500,000.00
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. The explanation and justification of the project should be in section B "project description".(max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The project adopts an integrated approach to promote sustainable landscape management and climate resilience in Togo's Central Region. At its core, the project emphasizes inter-sectoral coordination and planning at the landscape level, addressing the limitations in integrated landscape management (ILM) capacities. Through a multi-stakeholder platform, the project will develop coordinated planning, validation, and adoption of ten-year action plans for restoration and regenerative agriculture to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience of communities, ensuring broad stakeholder participation and consensus-building. Strategic restoration efforts will be undertaken in priority areas of Togo's Central Region, aiming to restore both natural and agro-ecosystems, thus enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services while promoting sustainable land use practices. Concurrently, the project will focus on advancing regenerative agriculture practices, promoting climate-resilient agroecological intensification and diversification to bolster resilience to climate change and support economic empowerment through strengthened value chains. Through knowledge management initiatives, the project will facilitate the uptake of best practices and innovative approaches, ensuring the sustainability and scalability of project interventions. By integrating these components, the project seeks to foster climate resilience of communities, biodiversity conservation and contribute to land degradation neutrality (LDN) within the context of current climate impacts and projected impacts and climate change adaptation, reduction of climate risks and socio-economic development, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and sustainable future for Togo's Central Region.

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To strengthen and implement systems for integrated landscape management and restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience in Togo's Central Region

Project Components

Component 1: Multi-sectoral enabling framework for Integrated Land Management (ILM) and planning, integrating climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives.

Component Type	Trust Fund

Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
460,000.00	3,553,306.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1: Integrated landscape management is strengthened to maintain and enhance climate resilience and

flows of ecosystem services, including biodiversity.

Indicators and Targets:

- 270,000 ha are covered by a climate resilient regional SLM and sustainable intensification plan (area to be confirmed at PPG)

- Strengthened systemic framework for landscape level multi-stakeholder ILM and planning, as evidenced by (i) cross-sectoral collaboration for landscape level land use planning and management (participants, disaggregated by gender); (ii) approved landscape-level implementation plans for land and forest restoration, SLM and regenerative agriculture; and (iii) analytical tools and metrics in place for measuring impacts on ecosystem services and community economic/livelihood benefits (metrics and services measured to be determined during PPG phase)

- Landscape-level multi-stakeholder platform 1) developed and operational and 2) baseline and target values to be determined at PPG (at minimum 50% women)

Output:

Output 1.1 Policy and legal frameworks enhanced/ strengthened to support multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, gender-responsive integrated landscape management (ILM) and planning, with climate risks and adaptation needs integrated.

Output 1.2: Strengthened gender-responsive and inclusive landscape-level multi-stakeholder platform for data sharing, planning, capacity and consensus building, and knowledge dissemination.

Output 1.3: Detailed landscape-level survey of good / best practices in agriculture, agro-forestry, forestry and land restoration.

Output 1.4: Detailed and operational implementation plans for land and forest restoration, SLM, and regenerative agriculture, informed by climate change projections, to strengthen climate resilience of the project landscapes.

Output 1.5: Ten-year climate-resilient regional SLM and intensification plan for agriculture, agro-forestry and forestry, including agreed roles and targets for participating stakeholder groups and strategies for enhancing diffusion and uptake of good practices and community economic empowerment (to be implemented under Components 3).

Output 1.6: Enhanced analytical tools and metrics for measuring impacts on ecosystem services (including BD, land degradation, adaptation and resilience), including climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives, as well as livelihood/economic benefits.

Component 1: Multi-sectoral enabling framework for Integrated Land Management (ILM) and planning, integrating climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives.

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

402,000.00	5,329,959.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1: Integrated landscape management is strengthened to maintain and enhance climate resilience and

flows of ecosystem services, including biodiversity.

Indicators and Targets:

- 270,000 ha are covered by a climate resilient regional SLM and sustainable intensification plan (area to be confirmed at PPG)

- Strengthened systemic framework for landscape level multi-stakeholder ILM and planning, as evidenced by (i) cross-sectoral collaboration for landscape level land use planning and management (participants, disaggregated by gender); (ii) approved landscape-level implementation plans for land and forest restoration, SLM and regenerative agriculture; and (iii) analytical tools and metrics in place for measuring impacts on ecosystem services and community economic/livelihood benefits (metrics and services measured to be determined during PPG phase)

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Output 1.6: Enhanced analytical tools and metrics for measuring impacts on ecosystem services (including BD, land degradation, adaptation and resilience), including climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives, as well as livelihood/economic benefits.

Component 2 - Ecosystem restoration in degraded natural landscapes and protected landscapes as a strategy to strengthen resilience

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

820,000.00	10,058,080.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2: Climate-resilient restoration of priority target areas that support strengthened value chain(s), with robust strategy to stimulate further diffusion and uptake of associated best practices, via technology transfer, innovation and deployment within the broader landscape

Indicators and Targets:

- 6,000 ha of degraded priority productive lands under restoration for climate informed agricultural/forest production

- 3,000 ha of priority degraded lands in protected areas (i) under restoration and (ii) benefiting biodiversity

- Strengthened value chains result in enhanced livelihoods in Central Togo (supported by metrics developed in Output 1.6) (metrics, baseline values and targets to be confirmed during PPG phase)

Output:

Output 2.1: Strengthened local and regional supply chain(s) to support climate-resilient ecosystem restoration, including native tree seedling production and distribution, and associated capacities.

Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities among key local stakeholders for adoption / deployment of restoration technologies.

Output 2.3: Selected priority degraded agricultural, forest and rangeland areas within the productive landscape undergoing climate risk informed and resilient restoration to agriculture production.

Output 2.4: Priority degraded zones within protected areas under restoration for biodiversity and enhanced ecosystem services.

Component 2 - Ecosystem restoration in degraded natural landscapes and protected landscapes as a strategy to strengthen resilience

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,134,000.00	10,284,810.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2: Climate-resilient restoration of priority target areas that support strengthened value chain(s), with robust strategy to stimulate further diffusion and uptake of associated best practices, via technology transfer, innovation and deployment within the broader landscape

Indicators and Targets:

- 6,000 ha of degraded priority productive lands under restoration for climate informed agricultural/forest production

- 3,000 ha of priority degraded lands in protected areas (i) under restoration and (ii) benefiting biodiversity

- Strengthened value chains result in enhanced livelihoods in Central Togo (supported by metrics developed in Output 1.6) (metrics, baseline values and targets to be confirmed during PPG phase)

Output:

Output 2.1: Strengthened local and regional supply chain(s) to support climate-resilient ecosystem restoration, including native tree seedling production and distribution, and associated capacities.

Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities among key local stakeholders for adoption / deployment of restoration technologies.

Output 2.3: Selected priority degraded agricultural, forest and rangeland areas within the productive landscape undergoing climate risk informed and resilient restoration to agriculture production.

Output 2.4: Priority degraded zones within protected areas under restoration for biodiversity and enhanced ecosystem services.

Component 3- Adoption of climate-resilient agro-ecological intensification, diversification and other regenerative practices in agriculture, agro-forestry and forest management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
970,000.00	9,790,139.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3: Increased resilience of local communities and livelihoods and **reduced pressure** on natural habitats through increased use of climate-resilient and nature-positive agricultural practices

Indicators and Targets:

- Nature-positive and climate smart agricultural practices expanded to 50,000 ha

- Number of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) with enhanced income from value chains targeted by climate risk informed regenerative agriculture practices (supported by metrics developed in Output 1.6)

-# of new or enhanced medium and micro-enterprises in place from restorative agriculture value chains.

Output:

Output 3.1: Enhanced gender disaggregated data and modeling of projected climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation needs in the target project area in Togo's Central Region, integrating enhanced analytical tools and metrics, including climate projections, impact modelling (Output 1.6)

Output 3.2: Improved climate risk informed and resilient agriculture, SLM and SFM technologies in place in existing production areas and in unused agricultural lands, supported by strengthened extension and community/ stakeholder capacities.

Output 3.3: Selected climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural, agroforestry and forestry value chains and associated sustainable practices strengthened through investments and delivery of extension support.

Output 3.4: Strategy developed and implemented to increase investment in adoption of nature-positive and climate-resilient technologies and practices, including by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (also supporting Component 2)

Component 3- Adoption of climate-resilient agro-ecological intensification, diversification and other regenerative practices in agriculture, agro-forestry and forest management

Component Type	Trust Fund

Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
1,891,000.00	19,487,517.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3: Increased resilience of local communities and livelihoods and **reduced pressure** on natural habitats through increased use of climate-resilient and nature-positive agricultural practices

Indicators and Targets:

- Nature-positive and climate smart agricultural practices expanded to 50,000 ha

- Number of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) with enhanced income from value chains targeted by climate risk informed regenerative agriculture practices (supported by metrics developed in Output 1.6)

-# of new or enhanced medium and micro-enterprises in place from restorative agriculture value chains.

Output:

Output 3.1: Enhanced gender disaggregated data and modeling of projected climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation needs in the target project area in Togo's Central Region, integrating enhanced analytical tools and metrics, including climate projections, impact modelling (Output 1.6)

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Output 3.4: Strategy developed and implemented to increase investment in adoption of nature-positive and climate-resilient technologies and practices, including by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (also supporting Component 2)

Component 4 - Knowledge management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
160,000.00	1,442,756.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4: Lessons learned are captured, documented and disseminated at sub-national, national and international levels

Indicators and Targets:

-# of beneficiaries of project learning products (minimum 60% women)

Output:

Output 4.1: Gender-responsive and inclusive thematic technical reports on impacts of individual restoration and SLM / intensification practices and technologies promoted by the project, including their diffusion

Output 4.2: Landscape-level report on practices and diffusion / uptake patterns and trends

Output 4.3: Gender-responsive and inclusive communication and awareness raising programs at sub-national, national levels, with dual emphasis on communicating to local communities and national policy makers

Component 4 - Knowledge management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	**Co-financing ($)**
190,000.00	2,164,135.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4: Lessons learned are captured, documented and disseminated at sub-national, national and international levels

Indicators and Targets:

-# of beneficiaries of project learning products. (baseline and targets to be confirmed during PPG phase)

Output:

Output 4.1: Thematic technical reports on impacts of individual restoration and SLM / intensification practices and technologies promoted by the project, including their diffusion

Output 4.2: Landscape-level report on practices and diffusion / uptake patterns and trends

Output 4.3: Communication and awareness raising at sub-national, national levels, with dual emphasis on communicating to local communities and national policy makers

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing ($)	**Co-financing ($)**
123,072.00	1,260,067.00

Outcome:

M&E and adaptive management, with an enhanced focus on gender inclusivity

Output:

Monitoring and gender-sensitive evaluation in place, ensuring transparency, effectiveness, and equitable consideration in project activities.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
182,609.00	1,890,101.00

Outcome:

M&E and adaptive management, with an enhanced focus on gender inclusivity

Output:

Monitoring and gender-sensitive evaluation in place, ensuring transparency, effectiveness, and equitable consideration in project activities.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Multi-sectoral enabling framework for Integrated Land Management (ILM) and planning, integrating climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives.	460,000.00	3,553,306.00
Component 1: Multi-sectoral enabling framework for Integrated Land Management (ILM) and planning, integrating climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives.	402,000.00	5,329,959.00
Component 2 - Ecosystem restoration in degraded natural landscapes and protected landscapes as a strategy to strengthen resilience	820,000.00	10,058,080.00
Component 2 - Ecosystem restoration in degraded natural landscapes and protected landscapes as a strategy to strengthen resilience	1,134,000.00	10,284,810.00
Component 3- Adoption of climate-resilient agro-ecological intensification, diversification and other regenerative practices in agriculture, agro-forestry and forest management	970,000.00	9,790,139.00
Component 3- Adoption of climate-resilient agro-ecological intensification, diversification and other regenerative practices in agriculture, agro-forestry and forest management	1,891,000.00	19,487,517.00
Component 4 - Knowledge management	160,000.00	1,442,756.00

Component 4 - Knowledge management	190,000.00	2,164,135.00
M&E	123,072.00	1,260,067.00
M&E	182,609.00	1,890,101.00
Subtotal	**6,332,681.00**	**65,260,870.00**
Project Management Cost	126,654.00	1,305,217.00
Project Management Cost	189,980.00	1,957,826.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**6,649,315.00**	**68,523,913.00**

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly 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. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Geographic and social context

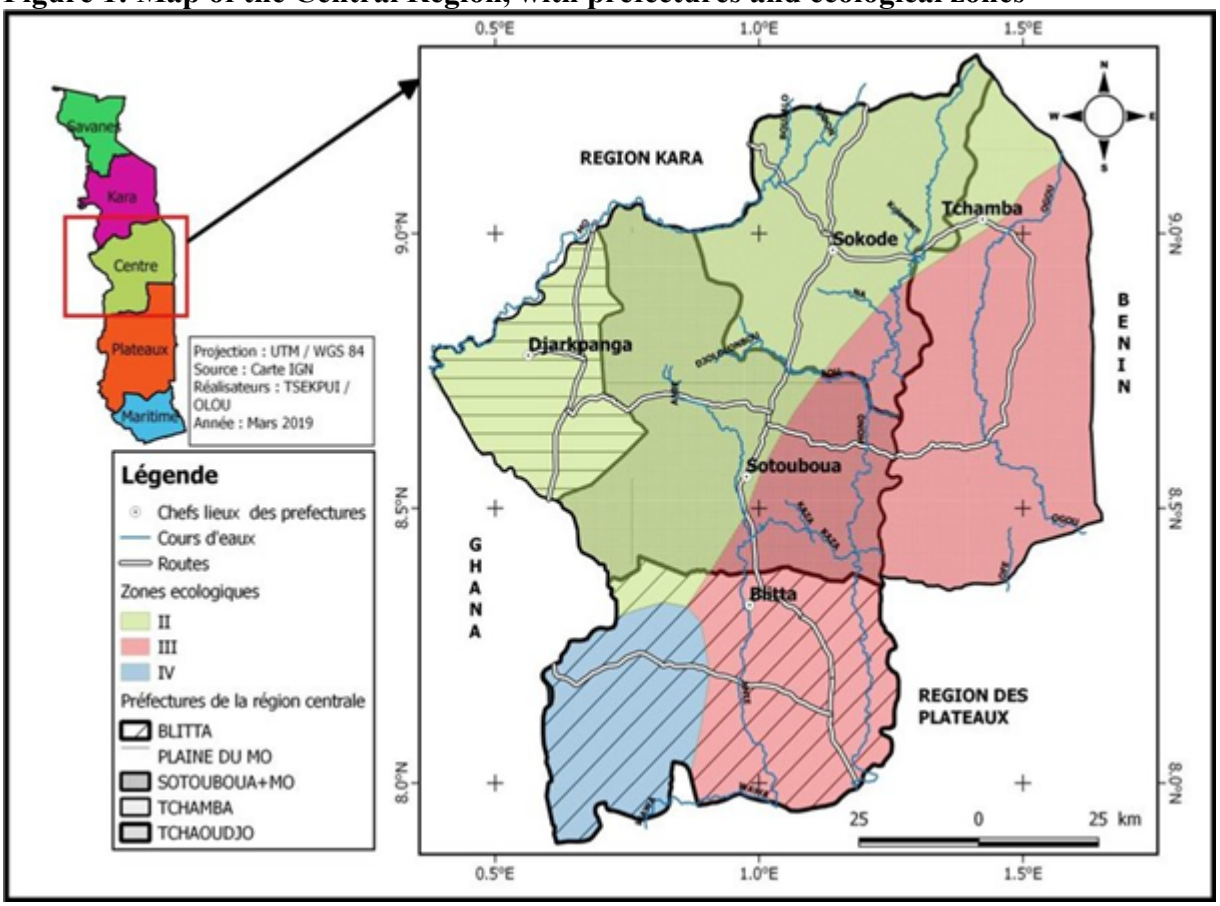
The project focuses on Togo's Central Region—one of the five economic regions of Togo created by Law No. 81-009 of 06/23/1981. As seen in **Figure 1,** administratively, the region consists of five prefectures, namely Tchaoudjo, Sotouboua, Tchamba, Blitta and Mo. Stretching between 8° and 9°15 northern latitude and 0°15 and 1°35 eastern longitude, the region covers an area of 13,470 km2, or 23.8% of the national territory. It is Togo's least populous region, with an estimated 795,529 people as of 2022.[1][1]

Geographically, the relief of the Central Region can be broken down into three distinct physical units: plateaus and mountains, plains and basins. The mountainous area (500 to 800 m) extends from the Adélé plateau in the extreme south (Monts Assoukoko, 755 m) to the Monts de Kéméni (700 m) in the center east. This area of steep slopes with a dense hydrographic network, as well as a fairly high degree of erosion risk, constitutes a continuation of the Atakora chain which extends towards Benin.

There are two large areas of plains in the Central Region. These are the plains of Mô and Adélé in the West and the great central plain which extends to the East of the Atakora range. They are characterized by gentle slopes towards the Mono valley to the east and the Mô to the west. These plains constitute an area suitable for agriculture. Two important inland basins are located to the north and west of Sokodé in the prefecture of Tchaoudjo. These areas are marked by medium to low slopes and a dense hydrographic network.

The climatic regime is of the semi-humid tropical "Sudanian" type, characterized by two distinct seasons: a relatively severe dry season, lasting from November to March, and a rainy season, increasingly irregular and unstable, spanning the months of April to October. The irregularity of rains throughout the year, and from year to year, poses significant challenges, including the disruption of agricultural activities. Average annual temperature is around 27°C. The average maximum is around 34°C between March and April. Minimum is 22°C during the harmattan and the lowest temperatures are observed in the mountainous areas of the West and the North. The daily variation is very significant during the months of February and March and the months of July, August and September are the coolest months of the year.

Figure 1: Map of the Central Region, with prefectures and ecological zones



As seen in **Figure 1**, the Central Region contains portions of three distinct agro-ecological zones, as follows:

- **Agro-ecological zone II** corresponds to the large areas of the plains of central Togo, with altitudes between 200 and 400 m, characterized by Guinean wooded savannahs and remnants / islands of dry forests. The climate is Guinean, characterized by a long rainy season between April and October, followed by a dry season which extends from November to March. Main food crops in the area are sorghum, maize, millet, rice; while cotton is the cash crop.

- **Agro-ecological zone III,** also called the Central Plains Zone, is made up of vast expanses of dry *Anogeissus leiocarpus* forest and Guinean savannah with relatively varied flora, dominated by *Combretaceae*. Along the main watercourses, there are gallery forests. Main crops here are cereals such as maize, along with sorghum and rice. Root and tuber crops include cassava, yams and, to a lesser extent, sweet potatoes and taro. Llegumes such as beans, groundnuts and soybeans are also grown in the zone.

- **Agro-ecological zone IV,** or the southern zone of the Togo mountains, is characterized by semi-deciduous forests interspersed with savannah formations. The climate is mountainous Guinean, and the main tree species are Khaya grandifoliola, Antiaris africana, Milicia excelsa, Terminalia superba, Parinari glabra and Erythrophleum suaveolens. In the savannahs that intersect these forests, species such as: Lophira lanceolata Terminalia glaucescens, Pterocarpus erinaceus, Hymenocardia acida, Vitex doniana, etc.

The Central Region has 14 protected areas (PA) covering a total area of 252,087 ha, or approximately 18.7% of the region. Alongside classified forests, there exist several classified reforestation areas, in particular teak groves, which have increased in area from 2,034 ha in the 1990s to more than 2,607.67 ha in 2020. IUCN threat categories and assessment criteria were used to determine the conservation status of the 354 species recorded in the Central Region. Of these, some 65% of species have not yet been assessed. However, the region's forests are known to contain vulnerable species (VU) such as *Afzelia africana, Khaya grandifoliola, Khaya senegalensis, Pouteria alnifolia, Ricinodendron heudelotii, Vitellaria paradoxa,* in addition to *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, which is considered endangered (EN).

Economic and agricultural context of the Central Region

Like the other regions of Togo, the economy of the Central Region is dominated by agriculture (65% of the population), trade (15.7%), handicrafts (9.3%) and fishing (sometimes practiced on the Mono River). Agriculture therefore employs a large proportion of the region's population. Like national agriculture, agriculture in the Central Region remains is generally characterized by a low technical level—25% of farms benefit from technical support from management structures, fertilizers are employed on 16% of these crops, 89% of cultivated areas are sown with tillage equipment (hoe, cutter-cut) and credit is scarce (2% of bank loans in 2019).

The main food crops produced by households in the region are: maize (37% of the sample), soybeans (26.5%), yams (15.9%), cassava (11.9%) and cowpeas (11%). In 2021, the region's agricultural production amounted to 153,829 tons of maize, 54,178 tons of sorghum, 42,348 tons of paddy rice, 410,404 tons of ams, 236,355 tons of cassava, 22,858 tons of beans, etc. (see **Figure 2**). In terms of area, maize and soybeans occupy the largest area at the regional level, at 1.29 and 1.23 ha per household. The smallest crops are, in descending order, cassava (0.88 ha per household), yam (0.87 ha) and cowpea (0.77 ha). Cash crops—mainly soybeans, cotton, cashew nuts, etc.—were also harvested in 2021.[4][2]

The income of agricultural households comes from the sale of part of the crops, the rest being reserved for consumption. Thus, agricultural products sold in the field or in local markets allow households to earn an average of 555,656 CFA francs at the end of the 2019-2020 agricultural season.

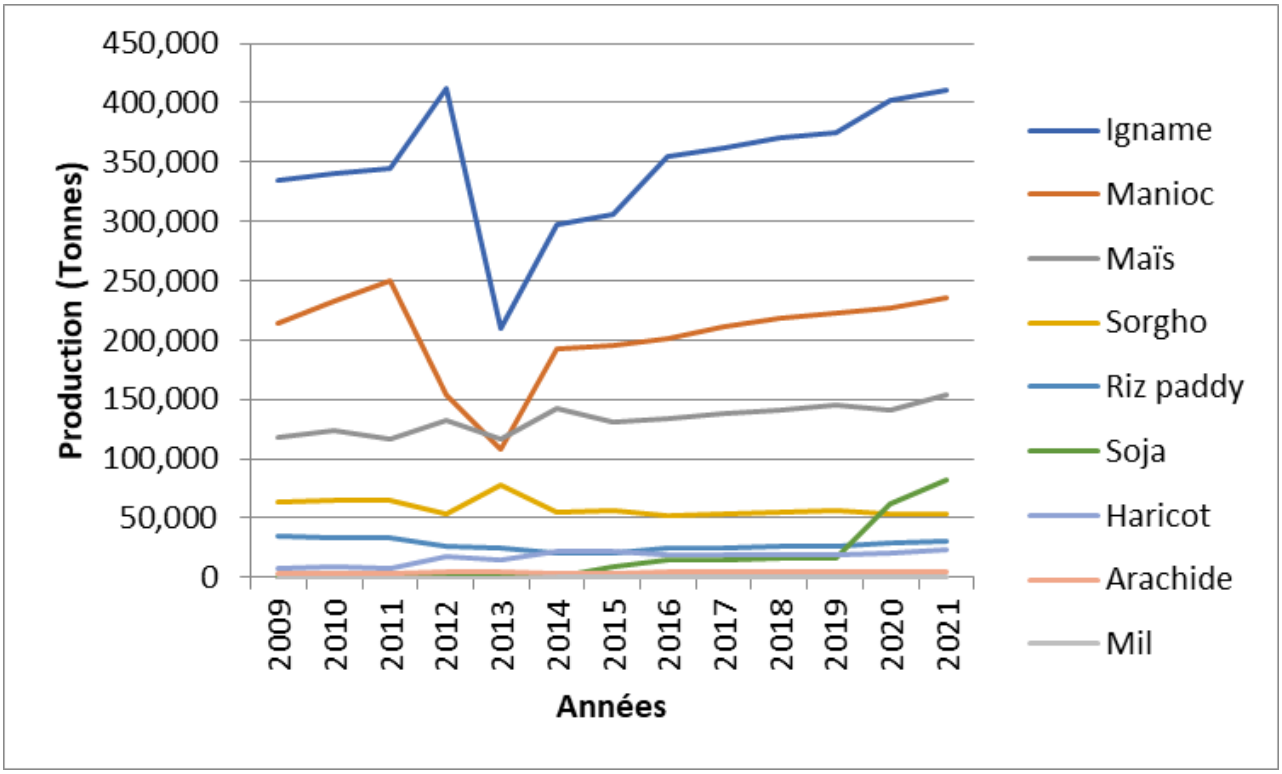


Figure 2: Evolution of the production of the main crops in the central region from 2009 to 2021.

Source: Plotted using data from DSID (2023).

Apart from the main activities mentioned, people engage in other subsistence activities, mainly related to ecosystem goods and services. Indeed, the vast majority of the population admits to using forest products, both wood and non-wood, to meet some of their needs.[5][3] Among these products, the most mentioned are medicinal plants (80.8%), fuelwood (78.1%), fruits (58.4%) and mainly shea and néré seeds (48.8%). This testifies to the central role that the forest plays in the lives of the people of the central region. It should also be noted that charcoal production is a means for some households (11.8%) to increase their income somewhat. Thus, the analyses reveal that the manufacture and sale of charcoal allowed households to earn an average of 122,390 FCFA (approximately US$200) during the year 2021.

While the region has considerable assets for the development of the agricultural sector (availability of arable land, good rainfall, existence of wet lowlands with the possibility of exploiting irrigated crops, existence of a young and active workforce), it is at the same time confronted with difficulties mainly related to the isolation of areas with high agricultural potential, rural exodus, lack of access to credit, climatic hazards and conflicts related to transhumance.

Threats, drivers and resulting habitat loss and degradation

A number of unsustainable land and resource use practices are operating in tandem to deplete the region's natural capital and negatively impact local populations' economic prospects and resilience. At the same time,

they are negatively affecting biodiversity and causing in some cases irreversible land degradation. Each of these threats is further exacerbated by climate change and its attendant risks - factors which will only intensify in coming decades (see following section). These **threats / direct drivers** include:

- **Agricultural sector**: The expansion of cultivable areas combined with poor farming practices constitute major causes of degradation of forest lands and landscapes. Standing trees are removed by fire in order to reduce as much as possible any shade which could affect crop productivity. The establishment of planned agricultural development zones (ZAAP) has also played a significant role in deforestation. Approximately 20 ZAAPs, covering some 3,500 ha, have been established across the different cantons of the region. Measures related to compensatory reforestation linked to the development of these ZAAPs have not been implemented. Largely as a result, dense forest formations (including riparian forests) have decreased from 19.4% of total land area in 2000 to 6.8% in 2021.
- **Forestry, logging and fuelwood collection:** Forestry operations include timber and wood energy exploitation activities. Wood energy production areas are found in all prefectures of the Central Region. Large quantities of fuelwood and bags of charcoal are produced annually in these basins. In the case of charcoal, average annual production in the region is estimated at 21,800 kg. Households also collect fuelwood from crop areas and fallow lands, either by gathering dead wood or by pruning, or even felling, standing trees. Timber is also collected for construction of houses and sheds.
- **Livestock /transhumance:** Discussions and interviews with local populations undertaken during development of the action plan for the restoration of forest landscapes in the Central Region[6][4] revealed the widespread belief that the condition of forest landscapes took a catastrophic turn following the arrival of transhumant breeders around the year 2000, whose livestock are seen to cause significant damage to plant cover but also to crops due to non-compliance with the transhumance calendar[7][5], corridors and reception sites set up for the animals. Although livestock sometimes play a positive role in rangeland areas, e.g. by helping to regenerate soils and improve water retention capacities, in other cases, trampling by cattle herds compacts the soil, reduces water infiltration and increases runoff, contributing to the disappearance of certain plant species and negative impacts on certain crops.

Underlying drivers of environmental degradation in the region include:

- **Significant increases in population and population density:** Togo's Central Region experienced strong growth in its population between 1981 and 2022. Indeed, from 301,670 inhabitants in 1981, the region's population has increased significantly, reaching 617,871 inhabitants in 2010 and 795,529 in 2022, or approximately 2.4% per year. Between 1981 and 2022, population density more than doubled, from 22 to 59 people/km2.
- **Climate change:** Evidence of climate change has been noted within the region, including increasingly heavy rains/floods, intense and long droughts, strengthening of the *harmattan* (a dry and warm trade wind which now descends almost systematically to the coast and settles there for several weeks, drying out the forests) and increases in temperatures. These factors have, among other immediate consequences, increased the risk of vegetation fires. In addition, according to information and data collected on the ground in the region[8], drought/water shortages have led to a drastic drop in yields and a reduction in income for farmers in Tchamba, Blitta and the Mô plain. Producers of seasonal crops such as cereals (maize, sorghum and rice)

have been especially severely affected. Finally, the impact of climate change on water resources also has a significant effect on the Central Region's fisheries, the productivity of fish populations and their distribution in waterways.

- **Community conflicts:** Conflicts between communities have increased over time, representing both a cause and an effect of environmental degradation. Most often, conflicts, often violent ones, ensue between transhumant Fulani and local farmers who seek to defend their crops and land. The early drying up of watercourses partly explains these conflicts.

The above threats and drivers have combined to create significant levels of degradation and loss of habitat and biodiversity in the region. As shown in Table 1, a 2022 land use analysis carried out as part of the regional action plan for the restoration of the forest landscape of the Central Region (based on Landsat and Sentinel images) identified nine classes of land cover, while assessing levels of degradation within each.[9] Overall, lands with very high degradation were found to occupy 13,880 ha or 1.03%, those with high degradation occupy 22.28%, while those with medium degradation occupy 29.33%. Only 16% of land is very slightly degraded compared to 30.41% of slightly degraded land. The high degradation range is only a little over 23%. Slightly degraded land is the majority, representing more than 47% of land. Less degraded areas are those where forest areas are preserved, including Abdoulaye classified forest and the Fazao park. Areas of medium to very high degradation tend to be found in areas of bare mountains and farming areas around larger towns.

Table 1: Land degradation by type of land use and occupation*

Occupation	Area (ha)	Very weak	Weak	Average	High	Very high
Dense forests	34,172	13,022	9,265	7,149	3,299	31
Riparian forests	50,212	28,620	12,099	5,760	3,144	220
Light forests	410,165	139,039	152,337	83,649	38,993	741
Tree/shrub savannah	227,955	13,237	53,184	91,372	66,598	956
Plantations	6,241	417	1,982	2,381	1,429	125
Crops and fallows	326,272	7,185	79,484	115,604	122,172	4,953
Grassy savannahs	185,980	23,211	75,701	48,079	33,180	533
Urban areas / bare ground	82,685	1,599	16,269	32,082	23,052	6,388
Water places	1,285	125	388	355	31	
Total	1,324,967	226,455	400,709	386,431	291,898	13,947
% of overall total	100%	17.1%	30.2%	29.2%	22.0%	1.1%

*** Source: UNDP. 2024. "Profils biogéographique, socio-économique et vulnérabilités des ressources naturelles et des moyens de production de la région Centrale : Synthèse bibliographique."**

As for PAs, these are no longer made up of intact ecosystems; instead, they are marked by fragmentation following incursions by populations. Anthropogenic pressures on these PAs contribute to their degradation. Overall, their wildlife diversity remains highly threatened. Populations of elephants and other emblematic animals which had appeared in the main PAs (Fazao-Malfakasa Park and Abdoulaye Wildlife Reserve) are now becoming increasingly rare. Pollution, overexploitation of species, poaching and land conversion of PAs in the region have had significant impacts on the biodiversity of reptiles, mammals, birds and mammals on the IUCN Red List.

Climate change: trends and projections[10]

In developing the proposal, the project team has considered two specific scenarios: Medium (RCP 4.5) and High (RCP 8.5).

Under either of the above scenarios, temperatures are projected to increase progressively in Togo throughout the century. The greatest temperature increases will be during the months of July to September. While temperatures will increase across the whole country, the greatest increases are projected for inland regions, including the Central Region. Under a high-emission scenario (RCP8.5), average temperatures are expected to increase rapidly by mid-century. According to the CMIP-5 ensemble projection under RCP8.5, by the period 2040-2050, Togo is expected to experience a median annual temperature anomaly of 1.7 degrees C. Extreme temperatures, measured as the number of days above 35 degrees Celsius, are projected to rise rapidly after the 2040s.

Rainfall projections for Togo are highly variable. However, seasonal changes to rainfall patterns, including decreases from January to March and increases from October to December, along with increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, appear likely. The CMIP-5 projection is for an annual precipitation anomaly of -24.1 to +29.2 mm.

Impacts and vulnerability to habitat loss and degradation in a changing climate

The impacts of the above-described threats and drivers are closely linked to climate change and its associated risks/hazards. Changes in rainfall seasonality and intensity, with more frequent and intense storms, are creating flood risks that damage crops and infrastructure. Moreover, the increase in surface runoff, particularly associated with extreme weather events, is driving erosion, leaching out critical soil nutrients and further reducing already strained agricultural productivity. The combined impact of crop damage and soil erosion on agricultural land exacerbates food security challenges, while sediments and agro-chemical pollution from farm runoff are deposited into waterways, contaminating downstream water supplies, threatening both human populations and critical wetland ecosystems. Likewise, deforestation linked to fuelwood collection, unsustainable charcoal production and harvesting for timber results in the loss of critical ecosystem services that regulate the hydrological cycle. The loss of ecosystem services exacerbates flood risks, reduces groundwater infiltration and accelerates erosion.

While some of the drivers of degradation, e.g. population increase, are relatively independent of climate change, the impacts of the latter on natural resource-based livelihoods and food production are driving the uptake of maladaptive practices, such as agricultural expansion, that exacerbate degradation and loss of ecosystem services, further undermining adaptive capacity to cope with climate stressors. This vicious cycle leaves rural communities reliant on natural resources for their livelihoods among the most vulnerable to climate change, with high exposure and limited adaptive capacity.

A quantitative assessment of the Central Region's vulnerability to climate changes has been carried out using multifactor spatial analysis (ASM) which took into account both biophysical and socio-economic exposure factors.[11][6] Two main climatic hazards, based on frequency and expected impact, have been considered. These are: heavy rains/floods and drought/water stress. For these two climatic hazards, current vulnerability and future vulnerability have been considered in the preparation of vulnerability maps (See **Figures** 3 and **4** below).

Both projected climate variability and other climate change trends for Togo—including rising temperatures, changing seasonal rainfall patterns, increased duration of dry periods, extreme heat, and increased aridity and drought—threaten the country's agricultural and forest sector and ecosystems. They will increase the risk and vulnerability of local communities to extreme events and natural hazards, including heat waves, droughts, floods and wildfires.

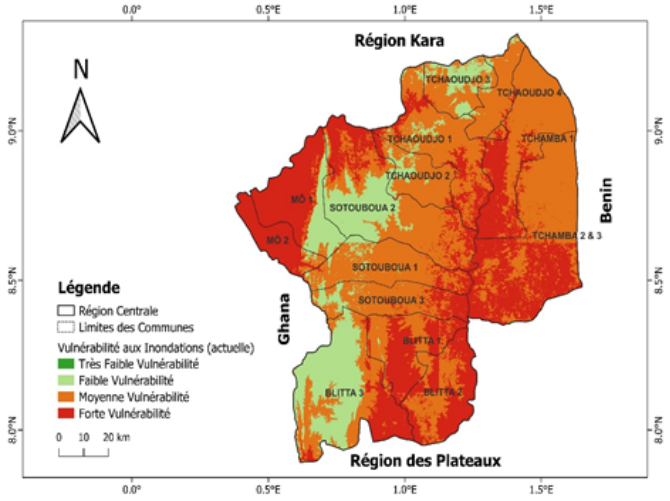


Figure 3. Heavy rain vulnerability map of the Central Region (primary data sources[12] and ERA5).

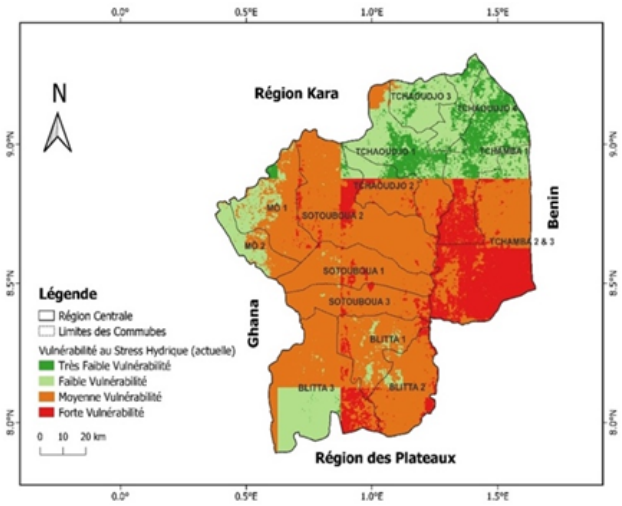


Figure 4. Water stress vulnerability map of the Central Region (primary data sources[13][7] and ERA5)

Agriculture, including crop production, livestock and fisheries, is particularly sensitive to climate conditions. The impacts of climate change will vary considerably with the temperature and precipitation in different seasons and across regions. There is a substantial likelihood of increased prevalence of pests and diseases given the projected increases in temperatures and rainfall, which would directly affect crop yields. Impacts on the agriculture sector are expected to include disruption of the agricultural calendar, devastation of crops by pests (armyworms, whiteflies, desert locusts), the appearance of new invasive species, the disappearance of certain cultivars, declines in agricultural yields and erosion of cultivable areas. Increasing temperatures could also affect the productivity of key cash crops like coffee and cocoa, while maize yields could decline by more than 25% in the Central Region by mid-century. On the positive side, sorghum and cassava yields could double by the end of the century in regions where rainfall increases, owing to these crops' resilience to hot, harsh climates. Tuber crops such as yams may also benefit from high temperatures and increasing rainfall. However, projected extreme temperatures in certain regions will be harmful to vegetable crop production. Temperature thresholds for agriculture and livestock will become increasingly relevant, and extreme heat will likely cause increasing damage to plants and affect the health of livestock as well as farm workers. Vulnerability of the agricultural sector, currently assessed at 0.70, is projected to increase to 0.75 by 2050.

In the case of the forestry sector, impacts include deteriorating health and increased natural mortality of woody trees and reduced regeneration capacity in natural ecosystems. At the community level deforestation and degradation are leading, inter alia, to loss of forest ecosystem services, including provisioning services such as fuelwood, bushmeat and plant medicine, as well as regulation of micro-climates in and around degraded ecosystems. Rising temperatures, and evapotranspiration—particularly under RCP 8.5—will increase the risk of wildfires, thereby affecting forests. Increasing rainfall intensities in the mountainous regions will lead to

an intensification of hillside erosion and will expose hilly and mountainous areas to loss of vegetation. Overall, the Central Region's forest and other land use sector faces a 'high' level of vulnerability (0.62) to climate change.

With the lack of monitoring and planning from which the natural ecosystems and forest plantations of the region suffer, there follows a delay or even the absence of effective firebreaks in almost all forest units, leading to the occurrence of fire in almost all prefectures in the region, with damage tending each year to become more pronounced. Farmers are heavily affected by vegetation fires because they keep their granaries in the fields, forgetting that oxen and vegetation fires can wreak havoc. These fires cause the destruction of crops, harvests and the homes of agricultural populations. Hot seasons also have a detrimental impact on agricultural production and consequently the repayment of agricultural loans. Non-repayment of agricultural loans due to drought often leads to tensions in communities, contributing to rising levels of conflict.

The above-described threats, drivers and trends are having additional significant negative impacts on natural capital, including biodiversity. Several species of animals scarcely remain outside of wildlife reserves, classified forests and wildlife parks and are threatened within these areas as well. For example, and despite being fully protected under Togolese legislation, the African elephant has been extirpated everywhere except in the Fazao-Malfakassa parks.

As a result of the above, Togo is ranked 128 out of 181 countries in the 2021 ND-GAIN Index, with agricultural capacity scoring highest (.998), i.e. most vulnerable, of the various vulnerability components measured. Togo also scored among the lowest in terms of readiness to adapt.[14] As discussed above, low-income, rural communities in the Central Region and elsewhere, are expected to be disproportionately affected by climate change impacts given their high vulnerability and low adaptive capacity.

Baseline in the absence of the project

Under the baseline scenario, despite the best efforts of local stakeholders and their partners,[15] existing problems of habitat, including forest, loss, land degradation and loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity, can be expected to persist, and in some cases may worsen. While solutions in the form of enhanced land management and restoration practices exist, their introduction and diffusion across the region would proceed at a pace which would be too slow to effectively counteract the drivers associated with population increase, climate change and conflict. Capacity constraints would play a significant ongoing role in these negative trends, while financing of change would likewise remain inadequate. Finally, the potential for women to actively contribute to the implementing solutions would remain underutilized.

Despite the above efforts, in the absence of GEF support, it is anticipated that a number of the above trends related to degradation, loss of natural capital and increasing vulnerability of local populations would likely continue and even worsen.

Outcomes project intends to achieve

In light of the above, the GEF project plans to deliver the following outcomes, aligned with the four project components:

- **Enhanced and integrated landscape management** helps to maintain / increase flows of ecosystem services, including biodiversity
- **Climate-resilient and nature-positive restoration** of priority target areas and robust strategy to stimulate further diffusion and uptake, and enhance livelihoods, via technology transfer, innovation and deployment within broader landscape

- **Increased resilience** of local communities and livelihoods and **reduced pressure** on natural habitats due to increased use of climate-resilient and nature-positive agricultural practices
- **Lessons learned** are captured, documented, disseminated and taken up at sub-national, national and international levels

Barriers and enablers to achieving outcomes

Achieving the above-described outcomes will require a careful mix of capacity building, multi-stakeholder dialogue, investment and wide diffusion of knowledge gained and lessons learned to ensure broad uptake and replication. These actions will be primarily aimed at removing a set of barriers currently standing in the way of success. These include:

- **Limited capacity for integrated landscape planning and management integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable practices:** Siloed, sectoral approaches to development challenges often create problems in other domains, e.g., agricultural development plans leading to land clearance. A connected issue is a failure to integrate / mainstream gender considerations into these sectoral strategies. However, systems, processes, mandates and workflows for more integrated and gender-sensitive forms of planning and management remain unavailable or rudimentary at best.
- **Limited capacities of local communities and extension services to deliver land and forest restoration:** In the Central Region, a number of land and forest landscape restoration initiatives are being undertaken. Most of the initiatives are supported by NGOs and technical and development partners within the framework of numerous programs and projects in the environmental field. At the community level, although local management structures have recently been put in place for FLR actions, they are not yet truly operational due to lack of technical capacity for sustainable forest management (SFM). Furthermore, communities do not receive sufficient support from the technical services of the ministries concerned with the management of forest resources. This is because the human resources of the Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources are insufficient.
- **Limited capacities of local communities, extension services and MSMEs to adopt and invest in climate-resilient and reduced ecological impact agricultural, agro-forestry and forest management practices:** Capacities are limited in a number of areas, including: data collection, analysis and modeling related to climate change; limited knowledge of, experience with and access to climate resilient agriculture, SLM and SFM technologies and practices; financial barriers, particularly those facing MSMEs. This barrier has an important impact on attempts to improve livelihoods and make them more resilient in the face of climate change.
- **Limited capacity to manage and disseminate knowledge, promote diffusion and stimulate uptake:** Barriers to diffusion, adoption and broader uptake of innovative practices include those related to knowledge. In many cases, lessons learned not only by projects, but also by individual innovators acting on their own accord, are slow to be captured and disseminated. The slow pace of adoption of good practices is thus a major barrier to the more rapid spread of innovation.
- **Limited institutional capacity to implement climate change adaptation actions at scale, compounded by limited awareness and understanding of climate change impacts and the adaptation options available to address the impacts:** Communities engaging in natural resource-based livelihoods, and local government entities mandated to support adaptation have limited understanding of the extent of climate change impacts, the vulnerability of communities, and the

actions available increase resiliency. Limited awareness not only hinders communities' ability to adopt more resilient practice, but also their interest in doing so. While many communities are already feeling the impacts on their livelihoods, they do not fully understand the impact pathways, and therefore may be reluctant to forego traditional and/or maladaptive practices in favour of new, more sustainable practices.

With respect to enablers, the National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) provide an overarching framework to guide the development of a coordinated approach to adaptation.

Briefly explain why this particular project has been selected to address the drivers of environmental degradation and/or climate vulnerabilities in preference to other potential options, and how its outcomes will endure in the face of changes in the drivers described in the future narratives.

The project design aims to fully exploit key concepts and principles fine-tuned during previous project cycles and encapsulated in GEF-8 programming guidance as well as STAP guidance[16][8]. In particular, the project adopts an integrated, landscape-level approach, supported by extensive participation by a broad cross-section of stakeholders, whose thematic breadth extends across three focal areas, namely climate change adaptation—with the support of LDCF funding—land degradation and biodiversity. Strengthening economic empowerment through enhanced value chains that further support restoration and regenerative agriculture, and ultimately resilience, are key to this project's strategy. All project components will engage private sector enterprises in actions that further climate change adaptation and enhanced resilience. Likewise, they will engage Government institutions in developing and implementing plans and policies that will enhance their climate change adaptation capacity. People, landscapes and rangelands will benefit as a result.

Project components are organized by theme, e.g. restoration, agroecological intensification—rather than, for example, by protected and productive landscapes, further emphasizing the theme of integration. Finally, the project aims to extend and innovate in the area of knowledge management, learning and diffusion / uptake. These aspects will enable the project outcomes to endure in the face of changes in drivers, particularly those associated with climate change and conflict across resource users.

Describe the relevant stakeholders, private sector, and local actors and their roles

Sustainable landscape management and restoration in Togo's Central Region involves several types of actors/institutions. These include state structures, private and community forest managers, local authorities, technical and financial partners, civil society organizations (CSOs), universities and research institutions as well as local populations. The state structures include the Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (MAEDR) with their decentralized services and directorates at the regional level, notably the regional directorates and prefectural authorities for the environment and their equivalents for agriculture and livestock. There is also the Forest Development and Exploitation Office (ODEF) and the National Grassroots Development Support Agency, both of which intervene through their representatives at the regional level.

Local authorities, particularly municipalities in the central region, are increasingly involved in landscape management and restoration initiatives. Technical and financial partners most present at field level GIZ, IUCN and FAO, each of which finance civil society organizations working in the field of the environment. A non-

exhaustive list of civil society organizations, including NGOs operating in the region, is presented in the report on stakeholder consultations (uploaded to Portal).

Research institutions and universities contribute to the land and forest restoration by supporting the above-described actors through applied research. Among the institutions active in the region are the University of Kara, the University of Lomé, the Forestry Research Laboratory (LRF) of the Climate Change Research Center (CRCC) and the Institute of Consulting and Technical Support (ICAT).

Local populations are both actors and beneficiaries of landscape and land restoration actions. Stakeholders most concerned by the restoration of landscapes and lands within the local populations of the Central region are farmers, breeders, private planters, producer organizations, producers of wood energy/carbonizers, chiefdoms and the village and cantonal development committees (CVD, CCD, CDQ). Thus, at the local level, communities have organized themselves to set up governance bodies for certain community forests with the support of local NGOs as part of the execution of certain projects.[17][9]

Additional information regarding the identification and roles of key project stakeholders is presented in the Stakeholder Assessment and Consultation Report (uploaded to the portal).

How the project will fit within the current landscape of investments

Significant baseline initiatives are underway aimed at reversing the above trends, including:

- The GIZ "Forest for Future Project" (F4F) is strengthening the local capacities of vulnerable groups in the Tchamba prefecture for the restoration of landscapes and forests by developing innovative models with a gender and inclusion approach. This initiative facilitates the development of income-generating activities as alternatives to the marketing of forest products (firewood and charcoal), which has been the main source of income for women, single mothers, the elderly and young people. Likewise, community-level adaptation initiatives, such as support for community forests in the prefectures of Tchamba (Alibi, Bago, etc.) and Blitta (Kaweya Mikona, Tondja, etc.) led by women's cooperatives aim to strengthen the community resilience in the face of climate change and associated hazards. Engaging vulnerable households in the management of community forests guarantees them substantial benefits and encourages them to better protect the forests.

- The project: “Contribution to the fight against climate change through the promotion and popularization of improved ovens and stoves in the Savanes, Kara and Central regions of Togo”, Grant 5 under the EU Support Program for the Fight Against Change Climate Change (PALCC), is enabling the supply of improved charcoal stoves to vulnerable and poor people in the Central Region. This project, initiated by the Togolese government and financed by the European Union (EU), is implemented by AGAIB Centrale. The objective is to promote and popularize subsidized improved charcoal stoves and stoves among vulnerable and poor people with a view to combating climate change. Through this project, AGAIB Centrale intends, inter alia, to ensure the effective distribution of improved ovens and stoves to identified vulnerable people. The project is also developing an updated database of these people and raising awareness concerning the socio-economic and environmental benefits of using improved charcoal ovens and stoves.
- The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) project is an FAO initiative launched in Togo in 2019 with the aim of creating resilient landscapes in the face of climate change and improving livelihoods with forestry and agricultural producer organizations as key actors of change. The FFF aims to enhance resilience by improving the livelihoods of rural populations through support to selected forestry and agricultural

producer organizations. Its approach is to work with these organizations to implement actions that contribute to adapting to climate change, improving livelihoods and incomes while conserving the landscape in which everything develops. With the support of GIZ, FAO is implementing Phase II of the FFF (2018-2022), which aims to contribute to achieving at least 11 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- The Togo International Plan has developed Phase II of its five-year program for the period 2024 – 2028. This program in active in 55 cantons in four prefectures—Tchaoudjo, Blitta, Sotouboua and Tchamba—of the Central Region. The program is organized around several actions such as awareness-raising and capacity building related to climate change, land restoration and reforestation of public and community areas, socio-collective equipment and infrastructure. Specific areas of activity include supporting schools, markets, professional integration of young people and women, entrepreneurship training, the development of income generating activities for women and the promotion of gender-sensitive value chains in areas such as agriculture, non-wood forest products, breeding, etc.

Further analysis will take place during the PPG phase to gain a detailed understanding of this landscape of investments, including with respect to the value chains to be supported by the project.

How the project will build on the baseline and ongoing investments, both GEF and non-GEF

The above-described efforts, including support from GEF and other donors, constitute a robust baseline, upon which the present project will build. Overall, GEF incremental support will aim to secure global benefits related to land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation, in line with GEFTF and LDCF programmatic priorities. More specifically, GEF additional support will target the following:

- Integrated landscape management: Building on existing governmental mechanisms (see below, Table 3), and working in parallel with support being provided by GEFID 11392, the project will support strengthening of local policy and planning frameworks and integrated, multi-stakeholder participation within priority landscapes of the Central Region.

- Climate-resilient restoration: GIZ's F4F project support to building capacities of vulnerable groups for forest restoration represents one of the most significant baseline investments on which the project will build. Harvesting lessons learned by F4F, the present project will expand from F4F's geographic focus in Tchamba prefecture to additional priority landscapes in Tchaoudjo, Tchamba, Sotouboua and the eastern side of prefecture of Blitta. Importantly, the present project will benefit from F4F's restoration planning work, with restoration work targeted at 7,500 ha. of priority areas. The project will also continue and extend work by F4F and the Ministry of Commerce aimed at addressing key barriers, including those facing MSMEs seeking to engage in restoration or regenerative agriculture;

- Climate-resilient and nature-positive agricultural practices: Here, the project will build on, among other initiatives, the FAO FFF support. In particular, FFF efforts to build capacities of forestry and agricultural producer organizations will greatly enable GEF support to extending climate-resilient and nature-positive agricultural practices across 35,000 ha.

- Knowledge and lessons learned: The project will build on more project-specific approaches by previous projects, by introducing an innovative approach to knowledge and diffusion of innovations, involving several synergistic elements, including: (i) making full use of stakeholder platforms for knowledge dissemination/diffusion; (ii) improving landscape-level analytics, particularly in key areas related to global environment, i.e., land degradation, regenerative agriculture,

biodiversity and climate change adaptation (iii) identifying key practices and understanding their baseline levels and geographic distribution; (iv) identifying and supporting innovators and early adopters of good / best practices; (v) synthesizing results as knowledge products[18].

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[1] RGPH-5, 2022

[2] GIZ, 2022. Plan d'action régional (PAR) de restauration de paysage forestier de la Région Centrale : Diagnostic de la gestion et de l'état de conservation des ressources forestières. 139 p.

[3] Areas in **bold** identify land uses to be addressed by the project thematically and in on-the-ground interventions in priority zones.

[4] DSID 2023.

[5] GIZ 2022.

[6] GIZ, 2022.

[7] The transhumance calendar is developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (MAEDR). It runs from January 31 to May 31 of each year. However, since COVID-19 appeared, the ministry has suspended cross-border transhumance

[8] UNDP. 2024. "Profils biogéographique, socio-économique et vulnérabilités des ressources naturelles et des moyens de production de la région Centrale : Synthèse bibliographique. »

[9] GIZ, 2022. Plan d'action régional (PAR) de restauration de paysage forestier de la Région Centrale : Diagnostic de la gestion et de l'état de conservation des ressources forestières. 139 p.
[10] See Climate Risk Profile: Togo (2021): The World Bank Group.

[11] FAO, 2023. Évaluation des risques et vulnérabilités climatiques du secteur de la foresterie dans la Région Centrale. Rapport final, 134 p.

[12] https://earthmap.org powered by FAO's Open Foris Initiative with the support of the Government of Germany through The International Climate Initiative (IKI) from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

[13] https://earthmap.org powered by FAO's Open Foris Initiative with the support of the Government of Germany through The International Climate Initiative (IKI) from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

[14] ND-Gain Index scores, see https://gain-new.crc.nd.edu/country/togo#readiness

[15] For details, see below sub-section on the current landscape of investments.

[16] Stafford Smith, M., Ali, S., Carr, E.R., Donaldson, J., Metternicht, G., Ratner, B.D., and Bierbaum, R. 2021. *Enabling elements of good project design: A synthesis of STAP guidance for GEF project investment.* Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel to the Global Environment Facility. Washington, DC.

[17] These include Fight Support Program. against Climate Change (PALCC) and the Integrated Rural Development Project of the Mô PDRI- Mô Plain. Indeed, as part of the PALCC and PDRI- Mô projects, numerous community forests have been created in the region. Some sacred forests have been established as community forests.

[18] UNDP Togo's Accelerator Lab is expected to provide technical support and guidance to this process.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. 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 PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The project's draft theory of change (see **Figure 5**) identifies four impact pathways through which the baseline situation can be transformed. Each pathway faces a barrier, which the project aims to remove through a set of outputs, leading to one of four project outcomes. Together, these outcomes will deliver the project objective, namely:

To strengthen and implement integrated systems for sustainable landscape management and restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience in Togo's Central Region

The impact pathways and associated outputs and activities are described below.

Impact Pathway 1: Inter-sectoral coordination and planning at landscape level

Component 1: *Multi-sectoral enabling framework for Integrated Land Management (ILM) and planning, integrating climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives.*

Outcome 1: Integrated landscape management is strengthened to maintain and enhance climate resilience and flows of ecosystem services, including biodiversity.

The project's **first impact pathway** involves **inter-sectoral planning and coordination at landscape level**, also known as integrated landscape management (ILM). An important barrier under the project baseline consists of the limited capacities for ILM. As such, siloed, sectoral approaches to development challenges often create problems in other domains, e.g., agricultural development plans leading to land clearance. Bringing together stakeholders through a multi-stakeholder platform provides an opportunity to generate integrated solutions which can take full account of natural resource related constraints and opportunities. In particular, the platform will help to coordinate inputs to, and validation / adoption of, ten-year action plans for restoration and regenerative agriculture, implementation of which will be supported under components 2 and 3, respectively.

Planning and coordination through a regional-level platform will offer a variety of benefits and opportunities in the case of Togo's Central Region. It will facilitate broad stakeholder participation and consensus on the development of landscape-level plans for restoration and agroecological intensification. In doing so, it will consider current and expected climate impacts on these landscapes, while accounting for adaptation needs. Consensus will be particularly important in a context where conflict, e.g., among ethnic groups and sectors (agriculture vs. livestock) have proven problematic and even dangerous in the past.[1][10]

A multi-sectoral platform will also enable sharing of data and information across sectoral lines, which will feed into the above plans. This will include information sharing regarding the baseline investment landscape and financing needs. Assembled data can then be used to underpin broader, landscape-level assessments in areas like LDN and measurement of adaptation impacts.[2][11] Finally, a platform will offer an excellent opportunity for supporting the diffusion of climate-resilient, nature-positive practices under the project's thematic areas of

restoration and agro-ecological intensification, and their relative contributions to climate change adaptation. Here, the platform will link closely with knowledge management efforts under the fourth pathway (see below).

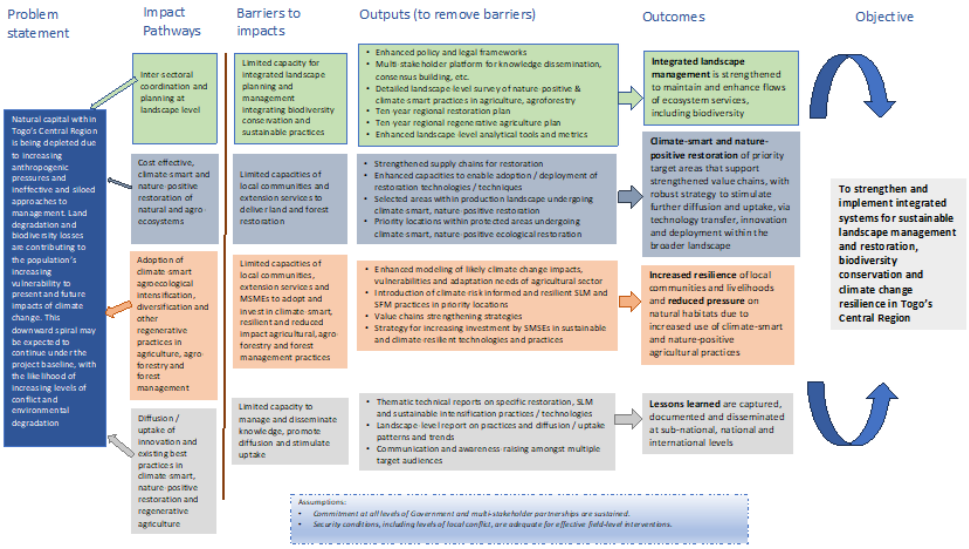


Figure 5: Theory of change

The strengthening and enhancement of policy and legal frameworks, to be done as part of this component, will consider alignment with UNDP's policies and standards and will identify potential compliance gaps. Additionally, the planning processes for policy-level interventions will incorporate Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) methodologies to ensure that policy reforms have the broad support of all affected stakeholders, reflect their inputs, address key social and environmental issues and any potential adverse impacts, and capitalize on opportunities to strengthen sustainability.

As part of this component, technical support and capacity on safeguards implementation will also be provided to the PMU and project implementing partners.

Planned outputs through which Outcome 1 will be achieved are described below.

Output 1.1 Policy and legal frameworks enhanced/strengthened to support multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder, gender-responsive integrated landscape management (ILM) and planning with climate risks and adaptation needs integrated.

Policy and regulatory frameworks will be strengthened at both national and regional levels to support integrated, multi-stakeholder and gender responsive ILM and planning, taking full account of climate change risks and vulnerabilities. Changes needed to ensure financial and other aspects of inclusion of marginalized groups and women will be prioritized, particularly in any areas identified in the final SESP.

Output 1.2: Strengthened gender-responsive and inclusive landscape-level multi-stakeholder platform for data sharing, planning, capacity and consensus building, and knowledge dissemination.

The project will build the capacities of regional- and landscape-level consultation mechanisms (see Table 3 below) to ensure their ability to deliver on the above-mentioned responsibilities. Technical working groups will

also be established to enable more specialized inputs, including those related to climate change risks, vulnerabilities and adaptation. Again, focus will be on ensuring the participation and inclusion of women and vulnerable groups and on building broad consensus regarding priority actions.

Output 1.3: Detailed landscape-level survey of good / best practices in agriculture, agro-forestry, forestry and land restoration.

A detailed baseline and database of key practices will be established, building on initial surveys to be conducted during the PPG. Practices will be assessed based, inter alia, on their projected utility in light of emerging risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change scenarios, as well as from a gender perspective. This will be an essential step in tracking change / impacts, including enhanced resiliency.

Output 1.4: Detailed and operational, implementation plans for land and forest restoration, SLM and regenerative agriculture and project landscapes, informed by climate change projections, to strengthen climate resilience of the project landscapes.

Landscape-level implementation plans, developed in a highly participatory manner, will provide detailed guidance for investments under Components 2 and 3. They will be designed to pull together, integrate and ensure local level consistency and synergies in implementation of all of national-level plans including those contained in the 4F4, NDC, LDN targets, etc., thereby maximizing the potential benefits of the landscape approach. Economic empowerment of communities—including women and vulnerable groups—will be a key focus. Lessons learned will be shared with national teams responsible for implementation of the referenced plans. Multi-stakeholder platforms (see 1.2 above) will play a key role in this process.

Output 1.5: Ten-year climate-resilient regional SLM and intensification plan for agriculture, agro-forestry and forestry, including agreed roles and targets for participating stakeholder groups and strategies for enhancing diffusion and uptake of good practices and community economic empowerment (to be implemented under Components 3).

Like the restoration plan, this plan will be developed with extensive local stakeholder participation. The plan will cover an estimated 270,000 ha (exact area to be confirmed) of forest and crop / fallows areas. It will include support for agro-ecological intensification, diversification and other regenerative practices within the production landscape, while defining relevant synergies. Economic empowerment of communities will be a key focus. Initial implementation will be supported under Component 3.

Output 1.6: Enhanced analytical tools and metrics for measuring impacts on ecosystem services (including BD, land degradation, adaptation and resilience), including climate projections, impact modelling on hydroflows, crop types and restoration objectives, as well as livelihood/economic benefits.

Potential tools to be utilized and/or adapted for use in the landscape will be assessed and selected during the PPG. Key metrics will also be selected, including those related to various ecosystem services and biodiversity.

Impact Pathway 2: Restoration

Component 2: *Ecosystem restoration in degraded natural landscapes and protected landscapes*

Outcome 2: Climate-resilient restoration of priority target areas with robust strategy to stimulate further diffusion and uptake of associated best practices, via technology transfer, innovation and deployment within broader landscape.

The project's second impact pathway will involve the cost-effective, climate-resilient and nature-positive restoration of natural and agro-ecosystems in priority areas of the Central Region. Target areas will include portions of both the protected and productive landscape: Agro-ecosystem restoration will take place entirely within the latter, while restoration of natural ecosystems will be primarily within the protected portions of the region. Restoration will complement efforts to avoid and reduce land degradation under the third impact pathway, jointly contributing to moving the region towards Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

Restoration efforts within protected areas will aim to ensure the long-term survival of globally and nationally significant biodiversity and maintain the flow of ecosystem services by targeting various challenges such as limited availability of seedlings, financial constraints, and knowledge gaps, while also incorporating traditional knowledge. The project will prioritize threatened native species and aim to support the maintenance and enhancement of ecosystem services, such as soil fertility and pollination. By embedding biodiversity-centered restoration within a broader landscape-level strategy that integrates conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use, including agriculture, the project aims to enhance resilience and durability of impacts. This approach will not only raise awareness of the importance of protected areas but also engage local communities in supporting conservation efforts by highlighting the benefits of improved ecosystem services. Key institutional partners likely to be involved include managers of respective protected areas, conservation organizations, and government agencies responsible for environmental management and policy implementation.

Restoration efforts within the production landscape will encompass aiding the recovery of areas that have been degraded, damaged, destroyed, or modified. Again, the project will target barriers, including those related to seedling availability, financing, knowledge gaps, and management, while integrating traditional knowledge systems within solutions. Agro-ecosystem restoration initiatives will encompass a range of activities tailored to local socio-economic contexts, including assisted natural regeneration of woodlands, community woodlot planting, shelterbelt establishment, agro-forestry and agro-silvo-pastoral models, as well as practices designed to enhance soil and water conservation, erosion control, and groundwater recharge. Anticipated impacts will include increased forest and vegetation cover, enhanced provisioning of agro-ecosystem services such as food and fuel for livelihoods, regulation of environmental factors such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions and erosion, and supporting biodiversity by restoring and connecting habitats. The restoration and management of both restored and existing forest areas will be embedded within comprehensive land-use planning and protective measures. Community-based approaches will primarily drive restoration and sustainable forest management interventions, incorporating strategies to promote the rapid adoption of nature-positive and climate-resilient practices within and across communities.

Design of project interventions will be informed by comprehensive screening for environmental and social risks and potential adverse impacts through application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), with further assessment and mitigation measures to be developed during the project design phase.

Planned outputs through which Outcome 2 will be achieved are described below.

Output 2.1: Strengthened local and regional supply chain(s) to support climate-resilient ecosystem restoration, including native tree seedling production and distribution, and associated capacities.

In addition to seed sources, key elements of supply chains that are likely to need strengthening include necessary tools and equipment, logistics and quality control measures. Market and supply chain analysis will be undertaken to identify supply chain gaps and opportunities. The extent to which any of these and other factors are acting as barriers to more effective and extensive restoration will be assessed during the PPG and strategies for strengthening will be included in restoration plan (Output 1.4) for support here.

Output 2.2: Enhanced capacities among key local stakeholders for adoption / deployment of restoration technologies.

Skills needed for executing restoration tasks such as planting, soil preparation, and site maintenance will be enhanced. A reliable and trained workforce, mainly based on local community members and/or contracting specialized restoration teams, will be critical for supporting project implementation.

Output 2.3: Selected priority degraded agricultural, forest and rangeland areas within the productive landscape undergoing climate risk informed and resilient restoration to agriculture production.

In line with the plan developed under Output 1.4, which will identify priority locations, and utilizing supply chains and individuals capacitated under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, a target area of 4,500 ha of degraded priority productive lands will be undergoing climate-informed and nature-friendly restoration. This output will also explore the potential for Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM) within the context of forest and agroforest-based restoration. In particular, this could include restoration within sacred groves, sacred sites and community forests, particularly where such areas may provide connectivity and/or buffer zone protection for protected areas.

Output 2.4: Priority degraded zones within protected areas under restoration for biodiversity and enhanced ecosystem services.

In line with the plan developed under Output 1.4, which will identify priority locations, and utilizing supply chains and individuals capacitated under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, a target area of 500 ha of degraded priority lands within protected areas will be undergoing climate-informed and nature-positive restoration.

Impact Pathway 3: Regenerative agriculture

Component 3: *Adoption of climate-resilient agro-ecological intensification, diversification and other regenerative practices in agriculture, agro-forestry and forest management*

Outcome 3: Increased resilience of local communities and livelihoods and reduced pressure on natural habitats through increased use of climate-resilient and nature-positive agricultural practices

The project's **third impact pathway** will be through the **adoption of climate-resilient agroecological intensification, diversification and other regenerative practices in agriculture, agro-forestry and forest management** within appropriate areas of the landscape. As highlighted in the GEF-8 Programming Directions, such practices "…rely on natural ecological processes to enhance yields and reduced agrochemical inputs for the benefit of the environment." Positive impacts include increasing species diversity in agricultural farms, improved soil quality and increased crop yields, and improved habitat connectivity and flow of ecosystem services. Such impacts will, inter alia, make a critical contribution towards enabling local communities' adaptation to, and resilience in the face of, climate change.

In order to deliver positive impacts along this pathway, the project will focus on addressing the currently limited capacities of local communities, extension services and MSMEs to adopt and invest in climate-resilient, resilient and reduced impact—on both land and biodiversity—agricultural, agro-forestry and forest management practices. These include specific practices related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, innovations for value chains and the bio-economy and circular economy (honey, shea, néré, cashew nuts, etc.), crop association, composting and manure/organic fertilizer, improved fallow lands and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM).

A range of activities, including: (i) agro-ecological methods and approaches including conservation agriculture and agroforestry; (ii) improving rangeland management and sustainable pastoralism, regulating livestock grazing pressure through sustainable intensification and rotational grazing systems, increasing diversity of

animal and grass species, and managing fire disturbance; (iii) strengthening community-based natural resource management, including legitimate tenure rights recognition and safeguards; (iv) integrated watershed management, including wetlands where SLM interventions can improve hydrological functions and services for agro-ecosystem productivity. These activities are expected to be distributed across the Central Region identified in the project rationale above, including within Planned agricultural Development Zones (ZAAPs).

In order to enable adoption of the above practices and to ensure their long-term resilience in light of climate change, the project will deliver several supporting outputs. The first of these will consist of enhanced modeling of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation strategies associated with the above action areas. Next, priority value chains will be strengthened, supporting improved livelihoods and economic empowerment by communities. Finally, a plan will be developed, and its implementation initiated, to support development and growth of medium, small and micro-enterprises (MSMEs) through the value chains strengthened by the project.

Design of project interventions will be informed by comprehensive screening for environmental and social risks and potential adverse impacts through application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), with further assessment and mitigation measures to be developed during the project design phase.

Planned outputs through which Outcome 3 will be achieved are described below.

Output 3.1: Enhanced, gender-disaggregated data and modeling of projected climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation needs in the target project area in Togo's Central Region, integrating enhanced analytical tools and metrics, including climate projections and impact modelling (Output 1.6).

Improved data collection, analysis, and modeling techniques will be applied to provide more accurate and detailed assessments of how climate change will affect the region. Identification of vulnerabilities and adaptation requirements will enable stakeholders to develop targeted strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change, improve livelihoods, and enhance resilience as they relate to land use and agriculture.

Output 3.2: Improved climate risk informed and resilient agriculture, SLM and SFM technologies in place in existing production areas and in unused agricultural lands, supported by strengthened extension and community/ stakeholder capacities.

Examples of technologies to be considered for inclusion in the 10-year plan (Output 1.5) and supported under the present output include precision-agriculture technologies, weather and climate information services, soil moisture sensors and technologies to support integrated crop-livestock systems.

Output 3.3: Selected climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural, agroforestry and forestry value chains and associated sustainable practices strengthened through investments and delivery of extension support.

In line with the plan developed under Output 1.5, which will identify, inter alia, priority locations, and utilizing technologies identified under Output 3.2, a target area of 30,000 ha will be supported to employ enhanced climate-resilient and nature-positive practices. Sustainable livelihoods will be promoted through enhanced value chains, supported by capacity building and financial support mechanisms (Output 3.4, below). SMSEs will be developed and/or strengthened, including through technical assistance, business development, marketing, creating supply chain initiatives that can also serve as models for scaling, integrating community values, and supporting ethnic communities, women and of other vulnerable communities. Key potential partners have been identified (see **Table 4** below) and will be further assessed during the PPG.

Output 3.4: Strategy developed and implemented to increase investment in adoption of nature-positive and climate-resilient technologies and practices, including by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) (also supporting Component 2)

A strategy will be developed and implemented aimed at increasing investment within the region in appropriate technologies and practices. The strategy may include financial incentives (grants, micro-finance, low-interest loans) in addition to support for partnerships and collaboration (e.g., with research institutions) and/or market-based incentives.

Impact Pathway 4. Knowledge management

Under the project's **fourth impact pathway**, the project will aim to develop new lessons learned and knowledge while working to ensure the uptake of the project's findings, together with pre-existing innovations which have not yet adequately been incorporated in the form of enhanced practices for restoration and regenerative agro-ecology in the region. The knowledge management component plays a pivotal role in achieving this objective by serving as a conduit for disseminating insights and promoting the adoption of sustainable practices that promote resilience. Through various activities, the project will generate technical reports and conduct landscape-level assessments to provide valuable information on the impacts and diffusion patterns of climate-resilient, nature-positive restoration, and regenerative agriculture practices. These reports will offer insights into the effectiveness of different approaches and help identify trends in their adoption, including the roles of ethnic communities, women and of other vulnerable communities.

In addition, communication and awareness-raising efforts will take place at both sub-national and national levels, targeting local communities and policymakers. By engaging stakeholders and fostering understanding, these activities will aim to garner support for sustainable practices and facilitate their integration into policy frameworks.

Ultimately, the goal of the knowledge management component will be to empower stakeholders with the information and tools needed to embrace sustainable land management and restoration practices. By promoting awareness, fostering collaboration, and facilitating the uptake of innovative approaches, the project will contribute to building resilience and promoting sustainability in Togo's landscapes and agricultural systems.

Planned outputs through which Outcome 4 will be achieved are described below.

Output 4.1: Gender-responsive and inclusive thematic technical reports on impacts of individual restoration and SLM / intensification practices and technologies promoted by the project, including their diffusion

The project's experience and lessons learned through support to promising restoration and regenerative agro-ecological practices will be carefully tracked and analyzed. This will include analysis of technical aspects related to yields, impacts on soil quality, etc, as well as socio-economic factors associated with adoption and diffusion.

Output 4.2: Landscape-level report on practices and diffusion / uptake patterns and trends

Thematic reports developed under Output 4.1 will be consolidated into an overall landscape-level analysis, the results of which will be iterated back into the expected post-project continuation of the 10-year strategy. This will include detailed analysis of factors contributing to sustainability.

Output 4.3: Gender-responsive and inclusive communication and awareness raising at sub-national, national levels, with dual emphasis on communicating to local communities and national policy makers

Even strong technical arguments in favor of sustaining and adapting project efforts, based inter alia on the report developed under Output 4.2, will require additional efforts in order to ensure sustainability. These will include a national-level effort to communicate and raise awareness about key project findings, priority practices and

associated benefits. Lessons learned will be gathered and shared, within the Central Region and nationally. High-level efforts to reach policy makers will be complemented by consolidating efforts to identify and encourage innovators and early adopters within the landscape.

Global environmental benefits and adaptation benefits

The project will generate significant global environmental benefits, including those associated with achievement of core indicators (see below). Key biodiversity and ecosystems identified in the target area, both within and outside of protected areas, will be key to restoration and ILM planning.

The project will also generate adaptation benefits associated with the selected priority area and entry points discussed in the LDCF Programming Directions. These include:

- Priority area 1: Scaling up finance – Under Output 1.6, the project will support the development of enhanced tools and metrics as enablers for adaptation impact.
- Priority area 2: Strengthening innovation and private sector engagement: Under this priority area, the project will support work associated with three entry points, namely: (i) Advancing technology transfer, innovation and deployment; (ii) Incubating and accelerating micro, small and medium enterprises, and (iii) Catalyzing inclusive microfinance.
- Priority area 3: Fostering partnership for inclusion and whole-of-society approach: The project will work under the entry point for "Building Partnerships with Local Organizations and Systems to Address Social Equity".

Stakeholder roles and contributions

Stakeholder consultation and participation will be greatly aided by the establishment of an effective multi-stakeholder platform. The Platform will engage many of the key stakeholders during stakeholder consultations that took place during the PIF.[4][12]

A process of stakeholder identification, based on work done by the GIZ F4F project, has identified (see **Table 2**) the following key actors in project implementation. **Table 3** identifies existing mechanisms for stakeholder coordination, which will be further assessed during PPG when developing incremental project support under Output 1.2. **Table 4** identifies key stakeholders providing agricultural extension services to small-scale farmers. Specific stakeholder roles will be further developed via a stakeholder participation plan, to be developed during the PPG.

Table 2: Stakeholder identification, roles and responsibilities

Stakeholder ID	Roles/Responsibilities
State and its decentralized and decentralized structures	The Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources intervenes in the field through its decentralized structures which are the Regional and Prefectural Directorates of the Environment and Forest Resources (DRERF / DPERF). The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEP) intervenes through scientific research institutes such as the Institute of Technical Support Consulting (ICAT) and the Togolese Institute of Agronomic Research (ITRA) which are under the umbrella of the MAEP. The regional directorate of the ODEF and its prefectural and cantonal services will provide technical

Stakeholder ID	Roles/Responsibilities
	assistance to the populations and other actors for the RPF. These are also the general and prefectural directorates of ministries having a link with the management or promotion of forest resources such as the Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Living Environment (MUHC), the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Local Authorities (MATDCL), etc. Finally, the Ministry of Trade, Crafts and Local Consumption supports the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in Togo. To achieve this, a charter for small and medium-sized enterprises was adopted in 2022, with the objectives of defining the roles and responsibilities of the various players, with a view to increasing their involvement, strengthening the mechanisms for good management of SMEs/SMIs, and mobilizing resources.
Grassroots community organization (CVD, CCD, CDQ)	Village Development Committees (CVD) and Village Associations for Protected Area Management (AVGAP) are involved in the management of protected areas.
Local communities, rural households,	They plant and exploit forests for socio-economic and energy needs (especially for firewood).
Traditional authorities	Guardian of habits and customs, often involved in land management and household mobilization
Local authorities: Town hall, prefecture, local elected officials	Meet the daily needs of the population. Its responsibilities are multiple: civil status, town planning and housing, schools and facilities, cultural activities, health and social assistance, police, security of people and property, the issuance of titles, respect for legality and the State of law, coordination of economic and social action
NGOs	They are established in villages and work to develop rural communities. They are responsible for information, awareness and advisory support activities for populations to raise awareness and mobilize them for reforestation activities.
Private sector/ Investors/ Private and forest owners	Potential investors in restoration. In particular, private planters who plant trees and form associations
Technical and financial partners	They will provide financial technical assistance to stakeholders
Financial institutions	They will provide financial support to the actors for restoration
Army	It is the guarantor of national security. It includes the paramilitary corps which intervene in forestry, namely foresters, police officers, gendarmes and customs officers.
University and research centers	Engage in applied research to improve understanding of drivers of land degradation and key success factors for widespread adoption of effective restoration practices
Farmers	They constitute a very important group of actors in the context of landscape and land restoration, particularly for agroforestry practices, hydro-agricultural developments and seed harvesting
Nurserymen	They ensure the production and provision of good quality forest species plants

Source: GIZ/F4F, 2022 and field consultations

Table 3: Existing and emerging mechanisms for stakeholder coordination

Mechanism	Description
Regional orientation and steering committee (CROP) for rural development programs and projects	Chaired by the Regional Director of Agriculture, this body is responsible for validating operational planning and monitoring and evaluation of sector projects.
Regional Approval Committee (CORA)	Responsible for coordinating the implementation of basic social safety net (FSB) and employment opportunities for vulnerable youth (EJV) project activities in the region. Chaired by the Prefect of Tchaoudjo, this committee includes the coordinator of ANADEB and the regional directors of planning, social action, health and social protection, agriculture, livestock and fishing, education, environment and forest resources and the President of the Network of Development Organizations of the Central Region (RESODERC).

Local transhumance management committees	Chaired by the Prefects and with the participation of local mayors, these bodies have the mission of ensuring peaceful transhumance that is favorable to the economic and social development of the communities and to integration of peoples.
Prefectural sustainable development committees (CPDD)	These include cantonal branches, chaired by the Prefects and also engage the prefectural environment directors. They are responsible for ensuring mobilization around environmental protection and rational use of natural resources.
Consultation mechanisms supported under GEF-8 ID 11392	Project aims to support "the revitalization of consultation frameworks at regional and local levels, the revitalization of local committees to combat wildfire, support for improved governance and operation of inter-professions in non-timber forestry sectors (honey, mango, coffee-cocoa, etc.)"

Table 4: Key stakeholders involved in providing extension services to small-scale farmers

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
Institut de Conseil et d'Appui Technique (ICAT	ICAT is responsible for the extension of good agricultural practices, including: (i) provide technical support to farmers and producers' organizations to improve productivity and increase production, while preserving the environment; (ii) design and offer high-performance training and technical support systems for producers, through various technical services and advice on studies, analyses, expertise and farm management; (iii) support the formation of cooperatives to enable greater participation in the definition and monitoring of agricultural policies; and (iv) contribute to the orientation of agricultural research, with particular emphasis on development research. ICAT is represented in the project area by its regional headquarters based in Sokodé and its prefectural branches located in each of the region's prefectures. In all, there are five prefectural branches and one regional ICAT office. Technical advisors in farm management are field agents who are either agricultural engineers or senior agricultural technicians.
Institut Togolais de la Recherche Agronomique (ITRA).	ITRA's role is to conduct research and make the results available to producers, with a view to promoting agricultural development, particularly in the fields of plant, animal, fish and forest production, the environment and food technologies, as well as transferring the technologies generated. With the support of other partners, ITRA will work to develop, improve and/or promote modern, farmer-adapted agricultural and food technologies. ITRA will provide producers with data and information enabling them to adapt their activities to the orientations of agricultural and food policies, and to the new demands of the socio-economic environment.
Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources	The expertise of the Ministry of the Environment complements the extension of sustainable land and forest management practices and climate resilience. In the central region, the Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources has a Regional Department of the Environment and Forest Resources, 5 Prefectural Departments of the Environment and Forest Resources, and technical services under the authority of these departments. All these departments are staffed by over a hundred forestry officers, including forest engineers, senior technicians and field officers. All these skills will be put to good use in the project, and will contribute to the dissemination of best practices in sustainable land and forest management.
Civil society organizations	In addition to state services, several civil society organizations (non-governmental organizations - NGOs - and associations) operating in the Central Region are active in the fields of environment and agriculture. These NGOs and associations are responsible for SLM/FGD extension and advisory support for agricultural cooperatives in the project area. The most active NGOs and associations include: Action Environnementale pour le Développement Durable (AE2D), Action pour la Jeunesse en Afrique (AJA), Centre d'Action pour la Sécurité Alimentaire le Développement Durable et la Valorisation des Ressources (CASADD-VR/Agrocomplex), Club des Amis du Village (CAV), Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche en Médecine Traditionnelle Appliquée (CERMETRA), Dimension Humaine (DH), Groupe de Recherche Action pour le Développement Socio-économique en vue de la Promotion Humaine

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities
	et de la Coopération (GRADSEPHC), Unité d'Auto-promotion pour le Développement Intégral (UNAUDI), Jeunesse pour la Survie (JS), Association des Amis Apiculteurs de la Région Centrale (3ARC), Regroupement des Associations pour le Développement Appliqué des Ruraux (RADAR), Association des Femmes pour le Développement de leur Milieu (AFDM), Association Paysanne pour la Communication des Ruraux (APCR), Structure d'Appui pour le Développement des Initiatives Locales au Togo (SADIL-Togo), Défit et Développement (D&D), Réseau d'Etude et d'Action pour le Développement (READI).

Private Sector Engagement: The project will also work closely with the private sector stakeholders and will seek to establish partnerships with them. This is expected to include private sector actors such as CAJOU ESPORT (involved in cashew nut processing), ALAFIA (operator and exporter of shea products), NOTO (a company based in the port area of Lomé, specializing in the transportation and processing of shea nuts) and others. During the PPG phase, partnerships will be explored with these private sector structures to support and sell products produced by the GEF project beneficiaries. Based on these potential partnerships, private sector entities will be invited to contribute to the establishment of post-harvest processing facilities and to partner with local companies in the GEF project. In addition, bankable micro-projects will be developed that will combine crop production and product marketing.

Implementation framework

The Implementing Partner for this project is the Direction des Ressources Forestières, under the Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières (MERF) which will be responsible for project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive, and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.

A Project Board will be set up at the beginning of the implementation phase to provide guidance and direction to the project, and oversight of the project implementation. The project board will review project performance based on monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, including progress reports, risk logs and the combined delivery report. It will be responsible for making management decisions by consensus. The project board will be composed of representatives of all the relevant institutions.

To ensure effective and efficient implementation of activities, a project management unit (PMU) will be set up. Its composition will be detailed during the PPG phase. Attention will be paid to the inclusion of female staff and consultants in the Project team.

UNDP will provide project oversight to ensure that GEF procedures are followed during project implementation.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

To measure the effectiveness of the GEF project, a monitoring and evaluation system will be established that will target GEF and LDCF Trust Funds. This will track the progress of individual deliverables and also measure the collective impact of the project outputs and outcomes. Robust monitoring and a comprehensive, gender-sensitive evaluation of the project will take place through regular progress reports, ensuring transparency and effectiveness, and equitable consideration in project activities.

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework (to be further developed during the PPG phase) will be monitored annually and evaluated during project implementation. Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Not having decision-making power over forest resources, women find themselves at a disadvantage because they are excluded from discussions on the sustainable exploitation and protection of natural resources. However, Togo has increasingly taken a series of legal, economic and political measures to improve the situation of women. in terms of women's access to land, progress is being made thanks to the awareness-raising work of development organizations and NGOs. Women are beginning to inherit land in several communities even if in terms of plot area, they still receive less than men. In the forestry sector, a place is increasingly given to gender in biodiversity conservation actions due to women's dependence on forests for their income and subsistence. These tentative efforts need to be sustained and replicated.

In addition, a January 2024 stakeholder consultation mission to the region[1] identified, and in some cases met with, several women's organizations and their representatives and members. These included organizations involved in provision of social services and credit.

Finally, in preparing UNDP's Preliminary Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), a risk has been identified that the project could "inadvertently reproduce discriminations based on gender, with resulting adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls." As a result, and in line with GEF policy in this area, project design will pay particular attention to existing discriminations against women (e.g., based on their level of education compared to men), and establish mechanisms to reduce the risk that these discriminations are inadvertently reproduced in project implementation.

During the project design phase, a full gender analysis and gender- segregated assessment will be undertaken to understand the current role of women in ecosystems and natural resources use and management in the project area and to identify potential barriers/challenges for women's participation in the project activities. This analysis will support the mainstreaming of gender considerations into the design of project activities and the project's strategic results framework. The results of this gender analysis will be captured in a **Gender Analysis and Action Plan** (GAAP), to be developed during the PPG phase and appended to the Project Document.

[1] UNDP Togo. January 2024. "Consultation des parties prenantes." Available via portal.

[1] This issue is further discussed in the SESP and risk sections.

[2] Various tools for landscape-level assessments, such as the Terraso Digital Landscape Platform and UNDP's Causality Assessment for Landscape Interventions, will be reviewed during the PPG for possible use during the full project.

[3] This will represent an updating and extension—to cover agro-ecosystems— of the following plan: Forests 4 Future, DFS, GIZ, MERF. 2022. "Plan d'action régional (PAR) de restauration de paysage forestier de la région centrale: Diagnostic de la gestion et de l'état de conservation des ressources forestières."

[4] Consultation report has been uploaded to the portal.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. 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

Projects discussed above in the section on "Current landscape of investments" (F4F/GIZ, Plan International Togo and FFF) will represent important project partners. Additional initiatives with which the project is expected to coordinate are those managed by the Network of Development Organizations of the Central Region (RESODERC) and AGAIB of the Central Region.

The project will coordinate / cooperate with a GEF-7 project working to its immediate north: "Sustainable Management of Drylands in Northern Togo. Particular emphasis will also be placed on the 8th GEF operational phase projects submitted by the FAO, as these projects will be implemented in agro-ecological zones close to the Central Region and in order to avoid duplication and contradictions and ensure complementarity in intervention.

The project will also coordinate with the GEF's Guinean Forests Impact Program)—part of the Critical Forest Biomes (CFB) IP—including its regional coordination and learning project (GEFID11147) and its child project in Togo, "Strengthening conservation and resilience of forest landscapes in the sub-humid mountains of Togo" (GEFID 11392). The CFB project is centered in Ecological Zone IV, a portion of which is located within the Central Region. As a result, the present project is expected to benefit from the CFB project's institution building, knowledge management and lesson learning efforts. This will include CFB support to the development of community-managed forests and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) for habitat and corridor protection, buffer zones and woodlots. At the level of the regional coordination and learning project, the present project will follow closely and seek to benefit from that project's knowledge management, learning and capacity building efforts.

UNDP is currently supporting the Ministry of Trade in implementing a project to promote entrepreneurship and the private sector to create sustainable jobs. As part of this project, UNDP has financed a study on the rationalization of the coordination mechanism to support the private sector in favor of SMEs/SMIs. This study identified bottlenecks and under-exploited opportunities, as well as innovative solutions to revitalize the entrepreneurial ecosystem, on which the present project will build. The GEF project will also build on the existing partnership with the Ministry of Commerce on entrepreneurship, as well as lessons learned and best practices to better target interventions.

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
31500	0	0	0

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

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

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
31500	0	0	0

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Réserve de Faune de Abdoulaye	20978	Habitat/Species Management Area	30,000.00						
Tchorogo Classified Forest	37180	Others	1,500.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
9000	0	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)
Cropland	4,000.00			

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)
3,000.00			

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)
Natural grass	1,500.00			
Woodlands	500.00			

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)
50000	0	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)

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)
50,000.00			

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

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

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

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

Documents (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_2e (direct)	4801870	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)	4,801,870			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting	2025			
Duration of accounting	20			

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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)

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	21,000			
Male	14,000			
Total	**35,000**	**0**	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)

GEF core Indicator #1: It will contribute to achievement of Core indicator 1.2 through improved management of terrestrial protected areas for conservation and sustainable use. This includes a target of 31,500 ha, as follows:

- Réserve de Faune de Abdoulaye (30,000 ha).
- Tchorogo Classified Forest (1,500 ha)

The METT tool will be used for the purpose of quantifying improved management effectiveness in each of the protected areas.

GEF core Indicator #3: The project will contribute to achievement of this indicator through restoration of targeted areas covering 9,000 ha, to be apportioned as follows:

- 4,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands restored (Indicator 3.1), through methods expected to include agroforestry, crop rotation/association, organic amendments and integrated soil fertility management.
- 3,000 ha of forest and forestland restored (Indicator 3.2), using practices such as defending areas, fighting vegetation fires, planting useful local species, reforesting areas and assisted natural regeneration.
- 2,000 ha of natural grass and shrubland restored (Indicator 3.3), with practices expected to include defending areas, planting local useful species, reforestation, improved fallowing and agroforestry.

Specific areas will be selected during the PPG and their distributions and locations will be determined based on their projected potential to deliver combined and synergistic global and national benefits associated related to the focal areas supported by the project.

GEF core Indicator #4: The project will contribute to achievement of this indicator through support to the introduction of improved land and resource use practices in the Central Region. These will include specific practices related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, innovations for value chains and the bio-economy and circular economy (honey, shea, néré, cashew nuts, etc.), crop association, composting and manure/organic fertilizer, improved fallow lands and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM). The project target will be for these and other improved practices to be adopted over an area of at least 50,000 ha., representing the area of the landscape under sustainable land management in production systems (Indicator 4.3).

LDCF core indicator #2(a): The area targeted for improved land and resource use practices under GEF core indicator #4 (50,000 ha) will simultaneously be supported for enhanced climate resilience. This will be achieved by the introduction of improved agroforestry practices, crop associations, grass strips along ditches, mulching, crop rotation and organic soil improvement, development of small-scale irrigation, introduction of short-cycle crops, drought- and heat-tolerant varieties, use of improved seeds, etc.

GEF core Indicator #6: According to a preliminary analysis carried out using the EX-ACT tool, an estimated -4,801.870 tCo2e of emissions will be mitigated due to the project's activities.

LDCF core indicator #3: Under Output 1.1, mainly sub-regional policies, plans and frameworks, including community development plans, will be developed / enhanced to incorporate strengthened climate adaptation capacities.

LDCF core indicator #4: Training and awareness activities will target approximately two percent of the population of the target landscapes, or approximately 35,000 individuals, including at least 60% women.

LDCF core indicator #5: Enterprises engaged in the following sectors will be targeted: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small and medium-sized industries (SMIs) in the areas of shea and cashew nut processing, as well as cooperatives of market gardeners, forest planters, nursery growers, livestock farmers, non-timber forest products and honey producers.

GEF core Indicator #11 / LDCF core indicator #1: The project will contribute to achievement of Core Indicator 11, Number of beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (co-benefit), by reaching an expected 35,000 direct beneficiaries, including 14,000 men and 21,000 women. The total beneficiaries estimate of 35,000 individuals is based on an average household size of 5.7 in the targeted rural areas. Members of at least 6,140 households will receive one or more of the following forms of support: (i) direct support for livelihood development, including through improved practices for agriculture, fisheries, and value chain development, (ii) direct support to MSME development in target sectors; (iii) training and awareness raising, and (iv) enhanced ecosystem services associated with restoration in the target villages. Project interventions will be designed to ensure that at least 60% of targeted beneficiaries will be women.

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF **true**	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation **false**

	false	

Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program?

false

This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS).

false

This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state.

false

This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector.

true

This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs).

true

This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below

Green Climate Fund	Adaptation Fund	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)
false	**false**	**false**

This Project has an urban focus.

false

This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation

true

This project will support South-South knowledge exchange

true

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *

Agriculture	60.00%
Nature-based management	0.00%
Climate information services	10.00%
Coastal zone management	0.00%
Water resources management	0.00%
Disaster risk management	0.00%
Other infrastructure	0.00%
Tourism	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments) Restoration	30.00%
Total	100.00%

This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:*

Sea level rise	Change in mean temperature	Increased climatic variability	Natural hazards
false	**false**	**true**	**true**

Land degradation	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation	Groundwater quality/quantity
true	**false**	**false**

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	35,000	14,000.00	21,000.00	60.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	50,000.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	10.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	35,000	14,000.00	21,000.00	60.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action	12.00			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	The restoration of agricultural lands, forests, and grasslands/shrublands under Outcome 2 is vulnerable to the effects of climate change and might lead to inadequate outcomes for communities and the environment if the design of these activities does not take into account the effects of climate change. The project will conduct a climate risk/vulnerability assessment under PPG, applying, as a minimum, the STAP Guidance on Climate Risk Assessment to identify likely climate change trends and scenarios, assess risks to exposure of the project outcomes, identify and evaluate impacts on community exposure and vulnerability and measures that be taken to avoid, adapt to or reduce projected impacts and risks. Communities' climate vulnerability assessment will also be integrated and inform the activities and outputs under Outcome 3 (increased climate resilient and nature positive production practices in both existing and unused production landscapes).
Environmental and Social	High	A total of 9 risks were identified in the preliminary UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (please see attached pre-SESP). The provisional risk categorization of the project, pending further assessments and information collection that will be done during the PPG phase, is High. At implementation stage, a scoped Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) will likely be required to assess potential risks from the revision and updating of legal and institutional frameworks. Recognizing the environmental sensitivity of the chosen locales, the project's on-the-ground interventions will be

		planned to both respect and enhance these areas, ensuring that restoration objectives are met without compromising the inherent ecological balance. During the PPG, environmental and social risks associated with each of the proposed activities will be more clearly defined, based on information gathered in the baseline assessments and on consultations with stakeholders, and the range of potential impacts of project activities on critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas will be further assessed.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Conflicts between communities have increased over time, representing both a cause and an effect of environmental degradation. Conflicts most typically ensue between transhumant Fulani and local farmers who seek to defend their crops and land. Governance issues and capacity constraints and will need to be buffered against, with strategies to be developed during PPG
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	As part of Outcome 1, the Project will enhance/strengthen policy and legal frameworks to support multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder integrated landscape management (ILM) and planning. These changes in institutional and regulatory frameworks, in the absence of appropriate procedures, could trigger a variety of institutional risks or not being adopted as intended. Project will support targeted enhancement of institutional challenges to create and enabling framework for success. Agricultural development policies, including those related to intensified production, residual risks will need to be considered in context of project's support to regenerative agriculture
Technological	Low	The project promotes the implementation of specific practices related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, innovations for value chains and the bio-economy and circular economy (honey, shea, néré, cashew nuts, etc.), crop association, composting and manure/organic fertilizer, improved fallow lands and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM). Project will be developed with support of national and international experts to address residual risks or uncertainty associated with the development or application of technological methods and innovations applied in project design.
Financial and Business Model	Low	The Project will consider private as well as public sources of investment finance, including engaging new financing partners to support solutions promoted by the project. Financial mechanisms have not yet been developed, and any proposed during project development will address related residual risk and uncertainties
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Stakeholder capacity is generally weak, both within Government and at the local community level. As part of Outcome 1, the project will strengthen policy and legal frameworks, create a multi-stakeholder

		platform and develop 10-year climate resilient plans at the regional level for ecological restoration and sustainable land management. The project will work on enhancing the capacities of relevant authorities and targeted communities to ensure that they have the required knowledge and skills to actively participate in project interventions, incorporate lessons learned and uptake nature-positive and climate-smart agricultural and restoration practices. Project will support targeted enhancement of institutional and partner/stakeholder capacity, and the risk associated assessed during PPG will include all aspects of project implementation, including adaptive management, M&E, skills and knowledge to implement project activities, and other potential associate risk identified during the PPG process
Fiduciary	Substantial	Potential lack of financial safeguards in place. Financial safeguards will be put in place by the GEF implementing agency
Stakeholder	Moderate	There is a risk that vulnerable/marginalized and other stakeholders' groups might be excluded or not meaningfully engaged in the planning activities and processes that will be implemented as part of the project, leading to grievances or objections being raised by affected stakeholders. Additionally, there is a potential for ethnic communities meeting the criteria for Standard 6 might be disproportionally impacted by the project or excluded from meaningful participation and benefits from project activities. The project will promote all aspects of accountability to stakeholders, both during the PPG process and implementation by: (i) enabling active, meaningful and culturally appropriate local community engagement and participation in project planning and decision-making, particularly targeted at those at risk of being left behind; (ii) ensuring transparency through provision of timely, accessible and functional information regarding supported activities, including on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and measures for their mitigation / management; (iii) ensuring stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to a rights-compatible complaints-redress process; and (iv) ensuring effective results monitoring—and, where appropriate, participatory monitoring with stakeholders —and reporting on implementation of social and environmental safeguard risk management measures. The project's key instruments for strengthening accountability, to be developed during the PPG, will include: a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (implementation-ready), Gender Action Plan, and Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan and an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

Other		N/A

Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	

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

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

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 project will support achievement of multiple global benefits related to biodiversity conservation, reduced land degradation and climate change adaptation. In order to do so, it draws on two GEF-managed financial mechanisms, namely the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF) and the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). This combination, and the strategy of multi-focal area programming, creates important opportunities for an integrated landscape-level management approach, which the project aims to take full advantage of.

Outputs and activities supported through GEFTF funding, in line with GEF-8 Programming Directions, are aligned with the following areas:

- **LDFA-1: Avoid and reduce land degradation through sustainable land management** – The project will support: "Agroecological intensification and diversification and other regenerative agriculture practices that rely on natural ecological processes to enhance yields and reduced agrochemical inputs for the benefit of the environment. Methods employed will include specific practices related to sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, innovations for value chains and the bio-economy and circular economy (honey, shea, néré, cashew nuts, etc.), crop association, composting and manure/organic fertilizer, improved fallow lands and integrated soil fertility management (ISFM). These practices are expected to lead to increased species diversity in agricultural farms contributes to improved soil quality and increased crop yields, and improved habitat connectivity and flow of ecosystem services. In this way, by the end of the project, 35,000 ha of landscape will be under improved practices.
- **LDFA-2: Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration** – The project will provide support in order to: "restore agro-ecosystem services and forests and avoid forest loss and degradation, including methods expected to include agroforestry, crop rotation/association, organic amendments, integrated soil fertility management, fighting vegetation fires, planting useful local species, reforesting areas and assisted natural regeneration. An area of 7,000 ha will be under restoration.
- **BD-1: Improve conservation, sustainable use and restoration of natural ecosystems**: The project will support integrated, landscape-level strategies that include reforestation, assisted natural regeneration and retaining natural ecosystems to help ensure the persistence of globally significant biodiversity. This will include support for improved management of two protected areas, covering a total of 31,000 ha.

In the case of the LDCF, the project will act through the following priority areas and entry points:[4]

- Priority area 1: Scaling up finance – Under this priority area, the project will support the development of enhanced tools and metrics as enablers for adaptation impact. These will focus on the key transformation levers identified in the strategy, through which the project will aim to capture climate resilience impacts across institutional, social, economic and environmental dimensions.

- Priority area 2: Strengthening innovation and private sector engagement: Under this priority area, the project will support work associated with three entry points, namely: (i) Advancing technology transfer, innovation and deployment; (ii) Incubating and accelerating micro, small and medium enterprises, and (iii) Catalyzing inclusive microfinance.
- Priority area 3: Fostering Partnership for Inclusion and Whole-of-Society Approach: The project will work under the entry point for "Building Partnerships with Local Organizations and Systems to Address Social Equity", particularly through its outreach to women.

The project will also contribute to the following targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

Kunming-Montreal target	Description of project contribution
#2 - Ecological restoration	Nature-positive land and forest restoration within protected areas and production landscape
#3 – Improved protected area management	The project will undertake restoration activities in two protected areas in the Central region.
#8 – Minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate change action on biodiversity	Nature-positive mitigation and adaptation actions related to SLM and SFM
#20 – Capacity building for conservation and sustainable use	Strengthened capacities within local and regional supply chain(s) to support climate-resilient ecosystem restoration; enhanced capacities among key local stakeholders for adoption / deployment of restoration technologies; increased community/ stakeholder capacities to deploy SLM and SFM technologies
#21 – Data, information and knowledge	Information and knowledge sharing through multi-stakeholder platforms; improved local knowledge of restoration and SLM / intensification practices and technologies promoted by the project, including their diffusion; dissemination of project lessons learned
#22 – Representation and participation by IPLCs	Local communities are fully represented and participating in project design and implementation
#23 – Gender equality in implementation	Gender -responsive overall project design, including results framework, M&E and other aspects to be included in a gender action plan, in line with women's significant role in Togo's agricultural sector and related to natural resource management.

The proposal is aligned with Togo's NDC and LDN strategy. In the case of the latter, the project directly supports Togo's adaptation strategy, as follows:
Axis 2 - Strengthening resilience in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector

- Priority 1 - Strengthen the resilience of systems and means of production in the agricultural sector
- Priority 2 - Carry out actions in favor of the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and the restoration of ecosystem services

[2] Ibid, p. 164.

[3] Ibid, p. 124.

[4] Global Environment Facility. May 31, 2022. GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund for the GEF Period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026 and Operational Improvements.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

Provide a brief summary and list of names and dates of consultations

From 15-30 January 2024, stakeholder consultations were conducted with a wide variety of stakeholders on a range of topics. A number of technical institutions—in Lomé and in the region—concerned with issues of natural resource management and adaptation to climate change in the Central Region. Actors met included: representatives of key technical departments of the Ministry of the Environment and Forest Resources (MERF) including all associated directorates and technical services; the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (MAEDR); the Ministry of Economy and Finance; the GEF Operational Focal Point; and coordinators and managers of current projects and programs in the Central region. Additional consultations were held with relevant implementing partners of projects and programs in the field of the environment and particularly the national and regional representation of GIZ, and entities accredited to the GEF. Consultations were also held with actors implementing actions on the ground at both the centralized and decentralized levels. These included regional directorates of the environment and forest resources,

agriculture, social affairs, the environmental services of municipalities, professional organizations, civil society organizations (NGOs, Associations), private sector operators, women's and youth groups and support and financial support organizations for professional groups in the region. Civil Society Organizations with whom consultations were held included (NGOs, associations, professional groups, farmers' organizations, actors in higher education and research, traditional chiefdoms and decentralized services.

Consultations held to date have been important for informing the project development team of the current state of knowledge and adoption of various forest landscape production and restoration practices employed by local populations. These include practices related to: reforestation, agroforestry, use of cover crops, improved fallow, forestry planting, agricultural planting, afforestation, restoration of degraded areas and agro-silvo-pastoralism. The consultations also made it possible to identify the main factors acting as barriers/constraints hindering sustainable forest management in the Central region. These include, among other things, the uncontrolled exploitation of forests, extensive slash-and-burn agriculture, bush fires, transhumance, poverty, land problems, lack of monitoring, lack of AGR, climate change, low governance, population growth and lack of local management rules.

As noted above, a report summarizing the findings of a stakeholder assessment and consultations conducted during the PIF has been uploaded to the GEFSec portal.

During the project design phase, a detailed stakeholder analysis will be carried out to identify all relevant project-affected groups and other interested and affected parties, which will likely include groups meeting the criteria for UNDP's Standard 6 (Indigenous Peoples). A Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be prepared, including customized strategies for engagement of each category of stakeholder and any groups with special needs and interests, such as the various land- or resource-use collectives (e.g., transhumant herders). For stakeholder groups meeting the criteria for Standard 6, specific culturally appropriate engagement and consultation mechanisms will be developed and included in the SEP.

In terms of engagement with private sector operators, potential partners will be identified, and partnerships pursued, following due diligence screening applying UNDP's Private Sector Partnerships risk screening tool.

(Please upload to the portal documents tab any stakeholder engagement plan or assessments that have been done during the PIF development phase.)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

High or Substantial

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

Indicative 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 ($)
UNDP	GET	Togo	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	1,115,189.00	105,943.00	1,221,132.00
UNDP	GET	Togo	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	800,000.00	76,000.00	876,000.00
UNDP	GET	Togo	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	744,537.00	70,731.00	815,268.00
UNDP	LDCF	Togo	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	3,989,589.00	379,011.00	4,368,600.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**6,649,315.00**	**631,685.00**	**7,281,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

200000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
UNDP	GET	Togo	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	33,543.00	3,187.00	36,730.00
UNDP	GET	Togo	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	24,063.00	2,286.00	26,349.00
UNDP	GET	Togo	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	22,394.00	2,127.00	24,521.00
UNDP	LDCF	Togo	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	120,000.00	11,400.00	131,400.00
Total PPG Amount ($)						**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
UNDP	GET	Togo	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,257,862.00
UNDP	GET	Togo	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,742,138.00
Total GEF Resources					**3,000,000.00**

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
BD-1-1	GET	1,115,189.00	11492479
LD-1	GET	800,000.00	8244327
LD-2	GET	744,537.00	7672759
CCA-1-1	LDCF	3,989,589.00	41114348
Total Project Cost		**6,649,315.00**	**68,523,913.00**

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Investment mobilized	6000000
Donor Agency	ISDB	Grant	Investment mobilized	250000
Donor Agency	ISDB	Loans	Investment mobilized	55000000
Civil Society Organization	Plan International	Grant	Investment mobilized	4800000
Donor Agency	GIZ	Grant	Investment mobilized	2173913
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	300000
Total Co-financing				**68,523,913.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

UNDP/ISDB: UNDP has jointly prepared the integrated rural development project for the Mô plain (central region) with the Islamic Development Bank, in which the UNDP is providing funding in the form of a cash grant of $5,000,000. In addition, UNDP will also provide a further grant of $1,000,000 from TRAC resources over the project period.

Plan International: During consultations with various stakeholders in the project area, Plan International Togo, an international NGO was consulted. These consultations enabled us to identify the interventions of these partners in line with the project's objectives. Once the interventions had been identified, the areas of convergence in terms of complementarities between the partners' interventions and the project's activities were pinpointed, making it possible to identify opportunities for mobilized investment co-financing. These opportunities were then explored in greater depth by UNDP and the Plan International Togo, with a view to targeting their intervention as investment mobilized as co-financing for the project.

GIZ: During consultations with various stakeholders in the project area, GIZ was consulted. These consultations enabled us to identify the interventions of these partners in line with the project's objectives. Once the interventions had been identified, the areas of convergence in terms of complementarities between the partners' interventions and the project's activities were pinpointed, making it possible to identify opportunities for mobilized investment co-financing. These opportunities were then explored in greater depth by UNDP and the GIZ, with a view to targeting their intervention as investment mobilized as co-financing for the project.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	UNDP	3/20/2024	Nancy Bennet		nancy.bennet@undp.org
Project Coordinator	UNDP	3/20/2024	Bonnie Rusk		bonnie.rusk@undp.org

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

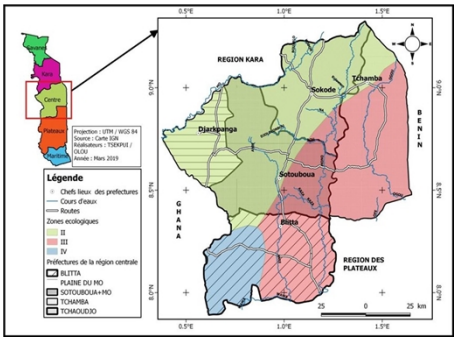
Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Comlan AWOUGNON	Administrative and Financial Affairs Director	Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources	4/18/2024

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

The Central Region of Togo lies between 8° and 9°15 northern latitude and 0°15 and 1°35 eastern longitude. **Map 2** highlights the region.

Map 3: Togo's Central Region



ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

(PIF level) Attach agency safeguard screen form including rating of risk types and overall risk rating.

Title
PIMS9764_Pre_SESP_19 Mar 2024

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing models			

	Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making		
	Convene multi-stakeholder alliances		
	Demonstrate innovative approaches		
Stakeholders			
	Private Sector		
		Financial intermediaries and market facilitators	
		SMEs	
		Individuals/Entrepreneurs	
	Beneficiaries		
	Local Communities		
	Civil Society		
		Community Based Organization	
		Non-Governmental Organization	
		Academia	
	Type of Engagement		
		Information Dissemination	
		Partnership	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	Communications		
		Awareness Raising	
		Behavior Change	
Capacity, Knowledge and Research			

	Capacity Development		
	Knowledge Generation and Exchange		
	Learning		
		Theory of Change	
		Adaptive Management	
		Indicators to Measure Change	
	Innovation		
	Knowledge and Learning		
		Knowledge Management	
		Innovation	
		Capacity Development	
		Learning	
	Stakeholder Engagement Plan		
Gender Equality			
	Gender Mainstreaming		
		Beneficiaries	
		Women groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators	
		Gender-sensitive indicators	
	Gender results areas		
		Participation and leadership	
		Access to benefits and services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising	

		Knowledge generation	
Focal Areas/Theme			
	Biodiversity		
		Protected Areas and Landscapes	
			Terrestrial Protected Areas
			Productive Landscapes
		Mainstreaming	
			Agriculture & agrobiodiversity
		Biomes	
			Tropical Dry Forests
	Forests		
		Forest and Landscape Restoration	
	Land Degradation		
		Sustainable Land Management	
			Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands
			Ecosystem Approach
			Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach
			Sustainable Livelihoods
			Sustainable Agriculture
			Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques
		Land Degradation Neutrality	
			Land Productivity
			Land Cover and Land cover change

	Climate Change		
		Climate Change Adaptation	
			Least Developed Countries
			Climate Resilience
			Ecosystem-based Adaptation
			Innovation
			Livelihoods