Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10608

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone

Countries
Cameroon

Agency(ies)
FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Land Degradation

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Ecosystem Approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Drought Mitigation, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Pasture Management, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Agriculture, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Sustainable Development Goals, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Communications, Behavior change, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Strategic Communications, Education, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Field Visit, Peer-to-Peer, Knowledge Generation, Training, Workshop, Learning, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change

Sector
AFOLU

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date
3/31/2022

Expected Implementation Start
7/1/2022

Expected Completion Date
6/30/2027

Duration
60In Months

Agency Fee($)
190,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	2,000,000.00	20,517,667.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**2,000,000.00**	**20,517,667.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.

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

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1. Improving the Sub-National Enabling Environment for LDN	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1: Capacity of the LDN Mechanism is advanced to the sub-national level. *Indicators*: ? LDN targets established in 6 municipalities, integrated in municipal development plans (CDP) and monitored. ? 6 gender-responsive sustainable land use plans endorsed. ? At least 1 policy incentivizing adoption of SLM and achievement of LDN targets. 1,000 people (50% women) trained.	1.1.1: Comprehensive assessment of land degradation status, trends and drivers (LDN baseline mapping completed in 6 municipalities within the 2 target regions ? North and Far North). 1.1.2: Gender-responsive sustainable land use plans (6) developed. 1.1.3: Municipal LDN Monitoring System designed. 1.1.4 Series of inclusive municipal LDN trainings delivered to build capacities for LDN planning, implementation and monitoring. 1.1.5 Strategy for LDN Municipal Model Scale-up. 1.1.6 Innovative policy and financing options for incentivizing SLM adoption	GET	753,813.00	2,100,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2. Strengthening Initiatives in line with Municipal LDN Targets	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1: Achievement of Municipal LDN targets advanced through PADFAII project and related initiatives in North and Far North regions. *Indicators*: ? Area of landscapes under SLM (10,000 ha.); ? Area of degraded land restored (5,000 ha.); ? 557,270 metric tons of CO2e of GHG Emissions mitigated. ? 8,300 smallholders (at least 50% women) have benefited from trainings on SLM. ? 700 women and youth receiving support for income generating activities.	2.1.1: Inclusive trainings delivered on sustainable land and water management and restoration to PADFA cooperatives and agro-pastoral communities in target municipalities ? ensuring equitable participation of men and women; 2.1.2: Fertilizer tree nurseries and fodder species developed & support for women and youth to manage tree nursery business operations.	GET	838,801.00	16,017,667.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3. Knowledge management and M&E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.1: Effective knowledge management and M&E supporting scale-up and impact. *Indicators*: ? Knowledge products including at least one outcome story per year (case studies documenting project impact, lessons learned and best practices), shared through national LDN and other key platforms. ? Inter-regional municipal learning events with key stakeholders. Mid-term review and final evaluation.	3.1.1: Knowledge management and communication plan developed and implemented. 3.1.2: Project M&E plan implemented	GET	272,136.00	400,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**1,864,750.00**	**18,517,667.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
			GET	135,250.00		2,000,000.00
			Sub Total($)	**135,250.00**		**2,000,000.00**
			Total Project Cost($)	**2,000,000.00**		**20,517,667.00**

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Forestry Development Agency (ANAFOR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Observatory on Climate Change	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,200,000.00
Donor Agency	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Loans	Investment mobilized	14,917,667.00
Other	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	200,000.00
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Grant	Investment mobilized	450,000.00
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	250,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**20,517,667.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilized was identified as follows: IFAD Investment loan: The loan was identified through early collaborative efforts between FAO and IFAD that identified the need for a partnership in order to address the land degradation challenges in Cameroon?s agriculture sector impacting productivity and delivery of environmental services. The loan was mobilized through an agreement that a combination of the GEF-7 resources and a second implementation of the PADFA project could be combined to achieve this end. Note that the total PADFAII project is budgeted to be USD 47 million, and the GEF-7 project will partner with PADFAII through its ?Component 1? supporting cooperative?s sustainable production investments, and ?Sub-Component 2.4? supporting improved household nutritional status. Co-financing considers the PADFAII budget allocated for the North and Far North Regions only. The corresponding amount of co-financing equates to approximately US$ 14,917,667. FAO: Investment mobilized represents

a readiness grant from the Green Climate Fund aiming to strengthen institutional mechanisms for coordination of climate action and finance. Activities include setting up a climate monitoring and GHG emissions accounting system to be linked with LDN monitoring under the proposed project.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Cameroon	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000.00
				Total Grant Resources($)	**2,000,000.00**	**190,000.00**	**2,190,000.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount ($)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
FAO	GET	Cameroon	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	50,000	4,750	**54,750.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**50,000.00**	**4,750.00**	**54,750.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5000.00	5000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,000.00	4,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
41778.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
41,778.00	10,000.00		

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

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

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

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	1047000	557270	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	1,047,000	557,270		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Anticipated start year of accounting	2022	2022		
Duration of accounting	20	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?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	15,000	5,000		
Male	15,000	5,000		
Total	30000	10000	0	0

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

EX-ACT tool was used to calculate carbon benefits - attached in Annex L, in the Project Document.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1. Project description

1.1 Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Context

1. Cameroon is a lower-middle-income country with a population of over 25 million (of which 50.1% women) with a land area of approximately 46 million hectares. The country has five agro-ecological zones (AEZs): (i) Sudano Sahelian zone; (ii) High Guinea savannah; (iii) Western highlands; (iv) Humid forest: monomodal rainfall; and (v) Humid forest: bimodal. The country is composed of 10 administrative regions divided in 58 departments.

*Figure 1: Agro-ecological Zones of Cameroon**[1]***[1]

2. The country?s economy relies heavily on agricultural and oil revenues. Agriculture contributes an estimated 17.38 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than USD 39.8 billion and employs about 70 percent of the working population[2][2]. Cameroon is among countries

hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic from both health and economic perspective. The economy (GDP) shrunk by 2.4 percent in 2020, compared with growth of 3.7 percent in 2019. At the same time, the country is confronted with other challenges including significant land and ecosystem degradation and climate change, the crisis related to Boko Haram in the Far North, the crisis in the Northwest, Southwest, Littoral and West regions driven by secession attempts and the refugee crisis in the East region.

3. In Cameroon, land degradation and the advance of desertification have become increasingly urgent over time and on a spatial scale. Between 2000 and 2010, Cameroon lost over 60,000 hectares of forests and productivity declined in approximately 3 million hectares of land. Conversion of forest areas to cultivated areas resulted in the loss of 438,723 tons of carbon stock.[3][3]

4. To address this issue, Cameroon committed to the AFR100 initiative in 2017, to bring over 12 million hectares of deforested and degraded landscapes across the country into restoration by 2030. AFR100 responds to the African Union mandate to bring 100 million hectares of degraded land into restoration by 2030. AFR100?s Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) process is linked to Cameroon?s commitment to Agenda 2030 (SDGs) and to its commitments to the three Rio-Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD)[4][4]. Priority interventions span from reinforcing the political agenda on forest landscape restoration with the aim to increase capacities and resources to restore degraded and deforested landscapes, transforming areas of deforested and degraded lands into resilient and multifunctional ecosystems with the aim of improving local and national economy with focus on the three Northern Regions of Cameroon, to improving sustainable forest management and promoting silviculture in forested areas and to protect biodiversity in forest ecosystems.

5. Cameroon has set its national voluntary LDN targets through its GEF-6 LDN Target Setting Project, supported by IUCN. Cameroon has made an international commitment to the UNCCD to achieving a 12-million-hectare production land gain, with no loss of production land. Cameroon seeks to achieve this target following a municipal implementation approach, in having 90 percent of its municipalities in ?priority areas? combat land degradation and achieve neutrality. The North and the Far North Regions are recognized as highest priority areas in the country for implementation of the LDN mechanism. It is in this context that the project is being proposed to contribute to the achievement of Cameroon?s LDN targets.

Sudano-Sahelian Agroecological Zone: North and Far North Regions

6. The Sudano-sahelian is a semi-arid agroecological zone that covers the North and Far North Regions of the country, a combined area of about 10 million hectares (6,609,000 ha. and 3,436,300 ha. respectively). The agroecological zone comprises both natural habitats and agroecosystems. The vegetation is mainly steppe, large open grassland, woodland savannah, shrub land, prairies, and pasture. Common tree species include baobab, Acacia, Combretum *sp,* Faidherbia albida, and various palms. The zone?s soils include leached ferruginous, hydromorphic soils, alluvial soils, lithosols to vertisols and inundated soils. Average rainfall for the region fluctuates between 400-1200 mm per year and temperatures range annually between 28-35 degrees Celsius. The rainy season lasts 4 to 5 months and dry season lasts for 7-8 months per year. The lower rainfall areas of this zone are mainly used for grazing. Cropping and crop?livestock systems dominate the areas with higher rainfall and low-lying areas where rainwater collects. The zone?s landscape is comprised of the northern lowlands plains slanting towards the highland plains like the Benoue basin and Tinguelin massif, Diamare plain and Chad plain (Logone plain with its ya?r?s) that meet in the West with the Mandara mountains (the highest peak in the region 1442m). Extensive flood plains ?Yaeres? can be found in both the Benue.

7. The production landscapes of the Sudano-Sahelian zone play an important role in local livelihoods, primarily through the agriculture and livestock sector and forest sector. The production landscapes impact livelihoods most directly through the agriculture and livestock sector. In the North

Region, 73 percent of the population are farmers, cultivating an average land area of 2.3 hectares. 81 percent of households? farm maize, 71 percent groundnuts, and 44 percent millet for food. Cash crops include cotton, rice and onions, where in some cases producers operate through cooperatives in out grower schemes. Crop yields in the North region fall in line with, or below, respective national averages. Almost half of the households are livestock herders that depend on agricultural residues, local forests and grasslands for grazing and fodder.

8. The Far North region has the highest proportion of farmers cultivating an average land surface of 1.7 hectares. Here 47 percent of households produce millet, 39 percent sorghum, 38 percent groundnut. Cash crops include cotton, onion, and rice, with onion recognized as the most profitable for producers. SODECOTON, a formerly state owned and now privatized cotton corporation, operates in large parts of the agricultural basins in the northern regions, including over half of the available agricultural area of the Far North. However, lower rainfall in part leads to lower yields in the Far North, where yields of all respective crops fall below national averages. These production landscapes are characterized by low food production relative to the high proportion of the population cultivating lands. The Far North region has the highest prevalence of livestock herders of any region in the country, and livestock maintains dependence on forested landscapes for forage. The regions? production landscapes also impact livelihoods through the forest sector, albeit to a lesser extent than agriculture and livestock. Beyond providing forage land for livestock, forests provide fuelwood for charcoal production ? the main source of energy for 95 percent of rural households. Additionally, forests provide a variety of non-timber forest products (NTFP), including tamarind, shea, and baobab fruits.

9. Poverty and human development indicators of the sudano-sahelian zone are the most dire of any agroecological zone in Cameroon. The socio-economic conditions of the North and Far North regions are characterized by high poverty incidence, high household food in-security, high infant mortality, and low education levels. As of 2014, the percentage of the population living in poverty[5][5] in the North and Far North Regions was 68 percent and 74 percent respectively. In 2014, the depth of poverty[6][6] was 28 percent in the North Region and 34 percent in the Far North Region ? by far the two highest in the country.

10. A high degree of gender inequality exists in the North and Far North Regions. Women are excluded from the right of ownership and decision making over land. This challenge with access and control of arable land and are due to traditions, religion, customs and the non-existence of appropriate protective legislations. Women are usually poorly represented in legal entities and in the management bodies, in which they rarely have positions of responsibility. Women are not often involved in the management of income, in community micro-projects or other lucrative activities related to community forests. The marketing of firewood and rattan is generally an activity mainly carried out by women and children, though men are involved to a lesser extent.

The Global Environmental Problem:

11. Land degradation is destabilizing the agro-ecological conditions of the Sudano-Sahelian zone. The Sudano Sahelian zone has been ecologically assessed to be the most fragile agroecological zone in Cameroon.[7][7] Land degradation in this zone occurs through a large number of anthropogenic and natural factors processes that combine to destabilize the equilibrium of the agroecosystem. Human-driven soil degradation and forest loss in combination with erratic rainfall and heat stress is contributing to the loss of vegetation cover and the biophysical breakdown of soil properties that are accelerating land deterioration, biodiversity losses in the soil and environment, and a transition to significantly less fertile conditions. [8][8]This is leading to the development of infertile soils, called ?hard?? soils, the most striking sign of land degradation, characterized by vast expansion of bare land.

The zone?s most fertile soils, the lowland vertosol soils, are unfortunately impacted most by this process as they experience increased clogging and sealing from flooding during the rainy season.

12. The natural productivity of land in the North and far North regions is being lost at scale and at an increasing rate. In 2018, MINEPDED found that nearly 5 million hectares of land, or about 50 percent of the total land area of the North and Far North Regions, are highly degraded lands. However, degradation of these lands is not monolithic throughout each region ? there are concentrated ?hotspots? of land degradation in select areas. Associated with soil degradation and vegetation loss include the loss of biodiversity and increased greenhouse gas emissions, from reduced losses of soil organic carbon and above and below ground biomass. Furthermore, there is an associated loss of pollination and nutrient cycling, which in turn, results in lower yields of agricultural and forest products.

Analysis of baseline and land degradation trends

13. During project formulation (PPG) a baseline and land degradation trends analysis was carried out using the three indicators recommended by the UNCCD i.e. land cover, land productivity, and carbon stocks. The results are presented below.

Far North

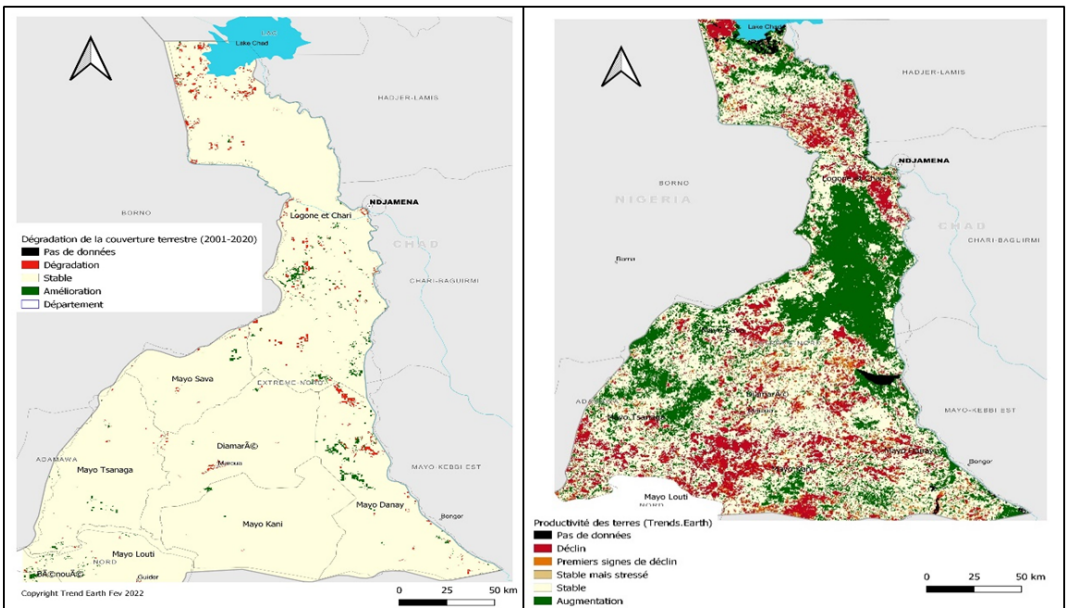

Figure 2: Land use and productivity change in the Far North Region (2001-2020)

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North

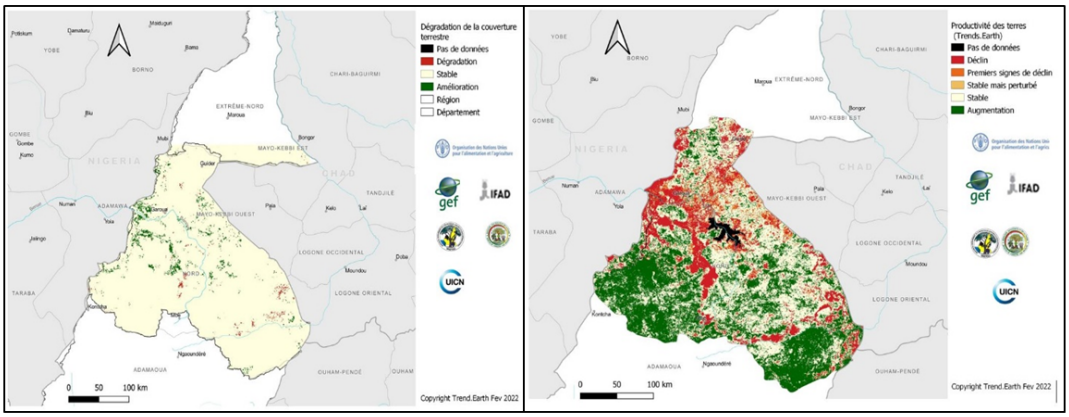

Figure 3: Land use and productivity change in the North Region (2001-2020)

14. With over 70 percent of households in the two regions primarily dependent on agricultural production as a source of food and income, decreases in agricultural productivity are associated with increased poverty incidence and household food insecurity. Soil fertility is the limiting factor to increasing agricultural crop yields. Recent crop yield declines across agricultural subsectors are likely a result of improper fertilizer applications, a lack of soil organic matter and soil erosion. As a result, in the North and Far North, poverty and inequality levels have steadily increased over time relative to the rest of the country where poverty and inequality have declined. In the Far North region, the incidence of poverty increased from 56 percent in 2001 to 74 percent in 2014. The regions that were the poorest in 2001 have become even poorer while those that were relatively well off have progressed the furthest. In the Far North region, the depth of poverty drastically increased from 19 percent to 34 percent and in the North region from 15 percent to 28 percent.[9][9]

Priority Municipalities

15. Prioritization of target municipalities was undertaken during project formulation based on land degradation trends, accessibility in terms of security, opportunities to build on past and ongoing activities, leadership and stakeholder willingness and commitment to participate and contribute to the LDN target setting process. Six (6) Municipalities (3 in each region) have been prioritized including: **Gazawa, Kaele and Maga** (Far North) and **Garoua 3, Lagdo and Pitoa** (North). The intention is that although focus will be on these six, through engaging stakeholders from other Municipalities in the LDN and SLM trainings, and through co-financing, activities will be scaled-up to at least two more Municipalities within the duration of the project.

Table 1. Project priority Municipalities

	Municipality (Council)	Population	Size (ha)	Coordinates
1.	**Garoua 3**	67,506	43,250	9? 18? 00? N, 13? 24? 00? E
2.	**Lagdo**	205,838	225,000	9? 02? 57? N, 13? 40? 14? E
3.	**Pitoa**	120,000	81,200	9? 23? 00? N, 13? 32? 00? E
4.	**Gazawa**	45,479	18,000	10? 31? 51? N, 14? 08? 26? E

	Municipality (Council)	Population	Size (ha)	Coordinates
5.	**Kaele**	404,646	178,500	10? 06? 00? N, 14? 27? 00? E
6.	**Maga**	85,100	133,500	10? 50? 36? N, 14? 56? 23? E

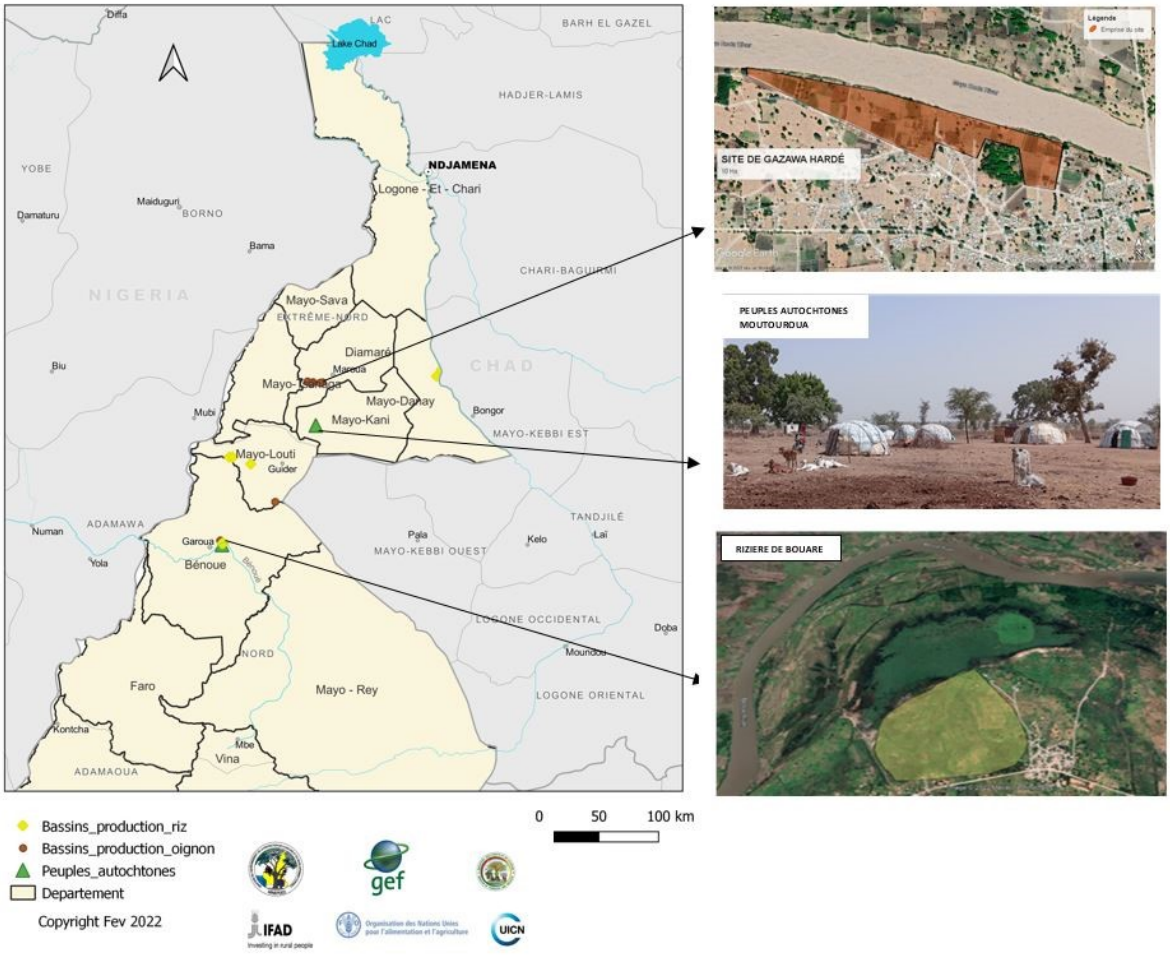

Figure 4: Project zones

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North Region Municipalities (Garoua 3, Lagdo, Pitoa)

16. The municipalities of Garoua 3, Lagdo and Pitoa are all located in the department of B?nou? in the North region. Lagdo being the largest and most populated municipality.

17. ***Climate***. The climate is of the Sudano-Sahelian type, characterized by a long dry season (October to April) and a short rainy season (May to September). Average annual rainfall fluctuates between 950 mm and 1,200 mm. Temperatures are generally high with an average between 25 and 31?C, and peaks of up to 40 to 45?C in April. Huge irregularities are observed from year to year and from one month to another due to climate changes.

18. ***Hydrography and soils***. In Garoua 3, the hydrographic network is mainly made up of the B?nou? River and a few Mayos which only flow in the rainy season. The soils are of the ferruginous

type and sandstone. The hydrographic network in Lagdo is influenced by the hydroelectric dam built in 1984 on the B?nou? River. This work, which extends over nearly 700 km?, has modified the original hydrographic map of the municipality with several Mayos submerged. Other rivers in the municipality are Mayo-Bocki, Mayo-Sala, Mayo-Boulel and Mayo-Alfom. In Pitoa, the hydrographic network is made up of a few rivers (Mayo Badjouma, Mayo Pitoa, Mayo Lebri, Mayo K?bi and the B?nou? River). Clay soils of the B?nou? valley have a very high water retention capacity and lend themselves to the cultivation of off-season sorghum along the river.

19. ***Vegetation and biodiversity***. Vegetation consists of wooded savannah and forest galleries fringing major rivers. Plant species include *Hyparrhemia rufa* along rivers; *Borassum aethiopium, Boswelli dalziel?, Commiphora africana, de C. Pedrenculata, Dalbergia melanoxylon, L.microcarpa, Bombax costatum, Prosopis africana, Anogeissus leicarpus, Vittellaria paradoxa, Azadirachta indica, Eucalyptus camadulendis*.

20. Vegetation cover is affected by uncontrolled bushfires, overharvest of forests for timber and fuelwood, clearing for agriculture, and overgrazing. What is more significant is the loss of land productivity across large areas of the three municipalities (purple areas), as depicted in Figure 5 below.

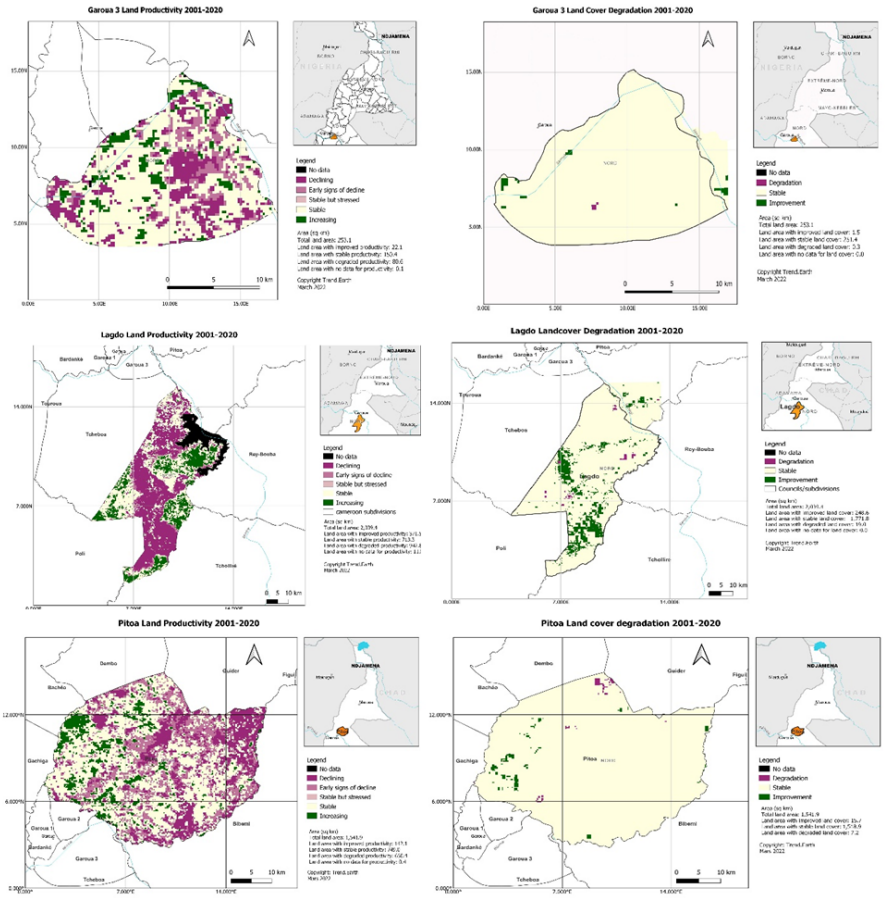

Figure 5: Land productivity and land cover change in Garoua 3 (top), Lagdo (middle) and Pitoa (2001-2020)

21. ***People and socio-economic activities***. The population of these municipalities is essentially young (over 50% of the population aged between 0 and 20 years). Men and women represent on average 47% and 53% respectively except in Pitoa Council where 61% of the population is male.

22. The population of Garoua 3 is characterized by ethnic richness, the main ethnic groups being (a) the Foulb? and Fali, who are indigenous; (b) the Guiziga, Moundang, Massa, Toupouri, Mafa,

who mostly come from the Far North; (c) the Guidar, the Bata, who come from the northern region; (d) the Bornuans, Hausa and Ibo who came from Nigeria and (e) the Sara, Mboum, L?l?, Laka and the Gambaye from Chad.

23. The very cosmopolitan population of Lagdo is made up of 70 ethnic groups due to two migratory waves driven by the construction of the hydroelectric dam which mobilized a large workforce of people. In addition to these migratory movements, there are numerous regular movements of people from the Far North region and neighboring countries who are looking for a relatively stable environment (peace, availability of agricultural land, abundance of water, etc.). The main ethnic groups are the Arab Choa, Dourou, Foulb?s, Guidar, Guiziga, Kapsiki, Kera, Kotoko, Laka, Lam?, Mafa, Massa, Mboum, Mofou, Moundang, Mousgoum, Pap?, Toupouri. The population of Pitoa consists of Guidar, Kangou, Fali, Moundang, Massa, Sara, Toupouri and Peuhls people.

24. The major group of pastoral indigenous peoples in the North and Far North are the Mbororo people. Nomadic herders, the Mbororo are among the poorest and most vulnerable groups. Today, they are struggling to stabilize themselves in the face of traditional authorities? customary land control.

25. In the North region, where land pressure is not as strong as in the Far North, the Mbororo have benefited from hospitality and verbal settlement agreements and over time, these herders have become owners of small plots in villages. In Kismatari specifically, Mbororo herders, settled for nearly thirty years on land formerly granted to their fathers by local customary chiefs, have acquired plots of land for pastoral activities and the cultivation of maize and rice. They plan to join a cooperative society of rice producers in the same locality, but poor access and control over larger plots and their lifestyle as seasonal nomads prevent them from meeting requirements set to join the cooperative.

26. For decades, the Association for the Social and Cultural Development of the Mbororo People (MBOSCUDA) has been responsible for defending their interests and rights and ensuring their integration. It will be important to involve such local organizations to establish community dynamics that ensure the participation of Mbororo People in community life and in activities to restore degraded lands in order to improve their living conditions.

27. Agriculture is the main subsistence activity. Availability of cultivable land and the presence of a number of supervisory structures and farmers' organizations are key resources for this activity. The main crops produced are: rice, onion, maize, peanuts, millet, cassava and potatoes. More than half of the production is intended for local consumption. The rest is either kept to cope with lean seasons and prepare for the next agricultural campaign.

28. Livestock (cattle, small ruminants, poultry (chicken, ducks), and pigs) production is also dominant in the target municipalities. This is practices in two forms: semi-intensive with barbed wire fences around reserved areas, community pastures and family parks around homes. This semi-intensive form is practiced by all ethnic groups except the Mbororo who practice extensive livestock farming.

29. Income-generating activities for both young people and women are poorly developed in these municipalities. This is partly due to the absence of a microfinance structure in the large towns of the municipalities. For example, in Garoua 3, the only microcredit institution in the district is also not well known to producers.

Far North Region Municipalities (Gazawa, Kaele, Maga)

30. ***Climate***. The climate in the Far North is characterized by a long dry season of about 8 months from October to May and a short rainy season of 3-4 months. Rainfall is relatively low, with the average annual rainfall less than 900mm. The average daytime temperature is between 28?C and 45?C (peaks in April-May). Due to the increasingly visible effects of climate change, the rainy season is getting shorter and shorter ? and more variable.

31. ***Hydrography and soils***. Gazawa has two main types of soils: (i) Ferruginous soils with low clay and organic matter content, high leaching and poorly developed surface structure and (ii) Vertisols which are characterized by a dark gray tint and a constant clay content. They have high levels of

organic matter. These soils are suitable for the cultivation of off-season sorghum locally called Mouskwari. Two river traverse the council ? Mayo-Tsanaga and Mayo-Boula.

32. Kaele?s soils are essentially alkaline and alluvial with texture varying from sandy to clayey. The main rivers in this municipality include Mayo-Kani, Mayo-Zapazon and Mayo Gamrey. Alongside these rivers, there are also floodplains in Kani, Gadas, Piwa, Pouk?bi, Mindjil.

33. In Maga, the hydrography is strongly marked by the artificial lake of Maga whose area is 375 km? and almost all the villages of the municipality have access to it. Other rivers include the Goromo, the Moholom (in Gamak), the Kombo (in Zingah) and the Mayo Falaye (in Pouss). But they dry out completely at the height of the dry season. Lake Maga, which is in reality an irrigation dam for rice fields, can irrigate up to 6,000 hectares of rice fields.

34. ***Vegetation and biodiversity***. Vegetation in Gazawa includes species from the Sudano-Sahelian savannah with dominance of spiny shrubs such as *Acacia albida*, *Acacia senegal, Balanites Aegyptiaca, Ziziphus mauritania*. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis, Azadirachta indica* and other scattered shrubs can be found around villages. Overgrazing has significantly changed the vegetation cover.

35. In Kaele, the vegetation is predominantly herbaceous and dotted with woody formations. The dominant herbaceous species are grasses among which are *Faidherbia Albida, Balanites aegyptiaca, Acacias mimosaceae and Azadirachta indica (neem*). This fragile vegetation is under demographic pressure due to the extension of fields, collection of firewood, as well as anthropogenic bush fires.

36. The vegetation in Maga is mainly characterized by bushes. The main species in the landscape is "Neem". There are also acacias, eucalyptus and fruit trees (especially mango trees). Despite the proximity to Waza Park, there are no wild mammals characteristic of the savannah such as lions, elephants, giraffes, etc. The wild mammal present in Maga is hippopotamus.

37. Depicted below is land productivity and land cover change in Gazawa, Kaele and Maga (Figure 6). There is an overall decline (loss) of productivity, except in Maga where there is productivity gain and somewhat significant land cover loss.

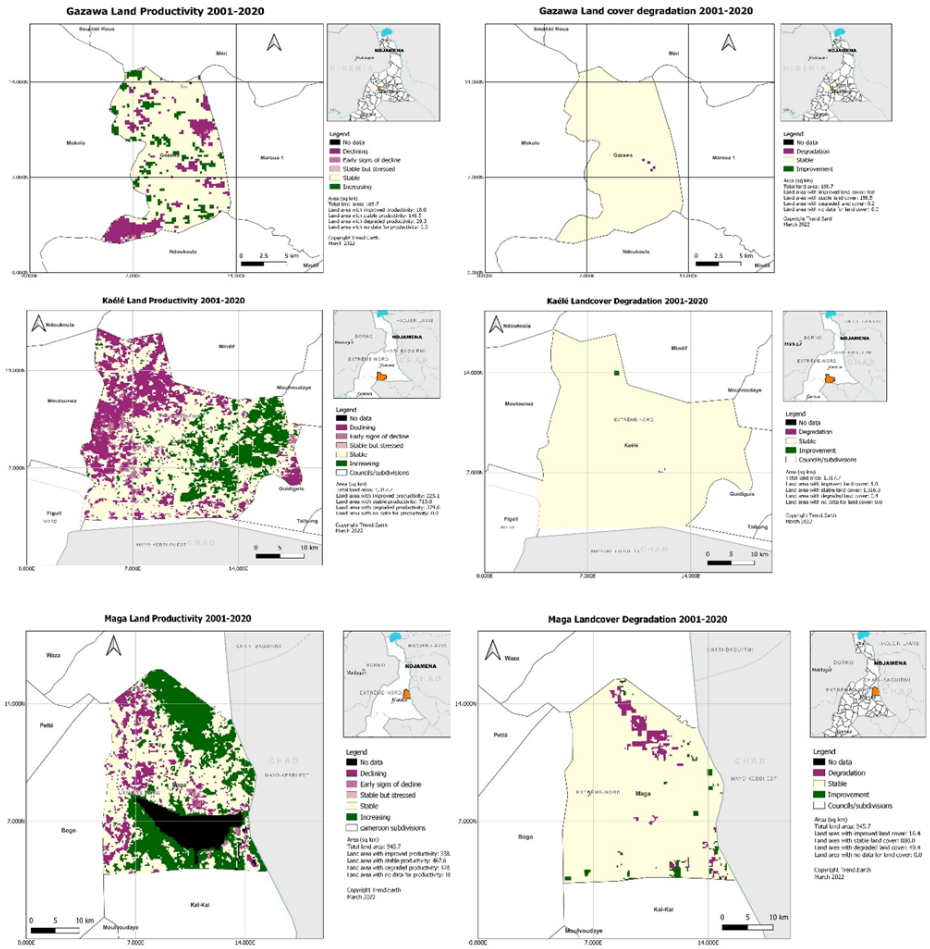

Figure 6: Land productivity and land cover change in Gazawa (top), Kaele (middle) and Maga (2001-2020)

38. ***People and socio-economic activities***. Gazawa is home to several ethnic groups: the Foulb?, Mafa; Mofou, Guiziga and Kanouri. Chiefs or traditional leaders enjoy great respect within the communities in which they exercise their power.

39. When the municipality was created in 1993, the use and control of land fell to the person who first developed it ? de facto owner. Strong population pressure and effects of climate change have led to the scarcity and unavailability of natural resources, particularly land. This situation creates often creates tensions within the communities.

40. Nearly 80% of the population in Gazawa derive their income from agricultural production. In the rainy season, farmers mainly grow maize, rainfed sorghum, peanuts, cowpeas, cotton and onions. Crop residues are generally used to feed livestock and building materials (e.g. roofs of huts and courtyard fencing). Livestock is also an important part of livelihood activities.

41. In Kael?, the main ethnic groups are the Moundang, Guidar, Toupouri, Guiziga, and Fulani, with the Moundang as the majority group.

42. Agricultural production in Kaele is dominated by cereal food crops and legumes, cash crops (cotton, onions, etc.) and constitutes the main source of income for most of the population. Agriculture is traditional and extensive, characterized by low yields. Livestock production is dominated by poultry

farming, small ruminants, cattle and pigs. Technical and financial support for producers is provided by MINADER through its services and the PADFA, SODECOTON and other actors such as NGOs, agricultural cooperatives, and microfinance establishments.

43. In Maga, the main ethnic groups represented are the Sirata, Massa, Mousgoum,Toupuri, Fulani, Moundang, Shoa Arabs, and Hausa. Aside from some land-related conflicts between Mousgoum and Toupouri over arable land, inter-ethnic and inter-community relations are generally peaceful.

44. Practically the entire population of Maga engages in agricultural activities. Rice cultivation is the main economic activity in the municipality. The level of production is low. In terms of livestock production, cattle breeding is essentially in the hands of herders who practice transhumance, on circuits that are sometimes limited (for the Shoa Arabs) or complex and over vast scales.

45. There are about 500 Mbororo indigenous people in Maga. They live largely from trade ? milk and butter. They have great difficulty accessing basic social services (drinking water, electricity, health care) and live in conditions of extreme poverty. Temporary settlement sites are granted to Mbororos by customary and municipal authorities. One of the strategies used by the Mbororos is to make verbal agreements with land owners to settle there and graze their cattle herds. In return, the organic manure obtained from the herds fertilize the fields, and when sowing time comes, these breeders set off again to for new grazing land. The Mbororos of Moutourwa are in dialogue with local traditional authorities to be allocated land collectively or individually and on a permanent basis. With the scarcity of grazing land, the trend is increasingly towards sedentism and diversification of sources of income; particularly for women for whom the main income-generating activity is the sale of cow's milk and local cheese.

Land tenure in Cameroon and target regions

46. Land tenure and property rights are governed by the 1974 Land Law. According to the Law, all privately-owned land is subject to registration. All unregistered land falls under the public domain which is held by the state or held under the customary law. Most of the land in rural areas falls under the customary law, and village chiefs or traditional leaders are entrusted with the management of the land.

47. For many generations, people have occupied the unregistered customary lands for the most part. A GIZ survey conducted in 2021 reveals that land rights in the north are acquired in several ways:

? By inheritance: children of a family inherit the land belonging to their parents. Women can inherit land from their parents if the latter had no male heirs. In this case, they fully enjoy the rights to use the land. They can rent it out or sharecrop, but never sell it. In northern Cameroon, women cultivate plots which they share with their husbands. Only widows own land left by their deceased husbands, which they continue to cultivate if their male children are still young. As soon as their first son marries, he inherits the land.

? Over-the-counter (or agreement) directly with the owner, or through a village chief.

? Purchase: The most usual acquisition of all rights (right of use, right of transfer) on land is done through purchase.

? Renting: Land rental is usually annual and prices vary according to the (potential) fertility and accessibility of the area. Currently, prices vary between 25,000 FCFA and 50,000 FCFA (~ $40 ? 85) for a quarter of a hectare per year, i.e. between 100,000 FCFA and 200,000 FCFA (~$170 ? 335) per ha/year.

48. The Government of Cameroon is in the process of updating legislation for the effective governance of land and natural resources. Through EU-funded programme, FAO is implementing a project ?LandCam: Securing land and resource rights and improving governance in Cameroon?. The project has engaged parliamentarians and various national stakeholders including CSOs on inclusive land governance and land use planning. The project also undertook an assessment of past experiences in securing community land rights, which will be used in the proposed land use planning activity (under project component 1).

Root Causes:

49. The direct drivers of land degradation include unsustainable agricultural practices, overharvesting of fuelwood for charcoal production, poor fire management, and climate variability and change:

(i) Unsustainable agricultural and livestock practices: Cropping systems are generally characterized by high nutrient losses (especially for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) and losses of soil organic matter (SOM). Long-term processes that adversely affect sustainability, such as decreased and eventual depletion of soil nutrient stocks, receive little attention from farmers. Inappropriate agricultural practices (e.g. monoculture crop production, non-adoption of soil-conservation management practices, overcutting of vegetation, unbalanced fertilization, and improper use of pesticides, including highly hazardous chemical pesticides) contribute to nutrient and SOM losses and lead to increased water and wind erosion, further leading to soil physical degradation and to the decline of the soil production potential. One of the spontaneous responses to the decline of soil fertility is the extension of cultivated surface on lands sometime marginal, instead of increased or improved existing production methods. This is associated with new forest clearing and sedentary farms are still under development. The pastoral areas (which are mainly silvopastoral landscapes including forests and grasslands) are threatened by expansionary agriculture pressures and shifting cultivation, which tends to encroach on traditional transhumance corridors, mainly in the dry season. Overgrazing on grasslands and livestock encroachment into protected forests are the most common unsustainable livestock activities occurring in both regions.

(ii) Overharvesting of fuelwood: A growing demand for charcoal to meet household energy needs and reduced forest resources have led to the overharvesting of fuelwood. Woodlots that supply fuelwood for cooking and charcoal have are not typically sited properly in relation to demand centers. A lack of demarcation of council forests has led to their overexploitation and degradation limiting the productivity of those forests for both future fuelwood supply and non-timber forest products.

(iii) Poor fire management: Uncontrolled bush fires for opening vegetated areas for agricultural or pastoral land, often set in the absence of firebreaks, cause accidental burning of trees and forests. Repeated clearing through use of fire on the same soils is contributing to soil nutrient loss and salinization of the soils through increased mineralization.

(iv) Climate variability and change: The North and Far North regions have long been known for high exposure to droughts and erratic rains causing water shortages that lead to reduced soil moisture and to soil and wind erosion. Analyses undertaken in the development of the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change show a marked decrease in rainfall in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone for the period 1951 to 2006 ? a decrease of about 4 percent per decade, accompanied by average temperature increase of about 0.5?C per decade. In 2011 and 2012 the North and Far North were hit by a significant drought resulting in loss of lives, extensive damage to property with thousands of rural households affected. Such occurrences are decreasing agricultural and vegetation yields as well as disrupting the vegetation cycles of crops and plants. Regional climate change projections suggest that an overall decrease in the quantity of rainfall could exacerbate water shortages in many areas of the North and Far North. The quality of water will also be affected. An increase in temperatures, and greater dryness, are likely to result in the salinization of both water and soils. Yields, particularly of rainfed crops including rice, maize and groundnuts are projected to fall significantly by 2050.[10][10]

50. The indirect drivers of land degradation primarily include population growth and land conflict.

(i) Population growth: Population growth in the North and Far north is above 2.5 percent[11][11], one of the highest rates compared to the other 10 regions of the country. Population growth is in many ways increasing the diverse set of pressures put on the land. It increases land degradation indirectly through increased demands for agriculture and livestock production, which is often carried out using

unsustainable practices, resulting from increased food demands and increased demands for cash crops to support the livelihoods of a larger population group. Larger energy demands from this group leads to increased charcoal demands and thus increased degradation of forest resources for fuelwood. Recently the regions have seen an increase in refugee influx from neighboring countries that are adding to pressures on the land by contributing to population growth. Cameroon is hosting 272,000 refugees from Nigeria and Central African Republic and 157,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), due to conflict-related insecurity.

(ii) Land conflict and insecurity: In the North and Far North Regions, rural farmers? access to land is largely a function of their economic status, where many impoverished members of the community have the least access to productive land, and the fewer, relatively less poor have greater access to land with productive soils. As demand pressures mount on production lands and unsustainable management practices reduce their productivity and availability, the North and Far North Regions have experienced numerous cases of conflict regarding access to land and user rights. Disputes over who can cultivate on land and have access to pastures for grazing contributes broadly to various forms of inefficient land use[12][12]. Reports of conflicts regarding crop degradation from livestock grazing on farmland, and crop encroachment into pastureland are increasing. Another example includes the presence of Boko Haram on the North and Far North borders with both Nigeria and Chad that have resulted in high levels of insecurity and violence. After several years of conflict, the border regions are inaccessible and the cultivation of tall-growing cereal crops???millet and maize mainly???have been prohibited by the army, even in certain non-border areas, for security reasons. In Mayo Tsanaga and Mayo Sava, thousands of displaced farmers have taken advantage of the solidarity of others who lease them farmland, further contributing to existing conflicts of land. Such instances of conflict and threats over land use, combined with a weak land tenure regime, disincentivizes sustainable and productive investments in agriculture and livestock practices resulting in the prevailing existence of unsustainable land management practices on production lands.

51. The relationship between the direct and indirect drivers of land degradation is exacerbating the problem of land degradation, creating a feedback loop of negative impacts on the environment and population. Land degradation is reducing people?s access to productive landscapes and ecosystem services impacting their livelihood, nutrition, loss of natural capital, and agricultural production. In turn, land users are caught in a socio-economic trap where they have few other options or incentives to adopt sustainable land management measures and thus continue to degrade production landscapes at an increasing rate. This cycle of worsening and expanding land degradation and poverty is expected to continue until the Sudano-Sahelian agroecosystem has collapsed into arid conditions.

52. As mentioned, the Government of Cameroon with support of several national and international partners, has committed to addressing land degradation and its root causes. Key frameworks such as the LDN National Targets and the National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy are now in place. There is now need to step up efforts by strengthening capacities for implementation on the ground.

Barriers to be addressed:

53. There are several barriers that need to be addressed in order to advance LDN in Cameroon and specifically in the North and Far North Regions. These barriers include the following:

1) Limited experience with LDN target setting, implementation and monitoring at local level

54. Cameroon has set its national voluntary LDN target and baseline indicators through its GEF-6 National LDN Target-Setting project. However, sub-nationally, municipalities have not yet adopted LDN targets, baseline development, or begun strategically implementing projects that address production land losses. There is little understanding sub-nationally as to what lands, or how much land will need to be protected or rehabilitated.

55. It is difficult to assess the net change of available production land, in terms of losses and gains, because of a lack of LDN monitoring systems in the North and Far North regions. While it is

seen that both land degradation and land restoration activities are occurring, there are no baseline indicators currently being collected to accurately quantify the balance in which they relate. Implementing such a monitoring system is a challenge because collecting on these indicators will require designing a monitoring system and developing expertise and capacity for collecting data (vegetation cover, soil productivity, soil organic carbon etc.) and making calculations and/or models to better understand where the land degradation balance stands in relation to neutrality. Overcoming this barrier will require collection and analysis of LDN indicator data in a centralized system with access by municipal, regional and national planning bodies.

2) Absence of participatory land use plans

56. Most of the Municipalities in the North and Far North do not have participatory land and resource management plans in place ? apart from a few that have benefited from projects funded by development partners. Local authorities lack experience and capacity to accompany participatory processes for integrated land use planning and management, engaging indigenous and local communities.

57. Past reforestation projects have demonstrated the importance of community engagement in planning and implementation. Because they did not fully engage communities, many plantation forests, that originally aimed at restoring lands, were actually cut down very quickly by agricultural community members under the position that they wanted to use those lands for other purposes or that the type of trees planted were not suitable for their approach to agriculture / livestock production. For example, some communities cut the large plantations of ?Neem? trees (*Azadirachta indica*) because they grew too large and crowded out sunlight for crop growth and they preferred the smaller native fertilizer trees (*Faidherbia albida* etc. whose biological cycle is appropriate to growing crops in agroforestry systems), that dropped nutrient rich nitrogen fixing leaves during growing season and allowed ample penetration of sunlight. Farming communities reported that they would like to be the ones responsible for choosing plantation sites and wanted a choice of fertilizer trees to plant. Overcoming this barrier will require a process for communities and individual farmers to become involved with the selection and planting of desirable native plants including tree planting on their own siting terms and receiving tree options for doing so.

58. There is an opportunity for the proposed project to demonstrate and build capacities for integrated land use planning with land degradation neutrality objectives and targets embedded within these. The participatory land use and resource management plans would also contribute towards resolving land use conflicts and build trust between communities and institutions, particularly important for the North and Far North.

3) Insecure access to land and low adoption of SLM practices by smallholders

59. Insecure user access to land and lack of ownership disincentivizes the long-term improvement of land management practices. Private ownership of land is very uncommon in the North and Far North. Most of the land is legally owned by the government and citizens are permitted to use it according to to the traditional appointments for land use and access. Traditional land appointments are central to driving insecurity of land access[13][13], as the approaches allow for traditional authorities to re-allocate land to different users on a short-term basis ? in some cases, season to season. Relatively poor farmers are easily displaced by wealthier farmers who curried favors with traditional authorities in exchange for increased land access rights, or by chiefs declaring requirements for sharing land with new refugees or maturing youth who want their own land to farm. The broad absence of statutory land tenure is not securely covered by customary tenure rights, and in addition the absence of legal titling, land access insecurity contributes to further ?a lacking sense of ownership? over land. The lack of a ?sense? of ownership amongst poor farmers, and the feeling that the land might not be theirs to farm in the future, provides no incentive for them to invest their time and labor efforts in protecting the land?s natural capital, as they risk not seeing any direct return on it. While this project will not aim to make a change to the legal system for land governance, it will seek to address this barrier of land access by

convening chiefs and land users to commit to long term customary user rights specifically for the purposes of addressing prevalent land degradation challenges.

60. Agroecological SLM practices are in competition with chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. Given the serious livelihood implications of widespread crop losses, farmers have reported a general scepticism and hesitancy to changing their traditional farming methods in favour of improved methods. However, it is widely understood from stakeholder consultations that changes will be needed in order to address growing food demands amidst diminishing soil fertility and associated crop yields. With regard to improving soil fertility for crop production and reducing crop diseases, farmers essentially have two approach options to choose from: (1) agroecological SLM practices or (2) use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. During stakeholder consultations in the North and Far North, a concern arose over some farmers? keen interest in pursuing a chemical approach to improving soil fertility versus an SLM approach. Some stakeholders indicated that if they could afford chemicals, they would like to use them, and others that had used them noted initial satisfaction but long-term complications. The temptation for farmers to want to use the chemical approach relates to their known ability produce reliable short-term benefits in crop growth / pest and weed death, they are very easy to apply, and require little additional time or labor requirements compared to SLM. However, in the long term, the chemical approach dissolves soil structure contributing to erosion and poses major environmental threats to water resources and non-pest insect species, which are responsible for providing valuable environmental services for the agroecosystem. On the other hand, agroecological SLM practices, can be financially less costly and conserve agroecosystem resources in the long term. However, with SLM practices, soil nutrient regeneration may take longer to realize and involve higher labor demands associated with the additional manual processes, like composting, mulching, weeding, and fertilizer tree breeding. Furthermore, stakeholder?s understanding of the long-term benefits of SLM were quite limited. This barrier will need to be addressed in order to achieve and sustain LDN, particularly as incomes rise from LDN activities, so will the affordability of chemical applications. Overcoming the attractiveness of chemical approaches will require a broad level change in farmer?s perceptions of the costs/benefits to each type of soil fertility improvement method. This will need to be done in a straightforward, practical and culturally sensitive way, involving endorsement of SLM from the agricultural cooperative or community and a collective commitment to abstaining from a chemical approach.

61. There is limited knowledge and a lack of information and training resources regarding SLM practices. In the agriculture and livestock sector, agroecological SLM practices are somewhat known, but not fully understood within their specific cropping systems. For example, during stakeholder consultations farmers overwhelmingly reported that they were aware of agroecological soil fertility management practices, like crop rotation, use of cover crops, use of livestock waste in fertilizers, intercropping, agroforestry etc. However, critical details for their effective implementation were not well understood. Some examples from farmers consulted included knowledge gaps around: which crops could be efficiently rotated together to maximize yields and conserve soil conditions, which cover crops should be used to improve soil conditions, how to mix organic fertilizer according to crop needs, how to restore land fallows quickly, how to implement nitrogen fixing trees to maximize outputs of their primary cropping systems etc. Furthermore, there was broadly a lack of understanding regarding the negative impacts of widely used unsustainable practices - like the use of set fires to clear field vegetation out for planting, continuous mono-cropping, overgrazing etc. As a result, there were many farmers that thought they were fully implementing SLM practices when they were not, and they were slightly disappointed with the perceived SLM approach considering their diminishing crop yields. The major barrier to this knowledge gap is that farmers reported not having access to information or training services that could help inform them of how to implement SLM practices effectively. There was a desire to also receive improved information services on pest and disease outbreaks much more quickly so that preventative SLM measures could be taken as opposed to pursuing a last-minute chemical treatment. Overcoming this barrier will require providing increased information services, trainings and extension support to farmers on SLM and disaster risk management within the context of their specific cropping systems.

1.2 Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

62. The Government of Cameroon acknowledges the above-mentioned challenges and is committed to providing an effective response to the prevailing deficiencies in addressing land degradation in the North and Far North. The Government recognizes the need to enhance capacities for development of the subnational LDN mechanism and the urgent need to strengthen initiatives and coordination mechanisms to achieve LDN targets and sustainable rural livelihoods.

63. There are several key initiatives that the project will build upon and collaborate with in order to achieve its objectives. These were identified with stakeholders at PIF stage and during project formulation (PPG).

64. The baseline includes the following initiatives:

(i) *GEF-6 LDN Target Setting Project*: Cameroon has set its national voluntary LDN target and baseline indicators through its GEF-6 LDN Target Setting Project, supported by IUCN. Through this project Cameroon?s national voluntary LDN target is sought to be achieved at no net loss, and an additional 10% of the territory improved as a net gain. This value corresponds to about 12 million hectares nationally by 2030. Cameroon seeks to achieve this target following a municipal implementation approach, in having 90 percent of its municipalities in ?priority areas? combat land degradation and achieve neutrality. The National Voluntary LDN Target Setting Report recognizes the North and the Far North Regions as highest priority areas in the country for implementation of the mechanism. The proposed project builds directly on this work, by supporting the development and implementation of a Municipal LDN model to facilitate local level implementation of LDN that can be scaled-up to other regions across the country.

(ii) *GEF-6 The Restoration Initiative (TRI) Project*: The project in Cameroon (Supporting Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon). It aims to contribute towards global efforts in support of the Bonn Challenge, the New York Declaration on Forests, the AFR100 Initiative, and Cameroon?s restoration priorities. The project has carried out Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) for three landscapes in Cameroon, one of which is located in the North; is elaborating a National Strategy on FLR to restore 12 million ha by 2030; and has developed a legal instrument for cultivating NTFPs on plantations or as part of agroforestry systems; this is seen as a strategy for reducing the pressure on natural forest and NTFPs it contains, with the increased demand resulting from commercialization. The proposed project will benefit from the institutional mechanisms at national level (the Inter-sectoral FLR Working Group) and consortium of partners at local level, and ROAM assessment approach and technical training materials developed.

(iii) *Programme National de Developement Participatif (PNDP)*: The PNDP was instituted as part of the second phase of the government?s Community Driven Development Program (CDDP) with support from the World Bank. The programme aims to improve participatory development planning and service delivery at municipal level in order to improve socio-economic conditions, increase the productivity of natural resources and increase incomes of populations. PNDP supports the elaboration of 5-year Council Development Plans. The proposed project will facilitate the integration of LDN targets and actions into the Council Development Plans for target councils (municipalities) to be updated in 2025.

(iv) *GCF Readiness project ?Strengthening Country?s capacities for increased resilience and mitigation potential through agroforestry in the North and the Far North Regions of Cameroon?* : The objective of this project is to strengthen capacities of the key technical institutions and coordination mechanism for climate change, particularly the National Observatory of Climate Change (ONACC) on: assessment of climate impacts on agriculture; and development of a system for collecting, processing, analyzing and monitoring climate data and accounting for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in agriculture. The project will also develop a digital application to disseminate relevant climate information to farmers; and conduct an assessment to identify among existing agroforestry practices, those that can play an important role in the fight against climate change in the northern regions and the Far North of Cameroon, taking into account gender dimensions. All these outputs will contribute to the proposed project as highlighted in the description of components 1 and 2.

(v) *Commodity Value-Chain Development Support Project (PADFAII)*: Rice and onions are an important commodity for production in the North and Far North regions as they tend to be grown on fertile soils that are vulnerable to soil nutrient depletion. Rice requires substantial water resources and play an important role in engaging women in the production process. Onions also engage women from cooperatives and contributes substantially to rural livelihoods as it is the most profitable crop for the Sudano-Sahelian region. The PADFA project is funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) with US $47 million and the Government of Cameroon with $US 8.7 million, and implemented by MINADER. The project?s development objective is to contribute to reducing poverty, and improving food and nutrition security of target populations, and links with the objectives of the National Agriculture Investment Plan. PADFA is of particular significance to the proposed GEF-7 operation as it is providing support to rice and onion farming with the aims of (1) increasing production on family farms, (2) improving the preservation, processing, and marketing of products, (3) strengthening the climate resilience of and technical organization capacities of producers, and (4) improving the nutritional status of households. According to MINEPDED and GIZ?s AFR100 diagnostic report, PADFA farms are operating in areas that are highly vulnerable to land degradation. The first implementation of PADFA ended in 2017, and a second implementation (PADFAII) started in 2020 and will operate for five years. The PADFAII project offers opportunities to help improve agricultural production while combining with GEF-7 resources to mainstream SLM interventions that address the underlying drivers of land degradation.

(vi) *IFAD-Adaptation Fund ?Increasing local communities? resilience to climate change through youth entrepreneurship and integrated natural resources management?*: This recently approved project aims to climate proof institutional frameworks and local development plans, strengthen ecosystem resilience and promote sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems leading to climate resilience, green jobs for youth and women, and resilience. The project is located in three regions ? Far North, North and North West. Key outputs relevant for the proposed GEF-7 project include: Output 1.1 (Institutional and regulatory frameworks and plans at municipal and regional level are strengthened to promote climate change adaptation and the resilient management of natural resources), Output 2.1 (Climate information systems and surveillance mechanisms are strengthened through the development of a unified observation system to respond to climate change), Output 3.2 (Climate adaptation actions in agroforestry and natural resources management are implemented through a grant with a focus on youth and other marginalized groups), and Output 3.3 (Payments for ecosystem services schemes to support conservation of fragile ecosystems are implemented).

(vii) *Innovation for adaptation to climate change (INNOVACC):* The project funded by the EU is implemented in the North and Far North of Cameroon by a consortium of partners including ICRAF, CIFOR, CIRAD, IRAD and FONDEM. The overall objective is to improve the climate resilience of populations in the North and Far North of Cameroon. This will be achieved through participatory evaluation of tools and innovations for climate change adaptation in production systems, and their promotion with farmers, agro-pastoralists, and rural households; dissemination of agro-climatic information; development of climate-smart value chains and green businesses with women and youth; and strengthening policies and institutions to enable the adoption of climate-smart practices. The ICRAF-CIFOR-CIRAD-IRAD consortium is also implementing a project on strengthening innovation systems in the North. The project also seeks to create synergies of action between the various projects and actors working in agri-food systems and natural resources management. A toolbox of best SLM practices in the Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone is being finalized.

(viii) *D?veloppement paysannal et de gestion de terroirs (DPGT):* The DPGT project carried out the selection and propagation of assisted natural regeneration of the indigenous agroforestry tree *Faiherbia albida*. This tree was deemed suitable for promoting plantations on fields as they integrated well with agricultural operations. The tree drops its nitrogen rich leaves during the beginning of the growing season, allowing for the crops to be fertilized and benefit from the ample amount of sun let through barren branches. It is a valuable fodder tree for game and domestic animals. The DPGT project has supported land restoration and rehabilitation efforts and has reportedly been very popular amongst beneficiaries. The proposed GEF-7 operation stands to gain significantly from the experience, best practices, and lessons learned from the DPGT project.

1.3 The proposed alternative scenario and description of components

65. The proposed project will aim to advance the LDN mechanism to the municipal level in the North and Far North Regions, in line with the approach of the national LDN strategy, and support select municipalities in achieving set LDN targets. The proposed project will operate for 5 years, starting in 2022. The proposed project acknowledges that development of the LDN mechanism is a process, and iterative in its development. It will support an enabling environment that provides basic capabilities for LDN, which can be built upon in later iterations of the mechanism. Supporting achievement of set LDN targets will be fulfilled by strengthening production land development initiatives to address the direct and indirect drivers of land degradation to strategically maximize impacts within budgetary constraints. Project identification acknowledges the issue of Indigenous People as a sensitive issue in the North and Far North. As a primary measure, the FAO will help ensure that project implementation follows the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.

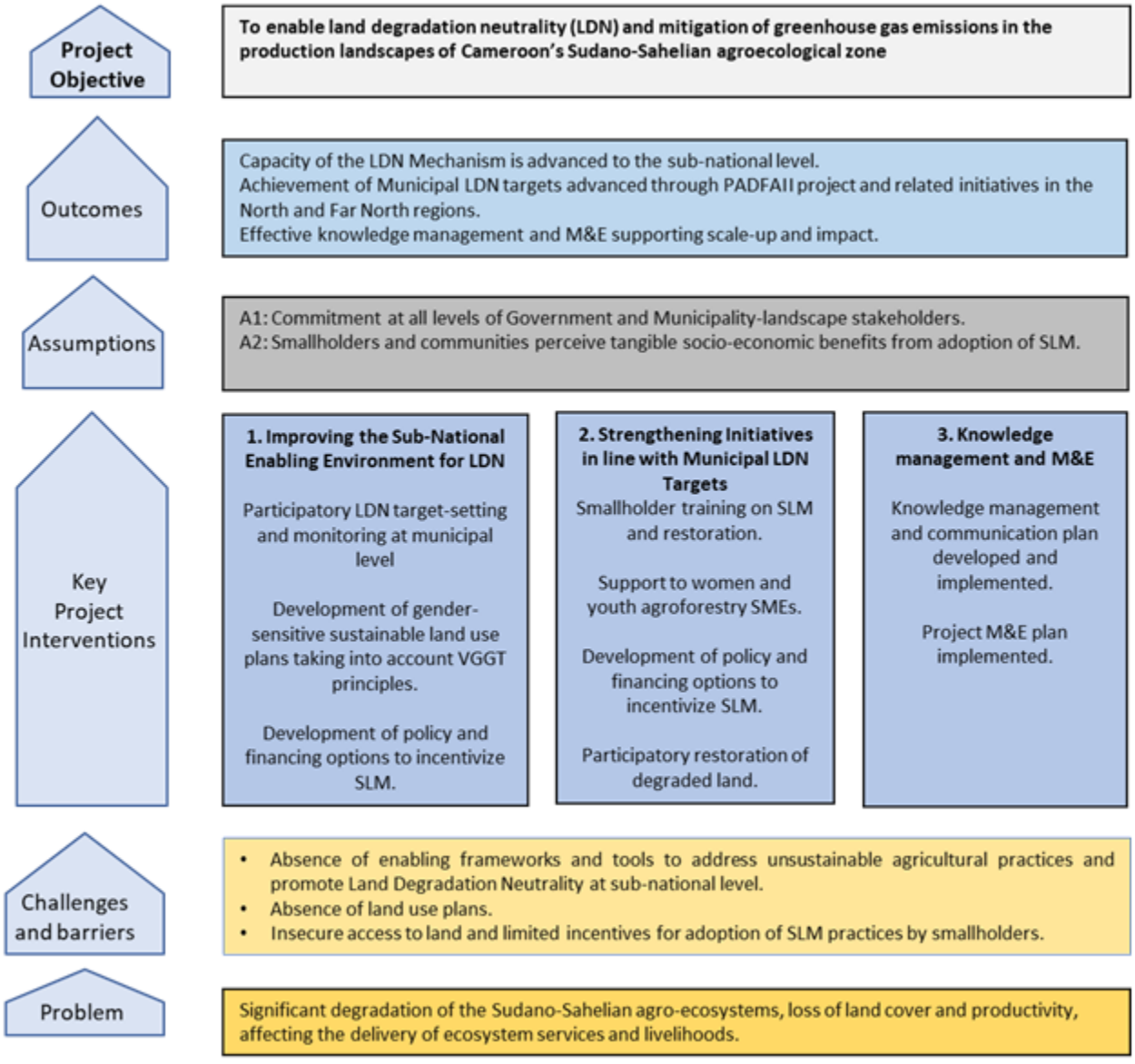

Figure 7: Theory of Change

66. The proposed project?s theory of change relates to the implementation of the LDN logic model within the context of the North and Far North Regions of Cameroon. The main pathway towards LDN consists of: (i) bringing together a coalition of stakeholders at municipal level, engaging local and indigenous communities and local authorities to assess land degradation dynamics and solutions; (ii) establishing a common vision and LDN targets and land use plans; (iii) advocating for secure land access with attention to women, indigenous and marginalized groups; and (iv) developing policy and financial options to incentivize the adoption of SLM.

67. The **project objective** is to enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.

68. The objective will be achieved through implementation of the following components in six (6) municipalities within two (2) target regions ? North and Far North.

Component 1: Improving the Sub-National Enabling Environment for LDN

Outcome 1.1: Capacity of the LDN Mechanism is advanced to the sub-national level
Key targets:
- Inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms at municipal level linked to national LDN-FLR multi-stakeholder platform (equitable representation of women and men);
- LDN targets established in at least 6 municipalities;
- 6 participatory and gender-responsive sustainable land use plans endorsed by communities and authorities in the target municipalities;
- 1,000 people (50% women) trained;
- LDN Municipal model scale-up strategy endorsed;
- Policy and financing options for incentivising SLM adoption and LDN.

69. Advancing the National Strategy for LDN will require advancing Cameroon?s LDN mechanism to the sub-national level. This component seeks to improve technical, policy and financing elements of the municipal enabling environment for LDN.

70. Supporting LDN objectives in the North and far North regions requires delicate handling of the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, particularly with respect to the process of decision making over land use and natural resources. In these regions, many of the communities are considered to be indigenous with land and natural resources on which they depend inextricably linked to their identities, cultures, livelihoods, as well as their physical and spiritual well-being. Hence the project will pay particular attention to concrete representation and participation of local and indigenous communities in the LDN target setting and land use planning processes through the local multi-stakeholder platforms to be established under this component. As a primary measure, FAO will also help ensure that project implementation follows the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process.

Output 1.1.1: Comprehensive assessment of land degradation status, trends and drivers (LDN baseline mapping completed in 6 municipalities within the 2 target regions ? North and Far North).

71. This process will start with the constitution and orientation of inclusive municipal multi-stakeholder working groups or platforms (ensuring participation of decentralized government services, traditional leaders, smallholder producers and herders, local and indigenous communities, CSOs, local NGOs and private sector, women and youth) to provide inputs to the target setting process and development of sustainable land use and resource management plans, and to monitor LDN implementation. These working groups will be linked to the cross-sectoral National LDN-FLR Working Group that includes members from MINEPDED, MINFOF, Ministries of Mining,

Agriculture, Commerce, Lands, Energy, Water, CSOs, relevant International Organizations (IUCN, FAO, CIFOR, ICRAF, GIZ and others), Parliament and Municipalities.

72. LDN data indicators will be collected and baseline analysed following the UNCCD Framework and Guidelines. This will be complemented by participatory ROAM assessments which will be conducted for each of the six (6) target Municipalities. These assessments will be done using the experience and approaches applied by IUCN under GEF-TRI project in which ROAM was done for three landscapes in Cameroon ? one of which (Waza) is in the target region.

73. The LDN baseline and ROAM assessments will be presented and discussed and LDN objectives and targets set through stakeholder consultations, including a workshop series that will convene stakeholders in each of the target Municipalities. The results of this process will be documented and presented to stakeholders for final endorsement.

74. Key activities:

- Establish multi-stakeholder working groups (committees) with equitable representation of youth, women and men;
- Preparation of simple guidelines and training materials on LDN target setting and participatory development of land use and resource management plans;
- Conduct stakeholder meetings to introduce the project, LDN target setting methodology, integrated land use planning and implementation. Equitable representation of women and men must be ensured;
- Collect LDN data indicators to define the LDN baseline - using LDN indicators, including: i) land cover; ii) land productivity; and iii) carbon stocks above and below ground (soil organic carbon (SOC)). Produce and verify baseline and other LDN support maps with the various indicators;
- Analyse trends and drivers of degradation, including review of relevant policies, practices and institutional arrangements for land management at local level;
- Conduct municipal level ROAM assessments;
- Participatory setting of LDN objectives and targets with stakeholders.

Output 1.1.2: Gender-responsive sustainable land use plans (6) developed.

75. None of the target municipalities have land use plans ? they do have Council Development Plans. This output will therefore support participatory land use planning which will be informed by output LDN baseline and ROAM assessments and will be done in conjunction with the LDN target setting process.

76. The development of the participatory gender-responsive land use plans will involve: (1) defining a common vision for the sustainability of their landscape in line with LDN objectives and targets, that include gender equality and women empowerment; (2) identifying priority areas within the landscape for protection, sustainable production and restoration (LDN response hierarchy); (3) climate-resilient SLM practices and policy options, and priority actions; (4) implementation roadmap, stakeholder roles and responsibilities, and investment needs, funding sources and commitments (public and private); and (5) a monitoring framework. Through the land use planning process, the project will undertake a simple mapping and recording of existing rights as a way of assuring land users of record of their rights. The project will convene traditional leaders and communities to secure long term land management access rights, ensuring that women?s access rights are recognized and equally prioritized alongside men?s. The planning process will also take into account indigenous peoples? land access needs ? groups such as the Mboboro peoples with their mobile pastoral system (securing transhumance corridors and water points).

77. Local leaders including Governors and mayors of the target municipalities will be engaged in the multi-stakeholder committees, with their participation crucial for ensuring the incorporation of identified LDN priority actions and associated budgets in the municipal development plans.

78. The land use planning process will be guided by the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) and FAO technical guideline on LDN and land tenure (under preparation).

79. Key activities:

- Stakeholder consultations and workshops for development and endorsement of the sustainable land use and resource management plans, ensuring that women are represented and their priorities are taken into consideration;
- Facilitate Dimitra Clubs to engage women and marginalized groups in the planning process;
- Update of municipalities' Council Development Plan (CDP) including a synopsis on the land management and natural resources management plan
- Communication of plans at municipal and national level with local populations and authorities, Government, private sector and development partners.

Output 1.1.3: Municipal LDN Monitoring System designed.

80. A municipal-level monitoring system design will be created in order to capture changes in LDN indicators, enabling accurate monitoring of changes in the LDN baseline. The system will include a formal methodology for LDN baseline monitoring in relation to established municipal targets, including the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors as well as the integration with information sharing systems communicating baseline changes and appropriate response actions amongst relevant stakeholders. It will include a reporting process that aggregates municipal LDN data, to the region and national levels. It will find synergies with existing PNDP methodologies for collecting land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF) data at the council level.

81. Given that the LDN monitoring system comprises collection of soil carbon and land cover change indicators, an inter-ministerial information sharing arrangement will be established with the National Observatory of Climate Change (ONACC) for updating Cameroon?s national GHG inventory and reporting to UNFCCC and with MNADER and MINFOF.

82. As Cameroon does not currently have a national LDN monitoring system, the municipal monitoring system?s methodology will make a contribution to the development of a national methodology for LDN monitoring through its aggregation.

83. Key activities:

- Using best practices from other LDN initiatives, design a municipal-level LDN monitoring system;
- Develop monitoring tools and setting up mechanisms for inter-ministerial information sharing - to communicate LDN indicator and relevant data with ONACC, MINADER and MINFOF.

Output 1.1.4: Series of inclusive municipal LDN trainings delivered to build capacities for LDN planning, implementation and monitoring.

84. Adoption and sustainability of the LDN model will rely on the capacities of the various stakeholders to be fully engaged, plan, implement and monitor LDN implementation at municipal level. As such, a series of trainings and workshops will be delivered for representative farming and indigenous community members, lead farmers, women?s group representatives, traditional authorities, NGOs and municipal PNDP and regional line ministries (MINFOF, MINEPDED, MINADER, etc) representatives. The workshops will involve discussing the land degradation problem, reviewing LDN

baseline assessment and set targets, and discussing the SLM practices & policies. The trainings will also cover potential agricultural, environmental, and health hazards of using chemical fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicides, and a discussion component will compare the short and long-term costs/benefits in relation to the SLM practices. These will cover as well, climate change resilience and adaptation practices.

85. Working with local women CSOs, the project will adopt and adapt, as necessary, the innovative FAO Dimitra Clubs approach (or IFAD Gender Action Learning System ? GALS) in target Municipalities to train and empower women and youth, and ensure their full engagement in the target setting and land use planning and implementation.

86. Key activities:

- Review of existing relevant guidelines and training materials developed by partners in Cameroon and other countries (including GEF-6 TRI, GIZ FLR project, ICRAF-CIFOR-IRAD SLM toolbox etc), and preparation of training modules and delivery approaches and materials.
- Deliver trainings in the 6 municipalities taking into account the timings of the various activities described above and ensuring strong participation of women.
- Facilitation of Dimitra Clubs at village-level engaging women, youth and marginalized groups.

Output 1.1.5: Strategy for LDN Municipal Model Scale-up.

87. The proposed project only supports LDN baseline assessment and target setting in 6 municipalities in the Sudano Sahelian zone. However, since Cameroon?s LDN strategy would require LDN in 90 percent of municipalities in the North and Far North, additional measures must be taken to fund LDN target setting and implementation in additional municipalities. The proposed project will support the development of a plan (or scale-up strategy) and identification of funding from MINIPDED, MINFOF, MINADER, the Ministry of Finance and other sources, to scale-up the municipal LDN model in at least 90% of municipalities in the North and Far North.

88. Key activities:

- Preparation and validation of the scale-up strategy with stakeholders at regional and national level.

Output 1.1.6: Policy and financing options for incentivising SLM adoption and LDN.

89. This output will address the issue of low adoption of agro-ecological SLM practices (and sustainability) ? which is not just an issue of access to technical knowledge through trainings but also incentives. As mentioned, SLM practices are in competition with chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides and other unsustainable practices.

90. There are a number of programs covering the North and Far North regions, promoting smallholder producers and rural communities? access to credit and suitable financial services. These include Rural Microfinance Development Support Program (PADMIR) and Projet Cr?dit Rural D?centralis? (PCRD). PCRD, which is funded by the African Development Bank and the EU, is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) that promotes the establishment of village savings and loan networks. The objective is to offer rural producers and populations who do not have access to the traditional banking system a source of financing to improve their farming operations and SMEs. PCRD has enabled the creation of 253 village savings banks; a cumulative savings mobilized estimated at approximately USD 3.5 million.

91. The recently approved IFAD-Adaptation Fund ?Increasing local communities? resilience to climate change through youth entrepreneurship and integrated natural resources management? aims to put in place payments for ecosystem services (PES) schemes in three landscapes in the North and Far North (B?nou? and Waza) for young farmers to invest in biodiversity conservation and carbon

sequestration techniques in order to enhance their livelihoods while producing global environmental benefits. The intention is to link the PES schemes to future REDD+ programmes funds and financial incentive instruments that pay actors who have worked to restore/protect ecosystem services.

92. IUCN is implementing a GEF-7 regional project in Cameroon and Kenya ?Restoration Challenge Grant Platform for Smallholders and Communities, with Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding? that aims to strengthen smallholders and communities? engagement and investment in restoration. This is a highly relevant and innovative venture that can catalyse change in terms of incentivizing restoration at scale.

93. Building on these, and working closely with the IUCN-led project, the proposed project will take a broader approach identifying both innovative financial incentive options and policy revisions and updates (e.g. input subsidy policies and programs) necessary to incentivize SLM (including measures to avoid or prevent degradation) at council, regional and national level.

94. Key activities:

- Conduct an environmental economic accounting for the target landscapes (this will be linked to the GCF readiness activity in which Cameroon?s National Institute of Statistics, MINFOF and MINEPDED will be trained on physical and monetary accounting of the carbon inventory and ecosystem services of forest and agricultural landscapes;
- Comprehensive review of relevant existing innovative financing mechanisms, tools and policies in Cameroon and similar contexts;
- Develop financial incentive options and recommendations for policy measures/updates to promote and incentivize SLM for LDN;
- Implementation of at least one option (e.g. linkage to the Challenge Grant);
- Dialogue at regional and national level with stakeholders (3 workshops).

Component 2: Strengthening Initiatives in line with Municipal LDN Targets

Outcome 2.1: Achievement of Municipal LDN targets advanced through PADFAII project and related initiatives in the North and Far North regions.
Key targets:
- Area of landscapes under SLM practices (10,000 ha);
- Area of degraded land restored (5,000 ha);
- 557,270 metric tons of CO2e mitigated;
- 8,300 smallholders (at least 50% women) have benefited from trainings on SLM;
- 700 of women and youth receiving support for income generating activities.

95. This project component will serve as an exemplary approach for ?avoiding? loss of vulnerable agro-ecosystems to achieve LDN. It will also serve as representative approach for how farmers and pastoralists specifically can become engaged in sustainable land management, rehabilitation and restoration for the benefit of future agriculture and livestock activities. As such it will help make evident to stakeholders how the LDN targets can be achieved through on the ground interventions in agriculture and livestock sectors. PADFAII project was confirmed during project formulation as the key baseline initiative upon which incremental SLM activities will be built for component 2 ? for progress towards municipal LDN targets. PADFAII is operating extensively on agricultural lands in the North and Far North that are vulnerable to land degradation.

96. PADFAII is a USD 47 million loan project funded by IFAD and implemented by MINADER that aims to sustainably increase the income and resilience of family farms that grow rice and onions in North, Far North, Northwest, and West regions of Cameroon. The project has three main components:

(i) *Component 1 Support for production*: which includes development of agricultural water infrastructure, rehabilitation of farm roads, development of a rice and onion seed programme, facilitation of producers? access to credit for inputs and equipment through partnership with micro-finance institutions; and strengthening capacities through farmer field schools (FFS).

(ii) *Component 2 Support for marketing, organization of value chains and access to diversified diet*: involving improvement of product storage and processing; improvement of knowledge and market access ? access to information, definition of standards and product advertising and construction of supply chains with the private sector; organization of value chain actors and strengthening of their capacities; and improvement of nutritional status.

(iii) *Component 3 Planning, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, policy dialogue*: which will also include support for policy reforms aimed at removing bottlenecks to value chain development and private sector participation in rural wealth and job creation.

97. The proposed GEF project will build on the PADFAII operations related to providing farmers with trainings and inputs through their established cooperative?s structures. The SLM practices to be promoted will extend beyond rice and onion cropland, to cover additional land susceptible to land degradation (i.e. ?non-onion? / ?non-rice? cropland, pastureland, etc., taking an agro-ecological landscape approach. This is an extremely critical feature of the design as this approach allows for greater impacts with respect to land degradation. Through this approach, additional staple crops that the farmers are cultivating (such as millet, sorghum, groundnut etc.) as well as cash crops (like cotton) are addressed simultaneously alongside rice and onion through PADFAII?s component 1. The rational for co-financing with the PADFA initiative stems from the vulnerability of these rice/onion, and more importantly the additional cooperative crop and pastureland, to land degradation threats, and will be critical for securing LDN in the municipalities in which they operate. However, it should be noted that the inclusion of onions and rice cooperatives also provides considerable opportunities to engage women farmers and to increase livelihoods as simultaneous co-benefits to LDN targets achievement.

98. The added value of GEF funding in this component is the landscape approach promoted. Focus will not be confined to SLM practices for single crops (rice and onion) but extend to farming systems across the target productive landscapes.

Output 2.1.1: Inclusive trainings delivered on sustainable land and water management practices, and forest and rangeland restoration to cooperatives and agro-pastoral community groups in the target municipalities ? ensuring equitable participation of women.

99. This output will deliver trainings on SLM through the FFS approach, which will consist of training trainers (including lead farmers selected from cooperatives and community groups, agriculture extension staff, CSOs) who will facilitate FFS training sessions in the target municipalities. SLM trainings will include conservation agriculture techniques on croplands (complementing crop rotations, low-till / no till, strategic cover crops etc. Integrated soil fertility and water management techniques on croplands (best practices for integrated crop residue / manure mulching practices, agroforestry etc.), integrated pest management, integrated rice management, farmer-managed fodder production systems with perennial shrubs and trees and improved grass fodder production for nearby pasturelands. The trainings will provide advisory on rehabilitation and restoration practices for already degraded lands, including ?harde? soils. Examples of this include advisory support for planting nitrogen-fixing fertilizer trees, planting nutrient regenerative vegetation (grasses and tree shrubs), and practicing farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR).

100. The SLM FFS curriculum will be developed based on the baseline projects and SLM training manuals ? including INNOVACC and ICRAF?s toolbox of best SLM practices in the Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone and in consultation with farmers and communities (linked to consultations under component 1). Climate risk data and information will be incorporated in the curriculum with support from the National Observatory on Climate Change (co-financing partner).

101. With co-financing from MINFOF, 5,000 ha of forest and rangeland will be restored based on the results of the ROAM assessment conducted under component 1.

102. Key activities:

- Preparation of SLM FFS curriculum;
- Training of trainers sessions;
- Organization of FFS trainings and monitoring by expert trainers. This will include setting-up of demonstration fields and farmer-exchange visits;
- Documentation of best practices;
- Restoration of 5,000 ha of forest and rangeland with co-financing from MINFOF, MINEPDED and ANAFOR.

Output 2.1.2: Fertilizer tree nurseries and fodder species developed & support for women farmers to manage tree nursery business operations.

103. Linked to output 2.1.1, this output involves women members of the cooperatives and community groups receiving advisory support for the development of nitrogen fixing tree nurseries on PADFA cooperatives, collecting seeds and raising seedlings to mature transplant size, and coordinating their distribution to field sites for plantation. This approach will allow trees to be planted by farmers in locations that are preferable to them and their community ? decreasing the likelihood that they will eventually be cut down. The fast-growing fertilizer trees will be raised in tree nurseries that are fully funded and set up by the proposed project. Each tree nursery will generate an estimated 10,000 seedlings per year. According to MINEPDED this will be done very affordably at a cost of about US$ 2,000 per established tree nursery. Planting will initially target the cooperative?s lands producing rice and onion (either amidst crops or through hedging - as instructed by an agronomist) and extend to other crop-types. Relevant fast-growing local species, which also serve as suitable for cattle feed, include, *Faiherbia albida*, moringa, caliandra, *Leucaena leucocephala*, amongst others. The experiences, lessons learned, and best practices from the DPGT project will be incorporated into implementation of this output.

104. After the PADFAII cooperative?s production lands are suitably supplied with fertilizer trees, the surplus tree seedlings will be made eligible for sale to other farmers within their regional sub-division. This will create an additional income stream for the women cooperative members, while also creating an incentive to for extending the planting area of fertilizer trees beyond the cooperative. The project will support them in this process by providing trainings on tree nursery business operations management and business plan development in the establishment of micro, small or medium enterprises (MSME). MSME business plan development will develop revenue stream strategies for the women cooperative members mainly through sales of seedlings, but also support them with understanding affordable processing methods for new and diversified agroforestry products. For example, using moringa tree plantations to make nutritious infant-safe food products, such as vegetable powders, soups, baby foods etc. This will be complimented by the PADFAII project, sub-component 2.4?s trainings on innovative food technologies for high quality nutritional products, and its establishment of processing centers for the production of complimentary infant foods. The tree nursery trainings will be delivered to cooperatives during tree nursery set up, and in follow up consultations. With both MINIPDED and MINFOF having technical expertise and local implementation experience in setting up these tree nurseries, co-financing from these partners will support nurseries establishment.

105. Key activities:

- Participatory selection of local species (linked to output 2.1.1 ? agroforestry practices);
- Technical and entrepreneurship development trainings delivered to 16 women and youth groups. This will include training in the preparation of business plans, financial literacy, and credit and saving models;
- Direct support to the establishment of 16 nurseries (seedlings, equipment, supervision);

- Documentation of best practices and recommendations for scale-up.

Component 3: Knowledge management and M&E

Outcome 3.1: Effective knowledge management and M&E supporting scale-up and impact.
Key targets:
- Knowledge products including at least one outcome story per year (case studies documenting project impact, lessons learned and best practices), shared through national LDN and other key platforms.
- Inter-regional municipal learning events with key stakeholders.
- Mid-term review and final evaluation.

106. The aim of this component is threefold: (i) communication and outreach to stakeholders at council, regional and national level to enhance their engagement, support and ownership of the project and its objectives ? to facilitate scale-up; (ii) knowledge generation and dissemination; and (iii) effective monitoring and evaluation of results.

Output 3.1.1: Knowledge management and communication plan developed and implemented.

107. A simple and cost-effective knowledge management and communication plan will be developed within the first 6 months of project implementation. The plan will be reviewed and refined periodically based on feedback from stakeholders and target audiences (both internal and external to the project). The preparation of the plan will take into consideration (use as baseline material) knowledge and communication platforms and materials prepared under related projects ? IUCN LDN, TRI, FAO etc.

108. Key activities:

- Detailed knowledge management and communication plan validated at inception;
- Preparation of knowledge products ? at least one case study document project impact, lessons learned and best practices ? shared through national and relevant international platforms (e.g. UNCCD knowledge hub);
- Preparation of a guideline on LDN Municipal Model in Cameroon;
- An inter-regional municipal learning event with key stakeholders.

Output 3.1.2: Project M&E plan implemented.

109. The output will support adaptive management, learning and accountability to stakeholders and beneficiaries. It is through this output that the global environmental and socio-economic benefits generated by the project will be measured and reported.

110. Key activities:

- Timely preparation and submission of quality monitoring reports;
- Project mid-term review;
- Final evaluation.

1.4 Alignment with GEF-7 Focal Areas Strategies

111. The proposed project aligns directly with then objective two of the Land Degradation Focal Area Strategy ? Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation. Through the project?s first component, the enabling environment for LDN is strengthened by building on the GEF6 National Target Setting project by advancing Cameroon?s capacities in executing LDN mechanism to the sub-national level. The project will support LDN target setting at municipal level and the integration of these targets into participatory land use plans engaging authorities, local communities and indigenous peoples, women and youth. Through component 2, the project will build the capacity of

smallholders in sustainable land management practices to protect and restore production landscapes and reduce climate risks.

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

112. *Without the intervention* there would some progress towards the achievement of Cameroon?s LDN targets with contributions from several ongoing and future initiatives e.g. GEF-6 TRI, GIZ restoration initiative etc. But there would be no framework for planning, monitoring and capturing progress at an appropriate level i.e. at sub-national (municipal/council) level where local ownership of the LDN vision and action, is crucial. There is currently no experience or mechanism in Cameroon for translating the LDN process to the local level.

113. *With the GEF intervention*, the project will facilitate the development and implementation of LDN municipal model that will engage and build capacities of stakeholders to set LDN targets and integrate these into their land use and development plans ? through a participatory process that will include local and indigenous communities and women and youth groups. The LDN targets and monitoring system will provide a framework for planning, collaboration and exchange of best practices between the several ongoing SLM and restoration initiatives at regional and municipal level.

Table 2: Incremental cost reasoning

Project component	Baseline scenario	With-project scenario
1. Improving the Sub-National Enabling Environment for LDN	Cameroon has set its national voluntary LDN target and baseline indicators through its GEF-6 LDN Target Setting Project, supported by IUCN. The country has made a commitment to achieve a 12-million-hectare production land gain, with no loss of production land. Cameroon seeks to achieve this target following a municipal implementation approach, in having 90 percent of its municipalities in ?priority areas? combat land degradation and achieve neutrality. The LDN target setting process and implementation has not been advanced to municipal level due to limited experience at local level.	With the project, capacities of stakeholders ? institutions and local and indigenous communities ? will be strengthened to enable a comprehensive analysis of the status and drivers of land degradation, target setting and identification of actions to achieve LDN. Through this process, participatory land use and resource management plans integrating LDN targets and actions will be developed. The project will support the design of a monitoring and information sharing system, and the development of financing and policy options for incentivizing the adoption of SLM practices by smallholders and communities.

Project component	Baseline scenario	With-project scenario
2. Strengthening Initiatives in line with Municipal LDN Targets	A key and relevant baseline initiative is the IFAD-funded Commodity Value-Chain Development Support Project (PADFAII). PADFAII is operating extensively on agricultural lands in the North and Far North that are vulnerable to land degradation. Although PADFAII aims to sustainably increase the income and resilience of smallholders, its design does not have a component on sustainable land management. PADFAII is also centred on specific crops, with limited consideration of other key elements of productive landscapes. There is therefore an opportunity to partner with PADFAII and integrate SLM interventions that will contribute to LDN in target municipalities.	With the project, technical support will be provided to promote an agro-ecological approach to improving production, and sustainable land and water management practices, and forest and rangeland restoration to cooperatives and agro-pastoral community groups in the target municipalities ? in line with LDN targets. This component will build on ongoing work by ICRAF-CIFOR-CIRAD-IRAD consortium, in which they are identifying through a participatory approach, SLM and climate change adaptation practices and innovations in the Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone (EU-INNOVACC project).
3. Knowledge management and M&E	Partners (IUCN, ICRAF and others) have established knowledge management systems which the proposed project will be linked to through execution support and regional advisory platforms.	GEF funding will facilitate sharing of best practices and lessons learned to facilitate regional and national scale-up and replication of the local-level LDN model.

1.6 Global environmental benefits

114. The project will deliver the following benefits:

Intervention	**North**			**Far North**			**Contribution to GEF-7 core indicators**
	Garoua 3	**Lagdo**	**Pitoa**	**Gazawa**	**Kaele**	**Maga**	
Agriculture production area (ha) under improved practices	1,300	900	2,350	500	1,130	3,820	10,000
Area of forest and rangeland restored (ha)	140	2,000	700	1,000	50	1,110	5,000

115. Carbon benefits: GHG reduction estimates have been calculated through EX-Ante Carbon-balance Tool (EX-ACT) to be approximately 557,270 tCO2e. This accounts for 10,000 hectares brought under agro-ecological SLM, plus an estimated 5,000 hectares of degraded forest and rangelands.

1.7 Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling-up

Innovativeness

116. The main innovative aspect of the project is the municipal-level LDN model that will be developed and implemented in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone. LDN target setting at sub-national level, and integration of such targets into land use and development plans has not been done before. Part of the innovativeness will be the development of both innovative financial incentive options and policy revisions and updates necessary to incentivize SLM for LDN at council (landscape), regional and national level.

Sustainability

117. The keys to sustainability across the project components are ownership, successful delivery of results, communication of successful practices amongst stakeholders, and policies and financial incentives for the adoption of SLM practices. In order for the LDN mechanism to be sustained in practice beyond the life of the project requires stakeholders in municipalities to see its value and to take ownership of the LDN mechanism. The proposed project aims to promote municipal stakeholder ownership of the LDN target setting and implementation by facilitating the establishment of inclusive multi-stakeholder platform through which local and indigenous communities, and leaders will be engaged. As mentioned, the targets will be integrated into land use plans and municipal development plans ? to ensure public, private and donor investment support towards specific actions that contributing to the achievement of the LDN targets.

Potential for scaling-up

118. The project holds significant potential for scale up and expansion of the municipal LDN mechanism in other regions of Cameroon. Scale-up will be facilitated through: (1) National project steering committee that will serve as a platform bringing together key institutions and partners with mandates and priorities linked to Cameroon?s LDN agenda and targets; (2) Output 1.1.5 ?Strategy for LDN Municipal Model Scale-up; and (2) Knowledge sharing and communication (Component 3).

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[1] https://onacc.cm/

[2] https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Cameroon/share_of_agriculture/

[3] Republic of Cameroon report on the Program for Setting National Voluntary for Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, 2017.

[4] https://afr100.org/content/cameroon

[5] Here defined as living on less than US$1.95 per day

[6] A measure of how far the average individual is from the poverty line. A poverty gap of 34 percent means that cash transfer equivalent to 34 percent of the poverty line would be needed to lift every poor person out of poverty.

[7] Forest Investment Plan - Cameroon, MINEPDED, 2017

[8] Tsozu?, N., Mekem, Impact of land management system on crop yields and soil fertility in Cameroon. Soil Earth 2015.

[9] WBG Africa Region, C.A.D., Country Partnership Framework (FY17-FY21). 2017, World Bank Group.

[10] IFAD, 2019. Climate Adaptation in Rural Development Assessment Tool ? CARD. https://ifad.org/CARD

[11] World Food Programme, Cameroon: Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis 2017, United Nations World Food Programme.

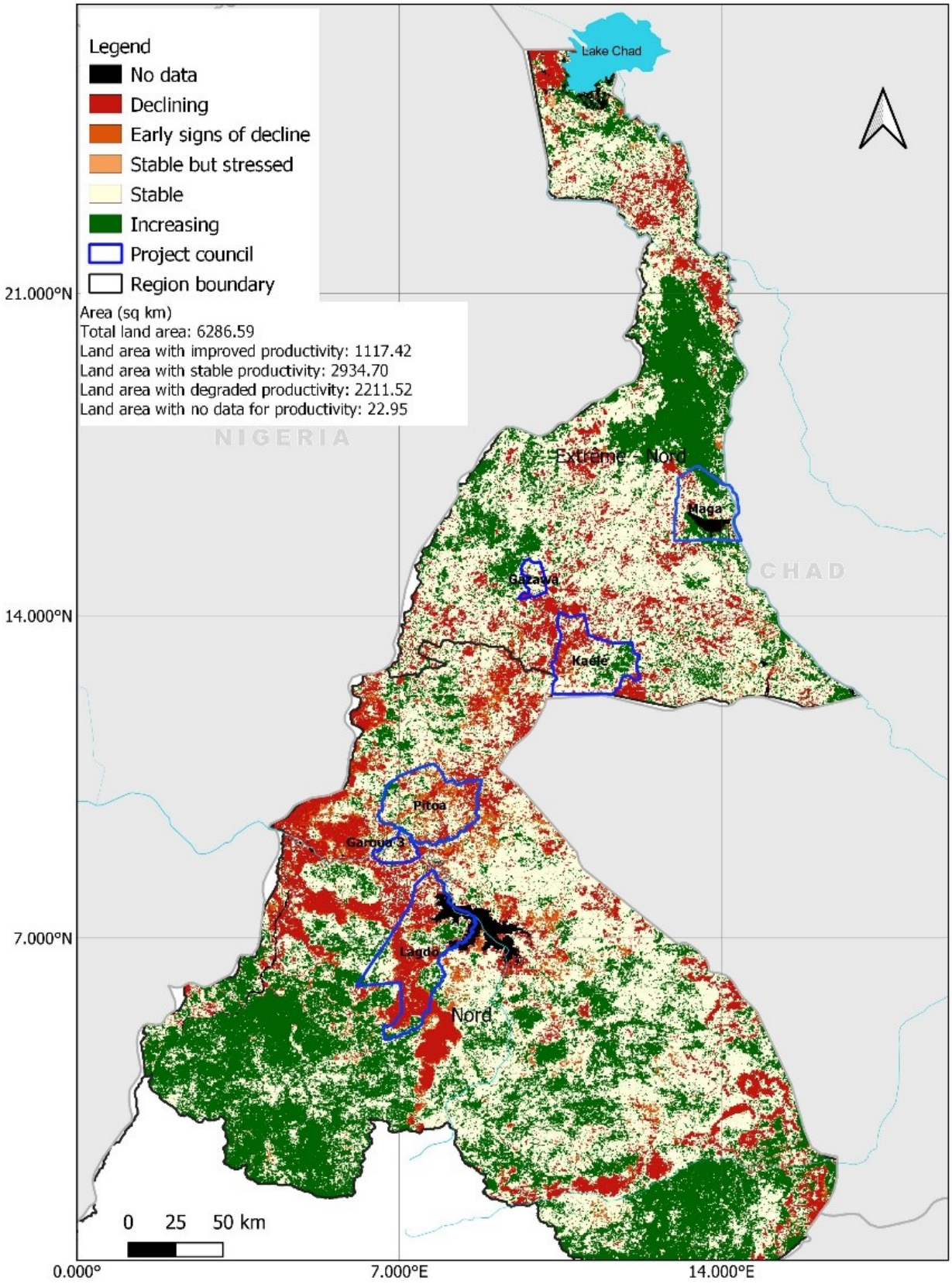
[12] Tamasang C. F. (2021). Land tenure legislation and soil security concerns in Cameroon. Soil Security. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.soisec.2021.100031

[13] Kossoumna Liba?a Natali (2018). Review of initiatives to assess and secure the land tenure rights of communities in Northern Cameroon. LandCam, The Centre for Environment and Development (CED), The Network for the Fight Against Hunger (RELUFA), The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). https://bit.ly/36HKR2C

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Land Productivity 2001-2020



1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

1. Stakeholders were identified and extensive consultations conducted at national and local level. This work built on consultations carried out at PIF stage.

2. The preparatory work commenced with the constitution of a technical team with key institutional partners and a team of PPG consultants. The PPG team organized workshops, field visits and bilateral meetings following Government protocols in place. The main stakeholders identified and consulted include governmental institutions, research institutions, NGOs, CSOs, private sector, international development agencies and local stakeholders (agro-pastoralists and indigenous communities).

3. An inception workshop with stakeholders took place in November 2021. The objective of the workshop was to introduce the project and the PPG team, review proposed project preparation approach and activities, promote knowledge sharing, review and assess other current initiatives relevant to the project, identify potential co-financing, and endorse the project preparation approach.

4. The PPG team then undertook a field mission in the North and Far North regions in February 2022 to meet local administrative officials, NGOs and associations, local and indigenous communities and agricultural cooperatives ? including women groups. Closely following FAO FPIC procedures, the PPG team met with the Mbororo indigenous people in Nassarao Aouta on 7 February 2022.

5. The team had several rounds of consultations were national and international institutions with relevant activities and projects to define partnership and collaboration with the LDN project. These include Government Ministries, PNDP, IUCN, IFAD, ICRAF, GIZ, and CSOs (ACEEN, BIOFIELD and ABIOGET).

6. The project document was validated by stakeholders in Yaound? on 21 March 2022.

7. The table below presents key stakeholders and their role in project implementation. A full list of stakeholders consulted during project preparation is presented in Annex I.

Table 3. Project key stakeholders and roles

Category	Partners	Expected Roles

Category	Partners	Expected Roles
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	***GEF Implementing Agency***. To provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. Responsible for oversight, technical backstopping and supervision of project implementation to ensure compliance with the approved project document and GEF rules and requirements.
National Government	Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)	***Lead Government Partner.*** To provide strategic leadership to the implementation of the project, working closely with other government ministries and partners. MINEPDED will host the project management unit (PMU) and through Regional Delegate chair the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), responsible for coordinating the regional level technical work and coordinating partners that will carry out execution at this level.
	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)	***Government Partner.*** MINFOF will provide co-financing through activities that are consistent with the National Strategic Framework for Forest and Landscape Restoration. Provision of seedlings for forest landscape restoration and technical personnel to accompany implementation of components 1 and 2. MINFOF will participate in the Project Steering Committee (PSC).
	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) & IFAD PADFAII.	***Government Partner.*** MINADER will accompany implementation of project components 1 and 2, through the baseline co-financing project (PADFAII) which is based within MINADER. MINADER will participate in the PSC.
	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)	***Government Partner.*** MINEPAT will provide strategic guidance and inputs in the implementation of component 1, in particular in the identification of policy and financial incentives for SLM. MINEPAT will also facilitate mobilization of public investments in LDN municipal model scale-up. MINEPAT will participate in the PSC.
	Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA)	***Government Partner.*** To be part of the PSC and provide advice in the implementation of component 1 and component 2 ? particularly on protection and restoration of rangelands as well as the promotion of good collaboration between cattle breeders and farmers.

Category	Partners	Expected Roles
	Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family (MINPROFF)	***Government Partner.*** MINPROFF will provide oversight and guidance to the project on alignment with policies on gender equality and mainstreaming as a member of the PSC.
	Cameroon's National Climate Change Observatory (ONACC)	***Government Partner.*** ONACC will provide technical inputs in the design of the Municipal LDN Monitoring and Decision Support System (under component 1), and the production and dissemination of climatological services at council level and sensitization (under component 2). ONACC will participate in the PSC.
	National Forestry Development Agency (ANAFOR)	***Government Partner.*** ANAFOR will accompany the implementation of component 2, and specifically support the establishment of nurseries and restoration.
	National Participatory Development Program (PNDP) under the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development	***Government Partner.*** PNDP provides capacity building assistance to local communities to help them in local development. It provides financial assistance through the funding of socio-economic micro-projects. PNDP will be a key partner in facilitating the LDN target setting and land use planning process at municipal level. PNDP will support the inclusion of LDN targets and sustainable land management actions in council development plans.
Local Government (Council)	Gazawa, Ka?l? and Maga (Far North) and Garoua 3, Lagdo and Pitoa (North)	***Government Partner (Municipal Level).*** These are key stakeholders for all activities and for mobilizing participation of local and indigenous communities, agro-pastoralists, traditional leaders and partners in the LDN planning and implementation. The mayors will facilitate the multi-stakeholder platforms ?Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)? and monitor the delivery of results.
	Regional Delegation of MINEPDED, MINFOF and MINADER.	The regional delegations of ministries are community-level governance structures for resource management. They ministries will provide technical support in the implementation of activities in the field ? as part of co-financing support from the various Government partners.

Category	Partners	Expected Roles
International and national partners/NGOs/CSOs	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	IFAD is the key co-financing partner through Commodity Value Chain Development Support Project ? Phase II (PADFAII). The proposed project is designed to complement PADFAII activities in the North and Far North, to integrated sustainable land management and LDN objectives into this project. IFAD will participate in the PSC.
	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	IUCN has accompanied LDN target setting at national level and related GEF-6 TRI project with activities in the Far North. IUCN will lead the execution of component 1, working closely with MINEPDED and contribute to the execution of component 2.
	World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)	ICRAF will accompany the implementation of component 2, and specifically on sharing of best practices (SLM) and training on agroforestry practices.
	Deutsche Gesellschaft f?r Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	To be part of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) and provide advice in the implementation of component 1 and component 2 ? on land degradation assessment, restoration techniques, sustainable land management.
	Institute of Agricultural Research for Development (IRAD)	IRAD will accompany implementation of component 2, and specifically provide knowledge on SLM practices.
	Actions for Biodiversity and Land Management (ABIOGeT)	ABIOGeT's main objective is to fight against desertification, climate change and food insecurity through implementation of agroforestry, environmental education, water management and humanitarian programmes and projects, in order to improve the living conditions of the populations. ABIOGeT will participate in the project through the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as well as Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)?, ABIOGeT will provide support in the implementation of component 1 and component 2.
	Cameroonian Association for Environmental Education (ACEEN)	ACEEN;?s goal is to promote sustainable use of natural resources. To be part of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as well as Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)?, ACEEN will provide support in the implementation of component 1 and component 2 ? particularly on restoration techniques and SLM practices.

Category	Partners	Expected Roles
	Organization for agro-pastoral fertilizers (BIOFIELD)	BIOFIELD?s objective is environmental communication to raise the awareness of communities on the protection of the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources. To be part of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as well as Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)?, BIOFIELD will provide support in the implementation of component 1 and component 2.
	International Association for the Protection of the Environment in Africa (Enviro-Protect)	Enviro-Protect?s activities are focused on sanitation, reforestation and capacity building of women market gardeners in the Far North region. To be part of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as well as Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)?, BIOFIELD will provide support in the implementation of component 1 and component 2.
	Network of indigenous people and local communities for the sustainable management of forest ecosystems of central Africa (REPALEAC)	To be part of the Project Steering Committee, Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as well as Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC)?, REPALEAC will provide advice in the engagement of indigenous communities in the project.
Local level and private sector	Agro-pastoralists and their cooperatives	To be part of Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), the capacity agro-pastoralists and their cooperatives and associations will be enhanced through various capacity building activities ? and engagement in component 1 and 2 implementation.
	Women cooperatives and groups	To be part of Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC), women cooperatives and groups will be among major stakeholders and beneficiaries of the project. Representatives of women cooperatives and groups will participate in the LDN target setting and land use planning and component 2 activities.

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Please see above.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

Please see above.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; No

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; No

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

1. Populations of the North and the Far North are estimated at 2.4 million and 4.3 million respectively i.e. about 25% of the national population. Women represent more than 50% of the population in these regions where poverty rates are estimated at 68% (North) and 74% (Far North). By gender, the incidence of poverty is higher among female-headed households. In the Far North region, grappling for several years with a security crisis, the number of female-headed households has increased significantly due to forced recruitment of men and young boys; and attacks and kidnappings that target men more (farmers; herders; traders). Moreover, since 2021, women and girls represent nearly half of the displaced population (49%) in the Far North and are mainly made up of widows or women living alone with dependent children.

2. In these two regions, agricultural activities are carried out by a workforce made up of 70% women, who produce nearly 90% of the food. Women are mainly involved in seed production, field preparation, nursery production, planting/sowing, development and maintenance of plots. In the target municipalities, the perception of land degradation by women and young people is closely linked to the decline in yields and the gradual disappearance of vegetation cover.

3. Land is a key resource for agro-pastoral production. Legally men and women are equally entitled to access to land. Yet in Cameroon, barely 8% of women hold a land title. Indeed, in the North as well as in the Far North, discriminatory social norms limit women?s land rights. The control they have over the land (arable or not) is very weak. And their low incomes do not allow them to rent or buy larger plots of land, let alone obtain credit from a bank or a microfinance institution.

4. There is also limited representation and empowerment of women in producer organizations. Women are made invisible by local development dynamics. Few of them belong to agricultural cooperatives and when they do, very few hold positions where they can make decisions that commit the cooperative. Either because they are less educated or because they lack commitment.

5. To address these inequalities and challenges women are dealing with, the following measures are part of the design[1]:

- *Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources*: Women will be equitably represented in the multi-stakeholder platforms at various levels and involved in LDN training workshops. The project will engage community chiefs and other traditional authorities, to promote and ensure that women are granted secure access to land.

- *Improving women?s participation and decision-making*: Ensuring that women have an equal role in discussing the types of SLM practices that the farming communities within the municipality will adopt. Their participation in the multi-stakeholder platforms and consultations will enable them to have equal say in decision making regarding land use planning for LDN (Component 1).

- *Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women*: Through delivery of Output 2.1.2, women will be given responsibility for managing the fertilizer tree nurseries and eligible for collecting revenue generated from seedling sales beyond their cooperative. Women cooperatives will receive trainings to develop these tree nurseries as MSMEs, extending the range of their NTFPs beyond seedling sales, towards high nutrition food products that are infant safe. The project will support women with development of business plans, trainings on processing methods, and support for processing facilities associated with their established businesses.

6. These measures are in line with Cameroon?s National Gender Policy (2015). The objectives of the National Gender Policy includes: (i) ensuring equal rights and opportunities to men and women regarding access and control of resources; and (ii) creating favourable conditions for equal participation of women and men in development activities.

7. The project gender action plan is presented in Annex K.

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[1] In addition to GEF and FAO gender mainstreaming guidelines, the UNCCD Manual for gender responsive land degradation neutrality (2019) was utilized.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

1. The key entry point for private sector engagement in the project is the agro-pastoral cooperatives and SMEs in the target municipalities. Consultations were conducted with several representatives of cooperatives including women and youth cooperatives (see Annex I). The project will engage the cooperatives through the multi-stakeholder platforms to be set-up under component 1 and through the component 2 trainings on SLM and the establishment of nursery business operations led by women SMEs.

2. Linkage to micro-finance institutions is being established under the co-finance PADFAII project, and it is through the partnership that these institutions will be engaged.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

1. The risks and mitigation actions presented in the table below were identified during project preparation. These risks will need to be monitored, addressed, and mitigated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) on an ongoing basis, and critically, they need to be updated as new risks to and from the project unfold during project implementation. An environmental and social risk and climate risk identification was undertaken during PPG.

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Political Risks					

1	Limited support from local government (municipalities) and traditional leaders.	**High:** This risk impact is considered high as local government and traditional authorities will play a central role in the LDN target setting and land use planning process and providing secure access to land. Traditional authorities have a high degree of influence over customary land at the local level, and impact the land use systems to a high degree. This can constrain secure access to land, particularly for women, youth and indigenous communities.	**Medium**	**1) Ensured buy in of local government authorities.** As a part of the selection criteria for the target councils, interest and enthusiasm of local authorities was factored into the selection process. **2)** Ensured buy in of traditional leaders. As part of the project?s LDN target setting and land use planning process, the project dedicates resources to comprehensive stakeholder consultations. The project will convene traditional leaders (chiefs) and land users to commit to long term customary user rights specifically for the purposes of addressing prevalent land degradation challenges.	Project Steering Committee, North and Far North Governors, MINEPDED.
Social Risks					
2	Limited buy-in from local communities on LDN target setting, land use planning and SLM.	**High:** The overall risk impact is considered high as LDN achievement depends on the participation of local land users and their adoption of sustainable land management practices that avoid and reduce land degradation.	**Medium**	**1)** Building on consultations undertaken during PPG, the project will engage local and indigenous communities to raise awareness on LDN and SLM, and benefits of engaging in these processes, particularly with respect to provision and protection of land access rights.	PMU, Local Councils (Municipality) and Executing Partners.

3	Land conflict and insecurity.	**High** This threat is considered high.	**Medium**	**1)** Through the land use planning process, the project will undertake a simple mapping and recording of existing rights. Traditional leaders and communities will be convened to secure long term land management access rights, ensuring that women?s access rights are recognized and equally prioritized alongside men?s. The planning process will also take into account indigenous peoples? land access needs.	PMU, Local Councils (Municipality) and Executing Partners.
4	Security risk. Terrorist activity may flare up given the presence of Boko Haram, negatively impacting the LDN planning activities.	**High**	**Medium**	**1)** The project engage communities in dialogue through the LDN and land use planning processes, and in this way contribute to social cohesion. The issue of security was taken into account in the selection of the target municipalities which are relatively stable.	PMU, Local Councils (Municipality) and Executing Partners.
COVID-19					

5	**COVID-19 Risks:** 1) Risk of co-financing. Government priorities to address the pandemic could have an effect on funding. 2) Availability of technical staff and ability to interact with communities.	**High:** The overall risk impact is considered high. Depending on the level of pandemic threat during project implementation, the project activities that support face to face collaboration and engagement may be significantly impacted, which could have a high level of impact on LDN target setting and land planning activities. Such impacts would be very problematic for the project and thus the impact of this threat is designated as ?high?.	**Medium**	**1) Sources of co-financing are diversified,** with the bulk of co-financing coming from an IFAD loan project. The PMU and the Project Steering Committee shall monitor the risk closely and identify additional sources of co-financing, as necessary**.** **2) Adherence to health precautions:** The PMU and executing partners will ensure that activities will follow the precautionary measures set forth by the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, as well as any additional measures at local level.	PMU; Executing partners.
Project Management & Delivery Risks					

6	**Co-financing does not materialize**: The baseline co-financing is particularly important for scale-up of impacts.	**Medium:** The impact of this risk is medium, as co-financing plays a major role in this project, however co-financing resources are well diversified.	**Medium**	1) **Diversification of co-financing resources:** The project?s diversification of co-financing resources is a hedge against the risk of co-financing noncompliance impacting project results. **2) Communication of co-finance requirements:** The project will keep co-financiers informed regarding their financial commitments to the project.	PMU; MINEPDED
Climate Risks					
7	**The climate risk is substantial**	**Substantial:** The project target regions (North and Far North regions) are highly vulnerable to weather related hazards, namely to droughts and floods. With respect to present conditions (1951-2000), the probability of occurrence of severe droughts will increase under future climate conditions (2050-2100).	**Substantial**	Land use plans to be developed taking into account the current climate hazards and trends and projected changes. Enhanced provision of agro-climatological information to agro-pastoral communities through the co-financing partnership with ONACC. Promotion of climate-smart practices incl. agroforestry systems etc. (component 2).	PMU

Section B: Environmental and Social risks from the project

Safeguard Triggered	Risk Identified	Risk Classification	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility
9	There are about 500 Mbororo indigenous people in one of the project target councils. Prior to and during project formulation, consultations were held with a representative of the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC). REPALEAC also represents the Mbororo people. Following Free Prior and Informed process, the team had consultation meetings with the indigenous group during a field mission conducted in February 2022 and priorities and measures to engage were discussed.	**Moderate**	One of the main priorities for the Mbororo communities is access to land. The project will ensure participation of the Mbororos and local communities in land use planning and LDN target setting through stakeholder groups that will be established at local level (under component 1). REPALEAC will participate in the Project Steering Committee and Regional Advisory Committee to ensure that the project has positive impact on indigenous people.	MINEPDED, PMU

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

1. At the funding level, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** (**FAO**) will be the GEF Implementing Agency, and as such, will provide project cycle management services as established in the GEF Policy. FAO will be responsible for providing oversight, technical backstopping and supervision of project implementation to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and requirements. Technical backstopping will be provided by FAO in coordination with the National Project Steering Committee. As GEF Implementing Agency, FAO will:

? Administer funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;

? Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, and the rules and procedures of FAO;

? Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities;

? Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and

? Report to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

2. At national level, the **Ministry of the Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED)** will be the key partner, providing strategic leadership to the implementation of the project. MINEPDED will support multi-stakeholder dialogue and ensure coordination with national and regional line ministries, executing agencies, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society groups, the private sector and co-financing partners.

National Project Steering Committee (PSC)

3. A multi-stakeholder PSC will be constituted and chaired by MINEPDED and be comprised of representatives from MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINEPAT, MINADER, IUCN, IFAD, GIZ, FEICOM, PNDP, representatives from North and Far North Regions, NGOs, CSOs, and FAO. Members of the PSC will each take on the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) Ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (ii) Facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and work plans of their agency; and (iii) Facilitate provision of co-financing to the project.

4. The Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC) will be invited to participate in the PSC.

5. The PSC will meet at least once a year to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes approval of the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports and Project Annual Work Plans and Budget; vi) Making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project Management Unit. The National Project Coordinator will be the Secretary to the PSC.

Regional and Municipal Advisory Committees

Regional Advisory Committee: In North and Far North Regions, a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) will be constituted and chaired by Regional Delegate of MINEPDED, responsible for coordinating the regional level technical work and coordinating partners that will carry out execution at this level. The RAC will be comprised of representatives from Regional Delegate of MINEPDED, MINFOF, MINEPAT, MINADER, Regional councillor, Governor, regional Offices of IUCN, IFAD, FAO and PNDP, NGOs, CSOs and representatives of private sector. RAC will play a substantial role in carrying out technical advice and coordination of the project with ongoing initiatives within the North and Far North Regions.

RAC will meet at least once every six months. The representative of MINEPDED will be the Secretary to the RAC.

Municipal Advisory Committee: In each council targeted by the project, a Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) will be constituted and chaired by the Mayor, responsible for coordinating the council level technical work and coordinating partners that will carry out execution at this level. The MAC will be comprised of local line ministries and administrations, local NGOs and organizations, traditional authorities, and women?s organizations, producer groups and indigenous people?s representatives and will meet at least once every three months. A focal point appointed by the Mayor of the council will be the Secretary to the MAC.

Executing Partners

6. Based on consultations during project preparation, MINEPDED, IUCN and ICRAF will serve as key executing partners for the project. Roles and responsibilities of MINEPDED, IUCN and ICRAF and FAO shall be described in detail in Letters of Agreement (LoAs) to be concluded after project approval by the GEF.

7. For implementation of field activities, technical support will be provided through contracts with partners (including local NGOs) or part-time individual experts. Additionally, MINEPDED and partner ministries at national and regional level will assign technical staff to support the implementation of the project (co-financed secondment).

8. The overall project implementation structure is depicted below:

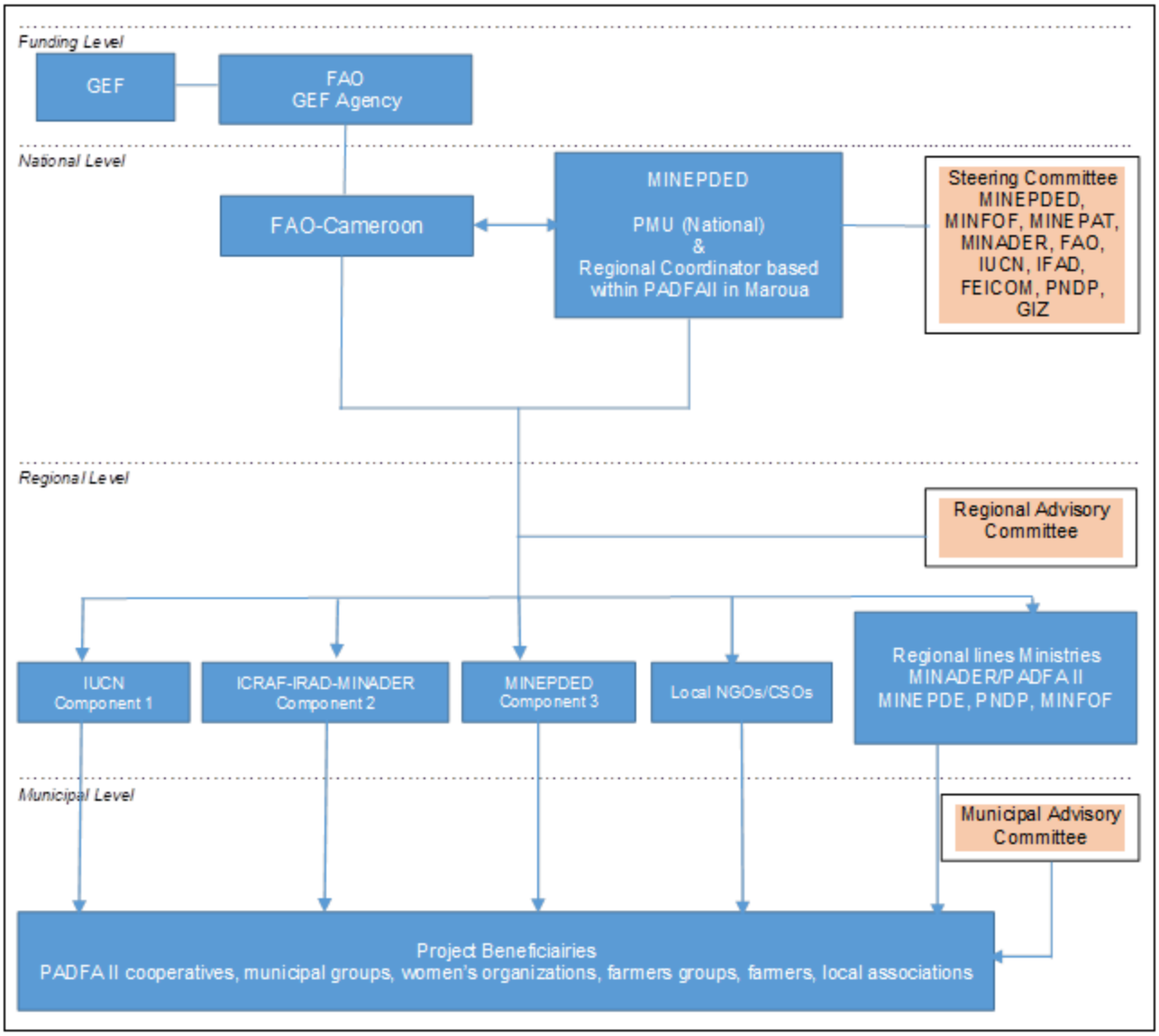


Figure 8: Project implementation arrangements

Project Management Unit

9. A Project Management Unit (PMU), co-funded by the GEF grant, will be established within MINEPDED. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be composed of a National Project Technical Coordinator (NPTC) who will work full-time for the project lifetime. In addition, the PMU will include an Admin Assistant and Knowledge and M&E Officer. A regional project coordinator (based within PADFAII office in Maroua) will be recruited for coordination of activities at regional and municipal level. As described above, project coordination and monitoring will be supported by the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) at regional level, and Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) at council level.

? A **National Project Technical Coordinator** (NPTC) responsible for the day-to-day planning and coordination of project activities with service providers and partners involved in the execution of the various project activities. The NPTC will also be responsible for identifying opportunities for partnership with new initiatives in Cameroon. The NPTC will be supported by the Regional Project Coordinator.

? **Knowledge and M&E officer** will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the M&E plan, including setting up of council/landscape level M&E systems. The M&E officer will train the project team and executing partners on M&E requirements and will be responsible for the implementation of the knowledge management plan.

? **Administrative assistant** will be responsible for carrying out administrative and financial management duties associated with project operations.

Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and relevant initiatives

10. The project will be coordinated with relevant ongoing initiatives through the Project Steering Committee and Regional and Municipal Advisory Committees and various existing stakeholder platforms (e.g. FLR Working Group).

Table 4: Relevant GEF-financed projects

GEF-6 ? UNEP ?Removing barriers to biodiversity conservation, land resto-ration and sustainable forest management through Community-Based Landscape Management ? COBALAM?.	The aim of the project is to improve biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods in three landscapes in the Western Highlands (WHC) and South Region of Cameroon, through participatory community-based landscape management in the WHC and the development of enterprises based on responsible resource use. The project supports the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms and participatory processes for the preparation of landscape management plans ? elements relevant for the proposed project. MINEPDED as lead executing agency will facilitate coordination with the LDN project ? through project management units and Project Steering Committees.
GEF-6 IUCN, TRI ?Supporting Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon?.	The LDN project will capitalize specifically on the ROAM assessment conducted for the Far North Region as part of the TRI project, and best practices in the establishment of nurseries and restoration. The linkage with this project has established through IUCN during project preparation and will be continued through the execution partnership with IUCN.
GEF-7 IUCN, ?Restoration Challenge Grant Platform for Smallholders and Communities, with Blockchain-Enabled Crowdfunding?.	This highly innovative project aims to facilitate, support, and mobilize investment in, smallholder and community-led restoration of critical landscapes to provide global environmental benefits and enhanced resilient economic development and livelihoods, in support of the Bonn Challenge, AFR100, the Trillion Tree Campaign, and other global and national restoration efforts. The project is being implemented in Cameroon and Kenya. The project will provide key inputs for *Output 1.1.6 Policy and financing options for incentivising SLM adoption and LDN* with coordination facilitated by IUCN.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

1. The project is in alignment with and contributes to the following national priorities and targets:

Table 5: Consistency with national priorities

UNCCD National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, 2017.	Cameroon has voluntarily set the following LDN targets to be achieved by 2030. At national level: LDN is achieved compared to 2015 (no net loss) and 10% more of the national territory has improved (net gain); At council (municipal) level: LDN is achieved in at least 90% of councils located in priority areas for the fight against land degradation; 12 million hectares of degraded land are restored. The project will make a direct contribution to the LDN targets ? as reflected in the core targets.
UNCCD National Action Plan (NAP) for the Fight against Desertification	The proposed project contributes to the implementation of all five NAP priority intervention areas to stop land degradation in the North and Far North of Cameroon: Spatial planning and participatory management; Sustainable management of natural resources (water, soil, plant cover, wildlife); Restoration of degraded lands and improvement of soil fertility; Strengthening the capacities of actors in the fight against desertification; Concerted management of shared resources at the sub-regional level.
Paris Agreement Nationally Determined Contribution (updated in 2021)	Cameroon has committed to 35% GHG emissions reduction by 2030, broken down as: (1) an ?unconditional? target of 12% GHG reduction by 2030; and (2) ?conditional? 23% GHG reduction. The proposed project will contribute to priority actions for achieving these targets, including: land use planning and monitoring, and restoration of degraded lands and forests.
Cameroon National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (NDS30)	With regard to agricultural development, the NDS recognizes the need to promote the rational use of land resources through sustainable agricultural practices, to further integrate climate change concerns into sectoral strategies and policies, and intensify actions to combat desertification, land degradation.
National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP, 2020-2030)	Cameroon?s NAIP has the following four pillars: 1) sustainable growth in production in agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors; 2) improving the enabling environment and access to factors of production; 3) **strengthening the resilience of production systems, sustainable management of natural resources and food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations in the face of climate change**; 4) Improving governance and human capital in the sector. The proposed project is aligned in particular to the third pillar.

8. Knowledge Management

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

1. The knowledge management and sharing is embedded within the three project components. Under component 1, the multi-stakeholder platforms (working groups) will bring together landscape actors and partners that are active in the FLR and SLM space and have ongoing initiatives that the proposed project will capitalize on and share knowledge. Similarly, under component 2, the project will benefit and contribute knowledge to the innovation networks set-up by the ICRAF-CIFOR-CIRAD-IRAD consortium.

2. As mentioned in the description of component 3, a simple and cost-effective knowledge management and communication plan will be developed within the first 6 months of project implementation. Specific knowledge management activities are summarized in the table below.

Table 6: Summary knowledge management activities

Key deliverable	Timeline	Budget
A knowledge management and communication plan implemented. Knowledge products including at least one outcome story per year (case studies documenting project impact, lessons learned and best practices), shared through national LDN and other key platforms. Inter-regional municipal learning events with key stakeholders. .	Within first 6 months of project implementation Throughout project implementation	? Development of a knowledge management and communication plan and implementation ? production and dissemination of knowledge and communication products: USD 27,636 ? Preparation of a guideline on LDN Municipal Model and best practices: USD 10,000 ? Interregional municipal learning events with key stakeholders: USD 20,000
Total Budget		**USD 57,636**

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

1. Project oversight will be carried out by the National Project Steering Committee (PSC) and FAO. Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework and leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed project global environmental and socio-economic benefits are being delivered.

2. FAO will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

3. Day-to-day project monitoring will be carried out by the National Project Management Unit (PMU). Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At inception the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize identification of: i) outputs ii) indicators; and iii) missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E system, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the Knowledge and M&E Officer.

Table 7: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget (USD)
Inception Workshop	National Project Management Unit (PMU).	Within two months of project document signature	15,000
Project Inception Report	PMU	Within two weeks of inception workshop	None
PSC meetings	PMU	Annually	40,000
Monitoring system implementation and reporting	Knowledge and M&E Officer	Continuous	37,500
National travel (monitoring)	Knowledge and M&E Officer, PMU	Continuous	10,000
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	PMU	Annually in July	Knowledge & M&E Officer + NPTC
Co-financing Reports	PMU	Annually	Co-financing
Mid-term Review	Organized by FAO: FAO Cameroon will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES)	At project mid-term	35,000
Final Evaluation	Organized by FAO: FAO Cameroon will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES)FAO Office of Evaluation	To be launched 6 months before operational closure	40,000
Quarterly monitoring and evaluation meetings (municipality level)	PMU	Quarterly	45,000
Final Evaluation Workshop	FAO Cameroon	End of the project	15,000
Terminal report	FAO Cameroon	At least three months before operational closure	7,000
Total Budget			**244,500**

4. Specific reports that will be prepared under the M&E program are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, assessment of the GEF Monitoring Evaluation Tracking Tools against the baseline (completed during project preparation) will be required at midterm and final project evaluation. In each of the reports a dedicated session will be included with information on gender-related progress made and results achieved, with some sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive lessons learned.

5. Project Inception Report. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will prepare a project inception report in consultation with project partners and FAO. The report will include a narrative on the institutional

roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B, a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be circulated to the PSC for review and comments before its finalization, no later than one month after project start-up.

6. Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B). The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with FAO and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop (IW) inputs will be incorporated and the PMU will submit a final draft AWP/B within two weeks of the IW to the BH. For subsequent AWP/B, the PMU will organize a project progress review and planning meeting for its review. The AWP/B must be linked to the project?s Results Framework indicators so that the project?s work is contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B should be approved by the Project Steering Committee.

7. Project Progress Reports (PPR). PPRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project?s Results Framework (Annex A). The purpose of the PPR is to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. They will also report on projects risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan.

8. Annual Project Implementation Review. FAO in collaboration with PMU will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) for submission to the GEF Secretariat. The PIRs will be circulated to the PSC and the GEF Operational Focal Point for information.

9. Technical Reports. Technical reports will be prepared as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The FAO Lead Technical Officer will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of technical reports. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the Project Steering Committee as appropriate.

10. Co-financing Reports. The PMU will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document. The co-financing report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR.

11. Terminal Report. Within two months before the end date of the project, and one month before the Final Evaluation, the PMU will submit to FAO, a Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the GEF with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for insuring sustainability of project results.

Evaluation provisions

12. A mid-term evaluation will be undertaken at project mid-term to review progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving the project objectives, outcomes and outputs. Findings and recommendations of this evaluation will be instrumental for bringing any necessary improvement in the overall project design and execution strategy for the remaining period of the project?s term.

13. The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and large size projects require a separate terminal evaluation. Such evaluation provides: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and iii) lessons learned as an

evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

14. The FAO Budget Holder will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date. The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the ?GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects.? FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralized Evaluation Support team ? in particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, Terms of Reference of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings.

15. After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within 4 weeks and share it with national partners, GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP), OED and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

Disclosure

16. The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

10. Benefits

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

1. The project will deliver the following socio-economic benefits to agro-pastoralist communities, women and youth SMEs in the North and Far North regions:

- At least 700 women and youth trained and engaged in nursery business operations;

- At least 8,300 smallholders and community members (50% women) have benefited from trainings on sustainable land and water management practices and on restoration techniques;

- Gender-sensitive land use plans and facilitation of secure land access rights to men and women and indigenous communities.

2. Furthermore, the project contributes to two of the four pillars[1] of decent work:

Pillar 1: Employment creation and enterprise development, which contains specific elements on: supporting smallholder farmers and SMEs in accessing training, and productive assets, including land.

Pillar 4: Governance and social change, with engagement of communities and smallholder associations and groups including women and youth, in land use planning and policy processes, and in implementation.

[1] http://www.fao.org/3/i1937e/i1937e.pdf

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

1. The risks and mitigation actions presented in the table below were identified during project preparation. These risks will need to be monitored, addressed, and mitigated by the Project Management Unit (PMU) on an ongoing basis, and critically, they need to be updated as new risks to and from the project unfold during project implementation. An environmental and social risk and climate risk identification was undertaken during PPG.

	Description of risk	Impact	Probability of occurrence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
Political Risks					

1	Limited support from local government (municipalities) and traditional leaders.	**High:** This risk impact is considered high as local government and traditional authorities will play a central role in the LDN target setting and land use planning process and providing secure access to land. Traditional authorities have a high degree of influence over customary land at the local level, and impact the land use systems to a high degree. This can constrain secure access to land, particularly for women, youth and indigenous communities.	**Medium**	**1) Ensured buy in of local government authorities.** As a part of the selection criteria for the target councils, interest and enthusiasm of local authorities was factored into the selection process. **2)** Ensured buy in of traditional leaders. As part of the project?s LDN target setting and land use planning process, the project dedicates resources to comprehensive stakeholder consultations. The project will convene traditional leaders (chiefs) and land users to commit to long term customary user rights specifically for the purposes of addressing prevalent land degradation challenges.	Project Steering Committee, North and Far North Governors, MINEPDED.
Social Risks					

2	Limited buy-in from local communities on LDN target setting, land use planning and SLM.	**High:** The overall risk impact is considered high as LDN achievement depends on the participation of local land users and their adoption of sustainable land management practices that avoid and reduce land degradation.	**Medium**	**1)** Building on consultations undertaken during PPG, the project will engage local and indigenous communities to raise awareness on LDN and SLM, and benefits of engaging in these processes, particularly with respect to provision and protection of land access rights.	PMU, Local Councils (Municipality) and Executing Partners.
3	Land conflict and insecurity.	**High** This threat is considered high.	**Medium**	**1)** Through the land use planning process, the project will undertake a simple mapping and recording of existing rights. Traditional leaders and communities will be convened to secure long term land management access rights, ensuring that women?s access rights are recognized and equally prioritized alongside men?s. The planning process will also take into account indigenous peoples? land access needs.	PMU, Local Councils (Municipality) and Executing Partners.
4	Security risk. Terrorist activity may flare up given the presence of Boko Haram, negatively impacting the LDN planning activities.	**High**	**Medium**	**1)** The project engage communities in dialogue through the LDN and land use planning processes, and in this way contribute to social cohesion. The issue of security was taken into account in the selection of the target municipalities which are relatively stable.	PMU, Local Councils (Municipality) and Executing Partners.
COVID-19					

5	**COVID-19 Risks:** 1) Risk of co-financing. Government priorities to address the pandemic could have an effect on funding. 2) Availability of technical staff and ability to interact with communities.	**High:** The overall risk impact is considered high. Depending on the level of pandemic threat during project implementation, the project activities that support face to face collaboration and engagement may be significantly impacted, which could have a high level of impact on LDN target setting and land planning activities. Such impacts would be very problematic for the project and thus the impact of this threat is designated as ?high?.	**Medium**	**1) Sources of co-financing are diversified,** with the bulk of co-financing coming from an IFAD loan project. The PMU and the Project Steering Committee shall monitor the risk closely and identify additional sources of co-financing, as necessary**.** **2) Adherence to health precautions:** The PMU and executing partners will ensure that activities will follow the precautionary measures set forth by the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, as well as any additional measures at local level.	PMU; Executing partners.
Project Management & Delivery Risks					

6	**Co-financing does not materialize**: The baseline co-financing is particularly important for scale-up of impacts.	**Medium:** The impact of this risk is medium, as co-financing plays a major role in this project, however co-financing resources are well diversified.	**Medium**	1) **Diversification of co-financing resources:** The project?s diversification of co-financing resources is a hedge against the risk of co-financing noncompliance impacting project results. **2) Communication of co-finance requirements:** The project will keep co-financiers informed regarding their financial commitments to the project.	PMU; MINEPDED
Climate Risks					
7	**The climate risk is substantial**	**Substantial:** The project target regions (North and Far North regions) are highly vulnerable to weather related hazards, namely to droughts and floods. With respect to present conditions (1951-2000), the probability of occurrence of severe droughts will increase under future climate conditions (2050-2100).	**Substantial**	Land use plans to be developed taking into account the current climate hazards and trends and projected changes. Enhanced provision of agro-climatological information to agro-pastoral communities through the co-financing partnership with ONACC. Promotion of climate-smart practices incl. agroforestry systems etc. (component 2).	PMU

Section B: Environmental and Social risks from the project

Safeguard Triggered	Risk Identified	Risk Classification	Mitigation Measures	Responsibility
9	There are about 500 Mbororo indigenous people in one of the project target councils. Prior to and during project formulation, consultations were held with a representative of the Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC). REPALEAC also represents the Mbororo people. Following Free Prior and Informed process, the team had consultation meetings with the indigenous group during a field mission conducted in February 2022 and priorities and measures to engage were discussed.	**Moderate**	One of the main priorities for the Mbororo communities is access to land. The project will ensure participation of the Mbororos and local communities in land use planning and LDN target setting through stakeholder groups that will be established at local level (under component 1). REPALEAC will participate in the Project Steering Committee and Regional Advisory Committee to ensure that the project has positive impact on indigenous people.	MINEPDED, PMU

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results framework						
The project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals)						
Project Objective: To enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.						
Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term**	**End of Project Target**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions**
Objective level indicators						
GEF-7 Core indicators	a) *Core Indicator 3:* Area of land restored (hectares); *Sub-Indicator 3.1*: Area of degraded agricultural land restored *Sub-Indicator 3.2*: Area of forest and rangeland restored	0	*Total: 5,000* *3.1* : 4,000 ha of degraded agricultural land restored through agroforestry and other targeted SLM practices *3.2*: 1,000 ha of degraded forestland restored through enrichment planting with native species tree and assisted natural regeneration in degraded.	*Total: 5,000* *3.1* : 4,000 ha *3.2*: 1,000ha	Monitoring systems Project supervision reports	? Commitment at all levels of Government (National, Regional and Municipal) and support (including co-financing and enabling policies and incentives) to the objectives of the project. ? Local and indigenous communities are actively engaged LDN target setting, land use planning and implementation, and adopt sustainable

Results framework						
The project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals)						
Project Objective: To enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.						
Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term**	**End of Project Target**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions**
	b) *Core Indicator 4*: Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares) *Sub-Indicator 4.3*: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems	0	Total: 5,000 ha 5,000	Total: 10,000 ha 10,000	Monitoring systems; Project supervision reports.	practices. ? The project successfully demonstrates and communicates tangible environmental and economic benefits from LDN, incentivizing stakeholders to adopt and invest in sustainable practices.
	c) Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO2e) *Sub-indicator 6.1: Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector*	0	-	557,270 metric tons of CO2e	EX-ACT calculation Monitoring systems	

Results framework						
The project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals)						
Project Objective: To enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.						
Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term**	**End of Project Target**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions**
	d) *Core Indicator 11*: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	0	Estimated beneficiaries 4,500 (at least 50% women, and at least 20% youth); confirmed by midterm evaluation. This number includes individuals benefiting from capacity building (communities, Government, NGOs/CSOs).	10,000 beneficiaries, of which at least 50% are women.	Monitoring systems; Project supervision reports.	
Component 1: : Improving the Sub-National Enabling Environment for LDN						
Outcome 1.1: Capacity of the LDN Mechanism is advanced to the sub-national level	# Inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms (ensuring balanced representation of women and men) at municipal level linked to national LDN-FLR multi-stakeholder platform;	0	6	6	Project supervision reports.	? Stakeholder commitment all levels. ? There is sufficient institutional stability and collaboration that allows LDN target setting and land use planning.

Results framework						
The project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals)						
Project Objective: To enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.						
Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term**	**End of Project Target**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions**
	LDN targets established in 6 municipalities; # participatory and gender-responsive sustainable land use management plans endorsed by communities and authorities in the target municipalities; # of updated municipality development plans (CDP)	0 0 0	6 municipalities have set their LDN targets. 6 0	6 municipalities have set their LDN targets. 6 6	Official documents. Project supervision reports. Mid-term and final evaluations.	
	# of people trained	0	500 (50% women)	1,000 (50% women)	M&E and supervision reports.	
	LDN Municipal model scale-up strategy endorsed;	0	1	1	M&E and supervision reports.	
Component 2: Strengthening Initiatives in line with Municipal LDN Targets						
Outcome 2.1: Achievement of Municipal LDN targets advanced through PADFAII project and	# Area of landscapes under SLM practices. # Area of degraded land restored;	0 0	5,000 ha 2,000 ha	10,000 ha 5,000 ha	Project supervision reports. Mid-term review and final evaluation.	? Local authorities commitment to producers? land tenure security; ? Smallholder producers, women and

Results framework						
The project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (inclusive and sustainable economic growth), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 17 (Partnerships for Goals)						
Project Objective: To enable land degradation neutrality (LDN) and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in the production landscapes of Cameroon?s Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone.						
Results	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term**	**End of Project Target**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions**
related initiatives in the North and Far North regions.	# of smallholder farmers (at least 50% women) have benefited from trainings on SLM;	0	3,300	8,300	Capacity building reports, project supervision reports.	youth participate in trainings, and incentivized to test and adopt sustainable practices.
	# Women and youth receiving support for income generating activities.	0	700	700	Capacity building reports, project supervision reports.	
Component 3: Knowledge management and M&E						
Outcome 3.1: Effective knowledge management and M&E supporting scale-up and impact.	# communication and knowledge products disseminated (case studies, best practices).	0	At least 3 annually.	At least 3 annually.	M&E reports.	? MINEPDED and partners? support for the project. ? Strong PMU support.
	Inter-regional municipal learning events with key stakeholders.	0	2	3	M&E and supervision reports.	
	Project M&E system operational - with protocols for collection and analysis of results in place	0	1 Quality M&E information and reports, as scheduled.	1 Quality M&E information and reports, as scheduled.	M&E reports	

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

NA.

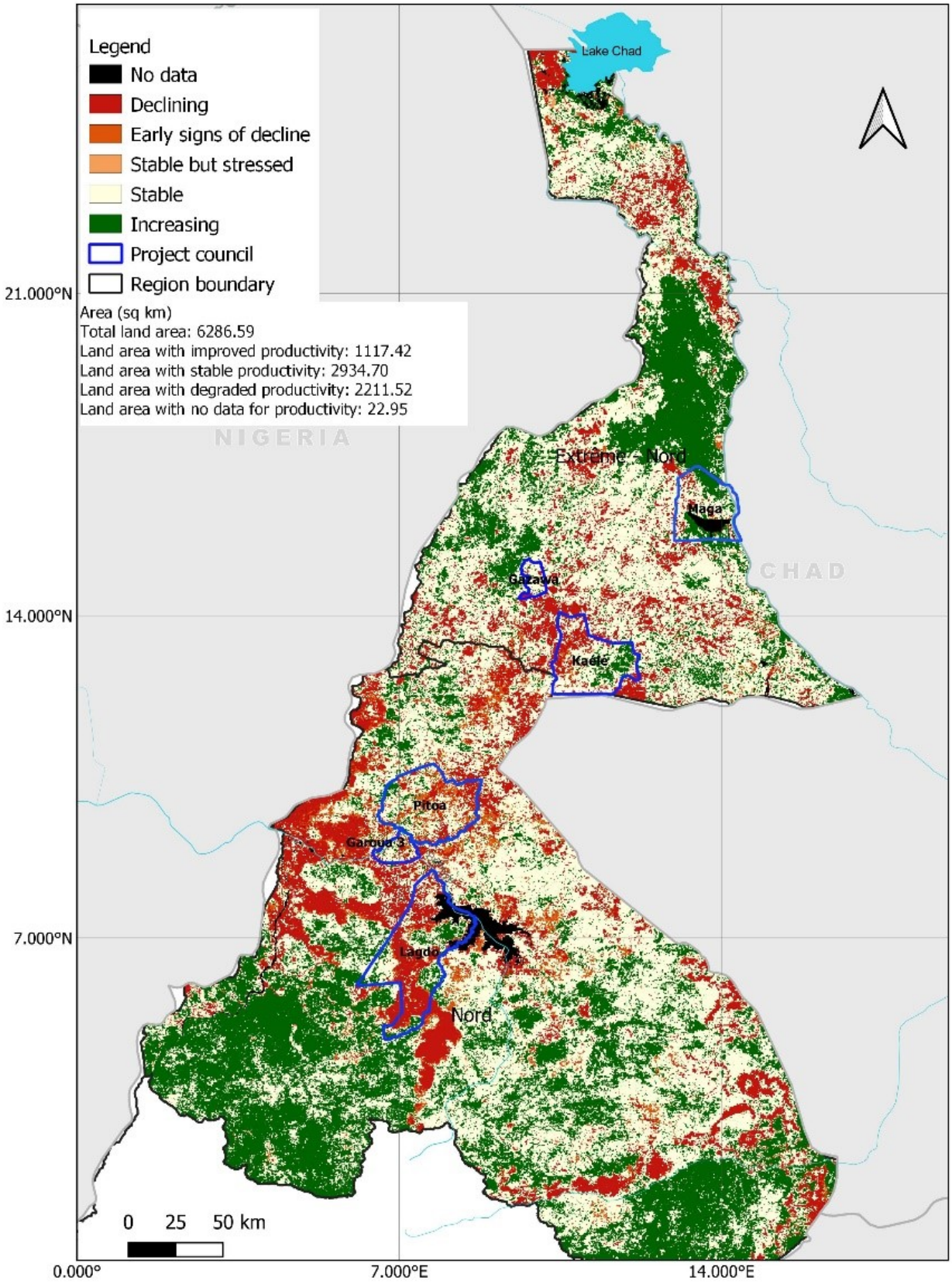
ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD **50,000** **GCP /CMR/904P/GFF**			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***Budgeted Amount ($)***	***Amount Spent To date ($)***	***Amount Committed***
(5011) Salaries Professional	1,000		
(5013) Consultants	33,000	39,917	
(5014) Contracts	4,000	4,113	
(5021) Travel	3,000	4,526	
(5023) Training	9,000		
(5024) Expendable Procurement		313	
(5028) General Operating Expenses		1,131	
Total	50,000	50,000	0

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Land Productivity 2001-2020



ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3		PMC	Other executing entities	FAO Support Services	Total GEF
				Total	Total	3.1	M&E				
5011 Salaries professionals											
Contracts management and monitoring with executing entities	lumpsum	1	74,750					74,750		74,750	**74,750**
5011 Sub-total salaries professionals				**0**	**0**	0	0	74,750	**0**	**74,750**	**74,750**
5013 Consultants											
										0	**0**
Sub-total international Consultants				**0**	-	0	0	0		0	**0**
1 National Coordinator	Month	60	1,000	**40,000**	**13,333**	6,667			60,000		**60,000**
1 regional coordinator (National Coordinator Assistant)	Month	60	587	**23,480**	**7,827**	3,913			35,220		**35,220**
Gender Expert (25%)	W/Days	60	150	**6,000**	**2,000**	1,000			9,000		**9,000**
1 Admin Assistant	Month	60	500	-	-			30,000	30,000		**30,000**
1 driver	Month	60	400	-	-			24,000	24,000		**24,000**
1 knowledge and M&E officer	W/Days	250	150	-	-		37,500		37,500		**37,500**
Sub-total national Consultants				**69,480**	**23,160**	11,580	37,500	54,000	195,720	0	**195,720**
5013 Sub-total consultants				**69,480**	**23,160**	11,580	37,500	54,000	195,720	0	**195,720**
5650 Contracts											
Land degradation assessment, LDN target setting and land use plans, and LDN trainings, monitoring system, communication	Lump sum	1	570,000	**570,000**	**0**			0	570,000		**570,000**
Policy and financing options & LDN scale-up strategy	Lumpsum	1	45,000	**45,000**					45,000		**45,000**
SLM Curriculum and FFS	Lump sum	1	406,570	**0**	**406,570**		0	0	406,570		**406,570**
Tree nurseries and business operations for women and youth	Lump sum	1	390,960	**0**	**390,960**		0	0	390,960		**390,960**
Mid term review	Lump sum	1	35,000				35,000			35,000	**35,000**
Terminal Report	Lump sum	1	7,000				7,000			7,000	**7,000**
Final Evaluation	Lump sum	1	40,000				40,000			40,000	**40,000**
Sub-total Contracts				**615,000**	**797,530**	0	82,000	0	1,412,530	82,000	**1,494,530**
5021 Travel											
National travel	lumpsum	1	34000	**18000**	**6000**		10,000		34,000		**34,000**
5021 Sub-total travel				**18000**	**6000**	0	10000	0	34000	0	**34000**
5023 Training											
Inception workshop	Lumps sum	1	15,000	**0**			15,000		15,000		**15,000**
PSC meetings	Lump sum	1	40,000	**0**			40,000		40,000		**40,000**
Mid and end year regional advisory committee meetings	Lumps sum	1	15,000	**15,000**					15,000		**15,000**
Quartely monitoring and evalution meetings (municipality level)	Lump sum	1	45,000	**0**			45,000		45,000		**45,000**
Final Evaluation workshop	Lumps sum	1	15,000	**0**			15,000		15,000		**15,000**
5023 Sub-total training				**15,000**	**0**	0	115,000	0	130,000	0	**130,000**
5024 Expendable procurement											
Communication products and tools	Year	5	2,000			10,000			10,000		**10,000**
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement				**-**	**-**	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	**10,000**
6100 Non-expendable procurement											
IT Equipment (computers..)	Lump sum	1	5,000					5,000	5,000		**5,000**
4x4 vehicle	Item	1	36,000	**24,000**	**8,000**	4,000			36,000		**36,000**
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				**24,000**	**8,000**	4,000	0	5,000	41,000	0	**41,000**
5028 GOE budget											
Office running costs (electricity..)	month	60	25	-	-		-	1,500	1,500		**1,500**
Vehicle running costs	month	60	308	**12,333**	**4,111**	2,056			18,500		**18,500**
6300 Sub-total GOE budget				**12,333**	**4,111**	2,056	0	1,500	20,000	0	**20,000**
TOTAL				**753,813**	**838,801**	27,636	244,500	135,250	1,843,250	156,750	**2,000,000**

SUBTOTAL Comp 1	**753,813**	
SUBTOTAL Comp 2	**838,801**	
SUBTOTAL Comp 3.1	**27,636**	
M&E Budget	**244,500**	**13%**
Subtotal	**1,864,750**	
Project Management Cost (PMC)	**135,250**	**7.3%**
TOTAL GEF	**2,000,000**	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencys is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).