Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
11004

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
LDCF

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

Project Title
Strengthening the resilience of small farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture (PRP-AIC) techniques in Tahoua Region

Countries
Niger

Agency(ies)
UNDP

Other Executing Partner(s)
Secretariat Ex?cuif du Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un D?veloppement Durable (SE/CNEDD)

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Climate Change

Sector
AFOLU

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Adaptation Tech Transfer, Climate resilience, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Innovation, Complementarity, Community-based adaptation, Private sector, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approache, Stakeholders, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Beneficiaries, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Communications, Awareness Raising, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

Principal Objective 2

Biodiversity

Land Degradation

Submission Date

Expected Implementation Start

5/1/2024

Expected Completion Date

4/30/2029

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)

848,580.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
CCA-1	Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation	LDCF	5,432,420.00	26,000,000.00
CCA-2	Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience for Systemic Impact	LDCF	3,500,000.00	20,301,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**8,932,420.00**	**46,301,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Project Objective: To Reduce food insecurity for small farmers in Tahoua by strengthening their resilience to climate change using ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and supporting the development of the private sector.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1: Land restoration for climate resilience of agricultural production systems	Investment	1.1: Degraded land is restored to protect agricultural production systems against the adverse impacts of climate change	1.1.1: Awareness raising and training programmes are conducted to sensitise local authorities and communities and equip them with information, skills and knowledge to support ecosystem restoration practices. 1.1.2: Degraded ecosystems surrounding the farming areas are restored with the adoption of Nature-based Solutions 1.1.3: Energy-saving equipment is promoted to reduce deforestation for firewood consumption	LDCF	2,000,000.00	15,501,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2: Promotion of Climate Smart Agriculture	Investment	2.1. : Climate-smart agriculture techniques are promoted and reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate	2.1.1. Climate-resilient farming techniques, including irrigation are adopted to reduce losses and food insecurity 2.1.2.: Micro-dams, dikes, bioengineering and other land stabilization methods are implemented to protect agricultural production from the increasing intensity and frequency of droughts and floods. 2.1.3.: Agroclimatic and meteorological information and early warnings are available and understood by farmers for climate-resilient decision-making	LDCF	5,000,000.00	22,010,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3. Facilitating the development of the private sector in local communities	Technical Assistance	3.1. Women- and youth-led local Micro and Small Entreprises (MSEs) and entrepreneurs provide adaptive solutions to climate change with local banks and microfinance institutions sustainable facilities	3.1.1. Agricultural groups and community cooperative funds are strengthened to increase their financial sustainability for the adoption of CSA 3.1.2. : In collaboration with the FISAN, the BAGRI and MFIs, MSEs are supported to access loans for climate resilient agriculture financing.	LDCF	1,000,000.00	5,000,000.00
4. Knowledge Management and Lessons learned	Technical Assistance	4.1. Lessons learned on climate resilient agriculture and land restoration practices inform future projects in-country and elsewhere	4.1.1. Lessons learned from the project are compiled, capitalized, and disseminated	LDCF	291,464.00	1,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Monitoring & Evaluation	Technical Assistance	Monitoring & Evaluation	Project results are monitored and evaluated	LDCF	215,603.00	1,000,000.00
			Sub Total ($)		**8,507,067.00**	**44,511,000.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				LDCF	425,353.00	1,790,000.00
			Sub Total($)		**425,353.00**	**1,790,000.00**
			Total Project Cost($)		**8,932,420.00**	**46,301,000.00**

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($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment	Grant	Investment mobilized	20,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture	Grant	Investment mobilized	25,801,000.00
GEF Agency	UNDP	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**46,301,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

TBD

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($)
UNDP	LDCF	Niger	Climate Change	NA	8,932,420	848,580	9,781,000.00
			Total Grant Resources($)		**8,932,420.00**	**848,580.00**	**9,781,000.00**

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 ($)

200,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19,000

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNDP	LDCF	Niger	Climate Change	NA	200,000	19,000	**219,000.00**
			Total Project Costs($)		**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

Meta Information - LDCF

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

Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program?
false

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

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

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

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

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This Project has an urban focus. false

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

Agriculture	**30.00%**
Natural resources management	**50.00%**
Climate information services	**0.00%**
Coastal zone management	**0.00%**
Water resources management	**20.00%**
Disaster risk management	**0.00%**
Other infrastructure	**0.00%**
Health	**0.00%**
Other (Please specify:)	**0.00%**
Total	**100%**

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

Sea level rise false

Change in mean temperature false

Increased climatic variability true

Natural hazards true

Land degradation true

Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation false

Groundwater quality/quantity false

Core Indicators - LDCF

CORE INDICATOR 1

Total

Male

Female

% for Women

Total number of direct beneficiaries

0

0

0

0%

CORE INDICATOR 2

Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)

0.00

CORE INDICATOR 3

Total no. of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience

0

CORE INDICATOR 4

Male

Female

% for Women

Total number of people trained

0

0

0

0%

To calculate the core indicators, please refer to Results Guidance

OBJECTIVE 1

Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaption

OUTCOME 1.1

Technologies and innovative solutions piloted or deployed to reduce climate-related risks and / or enhance resilience

View

OUTCOME 1.2

Innovative financial instruments and investment models enabled or introduced to enhance climate resilience

View

OBJECTIVE 2

Mainstream climate change adaption and resilience for systemic impact

OUTCOME 2.1

Strengthened cross-sectoral mechanisms to mainstream climate adaption and resilience

View

OUTCOME 2.2

Adaptation considerations mainstreamed into investments

View

OUTCOME 2.3

Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures

View

OBJECTIVE 3

Foster enabling conditions for effective and integrated climate change adaption

OUTCOME 3.1

Climate-resilient planning enabled by stronger climate information decision-support services, and other relevant analysis, as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance

View

OUTCOME 3.2

Increased ability of country to access and/or manage climate finance or other relevant, largescale, pragmatic investment, as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance

View

OUTCOME 3.3

Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures as a support to NAP process and/or for enabling activities in response to COP guidance

View

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Background Context

Niger is West Africa?s largest country (1,267 million km2) with one of the fastest population growth rates on the planet at 3.8%[1]1 reaching 24.2 million inhabitants in 2020[2]2. However, this large landlocked country has one of the lowest population densities on the continent. About 80% of its area is barely inhabited desert and most of the population lives in rural areas in the southern parts of the country. Niger, classified as Least Developed Country (LDC), is one of the poorest countries in the world with 42% of its population living in extreme poverty in 2021 (under $1.90 a day)[3]3 out of which 75% are girls and women[4]4. The population is comprised by 61% of working age women, however 84% men are part of the active population[5]5, therefore there is room to integrate women as part of the workforce. It has a weak economic diversification and competitiveness where agriculture accounts for almost 40% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - mainly subsistence farming and herding. About 90% of its population works in the agricultural sector. About 90% of Niger?s export revenues are related to mining including gold, uranium and thorium ores and concentrates[6]6.

Problem Statement

Niger, one of the hottest countries on the planet, is also increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change effects while barely contributing to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions globally (0.009% in 2019[7]7). Climate shocks lead to a high rainfall variability and negatively impact the socio-economic situation. Water constraints, desertification, reduced agricultural yields, land deterioration, food insecurity, rising food prices, rapid population growth and increased pressure on arable lands become commonplace.

Climate Change

The West Africa region has recorded changes in climatic parameters. The region has observed an increase in river flooding and an increase in drying, ecological and agricultural droughts[8][8]. The West Africa region is projected to experience an increase in meteorological drought and an increase in heavy precipitation and pluvial flooding. In Niger, the study conducted under the Third National Communication (TNC) concludes that the country will experience a temperature increase ranging from 2.5 to 3?C in the next fifty years, mostly due to human-induced climate change[9]9. This will result in continuously greater rate of evapotranspiration, causing a reduction in the amount of water available for cultivation, livestock rearing, and human consumption. Inadequate water supplies prevent farmers from continuing normal production practices, which further threatens food security in vulnerable areas due to the high rate of subsistence farming[10]10.

Agricultural land in Niger is mainly rainfed, but considering the changing climate, characterized by erratic rainfalls and impacted volume, timing and quality of aquifer systems in Tahoua, the ongoing expansion of irrigated agriculture is a government priority[11][11]. In Tahoua, the population facing food insecurity or exposed to food insecurity represents 43.2% of the region inhabitants. Studies also indicate a potential increase in people in food insecurity in Tahoua from more than 500,000 in 2021 to more than 900,000 in 2022 due to drought and flooding[12][12]. Farmers in the project intervention area are extremely vulnerable to the projected increased rainfall unreliability and temperature increase, in particular as they rely on regular rainfalls, functioning ecosystems, and have limited financial and technical capacity to adapt[13][13]. Current adaptive practices include rural exodus relocation to more productive lands and pasture (including by clearing forests and wetlands) and the use of local short cycle agricultural varieties. The project intervention area is also identified as one of the most vulnerable areas to climate change in the National adaptation programme of action (NAPA) of Niger.

Past climate variability in Tahoua Region

The Tahoua region has experienced a change in climatic parameters. Temperatures in the region vary both spatially and temporally. Overall, peak temperatures can reach 47?C in April-May while low temperatures (about 15?C) is recorded in December-January. Analysis of past temperature data from the Tahoua synoptic station for a 30-year period (1988-2017)[14][14] revealed an increasing temperature trend (Figure 1a). Similarly, analysis of mean annual temperature from 1981-2021 for the Tahoua region revealed an increasing temperature trend over time (Figure 1b).

This warming increases evapotranspiration and reduces the availability of surface water and the recharge of the groundwater resources, particularly alluvial groundwater. As per Niger's Third National

Communication on climate change (TNC, 2016), Tahoua?s surface and ground water resources are already impacted, in terms of volume, timing, quality and recharge, thereby directly impacting the characteristics of the region?s aquifer system. This translates into reduced water availability for crop growth and livestock, adversely affecting crop harvests and pasture availability and amplifying the impact of droughts or dry spells.

The rainfall deficit in Niger is on average around 20% but can exceed 30% in the west and the center, with the agro-meteorological stations of Tahoua, Niamey and Tillabe?ry recording the greatest deficits. Early records indicated that, between 1960 and 1987, Niger?s climate used to alternate between wet and dry periods every seven years. Since the beginning of the 1990s, rainfall variability has been characterized by an annual succession of wet and dry years. Tahoua?s past precipitation for the period 1981-2021 shows a fluctuating pattern, with an increasing trend (Figure 2). However, as per agro-meteorological data collected at the national level, Bilma, Diffa, Tahoua, Banibangou and Filingue? are the most frequently impacted by droughts in the country[15][15]. In terms of economic impacts, droughts and floods together accounted for an estimated 96% of economic losses[16][16].

Figure 1a

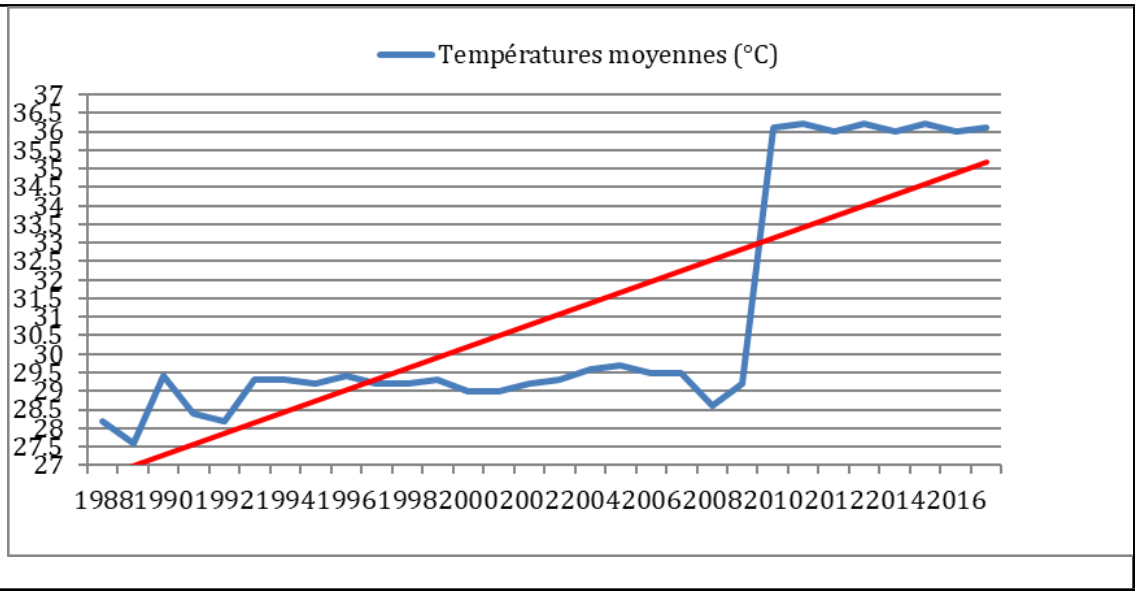


Figure 1b

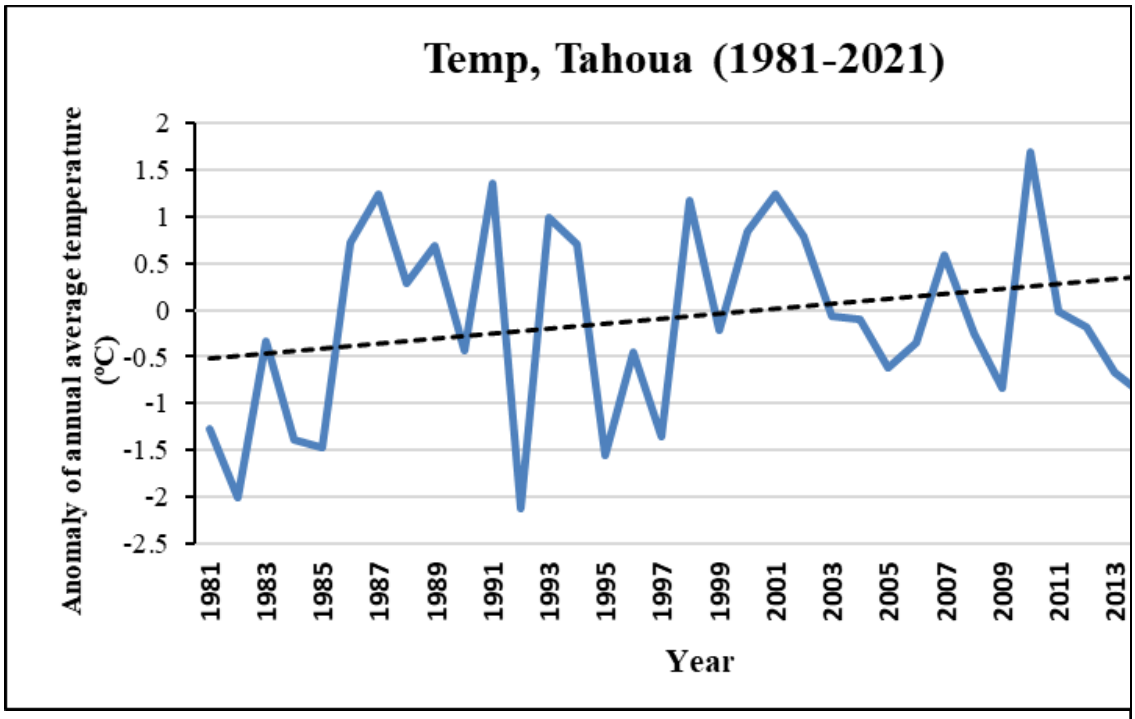


Figure 1: Analysis of past temperature for Tahoua for the period 1988-2016 (Figure 1a) and 1981-2021 (Figure 1b (Source: FOKABS)

According to the daily rainfall records of 12 stations over 1960?2000, Tahoua receives less than 400 mm/year of total rainfall and is exposed to the occurrence of dry spell extending between 8 to14 days (Barron et al., 2010). The increasingly high variability in temporal and spatial rainfall distribution, combined with high-intensity rainfall events, affect the water availability for agriculture development and food security, yield loss due to farm flooding, waterlogging of lowland crops[17][17], and induces an increase in surface runoff, since soil infiltration capacity is quickly exceeded. This variability in rainfall is also reflected in the changes in the onset and duration of the rainy season. In Tahoua, between 1991 and 2010 early onsets of the rainy season were observed, but were often associated with extreme dry spells and considered as false onset situations.

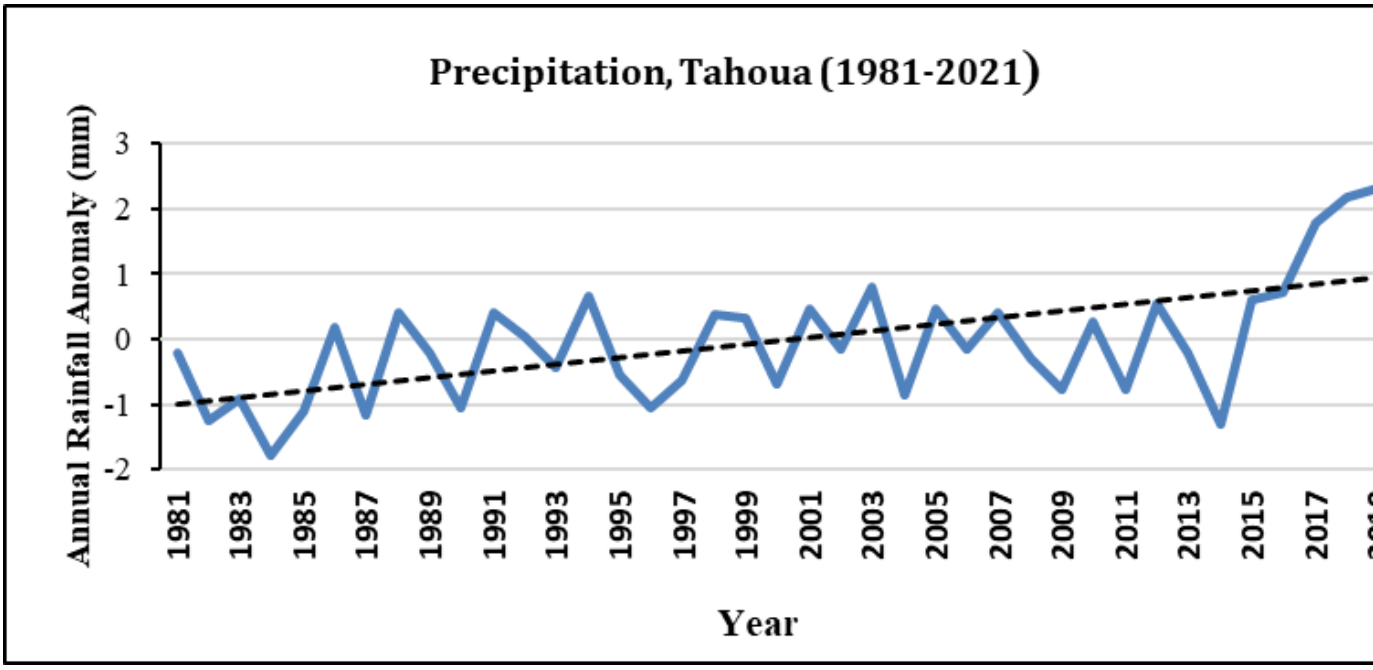


Figure 2: Analysis of past precipitation data of Tahoua (1981-2021) (Source: FOKABS)

Future climate variability in the Tahoua Region

Temperatures for Tahoua are projected to increase across the three time periods (2011-2040, 2041-2070, and 2071-2100) for the Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) 4.5 and 8.5 compared to the baseline (1981-2010). Except for the period 2041-2070 under RCP 4.5 with a projected decline in precipitation compared to the baseline, Tahoua?s precipitation for other periods under both RCP 8.5 and 4.5 are projected to increase (Table 1, Figure 3). Overall, except for the temperature changes for the periods 2041-2070 and 2071-2100 under RCP 8.5 which are large, temperature changes for 2071-2100 and 2041-2070 (RCP 4.5) which are medium, all the other changes in precipitation and temperature are small.

Table 1. Projected climate parameters for Tahoua

Climatic parameter	**RCP 4.5**			**RCP 8.5**		
	2011-2040	**2041-2070**	**2071-2100**	**2011-2040**	**2041-2070**	**2071-2100**
Temperature (°C)	1	2	2	1	3	4
Precipitation (%)	2	-1	2	4	9	9

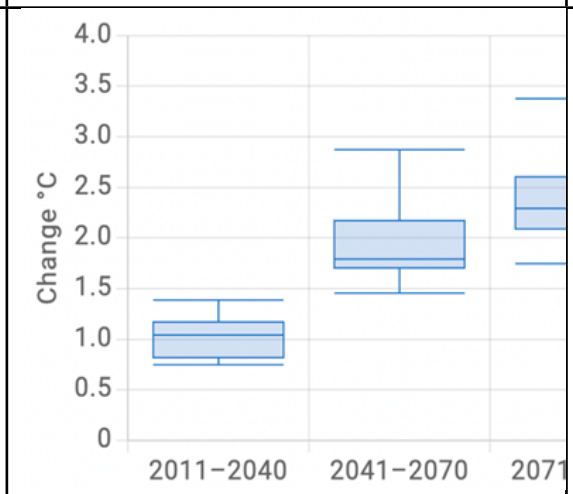
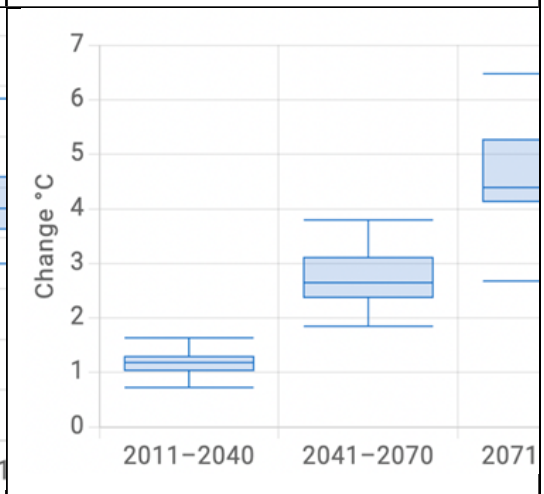
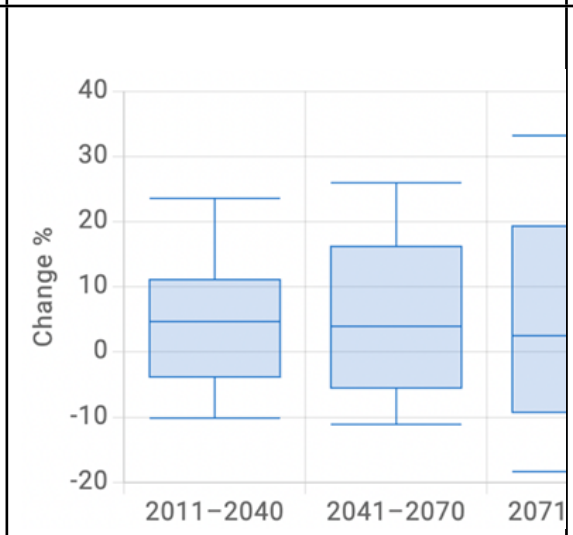
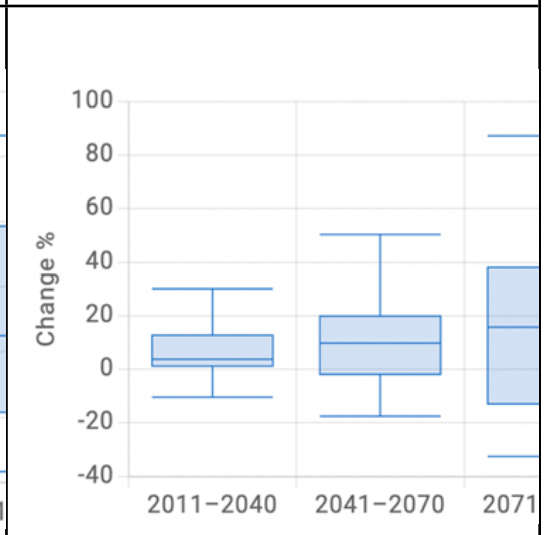
	RCP 4.5	RCP 8.5
Temperature (Change °C)		
Precipitation (Change %)		

Figure 3: Temperature (annual mean) and precipitation (annual mean) projections for Tahoua under RCP 4.5 and 8.5 compared to the historical period (1981-2010) (Source: Fokabs).

The projected changes in climatic parameters are associated with negative impacts on the agricultural sector. The projections for 5-day wet extremes (maximum consecutive 5-day rainfall - RX5day) with the line representing the regional model ensemble mean and the shaded area represents the model spread for the emission scenario RCP4.5 for Tahoua (***Figure 4***) raises fears of increased flooding of agricultural crops with consequently increasing food insecurity. The number of dry days is projected to increase in frequency, affecting the productivity of major crops with likely dire consequences for national food security and income of millions of Niger?s populace[18][18].

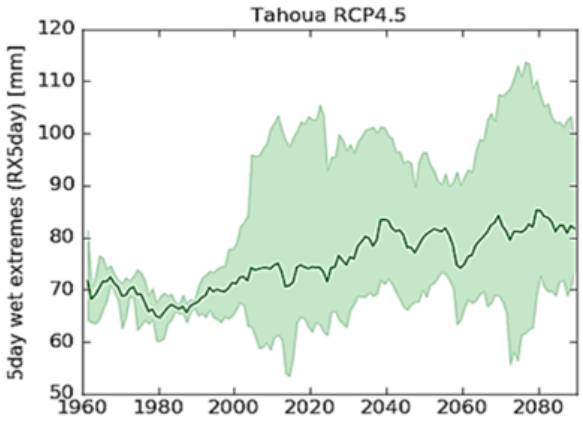


Figure 4: Projections for 5-day wet extremes for Tahoua (Source: Climate Analytics)

Overall, the trends show a past and projected increasing trend in temperatures, a past increasing trend in precipitation and a projected increasing/decreasing trend in precipitation. As of 2011, the population of Tahoua Region was 2,741,922[19][19] and are mostly farmers that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. These farmers in the project intervention area are extremely vulnerable to the projected increased rainfall unreliability and temperature increase, in particular as they rely on regular rainfalls for agricultural productivity and have limited financial and technical capacity to adapt[20][20]. Current adaptive practices include rural exodus relocation to more productive lands and pasture (including by clearing forests and wetlands) and the use of local short cycle varieties. In the absence of technological innovation adopted and implemented by producers, a 5 to 25% decline in Niger?s agricultural yields is projected Niger's Fourth National Communication on climate change, July 2021). Hence, the PRP-AIC project presents climate change adaptation benefits and in the absence of the project, livelihood activities could be negatively impacted.

Indeed, in the Tahoua Region (project site) the population which is made up of mostly farmers are vulnerable to climate change effects, including floods, desertification, soil degradation and related crop failure, compounded with high levels of poverty[21][21].

The impacts of climate challenge in Tahoua are also magnified by high poverty rates, food insecurity and the lack of sustainable adaptive practices, with the encroachment on preserved ecosystems often perceived as the most immediately available solutions. This is further reinforced by the increasing demographic pressure on natural resources.

Barriers

Barrier 1: Limited technical and financial support from the Government to address climate-induced land degradation: Agricultural fields are increasingly exposed to flooding, erosion and silting due to climate change and adverse practices such as deforestation. However, with limited public budget, only one agriculture advisor per 1,000 producer household is in place, and insufficient investment in infrastructure and restoration are undertaken. In addition, Niger's fiscal balance has been negatively impacted by the impacts of COVID-19 and sovereign debt became even more difficult to assume. The economic downturn, fiscal pressures, and tightening of financial conditions are giving rise to large financing gaps in Niger?s public finances and balance of payments.

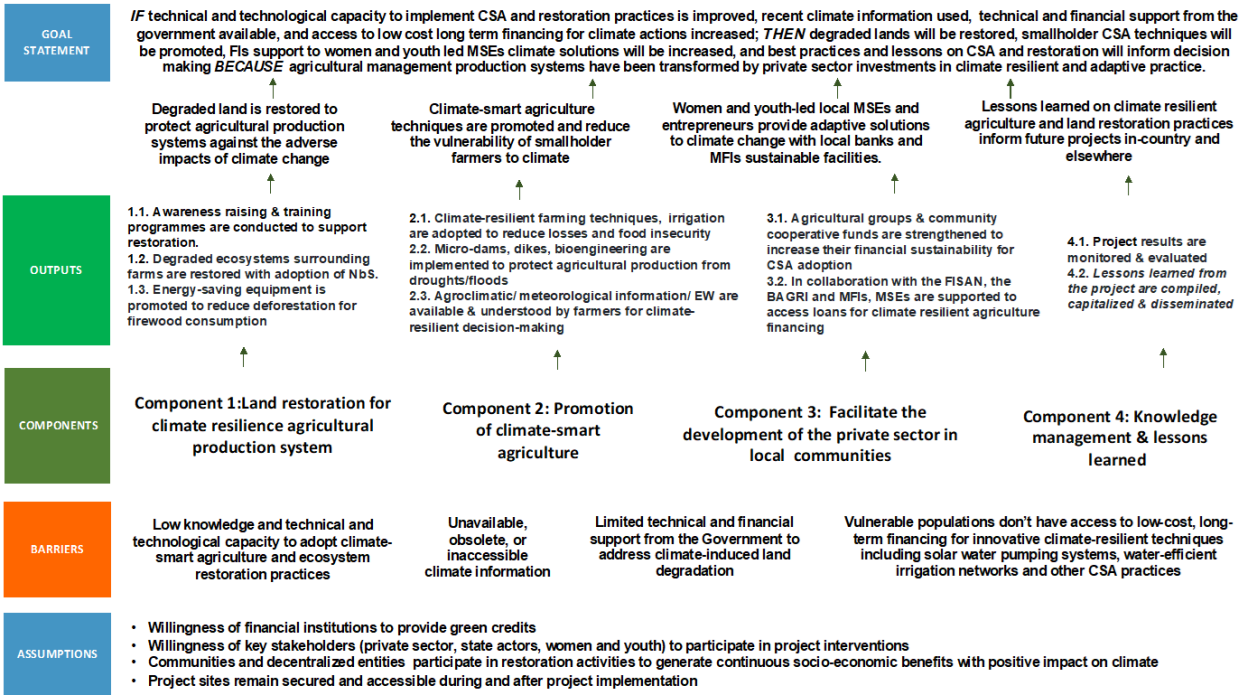
Barrier 2: Low knowledge and technical and technological capacity to adopt climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem restoration practices. Even though some traditional practices in terms of ecosystem restoration and protection exist and have been reintroduced, their use is still limited. Il It is therefore necessary to adjust these practices to the projected rapid impacts of climate change and to introduce Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices. Due to this lack of experience and adequate sensitization efforts, producers are reluctant to adopt new practices as such shifts are perceived risky. This is particularly true in the case of ecosystem restoration practices, which often do not yield immediately perceivable benefits due to the period needed for ecosystems to regenerate.

Barrier 3: Vulnerable populations don?t have access to low-cost, long-term financing for innovative climate-resilient techniques including solar water pumping systems, water-efficient irrigation networks and other CSA practices. For the communities recognizing the impacts of climate change and wishing to invest in adaptive practices, they face barriers to access financing. Local communities are often perceived by traditional financing institutions as too risky and not credit worthy and in turn, local communities are not able to afford the high interest rates offered by these institutions.

Barrier 4: Unavailable, obsolete, or inaccessible climate information. Currently, reliable climate information is not available or widely disseminated for local communities. The meteorological network is scattered through the country and does not provide data specific to the local level, preventing the adoption of adequate adaptive practices. When available, the shared information provides approximately downscaled warnings and forecasts that do not provide the needed accuracy to adapt the agriculture practices in a timely manner. In addition, forecasts and early warnings are not always disseminated in a way that is understandable by local communities ? for instance, most of the information is only available in French and not translated in local languages.

The proposed project will address these barriers through the project interventions that are planned following a clear rationale and theory of change to tackle these barriers, by assessing assumptions and outlining causal pathways. The theory of change enables the definition of long-term goals while identifying the conditions for success.

Theory of Change



Proposed Solutions

The preferred solution will therefore fully integrate the restoration of surrounding ecosystems as a Nature-based Solution to climate change (component 1) to complement CSA practices (component 2). The dissemination and upscaling of these practices will be supported by the development of SMEs and the improved access to financing for vulnerable communities for CSA and the maintenance of infrastructure and investments (component 3). At end, lessons learned, and new experiences generated will be managed for upscaling in other areas and initiatives (Component 4). The strategy for this project will therefore be implemented through four interrelated project components and outcomes:

Component 1: Land restoration for climate resilience agricultural production system.

? **Outcome 1.1:** Degraded land is restored to protect agricultural production systems against the adverse impacts of climate change.

Component 2: Promotion of climate-smart agriculture.

? **Outcome 2.1:** Climate-smart agriculture techniques are promoted and reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate.

Component 3: Facilitating the development of the private sector in local communities.

? **Outcome 3.1:** Women and youth-led local Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and entrepreneurs provide adaptive solutions to climate change with local banks and microfinance institutions sustainable facilities.

Component 4: Knowledge management and lessons learned.

? **Outcome 4.1:** Lessons learned on climate resilient agriculture and land restoration practices inform future projects in-country and elsewhere.

The second strategic approach focuses on the different activities that the project will implement to address individual barriers with the aim of delivering several outputs that will eventually lead to outcomes under each component to contribute to achieving the overall project objective. The project activities will support producers to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change on their production. Exposure of fields to flood and silting will be reduced through climate smart agriculture and restoration of production areas as well as surrounding ecosystems. Indeed, restoration practices are currently not systematically adopted by farmers due to the perceived loss of arable lands through these practices. With

the visible impacts of climate change, farmers tend to seek expand their agricultural land, at the expanse of surrounding ecosystems. This further increases their vulnerability, with the increasing risk of a total crop loss during climate shocks (flood, drought). Restoration activities supported under the component 1 will be part of a comprehensive approach, with complementary activities that provide directly perceivable benefits. Component 2 activities will provide more immediate solutions for farmers to climate change by introducing CSA practices, thereby increasing yields, and reducing vulnerability to climate change. Component 3 activities will also be closely related to land restoration, enable farmers to organize into the functional farmers groups to mobilize their collateral and access local finance, including government funding, and expand on such farmer-managed regeneration. More on the individual activities are presented in the next section.

Activities and Expected Results

The project objective is to reduce food insecurity for small farmers in Tahoua by strengthening their resilience to climate change using ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and supporting the development of the private sector. By achieving the objective, the project will contribute to local, regional, and national climate adaptation and food security goals as well as the socio-economic development of Niger.

The four components of the project are: (i) Land restoration for climate resilience of agricultural production systems, (ii) promotion of climate smart agriculture, (iii) facilitating the development of the private sector in local communities, and (iv) knowledge management and lessons learned. All the four components will be implemented by UNDP in close collaboration with CNEDD. Other additional activities and interventions to be implemented through co-financing partners will be presented below, under the partnership section.

Project components, outcomes, and outputs

Component 1: Land restoration for climate resilience of agricultural production systems

The component focuses on restoration across different land uses in and around agro-silvo-pastoral systems in the project locations. This component will implement activities to support the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) in Niger, through awareness raising and training of local actors, restoration of degraded ecosystems using nature-based solutions (NbS), and the promotion of energy saving equipment to reduce deforestation linked to firewood consumption.

Project Outcome 1: Degraded land is restored to protect agricultural production systems against the adverse impacts of climate change.

This component will align with the GGWI to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable farmers against the adverse impacts of climate change. While the GGWI has had limited results to date, with only 15% currently underway after more than 10 years of implementation, and most of the action plan for Niger still outstanding, early experiences, including from other countries (in particular Senegal) will be highly relevant to identify sustainable and adaptive practices. The project will build on a combination of traditional practices and modern/innovative approaches to restore lands and benefit farmers, including lessons learned from ongoing projects such as the Integrated Landscape Management Project (PGIP), and the project to Strengthen the Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutritional Insecurity in Niger which will support the recovery of degraded land in Tahoua. Projects supporting pastoralism, including addressing conflicts between farmers and herders, such as the Regional Project to support Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS 2), will also complement the restoration activities under this component by creating a peaceful discussion platform for exchange, including for the protection of restored ecosystems.

Output 1.1. Awareness raising and training programs are conducted to sensitize local authorities and communities and equip them with information, skills, and knowledge to support ecosystem restoration practices.

Activity 1.1.1. Conduct capitalization study on local agricultural / forestry knowledge and practices.

The project will work with local leaders as key partners during project design and implementation, to ensure their buy-in and their involvement in the sustainability and expansion of successful restoration practices building on their local agricultural/forestry knowledge and practices. Discussions with local community leaders and other members of the community will support the documentation of existing traditional knowledge, sustainable practices and agriculture knowledge, to build on local experience for restoration activities.

Activity1.1.2. Study of traditional knowledge and its role in preserving the region's biodiversity, particularly in the communes where we operate.

The project will work with local leaders as key partners during project design and implementation, to ensure their buy-in and their involvement in the sustainability and expansion of successful restoration practices building on their local knowledge in preserving biodiversity.

Activity1.1.3. Study of ecosystem services and goods in the Tahoua region

Discussions will be conducted with community leaders and groups to gain insights on the impacts of climate change; key ecosystems such as wetlands, savannahs and forests; their linkages with production systems; and the climate change adaptive benefits they offer through the provision of different ecosystem services.

Activity 1.1.4. Revision of Communes' AIPs to take on activities.

The engagement of local authorities and decentralized state agents will be ensured by setting up clear monitoring frameworks for the protection of restored ecosystems in the long-term. Local and regional planning and financing will be revised and supported to introduce the protection of ecosystems and the adoption and
upscaling of NbS.

Activity 1.1.5. Set up management committees and take charge (at site level).

Community-based management committees will be involved in the targeted areas to ensure a common understanding and engagement in restoration activities. These measures will be implemented and the upscaling
of the restoration activities achieved through the funding mechanisms set up under output 3.1.1, thereby increasing the access to funding for these groups in the long-term and ensuring the sustained protection of restored ecosystems.

Activity 1.1.6. Carry out youth, women and Tahoua Regional Council education campaigns through various channels, activities and media including among others the use of traditional knowledge and local species instead of invasive alien species in restoration.

. Youth, women, and the Tahoua Regional Council will be schooled on the use of native species and local knowledge through conservation education programmes and focus group discussions. This will aid in the restoration of the landscape through the planting of more native species.

Activity 1.1.7. Set up and run local discussion groups (in each commune on catering, management, CSAs, MSEs).

Local Community discussion groups will be established in the targeted areas to ensure a common understanding and engagement in restoration activities. This will allow for knowledge sharing on the impact of climate change, the necessity to protect ecosystems and the benefits of ecosystems to landscape restoration.

Activity 1.1.8. Regularly update the Niger?s GGWI results framework and share results

The project will create links with the stakeholders involved with the GGWI, in Niger and in other regions. Effective communication will be built along the entire project to share lessons learned and results from the project and build on the results of other activities conducted under the GGWI. Effective communication channels will be established with the focal points in the ministries involved in the implementation of the GGWI (the National Agency of the GGW under the Ministry of Environment and the Fight against Desertification, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Community Development).

Activity 1.1.9. Organize training courses on ecosystem restoration practices and wood-energy resource management.

. Training sessions will be conducted with local communities to impart them with knowledge on the long-term benefits of preserving ecosystems for agricultural production and food security at the local level.

Output 1.2. Degraded ecosystems surrounding the farming areas are restored with the adoption of Nature-based Solutions.

Activity 1.2.1. Restoration of degraded farmland through the installation of water catchment erosion control structures on 1,500 hectares financed by this project and 2,000 hectares co-financed, as well as their seeding and reforestation (link to Component 3).

The restoration of degraded farmland through the implementation of a number of nature-based solutions, in particular the reclamation of farmland through agricultural half-moons, earthen and/or stone benches, trenches, Zai or Tassa, etc. or any other run-off water catchment structure adapted to the topography and according to the nature of the land to be restored. Appropriate training on these different techniques will be given to the beneficiary farmers beforehand, so that they are better able to comply with the standards and techniques for the different types of structure.

Activity 1.2.2. Restoration of degraded pastoral land through the installation of water catchment erosion control structures on 500 hectares and 1250 hectares co-financed by ongoing projects in the communes, as well as their seeding and planting.

This activity brings together the various techniques used to ensure that pastoral land fulfils its function of producing good quality pasture. Firstly, it consists of controlling invasive plants on land that are not eaten by animals, or eaten only as a source of food during periods of grazing shortage. This mainly involves the control of *Cida cordifolia*, *Pergularia tementosa*, or any plant species indicative of the degradation of pastoral areas and enclaves. The recovery of degraded pastoral land will then be carried out on pastoral land and enclaves recognised as such by all the populations of the Commune concerned.

Activity 1.2.3. Restoration of degraded forest land/reforestation through the establishment of village woods 250 hectares through the planting of forest species and 1000 hectares of co-financing for environmental protection and the planting of village woods in the Communes for the supply of firewood.

From interviews and discussions with local people the following recommendations were proffered to ensure the restoration of degraded forest land/reforestation: (i) promote the planting of species such as Acacia senegal, *Acacia seyal, Zizipus mauritiana* (grafted with the Pomme du Sahel variety), *Acacia nilotica, Acacia raddiana*, local forest species that are of great economic value to local people) and (ii) promote the dissemination of substitute wood energy product kits. It follows from these key recommendations that the need for tree planting, not only for its contribution to food and nutritional security, but also for fuelwood or its alternative, is expressly elucidated.

Activity 1.2.4. Demarcation and seeding of 1,500 km of animal corridors, including 500 km under this project and 1,000 km under co-financing to reduce conflicts between farmers and herders.

Farmer-herder conflicts are recurrent in the region necessitating the creation of animal corridors to mitigate these conflicts. Creating these corridors will contribute enormously in drastically reducing the recurrence of farmer-herder conflicts in the Tahoua region thereby improving the livelihoods of both farmers and herders.

Activity 1.2.5. Creation and restoration of 3,000 hectares of grazing areas, including 1,000 hectares under this project in the various beneficiary Communes.

Communes wishing to engage in this activity to protect degraded pastoral land will first be trained in the various techniques described above. This training will be provided by the State's decentralised technical services, with a substantial financial allocation. This activity is a response to a proposal from the people concerned in the Communes to strengthen the protection of biological diversity, improve the state of health of pastoral lands and/or enclaves with a view to increasing the carrying capacity of these pastoral ecosystems to provide goods and services for animals and people, and in addition improve the livelihoods of the people who depend on them and thus strengthen the food security of the people in the target Communes.

Output 1.3. Energy-saving equipment is promoted to reduce deforestation for firewood consumption.

Activity 1.3.1. Carry out a study on the available of improved stoves in the Tahoua region of Niger.

The project will closely coordinate with the activities conducted under the outcome 3 to incentivize supported MSEs to provide energy-efficient technologies to reduce fuelwood consumption. This will be ensured by conducting demonstration for the use and production of energy efficient equipment and

demonstrate the viability of such investments. For instance, cook stoves are expected to reduce by 20% to 30% the wood consumption of beneficiary households.

Activity 1.3.2. Training women entrepreneurs and volunteers to build improved clay stoves (microcredits).

This will be achieved by conducting training sessions to demonstrate the use and production of energy-efficient equipment and the sustainability and viability of investments in this area. These include training in techniques for making improved clay fireplaces in families, training and equipping local blacksmiths to make the "Tchip" metal fireplaces that have been promoted for years as part of the "Home Energy" project, and training in the use of butane gas. The aim of this training is to promote a 20-30% reduction in wood consumption in beneficiary households.

Activity 1.3.3. Awareness-raising sessions through the media (local radio, television, billboards, etc.).

Awareness-raising activities will be carried out throughout the project, primarily targeting young people as agents of change. An environmental education campaign for young people will be conducted to raise awareness of the accelerated degradation of local and national wood energy resources and its consequences for ecosystems and ecosystem services, and to advocate the adoption of cooking equipment that consumes little wood energy and manages natural resources sustainably.

Activity 1.3.4. Organization of sports championships in beneficiary localities (women and young people).

Sporting championships will be organized to train women and young persons on the use and production of energy-efficient equipment and the sustainability and viability of investments in this area. These include training in techniques for making improved clay fireplaces in families, training and equipping local blacksmiths to make the "Tchip" metal fireplaces that have been promoted for years as part of the "Home Energy" project, and training in the use of butane gas. The aim of this training is to promote a 20-30% reduction in wood consumption in beneficiary households.

Activity 1.3.5. Organization of various competitions and school events on the theme of wood energy resource management.

Through various competitions and school events, the project will closely coordinate with the activities conducted under the outcome 3 to incentivize supported MSEs to provide energy-efficient technologies to reduce fuelwood consumption. This will be ensured by conducting demonstration for the use and production of energy efficient equipment and demonstrate the viability of such investments.

Activity 1.3.6. Training and equipping local nature protection brigadiers.

Training and equipping local nature protection officers and equipping them with means of transport (bicycle or motorbike) paid for by the beneficiary communities.

Activity 1.3.7. Promote wood energy substitution kits (50).

The project will also identify the sites where these technologies will be most effective, including the availability of materials for their replication and maintenance. For cook stoves, the use of local materials such as banco (a local clay) is widely available and could ensure the dissemination of best practices.

Component 2: Promotion of climate-smart agriculture (CSA)

This component focuses on the promotion of CSA through three main outputs linked to: climate-resilient farming techniques, including irrigation are adopted to reduce losses and food insecurity; micro-dams, dikes, bioengineering and other land stabilization methods that are implemented to protect agricultural production from the increasing intensity and frequency of droughts and floods, and finally the availability of agroclimatic and meteorological information and early warnings for farmers to inform climate-resilient decision-making.

Project Outcome 2. Climate-smart agriculture techniques are promoted and reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate change.

This component will promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA) techniques and technologies, adapted to the project intervention areas to reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate change and enhance food security. Beneficiaries will be provided with practices and techniques for a comprehensive approach to tackle climate change. These practices will sustainably reinforce the resilience of communities against the adverse effects of climate change, improve agricultural production and beneficiary incomes, and contribute to carbon sequestration and thus GHG mitigation. Techniques and practices will include mechanical irrigation, with solar powered water pumps to reduce the impacts of water stress. The project will build on the results of ongoing adaptation and food security projects (e.g., PISA 2, AHA-AIC) implemented in Tahoua. to further improve the capacity to adopt CSA (barrier 2).

Output 2.1. Climate-resilient farming techniques, including irrigation are adopted to reduce losses and food insecurity.

Activity 2.1.1. Capacity building of local technical agents (phytosanitary brigadiers, para-veterinary auxiliaries) (100).

Producers and community groups will receive training to design and implement a mechanism for servicing and maintaining sustainable infrastructure such as water-saving irrigation, solar water pumping equipment, as well as tackling pests and diseases affecting crops and livestock.

Activity 2.1.2. Setting-up of farmer field schools (800) and pastoral field schools (CEP) (300).

This involves the following sub-activities: training producers in good agricultural practices, associative life, and capacity-building for plant protection officers and technical services, etc. This activity groups together the sub-activities relating to the training of agro-pastoralists in good agro-pastoral practices, capacity building for livestock auxiliaries and technical services.

Activity 2.1.3. Training of private sector operators in community life and climate resilience irrigation (environmental education) (200).

Producers and community groups will receive training to design and implement a mechanism for servicing and maintaining sustainable infrastructure such as water-saving irrigation, solar water pumping equipment, etc. A technical study will be held at the PPG stage to clarify the sustainability use of underground water in the project zone. This will go a long way to enhance community life and climate resilience.

Activity 2.1.4. Support small ruminant fattening by women (400).

These include: support for kits for small and large ruminants, donkeys and poultry, equipping supply centres with zootechnical inputs, introducing fodder crops (alfalfa and bourgou) and setting up stalk grinders.

Activity 2.1.5. Support the establishment of mutual savings and equipment fund for young people, women, and small holder farmers (500).

MSEs supported under the component 3 will be incentivized and trained to develop businesses for the maintenance of this equipment, thereby creating sustainable frameworks for the procurement of spare parts and technical knowledge for repairing at the local level.

Activity 2.1.6. Training producers on seed and fodder production as well as fertilization and biological control (300).

This involves the following sub-activities: training producers in good agricultural practices, farmer field schools (FFS), associative life, and capacity-building for plant protection officers and technical services, etc.

Activity 2.1.7. Setting-up of mills and grinders (1 per sector and 5 per commune) (30).

community groups will be strengthened for the basic maintenance of the equipment. The installation of the equipment will therefore be closely coordinated with the activities conducted under component 3, and contacts will be established between community groups and entrepreneurs.

Activity 2.1.8. Rehabilitation and/or construction of input banks (agricultural and zootechnical) (20).

It includes the following sub-activities: Creation and support for producers in terms of agricultural inputs and equipment (seeds, fertilisers, plant protection products).

Activity 2.1.9. Support model producers in CSA by providing irrigation, agricultural and zootechnical inputs (80).

Boreholes with solar pumps (kits composed of solar pumps, solar panels, inverter, regulator, and connection accessories for pumping), storage basins, piezometers, drip and California irrigation network units, reservoirs for storing irrigation water, etc. will be installed. The project will support the procurement and installation of these irrigation systems, which will be the property of community groups.

Activity 2.1.10. Storage warehouses construction or rehabilitation (10).

Community groups will be strengthened for warehouse construction and rehabilitation. The installation of the equipment will therefore be closely coordinated with the activities conducted under component 3, and contacts will be established between community groups and entrepreneurs.

Activity 2.1.11. Training of young people, women, and producers on food processing and agricultural marketing techniques (300).

To facilitate the implementation of the actions promoted by the project, training will be organized for young people, women and producers. Manuals/guides and training for good practices will be adopted.

Activity 2.1.12. Onion and tomato counters construction (10).

Onion and tomato counters will be constructed to ease the marketing of these products which are among the most cultivated notably by smallholders in the region.

Activity 2.1.13. Creation of 4 vaccination parks per commune (40).

Vaccination parks will also be created to ensure regular vaccination of livestock in the region. Incidence of livestock diseases decimating livestock have been recorded necessitating the creation of vaccination parks to ensure regular vaccination for better livestock health.

Output 2.2. Micro-dams, dikes, bioengineering and other land stabilization methods are implemented to protect agricultural production from the increasing intensity and frequency of droughts and floods.

Activity 2.2.1 Geophysical studies prior to drilling of boreholes and wells in project intervention sites.

This study will involve the analysis of geophysical data that are collected within boreholes, wells, or test holes.

Activity 2.2.2. Reclaiming and securing agricultural land through Za? (4000).

Zai is a nature-based solution which will be used to reclaim and secure agricultural lands in the Tahoua region. This is a traditional practice which will easily be adopted by the local communities in the region.

Activity 2.2.3. Reclaiming and securing farmland through half-moons (4000).

Half-moons is a nature-based solution which will be used to reclaim and secure agricultural lands in the Tahoua region. This is a traditional practice which will easily be adopted by the local communities in the region.

Activity 2.2.4. Reclaiming and securing farmland through stone cordons (6000).

Stone-cordons is a nature-based solution which will be used to reclaim and secure agricultural lands in the Tahoua region. This is a traditional practice which will easily be adopted by the local communities in the region.

Activity 2.2.5. Development of market gardening sites with solar irrigation systems around dams, ponds, wells, boreholes, and riverbanks especially in Tamask? and Ibohamane (50).

Micro dams will be built to provide a reliable access to water for crops during drought pockets in the rainy season. In areas where flooding is increasingly recurrent, sites will be protected by dykes lined with channels and drainage equipment. This will include the preparation of sites, drilling and protecting sites from water erosion by building anti-erosion structures, flood protection infrastructures, implementation of processing koris and tree planting around project sites.

Activity 2.2.6. Stocking of fishponds (12).

Fishponds will be stocked with different varieties of fish and the catch will be for subsistence and commercial purposes which will go a long way to improve food security and enhance the livelihood of local communities.

Activity 2.2.7. Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures (weirs and dams) (3).

The maintenance and sustainability of these infrastructure will be ensured through the set-up of MSEs providing such services, with an access to the market for the procurement of spare parts or construction material and equipment. Community groups will also be entrusted the ownership of the infrastructure for their maintenance and will be trained to provide small repairs. They will also be put in contact with the set-up MSEs for larger maintenance work.

Activity 2.2.8. Construction of pastoral wells (50

Wells will be constructed to serve as watering points for livestock. This will ease the work of pastoralists who sometimes walk for several kilometres with livestock in search of pasture. It will also reduce farmer-herder conflicts especially in areas where farmers and herders use the same water points.

Activity 2.2.9. Training men, women, and young people in fish farming (300).

Women, youth and men will be trained in fish farming which will serve as an alternative occupation to the predominant farming and pastoralism. The skills acquired will aid in the setting up of fish ponds and fish farming will help to reduce unemployment especially among the youths.

Activity 2.2.10. Construction and management of fishponds and stocking with fingerlings (20).

Fishponds will be constructed in areas with reliable water supply and/or in areas where micro-dams will be constructed to ensure reliable water supply. The management of the fish ponds will be in the hands of trained local communities. All the fishponds will be stocked with fingerlings and local communities charged with their feeding.

Activity 2.2.11. Support for local commissions (10).

Local commissions will be supported by local council authorities as well as other project partners. This will ease the effective implementation of project activities.

Output 2.3. Agroclimatic and meteorological information and early warnings are available and understood by farmers for climate-resilient decision-making.

Activity 2.3.1. Installation and management of weather stations (20)

Weather stations will be set up to collect and disseminate weather information. The dissemination of weather information throughmobile phones will be reinforced by radio broadcasts in local languages. This activity will be implemented in collaboration with meteorological services, the National Center for Solar Energy
(CNES), AGRHYMET and the Development Department. The project will also set up an early warning system to alert community members in case of disasters (Floods, severe droughts, locust invasions, etc.), using a computer system,

Activity 2.3.2. Revitalization of community radio stations (30).

Community radio stations will be set up to broadcasts in local languages easily understood by members of the different communities. These community radio stations will relay information pertaining to weather/climate as well as early warning.

Activity 2.3.3. Training producers in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) (300).

Farmers? groups will be trained to: (i) acquire and install a direct-reading rain gauge kit, thermometer, and anemometric recorder in each beneficiary village, (ii) collect local weather information, and process and disseminate it using ICTs in a language understandable to producers, (iii) establish, in each village, a committee composed of at least 5 people (from different groups of producers) to ensure the relay of weather information to the rest of the producers.

Activity 2.3.4. Setting up Early Warning Systems (EWS) (10).

Establish an early warning system through a contract with the institution in charge of agroclimatic information production for treatment and analysis of data collected on site and the creation of SCAP-RU (Community System for Early Warnings and Emergency Response) and OSVs (Vulnerability Monitoring Observatories).

Activity 2.3.5. Training of climate vulnerability monitoring observatories based on climate information and early warning systems (200).

Establish an early warning system through a contract with the institution in charge of agroclimatic information production for treatment and analysis of data collected on site and the creation of SCAP-RU (Community System for Early Warnings and Emergency Response) and OSVs (Vulnerability Monitoring Observatories).

Activity 2.3.6. Purchase and installation of piezometer (10).

A piezometer will be purchased and installed. The equipment introduced will be the property of the communities and the decentralized services of the meteorological department will be responsible for maintaining them.

Component 3: Facilitating the development of the private sector in local communities.

This component focuses on the role of the private sector to build green businesses around CSA and restoration with the help of FIs. The component covers two main areas linked to: strengthening agricultural groups and community cooperative funds to increase their financial sustainability for the adoption of climate smart agriculture, and the support of FISAN, the BAGRI and MFIs, to MSEs to access green loans for climate resilient agriculture financing.

Project outcome 3. Women- and youth-led local Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and entrepreneurs provide adaptive solutions to climate change with local banks and microfinance institutions sustainable facilities.

Since the 1980s, several initiatives have been developed by the State and its partners to finance the agroforestry sector through banks, financial institutions, and decentralized financial systems (SFDs). However, the financial resources mobilized are not accessible to producers and other value chain stakeholders and often do not meet their investment needs (barrier 3). Under this component, the project will contribute to removing this barrier by collaborating with other ongoing projects and initiatives that support private sector development, including the project to Strengthen the Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutritional Insecurity in Niger, supported by IFAD.

Through this component, and the establishment of partnerships with the FISAN, the BAGRI, MFIs, IFAD, the World Bank and other stakeholders (including UNCDF), the project will address the barriers related to the limited access to funding from both public sources and private sources (barriers 1 and 3).Indeed, the project will collaborate with the FISAN, BAGRI and MFIs to support traditional and innovative approaches as defined in the FISAN strategy. The project will support banks and microfinance institutions, beyond the BAGRI, to develop customized financial products targeted towards smallholder farmers engaged in CSA, as well as alternative credit-scoring and collateral mechanisms that can ease lending to this cohort. Other activities that will contribute towards de-risking lending include the integration of individual farming units into community-based MSEs across the CSA and forestry value chains, training on both CSA and financial management, and the dissemination of climate information and EWS. The expected combined impact of these interventions will de-risk and unlock both existing financing available for the agriculture sector through BAGRI and catalyze new agriculture sector funding from other commercial banks. An Agricultural Loan Facility will also be supported by the recently approved GCF project Hydro-agricultural development with smart agriculture practices resilient to climate change in Niger and lessons learned will be regularly shared with the project to adjust the approach and support farmers to access loans under this facility.

Output 3.1. Agricultural groups and community cooperative funds are strengthened to increase their financial sustainability for the adoption of climate smart agriculture.

Activity 3.1.1 Support communal and village nursery business run by women and youth.

Women, youth and other MSEs will be encouraged to raise plant saplings on a cost-sharing basis. The project will provide all the inputs (tools, fertilizers, seeds, plastic bags / pots, etc.) and train women and youth to establish businesses of raising plants. As the plants are ready for field plantations, if appropriate the project will purchase the saplings and the community members will be engaged to plant them in the field on a cash-for-work basis. The Community groups will also be tasked to care for the young plants in the field. The per-tree payment rate will be mutually decided by the project and community, so that the engaged members are compensated.

Activity 3.1.2 Provide small equipment for income generating activities managed by women and youth.

This project will identify opportunities and access innovative financial mechanisms on the project sites. It is expected that the loans accessed will finance (i) climate-resilient techniques for irrigation, (ii) solar-powered Californian or drip irrigation system for water control, (iii) water and energy management systems and practices, (iv) inputs for CSA (seeds, equipment, etc.), (v) the maintenance of the equipment and infrastructure introduced under the component 2; and (vii) the development of energy-efficient practices to reduce fuelwood consumption and support the activities under component 1 (in particular output 1.1.3).

Activity 3.1.3 Working with Niger?s National Office of Meteorology and Standardization - Ministry of Commerce to support robust, and traceable certification and labelling of products produced and processed by women and youth as a risk management and opportunity optimization option.

This project shall support the Niger?s National Office of Meteorology to make available early warning, alerts, and response to the communities in the phase of climate change and disasters. This project shall as well support the Standard organization of Niger to develop a robust, and traceable certification and labelling of products produced and processed by women and youth as a risk management and opportunity optimization option. This will permit processed products to compete in the international market and benefits the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Activity 3.1.4 Create or revitalize consultation frameworks at regional, departmental, and communal levels with focus on women and youth.

This project will strengthen, develop, and scale up innovative consultation frameworks at levels which do not yet exist and rejuvenate those which exist already. These frameworks shall begin to be functional during the life of this project. Consulting frameworks help management personnel appraise certain factors that may directly affect how well their business functions in the market. They can include several approaches that focus on developing critical areas of a business.

Activity 3.1.5 Promote women and youth-led cattle and sheep fattening and restock livestock.

With low interest rates from banks and FIs, this activity aims at strengthening beef production in Tahoua. With the green credit lines and favourable loan access from banks and MFIs, farmers, women and youths led MSEs, and entrepreneurs will access loans to increase investments in livestock by adding stock, providing feeds or fodder with fattening capacity to cattle and sheep. The green credit lines will help them develop improved pasture, create corridors, develop drinking areas.

Output 3.2. In collaboration with the FISAN, the BAGRI and MFIs, MSEs are supported to access loans for climate resilient agriculture financing.

Activity 3.2.1 Support banks (BAGRI) and microfinance institutions to develop, integrate and implement a digital green credit line.

FISAN?s Facility 1 aims to support the private sector. Under this facility, and in close coordination with BAGRI bank and other key stakeholders involved in supporting access to green finance for vulnerable communities (i.e., UNCDF, PIMELAN, IFAD-GCF, and BOAD-GCF projects), MSEs and women and youth-led entrepreneurs will be technically supported to de-risk their businesses to easily access green credits at concessional rates.

Activity 3.2.2 Support FISAN?s delivery of green subsidies that complement green line of credits and personal contributions from MSEs and entrepreneurs.

This activity will focus on supporting FISAN to provide about 40% of green subsidies that complete 10% personal contributions of MSEs and women and youth-led entrepreneurs, and 50% green line of credits provided by the BAGRI Banks and associated microfinance institutions. The 40% green subsidies from FISAN will come from three mains sources, namely, the project budget, the national treasury of Niger, and contributions from technical and financial partners supporting climate-smart agriculture and green private investments in Niger.

Activity 3.2.3 Conduct capacity building on green loans and green

This activity will involve capacity building at three levels. First, training will be conducted on the creation of, access to and repayment of green loans / lines of credit. The beneficiaries will include BAGRI, MFIs, as well as MSEs and women and youth led entrepreneurs. The second level of training will be on digital lending and locally adapted mobile banking systems with BAGRI and MFIs. Lastly, FISAN, SAHFI, MSEs, Entrepreneurs will be trained in green subsidies best practices in terms of access, reporting and effective utilization.

Activity 3.2.4 Supporting women and youths MSEs and entrepreneurs to access green line of credits and green subsidies.

Women and youths shall benefit the eligible for MSEs:(i)climate-resilient techniques for irrigation, (ii) solar-powered Californian or drip irrigation system for water control, (iii) water and energy management systems and practices, (iv) inputs for CSA (seeds, equipment, etc.), (v) the maintenance of the equipment and infrastructure; and (vii) the development of energy-efficient practices to reduce fuelwood consumption and farm-based associations, such as FOs and cooperatives to access sub-loans granted under this programme provided they meet the a determined requirements.

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Lessons Learned

Component four capitalizes on and shares the knowledge generated by the project activities. It also focuses on monitoring performance from the beginning to the end.

Project outcome 4. Lessons learned on climate resilient agriculture and land restoration practices inform future projects in-country and elsewhere.

Lessons learned from the project will be compiled and shared. This will be relevant for producer groups and farmers. This will be disseminated to municipalities, local agriculture administrations, the Government, civil society, regional institutions and donors working in the sector of climate change adaptation. In particular, innovative CSA and land restoration practices will be assessed, and results and lessons learned collected in a format that will help advance the GGWI and other national and regional initiatives as relevant. Indeed, considering its geographical and technical alignment with the GGWI, the project will specifically ensure its results are shared and, in turn, lessons learned from the GGWI in Niger and other countries will be used and built on. Under this outcome, the project team will also build partnerships with CCA projects, in particular the GCF project, but also projects focusing on governance and security to ensure security risks are integrated into the project adaptive management and mitigation strategy, and a more wholistic approach is adopted.

Output 4.1. Project results are monitored and evaluated.

Activity 4.1.1. Hold a start-up workshop and prepare a report

A project inception workshop will be held to officially launch the project and, among other aims, familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy, roles and responsibilities of the project team, and project planning instruments such as the Total Budget and Work Plan (Section IX), multi-year work plan (Annex 4), Monitoring Plan (Section 5), the Procurement Plan (Annex 11), the communication plan, ESMP (Annex 9) and the gender action plan (Annex 10), among others. The national inception workshop will be carried at the beginning of project implementation (within 60 days of CEO endorsement of this project). The workshop will be planned and organized by the PMU with support from the IP.

Activity 4.1.2. Monitoring and reporting of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) implementation.

At the start of its activities, the project will develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF). These two instruments will be formally adopted and their implementation monitored and regularly reported.

Activity 4.1.3 Assurer le suivi permanent du projet

As set out in the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Section VI), data on Results Framework Indicators will be systematically collected and analyzed to provide decision-makers, managers, and project stakeholders with: (i) information on progress in the achievement of agreed objectives and the use of allocated resources, and (ii) regular feedback on performance of projects and programs taking into account the external environment. Information from systematic monitoring serves as a critical input to ongoing PMU management decisions (adaptive management), evaluation, and learning.

The GEF Core indicators included in the Results Framework (Section V) as per this Project Document (Annex 16) will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to the project?s evaluations. Namely, the mid-term review (MTR) and terminal evaluation (TE) described under Activity 4.1.6 below.

The project is accompanied by various plans including Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8), mitigation plan for project risks (Risk Register in Annex 7), and Gender Action Plan (Annex 10). These plans will be reviewed according to the monitoring and evaluation requirements. According to the project?s social and environmental risk rating, there is a need to carry out continuous monitoring of the social and environmental safeguards as proposed in the Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF) and other SES frameworks/plans (Annex 9). The environmental and social management plan (ESMP) that will emanate from the application of the ESMF will also be monitored under this activity. Data collected by monitoring GEF Core indicators, Results Framework indicators, project plans and social and environmental safeguards will be used to prepare the annual Progress Implementation Report (PIR) to report back to UNDP and/or GEF.

Activity 4.1.4 Prepare and communicate project quality assurance reports

In accordance with UNDP project management procedures, at least one quality assurance report will be produced annually for this project.

Activity 4.1.5 Prepare annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) starting in year 2 of implementation.

At the end of each quarter, the PMU will submit an activity report covering the period in question. From year 2 of implementation, the project will prepare and submit an annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) following the required outline.

Activity 4.1.6 Conduct project midterm and terminal evaluations.

At the half-way mark of project implementation an independent mid-term review (MTR) will take place and will be conducted according to guidance, rules and procedures for such evaluations established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for GEF Financed Projects. The MTR will be made widely available to all project stakeholders in the relevant language.

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will also take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The project?s terminal GEF PIR along with the TE report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up.

Output 4.2. Lessons learned from the project are compiled, capitalized, and disseminated.

Activity 4.2.1. Design, implement and evaluate a project communication strategy

A communication strategy will be elaborated and be rolled out and specific indicators defined in the communication strategy will be tracked to ensure the expected impacts. The communication strategy will be adapted if necessary, according to potential gaps that may arise during project implementation.

Activity 4.2.2 Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learned in different formats and medium to different national, regional, and international target groups.

With a view to sharing the project's results more widely, it is planned to participate in and present the project's results at national, regional and international forums (session of the national concertation framework on climate change, conferences and meetings, Communities of Practice - CoP, etc.).

Activity 4.2.3. Conduct learning and experience sharing travel tours between project communities and other communities in Niger.

The project will promote certain agricultural value chains for which experience has already been gained in other parts of the country: plan an experience-sharing activity between players in these value chains.

The following GEF Focal Area Outcomes will be addressed through the proposed project:

CCA 1.1 Technologies and innovative solutions piloted or deployed to reduce climate-related risks and/or enhance resilience

The proposed project will facilitate the adoption of gender-sensitive climate-smart agriculture practices and the restoration of degraded rural landscapes in the Tahoua region. At the same time, the project will enhance the resilience of 49,000 beneficiaries (of which 60% will be women).

CCA 1.2 Innovative financial instruments and investment models enabled or introduced to enhance climate resilience

Through its component 3, the project will help build green businesses around climate-smart agriculture and restoration with the help of financial institutions. The component covers two main areas linked to strengthening agricultural groups and community cooperative funds to increase their financial sustainability for the adoption of climate smart agriculture, and the support of MSEs to access green loans for climate resilient agriculture financing.

CCA 2.3. Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures.

The project will develop technical and institutional capacity for effective climate change adaptation on climate-resilient farming techniques, hydrometeorological services, and small private business development. In addition, knowledge and awareness will be enhanced through capturing and dissemination of good practices for climate-smart agriculture.

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

The project will contribute to the following adaptation benefits which are to be monitored using the LDCF Core Indicators:

1. Total of direct beneficiaries: 49,000 persons (of which 60% will be women).

2. Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha): 3,000 ha.

Other than the above the project contributes to the following global environmental benefits listed in the food systems, land use and restoration impact program:

? Climate change mitigation: climate smart agriculture, including the implementation of crop diversification.

? Land Degradation: Sustainable land management, Diversification of crop and livestock systems, Restoration of degraded production landscapes.

? Biodiversity: The project will work with local leaders as key partners during project design and implementation, to ensure their buy-in and their involvement in the sustainability and expansion of successful restoration practices building on their local knowledge in preserving biodiversity.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

The project will test and adapt relevant technologies and innovative practices to local conditions in Tahoua region to ensure climate-smart agricultural practices are adopted by the community. The practices? sustainability will build on capacity development activities that the project will facilitate. Furthermore, the use of locally-adapted species and the involvement of community-based organizations will ensure the practices are widely replicated over time in the community. Community-based management committees will be involved in the targeted areas to ensure a common understanding and engagement in restoration activities. These measures will be implemented and the upscaling of the restoration activities achieved through the funding mechanisms set up under output 3.1.1, thereby increasing the access to funding for these groups in the long-term and ensuring the sustained protection of restored ecosystems.

Finally, the documentation and dissemination of lessons and good practices, including through the Great Green Wall Initiative that spans beyond the country, and partnerships development will facilitate scaling up of the project intervention.

1b. Project Map and Geo-Coordinates. Please refer to Annex 3.

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[1] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.GROW?locations=NE, visited on 4 May 2022

[2] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=NE, visited on 4 May 2022

[3] https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/niger/overview#1 visited on 4 May 2022

[4] https://www.concernusa.org/story/poverty-in-niger/ visited on 4 May 2022

[5] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS?locations=ML-NE-BF-TD-MR visited on 4 May 2022

[6]https://www.worldstopexports.com/nigers-top-10-exports/#:~:text=The%203%20biggest%20exported%20products,of%20Niger's%20overall%20export%20revenues visited on 4 May 2022

[7] https://ourworldindata.org/co2/country/niger, visited on 4 may 2022

[8] IPCC (2021)

[9] https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/nernc3.pdf

[10] http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=NER

[11] Niger's Third National Communication on climate change, 2016.

[12] PIF Strengthening the resilience of small farmers through Climate Smart Agriculture (PRP-AIC) techniques in Tahoua Region

[13] Niger's Fourth National Communication on climate change, July 2021.

[14] Fokabs Analysis

[15] PRP-AIC PIF

[16] Niger's Fourth National Communication on climate change (July 2021)

[17] Salak et al. (2018). Scales for rating heavy rainfall events in the West African Sahel. Available

online at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S221209471730186X

[18] Alvar-Beltra ?n et al. (2023). Modelling climate change impacts on crop production in food insecure regions: The case of Niger.

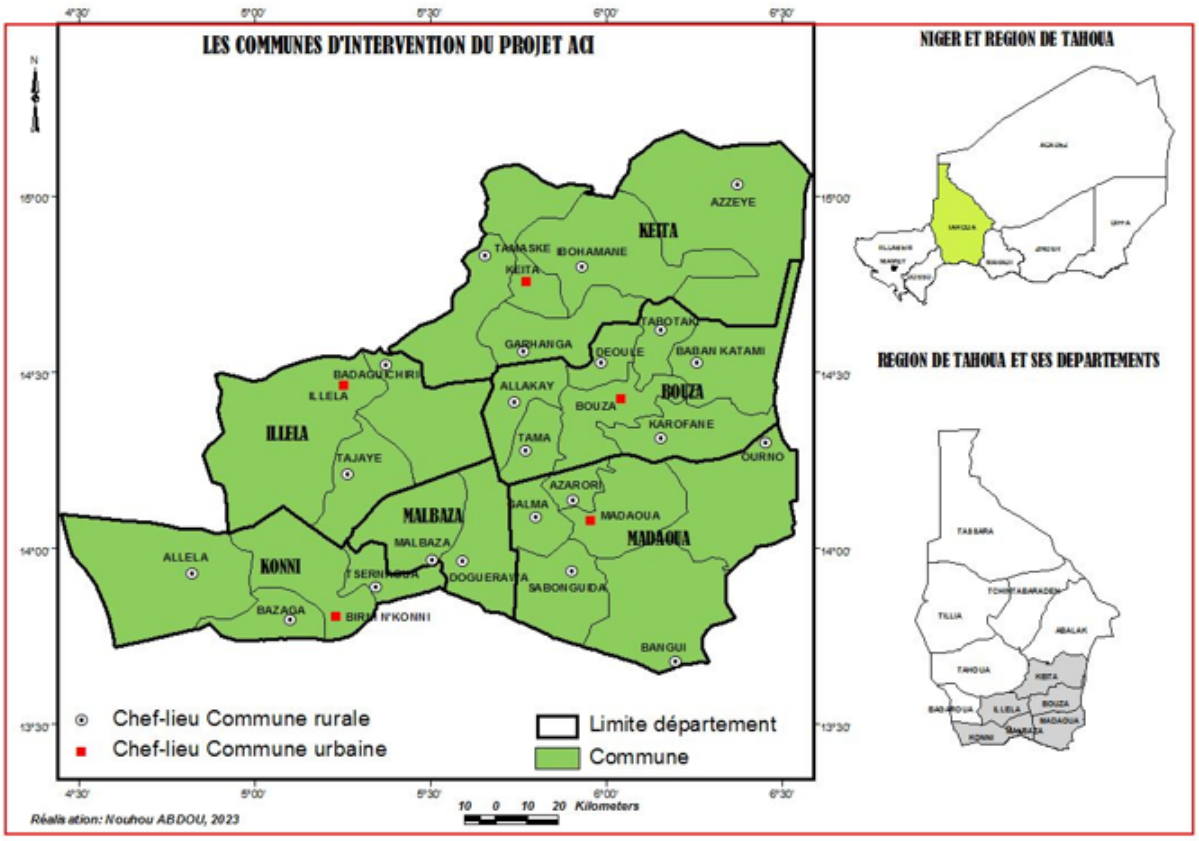
[19] Annulaire Statistic de Niger 2011

[20] Project PIF Concept Note, 2022

[21] UNHCR, 2022

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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


LES COMMUNES D'INTERVENTION DU PROJET ACI
NIGER ET REGION DE TAHOUA
REGION DE TAHOUA ET SES DEPARTEMENTS
AZZEYE
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TAMASKE
BOHAMANE
KEITA
TABOTAKI
GARHANGA
DEOULE
BABAN KATAMI
BADAGUICHIRI
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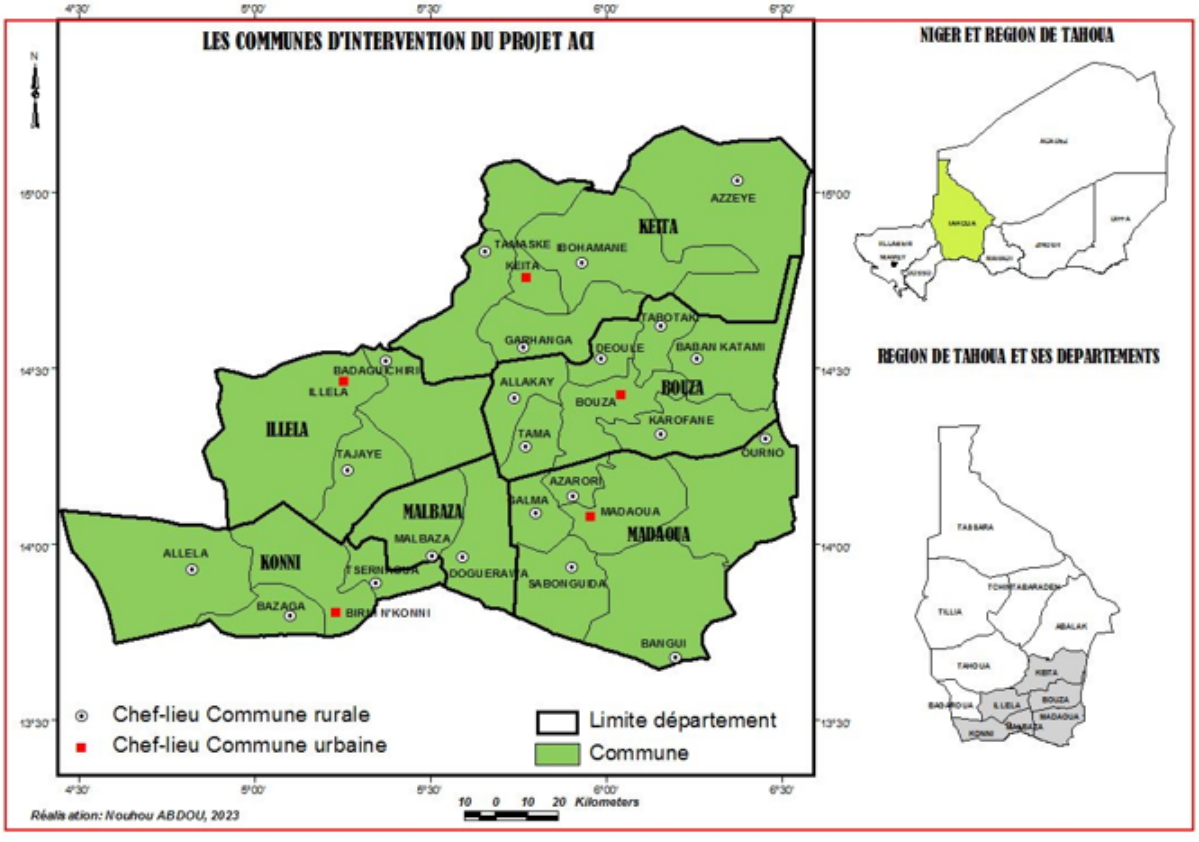
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DOGUERAWA
SABONGUIDA
BAZAGA
BIRNI N'KONNI
BANGUI
Chef-lieu Commune rurale
Chef-lieu Commune urbaine
Limite département
Commune
10 0 10 20 Kilometers
Réalisation: Nouhou ABDOU, 2023

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:

Stakeholder engagement constitutes a key part of this project design and implementation. During the project design phase, consultations were help in February 2023 and June 2023 with different stakeholders in the Tahoua Region and at the national level. The stakeholders came from government institutions, technical and financial partners, women and youth groups, farmers? groups, cooperatives, community members /leaders, financial institutions, and research organizations. Annex 9 of the ProDoc (also uploaded to Roadmap section) provides an overview of the different stakeholders.

A stakeholder engagement plan under annex 9 further presents the possible contributions and roles in the implementation of the project. For example, Government ministries (in charge of Agriculture, Livestock, Environment, Community Development, Hydraulics) will be involved in various aspects of the project to technically supporting the communities in the implementation of adaptation activities. They will also benefit from capacity building in this project. The Agency of the Great Green Wall will be closely engaged in the implementation of the project activities to disseminate lessons learned and benefit from partnerships and collaboration with other initiatives. Tahoua Regional and local administrators, local authorities (e.g., village leaders) and community organization (including women and young groups, farmers, and pastoralist associations) will be project target groups contributing to the identification of key project activities, institutional arrangements, and stakeholders? involvement.

Community level stakeholder such as farmers and herders including women and youth will be the direct beneficiaries and the project will strengthen their capacity and support them to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. In addition, they will be involved in the management of field activities. Research institutions will be involved in the identification and dissemination of climate-resilient agricultural practices. NGOs such as Care International, Plan Niger, AGIR, and AREN will provide opportunities for lesson learned from ongoing projects and linkages to Nature-based solutions mainstreaming opportunities. The private sector-oriented institutions such as FISAN, BAGRI, Yarda

and other microfinance institutions that are active in Tahoua Region will be engaged in the provision of micro-loans at concessional rates to benefit the supported MSEs, with a focus on women and youth.

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Please see below attached Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
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 kindly refer to Annex 9, SEP, uploaded also here.
Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

A summary of the key elements and main recommendations of the gender analysis and gender action plan (GAP) provided by **annex 10**. The gender element is central in the project considering the limited access of women and youth to land for agriculture production. Based on consultations during the PPG phase, the concerns of youth and women groups and associations were used in designing a number of activities especially linked to capacity building and mechanisms to support farmers and youth and women-led MSEs and businesses related to restorations and CSA. Moreover, women and youth will participate to ?cash for work ?activities under the component 1.

Under component 2, the CSA practices is introduced to agricultural activities performed by women. For example, mixed vegetable gardens, and diversified farming methods. The CSA measures specifically support improved practices and technologies and aim at increasing profitability. The gender analysis reviewed more thoroughly the income generating activities conducted by women in the target areas and proposed adaptive interventions aligned with the results in the GAP. Component 3 provides further support to women and youth groups involved in entrepreneurship through targeted subsector supports and general business practices aimed at increasing their credit worthiness to access green loans and green subventions from banks and microfinance institutions as well as other government and donor backed subvention facilities such as FISAN. In this regard, women and youth are exclusively targeted for financing activities under the component 3. Housewives are also important targets for communication and information efforts under component 3 and 4, to improve climate resilient agriculture practices. They are also involved in revenue generating activities, which would improve their living conditions and their financial autonomy.

In conclusion, the gender analysis and action plan defines clear actions for the project to : (i) strengthen the capacities of vulnerable groups including women in terms of gender mainstreaming in the project, as well as the technical and organizational capacities of vulnerable actors, with at least 60% of women, (ii) help women and men have equal access to decision-making bodies, and equal access to agricultural and climate-resilient technologies, (iii) ensure gender equity in the development of stakeholders? financial capacities for the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices, (iv) train the beneficiaries of the project on the maintenance of the equipment put in place, (v) set up a functional relevant and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system for the achievement of indicators and disaggregated data according to the gender of the project, and capitalize and disseminate good and best gender experiences and practices of the project.

If possible, indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

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

? improving women?s participation and decision making; and or

? generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators? (yes ? /no?)

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making

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.

The project will facilitate the development of small businesses around climate-smart agriculture. MSEs supported under the component 3 will be incentivized and trained to develop businesses for the maintenance of this equipment, thereby creating sustainable frameworks for the procurement of spare parts and technical knowledge for repairing at the local level. This component will focus on the role of the private sector to build green businesses around CSA and restoration with the help of FIs. The component covers two main areas linked to: strengthening agricultural groups and community cooperative funds to increase their financial sustainability for the adoption of climate smart agriculture, and the support of FISAN, the BAGRI and MFIs, to MSEs to access green loans for climate resilient agriculture financing.

The project will address the barriers related to the limited access to funding from both public sources and private sources (barriers 1 and 3). Indeed, the project will collaborate with the FISAN, BAGRI and MFIs to support traditional and innovative approaches as defined in the FISAN strategy. The project will support banks and microfinance institutions, beyond the BAGRI, to develop customized financial products targeted towards smallholder farmers engaged in CSA, as well as alternative credit-scoring and collateral mechanisms that can ease lending to this cohort. Other activities that will contribute towards de-risking lending include the integration of individual farming units into community-based MSEs across the CSA and forestry value chains, training on both CSA and financial management, and the dissemination of climate information and EWS. The expected combined impact of these interventions will de-risk and unlock both existing financing available for the agriculture sector through BAGRI and catalyze new agriculture sector funding from other commercial banks. An Agricultural Loan Facility will also be supported by the recently approved GCF project Hydro-agricultural development with smart agriculture practices resilient to climate change in Niger and lessons learned will be regularly shared with the project to adjust the approach and support farmers to access loans under this facility.

This project will also strengthen, develop, and scale up innovative consultation frameworks at levels which do not yet exist and rejuvenate those which exist already. These frameworks shall begin to be

functional during the life of this project. Consulting frameworks help management personnel appraise certain factors that may directly affect how well their business functions in the market. They can include several approaches that focus on developing critical areas of a business.

With low interest rates from banks and FIs, this activity aims at strengthening beef production in Tahoua. With the green credit lines and favourable loan access from banks and MFIs, farmers, women and youths led MSEs, and entrepreneurs will access loans to increase investments in livestock by adding stock, providing feeds or fodder with fattening capacity to cattle and sheep. The green credit lines will help them develop improved pasture, create corridors, develop drinking areas.

Women, youth and other MSEs will be encouraged to raise plant saplings on a cost-sharing basis. The project will provide all the inputs (tools, fertilizers, seeds, plastic bags / pots, etc.) and train women and youth to establish businesses of raising plants. As the plants are ready for field plantations, if appropriate the project will purchase the saplings and the community members will be engaged to plant them in the field on a cash-for-work basis. The Community groups will also be tasked to care for the young plants in the field. The per-tree payment rate will be mutually decided by the project and community, so that the engaged members are compensated.

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):

Risks that threaten the achievements of results

Risks threats to achievement of project results are summarised below.

Table 5: Risks that threaten the achievements of results and mitigation measures

Table 1. Project risks, probability, impacts and mitigating measures.

Description of risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigating measures
Acts of vandalism and theft of solar panels, electric pumps, etc.	Low	Medium	Sign agreement with groups to monitoring of the installed equipment.
Lack of support from local administrative authorities	Low	Substantial	Obtain support of local administrative authorities by involving them through meetings and public consultation workshops in each selected region, department, and commune.
Lack of local support, reluctant to adopt practices	Low	Substantial	Foster communities? buy-in through inclusive consultations, and Social Inclusion Plan
Low participation of women and youth	Medium	Substantial	Encourages strong involvement of women through sensitization and capacity building. Ensure that the sites are not subject to any problem regarding land tenure for women.
Deteriorating security conditions in the Project area	Medium	Substantial	Selected secured sites. Propose a safety action plan of the intervention sites. Cooperate with regional and communal security services. Set up an alert system. Prioritize local conflict management best practices.
Risk of misuse and poor maintenance of equipment	Low	High	Train artisans at the national and local level for the installation and repair of equipment
Fear of innovation manifested by farmers? groups reluctance to apply CSA knowledge/ practices	Low	Substantial	Organize ongoing awareness sessions on the merits of adaptation measures. Organize visits to successful achievements in other regions
Insufficient mastery of the technologies promoted by the project with consequences on the yields and production	Low	Medium	Plan training and advisory support for the beneficiaries to enable them to assimilate as soon as possible the operation of the project equipment by the beneficiaries
Fiduciary risks: funds are not used for the intended purposes; do not achieve value for money; and/or are not properly accounted for.	Low	High	A proper fiduciary risk assessment and appropriate governance arrangements will be developed by the PPG team during the project preparation phase.

Climate risks: losses and damages of assets and production as a result of extreme climate events.	Medium	Medium	Components 2 and 3 will carefully select the techniques. Early trigger mechanism is planned for the PMU to react adequately and anticipate financial consequences for beneficiaries.

In addition, the SESP (Annex 6), provides a detailed analysis of the projects social and environmental risks which examines the risks and provides a detailed assessment including measures to avoid the risks where possible and to mitigate and manage them where necessary.

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.

?The project will work with these partners:

- Government Ministries: Ministry of Planning is an official co-financing partner and will provide support in kind to the project. The Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock, Ministry of Environment and the Fight against Desertification, Ministry of Community Development, Ministry of Hydraulics and Executive Secretariat of National Council of Environment for a Sustainable Development will be involved in various aspects of the project at national or regional level.

- Ministry of Agriculture Small Irrigation for Food Security project Phase II (PISA-II): sets to improve access to water for irrigation in the regions of Agadez, Tahoua and Tillab?ri.

- Ministry of Environment ?Integrated Landscape Management Project (PGIP)? aims to increase the adoption of climate-smart landscape restoration practices and improve access to income-generating activities in Niger.

- Agency of the Great Green Wall Initiative: focused on integrated management of natural resources as a means to transform livelihoods and landscapes by improving crop and livestock productivity, restoring degraded lands.

- IFAD: The Project to Strengthen the Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutritional Insecurity in Niger (2020-2026) implemented by IFAD aims to promote local development through the recovery of degraded land, water harvesting, irrigation, farmers' field schools, and youth and women?s entrepreneurship. Another project is IFAD?s Inclusive Green Financing for Climate Resilient and Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture project (2020-2025). This project is funded by the GCF and aims to

improve access to green credit for smallholder farmers in Niger to implement climate-resilient and low-emission agriculture.

- World Bank: The Regional Project to support Pastoralism in the Sahel ? Phase 2(PRAPS-2), financed by the World Bank. The project aims to improve the resilience of pastoralists and agropastoralists in the Sahel. In Niger, the project will support peaceful transhumance, cross-border pastoral rangelands and vaccination campaigns. Another project is the Community Action for Climate Resilience (PACRC) Project, funded by the World Bank.

- AfDB: The Project for Mobilization and Valorization of Water Resources (PROMOVARE). Financed by AfDB, the project seeks to enhance the population?s capacity to access reliable water resources for irrigation and the popularization of resilient seeds and improved irrigation techniques, considering climate change impacts.

- International and national NGOs

- FISAN/Syst?me bancaire d?centralis?

- Institutions de Recherche et de formation

Roles and responsibilities of the project?s governance mechanism:

The project will be implemented following UNDP?s National Implementation Modality (**NIM**), according to the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between UNDP and the Government of Niger, and the Country Programme.

Implementing Partner: The Implementing Partner for this project is the Executive Secretariat of National Council of Environment for a Sustainable Development (ES-NCESD/SE-CNEDD). The Implementing Partner is the entity to which the UNDP Administrator has entrusted the implementation of UNDP assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of UNDP resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document.

The Implementing Partner is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

•Project planning, coordination, management, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems.

•preparation and organization of the Steering committee sessions

? Risk management as outlined in this Project Document;

? Procurement of goods and services, including human resources;

? Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets;

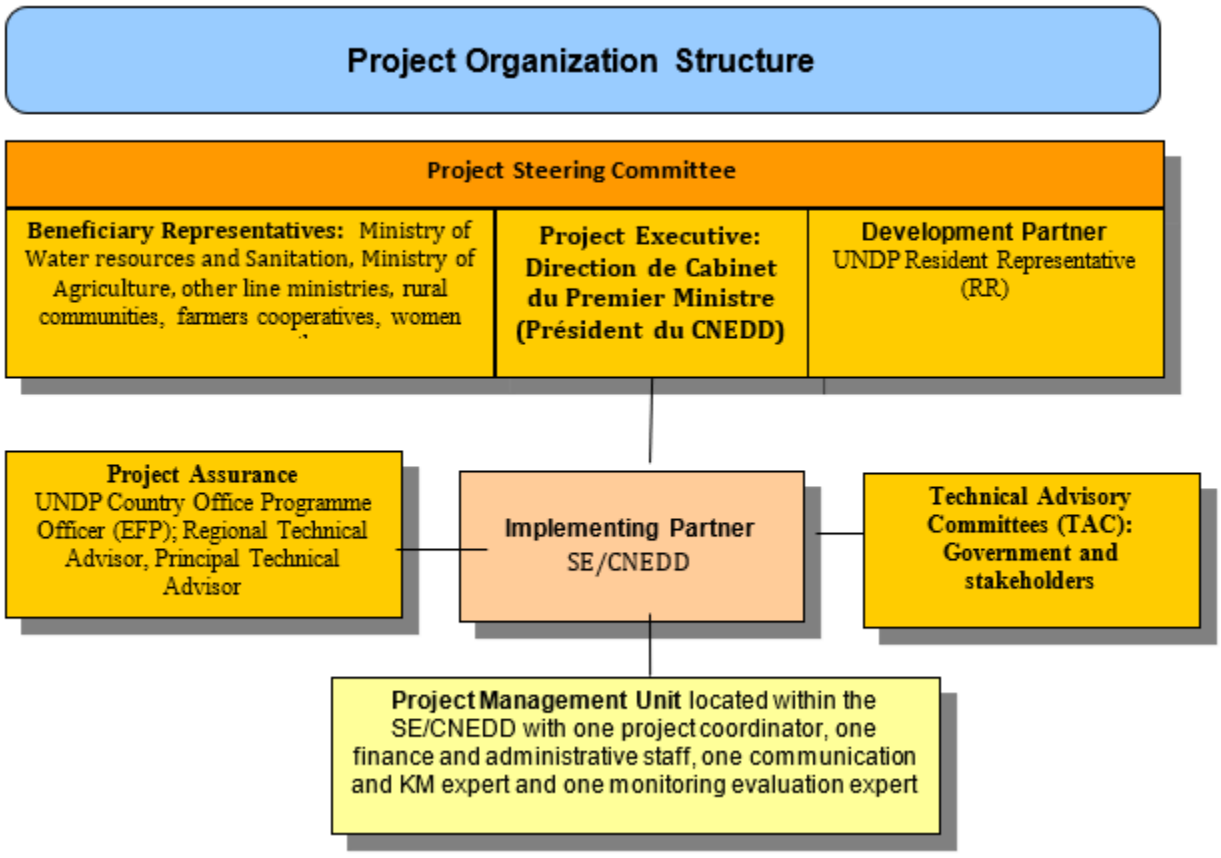
? Approving and signing the multiyear workplan;

? Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,

? Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

UNDP: UNDP is accountable to the GEF for the implementation of this project. This includes oversight of project execution to ensure that the project is being carried out in accordance with agreed standards and provisions. UNDP is responsible for delivering GEF project cycle management services comprising project approval and start-up, project supervision and oversight, and project completion and evaluation. UNDP is also responsible for the Project Assurance role of the Project Board/Steering Committee.

Project organization structure:



Project Board:

The Project Board (also called Project Steering Committee) will be created by the Prime Minister office under the leadership of the president of CNEDD. The Board will be responsible for making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the Project coordinator, including recommendations for UNDP/Implementing Partner approval of project plans and revisions, and addressing any project level grievances. In order to ensure UNDP?s ultimate accountability, Project Board decisions should be made in accordance with standards that shall ensure management for development results, best value money, fairness, integrity, transparency and effective international competition. In case consensus cannot be reached within the Board, the UNDP Resident Representative (or their designate) will mediate to find consensus and, if this cannot be found, will take the final decision to ensure project implementation is not unduly delayed.

Specific responsibilities of the Project Board include:

? Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;

? Address project issues as raised by the project manager;

? Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks;

? Agree on project manager?s tolerances as required, within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF, and provide direction and advice for exceptional situations when the project manager?s tolerances are exceeded;

? Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF;

? Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes;

? Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities;

? Track and monitor co-financing for this project;

? Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year;

? Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report;

? Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project;

? Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the implementing partner;

? Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;

? Address project-level grievances;

? Approve the project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;

? Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

? Ensure highest levels of transparency and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

The composition of the Project Board must include the following roles:

-

Project executive: The Executive is the SE/CNEDD, it represents ownership of the project and will chair the Project Board. This role can be held by a representative from the Government Cooperating Agency or UNDP.

The Executive is ultimately responsible for the project, supported by the Senior Beneficiary and Senior Supplier. The Executive?s role is to ensure that the project is focused throughout its life cycle on achieving its objectives and delivering outputs that will contribute to higher level outcomes. The executive has to ensure that the project gives value for money, ensuring cost-conscious approach to the project, balancing the demands of beneficiary and supplier.

? Specific Responsibilities: (as part of the above responsibilities for the Project Board)

•Ensure that there is a coherent project organization structure and logical set of plans;
•Set tolerances in the AWP and other plans as required for the Project coordinator;
•Monitor and control the progress of the project at a strategic level;
•Ensure that risks are being tracked and mitigated as effectively as possible;
•Brief relevant stakeholders about project progress;
•Organise and chair Project Board meetings.

Beneficiary Representatives: Individuals or groups representing the interests of those who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often civil society representative(s) can fulfil this role. The Beneficiary representatives are the Ministry of Water resources and Sanitation, Ministry of Agriculture, other line ministries.

-

Development Partner(s): Individuals or groups representing the interests of the parties concerned that provide funding and/or technical expertise to the project.

Direct Project Services as requested by the Government:

Following the standard practices, the project will organize joint annual progress review(s) to explore measures that may be needed to accelerate the implementation by the partners. The review will include the Implementing Partner, Responsible Parties, and the Government and UNDP. While the NIM modality will be default implementation arrangement, UNDP may, on the basis of the annual review findings and at the request of the government, require to, in compliance with LDCF and UNDP policies, provide implementation support to ensure timely achievement of project results and financial delivery. Upon such a request, the estimated costs for such support services will be based on the UPL/LPL and agreed to in a standard agreement signed between the Implementation partner and UNDP

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.

The interventions proposed under this project specifically align with:

- National Strategy for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth" or "Vision 2035.

- Niger Economic and Social Development Plan 2022-2026

- The strategic framework of the 3N Initiative, adopted in 2012, to fight chronic food insecurity. One of the government?s priorities is to intensify and diversify agricultural activities by providing the needed infrastructure to rural farmers to increase the level of production and incomes.

- Small Scale Irrigation Strategy of Niger (SPIN), adopted in 2015, that plans to boost the irrigation sub-sector with additional 5,600 ha of irrigated perimeters annually.

- The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) that began in 2005 as a tree planting venture. Today the focus is on integrated management of natural resources to transform livelihoods and landscapes by improving crop and livestock productivity, restoring degraded lands, and promoting resilient landscapes for food security, taking into account the risks in the region, including conflicts and migrations.

- Niger commits to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) by 2030 and reducing the area of degraded land from 9% to 5%. This, with the aim of increasing vegetation cover from 17% to 19% and sustainably improving the living conditions of people.

- The Master Plan for Water Resources Development and Management, implemented between 2021 and 2040.

- Niger?s Strategic Investment Framework on Sustainable Land Management (SIF-SLM) developed in 2014 with the overall objective to prioritize, plan and guide the implementation of current and future SLM investments by both the public and private sectors and with all actors from the local to the national level.

- The national gender policy, adopted in 2008, aims to reduce the gaps that exist in the distribution, control, and management of resources between men and women in Niger.

- National Adaptation Plan (2022), aimed at contributing to the country's sustainable development by reducing the negative impacts of climate change.

- National Strategy and Plan for Adaptation to climate Change in the Agricultural Sector (SPN2A 2020-2035). The strategy aims to enhance planning capabilities and subsequent implementation in the agriculture sector.

- Niger Nationally Determined Contribution (2015 and 2021), which highlights a need for the country to adapt, promote green jobs, and attract financing to support adaptation. Climate change adaptation measures focus exclusively on the application of the Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management (SF-SLM) techniques on the different key ecosystems in Niger.

The proposed project also forms part of the implementation of the UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD 2023-2027), which is aligned with the UNDP Strategic Plan (SP 2022-2025) and contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-2026)..

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.

Lessons learned from the project will be compiled and shared. This will be relevant for producer groups and farmers. This will be disseminated to municipalities, local agriculture administrations, the Government, civil society, regional institutions and donors working in the sector of climate change adaptation. In particular, innovative CSA and land restoration practices will be assessed, and results and lessons learned collected in a format that will help advance the GGWI and other national and regional initiatives as relevant. Indeed, considering its geographical and technical alignment with the GGWI, the project will specifically ensure its results are shared and, in turn, lessons learned from the GGWI in Niger and other countries will be used and built on. Under this outcome, the project team will also build partnerships with CCA projects, in particular the GCF project, but also projects focusing on governance

and security to ensure security risks are integrated into the project adaptive management and mitigation strategy, and a more wholistic approach is adopted.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project results, corresponding indicators and mid-term and end-of-project targets in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation. If baseline data for some of the results indicators is not yet available, it will be collected during the first year of project implementation. The Monitoring Plan included in Annex details the roles, responsibilities, and frequency of monitoring project results.

Project-level monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken in compliance with UNDP requirements as outlined in the UNDP POPP and UNDP Evaluation Policy. The UNDP Country Office is responsible for ensuring full compliance with all UNDP project monitoring, quality assurance, risk management, and evaluation requirements.

Additional mandatory GEF-specific M&E requirements will be undertaken in accordance with the GEF Monitoring Policy and the GEF Evaluation Policy and other relevant GEF policies . The costed M&E plan included below, and the Monitoring plan in Annex, will guide the GEF-specific M&E activities to be undertaken by this project.

In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

Additional GEF monitoring and reporting requirements:

Inception Workshop and Report:

A project inception workshop will be held within 60 days of project CEO endorsement, with the aim to:

a. Familiarize key stakeholders with the detailed project strategy and discuss any changes that may have taken place in the overall context since the project idea was initially conceptualized that may influence its strategy and implementation.

b. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting lines, stakeholder engagement strategies and conflict resolution mechanisms.

c. Review the results framework and monitoring plan.

d. Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP and other stakeholders in project-level M&E.

e. Update and review responsibilities for monitoring project strategies, including the risk log; SESP report, Social and Environmental Management Framework and other safeguard requirements; project grievance mechanisms; gender strategy; knowledge management strategy, and other relevant management strategies.

f. Review financial reporting procedures and budget monitoring and other mandatory requirements and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit.

g. Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan.

h. Formally launch the Project.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR):

The annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) will be completed for each year of project implementation. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR. The PIR submitted to the GEF will be shared with the Project Board. The quality rating of the previous year?s PIR will be used to inform the preparation of the subsequent PIR.

GEF and/or LDCF Core Indicators:

The GEF and/or LDCF Core indicators included as Annex will be used to monitor global environmental benefits and will be updated for reporting to the GEF prior to MTR and TE. Note that the project team is responsible for updating the indicator status. The updated monitoring data should be shared with MTR/TE consultants prior to required evaluation missions, so these can be used for subsequent ground truthing. The methodologies to be used in data collection have been defined by the GEF and are available on the GEF website.

Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):

The terms of reference, the review process and the final MTR report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center (ERC). The evaluation will be ?independent, impartial, and rigorous. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing, or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project under review. The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate. The final MTR report and MTR TOR will be publicly available in English and will be posted on the UNDP ERC by July 1st, 2026. A management response to MTR recommendations will be posted in the ERC within six weeks of the MTR report?s completion.

Terminal Evaluation (TE):

An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terms of reference, the evaluation process and the final TE report will follow the standard templates and guidance for GEF-financed projects available on the UNDP Evaluation Resource Center. The evaluation will be ?independent, impartial and rigorous?. The evaluators that will be hired to undertake the assignment will be independent from organizations that were involved in designing, executing or advising on the project to be evaluated. Equally, the evaluators should not be in a position where there may be the possibility of future contracts regarding the project being evaluated.

The GEF Operational Focal Point and other stakeholders will be actively involved and consulted during the terminal evaluation process. Additional quality assurance support is available from the BPPS/GEF Directorate. The final TE report and TE TOR will be publicly available in English and posted on the UNDP ERC by August 1st, 2028. A management response to the TE recommendations will be posted to the ERC within six weeks of the TE report?s completion.

The final project report package shall be discussed with the Project Board during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.

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)?

The list of global environmental benefits have been described earlier. The project will directly benefit 49,000 persons (of which 60% will be women). In addition, a total of 3,000 ha of land will be brought under climate-

resilient management practices. Technical and institutional capacity development will also be facilitated to anchor climate resilience and private sector development. Specifically, the project will contribute to the following LDCF objectives.

LDCF Objective 1: Reduce vulnerability and increase resilience through innovation and technology transfer for climate change adaptation

? Outcome 1.1: Technologies and innovative solutions piloted or deployed to reduce climate-related risks and/or enhance resilience.

o Output 1.1.1. Physical assets made more resilient to climate variability and change

o Output 1.1.2 Livelihoods and sources of income of vulnerable populations diversified and strengthened (gender disaggregated)

o Output 1.1.3 new or improved early warning systems to reduce vulnerability to climatic hazards reduced

o Output 1.1.4. Vulnerable natural ecosystems strengthened in response to climate change impacts

? Outcome 1.2: Innovative financial instruments and investment models enabled or introduced to enhance climate resilience.

o Output 2.1.1. Innovation incubators and/or accelerators introduced

o Output 2.1.2. Investment models developed and tested

LDCF Objective 2: Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience for systemic impact

? Outcome 2.3. Institutional and human capacities strengthened to identify and implement adaptation measures

o Output 2.3.1. Number of people trained regarding climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation responses

o Output 2.3.2. Number of people made aware of climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation.

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
High or Substantial	High or Substantial		

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.

Please kindly refer to the SESP and ESMF documents uploaded to this section.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex 9-ESMF Report_20230921	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Annex 5-SESP_20230921	CEO Endorsement ESS	
PreSESP Niger 6696 220407 V2 cleared	Project PIF ESS	

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).

This project will contribute to the following Sustainable Development Goal (s): *SDG1, SDG2, SDG5, SDG7, SDG8, SDG10, SDG13, SDG15*				
This project will contribute to the following country outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD, GPD): *Outcome 2: The livelihoods of poor rural and peri-urban communities are being enhanced to strengthen their resilience to climate risks, shocks and food insecurity; Outcome 3: National and local government institutions and actors ensure the effective, efficient and transparent management of public resources for inclusive and equitable development.*				
	Objective and Outcome Indicators **(no more than a total of 20 indicators)**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term Target**	**End of Project Target**
Project Objective: Reduce food insecurity for small farmers in Tahoua by strengthening their resilience to climate change using ecosystem restoration and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and supporting the development of the private sector.	**Mandatory Indicator 1**: *Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment*	0 beneficiaries	20,000 beneficiaries (40% men, 60% women)	49,000 beneficiaries (40% men, 60% women)
	Mandatory GEF Core Indicators: *Indicator 2: Area of land restored*	0 ha	1500 ha	3000 ha
	Indicator 3: Area of landscape under improved practice	0 ha	1000 ha	2000 ha
Project component 1	**Land restoration for climate resilience of agricultural production systems**			

Project Outcome 1: Degraded land is restored to protect agricultural production systems against the adverse impacts of climate change	*Indicator 4:* Area of degraded agricultural lands restored.	0 ha	1000 ha	2000 ha
	Indicator 5: Area of natural grass and shrublands restored	0 ha	500 ha	1000 ha
Outputs to achieve Outcome 1	*1.1 Awareness raising and training programmes are conducted to sensitise local authorities and communities and equip them with information, skills, and knowledge to support ecosystem restoration practices.* *1.2 Degraded ecosystems surrounding the farming areas are restored with the adoption of nature-based solutions.* *1.3 Energy-saving equipment is promoted to reduce deforestation for firewood consumption.*			
Project component 2	**Promotion of climate-smart agriculture**			
Outcome 2: Climate-smart agriculture techniques are promoted and reduce the vulnerability of smallholder farmers to climate	*Indicator 9: Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems*	0 ha	1000 ha	2000 ha
Outputs to achieve Outcome 2	*2.1 Climate-resilient farming techniques, including irrigation are adopted to reduce losses and food security.* *2.2 Micro-dams, dikes, bioengineering, and other land stabilization methods are implemented to protect agricultural production from the increasing intensity and frequency of droughts, and floods.* *2.3 Agroclimatic and meteorological information and early warnings are available and understood by farmers form climate-resilient decision making.*			

Project component 3	**Facilitating the development of the private sector in local communities**			
Outcome 3: Women and youth-led local Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and entrepreneurs provide adaptive solutions to climate change with local banks and microfinance institutions sustainable facilities	*Indicator 10: >80% of Gender Action Plan targets related to MSEs / entrepreneurs met*	No gender targets	50% of targets met	80% of targets met
	Indicator 11: 50% of Women and youth-led MSEs and entrepreneurs supported by the project access green line of credit	No access to green line of credit	20% of target met	50% of target met
Outputs to achieve Outcome 3	*3.1 Agricultural groups and community cooperative funds are strengthened to increase their financial sustainability for the adoption of CSA.* *3.2 In collaboration with the FISAN, the BAGRI and MFIs, MSEs are supported to access loans for climate-resilient agriculture financing.*			
Project component 4	**Knowledge management and Lessons Learned**			
Outcome 4: Lessons learned on climate resilient agriculture and land restoration practices inform future projects in-country and elsewhere	*Indicator 12: MTR, TE, and PIR independent quality ratings S or better*	No reviews done	Rating of S or better on MTR	Rating of S or better on TE
	Indicator 13: Number of knowledge products prepared, disseminated, and presented at communal, national, and international levels	No Knowledge product prepared	*All 4 project departments prepared at least 1 knowledge product each (total 4)*	*All 4 project departments prepared at least 3 knowledge products each for components 1 to 3 (total 12)*
Outputs to achieve Outcome 4	*4.1 Project results are monitored and evaluated.* *4.2 Lessons learned from the project are compiled, capitalized, and disseminated.*			

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).

Review comments (May 2022)	Response
Please reconsider the extent of the direct relevance to CCA3, and rebalance to focus on CCA1 and CCA2	Yes. This has been adjusted
Given the recent tendency of co-finance in UNDP projects to significantly decrease from what is approved PIF PIF stage to the CEO Endorsement stage, please carefully review the co-finance source for $25.2 million from the World Bank for its direct relevance to this project and reduce the chance that it will be reduced at CEO Endorsement stage. Please also make every effort to increase the number of co-financing sources beyond just three. For example, please consider potential for co-financing from IFAD or other partners engaged or associated with the Great Green Wall Initiative. As further example, how about co-financing with projects and investors focused on energy saving equipment as associated with output 1.1.3?	Amounts provided are conservative amounts, considering a start of the project in the first half of 2024, and with actions exclusively in the region of Tahoua. The new total amount is US$ 41,800,000, from the Government, UNDP and 4 projects funded by the World Bank, IFAD/AfDB and KfW. The preliminary discussions with the stakeholders involved in these projects are providing initial assurances that the co-financing will be realized at CEO Endorsement stage. These co-financing were added throughout the Tables and details were provided under the section1.a.3 in the outcomes description and the section 1.a.5 on incremental cost reasoning.
We note the impact ambition level of Core Indicator 2 (hectares) is only 500.00 (five hundred) hectares. Is this a typo? Given this is a very low impact for the level of finance, please seek to significantly increase. Please strive to achieving at least gender balance (50%) for core indicator 1 (beneficiaries) and 4 (people trained). In fact, given outcome 3.1is focused on "Women- and youth-led local Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs)" why is the impact level higher for women?	This was corrected. With an estimated budget of US$2,000,000 and an approximate cost of US$400,000 per1,000 hectare restored, the target for Core Indicator 2 was increased to3,000ha. The rest of the budget will be dedicated to the outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.3. The target share of women benefiting from the project was changed to 60% of beneficiaries. This can be expected as women and youth are often the main stakeholders in local labor-intensive activities such as landscape restoration. In addition, and as stated in the outcome 3.1,women and youth will be exclusively targeted under the different outputs. Changes were made in the PIF and under Core Indicators.
Please expand on complementarity and coordination with the Great Green Wall (GGW), including as related to potential support for theGGW from the Green Climate Fund and implementation by IFAD.	Mention to the limited progress of the GGWI was added in the barrier section. Mentions to the GCF and IFAD are added in the baseline section and under the outputs description.

Please expand on complementarity and engagement with the Great Green Wall Initiative.	Additional details on the GGWI were added to better frame the baseline on which the project will build on and complement.

Output 1.1.3: Please explain on how transition to energy saving equipment to reduce deforestation will be advance beyond just awareness building. For example, what partnerships with new and/or ongoing efforts will be built to finance this transition?	More details were added under the output 1.1.3 on potential partnerships and how this output will link with the activities under the outcome3 for an effective adoption of clean energy, using the opportunities offered by other ongoing projects. During the PPG phase, a mapping of ongoing and planned projects supporting clean energy will be conducted and stakeholders will be engaged.
Output 2.1.3: How will the ago-climatic and meteorological information and early warning advanced through this project be financed on a sustainable basis after the life of this project? Please ensure there is strategy and activity to do so.	Output 2.1.3. Details were added on the strategy for the sustainable management of the introduced equipment, with the engagement of local stakeholders and the potential engagement of Niger into the SOFF. The latter is still an early consideration but was added to bring this potentiality to the attention of the PPG team.
Outcome 3.1: We welcome the focus of this outcome, and particularly output 3.1.2, for its innovation and impact potential. However, we note the portion of project finance for this output is relatively modest in comparison to the other outputs, which may limit the impact through this strategy. We encourage consideration of balancing use of project finance to strengthen this outcome. For example, is t here potential to partner with microfinance institutions currently operating or with potential to operate in Niger, by proving a grant base guarantee for their provision of capital of lines of credit of microloans to small scale farmers for the type of localized climate adaptation activities touched on in the second paragraph of output 3.1.2? See here for examples of projects that have/are doing thissuccessfully:https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10434andhttps://unepmeba.org/wp-	Outcome 3.1. Under this component, the budget is modest as the project will focus on supporting beneficiaries to improve their bankability instead of direct funding. The text was revised to clarify this adjustment in component 3. Ongoing project already financially support the FISAN in order to support MFIs and commercial banks such as BAGRI (ie. the PIMELAN or the GCF project supported by IFAD -SAP012).Consultations were initiated with different partners, including the FISAN,BAGRI, the PIMELAN, UNCDF and IFAD and will be continued before the start of and during the PPG. These projects are expected to provide credits to benefit local communities that were de-risked by the project through trainings conducted under output 3.1.1. and 3.1.2 (on resilient practices, business management, basic accounting principles, the set-up of community groups for the sharing of risk, etc.). The establishment of partnership and effective collaboration with MFIs, the BAGRI, the General Direction of the FISAN, IFAD and UNCDF will be critical for the success of this component. This was clarified in the output 3.1.2 description.
Further, how will the climate adaptation impact potential of these microloans be monitored? Please see here for an example of approaches: https://yapu.solutions/scaleforresilience/climate-smart-adaptation-finance-from-theory-to-practice/ for consideration.	During the lifetime of the project, the monitoring of the climate adaptation potential of the micro-loans will be conducted by engaging with the beneficiaries under the two outputs. Targeted women and youth will be technically supported by the project, including after receiving credits. Business management and accounting trainings will continue being provided and additional support provided as needed. The presence of UNCDF and their involvement in the project will also support the monitoring of the project during and after the project lifetime.
Also with regards to this outcome, we appreciate the focus on women and youth led MSEs. Please briefly explain how this focus will be assured and successfully achieved.	
Please briefly expand on how the loan facility will operate. For example, who will be the provider of the loans. How will interest rates be determined. Will there be a sort of guarantee to accept first loss risk for defaulted loans, how will grant finance from	

this project be used to leverage larger scale commercial finance for this loan facility, etc.?	The share of 60% of women and 50% of youth will be a guiding target for the identification of beneficiaries and will be embedded in the selection criteria. Women are strongly involved in transformation activities, with development potential and, as such, will be highly relevant beneficiaries of business development activities through credit. More details were added on the operation of the loan facility. The project will build on the work of the IFAD-GCF project with the BAGRI.
Please briefly expand on how the private sector and inclusive microfinance is innovative and will contribute to financial sustainability andscale up.	Text was added in the PIF: ?The innovation also relies in the development of the private sector and the access to inclusive micro-finance for smallholder farmers. The trainings provided and the inclusive micro-financing opportunities offered through the project are expected to trigger the identification of innovative businesses, beyond the current reliance on subsistence farming and the sale of excess production for livelihoods. Smallholder farmers, with a focus on women and youth, will be empowered to propose, design and start new business ideas that offer adaptive benefits, building on the existing opportunities in the project area. The development of new CSA businesses and other businesses such as the production of clean-energy cookstoves will have significant adaptive and mitigative in the long-term by reducing the reliance on climate-sensitive agricultural practices, consequently reducing the pressure on natural resources in case of climate shock.?
Please provide georeferenced information in addition to the map.	This has been done.
Please consider relevance of GGWI partners in the set of stakeholder, and outline their potential contribution to the project.	Considerations on stakeholder engagement in the context of the advancement of the GGWI were clarified in the stakeholder engagement table.

Please briefly expand on how this project will particularly focus benefitting women and girls, as has been stated in general terms a couple of times in the PIF. Please also note the importance of striving for gender balanced impacts, as mentioned above in the impacts section.	More specific details were added in the section on Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment. ? In particular, women and youth will participate to ?cash for work? activities under the component 1, which are mainly conducted by women and youth in Niger(an estimated 60to 80% depending on the regions). Under component 2, the agricultural activities performed by women will be targeted by the introduction of CSA practices (e.g. mixed vegetable gardens, diversified farming methods etc). The CSA measures will be specifically supported to improve practices and technologies and increase their profitability and dissemination. The gender assessment to be conducted during the PPG phase will review more thoroughly the income generating activities conducted by women in the target areas and propose adaptive interventions aligned with the results in the Gender Action Plan(GAP). The Gender Assessment and GAP will also be mindful of the other responsibilities of women, in particular their role in the household, to ensure they are not adversely impacted by the project interventions. Women and youth will also be exclusively targeted for financing activities under the component 3.?
Please expand on how microfinance institutions or others involved in microlending will be engaged. Please also briefly expand on how the loan facility will operate, and how this will engage private sector actors.	Text was added under the Stakeholder Engagement table, for Private Sector engagement as well as under the section 4.Private Sector Engagement.
Please include a risk considering the COVID-19 pandemic on project implementation.	A risk on Covid-19 and other health risks on project implementation has been added.

Please explicitly state who the project Execution partner (for clarity, using GEF terminology of implementation and execution partners please) will be for the project. Why will the Project Management Unit be based in Tahoua (Niger's fourth largest city) rather than the capital and largest city of Niamey	Text was added under section 6.Coordination ?The executing partner is the Executive Secretary of the National Council on Environment and Sustainable Development (SE/CNEDD). As relevant, Responsible Parties will be identified for the implementation of specific activities, based on their expertise and presence in Tahoua - including the Ministry of Agriculture and livestock, the Ministry of Environment through their respective decentralized agencies.? The justification for the location of the PMU in Tahoua was also added under section 6 ?The PMU will be based in Tahoua considering the distance from Niamey (600 km, around 10 hours of driving), making it challenging to provide the adequate monitoring of project interventions from the capital city. This will also make it possible for thePMU to engage on a daily basis with the partners and stakeholders present in Tahoua and build stronger collaboration. Regular travels to Niamey will be organized to report to UNDP about the progress and to engage with the stakeholders based in Niamey?.
Please explain complementarity and relevance to Niger's approval financing from the GCF for Adaptation Planning (see here: https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/adaptation-planning-support-niger-through-undp) which is also implemented by UNDP, and other GCF supported projects, including the "Inclusive Green Financing for Climate Resilient and Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture" (see here: https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/sap012).	Reference to the alignment with the GCF project on Adaptation planning was made under section 1.a.5. Reference to the alignment with the project "Inclusive Green Financing for Climate Resilient and Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture" was provided along the PIF, with strong partnerships expected for the realization of the component 3.

???

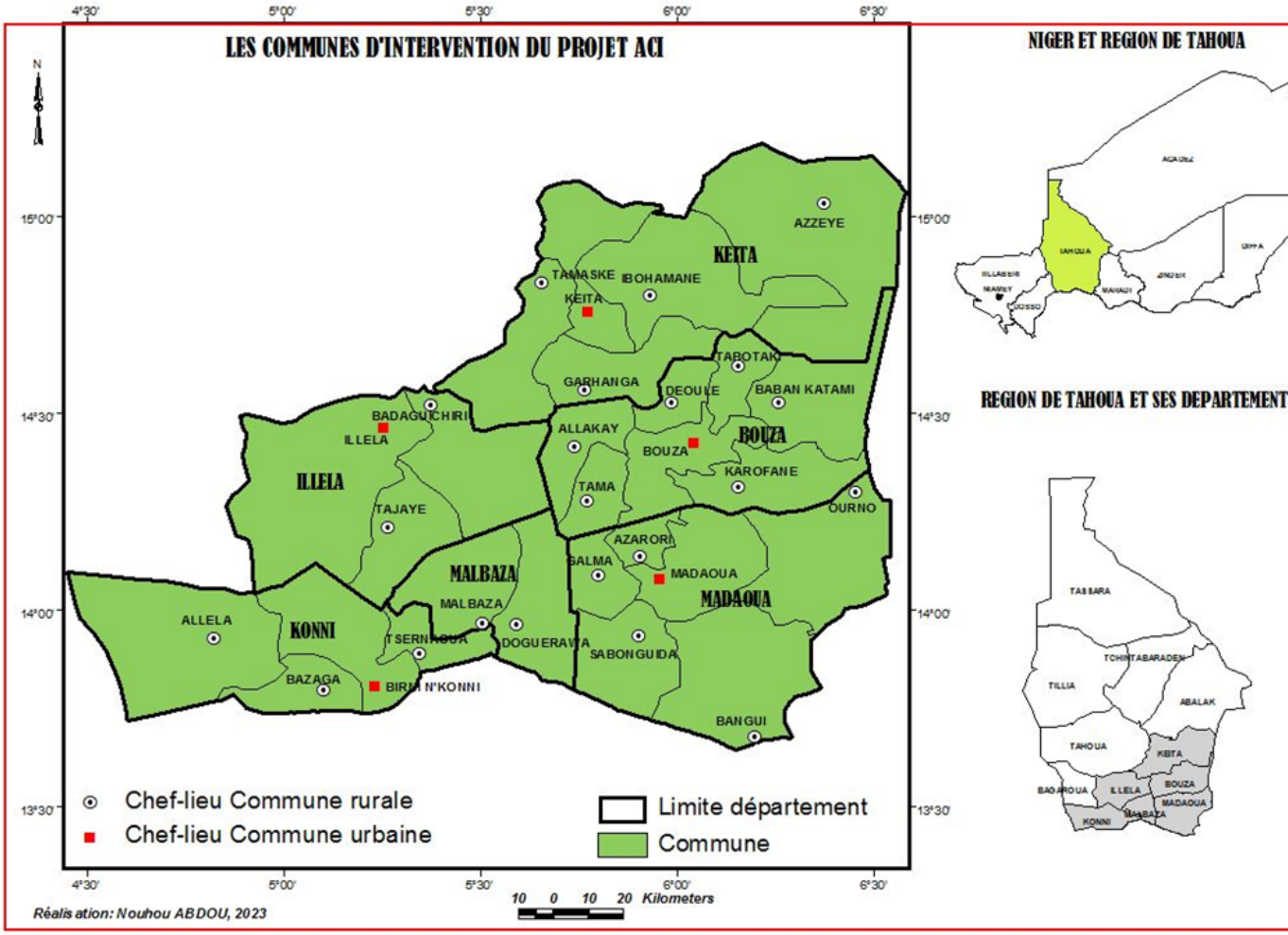
ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	**LDCF Amount ($)**		
	Budgeted Amount	**Amount Spent**	**Amount Committed**

Activities include ProDoc Formulation, data collection, validation workshop, etc.			
International Safeguards Expert	24,000	-	24,000.00
Travel	10,000	-	10,000.00
Contractual Service-Companies	137,500	24,299.2	113,200.80
Supplies	1,000	-	1,000
Professional Services	3,000	-	3,000
Miscellaneous	1,500	-	1,500
Trainings, Conference and Workshop	23,000	-	23,000
Project total	**200,000**	**24,299.2**	**175,700.80**

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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



GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as OpenStreetMap or GeoNames use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as:https://coordinates-converter.com Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking here

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component (USDeq.)												
		Component 1			*Component 2*			*Component 3*		*Component 4*		*M&E*	*Sub-Total*	*P*
		Outcome 1			*Outcome 2*			*Outcome 3*		*Outcome 4*				
		Output 1.1	*Output 1.2*	*Output 1.3*	*Output 2.1*	*Output 2.2*	*Output 2.3*	*Output 3.1*	*Output 3.2*	*Output 4.1*	*Output 4.2*			
Equipment	Procurement of office furniture												-	1
Equipment	Cost for organizing workshops to support women on ruminant fattening				30,000								30,000	
Equipment	Cost for procuring goods and materials for the following:- Organization of sports championship- Training and equipping of local nature brigadiers			17,500									17,500	
Equipment	Cost for procuring goods and materials for the following:- Restoration of degraded forest land- Demarcation and seeding of animal corridor- Restoration of rangelands		152,000										152,000	
Equipment	Cost for procuring goods and materials for the following:- Seedlings for the establishment of communal and village nursery by women and youth ($100,000)- Provision of small equipment for income generating activities ($100,000)							199,999					199,999	
Equipment	Cost for procuring potable solar irrigation systems for gardening sites					172,289							172,289	
Grants	Grant to FISAN towards the provision of green subsidies								230,000				230,000	
Grants	Grants for the organization of school events and competitions on wood energy resource management			20,000									20,000	
Contractual services-Individual	Cost for local labour for the following:- Reclaiming and securing agricultural land through zai- Reclaiming and securing farmland though half-moons- Reclaiming and securing farmland through stone bond					1,513,386							1,513,386	
Contractual services-Individual	Fees for local labour for restoration of degraded farmland and rangeland:- Installation of water catchment erosion control structures to restore 2000 ha of degraded farmland ($540,312.5)- Reforestation of 250 ha of degraded forest land ($33,220)- Creation and restoration of grazing areas (($174,660)- Restoration of degraded pastoral land through the installation of water catchment erosion control structures on 500 hectares (($195,000)- Demarcation and seeding of 1500 km of animal corridor ($122,650)		1,065,842										1,065,842	
Contractual services-Individual	Knowledge Management and Communication Specialist's salary - @USD 1343/month, for 12 months/years and 5 years of project implementation										80,624		80,624	
Contractual services-Individual	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist's salary - @USD 1343/month, for 12 months/years and 5 years of project implementation									80,625			80,625	

Contractual services-Individual	Project Manager's salary - @USD 2239/month, for 12 months/years and 5 years of project implementationSecretary's salary - @USD 1075/month, for 12 months/years and 5 years of project implementationFinance and Administrative Assistant's salary - @USD 1343/month, for 12 months/years and 5 years of project implementation												-	2
Contractual services-Company	Contractual services for the:- Installation of weather stations ($336746)- Revitalization of community radios ($10,000)- Setting up of Early Warning Systems ($10,000)						529,034						529,034	
Contractual services-Company	Contractual services for the:- Creation of four vaccination parks ($40,000)- Rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures ($146,500)- Stocking of fish ponds ($20,674)- Construction of pastoral wells ($689,156)- Construction of 20 fish ponds ($17,229)-Purchase and installation of piezometers ($172,289)- Geophysical studies for boreholes (240,337)					1,131,129							1,131,129	
Contractual services-Company	Contractual services for the:- Establishment of a traceability and labelling scheme for agricultural products ($64,000)- Support to women and youth-led fattening and restocking of livestock ($110,000)							174,000	200,000				374,000	
Contractual services-Company	Contractual services for the:- Setting up of mills and grinders in communes- Rehabilitation/construction of input banks- Support model producers on climate-smart agriculture through provision of agricultural and zootechnical inputs- Construction of warehouse for the storage of agricultural produce- Construction of onion and tomatoes counters- Creation of four vaccination parks				375,963								375,963	
Contractual services-Company	Cost for contracting media outlets for conducting awareness-raising sessions ($25000)Cost for contracting a company to provide wood energy substitute kits (($100,000)			125,000									125,000	

International Consultants	Cost for international consultants ($US 750/day) for the following:- Capacity building on green loans and green subventions ($18,750)- Support to women and youths to access green line of credits and green subsidies ($15,000)								33,750				33,750
International Consultants	International consultant for the installation and training of vulnerability monitoring observatories (@ $750/day for 30 days - $22,500)						22,500						22,500
International Consultants	International consultant to conduct the mid-term and final evaluation ($US 750/day * 40days/evaluation)									60,000			60,000
International Consultants	Pro-rata for the International Safeguards Consultant to conduct ESIA and develop safeguard management plans in Y1(26% of $37500): @750/day	10,000											10,000
International Consultants	Pro-rata for the International Safeguards Consultant to conduct ESIA and develop safeguard management plans in Y1(74% of $37500): @750/day				27,500								27,500
Local Consultants	Local consultant for the training women, men and young people on fish farming (@ $400/day for 25 days - $10,000)					10,000							10,000
International Consultants	Cost for international consultants ($US 750/day) for the following:- Capacity building on green loans and green subventions ($18,750)- Support to women and youths to access green line of credits and green subsidies ($15,000)								33,750				33,750
International Consultants	International consultant for the installation and training of vulnerability monitoring observatories (@ $750/day for 30 days - $22,500)						22,500						22,500
International Consultants	International consultant to conduct the mid-term and final evaluation ($US 750/day * 40days/evaluation)									60,000			60,000
International Consultants	Pro-rata for the International Safeguards Consultant to conduct ESIA and develop safeguard management plans in Y1(26% of $37500): @750/day	10,000											10,000
International Consultants	Pro-rata for the International Safeguards Consultant to conduct ESIA and develop safeguard management plans in Y1(74% of $37500): @750/day				27,500								27,500
Local Consultants	Local consultant for the training women, men and young people on fish farming (@ $400/day for 25 days - $10,000)					10,000							10,000

Local Consultants	National consultants for a total of $188,000:- Training of women and volunteers to build improved cookstoves (this will be done by a community champion in each commune engaged in fabrication of efficient stoves) (@ $400/day for 20 days - $8,000)- Conduct study on the available of improved stoves in the Tahoua region of Niger (@ $400/day for 40 days - $16,000)- Training of nature protection brigardiers (@ $400/day for 10 days - $4,000)			28,000									28,000
Local Consultants	National consultants for a total of $24,000:- Training of producers in the use of information and communication technologies (@ $400/day for 30 days - $12,000)- Installation and training of vulnerability monitoring observatories (@ $400/day for 30 days - $12,000)						24,000						24,000
Local Consultants	National consultants for a total of $80,000:- Restoration of degraded forest land (@ $400/day for 40 days - $16,000)- Demarcation and seeding of animal corridors (@ $400/day for 40 days - $16,000)- Creation and restoration of grazing areas (@ $400/day for 120 days - $48,000)		80,000										80,000
Local Consultants	National Consultants for the following:- Mid-term and final evaluation ($US 400/day * 25days/evaluation)- Monitoring and reporting of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and associated management plans ($US 400/day * 15days/year for five years)									50,000			50,000
Local Consultants	Pro-rata for the National Safeguards Consultant to conduct ESIA and develop safeguard management plans in Y1(50% of $20000): @400/dayNational consultants for a total of $96,000:- The realization of a capitalization study on local agricultural/forestry knowledge and practices (@ $400/day for 40 days - $16,000)- Organize training courses on ecosystem restoration practices and wood energy resource management (@ $400/day for 20 days - $32,000)- Study of traditional knowledge and its role in preserving the region's biodiversity (@ $400/day for 80 days - $8,000)- Study on ecosystem services and goods in the Tahoua region (@ $400/day for 100 days - $40,000)	106,000										106,000

Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Capacity building of local technical agents- Establishment and operation of farmer field schools- Support to women on ruminant fattening- Training of private sector actors on community life and climate smart agriculture- Training of producers on seed and fodder production- Training of women and youths on food processing and agricultural marketing techniques				764,832								764,832
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Training of producers in the use of information and communication technologies ($40,000)- Installation and training of vulnerability monitoring observatories ($60,000)						99,999						99,999
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Events for showcasing of best practices and lessons learned- Learning and experience sharing tours										119,840		119,840
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Training of women on the fabrication of improved cookstoves- Training of local nature protection brigadiers			51,895									51,895
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Training of youths, women and men in fish farming- Support for local commissions					27,904							27,904
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Establishment and operation of a management committee- Revision of commune's AIP- Establishment and operation of local discussion groups- Updating and sharing of Niger's GGWI results- Training on ecosystem restoration practices and wood-energy resource management	195,860											195,860
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Establishment of a traceability and labelling scheme for agricultural products- Create or revitalize consultation frameworks at regional, departmental and communal levels							80,290					80,290
Training, Workshops, Meetings	Cost for organizing workshops for the following:- Workshops to support women and youths to acces green line of credits and green subsidies ($28,430)- Conduct capacity building on green loans and green subventions ($16,180)								44,610				44,610

Training, Workshops, Meetings	Costs for the committees, project board meetings, and Project Management Unit specific training needs												-
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 1.1, but not lumped into consultants' offers	53,140											53,140
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 1.2, but not lumped into consultants' offers		58,900										58,900
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 1.3, but not lumped into consultants' offers			10,175									10,175
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 2.1, but not lumped into consultants' offers				81,020								81,020
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 2.3, but not lumped into consultants' offers						21,281						21,281
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 3.1, but not lumped into consultants' offers							9,711					9,711
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 3.2, but not lumped into consultants' offers								10,640				10,640
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 4.1, but not lumped into consultants' offers									24,978			24,978
Travel	Travel in connection with activities in Output 4.2, but not lumped into consultants' offers										85,000		85,000
Travel	Travels from the project team for site visits and trainings as necessary.												-
Office Supplies	Office supplies (such as papers, ink for printers, stationery)												-
Other Operating Costs	Audit fees @ $ 5,000/year												-
Other Operating Costs	Cost for production of documents towards the dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt										5,000		5,000
Other Operating Costs	Cost for the production of sensitization and awareness-raising materials for the education campaigns including the use of traditional knowledge and local species for restoration.	14,688											14,688
Other Operating Costs	Cost for the production of sensitization and awareness-raising materials for the following events:- Education campaigns including the use of traditional knowledge and local species for restoration.- Organization of sports championship			10,000									10,000

Other Operating Costs	Unforeseen programme cost, such as FX gain and loss, bank charges etc., which is unrelated to implementation/service fee (component 1)		1,000										1,000	
Other Operating Costs	Unforeseen programme cost, such as FX gain and loss, bank charges etc., which is unrelated to implementation/service fee (component 2)				1,163								1,163	
Other Operating Costs	Unforeseen programme cost, such as FX gain and loss, bank charges etc., which is unrelated to implementation/service fee (component 3)								1,000				1,000	
Other Operating Costs	Unforeseen programme cost, such as FX gain and loss, bank charges etc., which is unrelated to implementation/service fee (component 4)										1,000		1,000	
	Total budget	**379,688**	**1,357,742**	**262,570**	**1,448,478**	**2,854,708**	**696,814**	**480,000**	**520,000**	**215,603**	**291,464**	**-**	**8,507,067**	**425**

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).