

# GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Project Summary .....	4
Indicative Project Overview .....	4
<b>PROJECT COMPONENTS .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>PROJECT OUTLINE .....</b>	<b>8</b>
A. PROJECT RATIONALE .....	8
B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION .....	20
Project description .....	20
Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project .....	31
Core Indicators .....	33
Key Risks .....	34
C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES .....	37
D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS .....	39
Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment: .....	39
Stakeholder Engagement .....	39
Private Sector .....	44
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks .....	44
E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS .....	45
Knowledge management .....	45
<b>ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES .....</b>	<b>45</b>
GEF Financing Table .....	45
Project Preparation Grant (PPG) .....	45
Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation .....	46
Indicative Focal Area Elements .....	46
Indicative Co-financing .....	46
<b>ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS .....</b>	<b>47</b>
GEF Agency(ies) Certification .....	47
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s): .....	47
<b>ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET .....</b>	<b>48</b>

## General Project Information

### Project Title

Addressing tenure governance and gender equality in land rights to strengthen LDN initiatives

Region	GEF Project ID
Global	11501
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Global	MSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency ID
FAO	749458
Executing Partner	Executing Partner Type
Landesa	CSO
TMG Research gGmbH	CSO
Selected national CSOs	CSO
Country government entities	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Land Degradation	2/20/2024

### Project Sector (CCM Only)

### Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Beneficiaries, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Local Communities, Participation, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Indigenous Peoples, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Awareness Raising, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Peer-to-Peer, South-South, Learning

Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
GET	36
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
2,000,000.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
190,000.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
2,190,000.00	7,000,000.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

50,000.00	4,500.00
PPG total amount: (e+f)	Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)
54,500.00	2,244,500.00
Project Tags	
CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	

## Project Summary

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

**This project aims to establish an enabling environment for responsible land tenure governance and secure tenure rights to facilitate the attainment of land degradation neutrality (LDN). Governance of tenure, including access, security, and rights, is crucial for the effectiveness and sustainability of LDN initiatives. Component 1 focuses on developing a comprehensive assessment tool addressing the LDN-Tenure-Gender equality nexus, in collaboration with selected countries. This tool will enhance decision-makers' capacity to integrate tenure and gender equality considerations into LDN policies, plans and investments aligning with the FAO and UNCCD Technical Guide. Additionally, Component 1 will deliver a capacity development package tailored to countries' needs based on preceding assessments, to be implemented in Component 2.**

**Component 2 will operate at the country level, testing the assessment tool, implementing capacity development programs, and facilitating participatory dialogues. By combining assessments and targeted capacity development, the project aims to engage various stakeholders, including government, academia, civil society, women's groups, and Indigenous Peoples' organizations, to advance the LDN-tenure-gender nexus and foster innovative solutions.**

**Component 3 will focus on knowledge management and learning to support political reforms on tenure and gender equality, contributing to global environmental benefits such as LDN. The project will enhance capacities to assess and design actions promoting tenure security and gender equality in land rights for LDN, while strengthening tenure security, coordinating sectoral approaches, ensuring inclusive participation, promoting innovative solutions, securing women's tenure rights, and improving decision-makers' capacities.**

**Through collaboration and partnerships at the project, regional, and global levels, this project seeks to advance gender equality in tenure rights, enhance tenure security, both key to achieving and sustaining LDN. By building capacity and facilitating knowledge exchange, the project aims to support countries in jointly addressing gender equality, tenure security, and LDN, fostering sustainable land management practices and protecting the environment.**

## Indicative Project Overview

### Project Objective

To develop capacities to strengthen responsible tenure governance in LDN initiatives.

## Project Components

### Inclusive, integrated and informed decision making

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
233,200.00	600,000.00

#### Outcome:

LDN policymakers, decision-makers and practitioners widely use a combined assessment tool and capacity development package on the LDN-tenure-gender equality nexus

#### Output:

Output 1.1. A co designed combined assessment tool for the LDN- tenure-gender equality nexus at national and local levels developed

Output 1.2 A co – designed capacity development package to assess and plan interventions across the LDN-tenure-gender equality nexus developed

### National level evidence-based implementation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,140,000.00	5,000,000.00

#### Outcome:

**Capacities of country LDN stakeholders are enhanced to integrate tenure security and women’s access to land in LDN initiatives/target setting, based on detailed inventory and multi-factor assessments available for selected national and/or sub-national levels**

#### Output:

Output 2.1. Country and local level assessments of the LDN-tenure-gender equality nexus conducted

Output 2.2  
Inclusive and gender-responsive multistakeholder dialogues conducted

Output 2.3  
Tailor-made national level capacity development interventions rolled out

### Knowledge management and learning

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

378,000.00	700,000.00
------------	------------

Outcome:

South-South and Triangular Cooperation and exchange of lessons learnt is enhanced, lessons and knowledge are captured, developed, and shared for scaling of tenure governance and gender equality in access to land in LDN investments

Output:

Output 3.1 A global space for knowledge management, peer learning, and triangular cooperation between participating countries and partners developed

Output 3.2 Evidence-based knowledge products generated and multiple events organized on the integration of governance of tenure and gender equality into LDN initiatives

## M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
66,982.00	63,636.00

Outcome:

Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting delivered in accordance with FAO and GEF policy

Output:

Monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan developed and implemented

## Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Inclusive, integrated and informed decision making	233,200.00	600,000.00
National level evidence-based implementation	1,140,000.00	5,000,000.00
Knowledge management and learning	378,000.00	700,000.00
M&E	66,982.00	63,636.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,818,182.00</b>	<b>6,363,636.00</b>
Project Management Cost	181,818.00	636,364.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>7,000,000.00</b>

Please provide justification

.

---

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

### **The global environmental problems and related root causes and barriers that need to be addressed**

#### *Land degradation underpinned by land inequality – a global and major environmental challenge*

Land degradation – the reduction or loss of the productive potential of land – is a challenge of global proportions. Most assessments show that between 20-40% of the global land area is degraded or degrading to varying degrees<sup>[1]</sup>, already affecting more than three billion people, mostly poor rural communities, small-scale farmers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and other at-risk groups<sup>[2]</sup>.



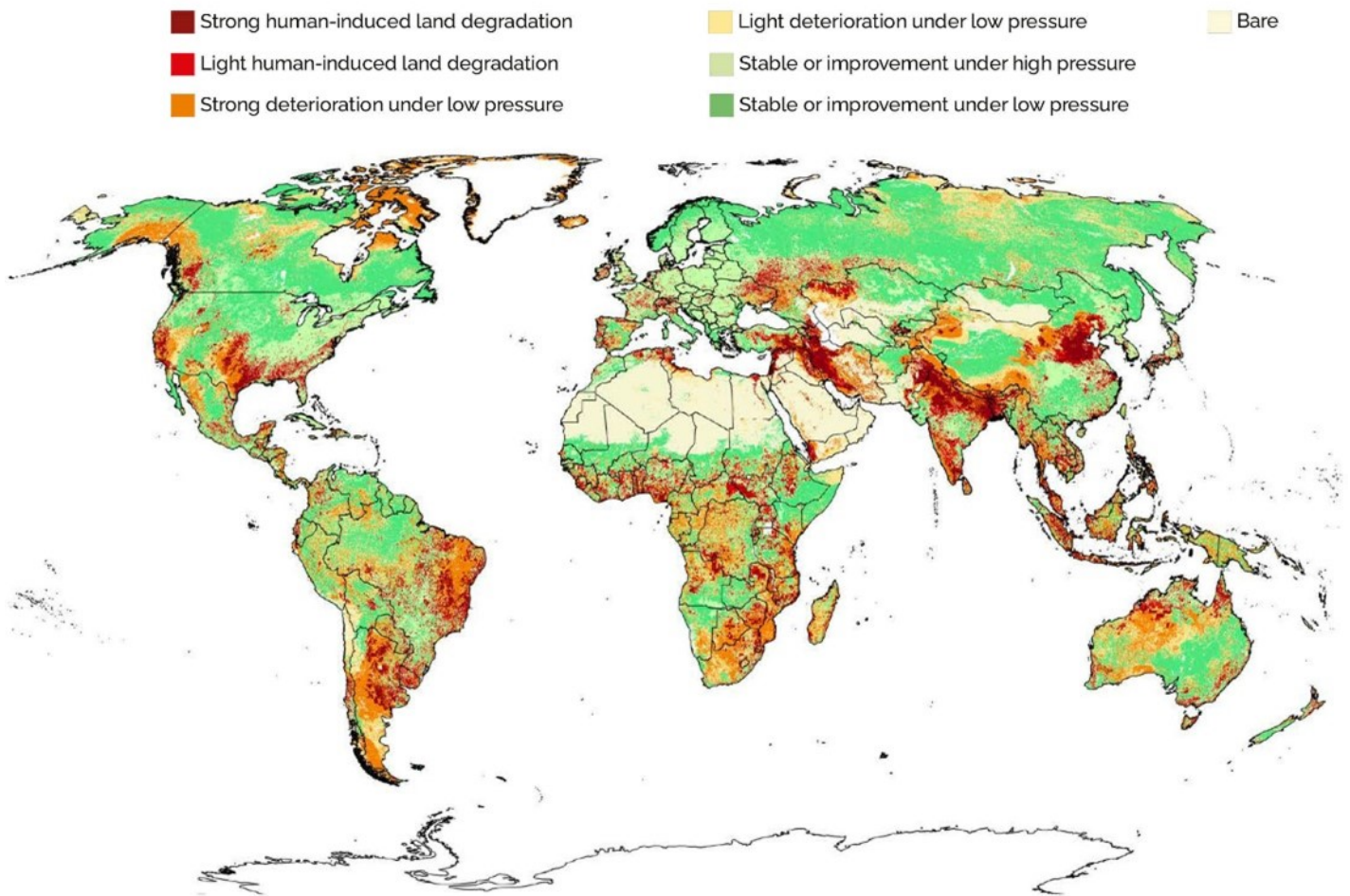


Figure Land degradation classes based on the severity of human-induced pressures and deteriorating trends, 2015 Source: FAO[2]

Communities and households that are directly affected by degraded land are more prone to experience decreased agricultural productivity and water scarcity, loss of livelihoods, poverty, and food insecurity. They are also more vulnerable to disasters and extreme weather events, e.g., droughts, floods, storms, or fires. Particularly, poor communities, women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples - directly depending on the land for their well-being and livelihoods - are affected by the effects of land degradation. And while any of them depend on collective land rights for their livelihoods, their land use practices support biodiversity, healthier soils, forests, and water supplies. They are central to equitable and sustainable development.

Yet, land inequality has been increasing and per capita availability of farmland has been decreasing[1], with the richest 10% of rural populations capturing 60% and the bottom 50% of rural populations capturing a mere 3% of land value[2]. The worsening state of land inequality[3] causes conflict and further jeopardizes access to land, land rights, control over land, decision-making capacity regarding land, and, subsequently, the living conditions of those who live and depend on the land.

Persistent challenges in land tenure governance stem from (i) inadequate recognition of legitimate tenure rights; (ii) difficulties in safeguarding these rights; and (iii) obstacles in delivering them through land administration, impeding access to justice and exacerbating conflict and corruption. Furthermore, weak enforcement of global principles, coupled with fragile institutions and mounting land pressure, leave entire populations on vast land areas without secure tenure. This hampers responsible land investment, which could otherwise deliver essential ecosystem services, employment opportunities, increased incomes, and food security.

The latter is supported by an IPCC special report highlighting how land tenure insecurity hampers behaviors that support sustainable rural development and resilience to shocks, including adoption of improved farming practices and long-term livelihood investments.<sup>[4]<sup>4</sup></sup> For example, country analysis covering the period from 2000 – 2014 confirms that 50 percent of the deforestation in Peru occurs in forest areas where the tenure regimes are unclear; this involves approximately 20 million hectares<sup>[5]<sup>5</sup></sup>. Similarly, deforestation in public forests in the Brazilian Amazon are likely linked to a regulatory environment that has encouraged land speculation in areas where there is no clear land tenure. This pattern suggests that the lack of governance has become an increasingly important factor driving deforestation. In contrast, Indigenous Territories and Protected Natural Areas had the lowest emissions, demonstrating their effectiveness in preventing deforestation and maintaining carbon stocks<sup>[6]<sup>6</sup></sup>.

It is widely accepted therefore that land degradation drivers – whether poor land-use management, over-extraction of natural resources or unpredictable climate patterns – are intensified by insecure land tenure, unsustainable farming systems, short-sighted policies, and persistent social and gender inequalities.

### *Tenure insecurity – a major driver of gender equality*

The UNCCD’s Science Policy Interface warns that in “most developing countries, land degradation impacts men and women differently, mainly due to unequal access to land, water, credit, extension services and technology,” underscoring the need to address the persistent gender inequalities.

Furthermore, women’s land tenure insecurity has been shown to disincentivize investments in sustainable land management<sup>[7]<sup>7</sup></sup>, negatively impacting on soil organic carbon, an indicator of LDN. A recent

analysis[8]<sup>8</sup> of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 5.a.1.[9]<sup>9</sup> shows that in 40 out of 46 countries reporting men have greater ownership or secured tenure rights over agriculture land than reporting women (FAO, 2023). These gendered barriers can have adverse effects on the capacity of women to invest in the land they use. The analysis of Indicator 5.a.2[10]<sup>10</sup> shows that half of the countries reporting indicate weak legal protections for women's land rights.

A related body of research by the IPCC[11]<sup>11</sup> provides important insights into the potential for rural women's land tenure security to enhance climate-resilient and sustainable land use and investment decisions and access to related extension services and climate finance. Research also indicates that improving women's land tenure security is linked to land productivity[12]<sup>12</sup>, an LDN indicator. Furthermore, addressing governance of tenure and gender equality in land rights in relation to LDN initiatives supports inclusivity, given that safeguarding legitimate tenure rights enables social sustainability and women's broad empowerment[13]<sup>13</sup>.

#### 1) Tenure security: an enabler of global environmental benefits in the LDN institutional context

To support Parties in addressing land degradation challenges, the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP.13) of the UNCCD adopted the Strategic Framework for 2018-2030 (Decision 7/COP.13). This Strategic Framework acknowledges the global challenges of desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) as well as their contribution to "economic, social, and environmental problems" that "pose serious challenges to sustainable development" and highlights that Parties aim to: *"develop, implement, revise and regularly monitor, as appropriate, national, sub-regional and regional action programmes and/or plans as effective tools for UNCCD implementation" and achievement of land degradation neutrality (LDN).*

In the same vein, in 2017, experts from the Science Policy Interface (SPI) of the UNCCD issued a new approach to tackling the threat of land degradation and its devastating impacts. The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) conceptual framework[14]<sup>14</sup> calls for a mix of interventions to halt excessive loss of productive land. *"As an innovative approach for managing land degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality aims to avoid or reduce land degradation, while also reversing past land degradation, in order to achieve the goal of no net loss of healthy, productive land at the national level."*

And while the central goal of LDN is maintaining or enhancing land-based natural capital, the focus on people is the key means for achieving LDN, the conceptual framework underlines the need to reinforce responsible and inclusive governance of land.

The scientific recognition of the importance of governance of tenure, including tenure security, as a key enabling factor for achieving the commitments of the three Rio conventions has been gaining swift momentum. Tenure security is critical to achieving land degradation neutrality (SDG indicator 15.3.1 as per IPCC, 2019; IPCC, 2022; IPBES, 2018; Verburg et al., 2019) and significantly contributes to the achievement of many of the SDGs (SDG 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 13 and 15). Nevertheless, addressing governance of tenure poses distinct challenges for countries, for which targeted support is necessary.

## 2) Justification for the project

Tenure security is seen as primary enabler of land restoration and sustainable management and is often an essential first step towards achieving LDN, as secure tenure provides a great incentive for sustainable land use and management and can provide the assurance needed to stimulate large-scale investments in LDN and restoration. Addressing governance of tenure can also support achieving multiple environmental benefits such as halting biodiversity loss, adopting climate-smart land management, scaling up ecosystem restoration, and implementing other nature-based solutions to combat desertification and drought.

In addition, according to a recent evaluation of the GEF Drylands portfolio, conflict resolution and land tenure matters have not been adequately addressed in drylands investments, and this has consequences for both achieving and maintaining expected results. Less than a third of GEF drylands projects have addressed tenure governance in their design and theories of change, highlighting a capacity gap the project aims to fill.

Similarly, a review entitled *“Gender and land degradation neutrality: A cross-country analysis to support more equitable practices,”* [\[15\]<sup>15</sup>](#) (2019) showed that LDN projects under the UNCCD framework in 34 countries would benefit from “merging project gender plans with existing gender schemes at both local and global levels.” A lack of reliable information and cost-effective methods for collecting and analyzing data (including sex-disaggregated data) hampers the development of policies to address that challenge, and the project aims to bridge much of this knowledge gap.

The abovementioned Conceptual Framework that underpins the new LDN approach further instructs Parties to: integrate gender issues in their planning and implementation of LDN, undertake preliminary LDN assessments that include consideration of gender inequality and women’s land tenure security, ensure women’s genuine contributions to stakeholder engagements by accounting for gender imbalances in power and access to information, and require the inclusion of gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data to accurately monitor progress.

Following a people-centered approach with an emphasis on responsible and inclusive land governance will contribute to an enabling environment for LDN and provides multiple environmental and social benefits. At the core of responsible and equitable governance is a recognition of legitimate land rights,

including those of women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, which will be a primary focus of the project.

### 3) Integrating the VGGT into LDN initiatives

In 2012, the Committee on World Food Security adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). Its agreement was recognized as a global call to improve and more equitably manage the linkages between natural resource governance and food security. The core VGGT principles include human rights, non-discrimination, equity and justice, gender equality, sustainability, consultation and participation, the rule of law, and transparency.

While the goal of LDN is to maintain or enhance the health and productivity of land-based natural capital, the focus on people's relationship to land must be embedded in all LDN initiatives, which seek to reinforce the responsible and inclusive governance of land resources. A key governance issue is the need for the robust protection of legitimate land tenure rights to ensure that vulnerable people are not disadvantaged by land use decisions and restoration efforts.

At UNCCD's Conference of the Parties in 2019, a landmark decision was adopted, inviting the 196 Parties to the Convention to *review and, where appropriate, adopt national land governance legislation and procedures to support land restoration*. The decision further encouraged countries to recognize legitimate tenure rights, including customary rights, consistent with national legal frameworks, as well as enhance women's equal access to land and land tenure security.

Decision 26/ COP14 was adopted to encourage the integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure for Land, Fisheries and Forest (VGGT) into the implementation of the UNCCD and LDN initiatives.

Subsequently, FAO and UNCCD jointly produced a Technical Guide<sup>[16]<sup>16</sup></sup> on integrating VGGT and LDN, designed for policy and decision makers, presenting potential means by which legitimate rights and more responsible governance of tenure can contribute to the success of LDN targets and other land restoration commitments. Ultimately, it aims to enhance country-level implementation so that no person, group, or community is left behind.

In addition, Decision 24 / COP 15 reaffirms the critical importance of ensuring women's access and secure tenure rights to achieve the Convention's objectives and encourage to consider the FAO UNCCD Technical Guide.

This project will support both decisions (COP 15, Decisions 24 & 27) and the implementation of the UNCCD Gender Action Plan which indicates "Parties will aim to increase women's land rights by 2030 through diverse and innovative approaches" (UNCCD, 2018).

### 4) Barriers to be addressed by the project



With the current project, and through collaboration with partners, existing barriers will address what the UNCCD and the LDN community consider as key challenges in this field.

***Barrier 1: Limited information, knowledge and capacities affect countries in integrating tenure in relevant LDN initiatives.***

The successful implementation of the LDN concept builds upon a strong enabling environment that would be based on pillars consisting of (i) comprehensive tenure assessments in line with the VGGT (ii) providing tools for responsible land governance, (iii) ensuring informed and meaningful stakeholders involvement and (iv) enhancing land tenure policies.

The successful implementation of the LDN concept and related actions is also driven by a clear understanding of the root causes and drivers that contribute to land degradation, notably tenure insecurity and unlocking the roles of women and men, gender balanced representation perspective and expertise and an enabling environment that allow a transformative change. Given the novelty of the LDN concept and of the integration of tenure, there is a need for addressing capacity gaps in this regard.

This barrier will be addressed by activities under component 1 and 2, as the project proposes to make available detailed guidance and capacity development materials to enable informed decision-making based on a solid analysis of underlying tenure challenges at country level and how to effectively address them by LDN policymakers, decision-makers and practitioners.

***Barrier 2: Weak inter-institutional and vertical coordination on planning frameworks for effective governance regarding mainstreaming secure and gender-equal tenure for LDN achievement***

Across countries, capacity is often still lacking both at the institutional (central and local Government) and grassroots level (local communities, Indigenous People's organizations, NGOs, cooperatives, farmer unions) to mainstream and implement LDN initiatives that address complex tenure implications. National and local planning systems lack LDN criteria and collaboration across sectors is still limited and/or not effective, often ignoring precious local and traditional knowledge. The existing institutional and legal frameworks do not address tenure, gender and land degradation across sectors neither do they consider its effects on food security and the maintenance of ecosystem services. LDN, being a complex approach, requires that stakeholders engage in an integrated, multilevel and cross-sectoral technical and political process.

This barrier will be addressed by interventions under component 2 and 3, as the project proposes to tap into the power of multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) that bring together civil society including Indigenous People's organizations, government actors, academia and relevant members of the private sector to collectively disentangle and solve challenges and break down sectoral silos. Furthermore, the project's linkages with global and regional technical platforms related to land governance will enable the dissemination of governance approaches based on international good practice.

***Barrier 3: Persisting gender inequalities hamper effective LDN initiatives***

While most countries have legal frameworks in place to recognize claims to land, both at individual and community level, enforcement remains weak. In general terms, gender equality in land rights only exists when 1) women and men can acquire rights that are equally secure; 2) women and men can equally enjoy and exercise their land rights; and 3) women's and men's land rights are equally protected when they are threatened.

Despite their significant contribution to farm-based livelihoods and to sustaining the environment, women are often particularly disadvantaged due to unequal socio-cultural values in determining the

ownership of land and other productive resources. Removing these structural barriers will unlock both environmental and socio-economic welfare benefits.

This barrier will be systematically addressed in all components (ranging from comprehensive assessments, capacity development materials and knowledge products) as the project proposes to uphold the Convention's clear gender equality principles and also unlock women's effectiveness as agents of change in the implementation of the Convention to enhance the achievement of LDN targets through their effective participation and empowerment.

#### 5) Baseline scenario and positioning of the project

To date, 131 countries have engaged in setting voluntary LDN targets through their participation in the LDN-TSP. Since the launch of this Programme in 2016, 106 countries have already defined and validated a set of LDN targets and associated measures to advance their goals towards achieving LDN by 2030.

Following the request made to the UNCCD by country Parties under Decision 13/COP.14 (paras 5c and 5d) to further develop the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme and support Parties in implementing and periodically reviewing and monitoring progress and to continue to promote synergies and knowledge-sharing among Parties participating in the LDN-TSP, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD launched a follow-up programme and related enabling activity for 18 countries<sup>[17]<sup>17</sup></sup>. This programme will assist countries in strengthening and further refining their LDN targets in order to increase their policy coherence vis a vis other LDN-relevant commitments made under other processes (UNFCCC, CBD, Bonn Challenge, UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, etc.).

This proposed project will ensure complementary with the TSP 2.0 programme, contributing from a tenure security angle to strengthen national enabling environments for LDN target setting and related implementation efforts. The project will also seek cost efficiencies with this Programme both in terms of the rolling out of national processes (i.e., stakeholder consultation meetings) and related capacity building/training activities that may be conducted at national, regional and/or global levels.

In the same vein, as a follow up of the COP 15 / Decision 27 - where parties requested support to hold national consultations - FAO and UNCCD have launched a Joint Initiative<sup>[18]<sup>18</sup></sup> to support countries to integrate land tenure into their LDN initiatives that is synergistic to the objectives of this current project.

The Joint Initiative has also gathered several key international partners on land tenure to share information, approaches, organize joint events (such as regional awareness raising webinars) and has issued a call for application by countries to get support to national consultation on the integration of tenure into LDN initiatives. Formally over 30 countries have applied for such support, presenting a priority constituency for this project.

A first group of five countries (Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mexico, Senegal and Sri Lanka) are being supported in 2023- 2024 to host national consultations on the LDN – tenure nexus. The methodology designed to support countries to conduct the consultation process and its outputs will inform the project's design during the PPG phase. This project aims at building on the Joint Initiative's initial results and outputs by

co-designing the necessary assessments and ensuring capacity development of key change agents for results to be transformative and scalable.

FAO has also partnered with UNCCD to launch the “Her Land” campaign on the UN Desertification and Drought Day (17 June 2023) during a high-level event at the UN Headquarters. The project will support a stronger evidence base with regard to the link between women’s land tenure security and LDN, such as by monitoring the link between LDN indicators and actions. This evidence base will serve to strengthen the ‘business case’ for investing in women’s land tenure security. These gender equality elements underpin the rationale for this project where targeted support will be provided to countries, and the project will enable translating the scientific guidance of the SPI as well as relevant COP decisions into project and operational level guidance. Addressing these inequalities and more effectively engaging women to increase opportunities to benefit and contribute, has the transformative potential to address the complex drivers of pressures on environmental resources and improving long-term environmental sustainability *globally, nationally, and locally*.

In addition, FAO is custodian agency for the SDG indicators 5.a.1 and 5.a.2. that focus on gender equality in relation to tenure rights and has a baseline of countries having reported on these two indicators. The project will establish synergies with the support provided to country to reporting on these two indicators and integrate the results (methodology, data) of these two SDG indicators in the outcomes of the project.

## 6) Stakeholders and partnership

The main target of the project is to increase informed, inclusive and effective participation of key stakeholders through capacity development at multiple scales (local, national and regional) and from multiple sectors to effectively tackle tenure governance issues undermining LDN initiatives.

At national level, the key stakeholders targeted by the project are primarily UNCCD focal points, relevant ministries (depending on the countries: Agriculture, Environment, Forestry, Planning, Land, Gender), other Rio Conventions’ focal points, Civil Society and grassroots organizations, local communities, Indigenous People’s representatives, Women’s Organizations and gender experts, Parliamentary Networks Private Sector (Surveyors, Contract farming actors, cooperatives) and researchers working on gender, secure tenure rights and LDN.

A comprehensive stakeholder mapping and engagement plan will be conducted during PPG phase to ensure the project can meaningfully engage all concerned stakeholders through their representatives. The country selection criteria (described under the indicative project overview) inter alia include the preexisting engagement with relevant institutional partners and multistakeholder platforms, however these will be reinforced and complemented to ensure truly broad-based participation.

At the regional and global level, umbrella organizations linked to land administration and tenure will be involved under Component 3 for joint advocacy and knowledge sharing. These are included but not limited to Redparques, Red Iberoamericana de Catastro y Registro, Permanente Committee on Cadastre in Ibero-America (CPCI)), Landnet, REAF – Land Committee for Agriculture Farming), Red de Mujeres Rurales de América Latina y El Caribe.

Given their overlapping mandates and priorities, synergies will be sought at global, regional, national and local levels with international organizations, civil society and grassroot organizations, research



institutions and private sector entities, for example: UN-WOMEN, World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), Land Portal Foundation, International Federation of the Surveyors (FIG), WOCAN.

Further, synergies will also be sought with relevant FAO-led GEF programs (including the GEF-7 Drylands Sustainable Landscape Impact Program and GEF 8 Food Systems Integrated Program, as well as relevant global programming on gender mainstreaming under development), FAO and partners' projects such as GEF7 Enabling Activity on land-use planning and GEF-8 MSP on strengthening CSOs for LDN implemented by IUCN, the Global Gender Transformative Approaches initiative for Women's Land Rights global initiative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Efforts will be made to share, disseminate and cross-fertilize learning and results across common areas of interest.

#### **7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up**

The project is embedded in the GEF-8 Strategy objectives to further strengthen opportunities for transformational change through cross-cutting themes as priority for programming, notably gender-responsive approaches and behavior change. In addition, the project is in line with the GEF-8 Strategy that also targets four specific levers as critical for creating desired transformations in the target systems: governance and policies; financial leverage; innovation and learning; and multi-stakeholder dialogues.

The project will support the GEF's KM& Learning Strategy's priorities identified, ensuring that innovation and learning is systematized, durable and up-to-date. The Strategy's Pathway 3 centered around *'Empowerment and exchange to achieve more scaling and durability from GEF investments through greater flow of, and ownership of, knowledge and learning among and across partners and countries'* is particularly relevant to the project's design.

The project will deploy novel capacity development approaches to promote blended learning program, that combines face-to-face and online activities in a seamless and complementary flow of learning. The training materials will also be usable for group training and the project will also work with selected stakeholders to develop their capacity to roll out training in their regions. The project will emphasize peer-to-peer learning and mentoring, working with LDN champions at various levels to exchange experiences and approaches and to focus on the specific challenges faced across the LDN-gender-tenure nexus. As a result, capacity building will be focusing on country contexts and will be fully participatory in nature, building on the long-standing experience of FAO and its partners.

As an opportunity for further scalability and sustainability, since UNCCD COP 14, a Gender Caucus has been established within UNCCD to support accelerating the implementation of the Gender Action Plan adopted by the convention since 2014. The multi-stakeholders gender caucus – in which FAO participates- provides a space to exchange gender expertise, information, training and tools and to assist in identification of bottleneck to GAP implementation<sup>[19]<sup>19</sup></sup>. This project will engage the gender caucus stakeholders and share tools and lessons learnt with this forum to ensure embedding the project results into UNCCD processes, including dedicated COP and CRIC events.

Furthermore, the project will mobilise the GEF Gender Partnership which gathers the eighteen GEF implementing agencies and the five conventions gender focal points, inviting contributions, thought leadership and relevant tools and lessons learnt.

In addition, several of the outputs of the project will be aligned to the objectives of the Global Land Observatory (GLO) under development by FAO and its partners, namely the International Land Coalition and CIRAD -a French agricultural research and cooperation organization - in a synergistic manner. The GLO aims to document the state regarding key issues of land governance at local, national and global levels, analyze trends and build awareness on the importance of land for sustainable development and for addressing other global challenges and enable tracking progress and build evidence base for action.

Through this synergy, bridging the space between UN custodians, research bodies and civil society actors, data uptake, sharing and use for impact will be enhanced. These multi-stakeholder processes will also facilitate the flow and use of data in policy dialogues at the global, regional and local levels.

Awareness and visibility of land on a global stage through joint high-level publications that integrate data on key indicators, streamlining their use and emphasizing their relevance to decision-makers, funders and the land and other communities more broadly. In this framework, the State of Land Tenure and Governance (SLTG) report is planned to be launched as periodical flagship publication for documenting the state and evolutions and tracking progress with regards land tenure and governance. This initiative, through collaborating members of the GLO, can form the basis of high-level dialogues and processes, further strengthening public knowledge of and engagement.

The project will also feed into advocacy and policy efforts at creating a Global Land Agenda. While there are several global platforms on or related to land and tenure security, including the Committee on World Food Security, the Global Donor Working Group on Land, the International Land Coalition, and the World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, there is no global forum that brings together governments, civil society and private sector to debate and advance thinking and advocacy on tenure security.

To fill this gap, building on the above-mentioned existing platforms, FAO and its partners propose convening an annual multi-stakeholder forum that brings these stakeholders together to follow-up on the global land summit's commitments, provide strategic direction, establish norms and standards, discuss programs, identify lessons, and advance new initiatives, that are also in line with the directions of the GEF and the UNCCCD.

To ensure further scaling up and wide dissemination for relevant LDN practitioners globally, the project will engage with the WOCAT Network members to share best practices and lessons learnt for a global audience, allowing for further dialogue and dissemination of developed tools and approaches.

---

[1] FAO, 2021. The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW) – Systems at breaking point. Synthesis report 2021. Rome.

[2] Bauluz, L., Govind, Y., and Novokmet, F. (2020). Global Land Inequality. Rome: ILC, Land Inequality Initiative

[3] Anseeuw et al. Uneven ground: land inequality at the heart of unequal societies, International Land Coalition, 2020

[4] IPCC. (2019). Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems

[5] <https://www.un-redd.org/news/endorsing-land-use-policy-reforms-reduce-deforestation-and-degradation-peru>

[6] Kruid S, Macedo MN, Gorelik SR, Walker W, Moutinho P, Brando PM, Castanho A, Alencar A, Baccini A and Coe MT (2021) Beyond Deforestation: Carbon Emissions From Land Grabbing and Forest Degradation in the Brazilian Amazon. *Front. For. Glob. Change* 4:645282. doi: 10.3389/ffgc.2021.645282

[7] TMG Think Tank. 2019. Making sustainable land management work for women smallholders. TMG Working Paper. 2019.

[8] FAO. 2023. The status of women in agrifood systems. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>

[9] 5.a.1- (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

[10] [10] 5.a.2. Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

[11] IPCC. (2019). Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems

[12] Rampa, A and Lovo, S. 2023. Revisiting the effects of the Ethiopian land tenure reform using satellite data. A focus on agricultural productivity, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

[13] Higgins et al. 2018. Investigating the impacts of increased rural land tenure security: A systematic review of the evidence

[14] Orr, B.J., Cowie, A.L., Castillo Sanchez, V.M., Chasek, P., Crossman, N.D., Erlewein, A., Louwagie, G., Maron, M., Metternicht, G.I., Minelli, S., Tengberg, A.E., Walter, S. & S. Welton, S. 2017. Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality. A Report of the Science-Policy Interface. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn

[15] Okpara et al, "Gender and land degradation neutrality: A cross-country analysis to support more equitable practices," (2019)

[16] [Technical guide on the integration of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests | UNCCD](#)

[17] [18 countries selected for support to strengthen LDN Targets and integrated land use planning frameworks | UNCCD](#)

[18] [FAO-UNCCD Joint Initiative on Land Tenure: First group of countries selected for national consultations | UNCCD](#)

[19] UNCCD. Date unknown. *Summary report gender caucus at CRIC 21*. UNCCD, Bonn.

[1] UNCCD. 2022. *The Global Land Outlook*. Second edition. Bonn

[2] FAO. (2022a). *The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture – Systems at breaking point. Main report*. Rome

[3] United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, 2022. *The Global Land Outlook*, second edition. UNCCD, Bonn

[4] FAO, 2021. *The State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture (SOLAW) – Systems at breaking point*. Synthesis report 2021. Rome.

[5] Bauluz, L., Govind, Y., and Novokmet, F. (2020). *Global Land Inequality*. Rome: ILC, Land Inequality Initiative

[6] IPCC. (2019). Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems

[7] <https://www.un-redd.org/news/endorsing-land-use-policy-reforms-reduce-deforestation-and-degradation-peru>

[8] Kruid S, Macedo MN, Gorelik SR, Walker W, Moutinho P, Brando PM, Castanho A, Alencar A, Baccini A and Coe MT (2021) Beyond Deforestation: Carbon Emissions From Land Grabbing and Forest Degradation in the Brazilian Amazon. *Front. For. Glob. Change* 4:645282. doi: 10.3389/ffgc.2021.645282

[9] Anseeuw et al. Uneven ground: land inequality at the heart of unequal societies, International Land Coalition, 2020

[10] TMG Think Tank. 2019. Making sustainable land management work for women smallholders. TMG Working Paper. 2019.

[11] FAO. 2023. The status of women in agrifood systems. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc5343en>

[12] 5.a.1- (a) Percentage of people with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land (out of total agricultural population), by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

[13] [13] 5.a.2. Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

[14] IPCC. (2019). Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems

[15] Rampa, A and Lovo, S. 2023. Revisiting the effects of the Ethiopian land tenure reform using satellite data. A focus on agricultural productivity, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

[16] Higgins et al. 2018. Investigating the impacts of increased rural land tenure security: A systematic review of the evidence

[17] Orr, B.J., Cowie, A.L., Castillo Sanchez, V.M., Chasek, P., Crossman, N.D., Erlewein, A., Louwagie, G., Maron, M., Metternicht, G.I., Minelli,

S., Tengberg, A.E., Walter, S. & S. Welton, S. 2017. Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality. A Report of the Science-Policy Interface. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Bonn  
[\[18\] Okpara et al, "Gender and land degradation neutrality: A cross-country analysis to support more equitable practices," \(2019\)](#)

[\[19\] Technical guide on the integration of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests | UNCCD](#)

[\[20\] 18 countries selected for support to strengthen LDN Targets and integrated land use planning frameworks | UNCCD](#)

[\[21\] FAO-UNCCD Joint Initiative on Land Tenure: First group of countries selected for national consultations | UNCCD](#)

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Project description

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

**The project will equip a wide array of stakeholders at relevant levels to fully integrate responsible tenure governance and gender equality in land rights in relation to LDN investments and decision-making. This will be achieved by creating the right enabling environment for effective LDN initiatives that require (i) enhancing land policies to promote land stewardship, (ii) providing tools for people-centered land governance, (iii) ensuring inclusive and informed stakeholder engagement and (iv) combining related biophysical and socio-economic assessments.**

**The successful implementation of the LDN concept and related actions is driven by a clear understanding of the barriers and root causes that contribute to land degradation and the varied roles of women and men, as well as the representation of the perspectives and expertise of Indigenous populations.**

**As illustrated in the Theory of Change, through this project, stakeholders actively engaged in LDN planning and implementation will significantly increase their capacities related to the LDN-tenure-gender nexus. Further equipped with relevant decision-making tools, networks, good practices and examples, these stakeholders will engage in LDN projects and investments that adopt principles of responsible tenure governance and embed gender-equal access to land.**

**The project will pursue efforts to produce innovative and transformative solutions to advance tenure security and gender equality in access to land to achieve LDN by fostering leadership, enhancing knowledge exchange through regional and South-South exchanges, bridging gaps between tenure and sustainable land management and promoting a lasting mindset change through advocacy and targeted capacity development at national and, when possible, subnational levels.**

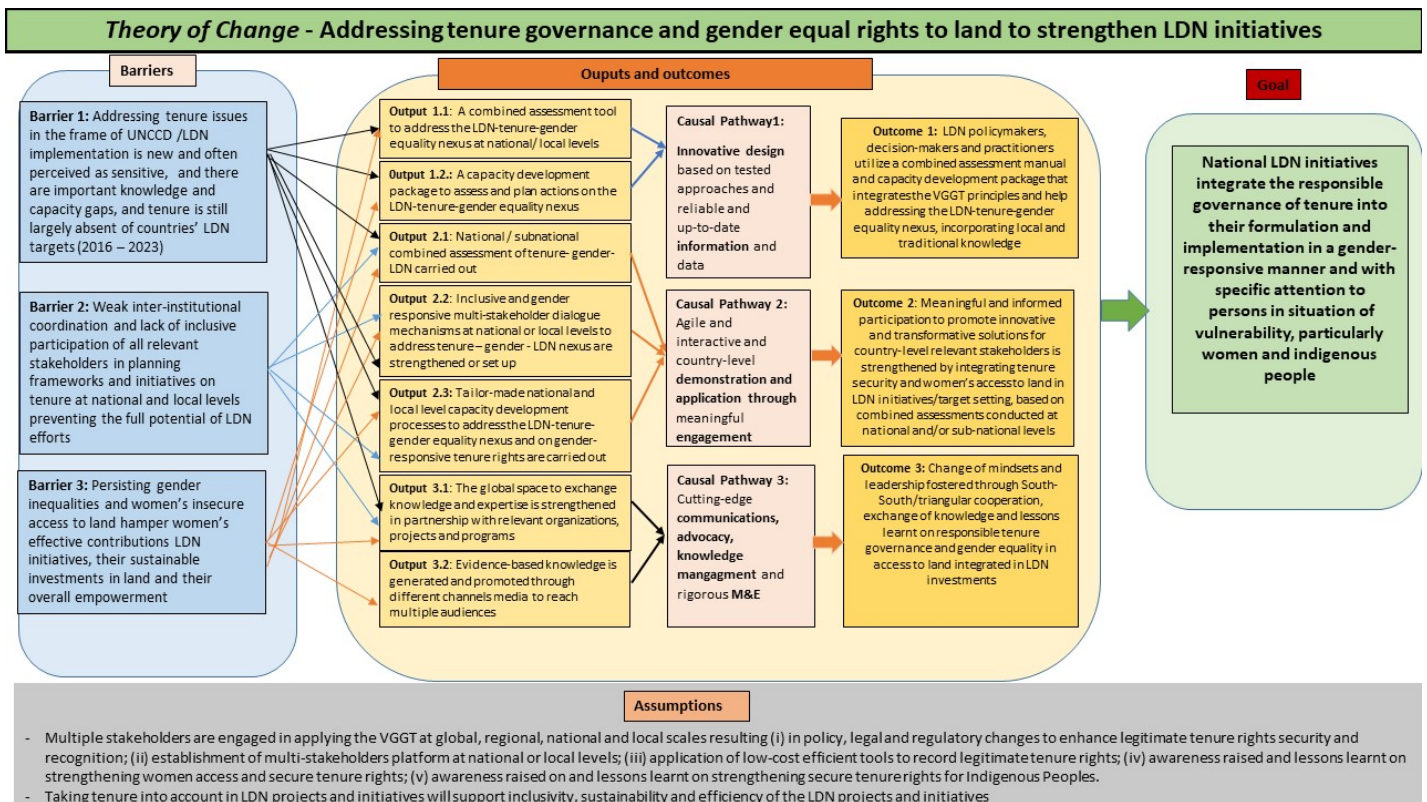
**Ultimately the project will seek to have a transformative impact on policy, legal and organizational frameworks that support delivering responsible governance of tenure, sustainable land management and gender equality to land in the participating countries.**

**Vulnerable populations such as Indigenous Peoples, women and local communities – through their representatives – will be continuously engaged in the implementation of the Convention's decisions and the achievement of LDN. A larger number of stakeholders will be connected through national and regional coordination mechanisms, to exchange good practices and meaningful implementation of related commitments under the Convention.**

**To this end, the project will support an enabling environment for LDN to:**



- strengthen tenure security and recognition and safeguarding of legitimate tenure rights for smallholders, women, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, to invest in and protect their land;
- address diverging sectoral approaches between tenure, environment and agriculture and enhance vertical and horizontal coordination; including roles of private sector actors of agri-food value chains (farmers' organizations, cooperatives, contract farming actors etc.)
- ensure inclusive an effective participation of all concerned stakeholders, in particular of women and those in position of vulnerability;
- promote the emergence of innovative solutions at national and local levels;
- help secure women's tenure rights; and
- improve capacities of officials and decision-makers to identify and solve tenure-related issues affecting LDN initiatives.



Through *effective causal pathways* centered around design, delivery and dissemination and consolidation of results, the project will address critical barriers that prevent integrating tenure security and gender equality to land in the design of LDN initiatives and interventions.

To this end, the project will work to co-develop with partners and countries an innovative set of approaches (combined assessment tool and capacity development package) accessible by all concerned stakeholders to demonstrate the transformative potential of its application in-country and to scale up and out the achievement of the project through strengthened leadership, peer-to-peer exchanges and South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

### COMPONENT 1: Inclusive, integrated and informed decision-making

This component's outcome consists of the development and validation of an innovative approach for informed decision-making composed of a combined assessment tool and capacity development package to

formulate and implement LDN initiatives that include governance of tenure and gender equality in land rights dimensions.

Output 1.1 will develop a combined assessment tool, based on the FAO and UNCCD Technical Guide, offering flexible multi-pathway approaches to support policy and decision-makers and relevant stakeholders in shaping a tailor-made response to commonly encountered land tenure issues.

From the nine pathways, four are considered as universal and aiming at enhancing secure land tenure and effective restoration involving legal and policy frameworks as well as multi-stakeholder platforms, gender equality and dispute resolution mechanisms.

The five context-specific pathways focus on tenure responsive and integrated land use planning, the use of land consolidation and land banking in specific contexts. The context specific pathways also provide information on possible actions to enhance tenure security on commons, public and private lands. In its many forms, tenure is part and parcel of all land use activities. Participatory governance and tenure security are key elements to be embedded in the design, implementation, and outcomes of land restoration interventions.

When land tenure and restoration are considered in tandem, they can strengthen the link between natural resource governance and sustainable land and water management practices. Many land restoration activities require flexible, decentralized governance that can accommodate new knowledge types and skillsets as well as the values, relationships, and engagement of multiple actors, which will be a strong focus of the project.

**Target:** A combined assessment tool that integrates VGGT principles and the LDN-tenure-gender equality nexus into national and local LDN initiatives is produced and validated by key stakeholders, including LDN policymakers, decision-makers and practitioners

Output 1.2. will *convert* the modular assessment into a *blended institutional learning programme* that provides a continuous learning opportunity over a period of three to six months co-facilitated by FAO's e-Learning Academy, including:

1. A learning needs assessment to review the learning programme goal, identify the target audience and their learning needs, and define the learning programme content.
2. An online workshop for participants to interact, via a collaborative learning platform, to learn the basic concepts and fundamentals, and initiate a participatory analysis of the national or local context. In the online component, there is support from a tutor to guide participants' learning experience. Participants are encouraged to use social learning, through interactive e-learning lessons and online discussion forums, to interact and complete participatory assignments.
3. A face-to-face workshop designed based on the results of the online activities, with the overall objective of enabling participants to apply the competences acquired in the online workshop, and to jointly develop realistic action plans at national or regional level.

- 
4. A mentoring phase to complete the blended learning programme. In the mentoring period, learners are encouraged to apply learned skills and share the challenges, doubts, and issues that they are facing at country level, with the other geographically dispersed participants. This is known as peer-to-peer support, and the tutor provides mentoring, guidance, and advice. In this phase, therefore, participants receive support for implementation of the action plans designed in the face-to-face workshop and maintain collaboration and dialogue with other participants.

During this period of three to six months, the capacity of key stakeholders will be enhanced to support active engagement in multi-stakeholder dialogues, generating transformative change. Furthermore, it is hoped that increased capacities will also deliver integrated actions, which can be supported by this project (limited) or parallel financing from project partners.

The development of the combined assessment tool and the capacity development package will be led by FAO and co-created with inputs from anticipated executing partners: Landesa, TMG, Gov't entities and national umbrella CSOs incorporating stakeholders (women's groups IPLCs, etc) perspectives and knowledge.

**Target:** A set of training modules targeted for country and local level use on the assessment guidance is designed and developed for national / local level roll-out.

## **COMPONENT 2: National level EVIDENCE-BASED implementation**

This component's outcome will entail the support provided up to 6 countries from different contexts to formulate and implement LDN initiatives based on comprehensive assessments that tackle undermining tenure issues and gender unequal tenure rights to land.

During PPG phase, the project will select between 4 to 6 countries based on the following criteria and conditions:

- Preference for countries having applied to the joint UNCCD – FAO Joint Initiative on tenure integration for land restoration<sup>[1]<sup>20</sup></sup>
- Having an existing Multi-Stakeholder platform or dialogue mechanism on tenure and / or VGGT and / or LDN;
- Having already ongoing project work on tenure / VGGT and proven commitment to advance gender equality;
- Having other relevant planned projects, programs and GEF investments with which synergies that can be drawn upon during the intended implementation period of this project (July 2025 – June 2028);
- Available budget and co-funding;
- Geographical balance over two or three regions;

- Confirmation of country engagement will be secured early in the PPG phase through the issuance of relevant Letters of Endorsement.

**Output 2.1. assessments on biophysical conditions, land tenure and gender will be essential to inform the design and planning phase of LDN initiatives.**

A land tenure assessment examines the tenure arrangements (who can use what resources for how long and under what conditions) under the formal/statutory legal framework and under customary tenure in the area of intervention. The assessment will aim at identifying the type of tenure (public or private or common lands) present in the area of intervention. The assessment takes into account all type of arrangements or legitimate tenure rights including those that are seasonal or periodic (such as grazing) and integrates a mapping of the statutory and customary authorities that play a role in the tenure arrangements.

A gender assessment examines the differences in gender roles, activities, needs, opportunities and rights/entitlements and it further examines the relationships between females and males and their access to and control of resources and the constraints they face relative to each other. A gender assessment is integrated into all sector assessments or situational analyses to ensure that gender-based injustices and inequalities are identified and targeted efforts are made for addressing them through gender-responsive approaches.

A biophysical assessment, which examines the direct and indirect drivers of land degradation, is inherent in the planning phase of any LDN initiative and can contribute to the identification of relevant pathways.

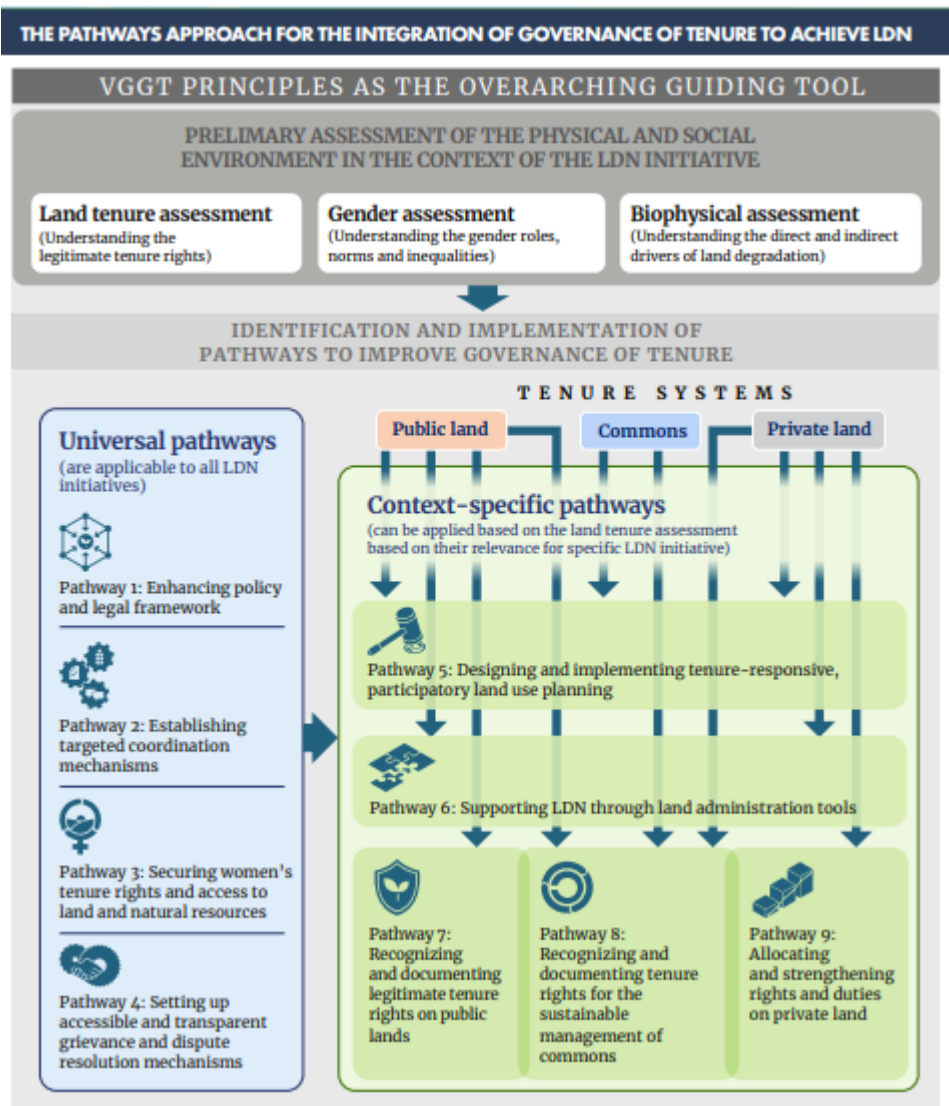
The ensuing multi-pathway approach (*see illustration below*), namely the identification of relevant LDN implementation pathways will build on the findings of these preliminary assessments. There are two sets of pathways: universal and context-specific. The universal pathways can be applied to all LDN initiatives for all the drivers of land degradation and all types of tenure systems (private land, public land, commons land), whereas the context-specific pathways depend on their relevance for specific LDN activities and specific tenure systems.

Such contexts would include, for example, specific country situations, or situations pertaining to certain subnational regions, land uses, or groups. These specificities will be evident from the findings and iterations of the preliminary assessments in the selected countries, to be decided during PPG phase.

Importantly, the universal Pathway 3 incorporates the complexities and nuances of gender equality in the concept of tenure. This pathway goes beyond the focus on *ownership* to ensure delivering tenure security related to legitimate tenure rights (access, use, management, etc.) and enhance equitable land governance (women's participation, effective documentation of women's rights...) and considers how the ability to exercise these rights is dependent on gender and other dimensions of power. Special attention is accorded to the interaction between customary and formal legal norms as well as the relevance of family law regimes in the equal capacity of women and men to exercise decision-making rights over land and natural resources.

**Target: Up to 6 countries are supported in completing assessments**





Source: UNCCD -FAO Technical Guide, 2022

**Output 2.2.** The VGGT multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs) bring together civil society, government, academia, and the private sector to plan and implement common visions on land governance that are based on international good practice. The resulting interventions and awareness-raising has had noteworthy successes. For example, in some cases, it has led to a recognition of customary and women’s land rights, the creation of dispute resolution mechanisms, and the mapping and recording of land rights.

MSPs on tenure governance can contribute to a number of objectives as vehicles to:

- Facilitate and promote policy and legal reforms - Wide ranging consensus fosters policy and legal frameworks producing lasting outcomes at all levels, encouraging continuity.
- Create an inclusive space to discuss tenure issues - The open atmosphere in an MSP promotes relationships based on trust, mutual respect and communication.
- Promote buy-in for responsible governance of tenure - Involving stakeholders from government agencies increases the likelihood of approval of initiatives.
- Support tenure processes based on ownership - Promoting national stakeholder ownership will encourage engagement and support for reform initiatives.
- Contribute to improved governance of tenure - Create a space for national stakeholders to develop mechanisms and indicators for monitoring of land tenure processes.

- Strengthen capacities of national and local stakeholders - the MSP is a learning space for members to increase knowledge, learn new tools and share experiences on how to improve governance of tenure.

The creation or enhancement of these platforms will feed into the following outputs to ensure long-term sustainability.

Target: Multi-stakeholder dialogues are established or enhanced at national or local levels, supporting integration of governance of tenure and gender equality in land rights in up to 6 countries to promote trust and confidence building.

Output 2.3. Government representatives, Women's organizations, local community and grassroots organizations, youth representatives and Indigenous Peoples representatives capacity development processes will be launched in partnership with country partners allowing for specific approaches (local languages translation, consultations). The design of these context-specific capacity development interventions would be based on the design outlined under Output 1.2.

As a relevant example, in Sierra Leone, participants in the blended learning program '*Safeguarding land tenure rights in the context of agricultural investment*' identified, during the face-to-face workshop, the need to align the national investment approving process with the principles of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT). During the face-to-face workshop, they formulated an action plan that was subsequently implemented during the mentoring phase. As a result, Sierra Leone has today an investment approval process aligned with the principles of the VGGT, which was initially piloted and later endorsed by the Sierra Leone's Investment and Export Promotion Agency (SLIEPA).

Target: Tailor-made capacity development processes are conducted in up to 6 target countries with critical number of agents of change capacitated, representing different stakeholders to address the tenure-gender-LDN nexus and gender equality in land rights

### **COMPONENT 3: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND LEARNING**

Output 3.1. Building upon existing projects and well-established partnerships, the project will minimize the need for duplicating efforts and costs for the development of monitoring and decision support tools needed to assess and inform land degradation. WOCAT remains the UNCCD recommended platform for documenting sustainable land management practices and has a vast global network of partners on which the project can build on, while the GEO-LDN Initiative responds to a call made by the UNCCD to bring data providers and data users together and support global efforts to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation globally. This project will fully build upon and valorize these platforms and tools. For large scale capacity building events, the project will seek direct synergies and cost saving opportunities with regional and or global capacity training workshops that may be delivered as part of UNCCD and its partners.

The project will take advantage of FAO's wide networks to connect with policymakers and leading CSOs in related fields (such as WeCAN, Forest Landscape Restoration, Ecological Restoration and other areas) that do not currently link with UNCCD and LDN target setting. Furthermore, the project will also inform FAO's Gender-Lex, a cross-cutting thematic database of FAOLEX, providing free access to national and international legal and policy instruments on gender equality and women's empowerment.

The project outputs are expected to align with and bolster the efforts of the Global Land Observatory. Led by FAO, the International Land Coalition, and CIRAD, the Observatory focuses on key components:

- An open-access database and monitoring platform to document land tenure and governance trends, track progress towards SDGs and VGGTs.

- A comprehensive platform offering indicators, methodologies, and tools for broad-based land tenure and governance monitoring.
- The State of Land Tenure and Governance (SLTG) report, a periodic flagship publication documenting evolutions and progress in land tenure and governance.

Analysis and policy guidance documents on land-related topics, including country-specific analyses on SDG progress under FAO custodianship. Relevant learning materials and case studies will feed into the Women's Land Rights (WLR) Platform<sup>[1]</sup>, a unique and powerful web-based resource that provides an inclusive space for women across the world to share and document their experiences and perspectives around land rights – amplifying voices, increasing visibility, building strategic cohesion, and advancing collaboration between WLR stakeholders. It is designed to elevate grassroots women's voices to a regional and a global stage. The Platform provides the opportunity and venue to use storytelling as an impactful tool for advocacy and movement building, while also mapping organizations across the world who are working in various sectors that intersect the WLR movement.

In addition, project results will feed into the Land Collaborative<sup>[2]<sup>21</sup></sup>, a global knowledge and south-south knowledge and learning exchange platform and Community of Practice (CoP) aiming to promote transformational partnership in the land sector; and works in partnership with the public and private sectors and civil society to mobilize knowledge, leadership and capacity in the South, from local to global levels.

**Target:** The existing collaborative spaces for knowledge management on responsible governance of tenure and gender equality in land rights into LDN initiatives are enhanced

**Output 3.2.** The project will contribute to bridging the knowledge gaps across the gender-tenure-LDN nexus and will capture lessons learned, across various topics and ecosystems, to be disseminated through the projects wide partnership network.

**Planned focus of knowledge products and related advocacy activities, upon the final countries selection:**

- For all countries participating: advancing women's equal tenure right in LDN initiatives
- Promoting sustainable pasture management by integrating governance of tenure in Central Asia
- Promoting sustainable dryland management by integrating governance of tenure in Africa
- Promoting sustainable land management by integrating governance of tenure in Latin America

The project's communication plan for outreach, awareness raising, and dissemination of outputs/results/lessons aims to maximize the project's impact at global, regional, and national levels. Firstly, the project will leverage existing initiatives and processes like the Stand for her land campaign and the UNCCD COP to amplify its message and engage with key stakeholders. By participating in these events and platforms, the project can share its findings, best practices, and lessons learned with a wider audience.

At the regional and global levels, the project will utilize platforms such as the Global Land Observatory and REAF to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge, and promote collaboration. These platforms provide opportunities to showcase the project's achievements, highlight success stories, and facilitate peer learning among stakeholders from different regions.

To ensure accessibility and relevance, the project will develop products in various formats and languages tailored to different audiences. This may include policy briefs, technical reports, infographics, videos, and interactive online tools. By diversifying the format and language of its outputs, the project can effectively reach policymakers, practitioners, researchers, civil society organizations, and local communities.

Moreover, the communication plan will prioritize engagement with marginalized groups, including women, Indigenous Peoples, and youth, to ensure their voices are heard and their perspectives are integrated into project activities and outputs. This inclusive approach not only enhances the relevance and effectiveness of the project but also promotes social equity and empowerment.

Through strategic communication efforts, the project aims to catalyze action, inspire change, and contribute to the broader agenda of sustainable land governance, gender equality, and environmental conservation. By fostering dialogue, sharing knowledge, and building partnerships, the project can maximize its impact and contribute to positive transformative change in land tenure governance at all levels.

**Target:** Studies, policy briefs, best practices and lessons learned produced, learning events organized

### Institutional arrangements for project implementation

#### Roles and responsibilities

FAO will operate as the GEF implementation agency and work closely with global, regional, national and local actors – executing partners – to deliver the project activities.

ILC, Landesa and TMG, the main executing partners of the project and component leads of the project will complement their capacities, objectives and perspectives of intervention through coordinated and effective collaboration at the national and local levels which will allow the project's development with an adequate and efficient execution of technical and financial resources.

During the PPG phase, FAO will conduct relevant assessments to identify modalities of partner engagement for cost-effective and coordinated project delivery, as well as select participating partner countries.

The International Land Coalition (ILC) is a global alliance of civil society and intergovernmental organizations working together to put people at the heart of land governance. The shared goal of ILC's 300+ members is to realize land governance for and with people at country level, responding to the needs and protecting the rights of women, men and communities who live on and from the land.

- ILC connects over 300 land-focused organizations and provides technical and financial support to the setting-up of National Engagement Strategies' multi-stakeholder platforms
- Promotes linkages with regional and global policy processes, campaigns
- Provides cross-country learning and capacity through a Global Community of Practice
- Offers opportunities to members of the platform to increase their visibility and participation in regional and global fora
- Promotes learning by fostering cross-regional exchange, documenting good practices from country experiences, and investing in innovation for dissemination and upscaling.

ILC's strategy 2030 is premised on the power of the Coalition led by members that are people's organizations, to accelerate and upscale recognition of the land rights of women, family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, forest dwellers, fisher folk, afro-descendants and local communities. ILC will focus is primarily on linkages between the coalition's own land rights agenda and climate change, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity loss and land degradation / desertification.

Landesa is a Non-Profit Charity Organization that works across regions governments and other organizations to strengthen land rights for people experiencing landlessness – those 400 million women and 250 million men who lack either access to land or a secure stake in the land they farm. Landesa partners with progressive governments and civil society to develop pro-poor and gender-sensitive laws, policies, and programs that strengthen land rights for people experiencing extreme poverty.

Landesa's comparative advantage involves:

- Development of assessments to identify existing laws, policies and cultural conditions
- Collaborating with public officials to adopt pro-poor land policies

- Assisting in the implementation of new laws to benefit landless women and men
- Monitoring and evaluating impact

To date, Landesa has helped 180+ million families obtain ownership or secure land rights and the opportunity for a better future.

Landesa's Center for Women's Land Rights promotes gender-equal rule of law on land from grassroots to global level and builds the capacities of governments and civil society partners. Landesa provides the Secretariat for the Stand for Her Land campaign that built on collective action - aimed at closing the implementation gap for women's land rights. This is community of diverse allies works via a coalition model, linking global and local actors and empowering grassroots women leaders and men who are champions for gender justice to advocate for stronger women's land rights.

Country Coalitions comprise local grassroots organizations, national civil society organizations, and other non-state actors working towards the shared goal of stronger women's land rights. A Global Steering Committee of international non-governmental organizations with deep women's land rights expertise facilitates the campaign. Stand for Her Land is the first advocacy campaign of its kind to merge global and local efforts to radically accelerate land rights for women from the ground up.

TMG Research gGmbH is a not-for-profit, transdisciplinary research organization guided by the overall mission of fostering inclusive processes for driving transformative socio-economic change within planetary boundaries.

TMG's work involves analyzing structural barriers that hinder land users from enjoying their legitimate rights. Together with their partners, TMG explores context-specific solutions and innovations to overcome these barriers. Globally, through broad research and policy networks, TMG actively engages in identifying policy spaces and agenda setting to ensure that these ideas can be taken up and integrated into formal decision making and implementation. A core focus of this work is the integration of land tenure in the implementation of the three Rio Conventions, with dedicated capacity development of national focal points.

TMG also works with governments, human rights institutions, and civil society networks nationally to support the implementation of progressive national policies, also by building on progress made in global policy processes. At the local level TMG creates space and strengthen community-based organizations and sub-national governance institutions to co-develop social innovations for land tenure security.

In addition, the implementation of country level activities will be conducted in collaboration with *relevant government entities as well as national CSOs as well as umbrella organizations*, ensuring wide engagement and participation in policy dialogues and exchanges trickling down to the local/community levels, allowing for transformative and innovative approaches through raising awareness, capacity development, exchange of best practices and leadership, including through the Training-of-Trainers approach.

### Global environmental benefits

The project is aligned with the GEF LD Focal Area strategy, and specifically Goal 1, aligning GEF support to promote UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept through an appropriate mix of investments. This project will help to create an enabling environment to support LDN target implementation (Objective 2 of the GEF7 Land Focal Area) by strengthening the capacity of a wide range of stakeholders to implement LDN principles, established safeguards, and good practices and supporting policy decisions that enable countries to meet international commitments under the UNCCD. The project will allow stakeholders to promote LDN principles at multiple levels: in local land use planning; to address national obstacles to LDN attainment; to promote responsible governance and gender equality for land tenure; and to align private and public investments with LDN principles.



Progress towards LDN targets through enhanced gender-responsive tenure security will also make efforts at restoring and protecting soil biodiversity, habitat rehabilitation, and ecosystem health more sustainable.

Land tenure security can lead to improved adaptation outcomes in a range of areas. Secure land rights, including through customary systems, can incentivize farmers to adopt long-term climate-smart practices, e.g., planting trees in mixed cropland/forest systems. Inclusive and responsible tenure policy for forests has the ability to reduce ecological vulnerability, as secure rights to land and forest resources can facilitate efforts to stabilize shifting cultivation and promote more sustainable resource use if appropriate technical and market support are available. Similarly, where pastoralists' traditional land use have legal recognition, this presents significant guarantee for the success of carbon sequestration initiatives.

The socio-economic co-benefits of advancing LDN through the project include reducing rural poverty and promoting food and water security as well as gender equality and women's empowerment, resulting in improved social welfare outcomes.

### Project knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation

The project prioritizes the mobilization of existing knowledge (as opposed to generation of new knowledge), as laid down in the LDN principles of the UNCCD. The knowledge management approach will ensure the broad participation of stakeholders and building their capacity to mobilize existing knowledge on the tenure-gender-LDN nexus, including established LDN principles, and using it to enhance LDN investments by government and other actors. The project will also create opportunities for CSOs, Indigenous people's and women's organizations to deploy local and traditional knowledge and influence government and private investors, by convening and mediating in dialogue and by publicizing the roles of CSOs in achieving LDN through tenure security.

Under Component 1 and 2, the project will develop and deploy training materials to build capacity on the tenure-gender -LDN nexus and will promote south-south learning exchanges in countries and across regions. Specific thematic publications will also include good practices to galvanize the policy and public awareness space. These will document novel approaches to integrating responsible and gender-responsive tenure governance in LDN initiatives, incorporating a focus on specific ecosystems (including pastoral lands, drylands, etc.) as well perspectives of various social groups that are currently not well documented in the LDN process.

These elements will further ensure that the outputs and lessons learned are effectively and systematically disseminated through the relevant knowledge management platforms (e.g. the GEF knowledge and communication platforms and other channels) in order to support scaling up of best practices, approaches and methodologies for effective integration of the governance of tenure at national, regional and international levels to inform LDN initiatives. Thematic conferences as well as relevant workshops organized by partners will be considered as other opportunities to disseminate project's outputs and lessons.

During the PPG phase a dedicated gender action plan will be elaborated for the project with gender-sensitive indicators in the results framework ensuring the collection of sex-disaggregated data and information on gender and tracing gender-responsive measures and actions in relevant activities in project components. Dedicated human and financial resources will be allocated to ensure implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out by the implementing agency (FAO). This includes activities related to progress reporting, monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management and communication. FAO will ensure that the project's progress and results are effectively monitored, captured and reported upon, and that impact is evaluated at project's closure.

---

[1] [About the WLR Platform - Stand for Her Land Campaign \(stand4herland.org\)](https://stand4herland.org)

[2] [Land Collaborative - ILC \(landcoalition.org\)](https://landcoalition.org)

---

[\[4\] FAO-UNCCD Joint Initiative on Land Tenure: First group of countries selected for national consultations | UNCCD](#)

### Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

Yes

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

**The execution role of FAO as implementing agency will be limited and complementing execution by the lead partners described above. However, FAO has a unique value proposition that the project will want to leverage in order to deliver durable and significant results.**

FAO is a lead agency regarding the three main topics tackled by the project: enhancing tenure governance, reaching gender equality for secure tenure rights and achieving land degradation neutrality. In particular FAO has been the lead agency to technically support the negotiation of the Voluntary Guidelines on responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forest in the context of national food security adopted by the Committee on world Food Security in 2012.

FAO is custodian of the SDG 5.a.1. and 5.a.2. indicators that look at gender equality in regards of tenure rights and FAO has a long lasting history of project, initiatives and methodologies to promote equitable tenure rights (Gender and Land rights database, Dimitra projects, WeCAN...).

FAO is also a major contributor to LDN achievement through tools and methodologies to assess and monitor LDN (Sepal, Soil Carbon mapping, LADA – EP /GLO/502/GEF) and direct implementation of multiple projects and programs to support countries in addressing LDN (Mainstreaming sustainable land management – GCP/GLO/337/GFF). These three topics pertain to FAO's mandate.

In addition, as a follow up of the COP 15 / Decision 27 where parties requested support to hold national consultations; FAO and UNCCD have launched a Joint Initiative to support countries to integrate land tenure into their LDN initiatives. The joint initiative has issued a call for application by countries to get support to national consultation on the integration of tenure into LDN initiatives. Over 33 countries have applied for such support, presenting a priority constituency for this project. Several FAO divisions (ESP, OCB, NFO) and decentralized offices (REU, RAP, RLC) are either informed or participate to the joint initiative.

FAO has accumulated solid experience and technical expertise in supporting countries to address land degradation and tenure issues. Likewise, implementation of multi-country projects and programs are at the heart of FAO's work with an attention to create flexible and tailor-made approaches allowing countries to reach their targets while benefiting from intercountry knowledge exchanges and extra technical assistance.

In this regard, a wealth of tested approaches, methodologies, partnerships, capacitated change agents have emerged since the adoption of the VGGT in 2012, providing information, capacities, tools and solutions for stakeholders to engage in addressing tenure issues in the context of LDN and LDN initiatives, that the project aims to deliver. FAO has supported over 30 countries to address tenure issues through legal and policies reforms, people-centered and fit-for-purpose land administration reforms, generate multi-stakeholders dialogue to address tenure issues, to integrate tenure issues into projects addressing land degradation, biodiversity losses and climate change adaptation and mitigation (e.g. GCP/GLO/347/MUL, GCP/GLO/539/EC, GCP/GLO/1028/GER).

FAO has also developed specific projects on the LDN – Tenure Nexus such as in Guyana (GCP /GUY/003/GRI), in Georgia (GCP/GEO/006/GFF), in Senegal (GCP /SEN/803/GFF) and under the GEF 7 funded Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GCP /GLO/980/GFF).

Therefore FAO's involvement in this project fits its mandate, corresponds to its role of honest broker to bring support to an expressed interest from its members, is backed up by decades of work on LDN – gender and tenure vested in multiple FAO division and decentralized offices.

In addition to the baseline projects, the project will also coordinate/explore lessons learned with the following initiatives:

In addition, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and FAO signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2016, establishing the Pan-African Parliamentary Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (PAPA-FSN). The agreement seeks to position food security and nutrition issues at the highest level of the political and legislative agendas in line with Africa's developmental objectives; and to strengthen the PAPA -FSN and related subregional as regional platforms for African Members of Parliament to discuss and agree on critical issues related to food security and nutrition.

This collaboration has produced a Model Law on Food and Nutrition Security, adopted by the PAP Plenary in November 2022 in order to realize the Right to Adequate Food for African countries. PAP and FAO are currently exploring an additional four model laws – gender equality, soil management, climate change, and the development of cooperatives

In the medium and long-term (up to Dec 2026), FAO and USAID have discussed the possibility of a joint programme. This could include, inter alia: facilitating policy dialogue between government, CSOs, women's groups and the private sector, including on the recommendations stemming from the analysis of SDG 5.a.2 reporting; promoting women's leadership in land and natural resource governance and institutions; strengthening women's resilience through access to income generating opportunities; implementing gender transformative approaches to address discriminatory social norm and unequal power dynamics; a joint research agenda to generate knowledge on selected issues (e.g. gender inequality in access to assets) to complement the findings of the FAO Status of Women in Agrifood Systems (2023); a revamped Gender and Land Rights Platform that could present data on progress and gaps on women's land rights to date.

More broadly, such revamped Gender and Land rights Platform would be aligned and embedded with the Global Land Observatory (GLO). This could support the streamlining of gender disaggregation of other land-related indicators that are maintained to document land tenure and governance, as well as support global land data as a whole, promoting transparency and accountability for increased political commitment to land



in general and women’s land rights in particular. In the context of these data initiatives, additional joint work could focus on data on collective land rights and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LC) territories (including a focus on Indigenous women and youth), and on the flagship State of Land Tenure and Governance report, which will include a strong analytical section on gender and women’s land rights – both making the case for action to support land for more sustainable and equitable development.

Finally, to give the above the political traction land and gender needs, it would be important to embed the innovations and data emerging from this collaboration into broader land agendas, from national to global levels. On the one hand, this could be achieved by supporting multi-stakeholder platforms, encouraging strong participation of women’s organizations, and developing national programmes with country governments to accelerate women’s documented rights to land (individually or collectively). On the other hand, supporting the Global Land Agenda – and strongly emphasizing the importance of gender and women’s land rights in advancing the land agenda as well as other sectoral agendas such as climate change, inclusive development, etc. – will enhance the impact of this collaborative work for systemic change and inclusive sustainable land governance. It will contribute to strengthening the commitment of States to address land and women’s land rights.

## Core Indicators

### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>	11,000			
<b>Male</b>	9,000			
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

The relevant GEF Core Indicators will be completed (i) at effectiveness, (ii) at mid-term review, and (iii) project closure.

For core indicator 4, the calculation will focus on the ‘area under improved practices that lead to improved environmental conditions and/or for which management plans have been prepared and endorsed and are under implementation’.

In the context of the project, targets for improved management and improvements in management (and resulting environmental benefits) will be connected directly or indirectly with improved governance of tenure.

The figure will be defined once the countries have been identified, as it will be informed by the potential captured in LDN target setting reports, policies and related commitments.

Core indicator 11 captures the estimate of the number of persons the project’s interventions reach out through the various platforms and capacity development activities and uptake of tools.

Gender-equitable participation in land governance requires that women are to be both “decision and policy makers” and “subjects of land governance policies and decisions”.

Consequently, a dual approach will to be applied – women need to be involved in the decisions related to laws and policies at the national level, while policymakers, both men and women, need to consult effectively with women at all levels on the content of any legislation or decision to ensure that those reflect these different perspectives, while also themselves understanding the different impacts land and natural resource governance can have on women and men.

Multistakeholder consultation processes will operate at both the national and local level and will be structured in a way that effectively encourages women to feel safe and able to participate.

To this end, the core indicator ration will be adjusted to 45% male and 55% female, with the caveat that it is crucially important to target male stakeholders that are often predominantly present in decision-making roles and engage them in a comprehensive manner and make them allies in the effort to shift the needle on gender equality in relation to the LDN and tenure arena.

## Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Low	The project is normative in nature and is not expected to be affected by climate risk per se. Should country level activities be considered to be at high risk to be impacted by natural disasters. However, anticipated climate change impacts (drought, floods, landslides) do have the potential to negatively affect LDN work that is indirectly supported and mobilized by this project. All training and guidance materials supported by the project will therefore incorporate necessary risk mitigation measures will be defined to lower and manage risks associated with climate change impacts.
Environmental and Social	Low	Resilience to gradual changes in social norms and attitudes is well understood and incorporated the design of projects. However, social marginalization of women and Indigenous People from participation in decision-making, implementation and sharing of benefits, which may undermine social sustainability of outcomes and miss opportunities for them to contribute their specific skills, capacities and knowledge. In order to mitigate these risks, country activities will adopt fully

		<p>participatory and inclusive approaches to the formulation and implementation to ensure social sustainability. The project will proactively promote the participation of women and Indigenous People, in accordance with the provisions of country-specific gender and socio-economic analyses and action plans, and accompanied by relevant indicators to measure impact.</p>
Political and Governance	Low	<p>There remains a low level of risk of project outcomes being undermined by unforeseen instability in political and governance conditions affecting support for the actions proposed and making it difficult to operate in the prospective countries. If this occurs, it is most likely to be largely on a country-specific basis, with limited implications for the project as a whole. The project will seek to mitigate these risks by: • the country project selection requires evidence of policy commitment; • working with civil society organizations at country and grassroots levels, with the aim of ensuring that they are resilient to changes in national and global policies.</p>
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	<p>As one of the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the project, the prospective participating countries all have strong political commitments and associated strategies to (i) strengthen tenure security and recognition and safeguarding of legitimate tenure rights for smallholders, women, local communities and Indigenous Peoples and have demonstrated willingness to improve the enabling environment for sustainable land management in line with longer-term sustainability</p>

		<p>goals. This minimizes the risk of sudden shifts in political priorities and support at national level. Actions under Component 2 will focus on ensuring the continuity of favourable policy and strategy conditions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with multi-stakeholder platforms that bring together development partners, national Governments, the scientific and technical community, the private sector, NGOs and community-based organizations, to ensure a stable baseline of commitment and of social pressure on policy makers. Providing policy makers with compelling and evidence-based information on the implications of different policy options.</li> </ul>
Technological	Low	<p>The project concept has been designed based on solid science and evidence of the feasibility of the proposed activities. The interventions proposed at concept stage will be subject to further in-depth technical analysis during full project formulation, supported by multi-disciplinary teams of experts; based on principles of adaptive learning and management, including ongoing technical and stakeholder-based review.</p>
Financial and Business Model	Low	<p>Unforeseen changes in macro-economic conditions pose a low risk to project outcomes, e.g. due to global pressures (inflation, international debt and other pressures). The project will seek to mitigate these risks by: Working with policy makers to help ensure that policies on equitable tenure governance to enhance LDN initiatives incorporate a “whole of government” and whole-of-society perspective that considers indirect</p>

		and inter-sectoral implications for costs and benefits.
EXECUTION		
Capacity for Implementation	Low	Capacity and experience of the proposed partner institutions and entities agencies is one of the criteria for inclusion in the project. During PPG phase, the implementing agency will ensure that selection of counterparts and delivery mechanisms comply with agency standards; needs for capacity strengthening will be identified, and options of alternative/complementary institutional partners that may be required to address any deficiencies will be identified.
Fiduciary	Low	The project will be subject to the fiduciary standards, and procedures for financial management and procurement of the Implementing Agency.
Stakeholder	Low	A detailed stakeholder analysis and engagement plan will be developed for during the formulation stage. The Programme will provide policy support and outreach/KM to support to countries in their implementation efforts.
Other		N/A
Overall Risk Rating	Low	

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

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

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

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Specifically, the goal of the Land Degradation Focal Area in GEF-8 is to avoid, reduce, and reverse land degradation, desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

The LDFA strategy aims to contribute to its goal through: 1) avoiding and reducing land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM); 2) reversing land degradation through restoration of production landscapes; 3) addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues, particularly in drylands, and 4) improving the enabling policy and institutional framework for LDN.

The project will enable stakeholders to promote LDN principles at multiple levels related to the responsible and equitable governance of tenure; to address national obstacles to LDN attainment; to promote good governance and respect for land tenure; and to align private and public investments with LDN principles. The project will support CSOs - which are active in the areas of governance of tenure and/ or land degradation neutrality - to strengthen the inclusion and representation of smallholders in LDN actions, including actions funded by the GEF and other donors as well as private investments in LDN. The targeted CSOs will be primarily CSOs which are already part of multi stakeholders dialogue mechanisms or networks at national or global level and will - as such - participate to strengthen CSO networking and dialogue on LDN and tenure and can contribute to enhancing south-south cooperation. The project will also provide capacity and serve as a platform for groups in vulnerable situation such as Indigenous Peoples, youth and women to participate more actively in the UNCCD process.

The project aims to link across the Rio Conventions gender action plans; the Voluntary Guidelines of the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry in the Context of National Food Security; the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas as well as global gender equality norms and standards, such as those guaranteed by CEDAW and ICESCR.

The UNCCD GAP asserts that gender mainstreaming is essential “to address the gender inequalities that disproportionately undermine women’s effectiveness as agents of change in the implementation of the Convention, [and] would enhance the achievement of LDN targets.”

The GAP outlines four priority areas to incorporate in LDN implementation: i) ensure women’s participation in decisions taken during the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of initiatives to implement the UNCCD; ii) integrate women’s economic empowerment in UNCCD implementation activities in order to eradicate their extreme poverty; iii) strengthen women’s land rights and access to resources; and iv) enhance women’s access to improved knowledge and technologies that relate to effective UNCCD implementation, including LDN.

COP 15, Decision 11: Gender Plan of Action	Women's rights, land ownership, participation and leadership, capacity building	Objective 1.1 Increase all women and girls' rights to ownership and control over land and access to natural resources and to water, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
COP 15, Decision 8: Capacity- building and development and technical and scientific cooperation	Women, indigenous peoples & local communities, capacity building, expertise sharing, human rights	Also urges Parties and invites other Governments to put in place enabling environments including relevant policies, legislation and administrative measures, as appropriate, to promote and facilitate capacity-building and development at various levels, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, and women and youth organizations  Guiding Principles 8e. Indigenous peoples and local communities, gender and youth perspectives should be fully integrated into biodiversity capacity-building and development efforts, taking into account the Gender Plan of Action  Goals and Objectives 1c. To promote and facilitate the development, transfer and use of appropriate technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies subject to free, prior and informed consent, according to national legislation
COP 15, Decision 28: Biodiversity and agriculture	Soil, tenure, women, indigenous people & local communities	Activity 1.9 Promote ways and means to overcome obstacles to the adoption of good practices in sustainable soil management associated with land tenure, the rights of users of land and water, in particular women, the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, in accordance with national legislation and international instruments, recognizing their important contributions through their knowledge and

The different decisions made at UNCCD COP14 call for a stronger support to country Parties to implement the concept of LDN at national levels, through guidance for (i) raising awareness, building capacity and facilitate voluntary technology transfer related to LDN practices, (ii) strengthening national level coordination for LDN through adequate land governance and integration in policy frameworks, (iii) Strengthening the national voluntary LDN target setting process, and (iv) mobilizing LDN financing and strengthening collaboration with GEF. The project aims to advance these specific areas of country support.

#### D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

##### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

##### Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

##### Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: No

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



Name	Stakeholder Type	Stakeholder profile	Method	Consultation Findings	Date	Comments
Jes Weigelt, Head of Programmes  <b>TMG - Think Tank for Sustainability</b>	Partner	Development Consultancy	Virtual Meeting, Email exchanges	TMG has been involved in the discussion and review of elements of the zero-draft PIF  Synergies for partnering have been identified, especially in Benin where relevant field work has taken place	11 December 2023	Central place of the support to UNCCD focal points and development of country level MSPs was also discussed, to be further defined
Kader Baba  Research Associate / Country Programme Manager – Benin <b>TMG - Think Tank for Sustainability</b>						
Frederike Klümper  Programme Lead - Land Governance <b>TMG - Think Tank for Sustainability</b>						

<p><b>UNCCD- Joint Initiative</b></p>	<p>Partner</p>	<p>MEA Secretariat</p>	<p>Webinars</p>	<p>Advocacy webinars for the UNCCD - FAO Joint Initiative mobilized the most relevant actors for the project</p>	<p>February and May 2023</p>	<p>February 2023: 241 participants (80 countries), representation: national public authorities (50%), UN agencies (35%), academia/research (2%), CSOs (10%) and others (3%). May 202023: 885 participants (138 pays), representation: CSOs/NGOs (39%), UN agencies (23%), national public authorities (20%), academia/research (9%), and Resource Partners (8%)</p>
<p>Ms Bora Masumbuko Senior Programme Officer  IUCN</p>	<p>Partner</p>	<p>GEF Agency</p>	<p>Virtual Meeting</p>	<p>Linkages with the LDN Enabling Activity and MSP project with CSOs have been identified</p>	<p>12/01/2024</p>	<p>IUCN is keen to collaborate on this project and explore linkages</p>

<p><b>Beth Roberts</b></p> <p><b>Director,</b> <b>Center for Women's</b> <b>Land Rights</b></p> <p><b>Landesa</b></p>	<p>Partner</p>	<p>Non-Profit Organization</p>	<p>Virtual Meeting</p>		<p>23/01/2024</p>	
<p>Dr Andreas Lange</p> <p>Senior Land Governance Advisor</p> <p><b>GIZ</b></p>	<p>Other</p>	<p>Developmen t Agency</p>	<p>Virtual Meeting</p>		<p>02/02/2024</p>	<p>Explore co- financing with GIZ's large programme "Strengthening Women for Resilient Rural Areas", W4R</p>
<p>Klaus Ackermann GIZ</p>	<p>Other</p>	<p>Developmen t Agency</p>	<p>Virtual Meeting</p>		<p>02/02/2024</p>	<p>Explore co – funding opportunities and synergies with the up coming Global Land Governance program (under formulation)</p>

Oliver Schoenweger  <b>GIZ</b>	Other	Development Agency	Virtual Meeting		02/02/2024	Explore co – funding opportunities and synergies with the up coming Global Land Governance program (under formulation)
Mrinalini Rai  Director  <b>Women4Biodiversity</b>	Potential Beneficiary	Civil Society Organization	Email	The CSO agreed with the proposed project components that encompasses the main concerns of key actors on gender equality		They are looking forward to collaborate in the full project formulation and implementation. They have expertise in conducting projects aiming at women’s empowerment, raising awareness, training

**Further comprehensive stakeholder consultations at global, regional and national levels will be undertaken during PPG phase, according to the stakeholder engagement plan (to be finalized).**

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

**Private Sector**

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

**Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks**

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

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### Knowledge management

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

Yes

## ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	Grant	2,000,000.00	190,000.00	2,190,000.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>190,000.00</b>	<b>2,190,000.00</b>

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4500

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	Grant	50,000.00	4,500.00	54,500.00

<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>		<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>54,500.00</b>
------------------------------	--	------------------	-----------------	------------------

Please provide justification

### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>0.00</b>

### Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
LD-4	GET	2,000,000.00	7000000
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>7,000,000.00</b>

### Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Donor Agency	NICFI and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero of the UK	Grant	Investment mobilized	300000
Donor Agency	GIZ/BMZ	Grant	Investment mobilized	5000000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	1700000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>7,000,000.00</b>

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investments considered as mobilized investment include the following:

- 1) Financial partners: Norway's International Climate and Forests Initiative (NICFI), and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero of the United Kingdom

Forest land monitoring for climate action

USD 300,000

- 2) Financial partner: GIZ

Strengthening Women for Resilient Rural Areas W4R

USD 5 M

3) Financial partner: FAO Flexible Voluntary Contribution

Governing for Sustainable Agrifood Systems: Strengthening Legislation and Building Capacity to Support Implementation, Compliance and Enforcement

USD 1,200,000

4) Financial partner: FAO Flexible Voluntary Contribution

Scaling up gender and social inclusion mainstreaming under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes

USD 500,000

**ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS**

**GEF Agency(ies) Certification**

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Mr Jeffrey Griffin	2/19/2024	Mr Jeffrey Griffin		Jeffrey.Griffin@fao.org
Project Coordinator	Ms Maude Veyret-Picot	2/19/2024	Ms Maude Veyret-Picot		Maude.veyretpicot@fao.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

**ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION**

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

Global - participating countries to be identified

**ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING**

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

Title
Full ES Risk Screening checklist for LDN project

**ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS**

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
---------------------------	---------------------------	--------------	------------------



Significant Objective 1

Significant Objective 1

Significant Objective 1

Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<b>Influencing models</b>			
	<b>Transform policy and regulatory environments</b>		
	<b>Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making</b>		
	<b>Convene multi-stakeholder alliances</b>		
	<b>Demonstrate innovative approaches</b>		
<b>Stakeholders</b>			
	<b>Indigenous People</b>		
	<b>Beneficiaries</b>		
	<b>Local Communities</b>		
	<b>Civil Society</b>	Community Based Organization	
		Non-Governmental Organization	
	<b>Type of Engagement</b>	Information Dissemination	
		Partnership	
		Consultation	
		Participation	
	<b>Communications</b>	Awareness Raising	
<b>Capacity, Knowledge and Research</b>	<b>Capacity Development</b>		
	<b>Knowledge and Learning</b>	Knowledge Management	
		Capacity Development	
	<b>Stakeholder Engagement Plan</b>		
<b>Gender Equality</b>	<b>Gender Mainstreaming</b>	Beneficiaries	
		Women groups	
		Sex-disaggregated indicators Gender-sensitive indicators	
	<b>Gender results areas</b>	Access and control over natural resources	
		Participation and leadership	
		Access to benefits and services	
		Capacity development	
		Awareness raising Knowledge generation	
<b>Focal Areas/Theme</b>	<b>Integrated programs</b>		
		Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration	
			Comprehensive Land Use Planning
			Smallholder Farmers

	<b>Land Degradation</b>	Sustainable Land Management	Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands  Ecosystem Approach  Community-Based NRM  Sustainable Livelihoods  Sustainable Pasture Management
		Land Degradation Neutrality	Land Cover and Land cover change