

GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO CHILD ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Child Project Information

Child Project Title

Integrated Dryland Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Regeneration and Conservation (IDERRCN) to Support the Great Green Wall Initiative in Kebbi State in Nigeria.

Region Africa	GEF Project ID 11461
Country(ies) Nigeria	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies) UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID
Project Executing Entity(s) Nigeria National Agency of the Great Green Wall	Project Executing Type Government
GEF Focal Area (s) Multi Focal Area	Submission Date 6/20/2025
Type of Trust Fund GET	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 3,028,440.00	Agency Fee(s) Grant: (b) 272,560.00
PPG Amount: (c) 100,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (d) 9,000.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 3410000	Total Co-financing 21,850,000.00

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
No Contribution 0	Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, to offer a snapshot of what is being proposed. The summary should include: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? ii) as a child project under a program, explain how the description fits in the broader context of the specific program; (iii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Nigeria is endowed with natural resources which are under serious threats to natural and anthropogenic factors. Deforestation and land degradation are significant consequences of climate change in Nigeria, leading to loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, and reduced ecosystem services. Droughts are a significant and recurring challenge in the country, affecting agriculture, water resources, and livelihoods, especially in the northern and semi-arid regions. Droughts are becoming more frequent and severe – reducing crop yields, deplete water resources, and worsen food insecurity, disproportionately affecting smallholder farmers and pastoralists. The economic impact is most severe in regions where agriculture is the main livelihood. Land degradation in Nigeria is a critical environmental and socio-economic issue, affecting agricultural productivity, food security, and rural livelihoods. The problem is widespread, with both natural and human-induced factors contributing to the persistent decline in land quality across diverse ecological zones. These environmental changes further exacerbate poverty, food insecurity, and social tensions, particularly in rural areas dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. Nearly 26.5 million people were projected grapple with high levels of food insecurity already in 2024 – due to conflicts, climate change impacts, escalating inflation, and rising costs of both food and essential non-food commodities.

The project, Integrated Dryland Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Regeneration and Conservation (IDERRCN), has been designed as a Child Project within the Great Green Wall Program to respond to natural resources challenges in Kebbi State. The objective of the project is to restore degraded ecosystems through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and strengthened institutional capacity while promoting climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative. Designed to be transformative, IDERRCN's approach will focus on creating conditions for sustainable integrated ecosystem. It will restore 2,500 of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes, improving the ecosystem infrastructure on areas of enormous socioeconomic and environmental importance. The project will also improve the management of 3,000 ha through socio-culturally responsive but also sustainable land management practices. With a deliberate effort to improve the gender context of women, and in collaboration with the private sector, the project will support women-driven enterprises; building their capacity and supporting their access to markets. Through support towards value chains, the project will improve livelihoods of 900,000 people (450,000 females; 450,000 males). This will be achieved through: (a) proactive stakeholders' engagement, implementation of articulated Gender Action Plan, strengthened legal and institutional framework; (b) harnessing and improving adaptive research and integration of indigenous knowledge and cultural values to support natural resource management, conservation and productivity; and (c) community level ecosystem management plans through participatory and inclusive processes. These priority interventions contribute to the conservation of habitats and biodiversity, enhancing the availability and access to water resources, promoting sustainable land use practices, pastoralism, control degradation trends, improve equity and reduce the vulnerability of local communities to environmental and climate change.

Overall, IDERRCN aligns closely with Nigeria's National Drought Plan and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, offering a multi-dimensional solution to address severe droughts and land degradation in vulnerable regions such as Kebbi State. It will address severe droughts through i) promotion of climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises which will ensure diversified, drought-resilient livelihoods that reduce dependence on vulnerable rain-fed systems; ii) strengthening institutional and stakeholder capacities through participatory knowledge management which will enable scalable solutions to mitigate future drought risks; iii) the project's alignment with the GGWI will reinforce regional cooperation and integrated landscape restoration across drought-prone corridors of the Sahel.

[1] Abdullahi, H., Fullen, M., & Oloke, D. (2017). Problems of drought and its management in Yobe State, Nigeria. *Weather and Climate Extremes*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.WACE.2019.100192>.

Child Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To restore degraded ecosystems through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and strengthened institutional capacity while promoting climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative.

Project Components

Component 1: Building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacity for the implementation of the GGW Initiative

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
450,000.00	3,246,720.00

Outcome:

1.1.: Strengthened technical and institutional capacity enables effective implementation of drought-resilient GGW actions

Output:

1.1.1: National and state-level GGWI coordination committees for drought-resilient implementation established, operational, and formally embedded within existing government institutions through legal mandates, policy frameworks, and administrative structures.

1.1.2: Enhanced Stakeholder capacity in drought-resilient agro-Sylvo-pastoral practices

1.1.3: Gender-responsive awareness campaigns and policy dialogues for integrated water conservation and land restoration to mitigate impacts of droughts.

1.1.4: Gender-responsive water management committees established and relevant capacities built.

Component 2: Supporting restoration and Natural Resources Management including promotion of agro-sylvopastoral practices in Kebbi State

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,394,307.00	9,574,350.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1 Integrated, drought-resilient land management enhances ecosystem restoration and agro-sylvo-pastoral practices in Kebbi State

Output:

2.1.1: Restoration of 5,500 hectares of degraded lands with drought-resilient practices.

2.1.2: Indigenous knowledge on natural resource management and drought resilience documented, validated integrated into community-based drought-resilient ecosystem management plans developed and implemented.

2.1.3: Drought-resilient water and soil conservation infrastructure developed for enhanced productivity and resilience.

Component 3: Promotion of local value chains and women led enterprises

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
800,000.00	5,771,950.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1 Community empowerment through drought-resilient value chains enhances ecosystem restoration and livelihoods in Kebbi State.

Output:

3.1.1: Strengthened Gender-Responsive, Drought-Resilient Value Chains for Nature-based enterprises

3.1.2: Gender-responsive and socially Inclusive Livelihood Strategies integrated into Local Development Plans and NRM-related policies

3.1.3 Community awareness and capacity enhanced on ecosystem-based enterprises

Component 4: Knowledge Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
102,922.00	685,420.00

Outcome:

4.1 Knowledge management and dissemination empower stakeholders to adopt drought-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices

Output:

4.1.1: Gender-responsive, drought-focused awareness and Information Systems Developed

4.1.2: Gender-inclusive lessons and knowledge products systematically collected and disseminated to various audiences, including GGWI Program regional meetings.

Component 5: M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
137,001.00	1,479,060.00

Outcome:

5.1 Participatory monitoring and evaluation strengthen project implementation and results, contributing to the GGW Program

Output:

5.1.1 Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems established and implemented to contribute to the GGWI

5.1.2 Knowledge and information systems developed for monitoring land degradation and ecosystem restoration

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1: Building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacity for the implementation of the GGW Initiative	450,000.00	3,246,720.00
Component 2: Supporting restoration and Natural Resources Management including promotion of agro-sylvopastoral practices in Kebbi State	1,394,307.00	9,574,350.00
Component 3: Promotion of local value chains and women led enterprises	800,000.00	5,771,950.00
Component 4: Knowledge Management	102,922.00	685,420.00
Component 5: M&E	137,001.00	1,479,060.00
Subtotal	2,884,230.00	20,757,500.00
Project Management Cost	144,210.00	1,092,500.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	3,028,440.00	21,850,000.00

Please provide Justification

CHILD PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, the most populous country in Africa, is endowed with natural resources. Nigeria is a very rich biodiversity country and has an endemic flora of 91 species belonging to 44 families. Rubiaceae accounts for the highest numbers. The country has a total of 309 threatened species in the following taxonomic categories: Mammals (26), Birds (19), Reptiles (8), Amphibians (13), Fishes (60), Molluscs (1), other Invertebrates (14) and Plants (168) (Sedghi, 2013). The categories of biodiversity related sites in Nigeria

include: 7 National Parks of Old Oyo, Cross River, Gashaka-Gumti, Okomu, Chad Basin, Kainji Lake, and Kamuku; 27 Important Bird Areas including all National Parks and 60% the Ramsar sites; 11 Ramsar Sites; 2 World Heritage Sites of Sukur Kingdom and Osun Osogbo Grove; 994 Forest Reserves; 32 Game Reserves; 1 Biosphere Reserve; and many Sacred groves at varied level of protection. However, this rich biodiversity is under threat due to deforestation (estimated at 3.5% annually, or 350,000-400,000 ha of forests lost), poverty (the number of Nigerians living in extreme poverty is set to rise by 7.7 million between 2019 and 2024^[1]), land degradation, impacts of climate change and population growth.

The country faces significant impacts from climate change across its diverse ecosystems and socio-economic sectors. Climate change exacerbates existing environmental, social, and economic challenges, leading to a range of impacts across the country. Nigeria is 154th on ND-GAIN Country Index rank and is the 53rd most vulnerable country and the 179th most ready country. Its vulnerability score is 0.486, and HDI of 0.548 (2024).^[2] The country has both a great need for investment and innovations to improve readiness and a great urgency for action.^[3]

Drought has been a major concern for Nigeria. The frequency, severity, duration and spatial extent of drought are expected to even further intensify in the coming decade because of climate change and associated risk. The disastrous impacts of drought on food security, social stability, livelihoods, the environment and the economy calls for renewed commitment towards drought management in the country so that the impacts on various sectors could be mitigated. Drought has occurred in Nigeria in 1883, 1903/1905, 1913/1915, 1923/1924, 1942/1944, 1954/1956, 1972/1973, 1982/1983 and 1991/1995. The major droughts, which are regional and have a 30-year cycle, are known to have occurred in 1883/1885, 1913/1915, 1942/1944 and 1972/1973. The 30-year cycle droughts are usually regional, while the 10-year drought cycles are usually localized. The impacts of drought can be extremely severe for the most vulnerable groups in the society (women and children).^[4]

Land degradation in Nigeria is a critical environmental and socio-economic issue, affecting agricultural productivity, food security, and rural livelihoods. The problem is widespread, with both natural and human-induced factors contributing to the persistent decline in land quality across diverse ecological zones. Northern Nigeria faces severe desertification, with up to 60% of land in some areas classified as highly vulnerable.^[5] In the guinea savannah areas of the country, human-induced degradation dominates, with over 38% of land area affected.^[6] Droughts, deforestation, and soil erosion have devastated ecosystems and reduced agricultural productivity. Climate change has intensified these issues, causing erratic rainfall, rising temperatures, and the shrinking of vital water bodies like Lake Chad. Socioeconomically, these environmental pressures have deepened poverty and food insecurity. Over 40 million Nigerians are impacted by desertification and land degradation, with a significant number of them being farmers and pastoralists whose livelihoods are threatened. Overall, desertification affects

43% of Nigeria's landmass.^[7]⁷ The degradation of land has led to reduced crop yields, loss of grazing areas, and forced migration, contributing to social instability and conflict over scarce resources. Youth unemployment and rural poverty are exacerbated by limited access to sustainable income sources. Desertification in Northern Nigeria poses a severe threat to environmental and socio-economic stability, with only 6.7% unaffected and 60% in severe or compelling vulnerability categories.^[8]⁸ Thus, Nigeria's IDERRCN participation in the Great Green Wall (GGW) Programme as a Child Project is rationalizable on the basis of the pressing environmental and socioeconomic challenges, particularly in its northern regions. By integrating environmental restoration with socioeconomic development, Nigeria's GGW efforts through IDERCCN will represent a strategic response to one of the country's most urgent challenges.

The IDERRCN project has been proposed to be implemented in Kebbi State – a state that is characterised by droughts, pervasive land degradation, escalating biodiversity loss, and the relentless advance of climate change. Kebbi State is acutely vulnerable to drought due to its geographic location and long-standing exposure to climatic stress. Scientific evidence highlights a persistent decline in rainfall and increasing aridity, reinforcing drought as a critical and ongoing threat to the region's ecosystems, agricultural productivity, and the livelihoods of its communities^[9]⁹. The drought vulnerability context is amplified by the fact that existing public water supply facilities in Kebbi State are inadequate, calling for more infrastructure and an inventory of private water sources.^[10]¹⁰

Kebbi State faces increasing drought risk due to variable rainfall, rising temperatures, and moderate sensitivity to desertification. Farmers in Kebbi State are already aware of the severity and frequency of droughts - they attribute climate change and soil degradation to factors such as deforestation, drought, overgrazing, poor government policy, research development, population growth, and poverty.^[11]¹¹ Climate change has influenced rainfall and temperature patterns in Kebbi State, potentially impacting biodiversity, groundwater levels, food security, and ecosystem services.^[12]¹²

Spatial variation relative to the target project area: Recent analyses show significant variability in both rainfall and temperature in Kebbi State. From 1993 to 2022, monthly rainfall varied significantly, with periods of both increase and decrease across different stations. Notably, maximum monthly average temperatures have risen, reaching up to 42.5°C in April 2022. Overall, temperature trends are increasing at rates between 0.016°C and 0.028°C per year, while rainfall trends are mixed, with some stations showing increases and others decreases.^[13]¹³ These trends highlight the need for adaptive strategies in agriculture and water management to address increasing climate variability and drought risk.

Rainfall decline in Kebbi State: Scientific analyses of rainfall patterns in Kebbi State reveal a notable downward trend:

- Significant downward trend: In Birnin Kebbi, there was a significant downward trend in yearly total and mean rainfalls, specifically a decrease of 9.04 mm/year between 1978 and 2007[14]¹⁴.
- Regional decline: More broadly, Northern Nigeria, including Kebbi State, has experienced a persistent decline in rainfall since the late 1960s. A significant rainfall decrease of 29-49% was observed in the 1968-1997 period compared to the 1931-1960 baseline within the Sahel region. The West Africa region, as a whole, has seen a 15-30% decline[15]¹⁵.

Other studies indicate:

- That the total annual rainfall decreased in some periods: especially 1998-2003 and 2008-2013, at certain stations. Eg: a station in SW Kebbi had a drop of ~26.93 mm/year, others ~19-24 mm/year in SW and SE. Temperatures (min and max) are trending upward: around +0.016 to +0.028 °C per year in different parts of the state.[16]¹⁶

The trends are summarised in the table below:

Metric	Trend / Value	Period	Comments and data sources
Average annual rainfall (Birnin Kebbi)	~787.5 mm/year	Baseline (1915-1946, etc.)	The information indicates that earlier decades had somewhat higher, later decades showing decline.[17] ¹⁷
Decline in rainfall (Birnin Kebbi)	-9.04 mm/year	1978-2007	The trend in the decline is statistically significant.[18] ¹⁸
Decline at some stations in SW/SE Kebbi	~19-27 mm/year	1998-2003; 2008-2013	At specific stations.[19] ¹⁹
Increasing temperature	+0.016 to +0.028 °C/year	1993-2022	Indicating that the minimum and maximum temperatures both rising.[20] ²⁰
Number of drought years vs wet years (SPI for Kebbi)	18 drought years vs 13 wet years in a 31-year span	1988-2018	The information shows more frequent droughts.[21] ²¹

Thus:

- There is clear evidence that Kebbi State is prone to drought, with historical drought episodes particularly in the 1970s and 1980s, but also more frequent droughts in recent decades.
- The decline in rainfall is not uniform across all stations or all years - in some periods/stations rainfall has increased, but overall the trend for many locations is downward.
- Rising temperatures exacerbate drought risks, by increasing evapotranspiration and possibly drying soils faster, reducing effective rainfall.

While these specific numerical changes are focused on the 'project target areas,' the underlying Regional Climate Model projections are visualized for the country scale in Nigeria. This suggests that the broader trends of a general increase in temperature and a general reduction in rainfall are expected across Nigeria. However, the quantified changes (0.96-1.05°C increase in temperature and ~30 mm reduction in precipitation) are specifically relevant to the 'project target areas'.

- Frequent occurrences: Northern Nigeria is highly vulnerable to drought, with historical records linking severe famines directly to rainfall deficits.
- Recurrent drought periods: Specific documented drought periods that have affected Northern Nigeria and, by extension, Kebbi State, include: 1914, 1924, 1935, 1943, 1951–1954, the catastrophic droughts of 1972–1973, 1982–1983, 1991–1995, and persistent drought conditions throughout the 1970s, 1980s, and into parts of the 1990s and 2000s. ^[22][22](#)

These critical challenges underscore the urgency of the GGWI. Biodiversity in Kebbi's drylands, though fragile, is rapidly declining due to habitat fragmentation, unsustainable resource use, and invasive species, eroding vital ecosystem services like pollination and water purification.^[23][23](#) Simultaneously, widespread land degradation, manifesting as desertification, worsens with unsustainable practices such as overgrazing, bush burning, and deforestation, leading to severe food insecurity, increased poverty, and heightened resource conflicts.^[24][24](#) Compounding these environmental crises, climate change presents an intensifying threat; the region faces prolonged droughts, unpredictable floods, and rising temperatures, which drastically diminish water resources, cause widespread crop failures, and significantly reduce the overall resilience of both ecosystems and communities to environmental shocks.

Despite ongoing efforts by federal and state governments, land degradation persists across northern Nigeria's dryland ecosystems, including the five targeted LGAs in Kebbi State. This degradation, encompassing declining soil fertility, deforestation, and reduced water availability, profoundly impacts land productivity, deepens livelihood vulnerability, and contributes to migration and resource conflicts. While Nigeria possesses a robust policy framework, its implementation is often hampered by weak institutional capacity, poor inter-agency

coordination, inadequate enforcement, and limited access to affordable and sustainable land management technologies.

Furthermore, rapid population growth intensifies pressure on these fragile ecosystems. Consequently, the IDERRCN project is crucial not only for piloting integrated ecosystem rehabilitation but also for bolstering institutional reform, enhancing policy coherence, and fostering inclusive, community-based approaches. It aims to operationalize national policies, such as the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, at the grassroots level by strengthening local value chains, promoting gender-responsive actions, integrating indigenous knowledge, and supporting community-led ecosystem management plans. Beyond environmental restoration, the project drives transformational socio-economic change, prioritizing poverty alleviation, gender equity, and community empowerment through women-led enterprises and fair benefit-sharing, thereby translating strategic intentions into meaningful action on the ground.

The rising temperatures associated with climate change exacerbate heat stress, affecting human health, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Changing climatic conditions also influence the distribution and prevalence of diseases such as malaria, cholera, and meningitis, posing additional challenges to public health systems. Coastal areas in Nigeria are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with sea-level rise, erosion, and saltwater intrusion threatening coastal communities and infrastructure. Loss of land, habitat degradation, and disruption of livelihoods exacerbate the socio-economic vulnerabilities of coastal populations. Based on the emission scenario RCP4.5 in Nigeria, the graphs below show:[\[25\]](#)²⁵

- (A1): Temperature average over the reference period 2000-2020 ($^{\circ}\text{C}$);
- (A2): Projected change in temperature for 2031-2050 compared to the reference period 2000-2020 - with temperature projected to increase in the range of 0.96 to 1.05 $^{\circ}\text{C}$ within the project target areas;
- A3: Regional climate model projections for temperature displayed as 20 year running mean. The line represents the ensemble mean while the shaded area represents the model spread – showing a general increase in temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$);
- B1: The annual precipitation sum over the reference period 2000-2020 (mm);
- B2: Projected change in precipitation for 2031-2050 compared to the reference period 2000-2020 (mm) - with precipitation projected to vary by about -30 mm within the project target areas; and
- B3: Regional climate model projections for precipitation displayed as 20 year running mean. The line represents the ensemble mean while the shaded area represents the model spread – showing a general reduction in the amount of rainfall (mm).

One significant impact of climate change in Nigeria is the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Erratic rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and flooding result in water scarcity, crop failures, and food insecurity, particularly in rural areas where agriculture is the main livelihood. The displacement of communities and destruction of infrastructure further compound the socio-economic impacts of extreme weather events.

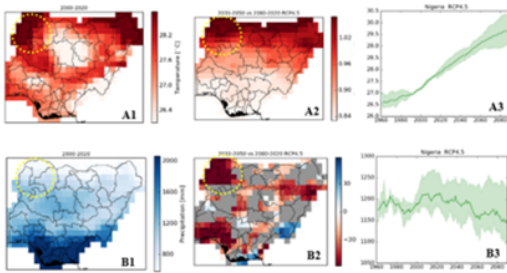


Figure showing historical and projected rainfall and temperature patterns in Nigeria

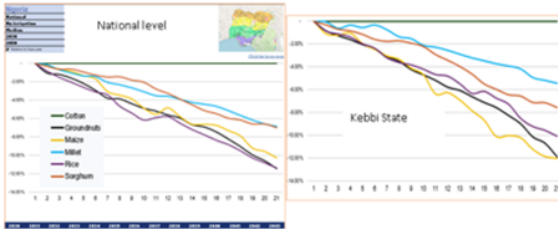


Figure showing reductions in crop yields associated with Climate Change

Nigeria has 70.8 million hectares of agriculture land area with maize, cassava, guinea corn, yam beans, millet and rice being the major crops.[1] Based on the Climate Adaptation in Rural Development (CARD) assessment tool, the yields of these crops are projected dwindle under no irrigation scenario between 2030 and 2050 as tabulated below:

Table showing decline in yields of selected crops

Crop	National level (%)	Kebbi State level (%)
Cotton	-	-
Groundnuts	-11	-12
Maize	-10	-12
Millet	-7	-5
Rice	-11	-10
Sorghum	-7	-8

It was reported that about 26.5 million people would be grappling with high levels of food insecurity already in 2024 – due to conflicts, climate change impacts, escalating inflation, and rising costs of both food and essential non-food commodities (in part due to the devaluation of the naira and the discontinuation of the fuel subsidy). Persistent violence in the north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) hinders food availability and access.[2]

Deforestation and land degradation are also significant consequences of climate change in Nigeria, leading to loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, and reduced ecosystem services. These environmental changes further exacerbate poverty, food insecurity, and social tensions, particularly in rural areas dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods.

To address the environmental challenges, Nigeria faces the following barriers:

- **Weak technical and institutional capacities to address land degradation, resource depletion and impacts of climate change:** In Kebbi State, institutions responsible for land and natural resource management lack the technical expertise, coordination mechanisms, and logistical support needed to implement integrated land restoration and climate adaptation measures. Limited knowledge of sustainable land management (SLM) practices and inadequate extension services constrain effective planning, monitoring, and enforcement. This weakness

hampers the ability to address widespread land degradation, manage scarce resources sustainably, and respond to the impacts of climate variability on dryland ecosystems and livelihoods.

- **Limited implementation of context-responsive sustainable land management for land restoration, management of natural resources and agro-sylvopastoral practices in Kebbi State:** Despite growing awareness of SLM benefits, practical implementation in Kebbi remains minimal due to weak adaptation of techniques to local ecological and socio-economic contexts. Traditional farming and grazing systems persist, often leading to soil erosion, vegetation loss, and declining productivity. The absence of integrated land-use planning and community-led restoration models limits the adoption of efficient agro-sylvopastoral practices suited to the semi-arid environment. Consequently, opportunities to enhance land productivity, biodiversity, and climate resilience remain largely untapped.
- **Chronic poverty levels compounded by limited investments in climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral and restoration-friendly value chains for community:** High poverty rates in Kebbi's dryland communities limit the capacity of households to adopt sustainable livelihood and restoration practices. Lack of access to finance, inputs, markets, and infrastructure discourages investment in climate-resilient agriculture, forestry, and livestock systems. Women and youth face particular barriers to participating in value-added enterprises linked to restoration. Without targeted support and value chain development, communities remain trapped in subsistence production cycles that contribute to land degradation and vulnerability to climate shocks.
- **Weak M and E system, leading to limited transparency and accountability in reporting on GGWI activities:** Monitoring and evaluation frameworks for GGW activities in Kebbi are underdeveloped and poorly integrated across institutions. Data on land restoration, resource use, and community outcomes are fragmented, inconsistent, and often outdated. This limits evidence-based decision-making, weakens transparency, and constrains adaptive management of restoration interventions.

The Project Area Context (PAC): The Kebbi State

The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) represents a monumental pan-African effort designed to combat the pervasive challenges of desertification and land degradation across the Sahel and Sahara[3]. It is a testament to the urgent need for comprehensive intervention, particularly given that land degradation is severe in many parts of the GGW area, where natural regeneration can no longer happen on its own[4].

Land degradation is more apparent in States within the Sudan zones than those in the Sahel zone where desertification is prevalent. Systemic challenges within the GGW zone relate to high poverty, high population with constrained asset portfolios and limited income streams and livelihoods, and weak institutional capacities at both subnational and community levels to more effectively and sustainably manage natural resources[5]. Consistent with the objectives of the GGW Initiative and the National LDN targets, IDERRCN's objective is to restore dryland ecosystems through integrated sustainable land management and conservation within Kebbi State in the Nigerian GGW corridor.

Land degradation in Nigeria is a critical environmental issue, particularly in the northern regions. Driven by deforestation, overgrazing, unsustainable farming, and climate change, the consequences include reduced soil fertility, desertification, loss of biodiversity, and declining agricultural productivity. Communities dependent on farming and livestock suffer from food insecurity and poverty, leading to forced migration and social instability. Nigeria's participation in the Great Green Wall Programme aims to combat land degradation through reforestation, sustainable land management, and community-based restoration efforts.

Systemic challenges within the GGW zone relate to high poverty,^[6] high population with constrained asset portfolios and limited income streams and livelihoods, and weak institutional capacities at both subnational and community levels to more effectively and sustainably manage natural resources.^[7] Consistent with the objectives

of the GGW Initiative and the National LDN targets, IDERRCN’s objective is to restore dryland ecosystems through integrated sustainable land management and conservation within Kebbi State in the Nigerian GGW corridor.

IDERRCN will be implemented in the Kebbi State, a frontline region along Nigeria’s Great Green Wall (GGW) corridor. The State is facing urgent environmental challenges marked by expanding desertification, biodiversity loss, declining soil fertility, and water scarcity. The five participating Local Government Areas—Arewa, Arungu, Augie, Bunza, and Dandi—represent a stretch of dryland ecosystems that are experiencing increasing ecological pressure due to the complex interplay of climatic, socio-economic, and institutional factors. This landscape, situated in the semi-arid Sahelian zone, has long been vulnerable to climatic variability. Fluctuations in rainfall and recurring droughts—some of which are among the most severe recorded in recent decades—have contributed to soil erosion, land degradation, and declining agricultural productivity. Paradoxically, despite erratic rainfall, the region is also occasionally affected by damaging floods, further destabilizing ecosystems and local livelihoods.

Land degradation and environmental challenges in Kebbi State: key insights

Kebbi State, located in northwestern Nigeria, faces significant land degradation and environmental challenges driven by both natural and human factors. These issues threaten agricultural productivity, food security, and the livelihoods of millions, making sustainable land management a critical priority for the region.

Major drivers and patterns of land degradation:

- Land use change and vegetation loss: Remote sensing studies show a marked decline in dense vegetation and shrublands, with a corresponding increase in farmland and bare/grassland areas from 1986 to 2021. This shift is primarily due to population growth, expansion of agriculture, fuelwood collection, and poverty, leading to ecosystem service loss and biodiversity decline.[8]
- Soil erosion and gully formation: Gully erosion is widespread, especially in agricultural zones, resulting in significant soil loss, reduced soil fertility, and the transformation of productive land into badlands. Poor land management, over-cultivation, and lack of vegetation cover exacerbate this problem.[9]
- Desertification: Kebbi State is moderately sensitive to desertification, with 15 - 17% of its area classified as sensitive or highly sensitive. Climatic factors, soil properties, and human activities all contribute to this vulnerability.[10]

Environmental and socioeconomic impacts:

- Food security and livelihoods: Land degradation, including illegal mining and invasive species (e.g., *Typha* grass), reduces agricultural yields and displaces farm labor, directly impacting food security and rural incomes.[11]
- Climate change and health: Climate variability, drought, and environmental degradation increase the risk of epidemics (e.g., meningitis) and drive rural-urban migration, compounding poverty and social challenges.[12]

Kebbi State falls within the semi-arid Sahelian belt of northwestern Nigeria, where land and water systems are increasingly under pressure due to a combination of climate variability, population growth, and unsustainable resource use. The five participating LGAs (Arewa, Dandi, Argungu, Augie, and Bunza) are directly influenced by seasonal hydrological systems, particularly in relation to the Gada-Gulbin Maradi and, to a lesser extent, the Maggia-Lamido shared catchments, which flow across the Nigeria–Niger border. These catchments support a mix of rainfed and fadama (lowland floodplain) agriculture, pastoralism, and fishing, but the natural resources underpinning these livelihoods are facing steady degradation.

It is noted that agro-silvo pastoralism is practiced by herdsmen in the state. Excessive fuelwood exploitation, browsing and general overgrazing have caused a lot of damage to the vegetation in the state. Tree planting was one of the adaptations to drought in the state. Itinerant labor (*cin rani*) was also cited by respondents in the state to mitigate the effects of drought in the state. The communities of the region are vulnerable to herder-farmer clashes because of the droughts which have degraded the soils and reduced the productive capacity of the farmlands. Farmers and pastoralists in the region have been having conflicts over grazing resources. There have been incidents of epidemics associated with inadequate water resources in the zone and the frequent droughts have degraded the vegetation and grazing areas.[13]

The local ecosystems support small-scale farming, transhumant pastoralism, and value chains like shea and moringa, but face severe degradation from climate variability, deforestation, and overgrazing. There was a notable downward trend in annual rainfall from the late 1970s to the mid-1990s, with significant decreases recorded in some periods and locations, contributing to drought episodes,[14] soil erosion, and invasive species threaten biodiversity and food security, exacerbating poverty, particularly for women and marginalized groups with limited resource access.

The decline in vegetation cover across Kebbi State has resulted in the fragmentation of wildlife habitats, a marked reduction in carbon storage both in soils and plant biomass, and a deterioration in the quality and extent of available pasture. As trees and shrubs cover diminishes, only a few remnant riparian forests—mainly along seasonal rivers and floodplains - continue to offer refuge for larger fauna, though these areas are increasingly isolated and under threat. Shifting patterns of land use, driven by expanding cultivation, fuelwood harvesting, and increased grazing pressure, combined with the impacts of climate change, have accelerated the loss of biodiversity across the landscape.

Despite this trend, local farmers in the project LGAs continue to conserve useful indigenous tree species within cultivated areas, maintaining traditional agroforestry parkland systems that support soil fertility, provide shade and fodder, and help stabilize microclimates. These systems play a critical role in preserving biodiversity within agricultural landscapes, even as natural ecosystems decline.

In terms of water resources, erratic flow regimes and seasonal drying of rivers and wetlands have increased the vulnerability of fishing livelihoods, particularly in the floodplain zone of the Argungu river catchment. Fishermen face greater variability in fish catches, with peak availability becoming harder to predict. Nevertheless, species diversity has largely been maintained, although certain high-demand species have become increasingly scarce due to overexploitation and habitat degradation.

Climate variability has become a defining feature of the region's environmental trends. Rainfall has declined in total volume and become more unpredictable in timing and distribution, leading to shorter growing seasons and a higher incidence of crop failure. High-intensity storms during the rainy season also contribute to flash flooding, further accelerating erosion and damaging farmlands and rural infrastructure. The cumulative impact of these trends has been the weakening of the natural resource base on which rural communities depend.

Livelihood systems in the five LGAs are diverse but heavily reliant on the land. Farming, pastoralism, and natural resource harvesting are practiced in dynamic interaction, yet all are vulnerable to environmental shocks. Seasonal migration of pastoralists, including cross-border transhumance from Niger, places significant pressure on grazing lands and water points, often leading to competition and land-use conflict.

The natural resource systems of the IDERRCN project area are therefore under mounting stress, shaped by both natural processes and human activities. These trends call for urgent and coordinated efforts to rehabilitate degraded ecosystems, restore vegetative cover, enhance soil and water management, and build the adaptive capacities of communities. The IDERRCN project responds to this challenge by integrating ecosystem regeneration with sustainable livelihoods and participatory natural resource governance, tailored to the realities of the five LGAs in Kebbi State.

Environmental stress is compounded by unsustainable natural resource management practices. These include overgrazing, frequent bush burning, deforestation, and continuous cultivation without fallow. As population density increases and competition for land and biomass intensifies, traditional land use systems that were once sustainable

are being overwhelmed. Vegetation cover has rapidly diminished, leaving the soil exposed and further accelerating the degradation process. The situation is further complicated by rapid population growth and the expansion of settlements. Growing demand for farmland, pasture, fuelwood, and timber has placed intense pressure on natural ecosystems, pushing agricultural activities into previously uncultivated and marginal areas. Long-standing practices of shifting cultivation and long fallow periods have all but disappeared in many communities, replaced by intensive land use that erodes fertility and reduces resilience to climate shocks.

At the institutional level, weak land governance and fragmented policy frameworks have made it difficult to coordinate sustainable development efforts. Although Nigeria's Land Use Act was designed to promote equitable land access, customary tenure systems still prevail in rural areas of Kebbi, often to the detriment of women, youth, and marginalized groups. The lack of clear and enforceable land rights not only fuels conflict between different resource users—particularly farmers and pastoralists—but also discourages long-term investment in land restoration.

Technological innovation and climate-smart agricultural practices remain largely absent across much of the IDERRCN target area. Farmers and pastoralists are rarely exposed to effective techniques that can sustainably increase productivity while restoring soil and vegetation. Meanwhile, indigenous knowledge, although rich and adaptive, has not been adequately supported or integrated with scientific advancements.

Market forces and growing urbanization have also had a profound impact. Rising demand for food and natural resources from nearby urban centers—including Birnin Kebbi and regional trade hubs—has incentivized the commercial exploitation of forest resources, often leading to uncontrolled woodcutting and charcoal production. Most rural households rely on wood for cooking and heating, and with plantations contributing little to energy supply, natural woodlands continue to bear the burden. Migration is another critical factor shaping the region's environmental dynamics. As opportunities in agriculture dwindle due to land scarcity and falling productivity, many young people and working-age adults are turning to seasonal or permanent migration. While this can provide much-needed remittances, it also drains labor and investment from the agricultural sector, leading to cycles of neglect and underdevelopment. Transhumance, a longstanding livelihood strategy for pastoralists, is becoming more contentious in the face of shrinking grazing corridors, water scarcity, and shifting land use patterns.

Social inequalities further intensify the challenges. Women, who make up nearly half of the population in the five LGAs, are central to agriculture, household resource management, and food security, yet they remain significantly disadvantaged in accessing land, finance, capacity-building, and decision-making platforms. Youth and other vulnerable populations face similar barriers, reducing the potential for inclusive restoration and development. Ultimately, the environmental and socio-economic degradation observed in Kebbi State's drylands are the result of systemic issues. These include the absence of incentives for sustainable land management, inadequate investment in institutional and community capacity, limited knowledge dissemination, and outdated top-down models of rural development. Addressing these root causes requires a holistic and inclusive approach that empowers communities, strengthens institutions, and restores ecological integrity while supporting resilient, diversified, and gender-equitable livelihoods.

Overall, land degradation in Kebbi State is driven by agricultural expansion, deforestation, poverty, and climate change, resulting in soil erosion, desertification, and declining ecosystem services. Addressing these challenges requires integrated land management, conservation efforts, and policies that support both environmental sustainability and local livelihoods – aspects which are embedded in the design of IDERRCN.

IDERRCN Project has been designed to respond directly to these root causes. Aligning national and regional priorities under the GGWI and embracing participatory ecosystem-based approaches, the project offers a transformative model to regenerate degraded lands, enhance biodiversity, reduce climate vulnerability, and improve the well-being of communities across the five LGAs in Kebbi State.

Within this context, IDERRCN will be critical in addressing the challenges within Kebbi State thereby contributing to Nigeria's priorities for the GGW corridor, but also to the national LDN agenda and global land rehabilitation

priorities. The project represents Nigeria's commitment to combating environmental degradation, and positions itself to contribute to land restoration; healing ecosystems for a healthier Nigeria and its people. Therefore, the country has a set of policies and regulations that strengthen its position and alignment with the Program. These include:

- In 2021, the President of Nigeria, Muhammed Buhari at UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow, pledged to restore 4,000,000 ha of degraded land by 2030. This pledge is in line with Africa wide pledge of restoring 100 million of ha in response to Bonn Challenge which pledge 350 million ha by 2030.
- The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria - Section 20, Chapter 2 provides that 'the State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria.'
- The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of 2015, which guides the biodiversity conservation agenda in the country;
- The National Agency for the Great Green Wall (Establishment) Act, 2015 (NAGGW Act) – guides the implementation of the GGW Initiative in Nigeria;
- Agriculture Promotion Policy 2016-2020 which sets Nigeria agricultural diversification and growth priorities;
- The National Policy on Climate Change which strengthens national initiatives to adapt to and mitigate climate change in a participatory manner involving all sectors of the Nigerian society, including the poor and other vulnerable groups (women, youth etc.) within the overall context of advancing sustainable socio-economic development in Nigeria; and
- Land Degradation Neutrality National targets (2018): The country has set the following LDN targets:
 - LDN at the national scale
 - LDN is to be achieved by 2030 as compared to 2015 and an additional 20 % of the national territory has improved (net gain).
 - LDN at the sub-national scale
 - LDN is to be achieved in the following regions by 2030 as compared to 2015 (no net loss) and an additional 20% of the following regions has improved (net gain): South western region, South East region, South Southern region, North western region, North Eastern region, North Central region, Imeko Game Reserve of Imeko/Afo LGA, Ogun state, Aworo Forest Reserve of Yewa North LGA, Ogun state, Saki of Saki East LGA, Oyo state, Ilesha Ibaruba of Baruten LGA, Ejeba of Ughilli North LGA, Delta, Oroma-Etiti of Anambra west LGA, Anambra state, Orishaeze of Ngor-Okpalla LGA, Imo state, Ifiang Nsung of Bakasi LGA, Cross Rivers, Badoko of Kachia LGA, Kaduna state, Amba of Nsarawa LGA, Nasarawa state, Banaga of Anka LGA, Zamfara State.
- Specific targets to avoid, minimize and reverse land degradation

- Improve land productivity and soil organic carbon stocks (SOC) in 463,300 hectares of cropland and grasslands by 2030 as compared to 2015 Rehabilitate 1,722,660 ha of cropland showing declining land productivity and 10,565,040 ha of cropland showing early signs of declining land productivity by 2030 Halt the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes by 2020 Increase forest cover by 20% by 2030 as compared to 2015 Reduce the rate of soil sealing (conversion to artificial land cover) by 40% by 2030 as compared to 2015.^[15]

These policies reflect Nigeria’s commitment but also ambitions in addressing environmental challenges, conserving biodiversity, and supporting sustainable land management while building and strengthening resilience to the impacts of climate change. Nigeria is also a signatory to several international environmental agreements, including the following:

- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change

In a very specific way, Nigeria has demonstrated strong political commitment and leadership for the Great Green Wall in Nigeria and at the regional level. Nigeria pledged the sum of 550,000 USD (five hundred and fifty thousand dollars) as her contribution towards the building of the Great Green Wall Secretariat at the 8th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers of the Pan-African Agency for the Great Green Wall held in Abuja in June 2022. These commitments underscore the country's dedication to global environmental goals and provide a strong policy basis for the proposed project within the Program.

The project aims to restore and conserve forest ecosystems, enhance biodiversity, improve livelihoods, and build resilience to climate change. These objectives are consistent with Nigeria's strategic priorities and contribute to the realization of its environmental commitments including the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the country National Determined Contribution (NDC)^[16] and the Land Degradation Neutrality Targets.^[17]

IDERRCN has been designed to deliver both local and global environmental benefits, in line with the objectives of the GGWI and the GEF, besides the country’s land and biodiversity-related policy priorities. The incremental reasoning from the implementation of IDERRCN is summarised in the description of the ‘GEF and without the GEF financing’ scenarios below:

The ‘without the GEF financing’ scenario:

- Weak technical and institutional capacity to support the implementation of the GGW Initiative in Nigeria: Without the GEF resources, Nigeria will continue facing technical and institutional challenges, including not having a robust M&E systems and data management capability to support the country’s reporting to the Pan African Agency for the Great Green Wall (PAGGW). Also, the country will continue grappling with lack of gender-responsive enhancement skills among key stakeholder, including community members. Lack of coordination and policy and institutional gaps will continue, which will stifle the country’s ability to meaningfully implement the objectives of PAGGW at national level, thereby missing the opportunity to bolster environmental resilience and sustainability, benefiting both ecosystems and communities.
- Continued ecosystem degradation within Kebbi State in the Nigerian GGW corridor: Without the financing, the country will not be in the position to support ecosystem restoration through gender-responsive integrated sustainable land management practices that will bring 2,500 ha under restoration and 3,000 ha under improved practices (including reforestation and afforestation initiatives, Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration, agroforestry systems and conservation agriculture techniques to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion,

sustainable grazing management and watershed protection, development of grazing reserves and pasture, agro-silvo-pastoral systems, sand dune fixation to protect agricultural lands and infrastructures).

- Limited opportunities for empower local communities to reduce over-reliance on traditional resource extraction and promote ecosystem conservation: Without GEF resources, the 900,000 (450,000 or 50% females, and 450,000 or 50% males) target beneficiaries will not have their livelihoods improved through various approaches including dryland agriculture and value chains (shea butter, honey, and gum arabic), and tailored training and resources for sustainable harvesting and processing. Thus, their resilience will remain weak, and their reliance on the exploitation of natural resources will continue to further degrade the already vulnerable natural resources. Component 3 will target reducing pressure on natural resources which leads to their degradation. Acknowledging limited livelihood opportunities and poverty as key drivers of environmental degradation besides conflicts, the project will strengthen resilience through diversifying community livelihood opportunities, including supporting to benefit 900,000 people. Under this component, the project provide. For instance, promoting beekeeping and introducing modern hives improves honey yields and preserves forests. In the case of shea butter, women will be trained in sustainable tree pruning and fruit collection to support the industry while conserving trees. By diversifying income sources and fostering sustainable practices, the project will empower local communities to reduce over-reliance on traditional resource extraction and promote ecosystem conservation.

The ‘with the GEF financing’ scenario:

- Strengthened technical and institutional capacity to implement the objectives of PANGGW in Nigeria in particular and contribution to the global environment agenda in general: With GEF financing, the project will build and strengthen technical and institutional capacity (including strengthening M&E systems and data management capability; gender-responsive enhancement skills of a total of 3,000 (1,500 or 50% being females; and 1,500 or 50% being males) project personnel and participating community members; strengthen one national-level diverse multi-stakeholder platform to promote learning; adoption and use of indigenous techniques in the implementation of GGWI. The project will also support high level advocacies to State Governors and traditional institutions; establish a transparent and participatory field Grievance Redress Mechanism, and contribute to more efficient policy formulation and implementation including strategies and roadmap for achieving the Bonn Challenge commitments – that is, creating an enabling environment for the Nigerian government and other players to address environmental challenges more effectively. Strengthened technical and institutional capacity will also ensure gender mainstreaming into processes to empower women to participate in environmental decision-making and income-generating activities, fostering sustainable livelihoods and reinforcing their roles as environmental stewards within the target Kebbi State in the GGW corridor of Nigeria.
- Restoration of 2,500 ha of degraded ecosystem and improved practices on 3,000 ha of production landscapes: With the GEF resources, Nigeria will support ecosystem restoration through gender-responsive integrated sustainable land management practices (reforestation and afforestation initiatives, Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration, agroforestry systems and conservation agriculture techniques to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion, sustainable grazing management and watershed protection, development of grazing reserves and pasture, agro-silvo-pastoral systems, sand dune fixation to protect agricultural lands and infrastructures) to bring 2,500 ha under restoration and 3,000 ha under improved practices. Combined, the envisaged activities contribute to combating deforestation and enhancing carbon sequestration while preserving critical ecosystems and water resources. Support towards community-based natural resource management will facilitate the engagement with local populations in decision-making to encourage responsible resource use within Kebbi State in the GGW corridor.

- Local communities empowered with alternative livelihoods to reduce ecosystem degradation: With GEF resources, 900,000 people (450,000 or 50% females, and 450,000 or 50% males) will be empowered with diversified community livelihood opportunities, including supporting dryland agriculture and value chains (shea butter, honey, and gum arabic), and tailored training and resources to local communities for sustainable harvesting and processing. Community empowerment will lead to better environmental results. For instance, promoting beekeeping and introducing modern hives improves honey yields and preserves forests. In the case of shea butter, women will be trained in sustainable tree pruning and fruit collection to support the industry while conserving trees. By diversifying income sources and fostering sustainable practices, the project will empower local communities to reduce over-reliance on traditional resource extraction and promote ecosystem conservation.

The “GEF Resource Scenario” will lead to the promotion of diverse, resilient and sustainable livelihoods to improve the socio-ecological system. It will support the transformation of the vulnerable, degraded context of ecosystem to a more resilient one with more ecosystems restored and technical and institutional capacities enhanced. Among others, GEF investments will lead to:

- 6 State policies harmonized with GGWI objectives
- 200 of extension agents and local technical teams trained in in site-based ecosystem restoration for agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, using practical field training
- 100 local council members and traditional leaders trained in co-management of natural resources, disaggregated by gender
- 5,500 ha of degraded lands restored through integrated SLM, enhancing ecosystem restoration and agro-sylvopastoral in Kebbi State
- 900,000 smallholder farmers trained in soil restoration, erosion control, and vegetative regeneration, disaggregated by gender
- 100 small-scale water harvesting structures to support restoration and reduce erosion in priority sites.
- 20 women-led and youth-focused cooperatives/producer groups registered per Local Government Area
- 3,000 direct beneficiaries of Business Incubation and Market Access by gender
- 20 women-led or socially inclusive enterprises supported along climate-resilient value chains
- 45 capacity-building sessions or policy dialogues conducted on integrating gender and social inclusion into local planning and natural resource governance
- 10,000 local communities reached through project knowledge products, disaggregated by gender
- 25 gender-inclusive awareness campaign strategies and information dissemination mechanisms developed and implemented.
- 10 Awareness campaigns and policy dialogues conducted to promote multi-stakeholder engagement in GGWI and climate-smart restoration strategies.

Future scenarios

Based on the information presented above, it is important to acknowledge the future scenarios to demonstrate how what the project is proposing will interact with key drivers and uncertainties that characterize the context within which the project has been designed. The table below summarises the best- and worst-case scenarios that highlight outcomes of project implementation for future scenarios – underpinned by drivers of land degradation that the project has been designed to address:

Table Best and Worst scenarios

Best case scenario		Worst case scenario	
Factor	Explanation	Factor	Explanation
Environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 5,500 hectares of degraded land are restored through SLM, leading to improved soil health, water retention, and biodiversity. Community-based ecosystem management plans are fully developed and operational, promoting resilient ecosystems. Water and soil conservation infrastructure enhances agricultural productivity and reduces vulnerability to climate change. 	Limited capacity and buy-in:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional resistance or capacity gaps hinder the full implementation of coordination mechanisms. Poor stakeholder engagement limits adoption of agro-sylvo-pastoral practices.
Institutional strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kebbi State sees improved institutional coordination and technical capacity at local and state levels, ensuring sustained ecosystem restoration. Monitoring and information systems provide accurate data, enhancing policy-making and program adaptation. 	Environmental setbacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erratic climate patterns (e.g., floods, droughts) undo restoration gains. Water and soil infrastructure may be mismanaged or poorly maintained.
Economic and social empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women and youth benefit from thriving gender-responsive, nature-based enterprises (e.g., shea butter, gum arabic, moringa). Local value chains grow stronger, creating jobs and increasing household income. Livelihood strategies are integrated into policy and planning, ensuring long-term socio-economic sustainability. 	Socio-economic challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women and youth face cultural and financial barriers to enterprise participation. Market access is weak, preventing value chains from scaling.
Knowledge and policy influence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kebbi State becomes a model for other GGW implementation zones, contributing lessons learned and best practices regionally. Participatory M&E systems engage communities, ensuring transparency and adaptive management. 	Knowledge management weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons are not systematically captured or shared, resulting in redundant mistakes or slow learning cycles. M&E systems are underutilized, reducing transparency and strategic oversight.

Based on stakeholder consultations and the studies that have been conducted to inform this project design, and based on its focus, without the project, the environmental, social, and economic risks worsen significantly. Below is a reasonable assessment of the risks:

- *Environmental degradation*: without the project: i) land degradation will continue to accelerate due to unsustainable farming, deforestation, and overgrazing; and ii) Kebbi State's ecosystems further deteriorate, leading to desertification and biodiversity loss.
- *Food and water insecurity*: without the project: i) agricultural productivity will continue to plummet due to poor soils and erratic rainfall; and ii) water sources dry up or become polluted, increasing vulnerability for rural communities.
- *Women and youth*: without the project to provide structured support: i) women and youth will remain marginalized economically; and ii) migration will increase as young people leave in search of better opportunities, draining human capital in Kebbi State primarily, and in the country, secondarily.
- *Missed climate and policy targets*: without the project: i) Nigeria's commitments to the Great Green Wall Initiative and international climate targets will be undermined; and ii) Kebbi will lag behind other States in sustainable development benchmarks.

The gender context

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), women in Nigeria contribute up to 70% of agricultural labor, with a particular emphasis in regions like Kebbi, where traditional farming systems are prevalent (UNDP, 2015)[18].

Despite their substantial involvement, women encounter several constraints that hinder their full potential[19]. A report by the Kebbi State Government highlighted that women entrepreneurs in agriculture often lack access to finance, technical training, and market information[20]. Additionally, socio-cultural norms and gender biases limit their participation in decision-making processes and access to resources.

The Agricultural Transformation Agenda Support Programme (ATASP-1) has made strides in promoting gender equality in agriculture. The program has reached 152 beneficiaries in Kebbi State, with 42.2% being women. However, there is still a need for more targeted interventions to address the specific challenges faced by women in the sector[21].

Women in Kebbi State play a crucial role in agriculture and agribusiness, they require more support to overcome the barriers that limit their productivity and economic empowerment. Addressing these challenges through policy reforms, capacity-building programs, and access to finance will be essential for enhancing women's participation and contribution to the agricultural sector.

Women are involved in sustainable farming techniques, including water conservation, crop rotation, and agroforestry. These practices have not only improved yield but also soil health, crucial in the drylands. A study by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) noted that women's adoption of these practices under similar projects has led to a 20-30% increase in yield compared to traditional methods (FAO, 2011)[22].

Women's Role in Agribusiness: Women's participation in agribusiness in Kebbi State extends beyond mere cultivation to include processing, marketing, and entrepreneurship. Women, often organized into cooperatives, engage in value addition activities like drying, grinding, and packaging of local produce in the identified value chain[23]. This value chain approach would be instrumental in reducing post-harvest losses, which are typically high in dryland areas.

The project would facilitate access to markets for these products, significantly impacting local economies. For instance, a report by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on similar initiatives in Nigeria indicates that women-led agribusiness ventures have seen an income increase of up to 50% in some areas (IFAD, 2018)[24]. Moreover, it is recommended that the project would introduce microcredit schemes specifically tailored for women, enabling them to invest in equipment and infrastructure necessary for small-scale processing units.

Women's barriers and challenges in agriculture and agribusiness in Kebbi State

In Kebbi State, women face numerous barriers in both agriculture and agribusiness. A primary obstacle is limited access to land, where cultural norms often restrict women's ownership rights, impacting their ability to engage in large-scale farming or secure loans against land (FAO, 2011). Access to finance remains another significant challenge; women in Kebbi State have less access to credit due to biases in financial systems and lack of collateral, with studies indicating that only 20% of female farmers in similar contexts have access to formal financial services (IFAD, 2018). This hinders their ability to invest in agricultural activities and expand their businesses.

Education and training: These are also deficient, with many women lacking the technical knowledge or business skills needed to maximize their participation in agribusiness. This educational gap is exacerbated by cultural barriers that limit women's participation in extension services and training programs (UN Women, 2015)^[25]. This affects the productivity and ability of women to adopt modern agricultural practices.

Land ownership: Land ownership is predominantly male dominated, with women owning only a small percentage of agricultural land. This limits their control over resources and decision-making power, affecting their ability to make independent agricultural decisions.

Socio-cultural norms: Gender biases and socio-cultural norms restrict women's participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles. Traditional roles and responsibilities often confine women to specific tasks, limiting their opportunities for advancement.

Market access: Women face challenges in accessing markets and obtaining fair prices for their produce. Market information and networks are often controlled by men, making it difficult for women to compete effectively.

Technology adoption: This is low among women due to both economic constraints and cultural norms that view men as the primary users of new agricultural technologies. This affects productivity and the efficiency of their work in the field (AfDB, 2020).

Addressing these barriers through policy reforms, capacity-building programs, and access to finance and technology will be crucial for enhancing women's participation and productivity in agriculture and agribusiness in Kebbi State. By promoting gender equality and creating supportive environments, we can unlock the full potential of women in the agricultural sector.

Opportunities and interventions for enhancing women's participation and leadership in agriculture and agribusiness

Women in Kebbi State have significant opportunities to enhance their participation and leadership in agriculture and agribusiness, particularly within the IDERRCN project. These opportunities are crucial for empowering women and promoting gender equality in the agricultural sector.

Promoting gender equality and creating supportive environments, can unlock the full potential of women in the agricultural sector, drive economic growth, innovation, and elevate women's roles in agriculture and agribusiness, particularly in value chains like shea butter, beekeeping, moringa, baobab (Kuka), Date Palm, and gum Arabic.

Enhancing women's participation and leadership in agriculture and agribusiness in Kebbi State requires a multifaceted approach that addresses barriers and provides opportunities for capacity-building, leadership development, policy reforms, networking, and access to technology briefly highlighted below. These opportunities are pivotal in transforming women from mere participants to leaders and innovators in Kebbi State's agricultural sector.

Training and Skill Development: There is significant opportunity for targeted training programs, enhancing women's technical and business management skills.

Access to resources: By focusing on land rights advocacy, IDERRCN has enabled more women to access land for farming, crucial for engaging in higher-value agricultural activities. This is supported by the FAO's findings, which show that land tenure security can increase women's productivity by up to 20% (FAO, 2011).

Market Access and Value Addition: Women's entry into markets through cooperative formations and value addition techniques like processing and packaging, will significantly increasing their income. IFAD reports suggest that women participating in such initiatives can see income increases by up to 50% (IFAD, 2018).

Leadership and decision making: Through the project, women will be encouraged to take leadership roles within agricultural cooperatives and community groups, fostering decision-making power. This leadership not only amplifies their influence in local agricultural policies but also in broader community development, as noted by ActionAid Nigeria's impact on over 35,000 women in similar initiatives (ActionAid Nigeria, 2023).

Networking and mentorship. Initiatives that provide networking opportunities and mentorship can help women build connections, share knowledge, and gain support from experienced professionals. These networks can provide valuable guidance and resources for women to succeed in agriculture and agribusiness.

Policy Reforms. Advocacy for gender-sensitive policies and reforms can create a more supportive environment for women in agriculture. Policies that promote equal access to resources, land ownership, and financial support can significantly enhance women's participation and leadership.

Impact on community and sustainability: Project interventions would lead to a notable shift in the perception and reality of women's roles in agribusiness. The empowerment of women through the project would have ripple effects on community development and environmental sustainability. Women's groups would become advocates for conservation practices and women control a larger share of agricultural produce and profits than before the project's inception, underscoring the direct link between sustainable agriculture and their livelihood. A study by the African Development Bank (AfDB) highlights that women's involvement in conservation practices, supported by projects like IDERRCN, leads to better outcomes in land restoration and biodiversity (AfDB, 2020)^[26]²⁶

Capacity and resource evaluation for women-led enterprises: Women-led enterprises in Kebbi State, Nigeria, play a pivotal role in the local economy, contributing significantly to household incomes and community development. This evaluation examines the current skills, resources, and access to training, finance, and technology among women-led businesses in Kebbi State, drawing on available data and studies. Also, the evaluation focuses on skills, resource access, finance, and technology, and initiatives that empower women economically and contribute to the broader goals of ecological restoration and sustainable development.

However, challenges persist, particularly around cultural acceptance of women's roles in technology and leadership. Continuous efforts are needed to ensure that the gains are not only maintained but also expanded, paving the way for a more inclusive agricultural sector in Kebbi State.

Skills and capacity: Women entrepreneurs in Kebbi State engage in various sectors, including agriculture, trade, and services. They have demonstrated remarkable resilience and entrepreneurial spirit. According to the FATE Foundation's State of Entrepreneurship in Nigeria 2021 report, 43% of businesses in Nigeria are female-led, with states like Kebbi showing significant participation. These enterprises often operate at the cottage or subsistence level, with many women engaging in activities such as crop production, livestock management, and agro-processing.

Despite their active participation, many lack formal education and business management skills, which hinders their ability to scale operations effectively. A report by the FATE Foundation highlights that female entrepreneurs in Nigeria often face challenges related to managerial skills, which can affect their business performance^[27]²⁷.

To address these gaps, initiatives like the Nigeria for Women Project (NFWP) have been implemented^[28]²⁸. In Maiyama, a rural settlement in Kebbi State, the NFWP has provided training sessions encompassing financial education, gender dynamics, life skills, and business skills. These programs have led to better financial planning,

improved pricing strategies, and diligent record-keeping among participants, thereby enhancing their business capabilities.

The report identifies the need for skill evaluation among women in agriculture due to the traditional and often informal nature of their roles, which limits their access to advanced agricultural techniques and business acumen.

- **Agricultural skills:** Women lack agricultural skills. Training sessions would be organized to teach sustainable farming practices like drip irrigation, soil conservation, and crop rotation, which are vital in the dryland context. The FAO notes that such training can increase women's farm yield by 20-30% (FAO, 2011). The project would conduct training workshops, reaching over 5,000 women, with reported yield increases matching international trends.
- **Business and leadership skills:** Women in the project area lack business and leadership skills. Entrepreneurship training would be a key component, focusing on business planning, financial management, and leadership. This would lead to more women taking up leadership roles in agricultural cooperatives, with a study by ActionAid Nigeria highlighting a 35% increase in women's leadership positions within these groups following similar interventions (ActionAid Nigeria, 2023).

Resource availability: Access to resources and training is crucial for the growth of women-led enterprises. In Kebbi State, cultural norms and limited infrastructure often restrict women's access to formal training programs. However, organizations like Nourishing Africa and the Cherie Blair Foundation have introduced digital platforms to bridge this gap. For instance, the HerVenture app, launched in Nigeria in 2019, offers business training through mobile technology, enabling women entrepreneurs to access valuable information at their convenience^[29]²⁹.

Despite these efforts, the reach of such programs in Kebbi State remains limited due to factors like digital illiteracy and inadequate internet access in rural areas. Therefore, there is a need for more localized and accessible training solutions that consider the unique challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in this region.

Resource availability for women-led enterprises includes both physical and economic resources that are crucial for scaling up agricultural activities:

- **Land access:** A significant barrier for women has been land ownership. The project would work on advocacy for better land rights, projected to achieve a 15% increase in women with access to land for farming in areas covered by IDERRCN, according to local surveys (Local Initiative Report, 2022).
- **Agricultural inputs:** Enhanced access to quality seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs would be facilitated through partnerships with local suppliers and NGOs. This will reduce the cost of production for many women-led farms projected to achieve 20%, as per project evaluations.

Access to finance

- Financial constraints are a significant barrier for women-led enterprises in Kebbi State. According to the World Bank, approximately 46% of women-led small and medium-sized enterprises (WSMEs) in Nigeria have no loan history with financial institutions^[30]³⁰. While 31.4% of women in Nigeria borrow to finance their businesses, only 3.7% do so from formal financial service providers.

- This limited access to formal credit is often due to stringent collateral requirements and gender biases within financial institutions. To mitigate these challenges, programs like the Business Resilience Assistance for Value-Adding Enterprises (BRAVE) Women Project have been initiated^[31]^[31]. This project combines training elements and grant-matching to support women-led SMEs, aiming to enhance their bankability and business skills.

Access to Technology: Technology adoption among women-led enterprises in Kebbi State is still in its nascent stages. Limited digital literacy and access to technological tools hinder the ability of these entrepreneurs to leverage technology for business growth. However, initiatives like the Her AfCFTA program have provided Nigerian women-led MSMEs with tools and resources to engage in cross-border trade and scale their businesses, focusing on capacity building through workshops and training on trade regulations, digital skills, and e-commerce^[32]^[32]. Despite these initiatives, there remains a significant digital divide, especially in rural areas of Kebbi State. Addressing this gap requires concerted efforts to improve digital infrastructure and provide targeted training programs that enhance digital literacy among women entrepreneurs.

The project has a fully developed gender action plan that has additional details on the gender context, and how it will be implemented alongside project activities.

Stakeholder engagement and participation

The development of the project has involved a wide range of stakeholders at national and regional levels. Stakeholder involvement will continue during implementation and monitoring of the project. The development of IDERRCN as a Child Project has been informed by different levels of stakeholder engagement and consultations - ranging from regional, global and national actors. It should be emphasized that as a Child Project, the project has been developed based on the priorities of the regional framework of the GGW Program which is compatible with the national context - i.e. in terms of national priorities and agenda to address the challenges associated with environmental degradation and support the socio-economic well-being of local communities and generation of global environmental benefits. The process of development and eventual implementation will continue engaging various stakeholders around the ecosystem restoration agenda of the Program (as already noted, these will include the government agencies, local organizations (such as Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria (FRIN) ; Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) ; Centre for Dryland Agriculture (CDA), Institute for Agricultural Research and Extension Services (IAR), National Animal Production Research Institute (NAPRI) and community groups.

Beyond national level stakeholders and partnerships, the project will be aligned with regional and global frameworks that will be achieved through a series of specific actions and processes designed to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences.

Participation in Global and Regional Forums: The project will actively participate in global and regional forums to foster a two-way exchange of knowledge and experiences. For instance, the GGWI Annual General Assembly provides a platform for countries to share their progress, challenges, and lessons learned in implementing GGWI projects. Similarly, the GEF Biennial International Waters Conference and the African Union's Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment offer opportunities to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, learn from their experiences, and contribute to shaping global and regional policies and strategies. The project team will prepare and present case studies, progress reports, and technical papers at these forums to share their experiences and learn from others.

Collaboration with Global and Regional Networks: The project will establish formal links with relevant global and regional networks. This includes the GEF Knowledge Management Initiative, which provides resources and platforms for knowledge sharing among GEF-funded projects. The GGWI Pan-African Agency and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) offer networks of practitioners and experts working on similar issues, providing opportunities for technical collaboration, joint research, and peer learning. The project will actively engage with these networks, participate in their activities, and leverage their resources to enhance its implementation.

Adoption of Global and Regional Best Practices: The project will adopt best practices and guidelines developed by global and regional frameworks. For instance, the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets set by the UNCCD provide a science-based approach to land restoration that the project will adopt. Similarly, the GEF's gender mainstreaming policy offers a comprehensive framework for integrating gender considerations into project design and implementation. The project will use these and other relevant guidelines to ensure that its approaches are aligned with global standards and best practices.

Contribution to Global and Regional Databases: The project will contribute data and information to global and regional databases. For example, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) database collects and shares information on sustainable land management practices worldwide. The African Biodiversity Information Centre provides data and information on Africa's biodiversity. By contributing to these databases, the project will help to enrich global knowledge resources and provide valuable insights for other similar initiatives.

Engagement with Global and Regional Funding Mechanisms: The project will engage with global and regional funding mechanisms to leverage additional resources and ensure its financial sustainability. This includes the GEF's Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program, which provides funding for projects that contribute to sustainable forest management. AfDB's Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa offers funding for projects that promote sustainable energy solutions.

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B. CHILD PROJECT DESCRIPTION

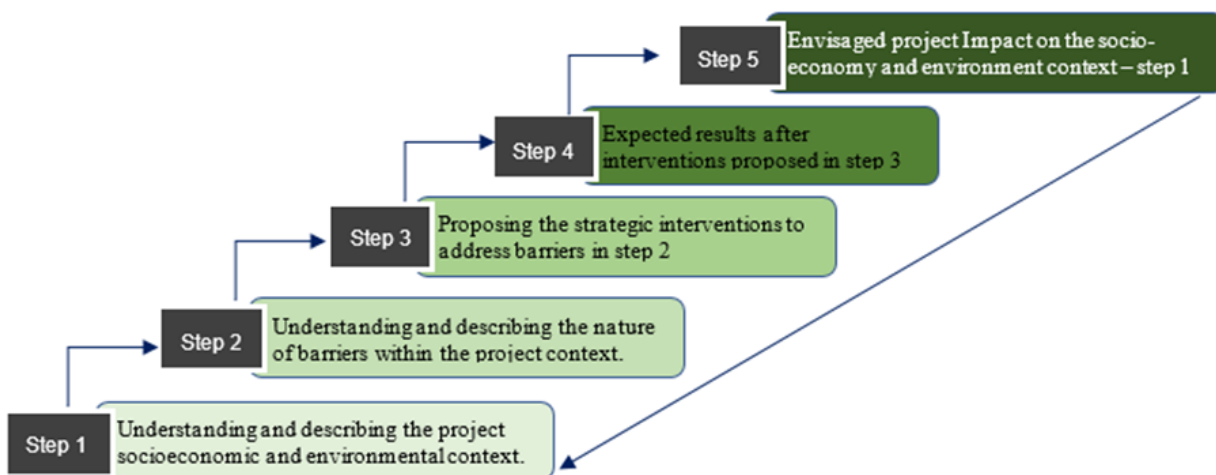
This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole, including how it addresses priorities related to the specific program, and how it will benefit from the coordination platform. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project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

IDERCCN has been designed to implement integrated, sustainable, and community-centered interventions that not only restore degraded ecosystems but also improve the socio-economic well-being of local populations. Fragmented

and isolated efforts in the past have demonstrated limited impact, largely due to weak coordination, insufficient policy support, and the absence of scalable, inclusive models. The IDERRCN project addresses these gaps by offering a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach aligned with GEF’s integrated programming on food systems, whole-society approach, ecosystem restoration and land degradation neutrality.

The project is anchored in the principles of integrated ecosystem management to rehabilitate and conserve critical natural resources thereby contributing to restoring the productive capacity of 5,500 ha of degraded land with positive impacts on water resources, vegetation, and biodiversity. The project will build institutional capacity and support climate-resilient inclusive livelihood opportunities for 900,000 people in Kebbi State.

With an objective to restore degraded ecosystems through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and strengthened institutional capacity while promoting climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises in support of the GGWI. The Theory of Change of IDERRCN is underpinned an understanding that the project context is characterised by high level of land degradation driven by both natural and anthropogenic factors. The main factors driving land degradation are population growth, expansion of farmland, deforestation, overgrazing, poverty, unsustainable land management, and climate change. Limited economic opportunities force reliance on land resources, intensifying unsustainable practices. The project identifies three principal barriers that stifle the ability of the country at national and state levels to more effectively respond to the socioeconomic and environmental challenges of the project context. To surmount these challenges, the project proposes strategic interventions as pathways to yield the desired results and finally impact. Conceptually, this is demonstrated in the graph below:



Theory of Change: pathway for change addressing drought:

The project is a Child Project under the broader Great Green Wall (GGW) Program. It is designed to be implemented with a multi-sectoral and integrated vision, aiming for synergy and complementarity with other ongoing interventions in the targeted areas. The project is aligned with national policies and international agreements (such as the UNCCD, CBD, and Paris Agreement) and its contribution to Nigeria's commitment to land restoration targets. Specific activities include, shared data platforms, harmonized monitoring within the child project and regional coordination under the PAGGW

Problem Statement: Dryland ecosystems in Kebbi State are facing significant degradation due to unsustainable land management practices, climate variability, and recurrent droughts, alongside socio-economic pressures. This results in biodiversity loss, declining land productivity, and increased vulnerability of local communities.

1. *Inputs (resources and strategies)*: The project harnesses technical support and partnerships, policy frameworks (like the National Drought Plan and GGWI Strategic Action Plan), and local/indigenous knowledge systems, all of which will be specifically oriented towards drought resilience. Human resources and infrastructure will be equipped to implement drought-mitigation strategies.
2. *Activities (interventions)*: Key interventions directly address drought. This includes facilitating participatory land-use planning that incorporates drought risk assessments, and identifying drought-vulnerable lands, and implementing erosion control and biodiversity conservation measures that improve soil moisture retention. Training programs will focus on drought-resilient agricultural practices and efficient water management. Knowledge hubs will disseminate information on drought early warning systems and mitigation strategies.
3. *Outputs (immediate results)*: These activities lead to the restoration of degraded lands, which directly enhances the land's capacity to withstand drought by improving soil structure and water infiltration. The strengthening of inclusive value chain models will include promoting drought-resilient crops and livestock. Training of local institutions will build capacity in managing ecosystems under drought conditions.
4. *Outcomes (intermediate effects)*: The immediate results contribute to improved ecosystem health, characterized by better water retention and increased groundwater recharge, thereby enhancing resilience against drought. Reduced degradation directly lessens the land's vulnerability to drought impacts. Sustainable resource use implies more efficient water management, crucial during drought periods. Enhanced economic empowerment of women, achieved through diversified, drought-resilient livelihoods, makes households less susceptible to drought-induced economic shocks¹⁶.
5. *Impacts (long-term change)*: Ultimately, this pathway leads to reduced poverty and enhanced livelihoods for all community members, as agricultural systems become more stable and less vulnerable to drought-related failures. It also results in sustainable ecosystem restoration with gender-equitable benefits, creating resilient ecosystems that can better withstand and recover from drought conditions. Furthermore, increased decision-making power of women in environmental governance empowers them to play a critical role in local drought preparedness and response planning¹⁹.

Underlying key assumptions:

The success of this ToC relies on sustained political will, alignment of local and national policies, financial and technical resources are disbursed efficiently and on time, and active participation of communities, particularly women and youth.

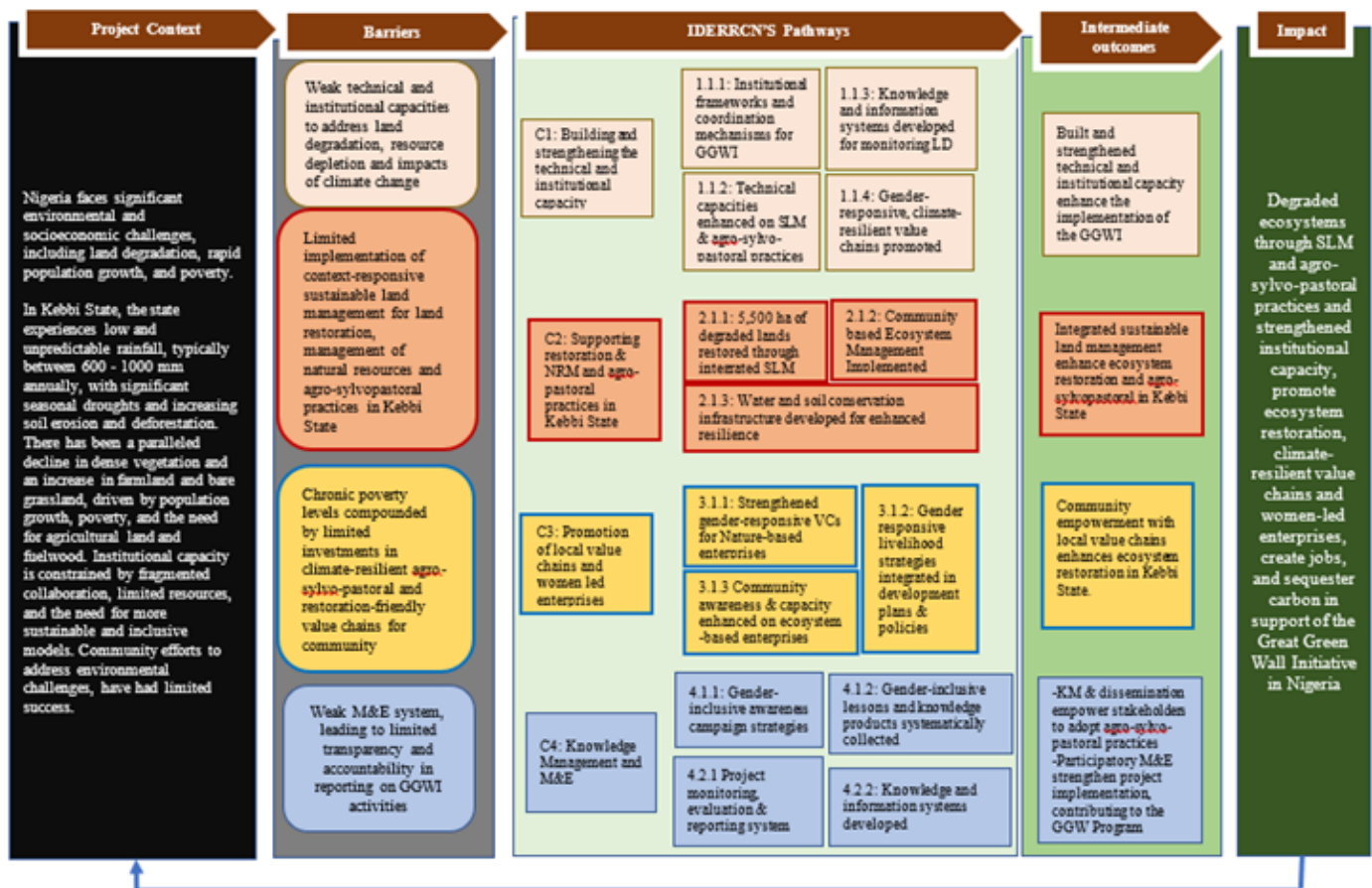
Kebbi State has been prioritized for IDERRCN because it offers the potential for the generation of global environmental benefits while contributing to the socioeconomic well-being of local communities in selected local government areas. In sum, the logic behind IDERRCN's theory of change can be summarised as follows:

- If degraded ecosystems are restored through inclusive agro-sylvo-pastoral practices, and if institutional capacity is strengthened at local and national levels to support sustainable land management, then livelihoods will become more climate-resilient, local economies will be revitalized through climate-smart value chains, and women's leadership and entrepreneurship will drive inclusive development - thereby contributing to the goals of the Great Green Wall Initiative.

Under this theory of change, the following assumptions have been made:

- **After awareness raising, communities** will be willing to adopt improved practices if adequately trained and incentivized (component 3 and 4-related activities and outcomes).
- **Navigating the socio-cultural practices, women** can lead and scale enterprises with access to opportunities for capacity-building and markets (component 3 and 4-related activities and outcomes).
- **Institutions** will prioritize and sustain ecosystem restoration and land governance if supported at Kebbi State level (components 3 and 4-related activities and outcomes).
- **The private sector will be engaged and interested to facilitate community access to markets** for climate-resilient products (component 3-related activities and outcome).
- **Without extreme weather events, climate variability** will remain within anticipated scenarios, allowing interventions to be effective without interruptions (components 2, 3 and 4-related activities and outcomes).
- **Stimulated political will be sustained, and political and social stability** will support long-term engagement and impact in the five selected local government areas (components 1 and 2-related activities and outcomes).

Fully, IDERCCN's Theory of Change is presented below:



Theory of change for scaling up

IDERCCN has been designed to restore degraded ecosystems through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and strengthened institutional capacity while promoting climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative – with a clear focus on strengthening the technical and institutional capacity, supporting restoration, promoting local value chains and improving monitoring and evaluation to enhance transparency and accountability. Combined, the project has been designed to replicate and share best practices to support scaling up. The following are mechanisms for scaling up:

- **Evidence and knowledge generation:** This will be achieved through component 4 by documenting best practices, success factors, and lessons learned from pilot areas; and developing scalable technical packages and knowledge products for replication.
- **Policy and institutional strengthening:** This will be achieved through component 1 by integrating successful approaches into national and subnational development and land use planning, and strengthening community-level institutions in Kebbi State to support inclusive governance of natural resources and proposed value chains.
- **Capacity development:** This will be achievement through components 1, 2 and 3 by building the capacity of women, local governments, extension services, CSOs, and community leaders to scale and sustain implementation and monitoring.
- **Partnerships and regional coordination:** IDERRCN is a Child Project with a Program that has been designed to benefit from the Regional Coordination Project. Through the Regional Project, IDERRCN will work with regional GGW platforms and international partners to harmonize approaches and share innovations – thereby, facilitating the alignment of scaling up with transboundary restoration and development initiatives. Also, it should be noted that a number of stakeholders, including the private sector have expressed interest in working with IDERRCN (See Annex J) which will catalyze partnership to facilitate knowledge transfer but also sustainability.
- **Monitoring and adaptive learning:** This will build on component 4 through the use of robust M&E systems to track impacts, inform scaling strategy, and ensure adaptive management, but also link national monitoring with GGW regional and global reporting frameworks.

On the basis of the afore-described theory of change, the project has been developed around four linked components. These are:

- Component 1: Building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacity for the implementation of the GGW Initiative
- Component 2: Supporting restoration and Natural Resources Management including promotion of agro-sylvopastoral practices in Kebbi State
- Component 3: Promotion of local value chains and women led enterprises
- Component 4: Knowledge Management

Component description:

- **Component 1: Building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacity for the implementation of the GGW Initiative**

Outcome 1.1: Built and strengthened technical and institutional capacity enhance the implementation of the GGW Initiative in Nigeria and technical and institutional capacity enhance the implementation of the GGW Initiative in Nigeria and commitments on global environment agenda.

Strengthening capacities and institutions is essential for effective land restoration and rehabilitation, especially as global land degradation threatens livelihoods, food security, and ecosystem services. Strengthening capacities and institutions for land restoration requires integrated strategies that combine technical innovation, community engagement, strong

governance, and sustainable financing. Success depends on building local and institutional capacity, fostering social capital, aligning policies with local needs, and ensuring long-term support and knowledge transfer. These approaches collectively enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of land restoration and rehabilitation efforts.

Component 1 will establish a solid foundation for the effective implementation of the GGWI in Nigeria by enhancing institutional coordination, building stakeholder capacities, improving knowledge systems, and empowering women and youth through climate-resilient value chains. It will support the integration of GGWI principles into national and sub-national policies while enabling data-driven decision-making and inclusive economic development. Under this component, the project acknowledges that strengthening capacities and institutions for land restoration, rehabilitation, and natural resource management in Nigeria is essential due to widespread land degradation, deforestation, and resource overexploitation. Current efforts face significant challenges, but collaborative, community-based, and participatory approaches, along with institutional reforms and improved policy coherence, are key to achieving sustainable outcomes. In Nigeria, it has been reported that national policies related to LDN are vague, outdated, and lack coordination, data, and expertise, making operationalization difficult.^{[2]³³} Without the appropriate policy and institutional environment, empowerment, financial incentives, and support for alternative livelihoods would be absent, yet these are major incentives needed for local communities to fully partner with government for forest and woodland management in Nigeria.^{[3]³⁴} Against this backdrop, the scientific basis of this component is that strong political commitment and positive behavioral changes at all levels, from policymakers to local stakeholders, are necessary to drive restoration initiatives.^{[4]³⁵}

- Output 1.1.1: Institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms for GGWI implementation at national and state levels reviewed to mainstream GGWI, strengthened, and operationalized: This output will entail reviewing, updating, and operationalizing existing policy, legal, and institutional frameworks to better align with the objectives of the GGWI. It includes establishing or strengthening inter-agency coordination mechanisms such as state-level GGWI steering committees and technical working groups - to improve coherence across sectors (environment, agriculture, water, women's affairs, etc.). Emphasis will be placed on aligning Kebbi State's environmental and development policies with GGWI priorities and ensuring cross-sector integration into local government planning.

The sustainability of interagency GGWI coordination committees after project closure depends on their institutionalization within existing government structures. This will be achieved through mainstreaming GGWI activities, continued government commitment, and strengthened institutional capacity at national and state levels.

- Conduct institutional assessments to identify gaps in GGWI coordination and policy alignment.
 - Organize national and state-level consultations to review and update GGWI frameworks.
 - Establish or strengthen inter-agency GGWI coordination committees at federal and state levels.
 - Develop a GGWI implementation roadmap and action plan with clear roles and timelines.
 - Facilitate policy dialogue and advocacy with key ministries and stakeholders
- Output 1.1.2: Technical capacities of stakeholders enhanced on sustainable land management and climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices: This output will focus on equipping key stakeholders—including government extension agents, community leaders, farmer associations, NGOs, and youth/women's groups—with the knowledge and skills needed to apply SLM techniques and climate-smart agro-sylvo-pastoral practices. These include practices such as contour bunding, tree intercropping, rotational grazing, composting, and integrated farming systems suited to dryland conditions. The training will be localized and participatory, ensuring knowledge transfer to the grassroots.

The training activities under Output 1.1.2 are closely linked to national and state frameworks through the involvement of government extension agents, research institutions, and community-based organizations. These trainings emphasize localized, participatory methods and utilize existing agricultural and environmental knowledge systems, though they are not formally integrated into national vocational certification structures. Co-financing supports institutional capacity building and creates an enabling environment for the effective implementation and sustainability of training efforts.

- Develop training modules on sustainable land management (SLM), agroforestry, and pastoral systems tailored to different agro-ecological zones.
 - Organize Training of Trainers (ToT) workshops for extension agents, community leaders, and NGOs.
 - Facilitate peer-to-peer learning and farmer field schools on integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral systems.
 - Provide demonstration plots to showcase good practices in land restoration and climate-smart agriculture.
 - Support cross-border knowledge exchange with other GGWI countries.
 - Support cross-border knowledge exchange with other GGWI countries.
- 1.1.3: Awareness campaigns and policy dialogues conducted to promote multi-stakeholder engagement in GGWI and climate-smart restoration strategies: This output will aim to foster inclusive, multi-stakeholder engagement by organizing awareness campaigns and policy dialogues at community, state, and national levels. These dialogues will bring together government agencies, civil society, traditional leaders, women's and youth networks, private sector actors, and academic institutions to share insights, build partnerships, and align strategies for climate-smart restoration. The approach will ensure that grassroots voices influence policy directions and GGWI implementation.
- Organize town halls, policy roundtables, and stakeholder forums at state and national levels.
 - Facilitate inclusive dialogues between government, civil society, traditional leaders, women, and youth.
 - Prepare policy briefs and advocacy materials to support integration of GGWI into sectoral strategies.
 - Conduct learning missions and exchange visits between Kebbi State and other GGWI states/countries.
 - Support annual GGWI stakeholder reviews and planning sessions.

The delivery mechanisms for the component will involve a variety of options tailored around the following:

- Engagement of local and national knowledge institutions (e.g., research institutes, agricultural extension services).
 - Development and dissemination of knowledge products tailored to different audiences (e.g., policymakers, farmers, youth, and women).
 - Integration of local knowledge and gender perspectives in documentation and communication strategies.
 - Use of traditional and digital media platforms for outreach and awareness.
- Output 1.1.4: Gender-responsive, climate-resilient value chains promoted with a focus on women and youth empowerment: This output aims to strengthen inclusive value chains for climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral products (e.g., moringa, gum arabic, honey, shea butter, poultry, dairy) by targeting women and youth entrepreneurs. It includes value chain development interventions such as skills training, access to inputs, micro-

finance, equipment provision, and market linkages. Gender and youth inclusion will be mainstreamed at all stages, ensuring equal opportunity, voice, and benefit from enterprise support and market engagement.

- Identify and map high-potential, climate-resilient value chains (e.g., gum arabic, shea, moringa, fodder crops).
- Provide business development training and startup grants for women and youth entrepreneurs.
- Strengthen producer cooperatives and link them to local and regional markets.
- Facilitate access to green finance and digital technologies for women-led businesses.
- Organize trade fairs, exhibitions, and networking forums focused on inclusive green businesses

The delivery mechanisms for the component will involve a variety of options tailored around the following:

- Multi-stakeholder platforms involving Kebbi State government authorities, NGOs, and community-based organizations.
- Technical assistance and policy advisory support.
- Capacity-building programs and training workshops.
- Digital platforms and GIS-based systems for monitoring and knowledge sharing.
- Gender-inclusive enterprise support and value chain development programs.
- ***Component 2: Supporting restoration and Natural Resources Management including promotion of agro-sylvopastoral practices in Kebbi State***

Outcome 2.1 Integrated sustainable land management enhance ecosystem restoration and agro-sylvopastoral in Kebbi State:

Restoration and natural resources management in Kebbi State, Nigeria, are crucial for sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation. Promoting agro-sylvopastoral practices, effective land use management, and gender-inclusive approaches are key strategies for improving productivity and resilience in the region. This component will focus on reversing land degradation and improving natural resource management in Kebbi State by implementing integrated SLM practices, restoring degraded ecosystems, and promoting climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. The scientific basis of this component is that traditional soil restoration practices, such as combining zaï pits with mulching, have proven effective in similar semi-arid regions for reversing soil degradation and adapting to climate change. These practices can enhance crop yields and reduce farmers' vulnerability to environmental risks.^{[5]³⁶} Notably, research has established that sustainable land use and water management in Southern Kebbi, Nigeria, improved agricultural productivity, with women playing key roles in agro-inputs business and overcoming challenges like high taxation and foreign exchange shortages.^{[6]³⁷} Through a participatory, community-driven approach, the component will support land restoration, enhances local livelihoods, builds resilience to climate change, and contributes to the goals of the GGWI.

Output 2.1.1: 5,500 ha of degraded lands improved through integrated SLM, enhancing ecosystem restoration and agro-sylvopastoral in Kebbi State: This output will focus on the **rehabilitation and restoration of 2,500 hectares of degraded dryland** in Kebbi State through the application of **Integrated SLM** practices. It will also support improved management of 3,000 ha through sustainable production technologies and systems that are socio-culturally responsive (these include farmer-managed natural regeneration, Zai and half-moon pits, agroforestry and parkland systems, integrated crop–livestock systems, use of drought-tolerant and indigenous crop varieties, community woodlots and fodder gardens and rainwater harvesting and small-scale irrigation). These practices will combine soil fertility improvement, erosion control, agroforestry, rotational grazing, and biodiversity conservation techniques tailored to agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. Restoration efforts will be community-driven and based on ecological zoning and participatory land use planning to ensure long-term sustainability and relevance to local livelihoods.

- Map and prioritize degraded areas for restoration using participatory GIS tools.
 - Implement afforestation/reforestation with native and multi-use tree species (e.g., Acacia, moringa, shea).
 - Apply assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and agroforestry techniques (e.g., alley cropping, fodder banks).
 - Establish community nurseries for seedling production and distribution.
 - Train farmers and pastoralists on sustainable grazing, contour bunding, and erosion control.
 - Monitor and document ecological recovery and land productivity improvements.
- Output 2.1.2: Community-based Ecosystem Management Plans developed and implemented: This output will result in the **development and operationalization of ecosystem management plans** that are community-driven, participatory, and inclusive. These plans will guide sustainable resource use, land zoning, protection of restored areas, and the promotion of agro-sylvo-pastoral practices. The plans will be developed through a participatory process involving traditional leaders, community-based organizations, and local government officials. They will include gender and youth perspectives to ensure equitable access and long-term community ownership.

Under Output 2.1.2, the project will identify and valorize indigenous knowledge through participatory rural appraisals, oral history documentation, and validation workshops involving elders, women, and youth. These insights will be integrated into community ecosystem management plans and training programs, ensuring their preservation, intergenerational transfer, and alignment with sustainable land management practices.

- Conduct participatory rural appraisals (PRAs) to identify community priorities and ecosystem challenges.
 - Facilitate workshops to co-develop Ecosystem Management Plans with community representatives.
 - Define clear roles for communities, traditional leaders, and local authorities in plan implementation.
 - Integrate indigenous knowledge with technical guidance on ecosystem conservation.
 - Set up local Natural Resource Management (NRM) committees to oversee plan execution.
 - Provide toolkits and small grants to implement priority actions (e.g., bushfire control, rotational grazing)
- Output 2.1.3: Water and soil conservation infrastructure developed for enhanced productivity and resilience: This output entails the construction and rehabilitation of **critical water and soil conservation infrastructure** to increase land productivity, reduce vulnerability to climate variability, and enhance agro-sylvo-pastoral resilience. The infrastructure will include micro-catchments, contour bunds, check dams, stone lines, zai pits, earth bunds, half-moons, small reservoirs, and rainwater harvesting systems. These interventions will be designed based on local hydrology, erosion risks, and community-identified priorities, with labor-intensive approaches that create local employment and ownership.

- Construct water harvesting structures (e.g., zai pits, stone bunds, check dams, percolation ponds).
- Rehabilitate small-scale irrigation schemes using solar-powered pumps and drip systems.
- Develop contour trenches and terraces for slope stabilization and runoff management.
- Train communities in the maintenance of infrastructure and water use efficiency.
- Promote composting, mulching, and integrated soil fertility management techniques.
- Link infrastructure development with restored land plots and ecosystem management zones.

The delivery mechanisms for the component will involve a variety of options tailored around the following:

- Community engagement through Village Development Committees (VDCs), Farmer Groups, and Pastoralist Associations.
 - Technical backstopping by extension services, local NGOs, and relevant government agencies.
 - Use of nature-based solutions and climate-smart technologies.
 - Performance-based land restoration contracts with community groups.
 - Multi-stakeholder monitoring and participatory land-use planning
-
- ***Component 3: Promotion of local value chains and women led enterprises***

Outcome 3.1 Community empowerment with local value chains enhance ecosystem restoration in Kebbi State.

Promoting local value chains and women-led enterprises is a powerful strategy for land restoration and improved natural resource management. Empowering women and integrating them into value chains not only enhances livelihoods but also leads to more sustainable and resilient management of land and resources. The scientific basis of this project is that Production-driven forest restoration, smallholder engagement, and value chain upgrading can stimulate positive landscape transitions.^{[7]³⁸} Thus, this component aims to empower communities especially women and youth by developing inclusive, gender-responsive, and climate-resilient value chains that support nature-based enterprises. It builds on local knowledge and ecological resources to generate sustainable income, enhance community ownership of restoration efforts, and integrate environmentally friendly livelihood strategies into local development frameworks. By strengthening entrepreneurship and market access, the component contributes to both poverty reduction and ecosystem restoration in alignment with the Great Green Wall Initiative. The component will be implemented through the following three outputs which are crucial to ensuring that restoration efforts are economically sustainable, socially inclusive, and community-driven, enabling lasting impact across Kebbi State's drylands. The project will support this component to integrating women into local value chains and supporting women-led enterprises to boost land restoration and natural resource management. The success of the project through this component

will partly depend on addressing gender barriers, and fostering inclusive, market-driven approaches that value women's contributions and leadership.

- Output 3.1.1: Strengthened gender-responsive local value chains for Nature-based enterprises: The output will focus on strengthening and scaling up **local value chains for nature-based products** (e.g., shea butter, moringa, honey, gum arabic, dryland fodder, non-timber forest products) with a particular emphasis on **gender responsiveness and youth inclusion**. Activities will address production, processing, packaging, marketing, and access to finance. The approach will prioritize **women and youth as primary beneficiaries** through targeted training, business support services, and improved linkages to markets and buyers. The goal is to enable sustainable income generation while supporting the objectives of dryland ecosystem restoration.
 - Identify and assess viable nature-based value chains (e.g., gum arabic, moringa, shea butter, honey, fodder, non-timber forest products).
 - Provide skills training on production, processing, packaging, and marketing of green products.
 - Form and strengthen women/youth cooperatives and producer groups in target LGAs.
 - Facilitate access to startup capital, microcredit, and equipment through revolving funds or partnerships to support community-level investments in land and water management.
 - Link enterprises to markets through trade fairs, digital platforms, and value chain partnerships
- Output 3.1.2: Gender-responsive and socially inclusive livelihood strategies integrated into Local Development Plans and NRM-related policies: This output will ensure that **livelihood strategies developed under IDERRCN are inclusive, gender-responsive**, and institutionalized within local and sectoral development frameworks. It will work with local governments, community-based organizations, and relevant ministries to mainstream these strategies into planning and policy processes. This will help sustain the socio-economic benefits of ecosystem restoration and ensure continued support for women- and youth-led enterprises beyond the life of the project.
 - Conduct gender and social inclusion assessments to inform livelihood planning.
 - Facilitate stakeholder consultations and policy dialogues on integrating inclusive green jobs into local development plans.
 - Support local governments in reviewing and updating NRM policies to reflect inclusive livelihood strategies.
 - Develop gender-sensitive guidelines for planning and budgeting of livelihood support at the LGA level.
 - Support the formation of multi-stakeholder platforms for inclusive local economic development.
- Output 3.1.3 Community awareness and capacity enhanced on ecosystem-based enterprises: This output will aim to raise community awareness and strengthen capacity for launching and managing ecosystem-based enterprises - businesses that rely on or contribute to ecosystem restoration and conservation. These may include tree nurseries, sustainable harvesting, climate-resilient farming systems, or dryland product value chains. The output will ensure that women, youth, and marginalized groups understand the benefits of nature-based enterprises and are empowered with the knowledge, tools, and support to participate effectively.
 - Conduct training on business development, financial literacy, and climate-smart enterprise management.
 - Use radio, community theatre, and local influencers to raise awareness on sustainable entrepreneurship.
 - Develop and distribute Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in local languages.

- Establish community learning centers or hubs to share best practices and promote innovation

The delivery mechanisms for the component will involve a variety of options tailored around the following:

- Community-driven enterprise development, supported by local facilitators and cooperatives.
 - Gender-sensitive capacity-building, mentoring, and business incubation for women and youth.
 - Partnerships with microfinance institutions, cooperatives, local governments, and private sector actors.
 - Integration of inclusive livelihood strategies into planning and policy processes.
 - Use of value chain development tools (e.g., market systems analysis, business model canvases)
-
- ***Component 4: Knowledge Management***

Outcome 4.1 Knowledge management and dissemination empower stakeholders to adopt agro-sylvo-pastoral practices

As a land rehabilitation-focused project, Nigeria's LDN agenda is at the core of the project. Effective knowledge management and robust M&E systems are foundational for achieving land restoration and LDN targets. They enable evidence-based decision-making, equitable and context-sensitive interventions, and transparent reporting, all of which are necessary for sustainable land management and meeting global restoration goals. The scientific basis of this component is that Access to knowledge about SLM practices is identified as a major enabler for scaling up restoration and achieving LDN, second only to financial resources. Knowledge sharing, capacity building, and decision-support frameworks are crucial for mainstreaming and expanding SLM practices at local, national, and global levels.^{[8]³⁹} This component focuses on generating, managing, and disseminating knowledge to improve decision-making and ensure the adoption and scaling of agro-sylvo-pastoral practices. It strengthens participatory monitoring and evaluation systems that promote transparency, adaptive learning, and accountability, while contributing to the broader GGWI knowledge architecture. It also fosters stakeholder awareness and engagement through inclusive communication and dialogue strategies. The component will be critical in enhancing sustainability, the project incorporates a strong communications and knowledge-sharing component. Awareness campaigns, stakeholder training, and participatory evaluations that ensures broad-based engagement and institutional learning. The project will also align closely with ongoing national and state-led initiatives under the GGW Strategy, leveraging synergies and building on existing co-financing commitments and policy frameworks.

With two outcomes, component has four outputs altogether that will aim to amplify impact, promote adaptive learning, and ensure accountability while embedding the principles of inclusion, transparency, and sustainability into the IDERRCN project's knowledge management and stakeholder engagement efforts. The outputs focus on knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, and stakeholder engagement, with a strong emphasis on gender inclusivity and multi-level learning.

- Output 4.1.1: Gender-inclusive awareness campaign strategies and information dissemination mechanisms developed and implemented: This output will focus on designing and delivering inclusive public awareness campaigns and tailored communication tools to promote understanding, participation, and ownership of the project’s objectives—especially among women, youth, and marginalized groups. The campaigns will highlight the benefits of agro-sylvo-pastoral practices, sustainable land use, ecosystem services, and climate-resilient livelihoods. Dissemination mechanisms will use both traditional (radio, town criers, community theater) and modern (social media, SMS, digital apps) communication channels adapted to the literacy levels and language preferences of the target population.
 - Develop a communication and outreach strategy that is culturally and gender-sensitive.
 - Produce multimedia content (e.g., radio programs, videos, posters, and infographics) in local languages.
 - Conduct awareness campaigns in communities, schools, and religious centers targeting both men and women.
 - Engage community radio and social media platforms to disseminate information on agro-sylvo-pastoral practices.
 - Train community facilitators and women's groups to lead peer education sessions

- Output 4.1.2: Gender-inclusive lessons and knowledge products systematically collected and disseminated to various audiences, including GGWI Program regional meetings: This output will ensure that **lessons learned, success stories, and best practices** - particularly those reflecting the experiences of women, youth, and vulnerable populations are **systematically documented and shared**. The aim is to facilitate peer learning and policy uptake across local, national, and regional levels, including within the **GGWI** community of practice. Knowledge products may include policy briefs, case studies, manuals, toolkits, short videos, and academic articles.
 - Document good practices, success stories, and case studies from project sites with attention to gender outcomes.
 - Develop policy briefs, toolkits, and field guides based on project learnings.
 - Organize experience-sharing workshops at local, national, and regional levels (including GGWI forums).
 - Create an online knowledge portal or repository linked to the national GGWI platform.
 - Collaborate with academic institutions for joint publications and evaluations.

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Component 5 of the IDERRCN Project focuses on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to ensure effective implementation and learning across all project levels. Its outcome; participatory M&E strengthening project implementation and results, contributing to the Great Green Wall (GGW) Program emphasizes inclusiveness, transparency, and adaptive management. Under Output 5.1.1, robust systems for project monitoring, evaluation, and reporting are established and operationalized, providing data and insights that feed into GGWI regional coordination and reporting frameworks. Output 5.1.2 supports the development of knowledge and information systems for tracking land degradation and ecosystem restoration progress, enhancing evidence-based decision-making, including supporting peer to peer learning through capacity building activities that will be coordinated by the regional coordination project. As a Child Project, IDERRCN’s Component 5 aligns closely with the Transformation Approach to Large-Scale, fostering regional learning, harmonized reporting, and scalable good practices for sustainable landscape restoration across the GGW countries.

Outcome 5.1. Participatory monitoring and evaluation strengthen project implementation and results, contributing to the GGW Program.

- Output 5.1.1 Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems established and implemented to contribute to the GGWI: The output will entail setting up a **robust, participatory monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system** to track project implementation, outcomes, and alignment with GGWI targets, such as LDN, gender equity, and climate resilience. The system will combine **quantitative indicators, geospatial mapping, and qualitative community feedback mechanisms**. It will also ensure regular, evidence-based reporting to national partners, the GGW Agency, and relevant international stakeholders.
 - Develop a Results Framework and M&E Plan with GGWI-aligned indicators.
 - Train project staff and stakeholders on data collection, analysis, and reporting tools.
 - Use mobile apps or digital platforms for real-time data tracking (e.g., land restoration, livelihoods).
 - Conduct baseline, midline, and endline surveys to measure impact.
 - Submit periodic progress reports and contribute data to national GGWI dashboards.
- Output 5.1.2: Knowledge and information systems developed for monitoring land degradation and ecosystem restoration: This output will support the creation of integrated digital and participatory knowledge systems that enable real-time monitoring, reporting, and learning related to land degradation, ecosystem regeneration, and climate adaptation. The system will combine satellite data, ground-truthing, community-led monitoring, and institutional feedback mechanisms. The project will have the opportunity to learn but also to learn from other Child Projects to enhance exchange of best practices through the regional coordination project. The project will also aim to improve data availability for planning, accountability, and adaptive management of restoration efforts aligned with GGWI standards and indicators (e.g., land degradation neutrality). Thus, output 5.1.2 will focus on developing knowledge and information systems to monitor land degradation, ecosystem health, and climate resilience. The specific tasks will include data collection, risk analysis, and the development of community-friendly land degradation monitoring systems and approaches and communication tools.
 - Participating in south-south peer learning programs coordinated through the regional coordination project to enhance sharing of best practices for the GGW-related activities
 - Design and deploy a centralized digital platform for land degradation monitoring using GIS/remote sensing.
 - Build the capacity of national and state-level agencies on geospatial data collection and analysis.
 - Conduct baseline assessments on land degradation and ecosystem health using standardized methodologies (e.g., LDN indicators).
 - Develop data-sharing protocols and integrate monitoring into national environmental reporting systems.

It is recalled here that the core feature of the project is the promotion of community-based, participatory governance of natural resources in Kebbi State faces intertwined environmental and socioeconomic challenges that require integrated, community-driven, and gender-inclusive approaches to ecosystem restoration and sustainable development. This includes the formulation of local ecosystem management plans, the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks, and the adoption of information systems for long-term monitoring of environmental and socio-economic indicators. In doing so, the project will support the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships that harness both indigenous knowledge and scientific research to inform decision-making and implementation. Furthermore, the project will initiate pilot actions that demonstrate integrated land and water management techniques, gender-responsive livelihood models, and the development of women-led value chains. These pilot experiences will not only benefit the target LGAs but will also provide scalable models for replication across other dryland regions of Nigeria and the Sahel. The context in Kebbi State thus, aligns

with the objectives of the GGWI, which seeks to restore degraded ecosystems, promote climate-resilient value chains, and empower women-led enterprises. For that to be realized, addressing environmental degradation, supporting diversified and climate-resilient livelihoods, and strengthening institutional capacity are critical for the success of IDERCCN.

Conflict context in Northern Nigeria – brief assessment

The IDERRCN project in Kebbi State has been designed with a strong awareness of the complex socio-political and environmental context of Northern Nigeria, where competition over land, water, and natural resources often intersects with poverty, gender inequality, and insecurity. Indeed, resource scarcity, especially of land and water, has become a central driver of conflict in northern Nigeria, intensifying long-standing tensions and contributing to cycles of violence, displacement, and economic disruption.^{[9]⁴⁰} Competition for land and water between farmers and pastoralists is the most prominent form of conflict, with disputes frequently escalating into violence, property destruction, and loss of life. These clashes are particularly acute during periods of drought or when water sources become inaccessible.^{[10]⁴¹}

The project is inherently conflict-sensitive, addressing environmental degradation and socio-economic vulnerabilities that often exacerbate local tensions. By focusing on ecosystem restoration through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices, the project mitigates competition over scarce natural resources such as land, water, and grazing areas which are common triggers of conflict in dryland regions. A **conflict-sensitive assessment** recognizes that resource degradation, livelihood insecurity, and limited access to productive assets, especially for women and youth, can exacerbate local tensions among farming, pastoralist, and forest-dependent communities. The project therefore integrates conflict sensitivity into its design by promoting **inclusive, participatory, and equitable approaches** to natural resource management and restoration.

Under **Component 1**, capacity-building activities include institutional and community training on conflict resolution, dialogue facilitation, and equitable resource governance, fostering cooperation among diverse livelihood groups – the component’s emphasis on institutional capacity building will ensure inclusive governance structures that promote transparency and equitable resource management, reducing marginalization and fostering trust among communities.

Component 2 promotes agro-sylvo-pastoral systems that reduce competition over land and water by supporting shared use arrangements, restoration of communal lands, and participatory land-use planning. The integration of sustainable land use practices that balance agricultural productivity with conservation, will contribute to reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems and minimizing inter-group disputes over land access.

Component 3 will directly enhance peace dividends by promoting **women- and youth-led enterprises** and local value chains that create alternative livelihoods, thereby reducing socio-economic grievances and dependency on contested resources. Gender mainstreaming will ensure women’s representation in decision-making bodies and equal access to training and market opportunities. **Safeguards measures**, aligned with national and international standards, mitigate risks of exclusion and elite capture through transparent benefit-sharing mechanisms and grievance redress systems. Under component 3, the project will not only enhance livelihoods but also strengthens social cohesion by reducing economic disparities and fostering inclusive development.

To support the project’s efforts in mitigating conflicts as detailed above in the technical components 1, 2 and 3, the project has foreseen the recruitment of a Natural Resources Management Specialist and a Gender and Social Inclusion, with budget lines (\$50,000 and \$45,000, respectively) to ensure technical oversight on conflict-related resource issues and gender and youth concerns.

Through these integrated strategies, IDERRCN will not only address the ecological roots of conflict but will also strengthen social cohesion, equity, and resilience, thereby creating an enabling environment for sustainable peace and inclusive development in Kebbi State.

IDERRCN's Socio-economic and Global Environmental Benefits

The project has been designed to improve community knowledge and adoption of sustainable natural resources practices, strengthen institutions and policies for natural resource governance, support functioning women-led enterprises and improved income-generation activities, and create market-ready, climate-resilient products linked to viable value chains. Beyond these, the implementation of the project interventions will have positive socioeconomic and environmental benefits. These will include the following global environmental as well as socioeconomic benefits:

- The productive capacity of 5,500 ha of agropastoral landscapes within target LGAs will be rehabilitated thanks to SLM practices and restoration efforts using native species and soil-water conservation techniques Increased hectares of restored land. the project will support ecosystem restoration through gender-responsive integrated sustainable land management practices (reforestation and afforestation initiatives, Farmers Managed Natural Regeneration, agroforestry systems and conservation agriculture techniques to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion, sustainable grazing management and watershed protection, development of grazing reserves and pasture, agro-silvo-pastoral systems, sand dune fixation to protect agricultural lands and infrastructures) to bring 2,500 ha under restoration and 3,000 ha under improved practices. Combined, the envisaged activities under component 2 will contribute to combating deforestation and enhancing carbon sequestration while preserving critical ecosystems and water resources. Support towards community-based natural resource management will facilitate the engagement with local populations in decision-making to encourage responsible resource use.
- 3,000 people, 50% women will benefit from business incubation training opportunities and improved access markets;
- Acknowledging limited livelihood opportunities and poverty as key drivers of environmental degradation besides conflicts, the project will strengthen resilience through diversifying community livelihood opportunities, including supporting dryland agriculture and value chains (shea butter, honey, and gum arabic) to benefit 900,000 people (450,000 or 50% females, and 450,000 or 50% males) – thereby supporting functioning women-led enterprises and improved income-generation, but also market-ready, climate-resilient products linked to viable value chains.
- 900,000 smallholder farmers will be trained in soil restoration, erosion control, and vegetative regeneration, ensuring 50% female participation thereby improving community knowledge base to facilitate the implementation of sustainable land management practices.
- 100 local council members and traditional leaders will be trained in co-management of natural resources, including water resources considering 50% female representation – thereby contributing to strengthening institutions and policies for natural resource governance.
- 200 extension agents and local technical teams will be trained in in site-based ecosystem restoration for agro-silvo-pastoral systems, using practical field training thereby improving community knowledge and adoption of sustainable practices.
- 10,000 local communities will be reached through project knowledge products, ensuring 50% female representation.

The transformational potential impact of IDERRCN

Based on the socioeconomic and environmental context of Kebbi State, IDERRCN is more than a restoration project for land and biodiversity benefits. The project is a systems transformation model for the Sahel, linking environmental sustainability with inclusive economic growth and institutional innovation. The project has a strong **transformative potential** due to its integrated design, multidimensional approach, and alignment with national and regional development goals. Below is a detailed description of its **transformative nature and potential**:

- *Transforming degraded landscapes into productive ecosystems:* At its core, the IDERRCN project aims to restore the productive capacity of 5,500 ha of degraded drylands through integrated SLM and agro-silvo-pastoral systems. Through restoration of 2,500 ha and improving management of 3,000 ha of agropastoral

production landscapes, these will directly address land degradation, a major driver of poverty and ecological collapse in dryland regions like Kebbi.

- Transformative impact: From barren, unproductive lands to diverse, multifunctional landscapes that support livelihoods, biodiversity, and climate resilience.
- Sustainability potential: Ecosystem regeneration becomes a self-reinforcing process through soil fertility improvement, water retention, and vegetation cover recovery.
- *Institutional reform and capacity building at scale:* Component 1 targets the institutional transformation required to sustain land restoration. By strengthening GGWI coordination mechanisms and building technical capacity at state and national levels, the project helps institutionalize a long-term governance model for dryland restoration.
 - Transformative impact: Fragmented, under-resourced institutions evolve into coordinated, technically capable actors aligned with global and national environmental agendas.
 - Systems change: Embedding GGWI principles into development planning at state and federal levels reshapes how land and natural resources are managed.
- *Empowering women and youth through Nature-based Enterprises:* Component 3 promotes climate-resilient, gender-responsive value chains, linking environmental restoration with economic empowerment - particularly for women and youth.
 - Transformative impact: Restoration becomes a source of income and dignity, not just an ecological goal. Women and youth are repositioned as leaders and entrepreneurs within the green economy.
 - Inclusive development: The integration of these enterprises into local policies ensures social equity and sustainability are embedded in economic transformation.
- *Building climate resilience through natural infrastructure:* The project invests in water and soil conservation infrastructure - essential in Kebbi's climate-vulnerable environment. These interventions increase resilience to drought, erosion, and flooding, while supporting food and fodder production.
 - Transformative Impact: From fragile, risk-prone communities to climate-adapted production systems.
 - Shock absorption: The infrastructure acts as a buffer against climatic extremes, securing livelihoods in a context of growing climate unpredictability.
- *Driving knowledge-based, participatory change:* Through its knowledge management and M&E components, IDERRCN promotes a learning culture and evidence-based adaptation, including participatory monitoring, local awareness campaigns, and regional knowledge exchanges under the Great Green Wall framework.
 - Transformative impact: Knowledge is not just a by-product, but a driver of policy reform, replication, and community ownership.
 - Behavioural change: By embedding awareness and education across all components, the project catalyzes a mindset shift around land stewardship, especially at the community level.
- *Aligning local action with global goals:* IDERRCN contributes directly to the Great Green Wall Initiative, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and global goals such as:

- SDG 13: Climate Action
- SDG 15: Life on Land
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 1 and 2: No Poverty and Zero Hunger

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Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

Anchored within the Ministry of Environment, IDERCCN will be executed by the National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) that will constitute a team to manage the project as Project Management Unit (PMU). More specifically, the project will be led by the National Agency of the Great Green Wall (NAGGW), which will serve as the executing entity. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will serve as the GEF Implementing Agency, providing overall supervision and oversight to ensure compliance with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures.

The Ministry of Environment will provide the policy framework within the project will be implemented; consistent with the country’s environmental priorities – ensuring the project contributes to land restoration-related plans as captured, particularly in the national LDN targets. The NAGGW will communicate and coordinate government priorities within the project, and serve as the liaison between activity-executing structures of the project and UNEP, the Implementing Agency of the project. The Agency will also ensure that the project demonstrates coherence with the GEF-8 GGWI Program. As this is a Child Project within the GEF-8 GGWI Program, the Agency will participate in regional meetings of the GGWI Program and ensure associated reporting obligations, including those that need to be done to the Pan-African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PANGGW) secretariat.

NAGGW will be reporting to UNEP on fiduciary, technical and operational matters of the project to UNEP. The PMU will directly coordinate the execution of project activities on the ground. The national level PMU in Abuja will be reinforced by a Kebbi State level office. This will be important to ensure the project has an on-ground presence to ensure and maintain interactions with stakeholders and beneficiaries. This will be critical in ensuring continued stakeholder engagement in the project implementation and monitoring of activities.

Through the Ministry of Environment, NAGGW shall take responsibility to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the (a) agreement to be signed with UNEP Ecosystems Division, (b) agreed objectives, activities and budget and deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes. It shall also coordinate activities with the other key Government and other relevant partners and address and rectify any issues raised by UNEP with respect to project execution in a timely manner. As Executing Agency, the Ministry of Environment through NAGGW will be committed to making the best use of project resources and implement the project in the most effective manner.

To oversee the day-to-day management of project activities, including providing operational support to project implementation, the project will have a Project Management Unit (PMU) which will be completely embedded in the NAGGW to ensure ownership and sustainability. As has already been noted, to facilitate implementation and timely reporting in Kebbi State, the project will have a lean project team in the State to support the PMU at national level.

The PMU will comprise a team of the National Project Coordinator as lead, the Technical Advisor, M&E Specialist, Land Management Specialist, Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist, Finance and Admin Officer. Their contributions to the project management costs and M&E budget are tabulated below:

PMU contribution to PMC and M&E budget

Position	Contribution to Project Management Cost	Contribution to M&E Budget
National Project Coordinator	Provides overall leadership and coordination of project planning, budgeting, and implementation. Supervises all project components and staff, ensures alignment with GGW and national priorities, manages partnerships, and oversees financial and administrative compliance with GEF/UNEP standards.	Validates M&E plans and reports; ensures that performance data inform adaptive management decisions; provides strategic oversight on progress tracking and evaluation outcomes.

Technical Advisor	Offers high-level technical backstopping on ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient agriculture, and institutional capacity building. Supports the Project Coordinator in harmonizing technical operations, facilitating knowledge exchange, and ensuring quality assurance across activities.	Assists in designing performance indicators and technical monitoring benchmarks. Provides expert review of ecological monitoring data and ensures scientific integrity in reporting restoration outcomes.
M&E Specialist	Leads the development and operationalization of the project's M&E framework. Coordinates data collection, reporting, and quality control processes. Trains local officers on data management and ensures timely preparation of progress reports.	Directly implements M&E activities—baseline studies, mid-term and terminal evaluations, and GIS-based monitoring. Manages digital dashboards, compiles datasets, and produces performance and impact reports for decision-making.
NRM Specialist (Consultancy Position)	Provides technical guidance on planning and implementing sustainable land management (SLM) and agro-sylvo-pastoral practices. Oversees quality assurance in restoration infrastructure, field operations, and community training.	Collects and validates field-level data on land cover, soil health, and vegetation recovery. Contributes to defining and tracking restoration and ecosystem productivity indicators within the M&E framework.
Gender and Social Inclusion Specialist (Consultancy Position)	Integrates gender equality and social inclusion principles across all components. Develops and monitors the Gender Action Plan, promotes women and youth participation, and ensures safeguards and grievance mechanisms are functioning.	Incorporates gender-disaggregated indicators and social inclusion metrics into M&E systems. Conducts gender audits, social impact assessments, and monitors inclusivity in benefit-sharing and participation outcomes.
Finance and Admin Officer	Manages budgeting, procurement, accounting, and administrative processes. Ensures financial compliance with GEF/UNEP rules, prepares budget utilization reports, and supports external audits and project operations.	Tracks M&E financial allocations and expenditures; maintains budget records for evaluations, consultancies, and data management contracts; provides input for cost-effectiveness and financial performance analyses.

The Kebbi State team will directly coordinate activities with other stakeholders such as Cooperatives and Civil Society Organizations within the five Local Government Areas, ensuring on-ground interactions with community members. This will be strongly considered as a sustainability mechanism for building local capacities but also to ensure ownership by non-state institutions. Through this structure, the project will create space for active participation and ownership of project interventions at grassroot level. Given security concerns in Kebbi State, non-state actors will be critical in the implementation given their proximity to local communities and their understanding of local contexts. The project believes that this will improve service delivery, and lessen long drives between national coordination structure in Abuja and Kebbi State, where project activities will be implemented.

The PMU will include relevant staff with technical capacities in sustainable land management and generally, climate and natural resources management, finance and administration, gender and social inclusion. The project seeks to create and strengthen its M&E system, and therefore, will have an M&E Specialist to support monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Additionally, the project will also have a Project Steering Committee (PSC) to oversee the GEF project through provision of strategic technical oversight. Strategic monitoring of project activities will be the responsibility of the PSC, which will meet annually, or extraordinarily as may be warranted, in order to:

- Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination between all parties;

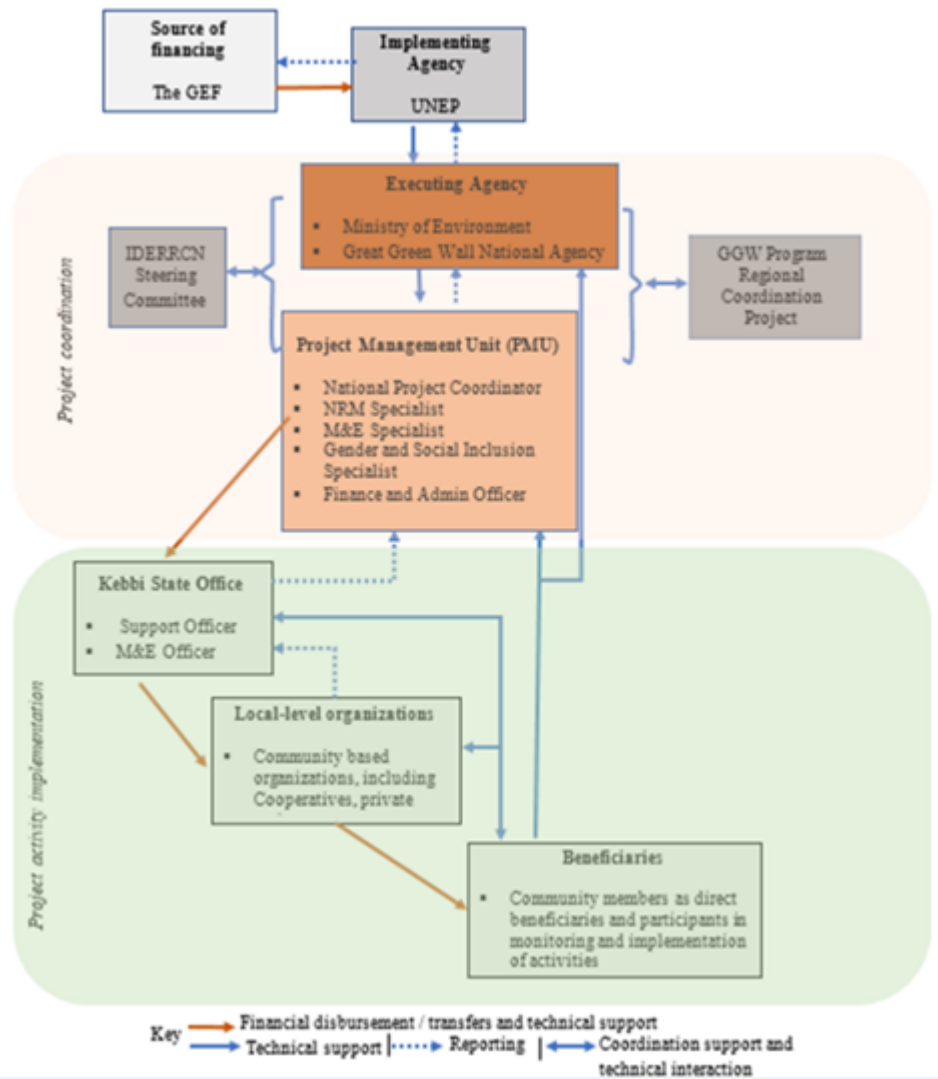
- Provide monitoring for project implementation;
- Review and adopt the annual work plans and budgets prepared by the Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Advisor, in conformity with the project objective and subject to the rules of GEF and UNEP;
- Review the six-monthly progress reports to be prepared by PMU and oversee the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary;
- Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other initiatives being implemented in the project area; and
- Provide advice on policy and strategic issues to be taken into account during project implementation.

The members of the PSC will include:

- Chair: the designated Senior Staff from the Ministry in charge of Environment
- Co-Chair: UNEP Ecosystems Division Task manager or mandated UNEP Official
- Members: GEF Operational focal point and representatives of various ministries, in particular those in charge of the environment, forests, protected areas, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, finance, spatial planning, land, Business women Association, tourism, Kebbi State and non-State authorities, youth groups, representatives of indigenous communities and the differently-abled, and scientific researchers through partnerships with local Universities in Kebbi State. The specific roles within the PSC are based on the mandates assigned to each by the ministry.

The broad level of membership in the PSC highlights the democratic space of the project in its implementation that offers potential for sustainability, knowledge transfer, capacity development and project ownership. The Secretariat to the PSC will be provided by the Project Management Unit and may be the Project Coordinator. As may be required on specific issues, an Advisory group can be formed to offer any other guidance or expertise as required by the specific agenda of the PSC.

UNEP – through its GEF Task Manager (TM) and Funds Management Officer (FMO) - will monitor and supervise the implementation of the project, review progress in the realization of the project outputs, and ensure the proper use adequately of the GEF funds. The UNEP TM will be directly responsible among others for: (i) providing consistent and regular project oversight to ensure the achievement of project objectives; (ii) liaising between the project and the GEF Secretariat; (iii) ensuring that both GEF and UN Environment policy requirements and standards are applied and met (i.e. reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, M&E); visibility through logos, stakeholders and gender participations (iv) approving budget revisions, certifying fund availability and transferring funds; (v) organizing mid- and end-term evaluations and reviewing project audits; (vi) providing technical, legal and administrative guidance if requested; and (vii) certifying project operational completion. Below, the figure highlights the organizational structure of IDERRCN.



UNEP’s comparative advantage

As the Implementing Agency of the GEF for this project, UNEP is an important stakeholder. The institution is well-positioned to implement the IDERRCN Project due to its global mandate in environmental sustainability and its extensive experience in ecosystem restoration. UNEP’s leadership in environmental governance, technical expertise, and global partnerships makes it a strong implementing agency for the IDERRCN project, ensuring long-term ecological and socio-economic benefits for Kebbi State.

UNEP offers a comprehensive package of science, policy, and practice that uniquely positions it to lead the implementation of IDERRCN. Its comparative advantage lies in: Mandate alignment with GGWI and ecosystem restoration, Global and local experience in dryland management and NbS, Inclusive approaches to value chains and livelihoods, Institutional capacity-building and environmental governance expertise

Strong systems for M&E, gender mainstreaming, and knowledge sharing, and Ability to leverage strategic partnerships and funding sources – as briefly highlighted below:

- Mandate and mission alignment:

- UNEP’s core mandate is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.
- The IDERRCN project’s objective - to restore degraded ecosystems, build institutional capacity, and promote inclusive, climate-resilient value chains - fully aligns with UNEP’s mission, especially in the context of the GGWI, which UNEP supports as a global partner.
 - Proven leadership in ecosystem restoration:
- UNEP co-leads the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), giving it a central role in global coordination and support for ecosystem rehabilitation efforts, especially in degraded drylands.
- It has extensive experience implementing restoration projects in arid and semi-arid lands, including in the Sahel, Horn of Africa, and across other GGW countries.
- UNEP brings scientific, technical, and policy expertise for integrated land and ecosystem management, which are foundational to the IDERRCN’s design and implementation.
 - Technical expertise in integrated dryland management:
- UNEP has developed global best practices in agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, drought resilience, and land degradation neutrality, often in collaboration with the UNCCD, FAO, and regional partners.
- It supports countries to adopt nature-based solutions (NbS) that integrate biodiversity, livelihoods, and climate adaptation - precisely the integrated approach of IDERRCN.
- UNEP has experience guiding community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), a key element of IDERRCN’s community planning and gender-inclusive strategies.
 - Experience in climate-resilient livelihoods and value chains:
- UNEP supports projects that integrate green economy and circular value chain models, promoting sustainable enterprises aligned with environmental goals.
- It has led or partnered in projects supporting women- and youth-led nature-based enterprises, with a focus on resilience, inclusion, and ecosystem services.
- UNEP’s Green Jobs and Inclusive Green Economy programmes offer additional tools to strengthen eco-enterprise development, a central pillar of the IDERRCN.
 - Institutional and policy support capabilities:
- UNEP works closely with national and sub-national governments to mainstream environmental considerations into development plans and policies - precisely what Output 1.1.1 and 3.1.2 of IDERRCN aim to do.
- Its experience in capacity-building for environmental governance and institutional strengthening will enhance implementation frameworks at both national and state levels in Nigeria.
- UNEP has previously supported NAGGW and can deepen this engagement for cross-scale coordination in Kebbi State.

- Strong M&E and knowledge dissemination infrastructure:
 - UNEP has well-established monitoring, evaluation, and knowledge management systems, especially for LDN, ecosystem health, and environmental indicators.
 - It supports gender-responsive, participatory M&E systems, ensuring transparency, learning, and accountability - fully aligned with Component 4 of IDERRCN.
 - UNEP also contributes to global and regional GGWI knowledge platforms, enabling effective dissemination of lessons learned from Kebbi to the broader Sahel and GGW region.
- Neutral convener and capacity for multi-stakeholder engagement:
 - As a UN agency with neutrality, UNEP is well-positioned to facilitate inclusive stakeholder dialogue, bringing together government agencies, local communities, civil society, and development partners.
 - It can convene state-level and national policy dialogues, helping align the project with Nigeria’s environmental, agricultural, and climate frameworks.
 - UNEP’s convening power also supports regional cooperation among GGWI countries, contributing to broader scaling and policy coherence.

As part of the GEF-8 GGW Program, IDERRCN will benefit from technical, institutional, financial, and knowledge-related support from the regional coordination project to enhance efficiency, scalability, and sustainability. This will be consistent with the integrated approach embedded in the objectives of the Program. The description in the table below provides the regional project support towards IDERRCN:

Table highlighting IDERRCN alignment with the Regional Coordination Project

Child Project component	Corresponding component in Regional Project	Required support to the Child Project
Components 1 and 2 (Nigeria): Building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacity for the implementation of the GGW Initiative; and Supporting restoration and Natural Resources Management including promotion of agro-sylvopastoral practices in Kebbi State, respectively.	Component 1 (Integrated resource management) and Component 3 (Institutional capacity and policy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical:</i> Regional best practices and technical guidance on governance models for water and soil conservation adapted to Sahelian conditions. • <i>Institutional:</i> Support in aligning local governance models with regional GGW frameworks and national LDN targets. • <i>Policy:</i> Regional-level advocacy can help inform national policy reform and promote coherence between national and transboundary resource management.
Component 3 (Nigeria): Promotion of local value chains and women led enterprises	Component 1 (Integrated management) and Component 2 (Equitable livelihoods and Public Private Partnerships)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical:</i> Regional training and advisory support on drought-smart land restoration techniques (e.g., Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration, Zai pits, assisted natural regeneration).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Innovation:</i> Introduction of regional innovations in land and forest ecosystem restoration (e.g., sand dune fixation, resilient species selection). • <i>Livelihoods:</i> Support for scaling inclusive value chains and establishing regional market access for forest products. • <i>Water management:</i> Guidance on integrated water management, especially assessing the viability of <i>Vitium Energy</i>^{[1]⁴²} technology for local communities in Kebbi State. • <i>Gender and youth:</i> Regional guidance on mainstreaming gender and youth in land degradation awareness and community mobilization.
Component 4 (Nigeria): Knowledge Management and M&E	Component 4 Support towards KM and regional monitoring and accountability; and M&E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Monitoring tools:</i> Provision of harmonized indicators and geospatial tools for monitoring land degradation and ecosystem health, aligned with UNCCD reporting. • <i>Data sharing:</i> Integration of national data into regional monitoring systems, enabling benchmarking and aggregation at GGW level. • <i>Learning loops:</i> Participation in regional M&E learning platforms for adaptive management, including sharing of success stories and challenges. • <i>Knowledge sharing:</i> Facilitation of cross-country exchange visits, toolkits, and platforms on successful governance structures (e.g., forest and water/oases management committees, land user agreements). • <i>Technical support:</i> Capacity strengthening on M&E design, baseline assessment methods, and impact evaluation aligned with regional GGW indicators.
Cross-cutting support		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resource mobilization:</i> Guidance and technical support on accessing regional and international climate/environmental finance (e.g., GCF, GEF, LDN Fund). • <i>Gender and social inclusion:</i> Regional frameworks and expertise to strengthen gender-responsive planning and equitable benefit sharing in Nigeria

- *Regional coordination:* Mechanisms to align the Nigeria project with neighboring countries to address shared ecosystems, transhumance routes, and cross-border issues.

Thus, IDERRCN is part of the programmatic approach envisaged in the GGW Program. In the overall program design, the coordination project will be a platform to allow for peer to peer learning and knowledge. The technical support across building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacity, promotion of local value chains, Knowledge Management and M&E, and resource mobilization, and gender and social inclusion will be implemented through an approach that builds on lessons and experiences to allow for adaptive management. It is recalled that the programmatic approach under GEF-8 ensures that Nigeria's IDERRCN project is not an isolated effort but part of a strategic, multi-country, multi-sectoral response to land degradation, poverty, and climate vulnerability. It leverages regional synergy, economies of scale, and joint learning to maximize impact and sustainability, delivering not only for Kebbi State but for the entire Sahel region and the future of the GGW.

It is noted that environmental challenges affecting the Sahel such as desertification, drought, biodiversity loss, and extreme poverty are transboundary in nature. The degradation of ecosystems in in the GEF-8 GGW Programs follow similar patterns driven by climate shocks, poor land use practices, and weak governance, among others. INDERRCN is part of the puzzle of solutions in countries to collectively with harmonized strategies to address environmental challenges and create regional impacts. In this approach, INDERRCN will contribute to policy coherence and shared learning across Sahelian states. That is, IDERRCN becomes part of a regional learning ecosystem, contributing Kebbi's experiences in land rehabilitation, women's entrepreneurship, and drought adaptation. Through annual regional meetings, the project will contribute innovations and lessons from Kebbi State (e.g., women-led value chains, agro-sylvo-pastoral integration) into the wider GEF-8 GGW program.

To the extent that the programmatic approach enables systematic integration of climate adaptation and resilience-building across all interventions, IDERRCN, through its drought-responsive agro-sylvo-pastoral systems and gender-sensitive value chains, contributes to a just and inclusive climate transition.

IDERRCN's innovativeness

The IDERRCN project introduces an integrated landscape approach that combines traditional knowledge with modern restoration technologies to regenerate degraded drylands in Kebbi State. It promotes community-driven solutions such as Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration, climate-smart agro-sylvopastoral systems, and digital land monitoring tools for evidence-based decision-making. By linking ecosystem restoration with livelihood diversification, through sustainable value chains for gum arabic, shea, and fodder production - the project enhances socio-ecological resilience and promotes inclusive participation, especially of women and youth.

IDERRCN's cost-effectiveness

IDERRCN maximizes GEF resources by building on existing institutions, local governance structures, and community capacities to ensure sustainability and scalability. It leverages co-financing from state and federal programmes, reducing duplication and operational costs. The project prioritizes low-cost, nature-based solutions such as FMNR, zai pits, and water harvesting that deliver high returns in productivity and ecosystem recovery. This approach ensures long-term impact, efficient resource use, and alignment with GEF principles of catalytic investment and sustainability.

Besides innovativeness and cost-effectiveness, the project has been designed with sustainability in perspective. It has been embedded through community ownership, capacity building, and integration into local development plans. Strengthened institutions, participatory governance, and restoration-friendly value chains ensure continuity and scaling beyond the project's lifespan.

[1] This is an innovative, plant-based technology that harnesses renewable energy power from trees to generate a reliable source of energy – it is a nature-based and resourced source of energy that is not high tech – therefore offering a community-centered solution to improve access and promote integrated water resource management to boost efforts for reforestation in dry Kebbi State.

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

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

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

The implementation of IDERRCN will be participatory, gender-responsive, and socially-inclusive and in collaboration with other partners to draw lessons, avoid duplication of efforts, to ensure ownership, sustainability but also to ensure complementarity and synergy. The project has been designed to build on lessons and achievements of a number of baseline projects in the country. These include the following tabulated projects – all of which have different levels of support towards: land restoration, climate resilience, institutional strengthening, and livelihood support, thus consistent with the Great Green Wall vision in Kebbi State.

Table of projects for complementarity and synergies with IDERRCN

Initiative and Cost	Synopsis/Duration	Components	Shared Focus with IDERRCN
Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) (\$700million)	A World-Bank-supported, multi-sectoral programme focused on restoring degraded lands, combating desertification, improving water systems, and institutional capacity in northern Nigerian states including Kebbi. It targets 50,000 ha restored in Kebbi, reaching ~170,000 direct beneficiaries (2022–2028).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dryland Management (watersheds, water storage rehab, erosion control, riparian zone restoration) 2. Community Climate Resilience (micro-watershed support, revolving funds, inputs) 3. Institutional & Policy Strengthening + Project Management 4. Contingent Emergency Response (CERC) 	<p>Land restoration, watershed management, ecosystem conservation.</p> <p>Both initiatives share objectives in land restoration, dryland ecosystem resilience, and institutional strengthening. ACReSAL's watershed management and ecosystem-rehabilitation activities dovetail with IDERRCN's focus under the Great Green Wall framework.</p>
Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme (CASP) (\$50 million)	An IFAD-funded national initiative aims to build climate resilience by upgrading market and warehouse infrastructure across Kebbi to support agribusiness adaptation (2018–2025).	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market & infrastructure facilities (warehouses, agro-processing units) 2. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises 	<p>Agriculture market resilience, livelihood improvement</p> <p>CASP strengthens value-chain resilience, linking smallholder producers to markets— complementing IDERRCN's ambitions to enable livelihood</p>

		(MSME) agribusiness support (value-chain grants, training) 3. Climate-smart extension services 4. Institutional capacity building for Agricultural Development Programs	diversification and enhance the socio-economic footing of communities participating in ecosystem restoration.
UNDP Climate-Smart Agriculture (\$12M)	Supports smallholders with drought-resilient farming techniques and water management (2021–2026)	1. Farmer training in drought resilience 2. Micro-irrigation systems 3. Soil health management	Shared goals: Training farmers in agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and NRM.
National Agricultural Extension & Climate Services — ADP Kebbi (\$65 million)	Ongoing long-term programme (2018–present) Research from Federal University & ADP Kebbi highlights delivery of climate-smart extension services, coping with floods and drought, and adoption of adaptation practices	1. Climate-smart extension & advisory services 2. Seasonal forecast distribution 3. Farm training in CSA practices (e.g., early maturing varieties, soil mulching) 4. Pilot demonstration plots	IDERRCN’s institutional pillar supports extension and climate services. Strengthening ADP and extension agents fits directly within ecosystem rehabilitation frameworks, fostering on-the-ground resilience.
NAGGW Afforestation Project (₦5B/yr (national))	(2015–ongoing) National Agency for GGW’s large-scale tree planting and dune fixation in Kebbi.	1. Large-scale tree planting 2. Dune fixation 3. Seedling distribution	Core alignment: IDERRCN integrates NAGGW’s native species propagation & site mapping.

Other national-level projects/programs include the following:

- Agro-Processing, Productivity Enhancement and Livelihood Improvement Support Project (\$200 million by the World Bank, approved 2017, active);
- Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (\$500 million by the World Bank, approved 2022, active);
- Conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of a lowland forest mosaic landscape in Ogun, Edo, Delta and Ondo States (\$3.5 million, GEF-FAO project, concept approved);

- Promoting Integrated Landscape Management and Sustainable Food Systems in the Niger Delta Region in Nigeria (\$5.3 million, GEF-FAO project, project approved);
- Food-IAP: Integrated Landscape Management to Enhance Food Security and Ecosystem Resilience in Nigeria (\$7.1 million, GEF-UNDP, project approved).

In addition to the above mentioned relevant baseline projects, the project is also linked to regional initiatives on which it will draw lessons, seek complementarities and strengthen synergies. These regional initiatives include the following:

- \$180 million Inclusive Green Financing Inclusive: Greening Agricultural Banks & The financial Sector for Foster Climate Resilient Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture in The Great Green Wall.
- Sweden-UNDP \$15.6 million Strengthening Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation for Resilience in the Sahel Region: fostering risk-informed solutions for sustainable development project; and
- AfDB \$100 million Technology for Africa's Agricultural Transformation program.

Lessons learned: IDERRCN will leverage the experiences, lessons and capacities from the aforementioned set of projects to position itself cost-effectively to restore dryland ecosystems through integrated sustainable land management and conservation within the Nigerian GGW corridor. Notably, positive outcomes of land rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation are increasingly being associated with community-based land use management through various agroforestry models such as the establishment of shelterbelts, woodlots, windbreaks, orchards, trees on farmland, farmer managed natural regeneration, management of rangelands and forest ecosystem. Decentralized community-based approaches to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management are yielding sustainable results in the protection of wetlands, grazing reserves and grazing routes – being inspired by indigenous knowledge, science and research system.^[43]

Specifically, some of the the following lessons can be drawn to inform and strengthen IDERRCN's implementation in Kebbi State:

- Lesson 1: Leverage multi-sectoral synergies (from ACRoSAL)

The ACRoSAL project demonstrates how integrating watershed management, erosion control, and water infrastructure rehabilitation can amplify ecosystem restoration outcomes. Its multi-sectoral nature engages environment, agriculture, and water resources actors in tandem.

Relevance to IDERRCN: i) strengthen inter-ministerial collaboration, especially between agriculture, environment, and water sectors; and ii) expand the project's scope beyond land restoration to include watershed-level management and erosion control structures.

- Lesson 2: Link restoration with market access (from CASP)

CASP's investment in market infrastructure and MSME support shows that ecosystem restoration gains traction when linked to income opportunities. Value-chain resilience makes communities more willing to participate in land restoration.

Relevance to IDERRCN: i) pair nature-based enterprise promotion with investments in market access infrastructure (e.g., storage, roads, local processing); and ii) provide matching grants or revolving funds to help women and youth scale agro-processing or eco-enterprises.

- Lesson 3: Invest in local agricultural extension services (from ADP and UNDP CSA projects)

Effective climate-smart agriculture hinges on trusted, localised advisory services. The ADP and UNDP projects show success in training farmers through demos, forecasts, and field visits.

Relevance to IDERRCN: i) embed agro-sylvo-pastoral demonstration plots in each target community; ii) partner with Kebbi's Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) to train and deploy extension agents focused on GGW and NRM practices; iii) ensure extension services are gender-responsive and accessible to youth.

- Lesson 4: Prioritize large-scale tree planting and native species (from NAGGW Afforestation Project)

The NAGGW afforestation program shows that scaling restoration efforts requires sustained seedling supply, native species knowledge, and community ownership of planting programs.

Relevance to IDERRCN: i) coordinate seedling distribution with NAGGW to align species selection and avoid duplication; ii) build community nurseries and train local youth as restoration entrepreneurs; iii) and integrate dune fixation and erosion buffering in severely degraded zones.

- Lesson 5: Enable inclusive financial mechanisms (from Inclusive Green Financing and Food-IAP)

Green financing programs demonstrate that access to credit for smallholders, particularly women and youth, is critical to sustain engagement in restoration-linked enterprises.

Relevance to IDERRCN: i) partner with microfinance institutions to tailor loans and savings products to eco-enterprises; ii) establish revolving funds or climate adaptation grants to de-risk business development.

- Lesson 6: Regional Knowledge Sharing and Scaling (from Sweden-UNDP Sahel DRR Project and Niger Delta Landscape Projects)

Regional projects like the Sweden-UNDP Sahel initiative show the value of sharing practices, data, and solutions across countries and subnational regions.

Relevance to IDERRCN: i) document lessons and success stories from Kebbi for dissemination through the GGW regional platform; and ii) contribute data to national and transboundary monitoring systems on land degradation neutrality (LDN).

For the Nigerian context, it is imperative to use participatory approaches during project development that will directly be dealing with local communities. Therefore, the development of IDERRCN has gone through various stages of stakeholder engagement sessions at regional, national and Kebbi State levels. At the regional level, IDERRCN, it is recalled, is a Child Project of the GEF-8 Great Green Wall Program. To develop the Programme Framework Document (PFD), an integrated, trans-disciplinary approach was used to engage appropriate stakeholders in dialogues that focused on climate change and its impacts in the GGW zone and the Sahel, human, food and nutritional insecurity, policy and institutional weaknesses to address environmental degradation, community vulnerability, poverty and youth unemployment, integrated water and sustainable land management, and community enterprises and value chains and linkages to markets, among others. Regional consultations brought together policy-makers, the private sector, youth and women groups, development partners, non-governmental organizations, and traditional leaders, among others. These regional consultation meetings were held as below:

- Accra, Ghana, 04-07 October 2022

- Bamako, Mali, January 23 – February 03, 2023
- Lome, Togo, 25 - 30 September 2023
- Nairobi, Kenya, 22 – 23 February 2024.
- Lome, Togo, 28-29 May 2025.

To maintain and reinforce the momentum created with stakeholders, the project will continue engaging with them during implementation and monitoring of project activities. Thus, the project has developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

Mechanisms for collaboration and cooperation

Based on IDERRCN institutional arrangement, its objective but also the fact that the project is part of the broader family of other Child Projects, it will employ appropriate mechanisms for collaboration and cooperation to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in achieving complementarity, synergy while avoiding duplication of efforts. The mechanisms will range from co-resourcing, training, technical support, learning networks, and shared assessment of priority value chains and infrastructure gaps in restoration zones, among others. Mechanisms will include the following:

- *Multi-level coordination platforms:* IDERRCN will align with national GGW coordination bodies and work through existing decentralized structures at subnational administration tiers. Collaboration with projects can ensure harmonization of targets and indicators under GGW regional frameworks.
- *Resource and knowledge sharing networks:* IDERRCN will leverage efforts of projects such as ADP to create integrated demonstration plots showcasing CSA, agroforestry, and water management under a joint banner.
- *Joint programming and co-financing:* IDERRCN will continue engaging other development partners to build synergies with ongoing projects through pooled resources or shared implementation modalities (joint training, common beneficiary targeting, joint M&E).
- *Partnerships with local NGOs and community-based organizations:* Drawing on success stories of other projects, IDERRCN will formalize partnerships with local CSOs and cooperatives to ensure outreach and trust-building in remote and fragile areas. Some of these institutions have been part of stakeholder consultations, and include Green Sahara Farms, Rural Watch Africa Initiative (RUWAI), Mace Ta Gari Multi-purpose Initiative.
- *Integrated planning and monitoring tools:* IDERRCN will necessarily use common GIS-based tools and landscape assessment methods (as in SRADAP and GGW adaptation support projects) to enable coordinated planning, impact tracking, and adaptive management across donor-funded initiatives.

Gender and youth inclusion frameworks: Based on experiences from other partners such as WFP and UNDP, IDERRCN will adopt joint gender and youth mainstreaming strategies, including harmonized indicators, training modules, and business development support schemes

[1]GoN. (2023). National Great Green Wall (GGW) Baseline Assessment and Synthesis Report for Nigeria (Summary of Key Findings)

Table On Core Indicators

Core Indicators

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

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
2500	2500	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

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

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Woodlands	2,500.00	1,500.00		

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3000	3000	0	0

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
3,000.00			

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	3,000.00		

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

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	0	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	450,000	450,000		
Male	450,000	450,000		
Total	900,000	900,000	0	0

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

- The ambitious target of restoring 2,500 hectares of land and ecosystems is consistent with the Nigeria's commitment to national-level implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative. Forested areas are two of the five target Local Government Areas (LGAs) (Argungu and Dandi LGAs). In these areas, 1,000 ha will be restored. In the other 3 LGAs, it will be woodlands that will be restored (totaling 1,500 ha) – giving a total of 2,500 ha. This figure is based on the level of land degradation within Kebbi State and the cost of envisaged practices per ha for restoration activities within the five target LGAs.
- The 3,000-hectare target for landscapes under improved practices reflects the project's aim to promote sustainable land management across the target LGAs within Kebbi State. This target is based on the estimated agricultural landscape and average farm size of smallholder farmers in the target regions.
- The project aims to benefit 900,000 people, with an equal representation of females (450,000 or 50%) and males (450,000 or 50%), reflecting the project's commitment to social inclusion and gender equality. The target is based on the population size in the project areas and the project's potential to reach the beneficiaries, given its resource size. The project will be deliberate about gender-responsiveness in its approach to the choice of project activities and their implementation to ensure women have the same fair chance as men in contributing to environmental stewardship but also access and use of benefits.

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	Nigeria, particularly in the north where Kebbi State is situated, faces droughts, erratic rainfall, and temperature extremes which may affect ecosystem restoration and productivity. Kebbi State itself, the project target area, lies within the GGW zone with important climate change related impacts leading to natural resources scarcity. This climate context can have substantial impacts on the project. To mitigate the climate-related risks, the project will promote drought-tolerant species and climate-smart practices. It will support the integration of water harvesting and soil moisture retention

		techniques on agri-pastoral production landscapes. Finally, the project will provide gender-inclusive climate risk training to communities and other stakeholders.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	As noted above, Kebbi State faces significant climatic challenges that adversely affect natural resources. Competition for scarce resources is common, and this fragile social context—exacerbated by environmental pressures—could disrupt project implementation. Moreover, if not effectively managed, the project itself could unintentionally heighten social tensions, particularly if certain stakeholders feel excluded from participation or from the socioeconomic benefits it generates. To mitigate these environmental and social risks, the project has been designed to promote land rehabilitation, ecosystem restoration, and overall environmental resilience. Building on extensive stakeholder consultations at multiple levels, the project will continue to apply a gender-sensitive and participatory approach to planning and implementation. It will also establish and operationalize a grievance redress mechanism and a stakeholder engagement plan to ensure inclusivity, transparency, and accountability throughout project execution and monitoring.
Political and Governance	Substantial	While the Nigeria has federal state system of governance which has decentralized political power and national economy, the country still grapples with weak institutional capacity and coordination among state agencies. Perceived corruption levels are high, and there is limited transparency in resource allocation. These governance factors may make the implementation of the project difficult. Additionally, given the political fragility, it should be mentioned that political instability and insecurity may disrupt project implementation and reduce government support. To mitigate these risks, the project has been designed in alignment with state and national GGW strategies, with extensive engagement of traditional and religious leaders in Kebbi State. To strengthen the governance of the project, the project will be implemented through the National Great Green Wall Agency structure which has the primary mandate to restore degraded land, support communities within the country’s Great Green Wall zone. Also, resource scarcity, especially of land and water, has become a central driver of conflict in northern Nigeria, intensifying long-standing tensions and contributing to cycles of violence, displacement, and economic disruption. Competition for land and water between farmers and pastoralists is the most prominent form of conflict, with disputes frequently escalating into violence, property destruction, and loss of life. Under component 1, the project will invest in institutional capacity building to ensure inclusive governance structures that promote transparency and equitable resource management, reducing marginalization and fostering trust among communities. Under component 2, IDERRCN will integrate sustainable land use practices that balance agricultural productivity with conservation, contributing to reducing pressure on fragile ecosystems and minimizing inter-group disputes over land access. The project under component 3 will not only enhance livelihoods but also

		strengthens social cohesion by reducing economic disparities and fostering inclusive development. The three components and associated activities are budgeted
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	High	As noted above under ‘political and governance’ risks, it is reiterated here that weak institutional coordination and policy inconsistencies, weak enforcement of existing policies and policy gaps may hamper project results. Since IDERRCN will focus on land rehabilitation, policy coherence and weak institutional capacity can slow implementation and affect sustainability. Also, land tenure issues in the target project area may prevent some community members from participating in the project activities, and land-related issues can threaten long-term investment in restored landscapes in Kebbi State. To mitigate the risks, the project will strengthen coordination through a project steering committee, it has been designed in alignment with Nigeria’s LDN voluntary targets in support of policy harmonization. It will also continue gender-responsive participatory approaches to ensure meaningful community engagement through implementation and monitoring.
Technological	Substantial	Technological risks in terms of limited access to restoration, processing, and water technologies could lower productivity and socioecological resilience. Areas under rehabilitation could also be reduced, impacting efforts for impacts at scale. Communities in the target State have limited financial possibilities to invest in technological approaches to improve land productivity and monitoring. To mitigate this risk, the project will support technology transfer and training, and partnerships with local institutions to scale innovations through technical support.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	Kebbi State is isolated from commercial centres of the country. Local communities have poor access to finance and markets. This may affect enterprise development and sustainability, including the development and sustainability of priority value chains. This may affect community engagement in the project as socioeconomic benefits are limited. As mitigation measures, the project will use business models that would allow for incubating climate-resilient enterprises, while providing business planning and market access support to beneficiaries.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	t has already acknowledged that Nigeria grapples with weak institutions and limited capacities. This is even more so in subnational state structures and institutions. Low capacity of local institutions and service providers could therefore delay project implementation. As a mitigation measure, IDERRCN will be implemented through the National Great Green Wall Agency that will have a Steering Committee to provide overall technical and operational oversight. The project will facilitate peer learning and knowledge exchange while providing tailored capacity-building trainings. The project will have a local implementation unit with technical backstopping from the Agency in Abuja. As part of the Great Green Wall Program, the project will benefit

		from capacity development on various topics, including M&E, financial management that will be coordinated through the Program’s Regional Coordination Project.
Fiduciary	Moderate	Lack of accountability and transparency would constitute serious threats to sound fiduciary procedures for the project. This is because lack of accountability and transparency would lead to weak project financial systems that could lead to fund mismanagement. In the event of fund mismanagement, this would erode trust among stakeholders but also prevent would-be beneficiaries from benefiting from the project, and weaken the sustainability of project achievements. To mitigate this risk, the project will enforce strong financial controls and conduct third-party audits. UNEP will ensure international financial management practices are embedded in the project, including adherence to requests for no-objections before procurements. The project team will undergo additional training in procurement and financial management. The project will also establish community oversight and transparent reporting mechanism.
Stakeholder	Moderate	The success of IDERRCN and its sustainability will hinge on continued stakeholder involvement during implementation and monitoring. Low engagement or elite capture at Kebbi State level may jeopardize community ownership and sustainability of project achievements. The project may also be used as a political campaign tool by the elite and or politicians. ‘Politicizing’ the project may lead to polarization and exclusion of project beneficiaries - - To mitigate the risk, the project has been designed with culturally appropriate and gender-responsive activities. It will continue to promote community co-management and incentives, and inclusive stakeholder consultations during implementation and monitoring. Continued stakeholder engagement will help to clarify the role of different stakeholders but also accountability and transparency among community members.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project target area lies within the Sahel with high climate, environmental and social risks. Overall, Kebbi State is socioeconomically disadvantaged, and uncertainty on many risks still remains. Based on the assessment of these risk factors presented in this table, and the uncertainty surrounding them, the overall risk rating is Moderate. However, the project has been designed pre-emptively to consider these risks, and provide reasonable mitigation measures to ensure that the project delivers on its promise to restore degraded ecosystems through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and strengthened institutional capacity while promoting climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative. Thus, the project has been designed with activities to address the socioeconomic but also the environmental risks and challenges in Kebbi State.

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

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

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

(max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Kebbi State, situated along Nigeria’s Great Green Wall corridor, is facing increasing pressures from desertification, declining productivity of agro-ecological systems, unsustainable land-use practices, and worsening climate-related shocks. These challenges have led to a degradation of natural capital and livelihoods across the five participating LGAs—Arewa, Argungu, Augie, Bunza, and Dandi. To address these challenges, the design of IDERRCN emphasizes the interconnectedness of land degradation, food insecurity, climate vulnerability, and biodiversity loss.

IDERRCN within the Nigeria’s National Drought Plan and Land Degradation Neutrality

IDERRCN project in Kebbi State is a practical, high-impact implementation mechanism for both Nigeria’s National Drought Plan (NDP) and its LDN Targets. The project localizes national policy into actionable community-based interventions, demonstrating how ecosystem restoration, drought risk reduction, and socio-economic empowerment can be jointly pursued in a dryland context. Moreover, as part of the GEF-8 Great Green Wall program, IDERRCN enhances regional coherence and visibility for Nigeria’s commitments under the UNCCD and the African Union-led GGW Initiative.

Nigeria’s NDP is a strategic policy instrument developed under the UNCCD Drought Initiative. It seeks to establish a proactive,

coordinated, and risk-based approach to drought that reduces vulnerability, increases preparedness, and strengthens response capacity at national and subnational levels. The NDP is structured around four main pillars: i) risk and impact assessment; ii) monitoring and early warning systems; iii) drought mitigation, preparedness, and response; and iv) institutional and governance frameworks. The design of IDERRCN is in tune with these pillars, and will support their implementation. The table below summarises how IDERRCN will support NDP’s implementation:

Table of how IDERRCN aligns and advances NDP objectives

<i>NDP Priority Area</i>	<i>IDERRCN alignment and contribution</i>
Risk and impact assessment	IDERRCN will undertake baseline vulnerability mapping in dryland communities of Kebbi State, including risk profiling for drought, degraded land, and water stress supporting localized risk awareness.
Monitoring and early warning systems	The project will establish community-level EWS , including installation of weather monitoring tools, training of local users, and linkages with NiMet and SEMA. This strengthens decentralized early warning and aligns with the NDP’s emphasis on anticipatory action.
Drought mitigation and response	IDERRCN applies ecosystem-based drought mitigation via agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR), and water harvesting techniques. These reduce dependency on rainfall and improve ecosystem resilience to drought.
Institutional capacity and governance	Through Component 1, IDERRCN will build technical and governance capacity at state and local levels, enhance GGW coordination, and establish platforms for inclusive planning and decision-making contributing directly to institutional strengthening prescribed by the NDP.

Thus, the added value of IDERRCN to the NDP is manifold: i) the project pilots an integrated drought resilience model that can be scaled across northern Nigeria; ii) the project supports community ownership of drought preparedness strategies; iii) the project provides data and lessons that can inform NDP operationalization and periodic review; and the project addresses gender-specific vulnerabilities to drought by promoting women-led resilience enterprises.

Additionally, IDERRCN has been designed to support Nigeria’s race to its LDN national targets. The table below demonstrates how the project will contribute to the country’s LDN goals:

Table of how IDERRCN aligns and advances LDN targets

<i>LDN target area</i>	<i>IDERRCN relevance and contributions</i>
Restoration of degraded land (4.8M ha)	IDERRCN will contribute to this target by restoring degraded ecosystems through agroforestry, FMNR, rangeland improvement, and assisted natural regeneration across several LGAs in Kebbi State.
Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	Through farmer training, institutional support, and promotion of drought-resilient practices, IDERRCN fosters SLM principles that prevent further degradation and enhance productivity.
Reduction of unsustainable grazing and deforestation	The project introduces controlled grazing systems , regeneration of fodder species, and community woodlots, helping reduce pressure on natural forests and grasslands.
Mainstreaming LDN in Development Plans	IDERRCN strengthens state-level policy alignment with LDN by integrating land restoration and GGW goals into local planning, including through LGA and traditional authority engagement.
Monitoring and Reporting	Through Component 4 (M&E and knowledge), IDERRCN will collect data on vegetation cover, soil condition, productivity trends, and carbon sequestration , enabling contributions to national LDN monitoring frameworks.

Thus, IDERRCN is critical to Nigeria’s LDN Agenda in various ways: i) the project will demonstrate locally-driven implementation of LDN, rooted in socio-cultural and ecological realities of northern Nigeria; ii) the project will pilot community-level land restoration models with strong potential for replication; iii) the project will contribute to climate-smart land use, consistent with Nigeria’s NDC and climate adaptation priorities; and iv) the project will advance gender-responsive restoration, emphasizing women’s leadership in land-based enterprises.

Finally, it is important to note that there are cross-cutting issues that strategically position IDERRCN to support both Nigeria’s National Drought Plan (NDP) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) agenda through a synergistic approach. These cross-cutting issues relate to climate adaptation, community empowerment, gender equity, sustainable financing and evidence-based planning – all of which are relevant to the GGW regional agenda. This thus, reinforces the programmatic relevance of IDERRCN within the design of the GEF-8 GGWP. The table below summarises the cross-cutting issues:

Table of cross-cutting synergies between NDP, LDN, and IDERRCN

<i>Thematic area</i>	<i>Synergistic contribution of IDERRCN</i>
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Climate adaptation	Combines ecological and livelihood resilience to address impacts of recurrent drought and climate shocks.
Community empowerment	Centers community participation in drought response and land restoration, aligning with inclusive principles of both NDP and LDN.
Gender equity	Empowers women through enterprise development and involvement in land restoration and governance.
Sustainable financing	Helps leverage GEF and co-financing to support LDN implementation and drought mitigation investments.
Evidence-based planning	Generates local data to inform national decision-making and regional GGW policy platforms.

The project is clearly aligned with the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area objectives. It addresses critical issues of land degradation, desertification, and climate change impacts in dryland ecosystems. Its activities, such as ecosystem restoration and promotion of SLM practices, directly contribute to the GEF's goals in this focal area.

The project strongly aligns with Nigeria's LDN targets and, implicitly, with the objectives of the National Drought Plan (NDP). The project's strategic interventions in land restoration, climate resilience, and livelihood diversification are fundamentally designed to address the challenges posed by drought and land degradation in Nigeria, thereby demonstrating a robust alignment with both the national LDN targets and the overarching principles and strategies outlined in the National Drought Plan.

As a Child Project under the GEF-8 GGWP, the project's design is consistent with the broader GEF-8 programming directions which emphasize integrated approaches to address environmental degradation and climate change.

The project is firmly embedded within the GEF's Land Degradation and Biodiversity Focal Areas: LD-1-1 Avoid and reduce land degradation through SLM; LD-1-2: Reverse land degradation through landscape restoration; and BD-1: to improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems. The project will help advance the implementation of GEF's priority to promote integrated landscape

restoration as a pathway to enhance ecosystem productivity and resilience in drylands and other vulnerable areas. Thus, the IDERRCN will address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) while contributing to biodiversity conservation in the Kebbi State drylands. Kebbi State has fragile ecosystems, severely degraded agropastoral landscapes, and increasing pressure on natural resources due to climate change, population growth, and unsustainable agropastoral practices. The project directly responds to these challenges through integrated landscape management and ecosystem restoration. The project considers the importance of dryland agropastoral ecosystems, which are particularly susceptible to degradation, and integrates community-driven approaches to ensure sustainable outcomes and community access to socioeconomic and environmental benefits. This approach therefore, will address environmental challenges while empowering local communities, including women and the youth to build their socioeconomic assets for improved quality of life. Key areas of alignment with GEF-8 priorities include:

- ***‘Whole society approach:’*** The project has deliberate strong focus on gender to ensure women and the youth fully participate in the project design, implementation and monitoring. During consultations, the project embraced a participatory approach that ensured that women, the vulnerable and the youth were fully represented. In certain situations, women were engaged and consulted separately, respecting the cultural practices so that they, the women, felt free and empowered enough to engage in the discussions. The consultations were also done in Hausa, the local language that is spoken Kebbi State. Women-driven socioeconomic enterprising activities have deliberately been included to ensure the vulnerable are meaningfully considered, not as token of representation, but as part of the primary beneficiaries of the project’s outcomes.

- ***Combating land degradation and desertification:*** The project promotes SLM practices such as agroforestry, soil and water conservation, and reforestation using native species. These interventions help restore soil fertility, reduce erosion, and increase vegetation cover—critical for reversing desertification trends.
- ***Building resilience to drought:*** The project will be implemented in the drylands of Kebbi State, promoting agropastoral systems. Thus, by enhancing the productivity and sustainability of agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes, IDERRCN will directly address drought vulnerability in dryland areas.
- ***Sustainable livelihoods and food security:*** The project integrates environmental and socio-economic objectives by supporting climate-resilient value chains to broaden socioeconomic opportunities for community members, capacity-building for local stakeholders to enhance their ability to manage their natural resources better. This will strengthen community engagement and ownership – aspects which are critical for sustainability. These elements are consistent with the focus of GEF-8 on integrated solutions that link land restoration with human well-being.

The project's focus on capacity development, land and ecosystem restoration and knowledge management is consistent with the GEF priorities, and is aligned with GW Program as well as the Regional Coordination Project - as tabulated below:

GEFTF Element	GEF Trust Fund priority considerations	Project relevance to the Program
Ecosystem restoration	<p>E.g.</p> <p>Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Program (Forest landscape and ecosystem restoration work at the local level, Innovative solutions for restoring degraded lands, Restoration for healthy and resilient ecosystems to support people)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 2: Promotion of equitable, and gender-responsive local level enterprises, Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) for NWFPs and value addition of selected products within the GGW zone.
Livelihoods / socioeconomic opportunities	<p>E.g.</p> <p>Secure livelihoods within the Healthy Planet, Healthy People framework; and Support towards measures to restore land and improve its management contribute to food and water security, improved livelihoods, jobs, and avoided conflicts and migration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 2: Promotion of equitable, and gender-responsive local level enterprises, Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) for NWFPs and value addition of selected products within the GGW zone.
Gender considerations	<p>E.g.</p> <p>Integrating gender considerations into restoration efforts is desirable from a gender equality perspective and promotes the efficiency and effectiveness of restoration work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-cutting in all the four components of the Program
Institutional capacity building and policy strengthening	<p>E.g.</p> <p>Cross-scale support: This will catalyze access to knowledge, technical expertise and capacity development on issues that represent common challenges across multiple countries or specific geographical regions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 3: Institutional capacity building and policy strengthening, including stakeholder mobilization, advocacy and communication
Knowledge management	<p>E.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating knowledge management and sharing lessons learned between national and global stakeholders; • Promote regional cooperation: South-South learning, technical exchanges, intergovernmental cooperation, knowledge management, and communication strategies; • Promote best practices, ensure multi-stakeholder involvement, and establish a comprehensive approach to knowledge management and capacity building, all geared towards leveraging and upscaling impactful investments of GEF and its long-standing partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 5: M&E including knowledge management, and regional monitoring and accountability

In addition to the GEF’s programming directions, IDERRCN is aligned with ‘Solutions for a healthy, prosperous and resilient people and planet: the United Nations Environment Programme Strategy for 2026–2029.’ Particularly, the project is consistent with the following strategic objectives:

- To achieve climate stability by reducing emissions and enhancing adaptation and resilience:*** Through its objective to restore degraded ecosystems through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and strengthened institutional capacity while promoting climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises, IDERRCN will to restore the productive capacity of 5,500 ha in Kebbi State, thereby enhancing carbon sequestration, improving soil health, and increasing vegetation cover. In this way, the project will contribute to climate stability through both emissions reduction and enhanced adaptation and resilience. This is consistent with enhancing resilience and adaptation to impacts of climate change. Land restoration is increasingly recognized as a key strategy for building resilience and supporting adaptation to climate change and environmental degradation. It should be noted that restoration efforts improve ecosystem productivity, water availability, drought resilience, and support both ecological and socioeconomic adaptation. For example, restoration practices such as exclosures, soil bunds, and catchment management reduced runoff, increased water infiltration, and raised shallow well water levels, directly enhancing water security and reducing drought impacts.^{[11]44} It has also been shown that prioritizing the rehabilitation and protection of watershed forests is critical for water quality, flood control, and climate resilience.^{[2]45} Additionally, capacity development for SLM, NRM, and knowledge-sharing will support communities to better anticipate, withstand, and recover from climate-related shocks, particularly those related to agropastoral landscapes.
- To live in harmony with nature and achieve LDN by halting and reversing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation; maintaining ecosystem functions and services; and reducing desertification, land degradation and drought:*** IDERRCN has been designed to directly contribute to the Nigeria’s LDN targets by 2030. Specifically, Nigeria seeks to improve land productivity and soil organic carbon stocks (SOC) in 463,300 hectares of cropland and grasslands by 2030 as compared to 2015. Further, Nigeria seeks to rehabilitate 1,722,660 ha of cropland showing declining land productivity and 10,565,040 ha of cropland showing early signs of declining land productivity by 2030. IDERRCN targets to improve the productive capacity of 5,500 ha, thereby contributing to the nation’s LDN targets. Furthermore, IDERRCN’s support to capacity development, improving institutional arrangements and creating a robust M&E system will create an enabling and supportive environment for ecosystem restoration and conservation.

UNEP is the Implementing Agency of IDERRCN. The project will benefit from UNEP’s established mandate, technical expertise, and convening power in environmental governance and ecosystem restoration. It is recalled that UNEP has experience in promoting integrated, transboundary approaches to land restoration and ecosystem management, which are essential for addressing the shared ecological challenges of the Sahel. Thus, UNEP will leverage its experience in SLM, NRM, and climate resilience. UNEP’s ability to generate, disseminate, and broker science-based knowledge also enables effective knowledge-sharing and policy support among GGW countries. Through this project, UNEP will support Nigeria to enhance ecosystem services critical for water, food, and energy security, thereby increasing the climate resilience and livelihood stability of communities in particularly Kebbi State, which is a dryland state in the Sahel.

Alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

The IDERRCN project contributes meaningfully to several targets of KMGBF, particularly across its three strategic pillars: reducing threats to biodiversity, promoting sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and strengthening implementation mechanisms – through its ecosystem restoration, sustainable livelihood, and institutional strengthening activities aligned with the Great Green Wall Initiative’s vision of land restoration and resilience. This is presented in the table below:

KMGBF Target	Description of the Target	How IDERRCN Contributes
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Target 2: Restoration of degraded ecosystems	Ensure that by 2030, at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration.	IDERRCN restores degraded drylands through reforestation, rangeland rehabilitation, soil and water conservation, and agro-sylvo-pastoral practices, enhancing ecosystem integrity and resilience.
Target 9: Sustainable use and management of wild species	Ensure sustainable use and management of wild species to maintain their populations and ecosystem functions.	Through community-based natural resource management, IDERRCN reduces overexploitation of forests and wildlife while promoting biodiversity conservation and habitat restoration.
Target 10: Sustainable management of agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry	Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, and forestry are managed sustainably, contributing to biodiversity conservation.	The project promotes climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, sustainable land and livestock management, and integration of biodiversity-friendly farming practices.
Target 13: Access and benefit sharing	Ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.	The project supports local value chains and women-led enterprises, ensuring communities equitably benefit from the sustainable use of biological and natural resources.
Target 19: Resource mobilization	Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans.	IDERRCN mobilizes government, donor, and community partnerships to strengthen financial and technical resources for dryland ecosystem restoration and biodiversity action.
Target 20: Knowledge and capacity building	Strengthen capacity-building and knowledge sharing	IDERRCN will build institutional and technical capacity and embeds knowledge management and M&E for adaptive learning and implementation
Target 22: Gender equality and inclusive participation	Ensure gender equality and inclusive participation	IDERRCN will integrate gender-responsive approaches and youth engagement to promote equal opportunities and inclusive decision-making
Target 23: Gender equality and participation	Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework, with women and girls having equal opportunities and access to resources and decision-making.	The project empowers women and youth through inclusive governance, enterprise development, access to finance, and participation in restoration and value chain activities.

Beyond the GEF-8 programming priorities and consistent with UNEP’s strategy, IDERRCN has been designed in alignment with various national legislations. These are listed below:

- ***The National Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Green Wall Programme in Nigeria (2021–2025) (NSAP):*** The Plan has a strong focus to institutionalize GGWI principles within national policy and implementation mechanisms.
- ***National Forest Policy (2020):*** This is a strategic framework for sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development, and the provision of ecosystem goods and services, and IDERRCN’s implementation will contribute the policy’s ambitions for ecosystem restoration.
- ***National Policy on Environment (revised 2016).*** The policy outlines the guiding principles and strategies for sustainable

management of the environment and natural resources. The design of IDERRCN is consistent with the policy's drive for improved management of natural resources.

- ***Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programming (2018)***. Nigeria's LDN targets setting identifies the need for combating desertification, enhancing biodiversity, and supporting socio-economic development – aspects that relevant and consistent with the design of IDERRCN.
- ***National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (2016 - 2020)***: This is the national agenda for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing of genetic resources. Land rehabilitation and improved management of agropastoral landscapes in IDERRCN will contribute to the country's NBSAP.
- ***Nigeria Climate Change Policy for Nigeria 2021 -2025***: The policy supports targeted actions for addressing desertification and land degradation, consistent with what IDERRCN intends to achieve.
- ***The Aligned National Action Programme to Combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (2015 -2025)***. IDERRCN's design is squarely consistent with the sustainable management of land resources that the policy supports. It is an integrated strategy to improve land productivity, rehabilitate and conserve land and water resources, and sustainably enhance community livelihoods in drought- and land degradation-affected areas linked with land degradation neutrality target.
- ***National Drought Plan (2018)***: This is a long-term, holistic approach to assessing and managing drought risks which

IDERRCN will contribute to by rehabilitating land as well as building socioeconomic opportunities for the local communities in Kebbi State.

- ***National Agricultural Technology & Innovation Policy (NATIP) (2022-2027):*** The policy supports leveraging technology and innovation to enhance productivity, ensure food security, and promote sustainable practices.
- ***National Gender Policy on Agriculture (2019):*** The policy promotes gender-sensitive approaches in agriculture, ensuring equitable access to land, capital, technology, and fair remuneration. IDERRCN, with its clear focus on women empowerment through women-driven value chain enterprises will contribute to the implementation of the policy.
- ***National Development Plan (NDP) (2021–2025):*** The policy supports driving sustainable development, economic diversification, and inclusive growth.
- ***National Water Resources Policy (2016):*** The policy addresses water availability, conservation, and sustainable management—key factor in GGWI – inputs, outputs, outcomes and impacts, and IDERRCN has been designed to address these priorities.
- ***National Policy on Education (NPE):*** The NPE recognizes Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as essential for skills development, job creation, and economic empowerment. IDERRCN’s training programs (e.g. in agroforestry, sustainable land management, irrigation, etc.) directly contribute to this national mandate to expand practical skill-building in rural areas.

- ***National Board for Technical Education (NBTE):*** NBTE oversees accreditation and quality assurance for vocational institutions and programs. GGW-aligned trainings can be structured to follow NBTE standards, especially for certification in forestry, irrigation, and climate-smart agriculture.
- ***National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF):*** The NSQF provides a national standard to evaluate vocational competencies, from basic to advanced levels. GGW training outcomes (e.g. tree nursery establishment, soil restoration techniques) can be aligned with NSQF levels 1–3, ensuring that beneficiaries receive recognizable and portable skills.

Legislations:

- ***Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)***
Grundnorm: This is a non-justiciable constitutional framework. It provides “that the State shall protect and improve the environment, and safeguard Nigeria’s water, air, land, forests, and wildlife” (s.20).
- ***National Agency for the Great Green Wall (Establishment) Act, 2015:*** The Act established the National Agency for the Great Green Wall – allowing the adaptation of GGWI principles to local context in Nigeria. IDERRCN will be coordinated and executed under the Agency that was birthed under the Act.
- ***Land Use Act, Cap L5 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004:*** The principal law on land administration, control, allocation, and ownership in Nigeria. Under this law, the Governor of each

state holds land in trust for the people within the state's jurisdiction. The customary and traditional tenure systems still govern access to land, except for government-owned land or land covered by a Certificate of Occupancy.

- ***Climate Change Act, 2021:*** This is the regulatory framework for climate change actions towards achieving the net-zero carbon emission target between 2050 and 2070 – by rehabilitating 2,500 ha and bringing 3,000 ha under improved management, IDERRCN will contribute to the Act.
- ***Kebbi State Forestry Edict, 1997:*** This is the main legal framework for forestry management in the State, however it should be noted that it has gaps in that it does not cover contemporary sustainable forest management principles and livelihoods.

State-level vocational and professional training in Kebbi

- ***Kebbi State Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology:*** This Ministry supports vocational institutions such as technical colleges and innovation hubs, and provides frameworks for integrating green economy skills into vocational training.
- ***Kebbi State Vocational and Skills Acquisition Centres:*** These centers offer training in agriculture, crafts, environmental management—sectors highly relevant to GGW activities. GGW trainings can be delivered in partnership with these centers or

aligned with their curriculum to ensure local relevance and sustainability.

- ***State Action Plans on Climate and Environment:*** Kebbi is one of the frontline states under the GGW corridor, and its State-level GGW implementation unit works with federal and traditional institutions. Trainings under GGW (e.g. drought-resistant crops, afforestation, energy-efficient stoves) contribute to both climate resilience objectives and the upskilling of rural youth.

IDERRCN connection to national and state frameworks

GGW Training Activity	Aligned National/State Framework	Explanation
Agroforestry, afforestation techniques	National Policy on Education, National Skills Qualification Framework, Kebbi Vocational Centres	Builds certified land management skills
Beekeeping, shea butter processing	National Job Creation Scheme, Kebbi Skills Acquisition	Livelihood-focused, job creation aligned
Environmental awareness & community forestry	GGW National Implementation Framework	Promotes local stewardship and aligns with desertification policies

Opportunities for certification and sustainability: By linking with National Board for Technical Education or Kebbi’s vocational institutions, GGW trainees can receive formal recognition (certificates or modular credits) for their participation. This will eventually enhance their employability and integration into state-level job creation schemes or national empowerment programs (like Youth Empowerment Schemes, etc.). Aspects of component 1 are related to vocational training promotion in Kebbi state.

Beyond the national policies and legislations, IDERRCN has been designed in alignment with regional and global priorities of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Frameworks. These are presented in the table below:

MEAs and Frameworks	Signatory, Ratification	IDERRCN linkages with the MEAs and Frameworks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – the Sustainable Development Goals 	Adopted 25th September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SDGs-1 (No Poverty); 2 (Zero Hunger); 3 (Good Health and Well-being); 5 (Gender Equality); 6 Clean Water and Sanitation); 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); 13 (Climate Action); 14 (Life Below Water); SDG 15 (Life on Land); and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ African Union (AU) Great Green Wall Initiative Strategy (2024-2034) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A ten-year implementation framework to enhance ecosystem restoration and livelihoods resilience across Africa.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pan-African Initiative for the Great Green Wall, 2007 	Launched 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotes restoration of degraded landscapes across the Sahel and Sahara regions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) 	Signatory on 24-09-1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports global efforts to fight desertification by encouraging sustainable land use, protecting ecosystems, and helping sustain local community livelihoods, all in line with UNCCD goals.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 	Ratification, 29-8-1994 as a non-Annex 1 Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotes the climate change agenda by restoring drylands ecosystems, building resilience, and supporting the country's Nationally Determined Contributions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Paris Agreement 	Ratification, March 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributes to meeting the goals of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement by restoring drylands to capture carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build climate resilience, and support the country's climate commitments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 	Ratification, 29-8-1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restores drylands, conserves ecosystems, and promotes sustainable land use to protect biodiversity and improve local livelihoods.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage 	Ratification, 23-10-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protects and restores natural and cultural sites by promoting sustainable land management and dryland conservation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora 	Ratification, 5-05-1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the protection of endangered plants and animals by promoting sustainable land use and conserving habitats.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially Waterfowl Habitats (RAMSAR) 	Accession, 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rehabilitates and conserves wetlands that support local livelihoods, water needs, and biodiversity, in line with Nigeria's commitments under the Ramsar Convention.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 	Accession, 1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improves habitats used by migratory species by restoring drylands and wetlands, reducing pressure on their routes, and raising community awareness to protect them in line with Nigeria's commitments under the CMS.

MEAs and Frameworks	Signatory, Ratification	IDERRCN linkages with the MEAs and Frameworks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Conservation of African Eurasian Migratory Water birds 	Accession, 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitates and protects wetlands vital for migratory water birds, and supporting biodiversity and local livelihoods.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women 	Ratification, 1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes gender equality and empowers women by involving them in sustainable land management and decision-making.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights; and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women. 	(Ratification and Enforcement) Act, Cap A9 LFN 2004.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes human and women's rights by involving communities in sustainable land management and decision-making.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convention Relating to the Development of Lake Chad Basin 	Signatory on 22-05-1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves livelihoods and ecosystem health in the basin through rehabilitation, regeneration and conservation initiatives in the landscapes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Tropical Timber Agreement 	Signatory on 07-12-2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to sustainable forest use, trade, and livelihoods through sustainable forest management practices and value chain development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme 	2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to combat desertification, restore degraded land, and strives for a balance between land degradation and restoration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework 	Commitment under UNCCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes sustainable land management, restoration of degraded drylands, and the improvement of community resilience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Africa Union Green Recovery Action Plan 2021-2027 (under Pillar 3- Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions) 	Launched 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advances dryland restoration, promotes nature-based solutions, and supports sustainable livelihoods targets—contributes to Africa's sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2032) 	Endorsed 6th February 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to the restoration of degraded land, strengthens environmental resilience, and involves communities in sustainable land management practices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) 	Launched 5th June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to global efforts aimed at preventing, halting, and reversing ecosystem degradation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative</i> by 2030 	Launched 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to Nigeria's commitment to restore 4 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2030 under the AFR100 Initiative, and it is fully aligned with global and regional frameworks such as the Bonn Challenge, Great Green Wall, UNCCD, and the SDGs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want - AU 	Adopted December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategically aligns with supporting environmental sustainability and climate resilience objectives, and Africa's long-term vision for sustainable and resilient development.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, 2017-2030 	Adopted 27 April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes to achieving the Global Forest Goals through restoration of degraded lands, enhancing forest-based benefits, strengthening governance frameworks, and fostering multi-stakeholder cooperation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New York Declaration on Forests – United Nations 	23rd September 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the shared goal to halve deforestation by 2020 and end it by 2030 through large-scale restoration and sustainable management of degraded landscapes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework) – United Nations. 	Adopted March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthens the framework by enhancing ecosystem resilience, reducing disaster risks, strengthening community preparedness, and promoting sustainable land management practices to mitigate the impacts of climate-related hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience 2021-2025. 	Launched 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restores degraded dryland ecosystems, enhances climate resilience, promotes sustainable land management, and empowers local communities, ultimately to strengthen

MEAs and Frameworks	Signatory, Ratification	IDERRCN linkages with the MEAs and Frameworks
		Africa’s environmental sustainability and socio-economic resilience.

[1] See e.g. Meaza, H., Abera, W., & Nyssen, J. (2021). Impacts of catchment restoration on water availability and drought resilience in Ethiopia: A meta-analysis. *Land Degradation & Development*, 33, 547 - 564. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ldr.4125>.

[2] S., R., O., E., & O., J. (2024). Nigerian Land Resources and Conservation Strategies: A Critical Analysis of Economic and Non-Economic Issues. *African Journal of Environment and Natural Science Research*. <https://doi.org/10.52589/ajensr-kt35qdp7>.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment:

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project:

Consulted only; **Yes**

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; **Yes**

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the Child project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

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

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Medium/Moderate		

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

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

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

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

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	666,257.00	59,963.00	726,220.00
UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	666,257.00	59,963.00	726,220.00
UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	1,695,926.00	152,634.00	1,848,560.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						3,028,440.00	272,560.00	3,301,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested? true

PPG Amount (\$) 100000

PPG Agency Fee (\$) 9000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	25,000.00	2,250.00	27,250.00
UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	25,000.00	2,250.00	27,250.00

UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	50,000.00	4,500.00	54,500.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)					100,000.00	9,000.00	109,000.00

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,499,000.00
UNEP	GET	Nigeria	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,911,000.00
Total GEF Resources					3,410,000.00

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
LD-1	GET	666,257.00	7450000
LD-2	GET	666,257.00	7400000
BD-1-1	GET	1,695,926.00	7000000
Total Project Cost		3,028,440.00	21,850,000.00

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

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	National Agency GGW	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	4270000
Recipient Country Government	National Agency GGW	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	2730000
Recipient Country Government	Kebbi States	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	14850000
Total Co-financing				21,850,000.00

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The recipient government is the lead co-financing provider for the project

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENT

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Coordinator	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	6/20/2025	Ersin Esen		Ersin.esen@un.org
Project Coordinator	6/20/2025	Emmanuel Adonsou		Emmanuel.Adonsou@un.org

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

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

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Stanley Jonah	Director	Federal Ministry of Environment	9/14/2023
Aneke Agnes N	Director	Director Planning Research and Statistics	11/3/2025
Aneke Agnes N	Director	Director Planning Research and Statistics	11/17/2025

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

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

Results framework: Pages 82-85

Project title: Integrated Dryland Ecosystem Rehabilitation, Regeneration and Conservation (IDERRCN) to Support the Great Green Wall Initiative in Kebbi State in Nigeria						
	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target	Project target	Verification sources	Risks and assumptions
Project objective: To restore degraded ecosystems through agro-sylvo-pastoral practices and strengthened institutional capacity while promoting climate-resilient value chains and women-led enterprises in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative.						Risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Climatic shocks and environmental risks:</i> Kebbi State is a severely drought prone area, and therefore, or
Component 1: Building and strengthening the technical and institutional capacity for the implementation of the GGW Initiative						
Outcome 1.1 Built and strengthened technical and	Number of State policies harmonized with GGWI objectives	None	3	6	Project progress and evaluation reports, and project team, UNEP technical implementatio	

institutional capacity enhance the implementation of the GGW Initiative in Nigeria and technical and institutional capacity enhance the implementation of the GGW Initiative in Nigeria and commitments on global environment agenda.					n support missions.	erratic rainfall may undermine restoration efforts, reduce agricultural productivity, and negatively impact livelihood value chains that have been proposed for the project.	
	Number of extension agents and local technical teams trained in in site-based ecosystem restoration for agro-sylvo-pastoral systems, using practical field training.	None	100	200	Project progress and Evaluation reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Conflict over resources:</i> Due to the environmental and climate risks, the resources (pasture, arable land, water) are scanty, and therefore, tensions among resource-users are a common phenomenon – conflicts may arise among crop and pastoral communities, disrupting project implementation as communities participating in the project may be involved. <i>Weak governance and corruption:</i> Elite capture involving politicians is a risk which translates into lack of transparency or accountability. This could lead to diversion of project resources, including personnel. <i>Limited access to markets and inputs:</i> Poor infrastructure and lack of access to inputs, extension services, or markets could limit the economic impact of proposed value chains for community livelihoods. <i>Resistance to behavioral change:</i> There are some socio-cultural practices and norms that keep women and the youth from proactively participating in socioeconomic activities. This might slow down social inclusion and indeed, the adoption of sustainable land management activities. <i>Political fragility:</i> The northern States in Nigeria are fragile due to conflicts
	Number of local council members and traditional leaders trained in co-management of natural resources, disaggregated by gender	None	50 (25 females; 25 males)	100 (50 females; 50 males)	Project progress and Evaluation reports		
	Awareness campaigns and policy dialogues conducted to promote multi-stakeholder engagement in GGWI and climate-smart restoration strategies.	None	5	10	Project progress and Evaluation reports, and project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions.		
1.1.1: Institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms for GGWI implementation at national and state levels reviewed to mainstream GGWI, strengthened, and operationalized.						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Resistance to behavioral change:</i> There are some socio-cultural practices and norms that keep women and the youth from proactively participating in socioeconomic activities. This might slow down social inclusion and indeed, the adoption of sustainable land management activities. <i>Political fragility:</i> The northern States in Nigeria are fragile due to conflicts 	
1.1.2: Technical capacities of stakeholders enhanced on sustainable land management and climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices							
1.1.3: Awareness campaigns and policy dialogues conducted to promote multi-stakeholder engagement in GGWI and climate-smart restoration strategies.							
1.1.4: Gender-responsive, climate-resilient value chains promoted with a focus on women and youth empowerment							
Component 2: Supporting restoration and Natural Resources Management including promotion of agro-sylvopastoral practices in Kebbi State							
Outcome 2.1 Integrated sustainable land management enhance ecosystem restoration and agro-sylvopastoral in Kebbi State	# of ha of degraded lands restored through integrated SLM, enhancing ecosystem restoration and agro-sylvopastoral in Kebbi State.	None	2,750 ha	5,500 ha	Project progress and evaluation reports, and project team, UNEP technical implementation support missions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Resistance to behavioral change:</i> There are some socio-cultural practices and norms that keep women and the youth from proactively participating in socioeconomic activities. This might slow down social inclusion and indeed, the adoption of sustainable land management activities. <i>Political fragility:</i> The northern States in Nigeria are fragile due to conflicts 	
	# of smallholder farmers trained in soil restoration, erosion control, and vegetative regeneration, disaggregated by gender.	None	450,000 (225,000 females; 225,000 males)	900,000 (450,000 females; 450,000 males)	Project progress and evaluation reports, and project team, UNEP technical implementation		

					n support missions.	<p>attributed to religious extremism. Incursions may disrupt the implementation of project activities.</p> <p>Assumptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Government support and policy alignment:</i> There will be continued political will and alignment of local and national government policies with the project's objectives, particularly in land use, decentralization, and climate resilience. <i>Community engagement and ownership:</i> Local communities (including women and youth) are willing and able to actively participate in planning and implementing natural resource management activities. <i>Security and stability:</i> Relative political and social stability in both regions, allowing safe access for project staff and partners. <i>Institutional capacity:</i> Local implementing partners, government agencies, and community-based organizations have or can develop the capacity to manage and monitor activities effectively. <i>Climate conditions:</i> Climatic conditions remain within expected variability, allowing for successful implementation of agroforestry, reforestation, and livelihood activities
	# of small-scale water harvesting structures to support restoration and reduce erosion in priority sites.	None	50	100	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of employees, and project team, UNEP technical implementation support missions.	
	Integrated Landscape Management Strategy Developed for the Target LGAs.	None	Service provider identified, sensitization and data gathered and contractual arrangements in place.	Integrated Landscape Management Strategy finalized, disseminated and validated.	Project progress, evaluation reports.	
2.1.1: 5,500 ha of degraded lands restored through integrated SLM, enhancing ecosystem restoration and agro-sylvopastoral in Kebbi State						
2.1.2: Community-based Ecosystem Management Plans Developed and Implemented						
2.1.3: Water and soil conservation infrastructure developed for enhanced productivity and resilience.						
Component 3: Promoting local value chains and women led enterprises						
Outcome 3.1 Community empowerment with local value chains enhance ecosystem restoration in Kebbi State.	Number of women-led and youth-focused cooperatives/producer groups registered per LGA	None	10	20	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of beneficiaries, and project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions	
	Number of direct beneficiaries of Business Incubation and Market Access by gender	None	750 males 750 females	1,500 males 1,500 females	Project progress and evaluation reports, project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions	
	Number of women-led or socially inclusive enterprises supported along climate-resilient value chains	None	10	20	Project progress and evaluation reports, and project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions	
	Number of capacity-building sessions or policy dialogues conducted on integrating gender and social inclusion	None	20	45	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants, and project	

	into local planning and natural resource governance.				team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions
	Number of knowledge products developed, capturing gender perspectives	None	2	4	Project progress and Evaluation reports
	Number of digital knowledge platform for sharing best practices and success stories.	None	Contractual arrangements for service providers under way	1	Project progress and Evaluation reports
3.1.1: Strengthened gender-responsive local value chains for Nature-based enterprises					
3.1.2: Gender-responsive and socially Inclusive Livelihood Strategies Integrated into Local Development Plans and NRM-related policies					
3.1.3 Community awareness and capacity enhanced on ecosystem-based enterprises					
Component 4: Knowledge Management					
4.1 Knowledge management and dissemination empower stakeholders to adopt agro-sylvo-pastoral practices.	Number of local communities reached through project knowledge products, disaggregated by gender.	None	5,000 (2,500 females; 2,500 males)	10,000 (5,000 females; 5,000 males)	Project progress and Evaluation reports
	Number of regional meetings for peer to peer learning and coordination with Regional project	None	5	10	Project progress and Evaluation reports, and project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions
	Number of knowledge products shared at annual regional coordination meetings	None	3	6	Project progress and Evaluation reports, and project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions.
4.1.1: Gender-inclusive awareness campaign strategies and information dissemination mechanisms developed and implemented.					
4.1.2: Gender-inclusive lessons and knowledge products systematically collected and disseminated to various audiences, including GGWI Program regional meetings.					
Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation					
5.1 Participatory monitoring and evaluation strengthen project implementation and results, contributing to the GGW Program					
	Number of participation in regional knowledge exchange and peer-peer lesson learning meetings coordinated through the regional coordination project	None	3	6	Project progress and Evaluation reports, and project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions

	Knowledge and information systems developed for monitoring land degradation, ecosystem restoration, and climate resilience	None	Service provider identified, sensitization and data gathered and contractual arrangements in place	1 validated and functional digital platform in place to document and share lessons learned, case studies, and best practices, accessible to stakeholders	Project progress and evaluation reports, and project team, UNEP technical implementation support missions.
	Number of gender-inclusive awareness campaign strategies and information dissemination mechanisms developed and implemented.	None	12	25	Project progress and Evaluation reports, and project team, and UNEP technical implementation support missions.
5.1.1 Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems established and implemented to contribute to the GGWI					
5.1.2: Knowledge and information systems developed for monitoring land degradation and ecosystem restoration					

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

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

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
International consultant (Drafter) - drafting of the CEO project document and responding to internal and GEF review comments, working collaboratively with local consultants	16,500.00	16,500.00	
Consultancies for various thematic studies - including 1) Analysis and the development of the Gender Action Plan, 2) the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, 3) climate and natural resources management and 4) policy analysis-related studies that have informed the preparation of the CEO project document.	41,500.00	41,500.00	
National stakeholder consultations meetings	16,500.00	16,500.00	
Validation and inception workshops	25,500.00	25,500.00	
Total	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kamba (Chidakai)	11.7100	003.8178	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mai-Yaro	11.8436	003.7002	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Fingilla	11.9059	003.7771	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sukuru	12.0543	004.0289	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tugar Rakuwa	12.0438	004.0056	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Turtagi	12.1226	003.9795	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yola	12.8374	004.5212	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Gidan	12.8210	004.5416	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bagayi	12.8755	004.5831	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yamama	12.7316	004.2983	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lailbai	12.7582	004.4201	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Merawa	12.7593	004.5098	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sabon	12.5842	003.8817	

Location Description:

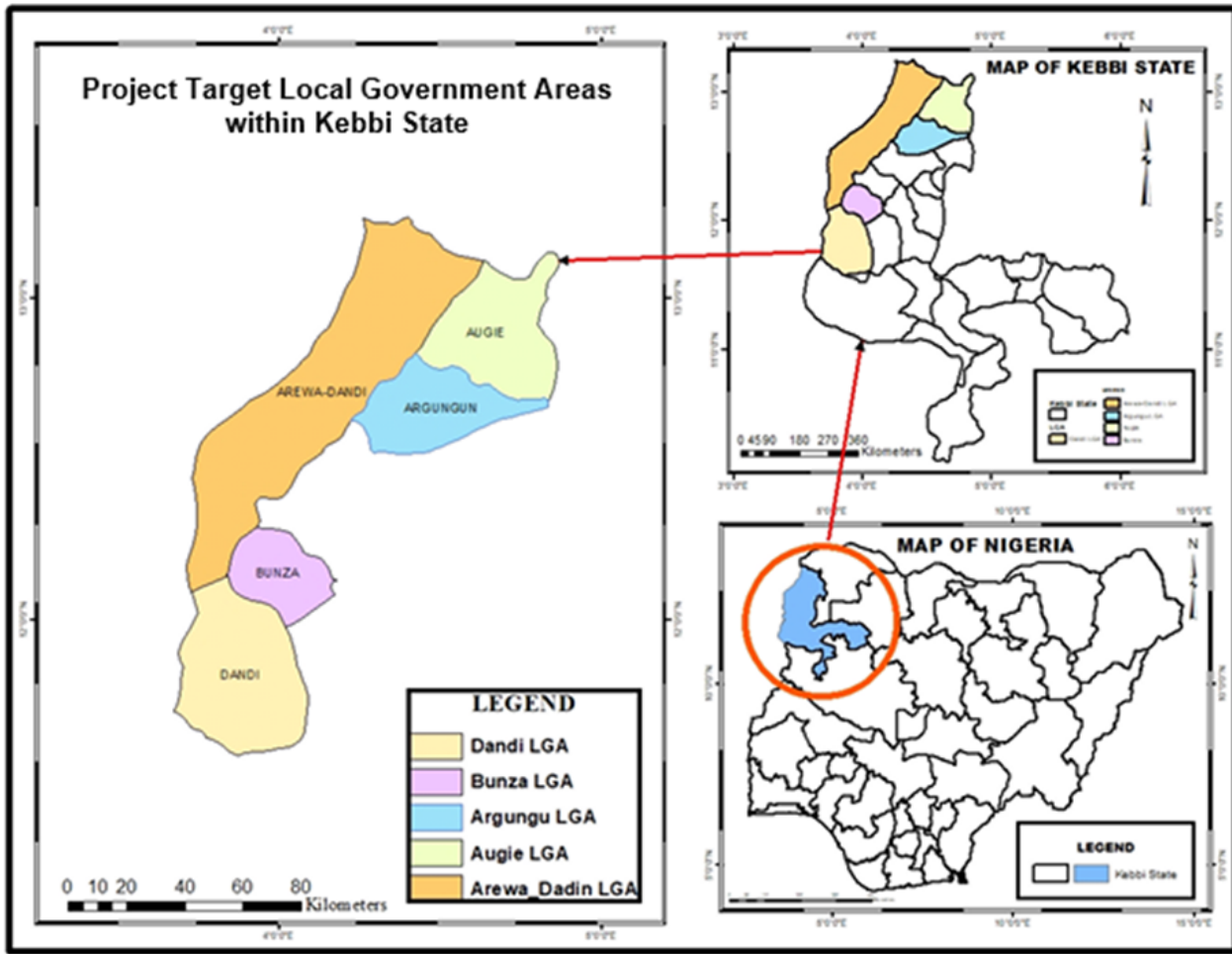
Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Tungar	12.6823	004.0565	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

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



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

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

Title

SRIF Clean Signed revised 6 Nov

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Budget – Nigeria Child Project

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Explanatory notes	Component (US\$eq.)							Total (US\$eq.)	Responsible Entity	
			Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Component 4	Sub-Total		M&E			PMC
			Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 4.1	Outcome 4.2					
Works	Restoration of 5,500 hectares of degraded lands using integrated sustainable land management (SLM) practices, enhancing ecosystem recovery and agro-silvo-pastoral productivity in Kebbi State (Including climate-resilient agroforestry, providing tools, and training farmers).	Covers field implementation costs including procurement of seedlings, agroforestry inputs, fencing materials, hand tools, and payment for local labourers for planting and maintenance, field supervision costs, and extension agents supervising restoration plots.		1,173,881					1,172,439			National Agency for the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) of the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME)
	Developing and implementing water and soil conservation infrastructure	Construction of check dams, contour bunds, infiltration trenches, and rainwater harvesting systems; includes materials, labour, and		100,426					100,426			NAGGW at FME

		engineer ing supervisi on. Includes construct ion of check dams, contour bunds, infiltrati on trenches, and small- scale water- harvestin g structure s, required eco- engineer ing materials , labour and engineer ing supervisi on.										
	Develo ping and imple mentin g comm unity- based Ecosys tem Manag ement Plans	Funds commun ity worksho ps/comm unity consultat ions, facilitati on services, mapping materials , and local validatio n meetings for Ecosyste m Manag ement Plans in participa ting LGAs. Ensures commun ity participa tory planning beyond baseline governm ent capacity.		80,000				80,000			80,000	NAGG W at FME
Go ods								-			-	
Ve hicles								-			-	

Grants/ Sub-grants	...									-		-	
Revolving funds/ Seed funds / Equity										-		-	
Sub- contract to execu- ting partner/ entity										-		-	
Contractual Services – Individual	...									-		-	
Contractual Services – Company	Deployment of a centralized digital data management platform and implementation of real-time data collection tools to enhance project monitoring, reporting, and decision-making across all intervention areas.	Procurement of IT firm services to design and maintain a cloud-based geospatial data portal, software development, mobile data collection application, and dashboard visualization tools. Includes system maintenance, user training.								105,000		105,000	NAGG W at FME
International Consultants										-		-	

<p>Building and Strengthening the Technical and Institutional Capacity for the Implementation of the GGW Initiative (involving formation and operationalization of inclusive multi-stakeholder platforms; convening of periodic consultative forums; strengthening the capacities of traditional institutions, community representatives, and local government officials; and documenting and replicating effective community-based governance models).</p>	<p>Fees for international experts on dryland restoration, climate resilience, and biodiversity; includes travel and accommodation; and facilitation of national workshops, development of training manuals, and advisory services for GGW coordination mechanisms - of not more than 45 consultancy days each, including remote mentoring and in-person missions. Costs cover selected knowledge exchange workshops with other GGW countries.</p>	<p>90,000</p>				<p>90,000</p>			<p>90,000</p>	<p>NAG GW at FME</p>
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	Mid-term Review (MTR)	Independent evaluation; includes consultant fees and field visits						-	15,000		15,000	NAGG W at FME
	Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)	Final assessment; includes data collection, analysis, and reporting						-	25,000		25,000	NAGG W at FME
	Local Consultants							-			-	NAGG W at FME
	Identifying and assessing viable nature-based value chains (e.g., gum arabic, moringa, shea butter, honey, fodder, non-timber forest products), and facilitating links of community enterprises to markets through trade fairs, digital platforms, and value chain partnerships.	Market assessments, trade fair facilitation, digital marketing support, and partnership brokering with buyers. Costs also include national consultants conducting market assessments, value chain mapping, and feasibility studies for selected NTFPs. Includes field travel and stakeholder consultations.			150,000			150,000			150,000	NAGG W at FME
	Formation and strengthening women/youth	Engagement of a Community Development			80,000			80,000			80,000	NAGG W at FME

	h cooper atives and produc er groups in target LGAs.	Specialis t to conduct 15 commun ity mobiliza tion sessions, cooperat ive registrati on support, and training- of- trainers for group manage ment, and startup kits for women/ youth producer groups.										
	Develop ing the project 's monito ring, evaluat ion and reporti ng system	Includes consulta nt fees for M&E System Architec t, software licensing , and baseline survey data collectio n contracts for 10 field enumerat ors, dashboar d setup, staff training.				12,000		12,000			12,000	NAGG W at FME
	Design ing a central ized digital platfor m for land degrad ation monito ring using GIS/re mote sensin g	Technica l consulta ncy to build GIS- based dashboar d linked to the GGW national monitori ng system, with training of staff on data analysis.				15,000		15,000			15,000	NAGG W at FME

	Conducting baseline assessments on land degradation and ecosystem health using standardized methodologies	Field surveys, soil and vegetation sampling kits, data processing costs and analysis using standardized tools, and validation workshop expenses.				28,000		28,000		28,000	NAGG W at FME
	Developing data-sharing protocols and integrating monitoring into national environmental reporting systems	Consultant services to design MoUs, metadata standards, legal reviews, stakeholder consultations, and workflow protocols for integration with national environmental reporting systems.				15,000		15,000		15,000	NAGG W at FME
	Reviewing Institutional frameworks and coordination mechanisms for GGWI implementation at national and state levels	Consultancy to map institutional roles, policy analysis, stakeholder interviews, development of appropriate coordination models, and produce a report with recommendations for improved GGW governance in Nigeria.	48,000					48,000		48,000	NAGG W at FME

	Establishment of integrated knowledge and information systems that combine scientific, local knowledge, and community observations to assess land degradation trends, monitor ecosystem restoration outcomes, and evaluate climate resilience impacts at both community and landscape scales.	Development of a knowledge repository, online database, community observation tools, and training manuals that consolidate community and scientific data for adaptive learning - and synthesis report.	35,000						35,000		35,000	NAGG W at FME	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	National Project Coordinator	Provides full-time leadership of the Project Management Unit, ensuring alignment with GEF and UNEP operational standards. Costs cover remuneration and benefits.							-		72,500	72,500	NAGG W at FME

	Office er	ment, and financial reporting in compliance with required financial standards.										
	Support Officer (Kebbi State)	-									-	
	Trainings , Workshops, Meetings										-	
	Training for technical capacities of stakeholders to enhance sustainable land management and climate- resilient agro- sylvo- pastoral practices	Series of in- person workshops and field demonstrations on SLM and agro- sylvo- pastoral practices . 10 in- person training- of- trainers sessions (each 5 days) for extension officers and farmers, including materials , venue, and trainer fees.	40,000					40,000			40,000	NAGG W at FME
	Skills training on production, processing, packaging, and marketing of green products.	Hands- on sessions and webinars on processing, packaging, and marketing of products like moringa and shea, including series			279,000			279,000			279,000	NAGG W at FME

		of 15 local workshops on moringa oil extraction, gum arabic processing, and honey packaging for cooperatives.										
	Training and facilitating access to startup capital, microcredit, and equipment to support community-level investments in land and water management	Financial literacy workshops and business planning clinics for community enterprises, including 15 blended training sessions (combining webinars and local workshops) led by financial institutions and business mentors.			50,000			50,000			50,000	NAGG W at FME
	Developing Inclusive Livelihood Strategies and integrating them into Local Development Plans and NRM-related policies	Five policy roundtables to integrate inclusive livelihood strategies into LGA development plans.	45,000					45,000			45,000	NAGG W at FME
	Capacity-Building Seminar and Workshop for Inclusive	Two-day in-person seminars for local council officials on gender equity	25,000					25,000			25,000	NAGG W at FME

<p>ve Governance (delivering targeted training seminars and workshops to strengthen inclusive governance and gender mainstreaming for Local Council officials emphasizing equitable decision-making)</p>	<p>and participatory planning; costs include facilitators, materials, and travel.</p>											
<p>Facilitating stakeholder consultations and policy dialogues on integrating inclusive green jobs into local development plans.</p>	<p>Five consultative forums engaging private sector, NGOs, and local authorities to integrate green jobs into local plans.</p>			50,000				50,000			50,000	NAGG W at FME
<p>Reviewing and updating NRM policies to reflect inclusive livelihood strategies, developing</p>	<p>Technical workshops series (15 sessions) and drafting sessions with local planners, and civil society (NGOs, and</p>			75,000				75,000			75,000	NAGG W at FME

	gender - sensitive guidelines for planning and budgeting of livelihood support at the LGA level, and assessments to inform livelihood planning	women's groups).										
	Capacity building and community awareness campaigns on ecosystem-based enterprises, and training on business development, financial literacy, and climate-smart enterprise management.	15 community awareness campaigns and training events using radio, Community roadshows, and on-site demonstrations, and printed Information, Education and Communication materials			45,000			45,000			45,000	NAGG W at FME
	Formation of community-level multi-stakeholder platforms for inclusive local economic development for	15 local launch meetings to establish restoration committees and facilitate dialogue, and technical support to beneficiaries of the			45,000			45,000			45,000	NAGG W at FME

	land restoration	platforms.										
	Delivering Field-Based Technical and ICT Training for Extension Agents (addressing digital divide through inclusive training approaches, ICT training delivered using blended approaches—combining analog (printed guides, hands-on demonstrations) and digital (mobile apps, online platforms) methods—to ensure accessibility for agents with low-tech literacy)	5 hands-on 5-day blended training program using printed manuals and mobile applications to enhance digital literacy.	25,000				25,000			25,000		NAGG W at FME
	Build the capacity of national and	Two five-day intensive course for national/			30,922		30,922			30,922		NAGG W at FME

	state-level agencies on geospatial data collection and analysis	state agencies on GIS and remote sensing, supported by remote mentoring from international experts.										
	Project Steering Committee meetings							-			-	
	Project launch (inception workshop)	National-level inception workshop with stakeholders and media to formally initiate project implementation.						-	10,000		10,000	NAGG W at FME
	Project Implementation Report (PIR)	Annual report preparation, printing, and dissemination -						-			-	NAGG W at FME
	Knowledge Management, South-South Exchange and coordination with Regional Coordination Project	To cover costs related to regional activities that will be coordinated through the Regional Coordination project	2,000	5,000	3,000			10,000	15,000		25,000	
Travel								-			-	
Office Supplies	Office Rent (4 Years), furnishings, office supplies, computers and Periph							-		21,000	21,000	NAGG W at FME

	erals, other equip ment											
Oth er Oper ating Costs								-			-	
Gr and Total			450,000	1,394,307	800,000	102,922	-	2,745,787	137,001	144,210	3,028,440	

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

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

RESPONSES TO STAP COMMENTS

Comments	Responses	Reference
<p>Given the Sahel's vulnerability to climate change, economic instability, conflict, population growth, and possibly other key drivers, STAP highly recommends that each country project to develop simple future narratives that describe interactions between the key drivers and uncertainties, as well as response measures that ensure the proposed interventions are necessary and sufficient to achieve the proposed GEBs and climate adaptation benefits. This process is rooted in applying resilience thinking through project interventions to ensure they are robust to different plausible futures. STAP recommends its advice on future narratives as well as the World Bank's resilience methodology.</p>	<p>The comment is well noted, and in response, the project has included a narrative about future best and worst-case scenarios which describe interactions between the key drivers and uncertainties. The document has a section on 'future scenarios' and includes a table that summarises the scenarios, including the absence of any interventions that IDERRCN is proposing.</p>	<p>See page 21 ff</p>
<p>The PFD lists several ongoing and past initiatives as part of the baseline. In each of the individual projects, STAP recommends that the appropriate links be made, demonstrating how learning will be leveraged between this project and ongoing, or past, initiatives.</p>	<p>The recommendation is noted, and in response, the project has been developed including projects that IDERRCN will synergize with</p>	<p>On pages 49 ff -</p>
<p>For each individual project, it is necessary for the theory of change to identify assumptions tied to each outcome, and which will be verified and tracked to ensure the GEBs and adaptation outcomes are realized. There are multiple assumptions made, including on farmers and communities changing mindsets to adopt new sustainable land management, or ecosystem-based management practices, which will need to be confirmed and monitored, potentially leading to adaptive management of the proposed interventions. This learning should be reflected in the overall Program's theory of change and knowledge management, as innovation and scaling are dependent on learning. STAP also recommends strengthening the narrative describing the theory of change, as this is currently weak. STAP's theory of change primer is a useful resource for project developers to use.</p>	<p>The comment and recommendation are well noted. A narrative has been provided that grounds the thinking behind the theory of change. Assumptions have been identified for the theory of change. There are also assumptions and risks that have been identified and included in the results framework.</p>	<p>On pages 28 ff and 77 ff</p>
<p>STAP encourages the project proponents to develop a separate theory of change on scaling. This process will provide close attention to changes and innovation in policies and governance</p>	<p>The team thanks STAP for the comment. A narrative for the theory of change on scaling has</p>	<p>On page 31</p>

Comments	Responses	Reference
<p>arrangements (tied to component 1 and 2), changes in cultural norms and values (component 2 and 3), and other powerful levers for scaling and transformation. Furthermore, STAP encourages the adoption of steps similar to those in a policy cycle, outlined in STAP’s policy coherence paper. These steps help with a policy analysis process (component 1), which can contribute to identifying coherence and incoherence between policies supporting climate resilience, sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation. For component 2 and 3, close monitoring of changes in land management practices and cultural values and norms, will be necessary. While STAP embraces innovative financing mechanisms, such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), as incentives to adopt and scale a nature positive practice, STAP recommends validating (test, monitor, and learn for scaling purposes) key assumptions affiliated with PES adoption and GEB and climate adaptation impacts.</p> <p>To design and implement component 4, focused on the regional integrated knowledge management platform (IKMP), STAP recommends collaborating and coordinating with existing Pan-African open access platforms, such as Digital Earth Africa. A successful transformative approach goes beyond technological and financial innovation. This effort also requires partnerships of knowledge with local stakeholders such as African Universities of the Sahel. Scaling up, resilience and sustainability of outcomes could be further enhanced through partnerships with organisations such as the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). STAP agrees with the recommendations of a 2022 Danish report on The Great Green Wall: An Overview and Lessons Learnt that emphasizes “... Collaboration with national-level organisations that understand contextualised livelihood vulnerabilities is also recommended; ... promote improved coordination of activities and consistent monitoring across partner countries and subprojects; ...More qualitative analyses of project site contexts should also be included among monitoring tools”. STAP recommends that the proponent consult its 2022 document titled ‘Understanding South–South Cooperation for Knowledge Exchange’ and the recent paper of Goffner et al (2019), “The Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative”, as sources for understanding how to create knowledge management and adaptive learning systems that enhance resilience in the Sahelian landscapes and livelihoods. STAP agrees the Program has substantial potential to generate socioeconomic co-benefits. Several of these benefits will be deemed as pre-requisites for achieving GEBs (e.g., improved food security through improved soil fertility as a result of improved sustainable land management) and climate adaptation benefits (e.g., increased resilience to climate change via mixed income sources that reduce economic risks). STAP recommends thinking of potential co-benefits (both prerequisite and non-prerequisite) when designing the projects and their logic chains. STAP’s advice on co-benefits can be a useful resource for the Program.</p>	<p>been included in section B. A sub-section, ‘Theory of change for scaling up’ has been included.</p> <p>.</p> <p>IDERRCN has been developed as a child project of the GGW Program, and the document includes specific areas of collaboration and support from the Regional coordination project for the program. In this collaboration, knowledge management is one the key areas of interest for the project, and this has been reflected in the institutional arrangement of the project. A table has been included in the document: showing ‘IDERRCN alignment with the Regional Coordination Project.’</p> <p>Lesson and best practices sharing has been included, and embedded through component 4</p> <p>The comment is noted with thanks. In consideration of this comment, IDERRCN’s design includes various benefits which have been alluded to in the document, in the component description but also in other sections. The benefits are summarised under the sub-section ‘IDERRCN’s Socio-economic and Global Environmental Benefits.’</p>	<p>On page 47 ff</p> <p>On page 41</p>

