



Regeneration of Livelihoods and Landscapes (ROLL) Project

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10723

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Regeneration of Livelihoods and Landscapes (ROLL) Project

Countries

Lesotho

Agency(ies)

IFAD

Other Executing Partner(s)

Executing agencies: Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC); Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC); Other Coordinating Ministries: Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship (MLGC); Ministry of Water (MoW) - Department of Water Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Ministry of Development Planning

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Land Degradation

Taxonomy

Private Sector, Stakeholders, Gender results areas, Gender Equality, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Food Security, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Land Cover and Land cover change, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Pasture Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Livelihoods, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Fire Management, Income Generating Activities, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Capital providers, SMEs, Large corporations, Local Communities, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Beneficiaries, Communications, Education, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Knowledge Exchange, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Generation

Sector

Mixed & Others

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

7/4/2022

Expected Implementation Start

8/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

6/30/2028

Duration

72In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

332,782.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	GET	2,000,000.00	15,407,726.00
LD-1-4	Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	GET	1,502,968.00	25,286,581.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			3,502,968.00	40,694,307.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Rural communities transform their landscapes and livelihoods by adopting sustainable land management practices, leading to enhanced flow of agro-ecosystem goods and services, climate change resilience and household income diversification.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 1: Enhanced capacity in integrated landscape management	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1: Enhanced enabling environment and capacity for landscape management in place for landscapes in 5 administrative districts	<p>1.1.1: Intersectoral mechanism for improved horizontal and vertical communication and collaboration on landscape management</p> <p>1.1.2: Capacity development strategies and programme for landscape management developed, tailored for each particular landscape and approved by project stakeholders . 50% women 50% men will be targeted.</p> <p>1.1.3. 250 stakeholders from project implementing partners (Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security</p>	GE T	979,766.00	9,108,234.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 1: Enhanced capacity in integrated landscape management	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1. 2:	1.2.1	GE T	801,500.00	851,500.00
		Improved, coordinated and collaborative landscape management and restoration of 350,000 ha (ROLL+GEF[1]) in the targeted 5 Land degradation Neutrality (LDN) Hubs, contributing 58% to the 600 000 ha LDN national target	250 landscape regeneration coalitions (local resource management groups, traditional authorities and local government) formed and operational (sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks).			
		[1] ROLL+GEF in this document refers to the primary baseline project, Lesotho Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) project, which was designed by IFAD and GoL, plus additional investment with GEF resources	1.2.2 Participatory land use mapping by local rural community resource users (? and ?) and implementing partners			
			1.2.3 250 landscape management plans developed in support of restoration of 350,000 ha of landscape (rangelands, shrub lands, grasslands and			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 2. Landscape restoration	Investment	<p>Outcome 2.1: 14,500 ha of landscapes under improved practices (and sequestration of -9 901 543-9 tCO₂e, benefitting 20,000</p> <p>direct beneficiaries of which 50% are women, with strengthened livelihoods and sources of income</p>	<p>2.1.1: On-farm and off-farm sustainable soil and water conservation measures (conservation agriculture, drip irrigation) implemented on 7 000 ha of agricultural land</p> <p>2.1.2:</p> <p>Village-level ecosystem restoration through SLM investments in e.g., village nurseries for reforestation on 7 500 ha (forests and shrub land), and village level gully reclamation activities which will include the use of gully reclamation infrastructures like gabions to curb continued growth of gullies and the destruction of farmland.</p>	GE T	1,379,894.00	15,168,671.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 2. Landscape restoration	Investment	<p>Outcome 2.2 Effective facility and fund for landscape restoration/regeneration available for 200 sustainable enterprises leading to scaling up of landscape restoration to 350,000 ha</p> <p>(ROLL+GEF) in total</p>	<p>2.2.1: Facility set up to enable coalition building and provide incentives to smallholder farmers and pastoralists to adopt an integrated approach to managing the productive landscape</p> <p>2.2.2: Regeneration fund established and capitalized to support 200 sustainable enterprises</p> <p>2.2.3: 20 000 direct beneficiaries (50% women) engage in off-farm sustainable enterprises such as homestead gardening, bee-keeping and improved food value chains</p>	GE T		5,900,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 3: Knowledge Management, and M & E	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3.1:</p> <p>Improved monitoring tools and procedures to generate LDN data, which enable measurement of environmental and socio-economic change</p>	<p>Output 3.1.1:</p> <p>Gender-sensitive landscape and improved livelihoods monitoring and reporting tools developed and institutionalized,</p> <p>Output 3.1.2:</p> <p>250 landscape coalitions trained in participatory landscape monitoring and evaluation</p>	GE T	175,000.00	2,773,099.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
Component 3: Knowledge Management, and M & E	Technical Assistance	Outcome 3.2 Project monitoring system operates effectively and, systematically provides information on progress, lessons learnt and informs adaptive management to ensure results	3.2.1 Five LDN information hubs operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices to primary and secondary stakeholders promoting gender equality and women's participation .	GE T		1,303,837.00
			3.2.2: Curriculum for teaching at schools and universities integrating gender responsive landscape management aspects informed by ROLL project			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing (\$)
				Sub Total (\$)	3,336,160.00	35,105,341.00

Project Management Cost (PMC)

	GET		166,808.00		5,588,966.00	
Sub Total(\$)			166,808.00		5,588,966.00	
Total Project Cost(\$)			3,502,968.00		40,694,307.00	

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	Loans	Investment mobilized	11,300,428.00
Donor Agency	OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)	Loans	Investment mobilized	19,000,000.00
Donor Agency	Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,399,879.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7,994,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				40,694,307.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The investment mobilised from IFAD comes from the baseline investment (ROLL, which will be implemented in sixteen sub-catchments and co-financed by the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). Other financiers (Financing Gap), which are private sector will be identified at project start up/or by additional funds to be requested from IFAD by the Government at the baseline midterm review. The OFID co-financing will be a loan. Footnote to the Recipient Country Government: The Government contribution is included on pages 2 and 15 as well as Annex 3 in the ROLL Project Design Report

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
IFAD	GET	Lesotho	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	3,502,968	332,782	3,835,750.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					3,502,968.00	332,782.00	3,835,750.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

150,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14,250

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
IFAD	GET	Lesotho	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	150,000	14,250	164,250.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					150,000.00	14,250.00	164,250.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
350000.00	350000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
4,500.00	7,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
5,000.00	7,500.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
340,500.00	335,500.00		

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
14500.00	14500.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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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)
14,500.00	14,500.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	1206559	9901543	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	1,206,559	9,901,543		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Anticipated start year of accounting	2022	2022		
Duration of accounting	20	20		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

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

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	10,000	10,000		
Male	10,000	10,000		
Total	20000	20000	0	0

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

Core indicator 6: The Ex-ACT tool was used to calculate estimated target. The tool indicating the calculations is attached Annex J. Core indicator 11: Please note that only the ROLL+GEF part has 50% female 50% male targets. The overall ROLL targets are 40% female and 60% male. (ROLL+GEF refers to investment funded including with GEF financing while ROLL refers to the baseline project with only IFAD financing) The direct beneficiaries are the people expected to receive ROLL+GEF project services, through direct investments on the ground. In total, the GEF financing is expected to directly support 20,000 beneficiaries and create positive benefits for 13,600 households, equaling about 68,000 people. ROLL+GEF resources will also have a positive impact on these households, albeit indirect; through the application of guidelines and sharing of best practices. In total ROLL+GEF will directly support 100 000 beneficiaries corresponding to 68 000 households consisting of 340 000 people.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

The following is a description of any changes in alignment with the project design with the original pif

1) Environmental challenges, root causes and barriers

Lesotho, entirely surrounded by South Africa, is situated at the highest point of the Drakensberg escarpment on the eastern rim of the South African plateau. Lesotho is a landlocked country with an area of about 30,000 km², divided into 4 ecological zones: the lowlands (between 1300 ? 1800 m above sea level, 17%), the foothills (at 1800 ? 2000 m, 15%), the mountains (between 2000 and 3400 m, 59%), and the Senqu River valley (within the lowlands and the foothills, 9%).

Lesotho's population is essentially made up of one homogeneous ethnic grouping, the Basotho, and is estimated to be 2 million. The population growth rate is 2.3%. Gross National Product (GNP) per capita is estimated at US\$ 550, which is relatively high compared to other Eastern and Southern African countries. However, a significant portion (49%) of the population in Lesotho lives under the poverty datum line. The situation is particularly severe in rural areas where poverty rates exceed 60%. The same rural areas also suffer from high environmental degradation, which is strongly linked to the socio-economic situation and behaviour of natural resource users. The development of an integrated agriculture and food system that ensures nutritious and affordable food while at the same time incentivizes local sustainable production of higher-value crops and livestock, is strongly intertwined with a much-needed regeneration of both landscapes and livelihoods.

As a small land-locked country, Lesotho's economy suffers from the fact that it is unable to compete with the economies of scale of producers in neighbouring South Africa and the majority of food consumed in the country is imported. Agricultural growth is limited by difficult agro-climatic conditions and limited arable land. The contribution of agriculture to the Gross domestic product (GDP) declined from an estimated 20% in the 1980s to around 6% in 2017. Even so, the sector is and remains critical to inclusive socio-economic development as close to 76% of households in Lesotho live in the rural areas and 70% derive all or part of their livelihoods from agriculture.

Rural households in Lesotho derive their income out of a variety of sources, which are often highly volatile or characterized by low productivity (e.g., remittances, seasonal labour, small livestock and subsistence farming). Wool and mohair are important export products, making up around 5-6% of Lesotho's total exports and having an estimated 250,000 beneficiaries along the supply chain, with production dominated by smallholder farmers. A large share of Basotho own goats and sheep, resulting in an estimated total of 4 million small stock animals on approximately 1.8 million ha of rangeland. The number of animals, an unequal geographical distribution, and the seasonal herd movements from the mountains in summer to the lowlands in winter result in unregulated and excessive pressure on Lesotho's rangelands.

At the same time, cropland is expanding to keep pace with food demand for the population. Main crops include maize, sorghum, and wheat, which are planted as monocrops on 85 % of the country's arable land which comprises 10 % of Lesotho's total land area. Maize and sorghum are the most important staple food crops, with maize often receiving policy and financing support, for example through maize input subsidies. This is notwithstanding the fact that maize, despite being a staple food crop, is not suitable for production across much of Lesotho's agro-ecology, and the cost of production in the country is higher compared to the cost of importing from South Africa. Coupled with this, many farmers use inappropriate agricultural practices including poor soil tillage methods, uncontrolled rangeland fires and over-extraction of medicinal plants and grasses.

These poor natural resource management practices have led to severe environmental degradation, demonstrated by soil erosion, loss of wetlands, loss of water retention capacity and increased incidence of pests and diseases. Lesotho's topography (elevated mountainous areas), geology (sedimentary and basaltic layers) and climate make it vulnerable to soil erosion, but several human activities fast-track the problem. The current levels of degradation present a serious challenge to rural residents, leading to declining crop yields, crop failure, water points drying up and the need for considerable investments in the control of invasive species. The severe overstocking of rangelands decreases the recovering ability of the pastures, leading to a widespread denudation of soil surfaces, which multiplies the impacts of climate events such as drought and heavy rainfall on soil losses. A large-scale effort is needed to transform this 'broken' system.

Lesotho is one of the least forested countries^[1] in Africa and is considered to be a 'grassland country', with grasslands playing a critical role in social-ecological and economic systems. The indigenous forests are of low occurrence but remain a very important resource to rural communities by providing medicine, fuelwood, construction material, forage and shelter. The grasslands are a critical resource for local construction (thatching grass), for socio-cultural purposes including the famous Basotho hats, and for traditional medicine on which the majority of the population depends. Despite various efforts on conservation, the destruction of these ecosystems continues unabated, although the rate of depletion has not been ascertained quantitatively.

The environmental challenges faced by Lesotho have an important counterpoint in a major environmental opportunity and potential enabler of a transformation towards sustainable use of landscapes: the abundance of freshwater. Lesotho's precipitation characteristics, high altitude and geographic proximity to major demand centres in southern Africa, makes water one of the country's most valuable renewable and sustainable natural assets. The value of Lesotho's water resources is derived from its strategic position in the Orange-Senqu River basin. The basin accounts for over 10 % of GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa and is among the three most economically important basins per unit area on the African continent (after the Nile and the Limpopo River basins).

With its headwaters in the highlands of Lesotho, the Orange-Senqu River encompasses Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, and South Africa with a catchment area of over one million square kilometres. The river flows roughly 2,300 kilometres to the west before discharging into the Atlantic Ocean, with main

tributaries being the Senqu, Vaal, Fish and Molopo-Nossob River systems. The mountain Kingdom of Lesotho is fully situated within the basin but accounts for only 5 % of the basin surface area, while contributing 40 % of annual runoff. Mean annual precipitation is nearly 1,800 millimetres in the headwaters in Lesotho, but only 50 millimetres at the river's mouth between South Africa and Namibia. In contrast, Botswana accounts for 12 % of the basin and contributes little to the basin runoff, with South Africa occupying 64 % of the basin, accounting for more than half of the total mean annual runoff and 98 % of the consumption among the riparian basin states. Balancing the development of water resources for export against national priorities to improve the levels of access is one of the key challenges for the Lesotho government.

Root causes of environmental challenges that needs to be addressed

The root causes of the environmental challenges can be attributable to both natural and anthropogenic factors. The natural factors include the rugged elevated mountainous terrain, infertile and easily erodible soils, droughts, erratic rainfall and very damaging flooding. The anthropogenic activities include overstocking and overgrazing of rangelands, poor agricultural practices and biomass removal. Thus, the root causes include:

Natural factors.

Lesotho soils are mostly alluvial, colluvial or aeolian of either sedimentary or basaltic origin. Those derived from sedimentary rocks are more common in the lowlands and those from basalt and dolerite are predominant in the mountains. However, mixtures and variations occur throughout the country. Most soils in the flatter and gently sloping areas tend to be moderately deep, to deep, and well drained; whilst those of the mountain slopes tend to be more shallow and stony. The principal arable soils of the lowlands and foothills are yellowish red to yellowish brown loams with sandy loam topsoil. They are moderately fertile and slightly acidic, and are prone to wind and water erosion.

Most Lesotho soils are classified as belonging to *Oxisols*^[2]. These are characterized by soil erosion,^[3] low pH, and extreme deficiency of Phosphorus, physical problems such as difficult land topography, and the impacts of the environmentally degrading soil degradation.

These soils, having both management and inherent fertility problems, influence the productivity of both arable land and rangelands, thus resulting in sparsely vegetated landscapes or open grasslands.

As such, a combination of elevated rugged mountains, very erodible infertile soils, and sparse vegetation/open grasslands is a very good recipe for erosion. The soil degradation occurs in stages. Initially, organic matter-rich surface horizons are removed leading to diminished nutrient supplying capabilities, water holding capacity, biodiversity, and aggregation. In the more deeply eroded phases, such as in many areas of Lesotho, soil water storage capacity is a limiting factor due to shallow soil depth.

Anthropogenic activities

The anthropogenic causes of the environmental challenges are situated primarily in the agriculture and food system, linked to the low levels of agricultural productivity, exacerbated by population pressure and poor land management capacities on the one hand and further socio-economic factors such as limited access to agricultural tools or credit schemes and the HIV-AIDS epidemic on the other. The anthropogenic causes include the following:

Overgrazing as a result of overstocking

Most of the rural inhabitants keep livestock which graze freely on communal land. This system does not encourage environmentally friendly grazing like rotation, but results in overgrazing and total removal of bio-mass leaving bare and vulnerable terrain.

Cattle, sheep and goats which are raised extensively on communal rangeland dominate the livestock sector. Cattle are mainly used for subsistence which includes draught power, milk, fuel sources, socio-cultural uses and ceremonies. Sheep are of the merino type and raised for the sale of their wool, slaughter and for ceremonial purposes. Livestock herd sizes are mainly controlled by natural factors such as fertility and mortality rather than planned management. Overstocking, and the resulting overgrazing, is recognized as one of the key contributing factors to land degradation in Lesotho. The National Range Resources Management Policy (2014) states that degradation of the natural grazing lands of Lesotho is indeed primarily due to land use patterns, such as encroachment into rangelands; partial breakdown of traditional seasonal grazing patterns due to increased stock theft; loss of authority of traditional chiefs; confusion about authority concerning land use; the decrease of fallow grazing land, due to a fear of loss of traditional rights of use if not tilled; and large livestock numbers. Poor rangeland management practices have furthermore contributed to the spread of alien invasive species, which negatively impact native species and livestock productivity.

Over-cultivation of soils and landscapes

Only 9% of Lesotho's land is arable and over 80% of this is found in the lowlands, where it is not used for agriculture alone, but for other purposes such as housing. Most of the poor rural folks are forced to plough on marginal steep slopes which have resulted in soil erosion that has seen Lesotho lose 40 million tonnes of top soil per year, resulting in the formation of deep gullies.

Cropping in Lesotho is dominated by maize cultivation. In rural areas, houses with a home garden and/or fruit trees are a clear minority - trees are seldom seen in conjunction with agricultural fields. Yields are low and declining: in the period 2006 to 2016, the average annual grain production fell to 108 800 metric tons (a fall of 53%), average annual yield per ha was only 0.612 metric tons and average annual grain imports had risen to 155 000 metric tons. Domestic production can only satisfy 30% of this demand. The decline can be attributed to a number of causes, including declining soil fertility and inappropriate management practices such as late planting operations. Cultivation in Lesotho is done using inappropriate practices and occurs in mountain sides which are already prone to erosion due to factors such as ploughing down the slope instead of across it, probably due to lack of knowledge and experience.

Climate change

Historic rainfall data of the past 30 years show a concentration of rainfall during summer months and reduced precipitation in autumn and spring. The delay of spring rains increases farmers' uncertainty when to prepare fields and put seeds into the ground. Changing rainfall patterns are also strongly related to the El Niño/Southern Oscillation. There is a higher drought risk during El Niño and a higher flood risk during La Niña. Lesotho is experiencing increased exposure to other extreme weather events such as hailstorms and unseasonal snowfall. Severe soil erosion destroys ecosystems and habitats including wetlands, reduces water retention capacity and contributes to the loss of important ecosystem services, including biodiversity loss.

Other root causes that are especially relevant in specific localities include habitat destruction due to developmental activities, such as major construction works (roads, infrastructure and mining) having impact on wetlands; and the over-exploitation of biological resources such as thatching grass, trees and shrubs for socio-economic and cultural purposes.

Enabling conditions linked to land property access

All land is vested in the Basotho Nation and is held by the state. There are two main tenure systems at play, i.e., the i) customary tenure and ii) leasehold tenure.

The customary land tenure system is governed by traditional rules and administered by traditional community leaders such as chiefs. Active occupation or use of a piece of land is the main evidence of ownership or of an existing interest on the land. Under custom, access to land is determined by group rights. Households have strong, exclusive residential rights, seasonally exclusive rights to arable land

and shared rights to grazing and natural resources. Usually the individual's land-use rights are secure, though they are subject to certain conditions such as continuously cultivating land.

Traditional land tenure gives commoners a usufructuary right to land. Commoners have a right of access and land use, provided that the land is used under conditions and for purposes for which it was granted. All adult married males are entitled to the allocation of land for residential or agricultural purposes. An allottee does not have rights of ownership over the land. He has a right over the land as long as he occupies or works it and he continues to owe his allegiance to the chief. All improvements that he makes to the land belong to him: on agricultural land he owns the crops that he cultivates with his labour and he only has a right to that land during the agricultural season. At the end of the season, the land reverts to the chief.

Under the Land Act of 1979, a new agricultural leasehold tenure was created. Customary holders were given the option of converting their allocations to a lease-right, which they could mortgage and sell, subject to the approval of the Ministry of lands. The lease allows the holder exclusive use of a specified piece of land for a period of not less than ten years. The lease may be sublet, may be the subject of a will and may be used as collateral for a bank loan. The Act did not provide for automatic conversion, but instead left it to the holders to apply for the conversion of their allocations to leases.

The impact of the Land Act was minimal in rural areas where customary tenure arrangements still govern most of the land. Most land in Lesotho is allocated and held under customary tenure. Traditionally, use rights for residential and crop lands were allocated by a hierarchy of traditional authorities to household heads who then passed this on mainly to their male heirs. Grazing lands and forests and other communal resource areas were used and managed under the administration of traditional authorities on behalf of the king. However, gaps exist in the legal framework required to regulate rangeland management, land tenure and land use and in defining the role of traditional authorities in regulating natural resource usage. Existing policies and strategies are also somewhat outdated and/or are not being implemented. From this it is evident that there is need for policy and regulatory reform if the goals of the National Strategy Development Plan (NSDP) II are to be achieved

The enforcement of limiting access is a major constraint. The biggest challenge currently in Lesotho is to (i) define boundaries and (ii) enforce restrictions, especially in the zones far from the villages.

Barriers to achieve sustainable landscapes that needs to be addressed

Substantive barriers to sustainable landscape and ecosystem management can be clustered in three groups:

1. Weak institutional capacities and enabling environment

This includes weak implementation and enforcement capacities for existing regulations and policies. There is also limited institutional, technical capacity to coordinate and promote cross-sectoral action to implement environmental initiatives and interventions, including limited capacity to design and implement appropriate interlinked policies and programs. Specific problems contributing to the negative state of affairs can be identified as inadequate enforcement of legislation, contradicting

programs, poor grazing controls, ineffective institutional arrangements, fragmented legal instruments, and outdated range resources management policy and legislation.

2. Lack of a coordinated, efficient investment strategy for land and water management

The situation has become so dire that it has left many communities convinced that there are no solutions to most of the environmental challenges they face, and that they are natural and therefore irreversible. This is particularly the case in parts of the country where there has not been sufficient activity in addressing key environmental problems. Critical in the challenge is finding the right incentive system to engage resource users, which is anchored in a longer-term investment strategy. Cash-for-work programmes are and have been successful in addressing immediate restoration needs but cannot be a structural measure for landscapes to become more sustainable, not from the perspective of the land users nor from the perspective of the taxpayers. For Lesotho and for the region, financial incentives for sustainable landscape management are indeed an investment into the future and need to be regarded as such. A long-term investment strategy is needed for sustainable land and water management based on a benefit sharing mechanism and leveraging blended (public and private) finance.

3. Inadequate knowledge and weak technical capacities for effective sustainable land management practices

While there have been successful projects and programmes in Lesotho targeting environmental degradation and specifically land degradation, interventions have not always been accompanied by strong approaches to knowledge management and awareness raising on the successes of the interventions. This is exacerbated by weak capacities to monitor environmental changes effectively, or the effect these have on livelihoods and socio-economic conditions. Inadequate monitoring systems also limit Lesotho's ability to evaluate the effectiveness of programmes and policies. Similarly, current environmental monitoring practices do not enable the production of knowledge that can directly inform policy making.

2) The baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

In the baseline scenario, various government and non-government partners are addressing the identified barriers through interventions and projects that are effective only within a limited scope and are jointly not sufficient to reverse land degradation trends.

The primary baseline project is the Lesotho Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) project, which was designed by IFAD, Government of Lesotho (GoL) and development partners in November 2020. The ROLL project start-up will be in Quarter 2 2022. The purpose of the project is to address environmental degradation, enhance the resilience of local stakeholders to environmental and climatic shocks and increase livelihood opportunities, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation and food security. An innovative aspect of the project is the setting up of a Facility to enable coalition building and provide incentives to smallholder farmers and pastoralists to adopt an integrated approach to managing the productive landscape, and a Fund to enable investments in landscapes where an effective coalition has been established. These two elements bring together multiple actors in a common approach centered on sustainable management of landscapes. The project interventions will help overcome the barrier related to the lack of a coordinated, efficient investment strategy.

While the ROLL project sets an ambitious target, it nevertheless is limited in the extent to which it can address the barriers related to weak technical and institutional capacities and the need for a strengthened enabling environment; specifically targeted at the problem of land degradation. The overall investment referred herein as ROLL+GEF centered on promoting a landscape approach to reducing land degradation through sustainable land and water management, sustainable livestock management and agricultural production, and strengthening local and institutional capacities is therefore warranted. The ROLL+GEF-contribution will be instrumental in linking on-the-ground investments (through the ROLL Fund) to a national agenda of reinforced monitoring, knowledge management and a strengthened enabling environment aimed at, inter alia, supporting Lesotho to meet its land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets. The project will also include activities that ensure the integration of biodiversity within the landscapes being restored and climate change resilience building of the communities.

The GEF financing for the project will build on the ROLL Project management Unit (PMU), institutional arrangements and overall governance structures. The PMU will be responsible for day to day management and coordination of ROLL, including ROLL's financial matters. The PMU will be housed at the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and collaborate closely with other key Ministries. A Steering Committee, composed of relevant national actors will provide strategic oversight and a Technical Advisory Committee (interministerial body), will support project implementation progress and technical aspects. The FAO will collaborate with the PMU to support sustainable livelihoods and related food systems (production, aggregation, processing, distribution and other support services), drawing lessons, including tried and tested approaches from its ongoing and past projects. In particular ROLL will benefit from the AgrInvest initiative of FAO which is promoting public-private policy dialogue for promotion of private investment in agriculture and food systems.

Within the ROLL+GEF project, GEF resources will be used to finance activities that will enable mainstreaming of sustainable landscape management within the entire project in order to contribute to Lesotho's LDN targets of balancing losses and gains of productive land through SLM. GEF will finance three expert positions in the PMU dedicated to follow-up on ROLL+GEF activities and provide environmental and monitoring expertise.

Targeted Beneficiaries

The people who will be directly receiving project services will comprise of 40% women and 20% youth who will primarily be vulnerable rural households (poor smallholder farmers, small livestock owners, herders, unemployed youth, and wage laborers).

The project is targeting a 1000 villages, within which there will be a coalition of the villagers with a minimum of four groups (grazing associations, women saving groups, herder groups, others). The local coalitions will be comprised of chiefs, local government councilors, government officials, local resource management groups, and community members.

The project will also introduce a set of incentives which will support communities to transform their landscapes, including agricultural ones, to more sustainable forms of natural resource usage. A three-pronged approach will be used, which includes:

- ? Improving the management of natural resources: large participation by the whole community (incl. non-poor & authorities but giving voice to the poorest, women, and youth).
- ? Increasing incomes through IGAs: poor and vulnerable households
- ? Increasing awareness on NRM, increased incomes, nutrition education: communities (radio, TV, children through school exposure visits).

The above set of incentives will take the form of a graduation model, which aims at assisting landscapes to graduate from status of high land degradation and poverty levels with little livelihoods

diversification and low trust among community members (lowest level) to that of sustainable regeneration of land and water resources and reduced poverty with off- and on-farm livelihood diversification and social cohesion among communities (highest level) while promoting participation of women and youth (Figure 1).

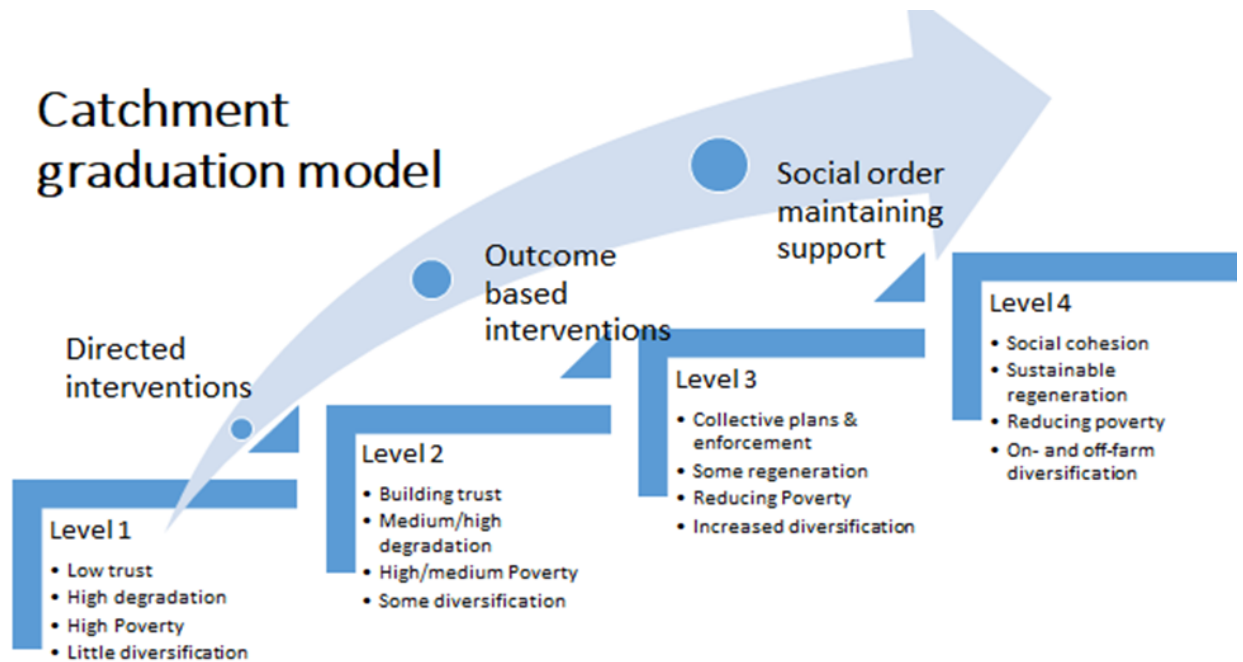


Figure 1 The Graduation model.

This model is based on the fact that different rural communities are at different stages of development, asset bases of households, human resources, levels of food security, and usage of natural resources including environmental degradation of landscapes. Thus, this calls for differentiated interventions along the development pathway. So different communities can start at different levels of interventions, after the community has defined its sustainable land management challenges and identified the right actions to regenerate the land. As communities become better organized & invest more in landscape regeneration so they get greater incentives from ROLL

ROLL Scenario without GEF:

The aim of the baseline ROLL project is to ensure that rural communities adopt transformational practices for regenerated landscapes and sustainable livelihoods. The ROLL Project outcomes include to; i) Change resource use practices, ii) promote reduction of environmental degradation, iii) improved livelihoods of participating communities and iv) establish an effective facility & fund for landscape regeneration (as an enabler and for sustainability)

ROLL emphasises supporting agricultural development and smallholders' livelihoods, without an integrated landscape management approach, or even targeting improved ecosystem services as the underlying foundation for resource users' livelihoods. The ROLL beneficiaries will mainly derive local environmental benefits from local planning and co-management of natural resources, without realizing global environmental benefits through integrated planning, policy and legal reforms and incorporation of community-led, district and national level natural resource management approaches.

GEF resources will enable the investment in biodiversity conservation and management in the specific landscapes that have been prioritised. The investment will be preceded by the necessary environmental and social impact assessments in the biodiversity prioritised landscapes. The studies would contribute to the establishment of the baseline situation in these landscapes and inform a more targeted investments for biodiversity conservation and management by local communities. Therefore without the GEF resources the investments in these prioritised landscapes would be rather thinly spread with limited impact.

Without GEF support, ROLL will have the following missing components:

- i) An integrated landscape management approach would be missing
- ii) a regional and global connection to best practices would be missing: globally used knowledge management on how to achieve the LDN targets and M&E tools for the LDSF would not be integrated into the national M&E strategies and local stakeholders would not be knowledgeable about the underlying concepts and how to meaningfully contribute their own expertise in providing data to these tools.
- iii) Environmental and social impact assessments in the biodiversity conservation prioritized landscapes.
- iv) The Regeneration Opportunities Fund would be difficult to establish and will not be sustainable especially after project life.

ROLL and ROLL+GEF are targeting the same people and the same landscapes. ROLL+GEF resources will be used for additional investments to reinforce the efforts of ROLL.

The following is an outline of the ROLL investments vs the ROLL+GEF input:

Table 2 ROLL investments vs the ROLL+GEF

No.	INVESTMENTS	ROLL INVESTMENT	GEF INPUTS
1.1	Enhanced enabling environment and capacity for landscape management in place for landscapes in 5 administrative districts	9,108,234	979,766
1.2	Improved, coordinated and collaborative landscape management and restoration of 350,000 ha	851,500	801,500
2.1	14,500 ha of landscapes under improved practices (and sequestration of -9 901 543-9 tCO ₂ e, benefitting 20,000 direct beneficiaries of which 50% are women, with strengthened livelihoods and sources of income	17,323,106	1,379,894

2.2	Effective facility and fund for landscape restoration/regeneration available for 200 sustainable enterprises leading to scaling up of landscape restoration to 350,000 ha	5,900,000	
3.1	Improved monitoring tools and procedures to generate LDN data, which enable measurement of environmental and socio-economic change	2,773,099	175,000
3.2	Project monitoring system operates effectively and, systematically provides information on progress, lessons learnt and informs adaptive management to ensure results		1,303,837
	Subtotal	37,259,776	3,336,160
	Project Management Cost (PMC)	5,588,966	166,808
	Total project costs	42,848,742	3,502,968

Other relevant baseline projects include:

? **The Smallholder Agriculture Development Project (SADP).** This project, also financed and supervised by IFAD and the primary baseline for LASAP LDCF project, will increase the resilience of small-scale agriculture to climate change impacts by promoting climate-proofed investments for agriculture-based development, as well as by enhancing the resilience of agricultural productivity under increased climate variability. The ROLL+GEF project will build on lessons learned in the SADP by producing and disseminating more detailed and more appropriate local adaptation strategies and reduce the risks of disruptions by anthropogenic activities and extreme events. ROLL+GEF will similarly de-risk the investments made by SADP in for instance irrigated agriculture.

? **Support to Integrated Catchment Management in Lesotho supported by the 11th European Development Fund (EDF),** in collaboration with GIZ. The 11th EDF National Indicative Program (NIP) 2014-2020 includes water management as one of three focal sectors of cooperation ? support, which will contribute to the implementation of the Lesotho National Strategic Development Plans (NSDP, and its successor NSDP II) with an allocation of EUR 69,000,000. The specific objective of the proposed action is to have Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) institutionalized and under full implementation in Lesotho, based on gender equality and climate adaptation principles. This objective is building upon outputs of an effective and efficient sensitive and climate-resilient policy framework for ICM; effective and efficient institutions for ICM established, with equitable representation of women and youth; capacity, skills and knowledge of public, private sector and civil society for sustainable ICM facilitated and measures implemented. The ROLL project interfaces with this project on multiple fronts, where ROLL+GEF will take up some of the approaches and working modalities tested under this project, including technical guidelines and improved institutional arrangements for project delivery.

? **Agricultural Productivity Program in Southern Africa (APPSA) funded by the World Bank.** The main focus will be in developing research priorities and or activities on horticultural crops (fruits: peach and apples, potatoes and vegetables: tomato), including Sorghum and Beans being commodities already under research in cereal and legumes by participating countries in the region. APPSA Lesotho activities include: (i) supporting regional collaboration in agricultural research, technology dissemination, and training; (ii) establishing Regional Centres of Leadership (RCoLs) on commodities of regional importance, and (iii) facilitating increased sharing of agricultural information, knowledge, and technology among participating countries. APPSA funds would be used to support ROLL in:

? improving institutional management and performance systems, including knowledge and information sharing systems; and,

? human capital development, including scientific training on IWM, upgrading of skills through short courses or targeted training, and scientific exchanges; and strengthening of seed, regulatory and related services.

? **The Wool and Mohair Promotion Project (WAMPP) funded by IFAD** has been designed in response to the Government's request to provide support to this important aspect of Lesotho's rural economy on which so many of its women and men smallholder producers depend. Lesotho is a country that is almost totally reliant on rain-fed agriculture and in recent years the agricultural economy has suffered from extreme weather conditions ? prolonged droughts and very damaging flooding. There is an acute awareness in the Government and within the communities that climate change is already impacting on the lives of the people of Lesotho and threatening their future. WAMPP is therefore designed to address the issues of rural poverty and food insecurity in the context of climate change and the increasing vulnerability of poor livestock producers. WAMPP is national in scope however, most of the activities focus on the poorer mountain regions of the country, where the incidence of poverty and food insecurity is highest and agricultural activity is severely restricted due to the lack of cultivable land, the degraded rangelands and the harsh climate. In these mountainous areas sheep and goat herding is the main economic activity and subsistence and food security is essentially derived from the proceeds of selling animals or wool and mohair.

EU/GIZ funded Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) is a benchmark project working on improving the governance at national and inter-ministerial levels in Lesotho. Taking advantage of their focus on governance and legal reform, synergies and complementarity will be sought. Therefore, at this stage a strong focus on governance reform has not been included in the ROLL project. ROLL will nevertheless work at community and district level on the enforcement of local regulations. At the same time, some rules are bylaws ? such as resting of grazing land ? that need collective enforcement from communities/users and this will be one focus of the coalition-building component 1

3) The proposed alternative scenario and project description

Theory of change

The theory of change (ToC) provides a basis for the investment logic of the ROLL+GEF project[4]⁴ (Figure 2). The goal of the project is to regenerate landscapes and livelihoods, leading to enhanced flow of agro-ecosystem goods and services, climate change resilience and households' income diversification. ROLL+GEF's theory of change is premised on the understanding that rural poverty and environmental degradation are mutually interactive phenomena. Unsustainable anthropogenic effects result in degraded landscapes, thus rendering them fragile to withstand climate change effects, with reduced capacity of natural resources and agro-systems within such landscapes to continue providing requisite goods and services to sustain livelihoods of communities residing within such landscapes. Human interaction with the natural environment is the primary cause of environmental degradation in Lesotho and in turn, land degradation and the resulting low productivity lead to increased poverty and vulnerability to climate change. Landscapes governance system also plays a critical role in their use and management. ROLL+GEF recognises that landscapes management suffer from:

- a) Weak institutional capacities and enabling environment
- b) Lack of coordinated, efficient investment strategy for land and water management,
- c) Inadequate knowledge and weak technical capacities for effective sustainable land management practices.

The project observes that it is only by changing the dynamics of the interaction between communities and the environment, enhancing institutional capacity in integrated landscape management and brokering knowledge around sustainable management of natural resources that the process can be reversed. As such, ROLL+GEF aims to transform rural communities, landscapes and livelihoods by adopting sustainable management practices through (i) Labour-based schemes and physical infrastructure development aimed at relieving immediate pressure in catchments experiencing high levels of poverty and land degradation and (ii) business development support for off-farm income-generating activities partially facilitated through existing projects. The ToC shows how the ROLL interventions in these areas lead to the project's goal, which is: 'Regeneration of landscapes and livelihoods', leading to enhanced flow of agro-ecosystem goods and services, climate change resilience and household income.

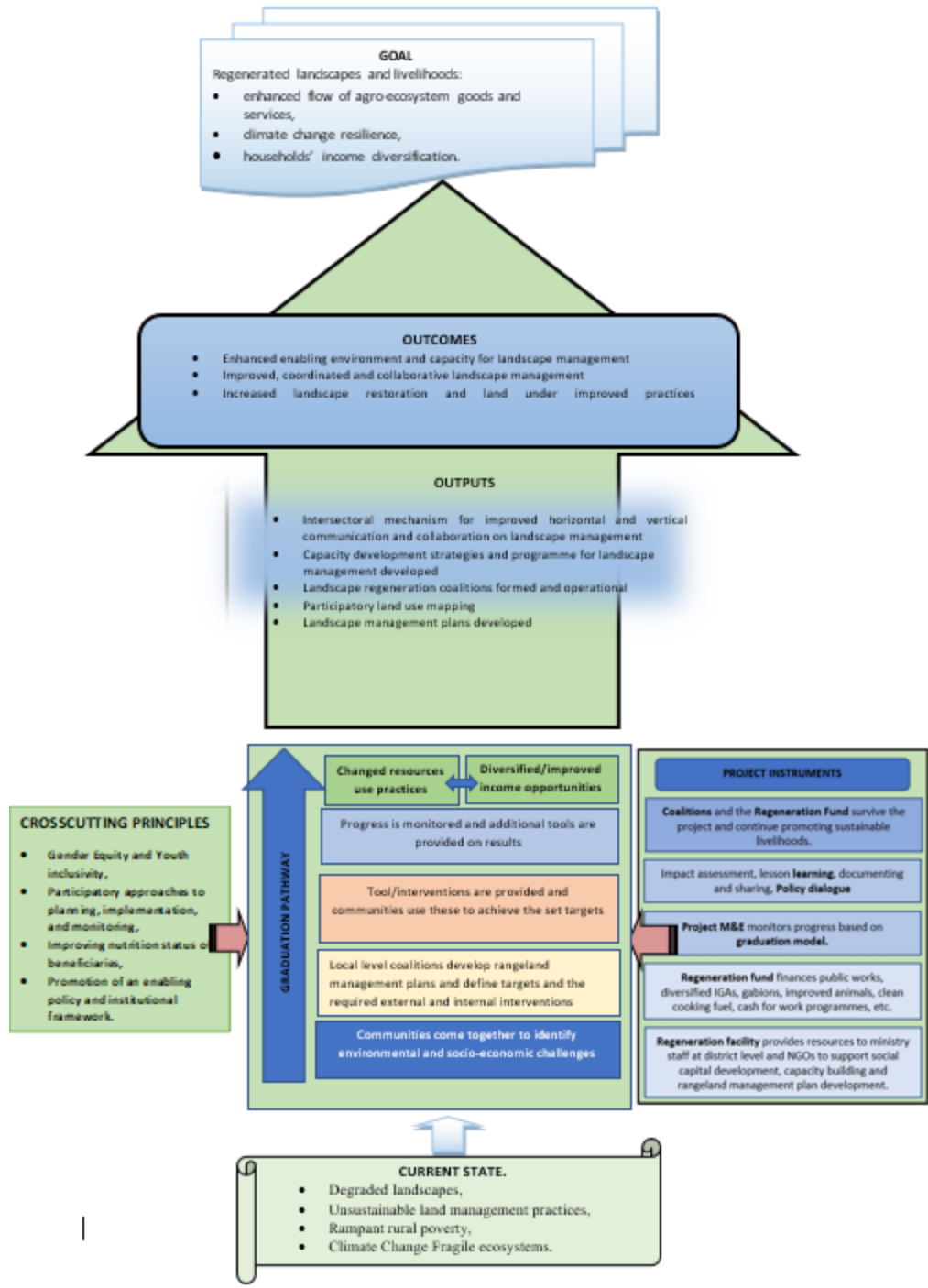


Figure 2. Theory of Change for ROLL+ GEF project

The theory of change is founded on the innovative graduation model that integrates both landscapes as well as communities, combining an integrated bio-physical and socio-economic assessment of

landscape status with a progressive intervention strategy (Section 3 of ROLL's PIM attached). The model aims at assisting landscapes to graduate from status of high land degradation and poverty levels with little livelihoods diversification and low trust among community members (lowest level) to that of sustainable regeneration of land and water resources and reduced poverty with off- and on-farm livelihood diversification and social cohesion among communities (highest level) while promoting participation of women and youth.

The overall ROLL approach is founded on a graduation model that integrates both landscapes as well as communities, combining an integrated bio-physical and socio-economic assessment of catchment status with a progressive intervention strategy. This is based on the understanding that rural populations are heterogeneous and that there is considerable variance in the asset base of households, their human resources, their levels of food security, and these are closely linked with their usage of natural resources. It is also based on the understanding that there is considerable variance in the governance, economic exploitation, and environmental degradation of landscapes, and this will require differentiated interventions along the development pathway.

The use of a graduation model that encompasses both communities and the state of the local environment, allows for differentiated targeting of communities and households, both to improve their livelihoods as well as to incentivize different categories of beneficiaries to graduate to higher levels of support based on their demonstrated contributions and effectiveness in regenerating their landscapes.

A participatory and iterative process is required, which engages local communities in defining their sustainable land management challenges, such as increased vulnerability due to natural causes (elevation, geology, soil types and climate), increasing soil erosion due to inappropriate tilling techniques, encroachment on wetlands, poor water management, overstocking of rangelands, etc., and in identifying the right actions and in building the commitment necessary to ensure the effective implementation of measures to regenerate the landscapes and enhance the communities' livelihoods (Figure 1). This will be a phased process, based on the establishment of local coalitions (Comprised of chiefs, local government councillors, government officials, local resource management groups, and community members) together with the introduction of a set of incentives which will support communities to transform their landscapes, including agricultural ones, to more sustainable forms of natural resource usage. This will include incentives to reduce the numbers and improve the quality of livestock, to restore landscapes and wetlands, to negotiate and plan for different and sometimes conflicting land uses, to enhance sustainable biotrade/natural product development (bee keeping, dried indigenous herbs and medicinal plants, artefacts) and eco-tourism initiatives, to pursue more sustainable agricultural practices, as well as interventions to balance agricultural income streams with off-farm income generating activities to increase the resilience of both the landscapes and local livelihoods.

The graduation model will enable the project to identify localities with different levels of environmental degradation and socio-economic profiles, ranging, for example, from highly degraded ecosystems/ catchments with high levels of poverty, to others where communities have demonstrated the capacity both to restore landscapes and to reduce local poverty. The design of project interventions will be tailored to the different needs of rural youth, women, men and the landscapes in which they live. Using smart incentives, landscapes that need urgent remedial measures and have a high incidence

of poverty will be supported with labour-based schemes for instance, while catchments further ahead on the graduation journey will be supported with more innovative outcome/performance schemes that include the creation of alternative livelihood opportunities. The model enables communities to graduate to a higher level of landscape management once they achieve a demonstrable balance between human economic activity and the environment. It will also enable some rural communities and households to balance agricultural production with off-farm income generating activities that may include manufacturing, food processing, eco-tourism and other sustainable businesses.

Project Description

The proposed GEF resources will be fully integrated with the ROLL project. The ROLL+GEF resources will focus on sustainable management of the natural resource base, particularly in ecosystem hotspots and development of monitoring tools and procedures to enable measurement of biophysical and socio-economic change and effectively share lessons learned and project successes. The aim of ROLL+GEF is to maintain or improve agro-ecosystem services through an integrated approach to SLM, sustaining livelihoods and food production systems, as well as to reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses while increasing the resilience of the targeted landscapes.

The proposed ROLL+GEF project has three interlinked and mutually reinforcing components:

- ? *Component 1: Enhanced capacity in integrated landscape management*
- ? *Component 2: Landscape restoration*
- ? *Component 3: Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)*

Component 1: Enhanced capacity in integrated landscape management

This component will be premised on the formation and operation of successful coalitions of local, district and national partners. These coalitions will basically be community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) groups and will be involved in the management of resources such as land, forests, wildlife and water by collective, local institutions for local benefit. These local and collective natural resource governance arrangements and management practices are being promoted by a wide range of policy makers and development and conservation practitioners in response to various economic, social, environmental and political pressures.

CBNRM equally applies to traditional resource management arrangements, such as the collective regimes governing rangelands and pastoralist grazing reserves, in-shore fisheries, or communally managed forests. These approaches eliminate centralized control and exploitation of resources and allows the resources to be governed, managed and controlled at local level. This further entails community capacity building in governance and management of natural resources in Lesotho.

Coalition and community capacity building will be underpinned by cross-sectoral guidelines where applicable, including for instance technical guidelines on catchment planning or soil and water conservation, biodiversity conservation, land-use planning, climate change adaptation, etc. The ongoing EU / GIZ project on Integrated Catchment Management will provide a particular useful source for these guidelines. The management plans resulting from the activities in this project will form the

basis for the landscape restoration activities (Component 2). Project support to implementing partners will be determined on an area basis and reviewed annually, to ensure efficient, effective and adaptive delivery and to allow for the graduation model to be applied.

The development of cross sectoral guidelines for capacity building and implementing the CBNRM entails better coordination between relevant Ministries, which include; Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC), Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC), Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP), Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS), Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship (MLGC), Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports & Recreation (MGYSR) and Ministry of Water Affairs (MWA).

By building on cross-sectoral guidelines and applying these with coalitions of local, district and national partners, the project will establish a solid foundation of best practices and lessons to be learned, while mainstreaming integrated landscape approaches into relevant national agencies and policies. For instance, participatory land use mapping will support the establishment of broadly accepted landscape management plans, including approaches to sustainable pasture management will be shared and mainstreamed, for combatting encroachment by shrubs and invasive species, often a sign of overexploitation

The coalitions to be formed will vary in composition. Some will already be existing groups, such as the 70 existing grazing associations across Lesotho (some of which manage up to 10.000 ha of range land), others will be more livelihood focused, such as village saving groups also working on environmental aspects (e.g., one group sells bottled water using a local spring and invests in its continuous flow). Other coalitions will be built through a participatory consultation process with support from government extension and project staff. A third party (CSO/NGO) will be required to support the formation of Associations as they may need all sorts of training including group dynamics, how to run associations, accounting and general administration.

The enhanced capacity in integrated landscape management will be a major contributor to outcome 1.2 improved, coordinated and collaborative management of degraded productive landscapes, and to outcome 2.1 restoration of landscapes. It will promote collaborative efforts to reduce land degradation and to improve sustainable land management, by installing and raising communication and collaboration opportunities between local resource users and GoL agents, establishing local coalitions and developing landscape management plans that contribute to broader watershed plans and policies and even have positive co-benefits on regional basin management. Wherever possible, intermediaries such as local NGOs and community organizations will be tasked to bridge existing gaps, support the project strategy with their localized expertise and experience and to catalyse behavioural change.

The participatory land-use mapping and development of land-use management plans will also contribute towards maintaining SLM in the agricultural productive landscapes and thus ensuring the food security of the target beneficiaries while supporting the achievement of the national LDN target. To avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation, the enabling environment has to be enhanced. It comprises four main dimensions: (a) the Social Performance Indicators (SPI)^[5], and (b) financial, (c)

institutional, and (d) policy-regulatory elements. The project has been designed to address these dimensions. A critical component of the latter two dimensions is land governance and the enabling environment is integral to the operationalization of LDN.

Outcome 1.1 Enhanced an enabling environment and capacity for landscape management in place for five administrative districts

The following outputs will contribute to achieving this outcome:

1.1.1 Intersectoral mechanism for improved horizontal and vertical communication and collaboration on landscape management;

1.1.2 Capacity development strategies and programmes for landscape management developed, tailored for each particular landscape and approved by project stakeholders; 50% women 50% men will be targeted.

1.1.3 250 stakeholders from project implementing partners (Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS) trained as trainers (targeting 50% female 50% male) on land degradation root causes and possible remedies and landscape management. The trained trainers will then Cascade the training on landscape management down to Resource Users (Communities). Every coalition that will be formed will receive this training so as to enhance participatory landscape management.

Outcome 1.2 Improved, coordinated and collaborative landscape management and restoration of 350,000 ha (ROLL+GEF[6]⁶) in the targeted 5 LDN Hubs, contributing 58% to the 600 000 ha LDN national target.

LDN Hubs refer to land degradation neutrality information hubs that are information centres established as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices to primary and secondary stakeholders in a bid to meeting Lesotho's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets set to be met by 2030. The outcome will be generated by four outputs:

1.2.1 250 landscape regeneration coalitions (local resource management groups, traditional authorities and local government) formed and operational (sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risk);

The activities that will be undertaken to establish landscape regeneration coalitions include:

- ? Identification of the potential landscapes to be regenerated,
 - ? Identification of the stakeholders in the said landscapes,
 - ? Sensitization of all the stakeholders within the said landscape about the sub-project requirements,
-

- ? Establishment of representative committees to spearhead the activities,
- ? Holding of community meeting to identify the and prioritise the actual activities to be undertaken within this landscape.
- ? Request for funding from the project after all the screening processes.

The landscape regeneration coalitions will be comprised of chiefs, local government councillors, government officials, local resource management groups, and community members. The Coalition Committees will be the link of the sub-projects with the main project and the approved sub-project proposals will form part of the sub-project agreement.

1.2.2 Participatory land use mapping by local rural community resource users (? and ?) and implementing partners

1.2.3 250 landscape management plans developed for landscape restoration of 350,000 ha (rangelands, shrub lands, grasslands and cropland) (58% of national LDN target) (ROLL+GEF) of land,.

1.2.4 By-laws for the implementation of 250 landscape management plans developed and enacted. Ideally a by-law per district should be developed.

The practical activities under component 1 include i) capacity building measures/training and work on behaviour change, ii) knowledge enhancement on root causes and possible remedies/awareness raising with relevant stakeholders, iii) landscape assessment by communities, iv) discussions on how livelihood activities could evolve and reduce their environmental footprint (e.g. shifting to more intensive farming, fodder production, small-scale irrigation/water harvesting, saving group formation and investment in small businesses), etc. It will be a people-centred approach, working with communities in selected landscapes. In addition, coalitions will support the line ministries and their officers to work effectively with related government ministries through landscape management plans.

Component 2: Landscape restoration

This component will enable investments in landscapes where an effective coalition has been established through the activities under component 1 with the aim of scaling up landscape restoration efforts on-the-ground. It involves the establishment of the Landscape Regeneration Fund, which will be designed and established in collaboration with several ROLL partners, such as IFAD, OFID, FAO, GoL as well as GEF, and is expected to be operational by the start of the second year of the project. Guiding principles for the design of the fund have been distilled from the experiences of IFAD and partners, including the GEF-funded Upper Tana Nairobi Water Fund, Greater Cape Town Water Fund and Okavango Fund.

The establishment of the Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF) will be in three phases i) Design phase year 1, ii) Regeneration opportunities fund Phase 1 (Y2-Y6); iii)Regeneration Opportunities Fund Phase 2 (Post-project). The main activities will include:

- Phase 1:** i) Design of the fund structure and development of the Investment manual; ii) Establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC); iii) Approval of the Fund by ROLL PSC and IFAD.
- Phase 2:** i) The focus will be on making investments following the Investment Manual and Investment Committee; ii) An investment committee is established comprising of PSC and investors representatives; iii) An evaluation of the impact and efficiency of Fund under different activities.
- Phase 3:** i) The Fund will continue to operate based on identified successful activities and investment strategies; ii) Governance of the Fund may evolve, reflecting the composition of Investors. iii) A detailed description of the Fund is also provided in section 7 of ROLL PIM.

The fund will cover the following activities: (i) Labour-based schemes, which will focus on reseedling, reforestation of severely degraded areas, following appropriate environmental protocols and (ii) physical infrastructure development mainly construction of water points, small-scale irrigation, erection of gabions and access roads. The fund aims to relieve immediate pressure in catchments experiencing high levels of poverty and land degradation. (iii) The project performance-based incentives will be aimed at ensuring smooth transition to more sustainable management practices.

Communities will be provided with investment opportunities once they are able to show agreed results. Incentives include: market opportunities to obtain higher prices for improved quality of livestock following the culling-exchange interventions to reduce flock-size; agro-forestry investments for income generation, such as orchards, fodder production at home-stead/field level; bio-trade/natural product development (bee keeping, dried indigenous herbs and medicinal plants, artisanal products); eco-tourism initiatives; payment for ecosystem services; small investments to increase income in local businesses to allow people shifting from extensive land-use to other livelihoods. In addition, incentives payments will be used to promote more sustainable agricultural practices, as well as interventions to balance agricultural income streams with off-farm income generating activities; outcome / performance-schemes that include the creation of alternative livelihood opportunities. The incentives for change in behaviour of communities and individuals are also partly a result from component 1 and the coalition building. Innovation is the principle of working on results-based approaches and incentivising change through collective planning from coalitions and paying against these plans. However, in more advanced cases, aspects of out-come based payments/incentives (potentially cash transfers) will be piloted. The results-based approach, involves all the communities in management, accountability in conducting a full assessment of their efforts on regeneration of landscapes, management and monitoring progress toward the achievement of expected results. The approach integrates lessons learned into management decisions and reporting on performance and in identifying the right actions and building the commitment necessary to ensure the effective implementation of measures to regenerate the landscapes and enhance the communities' livelihoods. Collective planning will promote partnership with communities in having natural resources linked to the value chain and encourage public private partnership. Collective planning also provides a form of social contracting among the community members and self-regulation, which are incentives for change. The collective planning with communities will improve governance through building stronger community institutions and increased community capacity, empowerment and voice, which can in turn provide a vehicle for strengthening local governance in other spheres of social and economic development. Collective planning builds a common vision for community members and strengthens the social capital.

(vi) Business development support for off-farm income-generating activities partially facilitated through existing projects. (v) Innovations and trials of new development approaches, revenue-sharing mechanisms in areas adjacent to reservoirs, and the potential introduction of unconditional cash transfer schemes.

A detailed analysis of Fund structure and governance procedures including where the Fund will be housed, expected funding sources, mechanisms and conditions tied to these sources was carried out. A Steering Committee comprising relevant stakeholders will furthermore be established during the design phase of the Fund, to ensure alignment, co-ownership and broad-based support. In terms of Fund governance, the right balance of independence and delegated power will be sought to allow for effective implementation, with accountability to various stakeholders. The governance structure and balance of powers will reflect the composition in funding sources. Finally, a transparent reporting mechanism will be established using clear, pre-agreed environmental and social performance indicators.

Sustainable landscape management investments will be achieved through two outcomes:

2.1 14,500 ha of landscapes under improved practices and sequestration of -9 901 543-9 tCO₂-eq benefiting 20,000 through the GEF funding, and 100,000 in total (ROLL+GEF) direct beneficiaries rural households of which 50% are women, with strengthened livelihoods and sources of income. (Please note that only the ROLL+GEF part has 50% female 50% male targets. The overall ROLL targets are 40% female and 60% male.)

The outputs contributing to the above outcome are:

2.1.1 On-farm and off-farm sustainable soil and water conservation measures (conservation agriculture, drip irrigation) implemented on 7000 ha of agricultural land;

2.1.2 Village-level ecosystem management activities carried out through SLM investments, e.g. village nurseries for reforestation of 7 5000 ha (forest and shrub land) and village level gully reclamation activities which will include the use of infrastructures like gabions to curb continued growth of gullies and the destruction of farmland.

2.2 Effective facility and fund for landscape restoration/regeneration available for 200 sustainable enterprises leading to scaling up of landscape restoration to 350,000 ha in total (ROLL+GEF).

The outputs contributing to the above outcomes are:

2.2.1 Facility^[7] set up to enable coalition building and provide incentives to smallholder farmers and pastoralists to adopt an integrated approach to managing the productive landscape.

The Facility is a mechanism that will enable coalition building and provide incentives to smallholder farmers and pastoralists to adopt an integrated approach to managing the productive landscape

2.2.2 Regeneration fund established and capitalized to support 200 sustainable enterprises

2.2.3 20 000 direct beneficiaries (50% women) engage in off-farm sustainable enterprises such as homestead gardening, bee-keeping and improved food value chains.

2.2.4 At least 400 million Lesotho Loti (USD 23 million) invested in regeneration of 350 000 ha (ROLL+GEF) of landscapes, channelled through the regeneration fund.

The types of intervention supported under this component will be determined by the extent of degradation of the ecosystem as well as demonstrated capacities to improve implementation of and collaboration for SLM (see the above-described graduation model) and will be guided by a robust, evidence-based decision-making agenda. The on-farm investments will contribute to improved food security for the target beneficiaries.

The ROLL+GEF resources will be earmarked for investing in activities that show great innovation potential for sustainable landscape management on the ground.

Together with the landscape coalitions and their landscape management plans instituted under component 1, component 2 aims at investing in on-the-ground landscape management activities. It thereby contributes to the aim of outcomes 1.2 and 2.1, coordinated and collaborative management and scaling up of restoration of landscapes.

A further emphasis will be on investment opportunities in off-farm enterprises that enhance both the beneficiaries' resilience and contribute to sustainable landscape management, such as homestead gardening, fodder and fertilizer production, fostering alternative energy options to reduce firewood use (solar stoves, biogas etc.), and strengthening food value chains such as through local food processing facilities (food system approach). Broadened livelihood opportunities aim at improving the socio-economic status of local resource users, thus reducing their dependence on and overexploitation of natural resources.

Since forest cover in Lesotho is scattered. The majority of work will be on grassland and rangeland. However, agroforestry has proven to work in some locations as a livelihood base and to assist reforestation. The Ministry of forestry also supports reforestation, and community level forest projects (micro-scale) which will be part of component 2, but will not be the main focus of the project. The 7500 ha indicator is an estimate of the area that is covered with trees albeit in the form of shrubs in some instances.

The funding sources of the regeneration fund have been elaborated in line with the detailed Cost Tab analysis that was conducted. The ROLL project also aims to leverage further funds during implementation. However, with more than USD 25 Million initial investment in the Fund from IFAD and OFID, the set objectives are realistic. The full ROLL design will cost the activities and their returns further through a robust Economic and Financial Analysis (EFA). A residual uncertainty remains, and will be listed in the overall project's risk matrix, with accompanying mitigating measures. Overall,

interventions are scalable, so if fewer funds are available the fund can operate, but its overall scale will be less, and equally it will be larger scale with more funds.

Component 3: Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

This component will incorporate a learning process to support the overall project objective while at the same time creating further collaborative links between local resource users and GoL agencies at district and national levels and to survey and evaluate their impacts on landscape and ecosystem health and the services these provide for their own livelihoods. It will also support the monitoring and evaluation of project outputs and outcome and, communication and knowledge sharing. The project level M&E system will include identified indicators for each output and outcome as well as means of measurement and verification. Outcome 3.1 aims at improved monitoring tools and procedures to generate LDN data, which enable measurement of environmental and socio-economic change via two outputs:

Outcome 3.1 Improved monitoring tools and procedures to generate LDN data, which enable measurement of environmental and socio-economic change.

3.1.1 Gender-sensitive landscape and improved livelihoods monitoring and reporting tools developed and institutionalized

3.1.2 250 landscape coalitions trained in participatory landscape monitoring and evaluation

Outcome 3.2 Project monitoring system operates effectively and, systematically provides information on progress, lessons learnt and informs adaptive management to ensure results

3.2.1 Five LDN information hubs operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices to primary and secondary stakeholders promoting gender equality and women's participation.

3.2.2 Curriculum for teaching at schools and universities integrating gender responsive landscape management aspects informed by ROLL+GEF project

Component 3 activities will be focused on assisting the GoL implementing agencies to integrate protocols and tools used for project M&E, e.g., in the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept, or elements of the Land Degradation Surveillance Framework (LDSF), into their agencies' M&E frameworks to align GoL and ROLL approaches for SLM. In parallel, beneficiaries and their local organizations will be trained to provide the GoL agencies with basic data sets for these monitoring protocols and therefore become an integrated part of the implementation and decision-making chain and appreciate the changes they initiate, e.g., through their early involvement in project activities such as baseline surveys for climate change vulnerabilities and socio-economic assessments. ROLL+GEF will not only focus on biophysical monitoring tools for analysing the graduation status of the landscape, but also allow for the monitoring of socio-economic parameters to assess the impact on livelihoods and formation of social capital.

Outcome 3.2 will broaden this knowledge management approach beyond the selected ROLL areas via five LDN information hubs linked to the targeted landscapes operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices to primary and secondary stakeholders (output 3.2.1). Emphasis will be on amending and influencing curricula at schools and universities to integrate ROLL experiences in the teaching of sustainable landscape management (output 3.2.2), so as to reach out to the Basotho youth to carry on and extend the project goals in time and scale. In line with south-south collaboration and exchange, visits to other relevant funds in the region following a learning routes approach are foreseen.

The project approach outlined above provides the backbone for further engagement with GoL entities and local stakeholders in a national dialogue and during the envisaged project preparation phase. Only the active engagement with and full involvement of local resource users and the partner organizations in charge of implementing the respective national policies can lead to a meaningful specification of activities on the ground that respond to needs, expectations and particular circumstances, including gender-based roles, responsibilities and discrepancies.

Assumptions

1. The rural communities in Lesotho capacitated in land management will result in improved knowledge, which will result in improved land management practices.
2. Counterpart funding from Government will be available to implement the project until the end.
3. Stakeholder buy-in promotes local communities' participation in the implementation of the project and jointly agreed upon monitoring and evaluation system.
4. Stakeholder engagements cultivates ownership of the project, clear and common understanding of sustainable use, both at Government agency and community level.

4) Alignment with GEF focal area

The proposed ROLL+GEF project is designed to particularly contribute to the goals of the land degradation focal area to *maintain or improve agro-ecosystem services and sustain rural livelihoods through integrated watershed and sustainable land management (LD 1-1)*. In alignment with LD1-1 the project will bring together local, regional and national stakeholders to jointly plan for and implement SLM measures, to reduce competing land uses and increasing the resilience in landscapes and their users. Specifically activities such as agroforestry, rangeland management, forest land restoration and landscape management which include gully reclamation, and conservation agriculture will be implemented. The project will also contribute to *reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape (LD 1-4)*. The LD 1-4 activities will be achieved by pooling resources for SLM and thus establishing a coordinated scheme for programming and financing integrated sustainable land management in the targeted landscapes and beyond. Precisely the proposed activities under LD-1-4 include labour-based schemes and development of physical infrastructures aimed at reducing pressure in catchments and (ii) support for off-farm income-generating activities such as beekeeping, dried indigenous herbs and medicinal plants, artisanal products; and payment for ecosystem services.

The ROLL+GEF intervention strategy contributes to achieving the LDN targets set by GoL for 2030, particularly target 2, rehabilitate 600 000 ha of degraded land to functionality by 2030. It is equally well-aligned to the LDN intervention strategies to achieve SDG target 15.3.1 set by the parties to the UNCCD, such as a) rationalizing engagement with partners, overcoming fragmentation and systematically tapping into increasing finance opportunities; b) designing and implementing bold LDN transformative projects that deliver multiple benefits; and c) tracking progress towards achieving the LDN targets. ROLL+GEF will be doing so by facilitating participatory land use planning and by contributing to resolve issues relating to competing land uses, while supporting smallholders' livelihoods; and by developing the capacities to sustainably continue these approaches to maintain functional landscapes providing ecosystem services for all its users.

Beyond the targeted focal areas under land degradation, ROLL+GEF will have important additional environmental co-benefits. In applying integrated watershed and sustainable land management approaches, the proposed project will contribute to the GEF biodiversity focal area strategy and the synergistic implementation of multiple (MEA) objectives and in particular SDG 15.3. Though biodiversity is not selected as a GEF focal area given that the local and regional nature of the biodiversity benefits is incongruous with GEF requirements for global environmental benefits, ROLL's landscape approach will indeed mainstream biodiversity concerns across priority sectors and policies and support the restoration of more resilient and biodiverse watershed areas for sustainable use, while addressing pressures and drivers for habitat and species protection.

The embedding of the proposed ROLL+GEF project into a broader GoL, IFAD and OFID-funded programme will strengthen its impact on fostering the resilience of smallholders, livelihoods, and natural and physical assets, also against the adverse effects of climate change. The combined landscape and livelihoods approach will, through the local processes, also be used to promote alternative and sustainable energy sources and advance local level knowledge that will broaden the beneficiaries' adaptive capacities.

Though not part of the GEF Impact Program on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, the project proponents see a strong connection with this IP and a possibility to learn from projects in this IP and contribute with knowledge generated under ROLL.

In addition to contributing to the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area Objectives, the project is aligned to the following UNCCD 2018 - 2030 Strategic Framework objectives:

- o *Strategic Objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality;*
- o *Strategic Objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations;*
- o *Strategic Objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems; and*
- o *Strategic Objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD*

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contribution from the baseline.

Scenario without GEF: Without GEF-support to the ROLL project, emphasis would be on supporting agricultural development and smallholders' livelihoods, without an integrated landscape management approach, targeting improved ecosystem services as the underlying foundation for resource users' livelihoods. Beneficiaries would mainly derive local environmental benefits from local planning and co-management of natural resources, without realizing global environmental benefits through integrated planning, policy and legal reforms and incorporation of community-led, district and national level natural resource management approaches. However, ROLL+GEF will not have strong focus on governance reform, but the focus will be on bottom-up work and coalition building and bringing about solutions and improvements at the local level, empowering communities and districts to address these

issues. Where necessary, national level regulations and their changes will become part of the small sub-component on institutional work under component 1. Without GEF support, a regional and global connection to best practices would be missing: globally used knowledge management on how to achieve the LDN targets and M&E tools for the LDSF would not be integrated into the national M&E strategies and local stakeholders would not be knowledgeable about the underlying concepts and how to meaningfully contribute their own expertise in providing data to these tools.

Scenario with GEF: The GEF financing will facilitate the integration of initiatives combating land degradation - extending integrated planning/management of natural resources to the landscape level - focusing on strategies and activities that generate benefits for the global environment contributing to the productive landscape and ensure food security for the targeted beneficiaries and achievement of LDN. The GEF support will be catalytic and ensure the establishment of the regeneration fund with the systems and structures in place for the operations and investment using the IFAD and OFID resources. The GEF resources will also provide seed capital for the fund. The ROLL+GEF resources will be used for connecting critical pieces of knowledge and innovation globally to local application through SLM coalitions, while influencing the enabling policy, legal and institutional framework in Lesotho to integrate lessons learned around local engagement in landscape management approaches. Proposed investment will be designed to strongly contribute to the national LDN goals, target the restoration and enhancement of key ecosystems and their services, while contributing to local resilience opportunities through improved food security and livelihoods diversification. The proposed alternative is based on a holistic and integrated landscapes and livelihoods approach with specific interventions in different ecosystems. Various projects aimed at landscape management have been piloted in Lesotho including integrated watershed management and integrated catchment management, but it has not been applied systematically before. While the water resources management sector has been interacting with landscape management issues for some time, the enabling environment was never able to catch up on these integrated approaches, such as food system thinking. The high-level decision to adopt landscape management therefore presents tangible opportunities for the solutions to the landscape degradation problem to be devised at the most appropriate level and for the specific environmental degradation problems to be well-understood before solutions are crafted.

6) Global environmental benefits

ROLL+GEF is designed to support the country's transformational agenda to achieve greater environmental and economic security. It will primarily support community-led investments in sustainable land and water management and catalyse associated behavioural change in specific sub-catchments and landscapes, while raising capacities to promote long-term climate resilient development and to achieve biodiversity co-benefits through applied and integrated SLWM approaches. ROLL+GEF will take a landscape management approach, informed by lessons learned on the interlinked challenges of poverty, ecosystem services, climate change, biodiversity conservation, institutional performance, governance, and community-based engagement and management. GEF support will be fully blended with GoL, IFAD and OFID resources to fund locally driven planning and

replicable, innovative investment action, and the following global environmental benefits in line with GEF 7 core indicators[8]:

? Area of land restored: 350,000 ha (ROLL+GEF) in the selected five districts contributing 58% to 650 000ha LDN national target. This encompasses 335, 000 ha (rangelands, shrub lands and grasslands) and 14,500 ha cropland and forested land [AT1] (with climate resilient practices). The restoration activities will include ? reforestation, promotion of climate resilient practices, improved agronomic practices, restocking and stoking exercise, reclamation of gullies

? Area of landscape under improved management practices: 14,500 ha (7 500 ha of restored forest and shrub land, 7 000 ha of restored agricultural land) in five districts of Lesotho. The improved management practices includes improved agronomic practices, conservation agriculture.

? Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated: -9 901 543 tCO₂e (calculated over 350 402 ha) covering a 20 year period. and Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model GLEAM-i) on grasslands, shrub lands, cropland and rangelands. The estimations of the emissions considers the sequestration, reduction and or avoidance that result from the implementation of the activities elaborated in section B.

? 20 000 beneficiaries (50% ? and 50% ?) are expected to benefit directly from GEF financed project activities.

The targets are estimated based on the available resources and experience from on-going and past projects in the country. Based on the core indicators, the restoration of the agricultural land is estimated at USD 1,170/ha while the restoration of rangelands and grasslands is estimated at USD 25/ ha. The agricultural land investment includes small-scale infrastructure such as irrigation, which justifies the higher per ha costs.

In addition the project will contribute to the elaboration of best practices and lessons to the global UNCCD knowledge platform on SLM managed by WOCAT to strengthen global knowledge exchange and land restoration.

Through these GEB, achieved through land restoration activities in agricultural lands, rangelands grasslands and shrub lands the project will further provide a substantial contribution to achieving Lesotho's SML and LDN targets, set to be by 2030:

- ? Improve productivity and Soil Organic Carbon stocks to 1% in all land classes;
 - ? Rehabilitate 600 000 ha of degraded land to functionality;
 - ? Halt the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes (by 2022);
 - ? Increase forest cover by 61,325 ha;
 - ? Reduce the rate of soil erosion and sealing (conversion to artificial land cover) by 20%.[9]⁹
-

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

The project presents a new and innovative approach for Lesotho to move away from narrow approaches to environmental conservation and particularly combating of land degradation towards an integrated landscape graduation model, catalysing more context-specific and locally-relevant integrated responses with a strong evidence and performance-based agenda. The innovative graduation model is expected to induce behavioural change among resource users and managers by building a sense of collective ownership and responsibility for sustainable management of the landscapes and their livelihoods in the process. Coalitions building and capacity development thereof, collective planning and target setting as well as performance based gradual graduation from the level of unsustainability to that of sustainability, with technical and financial support along the pathways, are expected to build the requisite robustness and resilience of the landscapes and livelihoods required for sustainability. Integrated capacity development across the board and coalitions building are expected to forge conducive relationships among resource users and managers for sustainability.

The innovative Regeneration Fund does not present landscapes and livelihood sustainability opportunities for Lesotho only, but also for the entire Southern Africa region, and beyond. The Fund will be available to support sustainable landscapes investments within the project areas even beyond the project lifetime. In addition, the fund will be extended beyond the project areas in Lesotho to replicate successful lessons from the project, thus ensuring scalability. Thus, ROLL+GEF presents a concrete opportunity for an empowerment of both land users and local level authorities (e.g., district council and chieftaincies) to directly participate in defining the problems and crafting solutions to them jointly with the technical institutions that are responsible to lead the process ? via the 250 landscape regeneration coalitions the project will establish. This is key for ensuring sustainability and ownership of solutions at the local level, and for facilitating knowledge, skills and capacity development, sowing the seeds for increased investments in sustainable land management and environmental stewardship. All components are key for supporting local-level knowledge creation, skills sharing and capacity development for local resource users, communities and authorities for sustainable management of natural resources, as well as for mainstreaming these into national policies through dialogue processes, best practice examples, broad coalition building and knowledge management for integrated monitoring.

The proposed ROLL+GEF project is adding an important dimension by working towards further mainstreaming and advocating for a holistic landscape graduation model with focus on the local planning levels. Coupled with increased capacity and better, integrated advisory services for landscape management, the ROLL+GEF project will support an enabling environment that consolidates investments on the ground with the view to ensure sustainability and scaling up of project outcomes. In terms of investment, the proposed GEF resources will contribute to both knowledge-related aspects as well as select activities that enhance capacity for production and contribute to the restoration of landscape and ecosystem functions that will positively impact key ecosystems for production and habitats for biodiversity. The GEF financing will provide support to capacity development, joint planning at the community level and increased awareness about the global environment at the local level. Together with the knowledge management approach described below, this will provide for good replicability and scalability beyond the initially targeted project areas.

[1] The lack of trees is more of a geo-botanic effect rather than deforestation. The country is predominantly a grassland area. composed of Mostly of *Oxisols soils*, characterized by soil erosion, low pH, and extreme deficiency of Phosphorus, physical problems such as difficult land topography, and the impacts of the environmentally degrading soil degradation. These soils, which have both management and inherent fertility problems, influence the productivity of the land, thus resulting in sparsely vegetated landscapes or open grasslands.

[2] Oxisols are very highly weathered soils that are found primarily in the intertropical regions of the world. These soils contain few weatherable minerals and are often rich in Fe and Al oxide minerals. Most of these soils are characterized by extremely low native fertility, resulting from very low nutrient reserves, and high phosphorus retention by oxide minerals, and low cation exchange capacity (CEC). Most nutrients in Oxisol ecosystems are contained in the standing vegetation and decomposing plant material. Despite low fertility, Oxisols can be quite productive with inputs of lime and fertilizers.

[3] A 1979 study argued, ?ten of the 25 soil series described for Lesotho are classified as highly erodible, but most of the gully erosion (dongas) actually occurs in the duplex or clay pan soils. Also, much of [the crop land] is so highly eroded that it should be returned to permanent cover with only very limited grazing permitted. See Turner, 2003 op cit

[4] Underlying the ROLL theory of change is the work of scholars on the governance of common property resources to address the tragedy of the commons (Elinor Ostrom), landscape approaches to environmental and socio-economic development (e.g. Sayer et al. <https://www.pnas.org/content/110/21/8349>) and behavioral aspects of land use (e.g. Lambin et al.; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0959378001000073>)

[5] The social performance of an organization (whether a private-for-profit firm, cooperative or NGO) comprises the relations of the organization with its clients and with other stakeholder groups. The measurement of social performance involves investigating the structure of an organization (i.e., mission, ownership, management principles, relation to and care for its staff) and its conduct in the market and local and wider community (services, products, market behavior, other relations with clients and other stakeholders, incl. community and social/political organizations).

[6] ROLL+GEF in this document refers to the primary baseline project, Lesotho Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) project, which was designed by IFAD and GoL, plus additional investment with GEF resources

[7] The Facility is a mechanism that will enable coalition building and provide incentives to smallholder farmers and pastoralists to adopt an integrated approach to managing the productive landscape

[8] At this early stage of project proposal development, GEB indicators can be only approximate. Project preparation activities are particularly geared toward substantiating these indicators in close collaboration with the envisaged stakeholders. They will therefore evolve alongside the proposal in the project preparation phase.

[9] *Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting in the Kingdom of Lesotho*, Lesotho LDN TSP Country Report, 2019, p. 12.

[AT1]How many ha of each type of land will be restored?

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The ROLL project will work in 'landscapes', which are defined as smaller areas within a sub-catchment, directly associated with and used by a village or a cluster of villages. Those landscapes can include a variety of different natural resource areas, such as grazing/range areas, forests, croplands, wetlands and conservation areas. In any given landscape there are multiple users with different use rights and responsibilities (both communal and familial/individual) which determine the access and regulate use. The users will be mobilized through project interventions to work on landscape and livelihood regeneration. The entry-point for project implementation will be coalitions in villages, with the possibility of inter-village coalitions where landscapes may be used by people from different villages.

The project will take place in landscapes primarily in Lesotho's highlands and foothill areas, with strong impact on the lowlands adjacent to the foothill areas. The ROLL activities in the initial phase will be focused on five districts that incorporate 16 prioritised sub-catchments (See Table 3 and Annex D for the Project Area Map with geo-coordinates).

Given the participatory nature of the project, the element of coalition building between different stakeholders and the involvement of a multitude of actors, a multi-layer demand-driven approach will be implemented. Based on the in-country discussions amongst proposed project stakeholders, the following selection criteria have been determined: (i) Land degradation hotspots according to soil erosion maps produced by the EO4SD climate resilience cluster (funded by the European Space Agency), (ii) poverty vulnerability, (iii) current & existing developmental initiatives and interventions taking place, (iv) socio-economic aspects and livelihoods support, (v) relevance for national biodiversity. Based on these indicators, the pipeline of project landscape clusters in the table has been developed. The selection of landscapes will be done in phases with the first phase being selected at design and more landscapes will be selected during implementation.

Table 3: ROLL project target districts, constituencies, councils and landscape clusters

DISTRICT	CONSTITUENCY	COUNCIL	LANDSCAPES	SUB-CATCHMENT CODE (LATITUDE, LONGITUDE)
Thaba-Tseka	Mants'onyane	Denezulu	Mants'onyane	SC 28 (-29.514390, 28.346134)
	Mashai	Schong-Hong	Mashai	SC 35 (-29.679205, 28.842122)
	Thaba-Tseka	Mohlanapeng	Litsoetsoe	SC 35 (-29.679205, 28.842122)
		Bokong	Kolbere-khohlo nt'o	SC 30 (-29.507368, 28.594969)
Leribe	Maliba-Mats'o	Mphorosane	Lejone-Matsoku	SC 17 (-29.162990, 28.468005)
	Thaba-Phats'oa	Bolahla	Tsoinyane	CC 6 (-28,956950, 28,139799)
	Mphosong	Bolahla	Koasang-Mphosong Tsoinyana	CC 9 (-29.015176, 28.310463)
Berea	Khafung	Phuthiatsana	Ha Nts'ang	CC 60 (-29,142958, 27,811089)
	Thupa-Kubu	Senekale	Nchela-Matholoana	CC 23 (-29,283500, 27,870646)
			Lekokoaneng-Souru	CC23 (-29,283500, 27,870646)
	Mosalemane	Makeoane	Mamatebele	CC 13 (-29,141111, 28,073731)
Qacha's nek	Tsoelike	Tsoelikana	Mosuo	SC 40 (-29.846657, 29.065542)
			Mapakising	SC 40 (-29.846657, 29.065542)
	Qacha's Nek	Qanya	Matee	SC 47 (-29,994256, 28,901858)
	Lebakeng & Qacha's nek	Qanya & Ntsupe	Milikane	SC 48 (-30,054373, 28,549683)

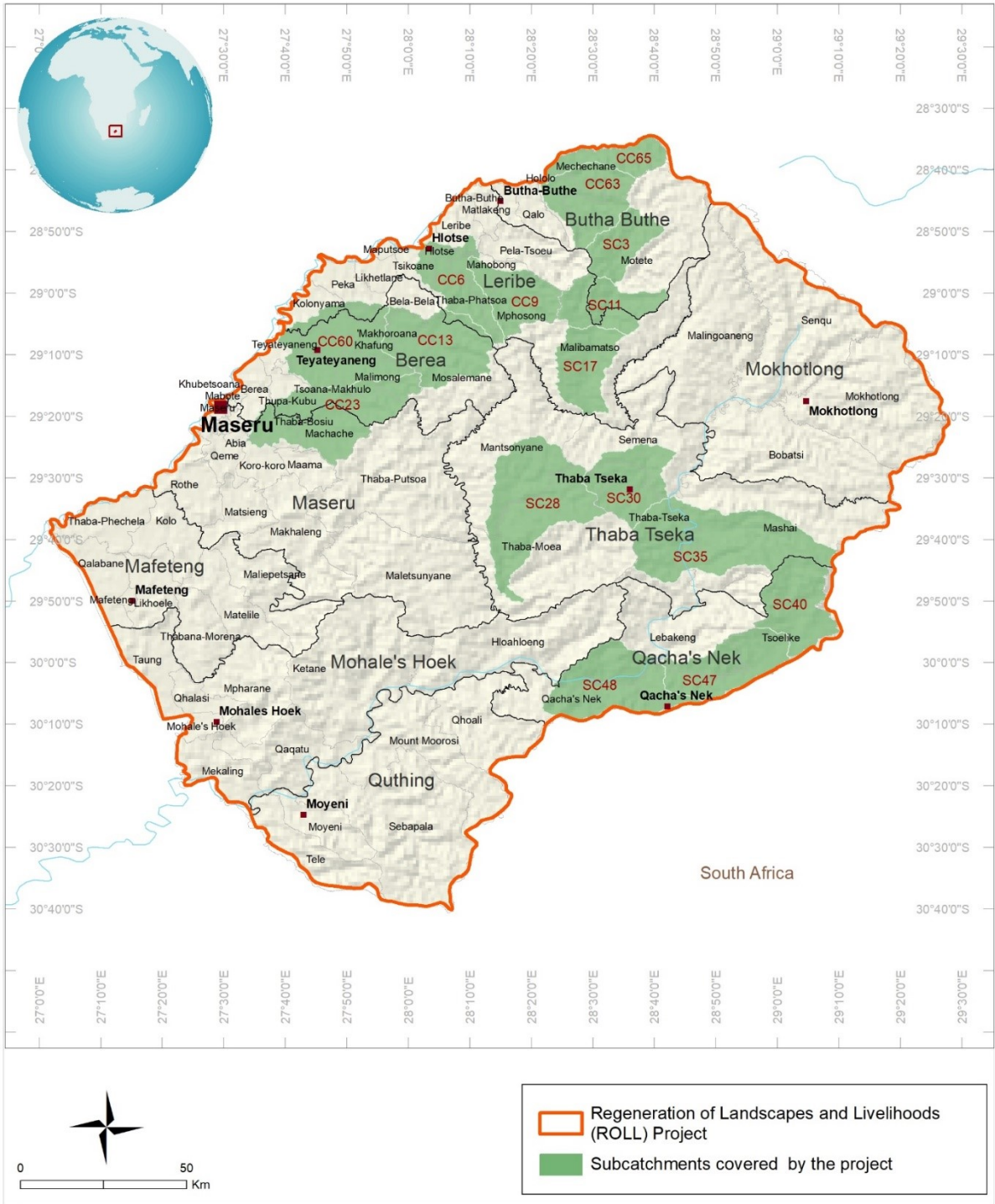
Botha-Bothe	Mechechane	Ngoajane	Qholaqhoe	CC 65 (-28,644710, 28,610778)
	Hololo	Likila	Marakabei-Hololo	CC 63 (-28.752881, 28.486457)
	Motete	Nqoe	Motinkane	SC 03 (-28.875640, 28.580371)
			Matsoku	SC11 (-29.017080, 28.533944)

The GEF resources and associated objectives are mainstreamed across these landscapes but will be focused on specific SLM- and integrated resource management activities, which ensure GEF financing is effectively realized in areas where they are most needed to achieve global environmental benefits (GEBs). The integrated and participatory nature of the project strategy nevertheless requires close collaboration, interaction and selection with local representatives as well as with core GoL co-executing partners such as MFRSC and MTEC, or the MEA National Coordinating Committee. In addition, landscape selection will also be influenced by coordination efforts with other national partners and international agencies funding the overall ROLL project (IFAD, OFID, FAO).

The GEF resources will in addition to the five districts initiate activities in the form of studies and consultations in Mokhotlong and Quthing incorporating national biodiversity hotspots captured in Table 4. The activities will include Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) in Letsa-la-Letsie to inform the scoping of the works required at the site in order to avoid delays during project implementation.

Table 4: Additional sites where activities will be initiated with GEF resources

District	Constituency	Council	Landscapes	Sub-Catchment Code (Latitude, Longitude)
Mokhotlong	Senqu	Mphokojoane	Oxbow/ Senqu Sources/ Mokhotlong Sources	To be determined following criteria assessments and consultations with partners active in the area
Quthing	Qhoali	Mphaki	Letsa-la-Letsie	To be determined following ESIA



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

Map compiled by IFAD | 01-09-2021

1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Public Consultation

The implementing agency of the ROLL+GEF project has the responsibility to effectively engage stakeholders in achieving the project objectives. Public Consultation helps in achieving effective stakeholder involvement and promoting greater awareness and understanding of issues so that the project is carried out more effectively.

A variety of consultation techniques will be used to build relationships with stakeholders, gather information from stakeholders, consult with stakeholders, and disseminate project information to stakeholders.

The guidelines for public consultation include, among others, a requirement that major elements of the consultation program should be timed to coincide with significant planning and decision-making activities in the project cycle. Ideally, public consultations should be undertaken during (i) the preparation of the EA terms of reference; (ii) the carrying out of an EA; and (iii) government review of an EA report.

The first step will be to hold public consultations with the local communities, MoSD staff and all other interested/affected parties during project inception. These consultations will be aimed at briefing the communities/staff about the project activities, how the activities will be carried out and what sectors of the environment are likely to be impacted.

The stakeholder consultation process is being complicated by the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic which is limiting the project team's movements and consultations; thus, full scale site visits cannot be conducted. For this reason, two approaches will be presented, one to be used under normal

circumstances and the other under emergency situations. This is to allow the engagement processes to be conducted under all situations.

Stakeholder Consultation Under normal conditions

All things being equal the techniques that will be used for the continuous consultation process for this project include i) potential project site visits, ii) One on one meetings with key stakeholders, iii) Focus group meetings with stakeholders and MoSD staff, and iv) Administration of Questionnaires to all key stakeholders. The appropriate application of these techniques is further expounded in Table 5 below:

Table?5. Stakeholder engagement techniques

No.	CONSULTATION TECHNIQUE	APPROPRIATE APPLICATION OF THE TECHNIQUE
1.	Correspondence (Phone, Emails)	? Distribute information to Government officials, NGOs, Local Government, and organisations/agencies. ? Invite stakeholders to meetings and follow-up
2.	One-on-one meetings	? Seeking views and opinions ? Enable stakeholder to speak freely about sensitive issues. ? Build personal relationships. ? Record meetings
3.	Formal meetings	? Present the Project information to a group of stakeholders. ? Allow group to comment ? opinions and views. ? Build impersonal relation with high level stakeholders. ? Disseminate technical information. ? Record discussions
4.	Public meetings	? Present Project information to a large group of stakeholders, especially communities ? Allow the group to provide their views and opinions. ? Build relationship with the communities, especially those impacted. ? Distribute non-technical information. ? Facilitate meetings with presentations, PowerPoint, posters etc. ? Record discussions, comments, questions.
5.	Focus group meetings	? Present Project information to a group of stakeholders (8-15 people groups) ? Allow stakeholders to provide their views on targeted baseline information. ? Build relationships with communities. ? Record responses
6.	Project website	? Present project information and progress updates ? Disclose GRM and other relevant project documentation
7.	Project leaflet	? Brief project information to provide regular update. ? Site specific project information.
8.	Surveys	? Gathering opinions and views from individual stakeholders ? Gather baseline data. ? Record data ? Develop a baseline database for monitoring impacts

9.	Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Present project information to a group of stakeholders ? Allow a group of stakeholders to provide their views and opinions. ? Use participatory exercises to facilitate group discussions, brainstorm issues, analyse information, and develop recommendations and strategies. ? Record responses.

Stakeholder Consultation Under Pandemic Conditions

Under pandemic conditions the techniques that will be employed for the continuous consultation process for this project will be the same as under normal situation only those face-to-face engagements will be limited; site visits will also be limited and more electronic communication will be used. The strategy will include the following:

- ? limited site visits and observing pandemic protocols at the sites.
- ? limited face to face interviews observing pandemic protocols in place.
- ? Selecting Key stakeholders and using them as the representative sample.
- ? limited physical completion of Questionnaires, using more electronic means to administer questionnaires.
- ? limited focus group meetings and observing pandemic protocols.
- ? more of Virtual Meetings (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, etc.).

The consultation process will be continuous throughout the life of the project and will be used as a means of checks and balances for the proper implementation of the project and adaptive management. Thus, the process will employ a technically and culturally appropriate approach which involves identifying the concerned/affected stakeholders, soliciting their views, and continuously checking if their views are being taken care of as the project implementation progresses. A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan is provided in Annex I.

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

This CEO Endorsement request document is the result of various on-site engagements between April 2021 and June 2021, engaging with core GoL agencies (Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MRSFC), Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC) and their extension officers on the ground in six different landscapes. Here, input and expertise of local resource users and stakeholders was equally sought to receive input to and feedback on the initial project ideas. Specific areas of attention arising from the consultation of local stakeholders included (i) the need for alignment and buy-in of both local government and traditional authorities when planning and implementing landscape interventions; (ii) the need for sustained and coordinated support by various government agencies and other development partners and (iii) the value of frequent follow-up from those partners and the challenges in mobilizing such support due to lack of transport and budgets. Both the overall project intervention strategy and the major thrusts of the PPG are rooted in full stakeholder engagement and participation from local and community to district and national levels, including not only individual stakeholders and their already existing community-level organizations, but also strongly encouraging the foundation of new resource management associations to act as mediators and catalysts for localized sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation. The project strategy builds

on a strong capacity development component to provide knowledge and means for local resource users to engage in sustainable land management, and to further learn about monitoring and assessing change in the broader ecosystem landscape so as to provide government agents with much needed data and insight for a well-informed M&E system on land use planning and management.

The key Government Ministries (Table 6) who will be project executing agencies are: Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC). The other ministries that will implement some activities and thus are not at the same level as the two co-executing agencies are: Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship Affairs (MLGC); Ministry of Water (MoW) - Department of Water Affairs; Ministry of Development Planning (MDP); and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS). In recognition of the cross-sectoral nature of landscape management issues, the project will adopt an inclusive approach, bringing together multi-disciplinary expertise for a common purpose through regular consultations, workshops and seminars. Last but not least is the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation (MGYSR) which is a leading ministry on issues of gender and youth empowerment and inclusion. It will be handy ensure the engagement of MGYSR given its technical expertise on women and youth empowerment initiatives.

Table 6 Key Government Ministries and Stakeholders

STAKEHOLDER	RESPONSIBILITY	ROLE IN PROJECT
Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MRSFC)	MFRSC is composed of three-line departments: Forestry, Range Resources Management and Soil and Water Conservation. Its core mandate is to protect and rehabilitate the physical environment through forestry, management of rangeland resources, soil erosion and harvesting of water. The Ministry also ensures an enabling legal and regulatory framework to enhance sustainable natural resource management and food security. There is a three-tier structure: National Grazing Association committee (eNGA) at the national level; District Grazing Association Committee (DGA) at the district level and Grazing Association Committee (GA) at community level.	The MFRSC is an executing agency together with the Ministry of Tourism Environment and Culture (MTEC). MFRSC will lead the baseline and the GEF project in close coordination with MTEC. MFRSC will house a Project Management Unit that will focus on the coordination of effort and effective project delivery on a daily basis.
Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC)	The MTEC has a coordinating role in ensuring and addressing environmental issues in Lesotho and will be a critical partner in ensuring this proposed project will achieve the intended environmental benefits.	The MTEC is a co-executing agency together with MRFSC that will lead on the GEF aspects and ensure the mainstreaming of sustainable management and the generation of global environmental benefits (GEBs)

Ministry of Development Planning (MDP)	The MDP is the chairing Ministry of the National Steering Committee for the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. It has a coordination role towards line ministries and development partners on development projects and thereby an important player to move towards integrated landscape management approaches and actions. The MDP furthermore houses the Bureau of Statistics.	The MDP will play a coordination role among line Ministries and development partners on approaches and activities for landscape management.
Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship Affairs (MLGC)	The Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship Affairs promotes, deepens and consolidates a sustainable and effective system of local governance for improved service delivery. The ministry supports and strengthens local councils in providing quality services which include sustainable land management and administration. At district level there are District Councils (DCs), and Community Councils (CCs). The functions of the local Councils include the regulation, control and administration of natural resources, land allocation, grazing rights, fire protection, environment, forestry and agricultural improvement and village water supplies. Councils can establish committees, including a Finance Committee.	The MLGC will act as one the principal technical partners that will provide expertise in terms of sustainable land management and administration. MLGC will also play a project coordinating role together with MoW and MAFS for the local level implementation.
Ministry of Communication Science and Technology (MCST) - Appropriate Technology Section (ATS)	ATS is a department in MCST that produces innovative cooking and drying devices and equipment among other things	(MCST) - Appropriate Technology Section (ATS) Provision of technical support on and supply of energy and time saving technologies
Ministry of Water (MoW)	The Ministry of Water comprises the Departments of Water Affairs (Wetlands Unit), the Rural Water Supply (DRWS) and the Water Commission. MoW is responsible for developing national policies on Water and management of water resources. The DWA is responsible for general administration of the water sector, as well as data collection, and analysis. The Department of Rural Water supply (DRWS) is mandated to supply water to rural communities in Lesotho. The Commissioner of Water is mandated to promote coordination of programs and activities within the water sector.	The MoW will play a role in supporting the project activities as well as provision of advisory and technical knowledge on development on water and management of water resources

<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS)</p>	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security comprises the Departments of Livestock Services, Crops, Research and Agricultural Planning. The Ministry's core mandate is to develop national policies on agriculture and food security, management of crop and livestock issues, promote irrigation efficiency and water conservation in crop production, and manage agricultural research, information and extension services. The Department of Agricultural Planning serves as the National Livestock Policy Focal Point (or the hub). The Agronomy and Horticulture Divisions of the Crops Department of MAFS also have direct links to irrigation development.</p>	<p>The MAFS will contribute to knowledge management, the development of policies related to the land management and technical advice on land and water management practices.</p>
<p>Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports & Recreation (MGYSR)</p>	<p>This is the Ministry, which is the custodian of gender and youth issues among others. It is responsible for women and youth empowerment through policy development and strategic planning.</p>	<p>Technical support on gender and youth related issues. May provide guidance and support on empowerment initiatives for women and youth in the project areas</p>
<p>Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA)</p>	<p>LHDA, which has jurisdiction over certain catchment areas directly feeding into the water reservoirs, is overseen by the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission, a bi-national body representing the GOL and Government of South Africa. The LHDA was set up as an implementing body for the Lesotho Highlands Development Project in Lesotho, including the social, environmental and economic developments of the project. They have recently engaged in projects to better manage the catchments to preserve water resources and prevent soil erosion leading to siltation of the dams they manage.</p>	<p>The LDHA will play a role as a major implementing partner and will assist in the management of catchments.</p>
<p>Villages, smallholders, pastoralists</p>	<p>The community members, smallholders and pastoralists are the target group who will benefit from the project. They can be affected directly or indirectly by the project.</p>	<p>The community members, smallholders and pastoralist will play a role in selection of activities, designing and implementation of interventions for restoration and management of landscapes.</p>

Community-based Organizations (CBOs)	The community-based organizations are non-profit organizations on a local and national level facilitating community efforts for community development	The CBOs will assist with planning implementation, monitoring social and economic development activities and provide technical support to the project strategy to catalyse behavioural change.
Private sector	The responsibility of the private sector will be at three levels i) entrepreneurs that start new businesses ii) linked to the extension services iii) usage and payment of ecosystem services	The corresponding roles of the three levels of private sector include i) entrepreneurship ii) technical support iii) co-financing. See section 2 on Private Sector below for additional information.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Women in Lesotho, like in many other developing countries, are disadvantaged in many respects due to their limited rights, low social and economic status as opposed to men. Limited job opportunities in Lesotho has resulted in large numbers of women migrating in search of jobs mainly as domestic workers in the neighbouring South Africa or textile industries in urban areas. This highly threatens the structure of the family and also shifts traditional gender roles and balance back home mostly to men or to a large extent elderly women left to care for young children[1]. On the other hand, some women like the ones in the areas proposed for this project, may however be prevented by their gender roles from seeking employment outside the home thus being forced to remain in poverty, which also mostly affects women especially those heading households either due to bereavement or unmarried, single ones.

Despite most women being highly educated, their political participation and engagement in decision-making positions is also quite limited with low numbers represented in politics as well as in other positions of decision-making at all levels. This may be a result of distinctive gender roles where a woman's place is said to be in the home while men go out to venture or that women have the fear of intruding in activities that are traditionally predetermined as men's by the patriarchal society, which also does not encourage women by not increasing their representation quotas in parliament[2].

In 2006, Lesotho's parliament passed *The Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act*, meant to economically empower women and protect their rights. However, this is still just in theory as most women are still required to get permission or consent from their husbands for example when applying for loans from local banking institutions

Lastly, another challenge threatening gender equality is gender-based violence and harassment suffered by women both at home and at workplaces as well as in community development initiatives[3].

The gender-related issues affecting women at national level also affect women in the communities. According to the community consultations conducted, women in the proposed project areas/landscapes mostly engage in less economically demanding and profitable farming activities such as rearing of small or short-term livestock compared to men who rear cattle, sheep and goats which are more profitable. Additionally, they largely engage in subsistence agriculture, predominantly vegetable production due to their limited access to economic resources. They also have inadequate access to economic resources such as land (they are still less favoured in inheritance issues also). Furthermore, women also lack freedom to migrate in search of employment compared to men due to their role as caretakers of the household and less decision-making power, thus remaining the poorest in society.

It appeared during consultations that household and child care roles are fully entrusted to women resulting in their heavy workloads exacerbated by travelling long distances in search of both firewood and water to prepare food for their spouses and children. These domestic roles not only take much of the women's time and increase their workload, they also rob them of the opportunity to engage in more economically profitable and development activities when compared to their male counterparts. Consultations also revealed that female headed-households are more affected by poverty than male-headed ones. Though most females are less favoured for many opportunities compared to males, boy children in most visited areas seem to be more disadvantaged by being deprived of education as they are expected to look after their household's livestock instead of schooling, despite the availability of free primary education in Lesotho.

Another challenge that goes together with gender issues in Lesotho is high youth unemployment. Youth in the country are affected by lack of opportunities for education, especially higher education and skills development affecting to a large extent the rural-based youth[4], owing to the high costs of post-primary and tertiary education. Vocational education schools' coverage is limited to Maseru and a few urban areas making it difficult for rural children to access it. Youth unemployment is also a cause for concern in the visited proposed ROLL project areas. The interviewed youth alluded to lack of technical and financial support as another challenge to their efforts for improving their livelihoods.

Access to and control over natural resources has a strong gender dynamic to it. In the context of Lesotho, where land degradation is widespread and has obvious direct impacts on people's ability to make a living, the costs of a less productive environment are significant. This is complicated by the fact that poverty is particularly acute among women and female-headed households, and inequality between the sexes is largely rooted in a culture of patriarchy. The project incorporates gender mainstreaming into project activities, and will implement activities (gender-sensitive sustainable land use schemes, homestead gardens, the provision of alternative energy sources etc.) that ensure the gender dynamics of natural resources management in the Lesotho context are fully integrated into the project.

Like women, youth in Lesotho, who constitute about 40% of the population are also somehow disadvantaged. A significant proportion (15%) of the youth aged between 25 and 29 years are unemployed owing partly to limited private sector opportunities leaving the government as the main employer. Fewer job opportunities are available in rural areas. This results in high migration of youth to urban centres and the neighbouring South Africa thus leaving older people to perform farming activities and child care in the rural areas

Male children are also deprived of education as they are expected to tend their households' or employers' livestock. As a result, they have lower educational attainment than their female peers. This puts herd boys vulnerable to a combination of educational, economic and social exclusion that often compounded an existing vulnerability being orphaned mainly by HIV and AIDS and extreme poverty (over 50% of children below 18years). Youth lack access to land, finance, skills development and training in business management. The Lesotho National Youth Policy (2005) which is currently under review explicitly recognizes the importance of environmental awareness among youth and their responsibilities towards sustainable natural resource management to increase their incomes, nutrition and better livelihoods.

The project document and this CEO Endorsement Request include a full, costed gender action plan, ensuring that the project results framework has clear gender-disaggregated indicators and targets, and that the M&E plan and budget include activities and items that contribute directly to the implementation of the gender action plan. By the end of the project, it is expected that women and youth will be better empowered with knowledge and skills gained through training and capacity development, and have an improved legal basis to land tenure, hence more certainty for engaging in sustainable land management.

ROLL+GEF Gender Action Plan (GAP)

This gender action plan (GAP) forms a basis for operationalizing and mainstreaming gender into the ROLL project. It outlines the processes and actions to be undertaken by the project for integrating specific, measurable gender actions and elements throughout the project with the aim of also enhancing the project's effectiveness and expected benefits in an accountable manner.

Based on the findings of the consultations the gender action plan will guide the planning and implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment, promoting activities throughout the lifetime of this gender-sensitive project. As already done, the project identification process involved a gender analysis among other issues. This resulted in a project identification document with clear targets that will ensure gender equality and mainstreaming throughout the project. A more elaborate gender-

analysis will be included in the project baseline studies for use in the project evaluation and impact assessment.

Based on the results of the consultations the profiling of targeted communities will also highlight gender differences in poverty levels, livelihoods and other challenges affecting the community.

The project design process also took into consideration the community consultation results especially the gender analysis for better identifying priority and resources needs of women in the targeted landscapes. By so doing equitable targeting will be undertaken which ensures women and youth empowerment and gender mainstreaming in the ROLL project components, budgeting and execution of activities. Youth participation and involvement will also be incorporated. The planned gender mainstreaming and targeting strategies will be refined and incorporated into the implementation manuals to ensure a gender-sensitive project implementation.

The project will create awareness and promote gender equality across all implementation structures as well as among the project beneficiaries as required. Women's participation will also be ensured and encouraged in the all-inclusive participatory engagements of communities in the early stages of implementation. In addition, women's and men's differentiated needs, relationships, power structures, priorities, interests and contributions among others will be assessed for incorporation into the project in a gender-responsive manner. Gender mainstreaming will start as early as during recruitment of project staff and services providers, where gender balance will be ascertained. Partners with experience and proven commitment in gender issues will also be integrated for collaboration to help advocate for, instill and promote gender equality in the project. It will also be imperative to involve the Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation (MGYSR) and Gender Links Lesotho from the on-set of the project.

The project will utilise relevant intervention strategies for addressing various categories of identified gender-gaps/inequalities. The gaps are classified into categories as follows; inadequate access to resources; low women's participation; division of labour/women's workload/lack of time; decision making power and leadership and status of women and rights. The GAP is categorised into three main actions namely; i) Awareness Creation & Promotion of Gender Equality; ii) Women Empowerment; and iii) Creation of an Enabling Environment based on these identified gaps.

The GAP categorises intervention strategies into; **i)** capacity building and skills development at both institutional and community levels; **ii)** promoting gender equality and women's participation, leadership and involvement in decision-making and governance; **iii)** creation of an enabling environment to remove all constraints that hinder women from fully participating in development initiatives especially landscape and livelihood regeneration activities and; **iv)** facilitation of equitable access to financial support and access to other economic resources including land.

The project will thus introduce women-friendly energy, water and time-saving as well as climate-smart technologies for use at both household and project levels to enable them to partake in the project activities. The budget includes procurement and supply of technologies/devices to the beneficiaries and training on the use of the provided technologies. The baseline study will include a section on gender. This will facilitate better inclusion of women in the ROLL+GEF while also taking all possible issues

that need to be addressed to ensure the gender sensitivity of the project. In addition, the M&E and knowledge management systems will take into account sex-disaggregation of data collection, analysis and interpretation as well as results presentation.

The mid-term and end-evaluations will also assess project impact on gender equality and women empowerment using relevant assessment tools such as the Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) or equivalent

As already indicated in prior project documents half (50%) of the proposed project beneficiaries in the project will be women. During community engagements and selection processes, efforts will be made to ensure women are encouraged to participate. The consultations already indicated that women in the project catchments already operate different types of grouping from savings associations (commonly known as stokvels) to burial societies. All these present a pool from which women-led coalitions can be formulated/selected to ensure the 50% women participation.

Youth participation will also be highly encouraged and ensured through the introduction and selection of youth-friendly and attractive project activities so that the youth will be interested in joining. Project-relevant income generating activities will be designed for youth, such as promotion of youth entrepreneurship for employment creation for youth. This project will create interest for rural youth to stay in their homes with possible economic opportunities it brings along.

Costed Gender and Youth Action Plan

Table 7 ROLL+GEF Gender Action Plan Costs

ACTIONS	ACTIVITY	TARGET	RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BUDGET US\$ '000	TIME FRAME
Awareness Creation & Promotion of Gender Equality	Workshops for awareness creation for promotion of balanced workload between men and women	Men & women	Project Staff MGYSR Service Providers Consultants	50,000	Project planning & implementation
	Workshops for raising awareness on women empowerment, gender-based violence (GBV) and early marriage	Men & women	Project Staff PMU MGYSR Service Providers Consultants	50,000	Project planning & implementation
Capacity-building and women empowerment	Training on income generation activities and entrepreneurship	Women & youth	PMU Project Staff MGYSR	20,000	Project planning & implementation

Creation of an Enabling Environment	Women's Workload analysis	Women	PMU Project Staff Consultants	15,000	Project planning & implementation
	Supply of labour/time water and energy saving as well as climate-smart technologies. The budget includes procurement and supply of technologies/devices to the beneficiaries and training on the use of the provided technologies.	Women	PMU Project Staff Service Providers	80,000	Project planning & implementation
	Cash for work -	Women and youth	PMU Project Staff	To be determined (TBD)	Project planning & implementation
	Financial support for income generating activities	Women and youth	PMU Project Staff Service Providers	To be determined (TBD)	Project planning & implementation
Total				215,000	

[1] World Bank, Kingdom of Lesotho: Country Partnership Framework 2016-2020

[2] Thabang Ramakhula, In but out in Lesotho: Women's Representation Dilemma (Policy Brief)

[3] Gender Links ? Lesotho Strategy 2016-2020

[4] World Bank, Lesotho: Systematic Country Diagnostic

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

The private sector in Lesotho will play an important role in this ROLL+GEF project, at three levels. The first level is that of the various rural entrepreneurs that need to adopt better management practices. These comprise the smallholder farmers and herders, but equally the larger cattle owners who are often not locally present and can be regarded as proper medium and larger sized businesses in the Lesotho context. The current extensive enterprise systems, e.g. for livestock based on grazing, need to evolve into sustainably intensified systems. This requires a thorough understanding of the implications on the business model, but also on the needs for training and inputs to make that transition. Furthermore, new business opportunities are expected to arise from the project, such as fodder production enterprises or higher-value crop sales.

A second level is that of private service providers linked to extension. Though GoL has a strong mandate and significant presence on the ground to provide extension services, there are naturally limitations to the system, as well as that there are solid reasons for relying on private service providers in certain cases. Particularly in landscapes impacted by hydropower development, there are new opportunities arising that require specific and intensive technical support that is best provided by private service providers.

A third level is that of private sector usage and payment for the ecosystem services secured by this project, particularly water resources. The project will explore the potential to raise private sector contributions to the ROF^[1], in line with funds established elsewhere and in partnership with experienced organizations in this space. Once operational, the ROF will aim to attract additional private financiers in the finance space including rural financial institutions and supporters for resource mobilisation, currently estimated at US\$3.5 million within the project lifetime. The additional financiers will have the opportunity to tailor their contribution to a specific window and/or target geography. One important potential source for this additional finance is in the downstream users of water from Lesotho, including industry and utilities in South Africa. The proposition to these potential investors will be to leverage the capital in the ROF, to invest in specific activities and sites that have a strong co-benefit of reducing siltation and ultimately improving water security downstream. Further explorations in this space will be undertaken during project implementation, in partnership with other actors including the LHDA. Other potential co-financing may come from the international carbon markets. The Fund is also expected to leverage parallel financing, particularly relating to the sustainable enterprise window.

The main private sector actors among others who will be involved in project activities includes Sasol, Pegasys Strategy and Development (Pty) Ltd consulting company, Impact Investment Fund will be involved in the development of the ROF. Trans Caledonon Tunnel Authority will play a role in investment in the ROF and on water availability from South Africa. Africa Clean Energy will support the provision of efficient alternate energy sources that will reduce wood consumption and the greenhouse emissions. The actual co-finance from the identified private sector companies will be included in the cost tabs once formal agreements are signed.

[1] A funding mechanism to deliver project funds for selected activities & investments on a semi-competitive modality. Will finance Investment in landscape coalitions and Investments in sustainable enterprises & innovations

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

This is an indication of the risks, including institutional, climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project implementation, (Table 8). A major risk for the success of the project is the failure to successfully form Coalitions and adequately capacitate them in governance and management of natural resources.

The overall risk rating for project implementation is medium. The main risks confronting the project are described below:

Table 8 Main risks confronting the project

RISK	RISK RATING	MITIGATION MEASURES
Weak implementation capacity	High	Technical capacities for Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) are low at all levels, from national government institutions to communities and their structures. The project implementation strategy is therefore developed around a decentralized graduation model to allow for continuous learning and feedback circles in local SLM coalitions to be set up. The project M&E framework will be integrated into GoL agencies' approaches and SLM coalitions be trained to apply and to contribute to M&E elements.
Low community participation and failure to adopt improved practices	High	The experience of other projects demonstrates that ensuring the long-term sustainability of the activities promoted remains a challenge in the country. Level of participation of all relevant stakeholders during project planning and designing is of paramount importance as a consultative process. The project will adopt demand-driven and participatory approaches at all levels.
Overlapping or conflicting land use interests slow down project implementation	Medium	The establishment of SLM coalitions with community participation will ensure an inclusive process of formulating and negotiating interests and uses among coalition partners. The project's focus on ensuring the improvement of ecosystem services as well as alternative livelihoods will mitigate existing challenges, e.g. among herders, farmers and conservation aims.

<p>Climate change may undermine the sustainable development efforts to increase the capacity for integrated landscape management, and livelihood improvement. Lesotho is extremely vulnerable to climate change, with high exposure to climate variability and extremes such as drought, high temperatures and heat waves, floods, hail, and frost. Climate change simulations at national level show temperatures increasing by 1.5°C-2°C and reductions to total monthly precipitation throughout the rainy season (October-March) by ~5.5%, from ~570 mm/season to ~540 mm/season. These changes are expected to be evident by 2050. The impacts of climate change will have adverse impacts on the productivity of the agricultural landscape and rangelands. The droughts will result in reduced water availability for agricultural production and livestock as well as feed availability.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>The thrust of the program in terms of landscape regeneration has significant potential for climate change mitigation co-benefits that contribute to the resilience of both natural resource-dependent livelihoods as well as the natural landscapes. The project will therefore build practical skills and knowledge for understanding of environmental dynamics and landscape management and designing solutions for addressing land degradation and adapting livelihood practices to the changes in the environment and those imposed by climate change and variability. Extensive awareness initiatives and capacity developmental campaigns will result in increased understanding of the climate-ecological dynamics and interactions. With improved knowledge and skills for responding to these dynamics, communities and land users stand a better chance of building resilience and can adjust land use practices to better respond to the negative impacts of climate change.</p>
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<p>Disruption of or impediments for project activities due to the ongoing COVID 19-pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic may result in more public resources being directed towards addressing the situation and thus limit the Government co-financing of the project. The pandemic, or future ones of similar nature, is also likely to adversely impact livelihoods through income generation activities, which will undoubtedly impact investment by the smallholders</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Wherever possible, meetings with project partners will be conducted virtually as a precautionary measure and also for cost-saving reasons. Whenever face-to-face meetings are unavoidable, the project will adhere to the standardized measures to reduce infection risks (social distancing, masks, disinfectant lotion). The decentralized approach via local SLM coalitions will keep meeting sizes at a low level. Also, analytical work, capacity development and production of knowledge management materials will be conducted in small groups or through virtually connected teams to reduce COVID- 19 infection risks.</p> <p>In cases where the government co-funding fails to materialise as the government's resources are more focused on the pandemic, the project can still proceed with implementation as core/ critical path activities are financed through GEF and through the baseline investment (IFAD and OFID). The focus on landscape and agricultural productive systems restoration provides opportunities for building the resilience of the communities and also building back better aftershocks through promotion of green jobs will be implemented to reduce the impact of loss of income due to the pandemic.</p>
<p>Weak governance and management of natural resources resulting in misappropriation of funds.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Successful local and collective coalitions of local, district and national partners will be formed and capacitated in natural resource governance arrangements and management practices.</p> <p>A governance framework with measures for accountability, transparency, responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness, will be put in place. Also, capacity building of stakeholders on transparency, financial management, leadership and procurement; audit of the account of coalition groups will be conducted. Confidential reporting of corruption allegations to the relevant GoL anti-corruption organisation and the IFAD Office of Audit will be encouraged.</p>

The regeneration fund is not established	Medium	Establishment of the regeneration fund is a key aspect for innovation and sustainability of the project. In case the fund will not materialize, more traditional methods of financing plans developed under component 1 through a Project Management Unit approval-process can be instituted. These would build on lessons from other countries and GEF-financed projects in Lesotho (LASAP). Partnership will be forged from the design stage of the project with other development partners (World Bank), IFAD-assisted grant projects (WAMPP), other projects, financial institutions (OFID) and communities (for community contributions) for additional funds.
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In the project implementation the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will be addressed through the elaboration and sequencing of project activities and the sources of funds. The protocols already established during the current pandemic will be adhered to including remote conducting of activities and resources being allocated from the baseline project to improve capacity (connectivity, data capture and reporting) of remote activity delivery. Resources will be set aside for this eventuality in the project costs and budget. The potential shift in focus and priorities by the Government will be mitigated through the use of community-based organisations and in particular the coalitions being created and strengthened under Component 1.

The identified opportunities such as landscape restoration, livelihood diversification and capacity building activities capture the concept of green recovery and building back better. The land restoration activities will result in Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs), improve the food security situation given the inclusion of agricultural land and also improve the climate resilience of the communities. The off-farm activities provide opportunities for livelihoods diversification and job creation, which improve the resilience of the communities being targeted. During implementation, the PMU will explore further opportunities of green businesses for the targeted 200 sustainable enterprises.

As a requirement for all projects implemented by IFAD, a social, environmental and climate assessment review (SECAP) was undertaken. The main environmental and social risks associated with the project are outlined in Table 1 of the SECAP review note. Implementation of ROLL+GEF will be guided by GoL policies legal and institutional framework that is supportive of environmental sustainability and social inclusion. Several partners have been identified within the public and private sector working in the proposed sites to ensure better livelihoods for smallholders and landscape management.

Recent Climate Trends in Lesotho

The average annual temperature for Lesotho is highly variable from year to year. In addition, a significant increasing trend is observable. Over the period 1970 to 2000 the total temperature increase was 0.7°C (MEMWA, 2013).

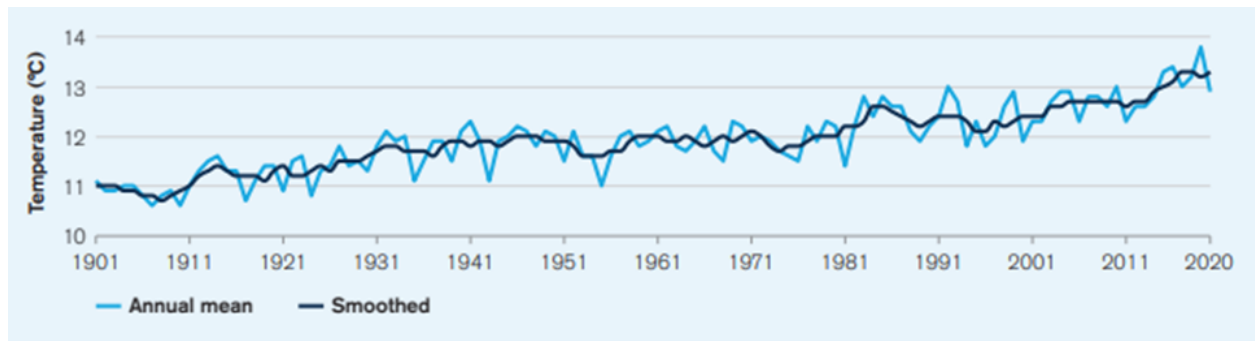


Figure 3 Observed Temperature for Lesotho, 1901 - 2020

Climate change has impacted on the water sector: i) Perennial springs have run dry, ii) previously robust rivers have been greatly diminished and iii) many dams remain dry for most of the year. Subsistence farming, a major source of living in rural areas, is in steady decline due to recurring droughts. This has led to a steep decline in production e.g., maize yields have fallen from 1,400 kg per ha to 450-500 kg per ha in 2007. Livestock farming has also been impacted with chronic drought limiting the carrying capacity of pastoral lands (MNR, 2007).

Projections of Future Climate in Lesotho

The average annual temperature for Lesotho is projected to increase by 1.78-2.2°C by 2060. Most scenarios show that rainfall in the northern region is projected to increase significantly in the March - May period with potentially noticeable changes already by 2050. A much smaller increase is projected for the same season in the southern region. All the scenarios project decreases in rainfall for the Northern region over the June - August period with changes potentially noticeable by 2040 (MEMWA, 2013).

How the project will address the impacts

The project will address these impacts from climate change by regenerating the degraded landscapes and ensuring they can withstand climate change effects and exhibit the more optimal capacity of natural resources and agro-systems.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

GEF resources-will be fully blended into the ROLL project that includes substantial funding from IFAD, OFID and the GoL. Nevertheless, for reporting, monitoring and accounting purposes, expenditure records will be kept separate for specific donors, including the GEF. Given the multi-faceted nature of the proposed project, it will be implemented through close coordination and collaboration between a range of partners and IFAD, as the GEF Agency, will supervise the overall implementation of the project[1]. IFAD

as the GEF Agency will have the strategic oversight of the project and will conduct supervision missions and engage with the implementing Ministry through the PS Forestry. It will also have operational oversight of the project and engage with the Project Management Unit (PMU) and provide operational and technical support, conduct bi-annual supervision and implementation support missions and review Bi-annual progress reports from the PMU.

At national level: Implementation of the project will be led by the MFRSC, with the MTEC co-leading on GEF resources. The lead governance body for the project will be the Project Steering Committee (PSC); chaired by the Director of Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) within the MFRSC and consisting of Directors from key line Ministries, namely, MFRSC, MTEC, MAFS; Ministry of Water Affairs (MWA), Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS), MLGC, MGYSR, Ministry of Finance (debt & Aid) and Ministry of Development Planning (projects development); representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other key associations (such as faith based organisations and Traditional Healers Associations); crop-farmers and livestock owners represented by Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU) and Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association (LNGWMA), respectively and representatives of private sector and civil society and the LHDA and the ICM Unit. PSC will sit twice per year, and on a needs-basis. Preparation of PSC meetings and technical advice to the project will be located in the ROLL Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprising Technical Personnel (Technocrats) and/or designate focal points of key implementing ministries. TAC will be convened and Chaired by MFRSC-SWC and will sit quarterly to go over implementation progress and discuss technical aspects of the project.

Day-to-day management and coordination of the project will be undertaken by a PMU. The PMU will be housed in the MFRSC and will be adequately staffed with professionals attracted from the market and seconded from the leading ministries of MFRSC and MTEC, supported by other key Ministries of MAFS and MoLG. FAO will partner and collaborate with PMU to forge support on sustainable livelihoods and related food systems, drawn from its in-country and regional experiences, lessons and best practices from current and legacy projects. PMU will also liaise closely with other GEF funded projects, namely LASAP, SCCA and Reducing vulnerability from climate change (RVCC) (see Section below) for lessons on the ground that can be scaled-up through ROLL. For the delivery of project activities on the ground, PMU will engage an independent service provider (ROLL-SP)/ organization [2] with the complete skills set required to implement the project, to buttress capacity within the lead ministries. The SP will support the lead ministries mobilise communities and implement activities on the ground for the first three years (working closely with subject specialists for skills transfer), after which the SP role will be gradually phased out to be completely replaced by subject matter specialists for the remaining duration of the project. This will ensure smooth exit and sustainability of the project. The SP will work closely with the district, sub-catchment and local governance structures and it will be selected through a competitive process.

At district level: the project will adopt existing government coordination structures. Strategic and operational guidance will be provided by the District Project Coordination Committee (DPCC). The Committee will comprise all heads of ministries relevant to ROLL and will sit on a monthly basis, convened and chaired by the District Administrator (DA)/ designate, with MFRSC-DC/PFO as secretary. The Committee will include DA/designate (Chair & convenor); District Agriculture Officer (DAO); MFRSC District Coordinator (DC); and heads of MWA, MET, MoLG, MGYSR; farmers and herders? representatives (LENAFU & LNWMGA); respective representatives of NGOs, private sector and civil society (represented by Chiefs and Community Councils); ROLL Service Provider (ROLL-SP); FAO and FPO, who will also serve as secretary to the committee.

At sub-catchment level: implementation will be led by Field Planning and Implementation Support Teams (FPIS), representing district technical teams and coordinated by Project Field Officers (PFOs) and chaired by MFRSC-DC, with PFO serving as the secretary. The committee will consist of MFRSC and related line ministries senior district technical officers, supported by ROLL-SP and FAO field officers and will sit monthly. Area extension officers, from the Resource Centres at catchment level, will be represented in these meetings. In addition, representatives of Principal Chiefs and Area Chief, as well as local government, Regeneration Coalitions (RCs) and Interest Groups will join the Team periodically to present community interests. The FPIS will work closely with the Principal and Area Chiefs, as well as community councils to mobilise communities on the ground, with strong support from the SP.

External collaboration: In selected landscapes of direct relevance to the protection of reservoirs, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) will be a major implementing partner.

Regeneration Fund: The Fund, to be launched in year 2 of the project, will be hosted by a separate legal entity, with a dedicated governance structure. While experiences with the establishment of environment-oriented funds exist in other countries across Africa, for Lesotho the Fund will be the first of its kind. As such, a service provider will be engaged during the first year of the project implementation to develop Lesotho-specifics fund and recommend requisite Fund governance structure, which will have to be agreed upon with project partners before implementation during the second year of the project. During the lifetime of the project, the Project Steering Committee (or a sub-committee thereof) will be part of the Fund's steering committee and will have direct input into its programming. Gradually and depending on the additional funding mobilized, the Fund will operate more independently as it moves towards project exit, while reporting against project objectives. It is intended to establish the Fund as a sustainable funding entity for integrated SLM beyond project lifetime. For sustainable resourcing of the Fund, partnerships beyond Lesotho's national borders will be explored to mobilize additional resources and technical support, as well as to prevent political capture of the fund and facility at national level.

Project Implementation Arrangements

Based on the project strategy, the key stakeholders and their perceived functions in the project are depicted in Figure 4 1 below, which outlines the implementation arrangements that underpin the links between key actors in the implementation of the proposed project activities.

Project Steering Committee

-ROLL will be led by a Project Steering Committee (PSC) which will consist of Directors from key line ministries, namely:

- ? MFRSC,
- ? Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC),
- ? Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS),
- ? Ministry of Water Affairs (MWA),
- ? Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship (MLGC),

- ? Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports & Recreation (MGYSR),
- ? Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)
- ? NGOs represented by Lesotho Council of NGOS (LCN);
- ? crop-farmers and livestock owners represented by Lesotho National Farmers Union (LENAFU)
and
- ? Lesotho National Wool and Mohair Growers Association (LNGWMA),
- ? representatives of private sector and civil society.

The Committee will provide strategic oversight to the project and will approve the Annual Workplan and Budget (AWPB) and procurement plans, progress reports, including financial reports. It will approve performance management plans for the project and assess management effectiveness, decide corrective actions if appropriate and review lessons learnt.

There will also be a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which will comprise Technical Personnel (Technocrats) and/or designate focal points of key implementing agencies and will be convened and Chaired by MFRSC-SWC. The Committee will provide operational and coordination guidance to the project, discuss and resolve technical problems and provide technical review of the AWPB. Committee composition will include technocrats from

- (i) MFRSC directorates (SWC, Forestry resources and Range Resources Management);
- (ii) MAFS (Crops, Nutrition and Livestock);
- (iii) MET (biodiversity);
- (iv) MLGC (local councils and chieftainship);
- (v) MGYSR (gender and youth) and
- (vi) ICMU representative.

Implementing Agents

-ROLL will be coordinated by a Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will be housed at the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC), with close involvement of Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC), other partners will include:

Project delivery will be focused at the local level, strongly directed by local councils, and in close collaboration with traditional authorities. Service providers and technical expertise will be recruited to implement parts of the project including nutrition, gender and youth, while at the same time building the capacity of government institutions.

Implementing Entities are:

- ? **Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC),**
- ? **Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC),**
- ? ROLL+-GEF PMU

Key Ministries are:

- ? Ministry of Finance and (MoF)
- ? Ministry of Development Planning (MoDP)
- ? Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports and Recreation (GYSR)
- ? Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (Department of Environment (DoE))

Participating Ministries are:

- ? Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS),
- ? Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship (MLGC),
- ? Ministry of Gender, Youth, Sports & Recreation (MGYSR) and
- ? Ministry of Water Affairs (MWA).
- ? Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

Other Stakeholders are:

- ? Environmental Officers at District Level
- ? PMU staff
- ? MAFS staff at District Level
- ? Other collaborating institutions.

Local Governance structures

To ensure legitimacy, it is crucial that the project implementation fits into the representative institutions of local communities. Understanding how communities make decisions is the first important step. The important criteria are that representation should be determined by the concerned peoples and communities themselves to avoid misrepresentation or manipulation. This can be done in line with the community structure for representation, Figure 4 below.

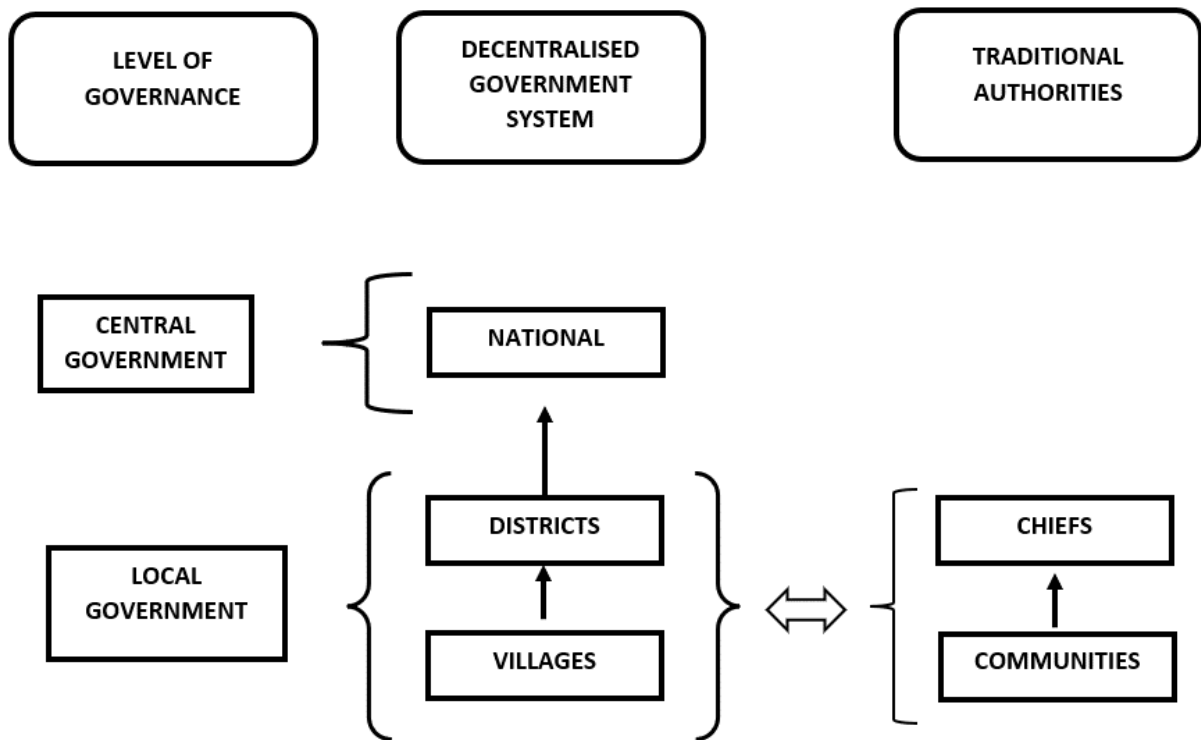


Figure 4 The Local Governance structures in The Kingdom of Lesotho

Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

The ROLL+GEF project will collaborate closely with a number of ongoing GEF and LDCF initiatives in Lesotho, including:

? **Lesotho Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture (LASAP).** This project, which is funded by the LDCF and supervised by IFAD, aims to increase the resilience of small-scale agriculture to climate change impacts by promoting climate-proofed investments for agriculture-based development, as well as by enhancing the resilience of agricultural productivity under increased climate variability. The project includes a component aimed at increasing awareness and capacity for government and local stakeholders for reducing risks of climate induced losses in the agriculture sector, which will feed into the ROLL project.

? **Strengthening Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation through Support to Integrated Watershed Management (SCCA).** This LDCF project (FAO implemented), which is still in its development phase is focused on implementation of adaptation measures related to sustainable land management and integrated water management. While the project will primarily focus on community level activities, it will also include a component on data, tools and methods for assessment of climate change

impacts on land suitability and livelihoods. The ROLL project will work with FAO as partner, making use of the developed tools and approaches.

? **The Reducing vulnerability from climate change in Foothills, lower Lowlands and Senqu River project (RVCC) funded by GEF-LDCF and implemented by UNDP** aims to mainstream climate risk considerations into the Land Rehabilitation Programme of Lesotho for improved ecosystem resilience and reduced vulnerability of livelihoods to climate shocks. The project will support the integration of climate change adaptation into national and sub-national land use planning and decision-making. Consequently, the project will reduce the vulnerability of local communities in the Foothills, Lowlands and the Lower Senqu River Basin to climate change through the implementation of climate-smart ecosystem rehabilitation and management measures. The project activities include capacity-building of youth, women and CBOs to enable them to prepare more effectively for the risks and natural hazards associated with climate change. Furthermore, the adaptation interventions in this project will focus on implementing Priority 2 of Lesotho's NAPA, which focuses on promoting sustainable crop-based livelihood systems in the Foothills, Lowlands and the Senqu River Valley. The ROLL project will enable a scaling up of the implementation of the climate change adaptation measures developed in this project.

[1] Further details on the project's institutional arrangements and coordination are contained in ROLL Project Implementation Manual (PIM).

[2] The SP will be recruited on a competitive basis, either locally or internationally to ensure high quality service.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

The Government of The Kingdom of Lesotho has accorded special priority to improving the people's lives by mitigating environmental and climatic impacts through the institution of various policies and measures. This project is in line with most national and regional policies as follows:

UNCCD NAP: The main objective of the Lesotho National action programme (NAP) is to structure and guide the implementation of the UNCCD and define the elements of strengthening environmental capacities, enhance public awareness and mobilize active participation in order to better manage the natural resources, and combat Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD). The objective also contains elements of strengthening the policy, legal and institutional foundations for environmental management. The Proposed ROLL+GEF is consistent with the objectives of the NAP including its program approach, which endeavours to ensure collaboration and coordination among government institutions, NGOs, the donor community and the public in order to minimize duplication and fragmentation of efforts and maximize impact. Of considerable importance is the need for accountability

and transparency of institutions, organizations and agencies that are involved with the implementation of the NAP.

LDN: Lesotho joined the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Programme (TSP) and committed to achieving LDN by 2030, recognizing the importance of land as a vital resource for human health and wellbeing. Specific targets until 2030 as outlined in its LDN report (2019) include:

- ? Improve productivity and soil organic carbon stocks to 1% in all land classes;
- ? Rehabilitate 600,000 ha of degraded land to functionality;
- ? Halt the conversion of forests and wetlands to other land cover classes (by 2022);
- ? Increase forest cover by 61,325 ha;
- ? Reduce the rate of soil erosion and sealing (conversion to artificial land cover) by 20%.

The objectives of the ROLL are in line with these LDN targets.

National Communication (NC 1): Lesotho's first national communication (NC1) reiterated that despite both short- and long-term training that had taken place in climate-related fields, the country required additional financial resources and greater coordination skills to build institutional capacity and take the subject of climate change to a broader audience, including rural communities. The second national communication follows up on the NC1 in analysing critical climate impacts and providing updates on what policies and measures the country has taken and envisaged to implement the Convention. The activities of ROLL are in line with the measures that Lesotho communicated as they are geared to making the communities Climate Change resilient.

Nationally determined contributions (NDC): Lesotho's NDC of 2017 highlights several adaptation needs to which the proposed ROLL project will contribute, among these chiefly a) the need to improve data and information gathering, analysis and monitoring capacities so as to mainstream CC approaches into natural resource management across sectors, and b) the creation of a systemic enabling working environment. With regard to specific adaptation actions, the NDC refers to the earlier established NAPA.

National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA): The Lesotho NAPA identifies 11 priority adaptation options including the one in the water sector, whose activities have been identified. Activities under the ROLL project, included under the NAPA, include capacity building of communities and promotion of catchment management. The proposed ROLL project also contributes to Option 3 'Capacity Building and Policy Reform to Integrate Climate Change in Sectoral Development Plans' and 4 'Improvement of an Early Warning System against Climate Induced Disasters and Hazards' defined in the Lesotho NAPA.

National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP): The NDMP aims at reducing Lesotho's vulnerability to climate related disasters such as sustained and severe droughts; increasing its capability to prevent, alleviate, contain, or minimize the effects of climate-related disasters; enhancing readiness or preparedness to deal with climate related disasters; and ensuring the country's full recovery from the impacts of disasters. GEF assistance will therefore not only support the overall objectives of disaster management, due to severe erosion, but also strengthen and capacitate the process of planning for disaster mitigation.

Poverty Reduction Strategy: Lesotho's Poverty Reduction Strategy advocates for building capacity in environmental education in order to break this link. In particular, the strategy calls for the augmentation of

public awareness campaigns, the inclusion of environmental issues in school curricula, and the intensification of the awareness of the importance of integrating environmental impact assessments into the country's planning process. All these are major components of the proposed ROLL project. The interventions in climate change, which is a major component of environmental management, are bound to have a direct impact on poverty alleviation. The latter occupies the highest priority on Lesotho's development agenda.

Vision 2020: Lesotho's Vision 2020, a document that embodies the country's development aspirations up to the year 2020, advocates for the strengthening of institutions that are responsible for natural resources and environmental management, environmental advocacy and awareness campaigns as the main challenge for the implementation of global agreements for sustainable development, an approach which is also emphasised in the proposed ROLL project. As part of the implementation strategy for Vision 2020 (and succeeding the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and the Interim National Development Framework (INDF)), Lesotho developed the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) of 2012/13 ? 2016/17.

UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF): the UNDAF 2019-2023, was developed and finalized in 2018 with a validity of five years. The UNDAF 2019-2023 outlines the strategic direction and results expected from cooperation between the GoL and the UN Country Team (UNCT). This strategic planning instrument serves as a collective response of the UN System to support the national development initiatives of the GoL as per the NSDP II as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063 and other strategies and international instruments. The proposed ROLL project will align with and contribute to the UNDAF stipulated three strategic areas, specifically to (SO 2) sustainable human capital development; and (SO3) Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth for Poverty Reduction.

National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP): The ROLL project responds directly to the 4th and 5th strategic Goals of the NSDP by improving national resilience to climate change through undertaking vulnerability assessments and strengthening capacity for disaster risk and sustainable land management.

Key Lesotho Policies: The project is also consistent with key policies in Lesotho, which include the following:

National Environment Policy (1998), National Climate Change Policy (2017); National Forestry Policy (1997); National Range Resources Management Policy (2015); Lesotho Water and Sanitation Policy (2007); National Decentralization Policy (2014); Soil and Water Conservation Policy (2014) or Food security policies and strategies. Equally important to mention in the project context are the Orange-Senqu River Basin/ORASECOM Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) (2013); the Lesotho IWRM Plan (2014) and the Regional Strategic Action Program (2014). It is expected that this project will generate valuable lessons, methodologies and approaches to strengthen these policies so as to promote resilience throughout sectoral and national planning and will therefore engage with its proponents.

8. Knowledge Management

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

The project will support the transformation of landscape management in Lesotho toward evidence-based investments and decision making, based on global best practices particularly in the LDN Hubs. Best practices will thus include mechanisms for: (i) planning processes in which stakeholders have a voice and are able to agree on measures that can achieve both local and larger scale objectives; and, (ii) inter-agency collaboration and local-district level coordination. As such, this project will establish and strengthen an investment- and action-oriented knowledge network and associated tools across institutional and disciplinary boundaries, including an M&E approach in line with global tools and standards (e.g., LDSF) that is equally applicable at local levels. The planning processes, inter-agency collaboration and relevant tools will be applied in the LDN Hubs. ROLL's efforts will be aligned with the newly developed RENOKA awareness campaign (re noka means 'we are a river' in Sesotho), developed by the ICM support project, for increasing awareness on environmental issues in the Orange-Senqu Basin. This approach will connect relevant stakeholder groups to collaborate on investment-oriented knowledge and strengthen the ability of stakeholders to gather, process, and use data and information. In addition, KM activities will be conducted in synergy with the WFP-supported project Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations in Lesotho, whose Component 2 is strongly focused on KM activities.

ROLL Component 3 has strong aspects of KM and M&E following this integrated approach at multiple levels (see also the project description section 3) including at the LDN Hub level. A detailed KM Plan has been developed which will guide related activities. At this stage the following broad activity areas including budget, timeframe and deliverables are elaborated in Annex G. (i) Evidence based approach in monitoring and knowledge generation: the project will invest in monitoring, analysis and learning to improve the performance and use early success to leverage additional finance and support for the regeneration fund. KM will hence play a critical role during the implementation. (ii) work on curricula of the local education institutions: the project will engage local level education (mostly primary at community level and tertiary at national level in sensitisation and capacity building). (iii) the PMU will apply critical reflection sessions and KM clinics – both on their own and during IFAD-led supervision missions – to tease out key factors of success and challenges, and foster learning and following improvements in processes. (iv) Communication work will utilise the most appropriate communication channel such as local media, such as radio, television, newspaper and online platforms. (v) the knowledge from other locations on landscape management will be facilitated through the LDN Hubs and IFAD and its global partnerships. The proposed approach of landscape coalitions and graduation, builds on experiences of IFAD financed projects in Ethiopia and Rwanda, as well as a project in Peru. The PMU will explore opportunities (COVID-19, related restrictions allowing) for field trips for key project decision makers to visit these project areas and learn from experiences there. Regarding the Regeneration Opportunities Fund, ROLL builds on lessons from the Cape Town Water Fund, the Upper Tana Water Fund in Kenya and the CORB fund in the Okavango delta. Similarly, it is anticipated to field learning visits for key decision makers to these areas and appreciate the implementation modalities. Shall travel not be possible due to COVID or financial aspects, virtual meetings for SSTC and knowledge exchange shall be explored in year 1 and year 2 of the project.

ROLL will also produce policy-relevant material on landscape regeneration approaches, including the development of three thematic studies. These will enable the country programme to build a credible knowledge base of practical and actionable know-how that can be used to better address challenges of integrated catchment management. The thematic studies and the briefs will be focused around the thematic areas identified above (i.e., identification of effective incentives at coalition level, and regulatory changes that can promote landscape rehabilitation). The dissemination of these policy-relevant materials will be focused on sharing lessons on what works and what does not in terms of Natural Resources management (NRM) approaches. The captured lessons will also serve as basis for adaptive management of scaling up interventions in other regions of the country. ROLL's visibility will be further enhanced through a ROLL website.

Summary of KM Plan and budget

KM Area	Outcome	Timeframe	Budget (USD)
Awareness campaigns	People in Lesotho are aware of the importance of changing their behaviour with respect to the management of natural resources	1 awareness campaign per year starting in year 3/ field visits/ constituency meetings	1,029,880
Policy-relevant knowledge products and lessons learned on NRM	Partners and stakeholders including decision makers are informed in an attractive way of the experiences of beneficiaries through their own narratives.	1 story and policy brief per year of the project, starting from year 2/ thematic studies/ research publications	1.000,000
Ensuring visibility	Project visibility is ensured in social media. Project feels accessible.	Ensure the publication of at least 1 article, 1 blog post and press release per year.	350,000
Total			2 379 880

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project will follow IFAD standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. The project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan is consistent with IFAD procedures and the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

Project M&E will serve to: (a) monitor and report on implementation progress, including the tracking of activities and financial resources, as agreed in Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWPBs), (b) identify implementation gaps over the course of the project implementation that require corrective actions, and (c)

assess and report on progress towards, and final achievement of planned outputs, outcomes, targets and indicators as outlined in Annex A: Project Logical Framework. The GEF monitoring processes will be fully integrated into the ROLL M&E system and procedures. The project reporting on GEF core indicators will be done through the Project Implementation Reports (PIRs).

The Programme will set up a Management Information System (MIS) to facilitate the storage, use and analysis of data. This system will, to the extent possible, be aligned to the national Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) dataset being established in Lesotho with the support of GIZ. The ROLL MIS will feed catchment-level data collected by ROLL into the national ICM dataset and acquire national-level data produced by the ICM dataset. In order to promote the use of sex and age disaggregated data for decision-making, the MIS system will regularly produce automated reports and color-coded tracking of progress on AWPB and log-frame output targets, which can be easily shared by email with the project coordinator and component heads. The disaggregation of data by sex as well as the tracking of specific indicators to monitor women empowerment will support the progress tracking of the gender action plan (see Annex A, Project Logical Framework). To facilitate outreach tracking and avoid double counting, ROLL will assign beneficiaries with a unique identification number, which will be stored in the MIS.

In order to promote ownership, behavioural change and sustainability of results, targeted communities will play a central role in monitoring the activities and results that concern them more directly. This means that the communities themselves will set their own targets and monitor their own progress on those targets, as outlined above. Tools such as participatory mapping, resource flow diagrams and outcome mapping will be used. Secondly, ROLL will pilot a cost-effective way to survey beneficiary satisfaction with project services using WhatsApp. The phone numbers and GIS location of project beneficiaries will be collected by implementing partners and inserted in the beneficiary register of the MIS. The combination of GIS with WhatsApp surveys will also allow to map levels of satisfaction with project services by beneficiaries in different locations, thereby allowing the PMU and IFAD to conduct targeted missions where feedback from stakeholders is less positive. Thirdly, ROLL will regularly collect more in-depth opinions from target communities through interviews and focus groups conducted during field visits, as well as by including qualitative methodologies in the baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys.

The M&E plan (see Table 9) reflects the M&E activities to set up and implement the monitoring and reporting procedures. It includes an inception report, project implementation reviews, semi-annual and annual progress reports, and mid-term and final evaluations. The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized in the Project Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

Table 9: Budgeted M&E Plan

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF*	Budget co-finance*	Time Frame
Workshops (including inception and implementation workshops)	? PMU ? IFAD	None	USD 448,458	As appropriate

Inception Report (M&E part)	? ? ? Consultants	PMU IFAD External	None	None	At project start
Set up and licence of MIS system	?	PMU	None	USD 151,032	Setup in first year of project implementation; Licence costs for all years of project implementation
Monitoring and evaluation tools and assessments that enable tracking of local and global environmental benefits.	? ? Consultants	PMU External	USD 100,000	None	First year of project implementation and implementation.
Baseline, Mid-line and End-Line Surveys	? ? Consultants	PMU External	None	USD 251,084	Start, mid and end of project
Monitoring of project indicators and reporting in form of annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR) annual financial reports and semi-annual project progress reports (including TA and equipment as appropriate)	? ? ? Consultants (as appropriate)	PMU IFAD External	None	USD 210,920	Annually for each year of implementation, within 75 calendar days after the end of each GEF's full fiscal year (July 1 - June 30); (TA and equipment as appropriate)
Supervision missions	? ? ? Consultants	PMU IFAD External	USD 50,000	None	Annually ? annual IFAD supervision missions are financed by IFAD and included in the institutional budget
Monitoring site visits	? ? MFRSC/MTEC	PMU	USD 25,000	None	As appropriate
Mid-Term Review	? ? ? Consultants (i.e., evaluation team)	PMU IFAD External	None	USD 111,896	At mid-point of project implementation

Terminal Evaluation as part of IFAD Project Completion	? ? ? Consultants (evaluation team)	PMU IFAD External	None	USD 120,165	No later than twelve months after the actual Implementation End Date
M&E Plan Budget			USD 175,000	USD 1,293,556	
M&E Recurrent Costs (including salaries and allowances for M&E Officer and 50% of M&E Assistant)			USD 0	USD 403,500	
Total ROLL M&E Budget			USD 1, 872, 056		

*Indicative costs include price and physical contingencies

Monitoring Responsibilities and Capacity Strengthening

Responsibilities. Data collection, verification and use will be a joint task by all project stakeholders. This notwithstanding, the primary responsibility will lie with the M&E Unit within the PMU, which will be composed of a senior M&E officer, a KM officer, and an M&E assistant.

Capacity strengthening to support rigorous monitoring of project indicators and reporting. Throughout the project lifetime, the M&E Officer will be able to access technical advice and backstopping services from IFAD. Support may be needed at certain times during the project period, for example when a draft mid-term survey report must be reviewed. Provisions are made in the cost tables for on-demand support on M&E. Also, for implementing partners, training on M&E at project start and mid-term is envisaged to strengthen capacity and facilitate monitoring of activities throughout the project lifetime.

M&E Events and Studies

Environment and Social Impact Assessment for additional GEF intervention areas. The GEF Project Preparation funds will be utilised to conduct socio-economic impact assessments (SIA) for Letsa-la-Letsie, while the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be integrated in the M&E plan and is envisaged to be conducted during the initial phase of the project. Doing this will allow for the ESIA to inform the scoping of the works required at the site in order to avoid delays during project implementation. The area is a Ramsar Site and an important biodiversity hotspot for which current challenges need to be carefully and prudently addressed following recommendations from the ESIA's to maintain its significance in contributing to national and global environmental and social benefits.

Workshops will be held throughout the project implementation period that will feature M&E aspects to sensitise communities, government counterparts, the PMU and other implementing partners. At project start up, an Inception Workshop with the participation of the full project team, relevant GoL counterparts,

co-financing partners, and other stakeholders, as appropriate. A fundamental objective of the workshop will be to help the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goal and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project results framework including the GEF indicators that will be tracked.

Supervision Missions and Monitoring Visits. IFAD carries out regular supervision and implementation support missions to the projects it finances. The objective of the missions is to (i) monitor implementation, (ii) report on project performance status and results, (iii) assess and manage project risks, and (iv) review project progress reports. Those supervision missions will be complemented by regular field monitoring visits by the PMU and government counterparts to ensure smooth implementation and the validation of physical progress in the intervention areas.

Project Monitoring Reporting

? **The Inception Report** will be prepared immediately following the Inception Workshop. It will include a detailed 1-Year Work Plan divided in quarterly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. In addition, the M&E part of the Inception Report will provide narrative context on the monitoring of the stakeholder engagement plan, gender action plan, ESS and knowledge management activities.

? **The baseline, mid-line and end-line surveys** will provide a benchmark against which to measure future progress, as well as important information on target communities to refine the targeting strategy. The mid-line survey will precede the Mid-Term Review (MTR), and provide key information on what is working and what is not. The end-line survey will precede the IFAD Project Completion mission, and provide key data on results that will feed into the Project TE.

? Project progress Reports (PPRs) will be prepared after every six months with the stakeholder contributions and other institutions.

? Co-financing Reports prepared annually by the PMU with input from other financiers.

? **The Project Implementation Reports** will be compiled on an annual basis for each year of implementation. The report will contain an update on implementation progress around key data points, namely (i) information on project status, including implementation start and first disbursement dates, (ii) the amount of GEF Project Financing disbursed, (iii) the latest Development Objective rating, Implementation Progress rating, and Risk Rating, as well as (iv) any changes to the expected dates of submission of Terminal Evaluations and any Mid-Term Reviews, including the reasons for the revision (if applicable). In addition, the PIRs will provide narrative context on the challenges encountered during implementation, as well as an account of progress made in implementing the stakeholder engagement plan, gender action plan, ESS, and knowledge management activities and GEF core indicators. The GEF Implementation Report will build on IFAD's own implementation progress and monitoring reports.

? **The MTR Report** will cover physical and financial progress as measured against AWPB, performance and financial management of implementing partners and assessment of the project benefits to the target groups from the different ROLL activities. At MTR stage, an update on progress in reaching actual results for Core Indicators together with information on the planned and actual amounts, sources and types of co-financing and investment mobilized will be provided to the GEF. The findings and recommendations from MTR will inform the project on decision-making on any adjustments, scaling up and further expansion/modification of project modalities.

? **The Project TE Report** will be conducted no later than twelve months after the actual Implementation End Date. It will be integrated in the IFAD ROLL Project Completion process. The M&E data collected over the project implementation period, and in particular the three outcome surveys (i.e., baseline, mid-line and end-line), will be used to assess the changes in the livelihoods of the target groups, and for sharing of lessons learned and good practices. The project completion process will include reflection workshops where stakeholders have the opportunity to evaluate the performance of the project, identify success factors and areas of further interventions and discuss the way forward for sustainability. In the TE Report to the GEF, a final update on the achievement of actual Core Indicator results as well as information on the actual amounts, sources and types of co-financing and investment will be provided.

10. Benefits

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

The expected benefits will be multiple, encompassing both socio-economic and environmental dimensions.

From a socio-economic perspective, the project will improve livelihoods and build resilience of communities and landscapes within the project area, through the creation of 200 sustainable enterprises, increased and diversified income and enhanced food and nutrition security. Other direct benefits include job creation and sustained permanent employment, as well as women empowerment (at least 50%) and youths and improved access to socio-economically important biological resources, such as medicinal plants and thatching grass, water and firewood.

The project will support the promotion of alternative energy sources, saving labour/time, water and energy. The alternate energy sources will reduce firewood use, which contributes to soil erosion and general land degradation. The clean and efficient energy sources will reduce women's time to collect firewood. Time and labour saving climate-smart technologies could help improve the livelihoods of women. The project aims to generate more income and agricultural produce while at the same time reducing the labour burden on women and children to improve their livelihoods.

The project will build the capacity of 250 stakeholders and communities in 5 districts on land degradation, knowledge enhancement on root causes for landscape degradation, and landscape management. The capacity building will empower at least 50% of women and youth to enhance the SLM and climate-resilient technologies leading to improved crop and livestock production. The envisaged collaborative planning with communities through building coalitions can strengthen social and economic development. Collaborative planning leads to developing a shared community vision, which supports social capital. From an environmental and climate change adaptation standpoint, the project will address environmental degradation, soil erosion and water retention. At least 350,000 ha (ROLL+GEF) of land will be restored through landscape management plans and improved management, including 7 500 ha of restored forest and shrub land, 7 000 ha of restored agricultural land and 335 500 ha of restored rangelands, shrub lands and grasslands. Sustainable land and water management (SLWM) practices will be applied on 14,500 ha, including both cropland and rangeland, 250 landscape regeneration coalitions will be formed and operationalised to sustainably manage natural resources and climate risks, and five LDN information hubs will be established as a mechanism for sharing and monitoring data. ROLL's landscape approach will also mainstream biodiversity conservation as well as habitat and indigenous species protection, and support the management of invasive species and the restoration of more resilient and biodiverse watershed areas for sustainable use.

Landscape regeneration has significant potential also in terms of climate change mitigation. Based on analyses carried out through EX-ACT and Global livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM-i), the mitigation co-benefits, including those generated from improved livestock herd and feed management, land use change activities and diversified vegetative cover, will amount to -9 901 543 tCO₂-eq sequestered over 350,402 ha and during a 20-year lifespan. This will correspond to a carbon balance of -1.4 tCO₂-eq per ha and per year.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

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

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

The ROLL+GEF project has been designed to consider the various proposed financiers' safeguards policies and requirements (IFAD, OFID, GEF, and GoL). IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP, 2017 edition) have been taken as a base reference, including the SECAP 2021 Edition and GEF's updated policy and guidelines on environmental and social safeguards. A SECAP review note has been developed, which forms the basis for this section. During project design, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was developed.

The environmental and social categorization is B because the project's potential adverse social and ecological effects are limited and site-specific. In principle the environmental management thrust of the project, the expected environmental impacts are predominantly positive. Potential negative social impacts emanating from the temporarily or structurally reduced access to natural resources, mainly grazing land. The principal safeguard measure in the project will be to ensure a thorough, well-structured and inclusive participatory process in developing and implementing landscape management plans. Any site specific potential negative will be identified at the local level and

mitigation measures will be identified and included in the Environmental Social Management Plans. The environmental, social and climate change measures will be mainstreamed within the coalition formation process, and the investment handbook for the Regeneration Opportunities Fund. The critical mitigation measures included in the attached ESFM includes:

- a. Suitable participatory sub-project planning and assessment to identify site specific potential negative impacts and implement mitigation measures.
- b. Equitable participation for all project activities.
- c. Decent work, in line with IFAD's policy on preventing and responding to sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse will be promoted
- d. Climate-smart agriculture practices will be promoted which provides an integrated approach to managing landscapes.

ROLL+GEF will finance three expert positions in the ROLL PMU to manage the project's social and environmental aspects, and IFAD will provide close safeguards support throughout the project implementation as part of its

regular project monitoring and supervision process. Subprojects will be screened for any risks and the corresponding mitigation measures will be applied for each subproject. Further information on environmental and social safeguards is in the attached ESMF. Please see attached as annex ESMF which includes the overall project Environment Social Management Plan (ESMP) for a detailed explanation of risks and mitigation measures.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Annex H-SECAP review note	CEO Endorsement ESS	
GEF10723 -Lesotho- ROLL ESMF rev	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Lesotho-Annex D- Environmental and social safeguard risks	Project PIF ESS	

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

Results Hierarchy						Means of Verification		Assumptions	
Indicators	Baseline	Mid-Term	End Target	Reference to CEO endorsement	Source	Frequency	Responsibility		
Outreach	1.b Estimated corresponding total number of households? members*					Project M&E	Annual	PMU	Effective and efficient project implementation (A) Project co-financing targets achieved (A)
	Household members - Number of people	0	238000	340000					
	1.a Corresponding number of households reached*								
	Households - Number	0	47600	68000					
	1 Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project*								
	Females - Number	0	28000	40000					
	Males - Number	0	42000	60000					
Young - Number	0	14000	20000						
Total number of persons receiving services - Number of people	0	70000	100000						
Project Goal Regeneration	% of population under poverty line in target constituencies*					National datasets		LBOS	Major negative trends in macroeconomic

Results Hierarchy					Means of Verification			Assumptions
of landscapes and livelihoods	% of Population - Percentage (%)	54		49				environment ?
	Land degradation in selected sub-catchments*				National datasets		LBOS	
	Soil erosion in tonnes/ha/year - Area (ha)	72.1	64.9	50.5				
Project Objective: Rural communities transform their landscapes and livelihoods by adopting sustainable land management practices, leading to enhanced flow of agro-ecosystem goods and services, climate change resilience and household income diversification.	Targeted households reporting and increase in income*				Mid-line and end-line surveys	Mid-term and completion	PMU	? Climate change counteracts gains made (R) ? Graduation model levels indicate improvements (A) ? Absolute numbers are calculated based on percentage share of end targets for 'Persons receiving services promoted or supported by the project' (A)
	Households - Percentage (%)							
	Landscapes achieving improvement in socio-economic and environmental level using graduation model*				Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Number of landscapes - Number	0	250	750				
	IE 2.1 Percentage of individuals reporting an increase in empowerment*				Pro-WEAI	Mid-term and completion	PMU	
	Females - Percentage (%)		20	50				
	Males - Percentage (%)		20	50				
	Young - Percentage (%)		20	50				
	Total Persons - Percentage (%)		20	50				
	Females - Number		8000	20000				

Results Hierarchy				Means of Verification	Assumptions		
Males - Number		12000	30000				
Total persons - Number		20000	50000				
SF 2.1 % of HH satisfied with project-supported services*				Mid-line and end-line surveys	Mid-line and end-line	PMU	? Absolute numbers are calculated based on percentage share of end targets for Corresponding number of households reached' (A) ? Each household consists of 5 members (A)
Households - Percentage (%)		70	80				
HH (number)		47600	54400				
HH members		238000	272000				

Component 1: Enhanced capacity in integrated landscape management.

Outcome 1.1 Enhanced enabling environment and capacity for landscape management in place for landscapes in 5 administrative districts	3.2.2 Households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices*			Mid-line and end-line surveys	Mid-terms and completion	PMU	? Clear and common understanding of sustainable use (A) ? Absolute numbers are calculated based on percentage share of end targets for Corresponding number of households reached' (A)	
	Households - Percentage (%)		20					50
	HH (number)		13600					34000
	HH members		68000					170000
	SF 2.2 Percentage of HH reporting they can influence decision-making of local authorities and project-supported service providers*				Project M&E	Annual	PMU	? Each household consists of 5 members (A)
	Households - Percentage (%)		60	80				
	HH (number)		40800	54400				
	HH members		204000	272000				

<p>Output 1.1.1</p> <p>Intersectoral mechanism for improved horizontal and vertical communication and collaboration on landscape management</p>	<p>Intersectoral mechanism developed and implemented.</p>			<p>Output 1.2.1</p>	<p>Project M&E</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>PMU</p>	
	<p>Intersectoral mechanism ? System in place</p>	<p>0</p>						
<p>Output 1.1.2</p> <p>Capacity development strategies and programme for landscape management developed, tailored for each particular landscape and approved by project stakeholders 50% women 50% men will be targeted</p>	<p>3.1.1 Groups supported to sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks *</p>				<p>Project M&E</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>PMU</p>	
	<p>Total Number of People in all the groups</p>		<p>35000</p>	<p>50000</p>				
	<p>Groups supported - Number</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>2800</p>	<p>4000</p>				
	<p>Males - Number</p>		<p>21000</p>	<p>30000</p>				
	<p>Females - Number</p>		<p>14000</p>	<p>20000</p>				
	<p>Young - Number</p>		<p>7000</p>	<p>10000</p>				
	<p>Number of mechanisms - Number</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>				
	<p>Number of strategies - number</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>				
<p>Output 1.1.3</p> <p>250 stakeholders from project implementing partners trained (targeting 50% women and 50% men) as trainers to cascade training to communities: (Stakeholders trained in landscape management)</p>	<p># of stakeholders trained as trainers to further cascade the training to the coalitions members so as to sustainably manage natural resources and climate-related risks</p>			<p>Output 1.1.3</p>	<p>Project M&E</p>	<p>Quarterly</p>	<p>PMU</p>	
	<p>Females - Number</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>75</p>	<p>125</p>				
	<p>Males - Number</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>75</p>	<p>125</p>				
	<p>Stakeholders supported - Total number of persons</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>150</p>	<p>250</p>				

Output 1.2.1 landscape regeneration coalitions formed and operational.	# Number of coalitions built/strengthened	Output 1.2.1	Project M&E	Quarterly	PMU	Attribution to GEF will be according to co-financing share in the ROF (A)	
	Number of coalitions - Number	0	100	250			
Output 1.2.2 Participatory land use mapping by local rural community resource users (? and ?) and implementing partners	# of land use maps created	Output 1.2.2	Project M&E	Annual	PMU		
	Land Use Maps - Number	0	250	250			
Output 1.2.3 250 landscape management plans developed for Landscape restoration of 350,000 ha (rangelands, shrub lands, grasslands and cropland) (58% of national LDN target) (ROLL+GEF) of land.	# of landscape management plans developed	Output 1.2.3	Project M&E	Annual	PMU		
	landscape management plans ? Number.		250	250			
Output 1.2.4 By-laws for the implementation of landscape management plans developed and enacted	# of by-laws developed and enacted	Output 1.2.4	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	One set of by-laws per district (A)	
	Number of by-laws - Number	0	5	5			
Component 2. Landscape restoration							
Outcome 2.1: 14,500 ha of landscapes under improved practices (and sequestration of -9 901 543-9 tCO ₂ e, benefitting 20,000 direct beneficiaries of which 50% are women,	Vegetation improvement in rangelands within target landscapes*			National Monitoring System	Annual	PMU	Jointly agreed upon monitoring system active (A)
	% of target landscapes with improvement in vegetation - Percentage (%)		30	50			

with strengthened livelihoods and sources of income (Reduction of environmental degradation)	3.2.1: Tons of Greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ₂ e) avoided and/or sequestered* GEF CI6.1 "Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector".				Core Indicator 6	FAO Ex-Act Analysis	Baseline, Mid-line, End-line	FAO	Duration of accounting 20 years (A) Indicator corresponds to GEF CI 6 (A)	
	Hectares of land	0		350402.46						
	tCO ₂ e/20 years	0		9667453						
	tCO ₂ e/ha	0		27.6						
	tCO ₂ e/ha/year	0		1.4						
	Output 2.1.1	3.1.4 Land brought under climate-resilient practices*				Project M&E	Annual	PMU		
	On-farm and off-farm sustainable soil and water conservation measures (conservation agriculture, drip irrigation) implemented on 7 000 ha of agricultural land	Hectares of land	0		350000					
		GEF CI 3. Area of land restored (Hectares)				Project M&E	Annual	PMU	Unclear understanding (R)	
		3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands restored - Area (ha)	0	2000	7000					Output 2.1.1
		3.2 Area of forest and forest land restored - Area (ha)	0	2500	7500					Output 2.1.2
	3.3 Area of natural grass and shrub lands restored - Area (ha)	0	95500	335500						
	Total area of land restored - Area (ha)	0	100000	350000	Core Indicator 3					
	GEF CI 4. Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)				Core Indicator 4	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	Unclear understanding (R)	

	4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems - Area (ha)	0	7000	14500					
	Total area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas) - Area (ha)	0	7000	14500					
	# of landscape management plans developed				Output 1.2.3	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Number of landscape management plans - Number	0	100	250					
Output 2.1.2: Village-level ecosystem restoration through SLM investments in e.g., village nurseries for reforestation on 7 500 ha (forests and shrub land), and village level gully reclamation activities which will include the use of gully reclamation infrastructures like gabions to curb continued growth of gullies and the destruction of farmland. Increasing water retention of wetlands*	Improved water level of selected wetland sites and ponds*				-	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	Indicator further developed by development partners including GIZ
	Estimate of volume of water retained - Percentage (%)		30	50					
Output 2.3	Hectares of invasive species removed*				-	Project M&E /	Annual	PMU	Efficient invasive

Invasive species removed from rangeland*	Hectares of land - Area (ha)	0	40000	100000		National Monitoring System			species removal strategies deployed (A)
	# of landscape coalitions reporting improved availability of grazing land and water*					Project M&E	Annual	PMU	Climate change counteracts gains made (R)
	Number of landscape coalitions - Number	0	250	750					
Outcome 2.2 Effective facility and fund for landscape restoration/regeneration available for 200 sustainable enterprises leading to scaling up of landscape restoration to 350,000 ha (ROLL+GEF) in total	# partners participating in fund*					Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Partners - Number	0	0	3					
Output 2.2.1: Facility set up to enable coalition building and provide incentives to smallholder farmers and pastoralists to adopt an integrated approach to managing the productive landscape	# of coalitions supported through facility*					Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Coalitions - Number	0	1000	1000					
Output 2.2.2: Landscape Regeneration fund established and capitalized to support 200 sustainable enterprises	# partners participating in fund*					Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Partners - Number	0	0	3					
Output 2.2.3: 20 000 direct	Mio Maloti investment channelled to coalitions*				Output 2.2.3.	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	

beneficiaries (50% women) engage in off-farm sustainable enterprises such as homestead gardening, bee-keeping and improved food value chains	Millions Maloti - Number	0	200	407					
Output 2.2.4: At least 400 million Lesotho Loti (USD 23 million) invested in regeneration of 350 000 ha (ROLL+GEF) of landscapes, channelled through the regeneration fund	Mio Maloti investment channelled to coalitions*				Output 2.2.4.	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Millions Maloti - Number	0	200	407					
Component 3: Knowledge Management, and M & E									
Outcome 3.1: Improved monitoring tools and procedures to generate LDN data, which enable measurement of environmental and socio-economic change (Improved livelihoods)	1.2.8 Women reporting minimum dietary diversity (MDDW)*					Survey	Baseline, Mid-line, End-line, Annual	PMU	
	Women (number) - Number		5000	10000					
	Women (%)		12.50%	25%					
	HH (number)		5000	10000					
	HH (%)		12.50%	25%					
	HH members		20000	40000					
	GEF CI 11. Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment				Core indicator 11	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	Coalitions and sustainable enterprises will be directly supported by the GEF through the ROF -
	Females - Number	0		10000					
	Male - Number	0		10000					

	Total number of persons - Number	0		20000					attribution of beneficiaries will be according to financing share in the ROF (A)
Output 3.1.1: Gender-sensitive landscape and improved livelihoods monitoring and reporting tools developed and institutionalized,	# of landscape and livelihoods monitoring reporting tools developed and institutionalized				Output 3.1.1	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Set of tools - Number	0	1	1					
Output 3.1.2: 250 landscape coalitions trained in participatory landscape monitoring and evaluation	# of Coalitions trained in participatory landscape monitoring and evaluation and have established an M&E systems.					Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Landscape M&E systems established-Number	0	100	250					
Outcome 3.2 Project monitoring system operates effectively and, systematically provides information on progress, lessons learnt and informs adaptive management to ensure results	# of Coalitions trained in participatory landscape monitoring and evaluation and have established an M&E systems.					Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Landscape M&E systems established-Number	0	100	250					
Output 3.2.1: Five LDN information hubs operationalized as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices to primary and secondary stakeholders promoting gender equality and women's participation	# of LDN information hubs operationalized				Output 3.2.1	Project M&E	Annual	PMU	
	Information hubs - Number	0	5	5					

Output 3.2.2: Curriculum for teaching at schools and universities integrating gender responsive landscape management aspects informed by ROLL project	# of curricula at schools and universities that integrate landscape management aspects	Output 3.2.2	Project M&E	Annual	PMU
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ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

B.1 Germany comments

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

No.	COMMENTS	RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
1	? The proposal should provide more detail on how the project is going to address the issue of governance and management of natural resources in Lesotho. Particular focus should also be given to better coordination between relevant ministries. This should also be reflected in the section on risk management.	The governance and management of natural resources has been included in the ?Project Description section? on page 22 and in the Risk section.
2	? Germany welcomes that this proposal aims at enhancing the enabling environment. However, Germany invites the applications to elaborate in more detail on how this will be achieved (making use of UNCCD?s dimensions of an enabling environment), especially in the context of land tenure rights, which the project rightly identified as a major challenge. Generally, Germany welcomes the explicit focus on LDN.	Enhancement OF the enabling environment has been included in the ?Project Description section? on page 22

3	<p>? As highlighted in the proposal, the EU and BMZ (with GIZ as implementing agency) support a national programme for Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) in Lesotho since 2020. Six national ministries are involved and the programme is being implemented under an inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism. There is a lot of overlap between the goals of this proposal and the ICM (e.g. avoiding soil erosion, protection of key ecosystems while also strengthening livelihoods and resilience in rural areas). We suggest close collaboration between the two projects.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. Close collaboration with the ICM is considered and synergies will be incorporated through further consultations with ICM. Already consultations have already been made with ICM. ROLL+GEF will take up some of the approaches and working modalities tested under ICM, including technical guidelines and improved institutional arrangements for project delivery.</p>
4	<p>? In its current stage and with the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation being one of the implementing agencies, there is a risk that the proposed project will not make use of the inter-ministerial coordinating mechanism. Germany invites the applicants to make use of the existing synergies and to elaborate in more detail on how it intends to do that in the proposal. Germany further suggests using the proposal to strengthen the role of the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation within the national ICM Programme.</p>	<p>The institutional arrangements articulated in the project entail inter-ministerial coordination and therefore efforts will be made to use the existing structures and coordinating mechanisms. This will also ensure synergies with other projects are optimized.</p>

5	? This proposal should focus on increasing the national coordination for the management of natural resources, for instance by including binding contributions to Lesotho's national catchment management targets, or by contributing to the development of national guidelines for integrated catchment management. Overall, the proposed project implementation should be closely aligned to the implementation of the ICM.	The project will contribute to the development of national guidelines for intergrated catchment management as indicated in the KM plan
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B.2 STAP comments

No.	COMMENTS	RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
1	<p>I would like to have access to the methodology used to define the 5 targetted landscapes. The PIF mentions (pg 37, section 6) ? Enhanced capacities and knowledge to apply sustainable land management practices in the targeted landscapes (for which a shortlist has been defined) for approximately 100,000 rural people, leading to sustainable use of the available natural resources (land, water, flora and fauna).</p>	<p>Question 1.</p> <p>For the preparation of the shortlist of project areas, an iterative process was used. The Government of Lesotho has prepared a list of potential intervention areas, and a comprehensive analysis of both environmental and socio-economic data available for those areas was used. The indicators used were: (i) soil erosion rate; (ii) wetland change; (iii) poverty rate; (iv) food insecurity levels; (v) stunting amongst children. A joint exercise with Government stakeholders was carried out to determine the relevant weighing of these factors. Beyond these indicators, an analysis was made of the strategic relevance of the area to the needs of downstream water users (e.g. position within the larger catchment) and the presence of other development projects. Beyond the shortlist, the Government of Lesotho will carry out further scoping work in the coming months, to establish the feasibility of the project to intervene in the area, particularly related to the interest of local stakeholders in forming landscape regeneration coalitions.</p> <p>The project design team for the baseline investment has taken into consideration the LDN indicator framework. The project's monitoring and evaluation framework is set up to collect data on other relevant parameters to that effect, such as land productivity. The full design of the ROLL+GEF project will establish how the project can most efficiently contribute to the monitoring of land degradation neutrality, aligned with the other ongoing initiatives in the country regarding landscape monitoring including the work done under the EU-funded Integrated Catchment Management project.</p>

No.	COMMENTS	RESPONSE TO COMMENTS
2	<p>Given that LDN interventions are to be undertaken on those already defined projects I like to the approach (e.g. criteria, assessments) used for the decision on what landscapes to target. The PIF mentions the model as an integrated approach combining bio-physical and socio-economic assessments at the catchment level. Knowing whether the framework (model) has been applied in other countries, and what has been the experience? That is, what is the evidence that has resulted from the use of the framework?</p>	<p>Question 2.</p> <p>The landscape graduation model is an innovation of the ROLL project and has therefore not been applied previously in other projects or countries. However, the graduation model brings together a number of elements or approaches that have been successful within their specific domains.</p> <p>The first element is the household graduation model as inspired by BRAC's work and further successfully rolled out across the globe (see for instance https://www.cgap.org/sites/default/files/CGAP-Focus-Note-Reaching-the-Poorest-Lessons-from-the-Graduation-Model-Mar-2011.pdf). From this model, the project concept takes the need to provide evolving support to the actors in the landscape in a time-bound manner.</p> <p>The second element of the framework is that of using landscape-level assessments to better target sustainable land management strategies. This is informed by decades of sustainable land management practice, in recent years enhanced by the use of remote sensing data.</p> <p>The third element is the Lesotho-specific experience on finding the right mechanisms to engage and support natural resource users in the management of their landscapes. Here, the landscape graduation model combines experiences in engaging poor communities in degraded lands (primarily through cash for work schemes) with more advanced incentive mechanisms for communities where there is reasonable economic activity.</p> <p>The landscape graduation model is currently being further developed, and more information can be shared in the coming month or so as the baseline design progresses.</p>

B.3 GEF Secretariat review queries

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
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SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Part I ? Project Information</p> <p>Focal area elements</p> <p>1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Considering the proposal foresees the restoration of 10,000 hectares of forest, it is unclear why the objective LD 1-3 isn't considered. Please explain and adjust eventually as needed.</p>	<p>The restoration is focusing on the landscape, which include patches of forests, therefore the estimated 10,000ha is not in a contiguous forest but the area that includes tree cover, and shrubs. Most landscapes are rangeland and grassland (as per current land-cover in the country), hence the LD1-3 objective was not selected in an effort to keep the project focused on the existing landscapes. Considering that reforestation will not be a major focal area of the project, the target of 10 000ha to has been revised downwards to 5 000ha in the PIF. The figure will be reviewed during project preparation.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>Thank you for the clarification and adjustment. Cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Indicative project/program description summary</p> <p>2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>1. Component 1 includes the participatory land use mapping and development of five landscape management plans covering 50,000 ha. This area is not mentioned in the project description and the TOC of these 50,000 ha and it is not clear how it articulates with the project results as reported in the core indicator and outcomes. Please explain.</p>	<p>1.The 50 000 ha refers to landscapes under improved practices for ROLL+GEF therefore:</p> <p>An adjustment was made to output 1.2.3 and now reads ??250 landscape management plans developed covering 50 000 ha. The changes have been updated in the TOC.</p> <p>A proposal is made to have 1 landscape plan per coalition therefore 250-landscape management plans are envisaged covering a total of 50 000 ha</p>
	<p>2. One outcome of Component 1 is the improved management of 350,000 hectares. Nevertheless, the output of land use mapping and development of five landscape management plans covers 50,000 hectares. Please, clarify how the outputs will enable the achievement of this expected outcome</p>	<p>2. An adjustment was made to match component 1 outcome in the rest of the document. The 350 000 ha refers to the overall ROLL target, therefore 50 000 ha will be the target for ROLL+GEF and while IFAD co-financing through the baseline investment will cover the additional 300,000 ha. The approach will be phased with the investments in the first 5 districts covering the 50,000 ha and the planning approach and process, practices and technologies adopted will thereafter be expanded to the additional 300, 000ha.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>3. The output 2.1.1 is an on-farm and off-farm sustainable soil and water conservation measures implemented on 1,500 ha of agricultural land. This area is also reported under the Global Environment section 6. Nevertheless, it is 4,500 hectares in the TOC and in the core indicators targets. Please explain these differences and ensure all the outputs and results are consistent throughout the proposal.</p>	<p>3. The area of land in TOC has been changed to 1 500 ha to match output 2.1.1 and the Environment section 6. All the outputs were also checked for consistency. The 4 500 ha refers to the overall ROLL project therefore also counting the contribution from the baseline investment.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>1, 2 and 3. Thank you for the clarification. Nevertheless, the expected results remain unclear and inconsistent. The numbers in table B doesn't reflect the information provided in the project description. In table B, we see 50,000 ha of land under improved management and 14,500 under restoration. In the core indicator table, the benefits are 14,500 under improved management and 350,000 ha under restoration (4,500 ha of agriculture lands, 5,000 ha of forests and 340,500 ha of grass and shrublands). In the project description under the section "6. Global environmental benefits and adaptation benefits", it is 50,000 ha under improved management and 19,500 ha in total under restoration... Please clarify the expected Global Environment Benefits, including those resulting from the co-financing (350,000 ha impacted), and ensure they are consistent throughout all the project description.</p>	<p>The expected results have been clarified in the PIF to ensure consistency in the full reference to 350, 000 ha, which is consolidated from the baseline (ROLL) and GEF investments. The resources will ensure mainstreaming sustainable management and the generation of global environmental benefits into the IFAD investments.</p> <p>To reach the targets, the project implementation will be phased with 50,000 ha in the initial phase while the subsequent areas will be selected and prioritised during implementation. The map included shows the area already selected for the initial 50,000 ha.</p> <p>The 14,500 ha is the agricultural landscape and clarified to include cropland and rangelands.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
30 October	Thank you for the amendments and clarification. Cleared.	
<p>Co-financing</p> <p>3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>The description says IFAD will provide a grant-loan facility (50%-50%) for ROLL, for a total of US\$ 11.2 million. Nevertheless, this contribution is referred as "In-kind". Please clarify and amend as needed.</p>	<p>An amendment was done on Table in section C "In-kind" was deleted and replaced with ??Loan??</p>
29 October 2020	Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.	
<p>GEF Resource Availability</p> <p>4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply)?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	
<p>The STAR allocation?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
The focal area allocation?	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>No, but the country has a total STAR allocation less than US\$7 million and as such, it has full flexibility to program its allocations across the three focal areas. Cleared.</p>	
The LDCF under the principle of equitable access	N/A	
The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?	N/A	
Focal area set-aside?	N/A	
Impact Program Incentive?	N/A	
<p>Project Preparation Grant</p> <p>5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g., for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (Not applicable to PFD)</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, the PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap. Cleared.</p>	
<p>Core indicators</p> <p>6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Project/Program taxonomy</p> <p>7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Considering the project includes forest restoration, please also check the boxes corresponding to "Forests" and "Forest and Landscape Restoration" in the Annex F "Project Taxonomy Worksheet" and under the section "Taxonomy" in the Portal (at the beginning of the project description).</p>	<p>The boxes corresponding to "Forest and Landscape Restoration" in the Annex F were checked including the "Project Taxonomy Worksheet" and under the section "Taxonomy" in the Portal. However, as explained above, given that the existing landscape includes mainly grassland and rangeland, the focus will be on landscape restoration and shrub lands not contiguous forests.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>Thank you for the amendment and notification which is well noted. Cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Part II ? Project Justification</p> <p>1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>The eventual constraints, or enabling conditions, linked to land property, access and use are not clearly explained. Please elaborate further about the land rights and their interaction with the management of natural resources and their degradation.</p>	<p>Gaps exist in the legislation framework required for regulating rangeland management, land tenure and land use as well as in defining the role of traditional authorities in regulating natural resource usage. Existing policies and strategies are outdated and/or are not being implemented effectively. From this it is evident that there is a need for policy and regulatory reform if the goals of the National Strategy Development Plan (NSDP) II are to be achieved</p> <p>The enforcement of limiting access is a major constraint. The biggest challenge currently in Lesotho is to (i) define boundaries and (ii) enforce restrictions, especially in the zones far from the villages.</p> <p>The project proposes better planning, and collective acceptance of set limitations (inclusion), but also monitoring via satellite imagery and with drones, as well as local patrols where needed. The underlying regulation, the rangeland act, is being revised and should be updated next year, to support the start-up of this project. One improvement includes the strengthening of the Grazing Associations.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>The primary baseline project is the Lesotho Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL). It is unclear what is the current status and actual content of this project as, at the same time, it seems to be the proposed GEF project itself... Please elaborate further on the current status of the ROLL project and on what is already in place this new proposed GEF project will build on: institutional arrangements, involved partners with their respective roles and contributions, already taken decisions, existing institutional framework and links with national and local level such as GoL agencies at district and national levels, etc. This information is very important to understand how this proposal fits in the existing context.</p>	<p>The baseline investment, ROLL concept was approved in 2020 and full design completed in 2021 and has been approved by the IFAD Executive Board in September 2021. The design mission of the proposed Regeneration of Landscapes and Livelihoods (ROLL) for Global Environment Fund (GEF) allocation (ROLL+GEF) took place from 26 April to 7 May 2021 and the project is expected to start in January 2022.</p> <p>This new GEF project will build on the ROLL Project Management Unit (PMU) institutional arrangements and overall governance structures. However, the direct split of tasks and funding items will be further defined during design. Within the ROLL project, GEF resources will be used to finance activities that will enable mainstreaming of sustainable landscape management within the entire project in order to contribute to Lesotho's LDN targets of balancing losses and gains of productive land through SLM.</p> <p>GEF will finance 2 or 3 expert positions in the ROLL+GEF PMU dedicated to the mainstreaming of the GEF investments and ensure that GEBs are generated from the entire ROLL area and that LDN is achieved through the balancing of losses and gains of productive land.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
29 October 2020	Thank you for the additional information provided. Cleared.	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>1. In general, the description of the components is very limited, the outputs being listed as in table B, without more details on these outputs. Please elaborate further on the envisioned activities considered under each output title, linking with the relevant baseline projects.</p>	<p>The activities for the component also included in the PIF are as follows</p> <p>Component 1 Activities.</p> <p>This will include practical activities such as landscape assessment by communities, discussions on how livelihood activities could evolve and reduce their environmental footprint (e.g., shifting to more intensive farming, fodder production, small-scale irrigation/water harvesting, saving group formation and investment in small businesses), etc. It will be a people-centred approach, working with communities in selected landscapes. In addition, coalitions will support the line ministries and their officers to work effectively with related government ministries through landscape management plans. Activities will also include further capacity building measures/training and work on behaviour change/awareness raising with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Component 2 Activities</p> <p>Activities will include: (i) Labour-based schemes and physical infrastructure development aimed at relieving immediate pressure in catchments experiencing high levels of poverty and land degradation; (ii) Performance-based incentives aimed at ensuring smooth transition in areas undergoing transition to more sustainable management practices, including incentives to reduce the numbers and improve the quality of livestock, to restore landscapes, to pursue more sustainable arable agricultural</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>2. One critical results of the project is the regeneration of 350 000 ha of landscapes, channelled through the regeneration fund. Nevertheless, it appears that the funding sources of this fund are still unknown and will depend on a detailed analysis that will be conducted during project design. Please explain what can ensure the expected results will be achieved in such uncertain conditions.</p>	<p>2. It is correct that the ultimate size of the fund's investment volume is uncertain, as the ROLL project aims to leverage further funds during implementation. However, with more than USD 25 Million initial investment in the Fund from IFAD and OFID, the set objectives are realistic. The full ROLL design will cost the activities and their returns further through a robust Economic and Financial Analysis (EFA). A residual uncertainty remains, and will be listed in the overall project's risk matrix, with accompanying mitigating measures. Overall, interventions are scalable, so if less funds are available the project can operate, but its overall scale will be less, and equally it will be larger scale with more funds.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>3. The proposal relies on the introduction of a set of incentives, which will support communities to transform their landscape. Nevertheless, the proposal is vague regarding the kind of incentives that can be promoted and sustainable, given the local context of poor governance and limited alternatives. Please explain further the considered incentives (based on which mechanism concretely) and how they are integrated in the long-term investment strategy that the project aims to develop</p>	<p>3. The incentives will aim to reduce the flock-size by culling-exchange interventions to increase the quality of livestock, to restore landscapes to pursue more sustainable arable agricultural practices, agro-forestry investments, such as orchards, fodder production at home-stead/field level as well as interventions to balance agricultural income streams with off-farm income generating activities to allow people shifting from extensive land-use to other livelihoods.</p> <p>The incentives for change in behaviour of communities and individuals are also partly a result from component 1 and the coalition building. The innovation is the principle, of working on results-based approaches and incentivising change through collective planning from coalitions and funding the implementation plans. However, in more advanced cases, aspects of outcome based payments/incentives (potentially cash transfers) would be piloted</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>4. Among the problems leading to the environmental degradation, the proposal mentions important local governance issues including the encroachment into rangelands, the increased stock theft, the loss of authority of traditional chiefs, the confusion about authority concerning land use, and the fear of loss of traditional rights... In this context, it is unclear how the project will ensure the establishment of 250 operational and effective landscape regeneration coalitions. Please clarify how these coalitions will be formed and their relevant enabling environment.</p>	<p>4. The coalitions vary in their composition. Some will be already existing groups, such as the already existing 70 grazing associations across Lesotho (some of which manage up to 10 000 ha of range land). Others will be more livelihood focused, such as village saving groups also working on environmental aspects (e.g., one group sells bottled water using a local spring and invests in its continuous flow). Coalitions will also be built through a participatory consultation process with support from government extension and project staff. The design mission will evaluate if a third party (CSO/NGO) will be required to support this aspect further.</p>
	<p>5. The improved management of 350,000 ha will be focused in 5 landscapes. Please indicate what and where these landscapes are and how they are delimited.</p>	<p>5. The 350 000 ha refers to the overall ROLL+GEF project, that will likely work in 5 administrative hubs. The 5 landscapes mentioned in the PIF refers to the five districts that will include the GEF priority landscapes and outputs. The overall outcomes relate to the total investment project (i.e., ROLL+GEF); 350 000 ha hence results from the 40 million overall investment envisaged. The proposed landscapes are indicated in the map provided in the PIF and in a table showing the proposed constituencies where the landscapes are located.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>6. The planned restoration of 10,000 ha of forests is unclear. Please elaborate further on what kind of restoration is expected, with whom and for which purposes.</p>	<p>6. Forest cover in Lesotho is patchy. The majority of work will be on grassland, rangeland and shrub land. However, agroforestry has proven to work in some locations as livelihood base and to assist reforestation. Reforestation and tree planting are also promoted under Ministry of forestry, and community level forest projects (micro-scale) would be part of ROLL, but not the focus. The 10 000-ha target for forest restoration is an estimate of the area that is covered with trees albeit in the form of patchy forests and shrub land. However, the estimate was revised to 5 000ha in the PIF.</p>
	<p>7. The weak enforcement capacities for existing regulations and policies and the outdated range resources management policy and legislation are highlighted among the barriers to achieve sustainable landscapes. Nevertheless, the proposed activities do not take into account these barriers. Please clarify how the proposal will concretely overcome these important barriers.</p>	<p>7. There is a benchmark project by EU/GIZ working on Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) in Lesotho and improving the governance at national and inter-ministerial levels. Based on the heavy in-country presence of ICM project and their experience in governance, the team will assist roll in the legal process. ROLL will nevertheless work at community and district level on the enforcement of local regulations. At the same time, some rules are bylaws ? such as resting of grazing land ? that need collective enforcement from communities/users and this will be one focus of the coalition-building component 1.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>8. Please explain with more details what are the envisioned "labour-based schemes" and "physical infrastructure development" the project will support and how they relate to the project objectives.</p>	<p>8. Labour-based schemes, includes reseeded of degraded areas following appropriate environmental protocols. Physical infrastructure will mostly be water points, but will also include stabilising affected local access roads and small-scale irrigation.</p>
	<p>9. In Component 3, the proposed M&E strategy doesn't refer clearly to the project activities and results but seems to be linked to other processes (like LDN) or oriented to the implementation of new activities not clearly mentioned in component 1 and 2 (Biophysical monitoring protocols for the three LDN indicators). The M&E plan is not expected at PIF stage; however, project financing should include an indicative M&E budget in Part I, Section B of the project document. Please clarify the M&E of the project performance and provide as expected an indicative M&E budget.</p>	<p>9. Reference to monitoring protocols will be revised accordingly. The project level M&E system will include identification of indicators for each output and outcome as well as means of measurement and verification. The M&E plan will be elaborated at the design stage. The indicative M&E budget is included in Table B under Component 3 and estimated at USD 20,000 for activities related to data collection, analysis and reporting.</p> <p>The M&E budget calculated at design is USD 250 000 from GEF resources</p>
	<p>10. The Component 3 includes project management activities as mentioned in its title. Please note that the project management should be charged to the PMC. Please amend accordingly.</p>	<p>10. Project management activities have been shifted to the PMC. The reference to project management was related to the baseline investments that will be captured under this Component.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
29 October	<p>1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Thank you for the additional information and clarification. Cleared.</p> <p>3. The information provided remain vague, beyond the mentioned "results-based approaches and incentivizing change through collective planning". What are exactly these results-based approaches and how collective planning will incentivize the beneficiaries? Please refer to the comment made and elaborate further on what kind of incentives the project will be put in place. Cleared.</p>	<p>The results-based approach, involves all the communities in management, accountability in conducting a full assessment of their efforts on regeneration of landscapes, management and monitoring progress toward the achievement of expected results. The approach integrates lessons learned into management decisions and reporting on performance and in identifying the right actions and building the commitment necessary to ensure the effective implementation of measures to regenerate the landscapes and enhance the communities? livelihoods.</p> <p>The project Performance-based incentives will be aimed at ensuring smooth transition in areas undergoing transition to more sustainable management practices. Communities will be provided with investment opportunities once they are able to show agreed results. Incentives include: market opportunities to obtain higher prices for improved quality of livestock following the culling-exchange interventions to reduce flock-size; agro-forestry investments for income generation, such as orchards, fodder production at home-stead/field level; bio-trade/natural product development (bee keeping, dried indigenous herbs and medicinal plants, artisanal products); eco-tourism initiatives; payment for ecosystem services; small investments to increase income in local businesses to allow people shifting from extensive land-use to other livelihoods. In addition, incentives payments will be used to promote more sustainable agricultural practices, as well as interventions to balance agricultural income streams with off-farm income generating activities; outcome / performance-schemes that include the creation of alternative livelihood opportunities.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
30 October	Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.	
4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?	October 5, 2020: Yes, cleared.	
5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?	October 5, 2020: 1. The proposal informs that the GEF additional contribution will allow to "realizing global environmental benefits through integrated planning, policy and legal reforms". Nevertheless, we do not see such policy and legal reforms being explicitly supported in the baseline scenario nor in Table B. Please explain how such results will be achieved by the project.	1. As mentioned above, the ROLL is working closely with the on-going ICM support project, which has a strong focus on governance and legal reform. The ICM project will end in 2024, and hence ROLL will continue with some of the initiatives, which ICM might not be able to finalise. However, at this stage no strong focus on governance reform has been included in the project. The focus lies on bottom-up work and coalition building and bringing about solutions and improvements at the local level, empowering communities and districts to address these issues. Where necessary, national level regulations and their changes will become part of the small sub-component on institutional work under component 1. Integrated planning, however, will feature more strongly.

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>2. In addition, there is no mention of how concretely the GEF support will be incremental to the establishment of the regeneration fund. Please clarify what will be the added value and concrete contribution of the GEF to this fund.</p>	<p>2. The GEF support will be catalytic and ensure the establishment of the fund with the systems and structures in place for the operations and investment using the IFAD and OFID resources i.e. the GEF resources will be used to provide seed capital for the fund for landscape restoration support. In addition to co-finance that will come from the private sector. The contribution of GEF is expected to decrease as the Fund is expected to increase with time.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>1 and 2. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.</p>	
<p>6. Are the project?/s/program?s indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>The proposal set ambitious targets but it is unclear how they relate to the investments. To better understand the assumptions and the capacity of the project to meet its objectives, please indicate the estimated cost of per hectares that has been considered for the different core indicators, and notably the restoration, and the sources of the data utilized.</p>	<p>The targets are estimated based on the available resources and experience from on-going and past projects in the country. Based on the core indicators, the restoration of the agricultural land is estimated at USD 1,170/ha while the restoration of rangelands and grasslands is estimated at USD 25/ ha. The agricultural land investment includes small-scale infrastructure such as irrigation, which justifies the higher per hectares costs.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.</p>	
<p>7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Project/Program Map and Coordinates</p> <p>Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>The map provided is unclear. It seems to be the map of the whole country but there is no legend and it is unclear where the project will take place (in particular where the 350,00 ha of SLM are). Please provide a map including clearly the project's intended location.</p>	<p>The map in the PIF was replaced with an up-dated map on the selected catchments for ROLL and ROLL+GEF. However, the final selection of landscapes for all the 350 000 ha (ROLL+GEF) has not been not determined and will be finalised at design stage. The selection of landscapes will be done in phases with the first phase being selected at design and more landscapes will be selected during implementation. In principle, the project intends work at national scale, though there are some discussions with Government, to initially start with 5 districts in the form of administrative hubs.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>Thank you for providing the new map identifying the selected catchments for ROLL and GEF+GEF. Cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>The proposal mentions various on-site engagements with core GoL agencies and their extension officers on the ground but stay vague about the actual modalities of consultation for local resource users and stakeholders. Please clarify how these users and stakeholders have been consulted and the results of these consultations.</p>	<p>During the conceptualisation of the project, site visits were conducted to select locations (including Mafeteng, Maphutseng, Letseng La Letsie and around Maseru) and stakeholders consulted in their associations and groups. The consultations informed the project activities and approach proposed. Specific areas of attention arising from the consultation of local stakeholders included (i) the need for alignment and buy-in of both local government and traditional authorities when planning and implementing landscape interventions; (ii) the need for sustained and coordinated support by various government agencies and other development partners and (iii) the value of frequent follow-up from those partners and the challenges in mobilizing such support due to lack of transport and budgets. The modalities for continued consultation of stakeholders will be mainly jointly developed plans and their financing against milestones in line with the project's objectives (e.g. landscape restoration, livelihood improvement, etc.). The project design will assess if this will predominantly rely on government staff and local communities (and their existing associations, etc.) or if an external party, such as NGO/CSO will be hired to assist with the facilitation process.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p> <p>Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	
<p>Private Sector Engagement</p> <p>Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Risks to Achieving Project Objectives</p> <p>Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>1. The climate risk is not well identified. The proposal says "Climate-induced negative impacts derail project implementation". At this stage, more clarification on threats and impacts are needed to be able to consider appropriate mitigation measures. Please outline the key aspects of the climate change projections/scenarios at the project location or at country level if not available at local scale (including a time horizon, ideally 2050, if the data is available) and list key potential hazards for the project that are related to the climate scenarios. For further guidance, the Agency may want to refer to STAP guidance available here: https://www.stapgef.org/stap-guidance-climate-risk-screening.</p>	<p>1. Climate change may undermine the sustainable development efforts to increase the capacity for integrated landscape management and livelihood improvement. Lesotho is extremely vulnerable to climate change, with high exposure to climate variability and extremes such as drought, high temperatures and heat waves, floods, hail, and frost. Climate change simulations at national level show temperatures increasing by 1.5°C-2°C and reductions to total monthly precipitation throughout the rainy season (October-March) by ~5.5%, from ~570 mm/season to ~540 mm/season by 2050. These changes are expected to be more apparent by 2050. The impacts of climate change will have adverse impacts on the productivity of the agricultural landscape and rangelands. The predicted droughts will result in reduced water availability for agricultural production and livestock as well as feed availability.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>2. In the proposal, the risks analysis related to the COVID-19 pandemic is limited to adaptive measures to implement some activities like meetings in such a context. Nevertheless, the pandemic can affect other important elements of the project and some further risk and opportunity analysis needs to be undertaken at this stage. In particular, relatively important public co-financing is expected for this project, notably as investment mobilized. Can this co-financing be affected by the current pandemic? Please complete the risk analysis and consider eventual opportunities this project can provide to enhance the resilience of the beneficiaries against possible future pandemics. (It can be a specific separate note after the risk table). For further clarification, we advise to refer to the note "Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics" shared by GEF Secretariat with the GEF Agencies on September 14.</p>	<p>2. The COVID-19 pandemic may result in more public resources being directed towards addressing the situation and thus limit the Government co-financing of the project. However, the potential impact of these limitations is cushioned as core activities for the project will be financed by the GEF and through the baseline investment (IFAD and OFID). The pandemic, or future ones of similar nature, is also likely to adversely affect livelihoods through income generation activities, which will undoubtedly impact negatively on smallholder investments. The focus on landscape and agricultural productive systems restoration provides opportunities for building the resilience of the communities and building back better aftershocks through promoting green jobs. The Economic and Financial Analysis that will be done for the baseline investment will also include a sensitivity analysis to capture any delayed start or benefits accrual.</p> <p>In essence ROLL+GEF will contribute to recovery of the country from COVID 19. The project will assist Lesotho and the rural population in recovery from the COVID 19 pandemic. An estimate of 10.000 work days will be created in the first three years benefitting the rural poor and remote communities in the project area. This will release pressure on the government resources towards recovery from the government. The government of Lesotho has already had financial negotiations? with IFAD on 21 September 2021 for the baseline investment.</p> <p>Since the first confirmed COVID-19 case was reported in Lesotho on 13 May 2020, until 24 September 2021, a total of 14 395 cases of COVID-19 have been reported, including 6 830 recoveries and 403 deaths. The infection rate is currently at 1%</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>3. The risk that the regeneration fund is not established isn't considered. How can the project developers ensure that this fund will be established and operational in year 2 of the project implementation? Please clarify</p>	<p>3. Establishment of the regeneration fund is a key aspect for innovation and sustainability of the project. In case the fund will not materialise more traditional methods, of financing plans developed under component 1 through a Project Management Unit approval-process can be instituted. These would partly build on lessons from other countries and GEF-financed projects in Lesotho (LASAP). Partnership will be forged from the design stage of the project with other development partners (World Bank), IFAD-assisted grant projects (WAMPP), other projects, financial institutions (OFID) and communities (for community contributions) for additional funds.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>1. Thank you for the additional information. Cleared</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>2. The comment is partially addressed. Please clearly describe 1- how the project will deal with the identified likely impacts in project design and 2- how the project has identified potential opportunities to mitigate impacts and contribute toward green recovery and building back better.</p>	<p>2. In the project design the potential impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic will be addressed through the elaboration and sequencing of project activities and the sources of funds. The protocols already established during the current pandemic will be adhered to including remote conducting of activities and resources being allocated from the baseline project to improve capacity (connectivity, data capture and reporting) of remote activity delivery. Resources will be set aside for this eventuality in the project costs and budget. The potential shift in focus and priorities by Government will be mitigated using community-based organisations and in particular the coalitions being created and strengthened under Component 1.</p> <p>The identified opportunities such as landscape restoration, livelihood diversification and capacity building activities capture the concept of green recovery and building back better. The land restoration activities will result in GEBs, improve the food security situation given the inclusion of agricultural land and improve the climate resilience of the communities. The off-farm activities provide opportunities for livelihoods diversification and job</p> <p>creating, which improve the resilience of the communities being targeted. Further opportunities of green businesses will be explored for the targeted 200 farming enterprises.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>3. Thank you for considering the risk on the regeneration fund establishment. Nevertheless, the risk rating is not assessed for this risk. please complete the table accordingly.</p>	<p>3. Risk has been rated as medium</p>
<p>30 October</p>	<p>2. Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.</p> <p>3. Thank for adding the risk rating. Cleared.</p>	
<p>Coordination</p> <p>Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
29 October 2020	<p>In the beginning of the project description in the Portal, both the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC) are mentioned as "Executing partners". Nevertheless, under the section "6. Coordination", only the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation is referred as "lead", and "ministries of "Environment, Agriculture and Food Security" as "co-leading". Please clearly indicate under this section what agency (ies) will be executing (using these words of "executing agency(ies)") and name them with their entire name (not only Ministry of environment if it is the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture). Please also ensure the information provided is the same in the beginning of the project description and the rest of the information provided. please apology for not having raised this issue in the first review.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC) are both co-executing partners as indicated at the beginning of the PIF. Therefore, the section on coordination has been amended.</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
30 October	<p>We don't see the announced amendment under section 6. Coordination: the text still indicates "The proposed lead agency for the coordination of these efforts is therefore the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC)"... and "The principal technical partners from Government side will include the ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Food Security co-leading". We don't see the mention of "Executing" and the name of the "Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Culture (MTEC)" is not mentioned. In addition, the ministry of environment appears at the same level of the ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Please clarify and amend as needed.</p>	<p>The amendment in the text, Section 6 on coordination has been done and MTEC role clarified as the co-executing agency that will lead on the GEF aspects and ensure the mainstreaming of sustainable management and the generation of global environmental benefits. The other co-Executing agency is MFRSC. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftain Affairs will implement some activities and thus is not at the same level as the two co-Executing agencies.</p>
2 November 2020	<p>Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.</p>	
<p>Consistency with National Priorities</p> <p>Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Knowledge Management</p> <p>Is the proposed ?knowledge management (KM) approach? in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project?s/program?s overall impact and sustainability?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>The description mentions the use of best practices in general and focusses on the establishment and strengthening of an investment- and action-oriented knowledge network and associated tools across institutional and disciplinary boundaries, incorporating global tools and standards. As described, these practices and tools remain vague and some aspects of the Knowledge Management approach need to be clarified, such as the existing lessons and best practice that inform the project concept, the knowledge outputs to be produced and shared with stakeholders</p> <p>and how the knowledge and learning will contribute to overall project impact and sustainability. Please complete accordingly.</p>	<p>The project design for ROLL and start-up phase will develop a sound KM strategy and implementation plan with annual budgets financing activities. At this stage the following broad activity areas are defined. (i) Evidence based approach in monitoring and knowledge generation: the project will invest in monitoring, analysis and learning to improve the performance and use early success to leverage additional finance and support for the regeneration fund. K&M will hence play a critical role during the implementation. (ii) Work on curricula of the local education institutions: the project will engage local level education (mostly primary at community level and tertiary at national level in sensitisation and capacity building). This includes potential up-date of the curricula at National University of Lesotho and the Agricultural College (at national level) as well as school level competitions on improved landscape management and regeneration. (iii) the PMU will apply critical reflection sessions and K&M clinics ? both on their own and during IFAD-led supervision missions ? to tease out key factors of success and challenges, and foster learning and following improvements in processes. (iv) Communication work will utilise local media, such as radio, newspaper and online platforms. (v) the knowledge from other locations on landscape management will be facilitated through IFAD and its global partnerships. Early lessons include those from water funds in Kenya and South Africa, but also from the ICM project in Lesotho. This knowledge in-flow to ROLL will be part of design and support missions, but further exchanges, such as project visits /exchange visits are foreseen, too. In that</p>

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
29 October 2020	Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.	
<p data-bbox="272 426 574 485">Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)</p> <p data-bbox="272 583 618 758">Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?</p>	<p data-bbox="646 426 829 453">October 5, 2020:</p> <p data-bbox="646 552 997 669">Yes, the overall risk is estimated as Moderate and an ESS risks screening is attached with the submission. Cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Part III ? Country Endorsements</p> <p>Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?</p>	<p>October 5, 2020:</p> <p>Yes, the project has been endorsed by the current OFP Mr. Stanley M. Damane. Nevertheless, the fees in the Letter of Endorsement doesn't include the fees for the PPG. The fees amount in this Letter should be the sum of the project fees and the PPG fees. In addition, the PPG amount reported in the Letter of Endorsement should be without fees. Please consider the 2 following suggestions:</p> <p>1. Please correct the Letter of Endorsement accordingly and ensure that none of the amounts reported in the PIF exceed those endorsed by the OFP in the Letter of Endorsement. <i>(Relevant table is pasted at the end of the comments)</i></p> <p>2. Please adjust the financial numbers in the Portal so that: 1- the PPG cost is \$150,000 and the fees for the PPG cost is \$0; and 2- the project fees in the Portal is \$334,017 and not \$334,018 (the amounts requested in the Portal can't exceed those endorsed by the OFP).</p>	<p>The figures in the letter of endorsement were adjusted as follows:</p> <p>PPG: USD 150,000</p> <p>Project: USD 3,502,968</p> <p>Fee: USD 347,032</p> <p>Total: USD 4,000,000</p> <p>An updated signed endorsement letter has been requested from the OFP reflecting these changes.</p>
<p>29 October 2020</p>	<p>Thank you for the corrections and the new Letter of Endorsement. Cleared.</p>	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
<p>Term sheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects</p> <p>Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.</p>	N/A	
29 October 2020	Thank you for significantly improving the proposal. Please address the remaining comments.	
30 October	Not yet. Please address the remaining comment.	

SECTION OF THE PIF	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES
	<p>Thank you for addressing the comments. Nevertheless, we noticed the following last issues that need to be addressed:</p> <p>1- Core Indicators: the proposal mentions ?Restoration of 350 000 ha of landscapes and sequestration of 1 206 559 tCO2 benefiting? but there is no climate benefit reported in the Core indicator section. Please include the climate mitigation benefits under the sub-indicator 6.1.</p>	<p>1. The core indicator table has been updated to include the climate mitigation benefits through the sequestration of 1 206 559tCO2. Sub-indicator 6.1 has also been filled in with this value.</p>
	<p>2- Co-financing: Please use ?Donor Agency? (instead of "Others") in table C for FAO, as for GEF Agencies (even if it is not an implementing Agency for the project).</p>	<p>2. Table C has been revised to reflect FAO as a Donor Agency.</p>

B.4 GEF Secretariat review queries (20 June 2022)

SECTION OF THE CEO	ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSES	IFAD responses 8 June 2022	3RD Comments responses
<p>Part I ? Project Information</p> <p>Focal area elements</p> <p>1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>			

<p>Project description summary</p> <p>2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>The name of the output 1.2.3 "250 landscape management plans developed in the deform restoration of 350,000 ha" is unclear. Please clarify aligning with alternative scenario.</p>	<p>Statement revised to ?250 landscape management plans developed in support of restoration of 350,000 ha of landscape (rangelands, shrub lands, grasslands and cropland). See output 1.2.3 section B.</p>		
	<p>May 16, 2022:</p> <p>Thank you for the amendment. In addition, we note in the beginning of the project description in the Portal that the period of time between the "Expected Implementation Start" and the "Expected Completion Date" is different from the project duration of 72 months. Please correct as needed.</p>		<p>Expected Implementation Start -01/07/2022 Expected Completion Date - 30/06/2028</p>	
	<p>June 8, 2022:</p> <p>Thank you for the correction. Cleared</p>			
<p>3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?</p>	<p>n/a</p>			

<p>Co-financing</p> <p>4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>The co-financing letter from IFAD is uploaded twice and we can't find all the other co-financing letters. Please remove the repeated co-financing letters from IFAD and upload the missing co-financing letters. Please note that each identified co-financing needs an evidence with the name of the co-financier, including the co-financing referred as "Financing Gap".</p>	<p>The repeated IFAD co-finance letters cannot be deleted from the portal. The correct one is the one uploaded in Table C entitled: 2021-12-10 IFAD co-financing letter ROLL-GEF. FAO Co-finance letters have been provided.</p> <p>OFID letter of Endorsement: in table C, we are counting the amount of the OFID co-financing for this project and not the full loan being provided by OFID in the letter.</p> <p>Co-financing letter from Private sector cannot be provided at this stage as the partner under this group is yet to be identified.</p> <p>Regarding the letter from the Government and from Beneficiaries, our understanding was that we can use the ROLL PDR as this shows the Government contribution to ROLL and that of the beneficiaries.</p>		
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May 16, 2022:

1. OFID: please the exact name of the co-financer in table C ("OFID") and in the cofinancing letter ("OPEC Fund").
2. OFID: we don't find in the letter the evidence of co-financing for a grant of \$499,637 as indicated in table C. Please clarify.
3. OFID: In the description below table C, please explain how the \$14,999,787 were calculated (from a loan of \$19 million according to the co-financing letter).
4. Private sector: as mentioned in the previous review, each identified co-financing needs an evidence with the name of the co-financier. As a consequence, if no evidence can be provided at this stage, then remove this co-financing from table C.
5. Government and beneficiaries: please clarify under table C where exactly is the evidence of co-financing in the PDR (page number/paragraph where we can find the same numbers as the ones indicated in table C and explain why this document can be considered a an evidence of co-financing (formal engagement of the co-financier). Also, please note that "beneficiaries" is not a co-financier name: the agency may want to remove this line in table or merge it with the co-

1.OPEC Fund is now written in full in Table C.

2. The OFID funds were revised now with loan amounting to USD19,000,000. The USD 499,637 is deleted.

3.OFID funds were revised now USD19,000,000 as indicated in the co-financing letter.

4. The agreements with the identified private sector companies are not yet finalized. This will be done during implementation. Therefore the section on co-finance from the Private Sector is deleted and will be included when it is finalized.

5. The line on beneficiary contribution has been added to the recipient country and reference made to the IFAD documents illustrating these amounts mainly from the Project Design Report (pages 2,15 and Annex 2 in PDR

	<p>June 13, 2022: Thank you for the amendments and clarification. Nevertheless, the in-kind contribution co-financing letter from the Ministry of forestry, range and soil conservation is required and missing. Please submit the letter issued and signed by the ministry (a translated version in English is also required).</p>			<p>A signed letter is attached.</p>
<p>GEF Resource Availability</p> <p>5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>The budget uploaded and in Annex E needs more details. In particular, it should include a number of units and the cost per unit, the information on the kind of staff recruited and their purpose, the different kind of meetings (and not a lump sum of \$801,500 for Technical coordinators and \$175,000 for local consultants, not a lump sum of 979766 for all the expenses under "Trainings, Workshops, and Meetings"). Please provide a budget with more details. The Agency may want to use the GEF budget template to ensure the needed information is provided (Appendix A of Annex 7 in the Guidelines on Project and Program Cycle Policy - GEF/C.59/Inf.03).</p>	<p>The budget has been revised as recommended.</p>		

May 16, 2022:

1. Partially: some budget items are still too vague: please provide more details for expenditure category referred as "works", "Technical Assistance/Mobilization and capacity building meetings" for a cost of \$690,746 and "International Consultancies/National Food System Specialist" for a cost of \$512,596.

2. The expenditure category referred as "works/Construction of gabions and restoration of 75 000 ha of land". The unit cost is m3. please clarify how purchasing m3 will restore 75,000 ha of land.

3. The expenditure category referred as "International Consultancies/National Food System Specialist" is unclear. First, international consultant is not consistent with hiring a national specialist. Also, will the monthly cost of a national specialist be really as high as \$7,119? Please clarify and amend as needed.

4. There is no expenditure category corresponding to procurement of goods, logistics, offices, computer, expandable... Please confirm it is the case.

5. In table 9 under the Monitoring and Evaluation section, the budget from GEF resources is \$175,000.

1. A cost break down was done for Technical Assistance category. See respective budget lines.

2. The costs of gabions is measured on the basis per m3 based on the volume of the structures. However, the gabions are placed in strategic locations to reduce water flows and surface runoff as well as improve water infiltration capacities for the restoration of land. The land area restored is what will be measured in ha. For more clarity, reference to ha of land will be omitted. The unit of measure will be number of gullies constructed.

3. The category was changed to national consultancy and the monthly cost of a national consultancy was reduced. See budget.

4. The

	June 8, 2022: Thank you for amendments and correction. Cleared			
Project Preparation Grant 6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?	January 27, 2022: The available funds have not been fully utilized. Please indicate exactly the amount that has not been spent or committed and clarify that the remainder of the funds (budgeted for studies, exchange visits and workshops which could not be held due to travel restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 protocol) will be spent during the first year of the project implementation. As formulated in 2 different sentences it is not so clear.	This has been clarified as follows: The PPG resources were instrumental in the elaboration of the PIF to the CEO Endorsement document. Consultations were made with the government of Lesotho and project partners to support the development of the CEO Endorsement document at a field mission held in Lesotho. The budget utilization is at 34%. \$ 51,099.00 has been utilized/committed and \$98,901.00 has not been spent. This remainder of the funds is budgeted for studies, exchange visits and workshops which could not be held due to travel restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 protocol. The workshops and social impact analysis will be done during the first year of implementation. A summary of the PPG funds utilized and funds available is presented in the table below. See changes Annex C.		
	May 17, 2022: Thank you for the clarification. Please indicate clearly that the <u>remaining funds</u> will be used only on <u>eligible expenditure items</u> under PPG <u>within one year after the project has been CEO Endorsed</u> .		Noted incorporated as suggested on Annex C to confirm the funds will be used on eligible expenditure within the first year following CEO Endorsement.	
	June 8, 2022: Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.			

<p>Core indicators</p> <p>7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>We don't find the methodology and calculation used to estimate the target of the core indicator 6.1 (GHG emission mitigation). Please upload the relevant supporting document. Ideally it should be the Ex-ACT tool as it is with this tool that the project proponents plan to monitor this core indicator according to the project document.</p>	<p>The Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool EX-ACT and Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model GLEAM-i were used to estimate the mitigation potential.</p> <p>The EX-ACT and GLEAM-i tool including the calculations are attached in Annex J.</p>		
	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>Thank you for uploading the document supporting the calculations. Cleared.</p>			
<p>Part II ? Project Justification</p> <p>1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>			

<p>2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>1. The baseline is only focused on the ROLL project and some other projects supported by the international cooperation. Please elaborate further on 1- the institutional framework at national and local level including the landscape governance system, and on the exiting national initiatives and plans that are relevant to the project; and 2- the targeted beneficiaries and how they are organized (community-based and private organizations...).</p> <p>2. The difference between the ROLL and the ROLL-GEF is not clear. While the ROLL project has already been designed and will start in Quarter 1 2022, we learn in the incremental reasoning that the contribution of the GEF will ensure "the establishment of the regeneration fund". The number of beneficiaries is also different for the ROLL and fore the ROLL-GEF. Are these 2 project targeting different landscapes? In this section, please elaborate further on the concrete investments the ROLL project will support, its total envelop, its Facility and its organization (PMU) without GEF support so that we can better understand the difference from and added value of the GEF.</p>	<p>1.1. The institutional framework at national and local level including the landscape governance system has been included just below the ROLL project baseline outline.</p> <p>1.2. The targeted beneficiaries. The targeted beneficiaries and how they are organised has been further elaborated on in the baseline scenario Section, page 17 of the CEO endorsement.</p> <p>2. The difference between the ROLL and the ROLL +GEF has been elaborated in the baseline scenario Section, page 18. The GEF financing will target a subset of the landscapes that are targeted by the baseline ROLL project. The GEF finance targeted landscapes are those that are considered high priority for the environmental benefits with criteria determined jointly with Department of Environment and the MFRCS.</p>		
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May 17, 2022:

1. Thank you for the additional information. Nevertheless, in addition to ROLL, there is no indication of relevant national initiatives, plans or policies the project will benefit from and/or articulate with. Please clarify this point. In addition, the text under "Project Implementation Arrangements" is not relevant here and should be moved or merged to the section "6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination". Please amend accordingly. In the baseline scenario, please describe the PMU, institutional arrangements and overall governance structures of the ROLL only (without the GEF contribution).

2. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.

3. We don't find any "figure 4-1 below". Please clarify.

4. Please clarify in the Portal entry what "LS-ROLL" stands for.

1. The section on Implementation arrangement has been moved to section 6- Institutional arrangements and coordination?

Relevant national initiatives, plans or policies are included in section 7.

Consistency with National Priorities.

The PMU will be responsible for day to day management and coordination of ROLL, including ROLL's financial matters. The PMU will be housed at the Ministry of Forestry, Range and Soil Conservation (MFRSC) and collaborate closely with other key Ministries. A Steering Committee, composed of relevant national actors will provide strategic oversight and a Technical Advisory Committee (inter-ministerial body), will support project implementation progress and technical aspects

3. Corrected, now Figure 1

4. LS-ROLL is the baseline project reforming

	June 8, 2022: Thank you for the amendments. Cleared			
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3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

January 27, 2022:

1. Please clarify what is reference of the so-called "the innovative graduation model" and where is the "Section 3 of ROLL's PIM" the text is referring to (there is no such section in the Portal entry).

2. Some outcomes and outputs are written differently in table B and in the alternative scenario. Some differences can be relatively important for the meaning such as the missing "as trainers" in the output 1.1.3 of table B. Please make sure they are the same throughout all the project description.

3. In component 1, please clarify what the "LDN Hubs" are. They are only mentioned in table B and in the alternative scenario.

4. The establishment of the regeneration coalitions is a key milestone of the project to implement the activities on the ground. Under the outcome 1.2.1 please elaborate further on the activities that will be undertaken to establish the coalitions and what will concretely form these coalitions (recognized status, kind of agreement, formal link with the project governance and/or national institutions...).

1. The ROLL PIM is attached. Please refer to section 3 of the ROLL'S PIM for further elaboration of the innovative graduation model.

2. Information on Table B is now the same as that in the "the alternative scenario" section.

3. The LDN Hubs have been clarified under Outcome 1.2 as:
"LDN Hubs - land degradation neutrality information hubs are centres established as a mechanism for sharing and verification of monitoring data, including the dissemination of lessons learned and best practices to primary and secondary stakeholders in a bid to meeting Lesotho's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets set to be met by 2030."

4. Landscape regeneration coalitions have been clarified under outcome 1.2 as:

The activities that will be undertaken to establish landscape regeneration coalitions include:

Identification of the potential landscapes to be regenerated,

Identification of the stakeholders in the said landscapes,

Sensitization of all the stakeholders within the said landscape about the sub-project requirements,

Establishment of representative committees to spearhead the activities,
Holding of community

	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Thank you for the clarifications and amendments. Cleared.</p> <p>6. Thank you for the information provided. Please clarify what "ROF" stands for the first time it appears in the project description (under component 2).</p> <p>7. The title of the outcome 3.1 is missing under component 3. Please complete.</p> <p>8. Thank you for the amendment. Cleared</p>		<p>6. ROF, the Regeneration Opportunities Fund, has been explained in full under Component 2. Where it first appears. Full explanation on section 4 is deleted.</p> <p>7. Outcome 3.1 was added to component 3 (<i>Improved monitoring tools and procedures to generate LDN data, which enable measurement of environmental and socio-economic change.</i>)</p>	
	<p>June 8, 2022: Thank you for the amendments. Cleared.</p>			

<p>4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>There is no further elaboration from the PIF. The first paragraph in particular is the one related to the GEF LD Focal Area and remains very general. Please elaborate further in this paragraph on how concretely the proposed activities are aligned with LD 1-1 and LD 1-4, including what precise activities and results on the ground contribute to the achievement of both LD 1-1 and LD 1-4 objectives.</p>	<p>The proposed ROLL+GEF project is designed to particularly contribute to the goals of the land degradation focal area to <i>maintain or improving agro-ecosystem services and sustain rural livelihoods through integrated watershed and sustainable land management (LD 1-1)</i>. In alignment with LD 1-1 the project will bring together local, regional and national stakeholders to jointly plan for and implement SLM measures, to reduce competing land uses and increasing the resilience in landscapes and their users. Specifically activities such as agroforestry, rangeland management, forest land restoration and landscape management which including gully reclamation, and conservation agriculture will be implemented. The project will also contribute to <i>reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape (LD 1-4)</i>. The LD 1-4 activities will be achieved by pooling resources for SLM and thus establishing a coordinated scheme for programming and financing integrated sustainable land management in the targeted landscapes and beyond. Precisely the proposed activities under LD-1-4 include labour-based schemes and development of physical infrastructures aimed at reducing pressure in catchments and (ii) support for off-farm income-generating activities such as beekeeping, dried indigenous herbs and medicinal plants, artisanal products; and payment for ecosystem services. (Section 4) of the CE endorsement document.</p>	
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	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.</p>			
<p>5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>			

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the projects expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

January 27, 2022:

No, the text in this section is nearly exactly the same as at PIF stage. For each global benefit, please elaborate further adding information on the type of lands and practices, the type of restoration, and for the indicator 6.1 in particular, how and on what kind of lands the mitigation will be achieved.

Additional information has been included see information in track changes section 6. In addition the project will contribute to the elaboration of best practices and lessons to the global knowledge platforms to strengthen global knowledge exchange and land restoration.

? Area of land restored: 350,000 ha (ROLL+GEF) in the selected five districts contributing 58% to 650 000 ha LDN national target. The area restored encompasses 335,000 ha rangelands, shrub lands, grasslands and 14,500 ha crop land and reforested land (with climate resilient practices). The restoration activities will include ? reforestation, promotion of climate resilient practices, improved agronomic practices, restocking and stoking exercise, reclamation of gullies

? Area of landscape under improved management practices: 14,500 ha (7 500 ha of restored forest and shrub land, 7 000 ha of restored agricultural land) in five districts of Lesotho. The improved management practices includes improved agronomic practices, conservation agriculture.

? Greenhouse gas emissions mitigated: -9 901 543 tCO₂e covering a 20 year period. The estimates of the mitigation potential is calculated using the Ex-Ante Carbon Balance Tool EX-ACT and Global Livestock Environmental Assessment Model (GLEAM-i) on grasslands, shrub lands, cropland and rangelands. The estimations of the emissions considers the sequestration, reduction and or avoidance that result

	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.</p>			
<p>7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>			
<p>Project/Program Map and Coordinates</p> <p>Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Please also add the geographical coordinates as they are in the Prodoc.</p>	<p>The exact geographical areas for the proposed sub catchments are included in Table 3. In addition, the map has been modified to include coordinates (Annex D).</p>		
	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.</p>			
<p>Child Project</p> <p>If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?</p>	<p>n/a</p>			

<p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Partially.</p> <p>1. In addition please clarify what stakeholders have been consulted during PPG for the project design (considering that all the stakeholders checked with a "yes" at the beginning of this section should have been consulted).</p> <p>2. Also, please complete the second part of this section under "In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement". This part is currently empty.</p>	<p>1. The stakeholder engagement plan is included in Annexes. The list of the stakeholders consulted is included see Annex I.</p> <p>2. A section has been added on stakeholder consultation</p>		
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	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>1. The presentation of the stakeholders consulted remains very vague: "GoL agencies", "local resource users and stakeholders"... please be more specific in the Portal entry. The text should clearly identify Civil Society Organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and Private Sector Entities. The Portal entry is the main document for the GEF and all the necessary information, even summarized should be there.</p> <p>2. Thank you for the additional information. Please move it under the title "In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement". This is where the additional information should be.</p>		<p>Clarification on the stakeholders consulted has been provided in the portal entry. The GoL Agencies have been listed and Local Resource users that are the communities and their organisations (e.g. Community Conservation Forum).</p> <p>2. This section has been moved as proposed.</p>	
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	<p>June 13, 2022: It is well noted that the project includes information on stakeholder engagement during project development. The project has uploaded an overview of the stakeholder engagement plan. This attachment is only titled "annex m" and was not referenced in the portal section so it is very difficult to find. In addition, it is expected at CEO endorsement stage that projects should provide a more substantive stakeholder engagement plan in line with GEF Policy on Stakeholder Engagement that states that "Agencies present Stakeholder Engagement Plans or equivalent documentation, with information regarding Stakeholders who have been and will be engaged, means of engagement, dissemination of information, roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective Stakeholder Engagement, resource requirements, and timing of engagement throughout the project/program cycle." Please label clearly the annex M so that we can find it easily and include in this annex all the details related to the project's stakeholder engagement plan as expected in GEF policy, so that we can find all the necessary information in one place (rather than being scattered between the Portal, the annex I, the annex M...).</p>		<p>A comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan is provided in Annex I.</p> <p>Stakeholders who have been consulted, means of engagement, dissemination of information, roles and responsibilities ensuring effective Stakeholder Engagement, resource requirements, and timing and frequency of engagement throughout the project has been added in Table 5.5 in the Stakeholder engagement plan.</p> <p>Information in Annex M which provides a list of people met is added to Annex I. Therefore Annex M can be considered deleted, as we cannot delete it from the portal we requested the portal helpdesk assistance and it is now deleted.</p>
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<p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p> <p>Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>One important element identified for women empowerment is the supply of labour/time water and energy saving as well as climate-smart technologies. Considering the allocated budget for this element is relatively limited (\$80,000) and the number of beneficiaries (10,000 women), please clarify what this activity concretely includes and how the result will be achieved.</p>	<p>The activity includes the supply of labour/energy saving stoves and climate smart technologies. The budget includes procurement and supply of technologies/devices to the beneficiaries and training on the use of the provided technologies. The baseline study will include a specific section on gender. This will facilitate better inclusion of women in the ROLL while also taking all possible issues and needs that needs to be addressed to ensure that not only women challenges but the entire gender sensitivity of the project. See changes on ROLL+GEF Gender Action Plan (GAP) Table 7.</p>		
	<p>May 17, 2022: Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.</p>			

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

January 27, 2022:

1. Please clarify what the "ROF" is. In the Portal entry, it appears for the first time in this section on private sector engagement and then in the Project Results Framework. We understand it is likely the Regeneration Fund but it is not said and the acronym doesn't correspond.

2. The availability of the ROLL is at the core of the project strategy to meet its objectives. While it is articulate with the private sector, this facility is not mentioned in this section. Please elaborate on how the private sector will engage in the project through the ROLL.

3. The description is general and doesn't mention particular entities from the private sector. Nevertheless, some private sector entities are well identified and will participate in the PSC. Please be more specific about the engagement of the private sector in the project when it is already known (providing the name of the entities and how they will engage).

1. Regeneration Opportunities Fund (ROF) has been defined in footnote 19

3. The ROLL project aims to engage the private sector in all stages of the project from design, resource mobilisation and project implementation. Specifically the ROF will, collaborate with other partners active in the private sector development and finance space, including rural financial institutions for resource mobilisation and development of the Facility. The private sector will also be part of the PSC and will be instrumental in offering technical assistance. (Changes included on section 4. Private Sector Engagement.

3. The main private sector actors among others who will be involved in project activities includes Sasol, Pegasys Strategy and Development (Pty) Ltd consulting company, Impact investment funds who will be involved in the development of the ROF. Trans Caledonon Tunnel Authority will pay a role on investment in the ROF on water availability for South Africa. Africa clean energy will support the provision of efficient alternate energy sources that will reduce wood consumption and the greenhouse emissions. Changes inserted on section

	May 17, 2022: 1, 2 and 3. Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.			
Risks to Achieving Project Objectives Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?	January 27, 2022: The text "The project will therefore build practical skills... to better respond to the negative impacts of climate change" at the end of the section is a repetition of what is already written in the table. Please remove this text.	The text has been removed		
	May 17, 2022: Thank you for the amendment. Cleared.			
Coordination Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?	January 27, 2022: The description focuses on the partners and executing functions. Please also clarify the role of IFAD in the project as GEF Agency.	The role of IFAD has been clarified as: IFAD as the GEF Agency will have the strategic oversight of the project and will conduct supervision missions and engage with the implementing Ministry through the PS Forestry. It will also have operational oversight of the project and engage with the Project Management Unit (PMU) and provide operational and technical support, conduct bi-annual implementation support missions and review Bi-annual progress reports from the PMU.		
	May 17, 2022: Thank you for the clarification. Cleared.			

<p>Consistency with National Priorities</p> <p>Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Yes, cleared.</p>			
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<p>Knowledge Management</p> <p>Is the proposed Knowledge Management Approach for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>1. There is no Annex H in the Portal entry and we didn't find it in the documents uploaded (there are annexes with numbers and Appendices with letters... with no table of content of very long documents... this is very confusing). Please clarify where the detailed KM Plan is and summarize the KM approach in the Portal entry making sure the following information is also clearly included in this section: 1) how existing lessons informed the project concept and plan and 2) a discussion on how knowledge and learning will contribute to overall project impact and sustainability.</p> <p>2. The LDN information hubs are not mentioned while they are one of the key KM outcomes of the project. Please consider including them in the Knowledge Management Approach.</p> <p>3. In addition to the description of the KM approach, please provide a budget including the key deliverables and a timeline.</p>	<p>1. Annex H is on page 96, the Preliminary Knowledge Management Action Plan? Now on Annex G</p> <p>2. Reference to the LDN hubs has been included in the Knowledge management approach. Changes inserted in Annex G.</p> <p>4. The estimated budget for KM activities is USD 2 379 880. The key deliverables and the timeframe are indicated in the Preliminary Knowledge Management Action Plan in Annex G which will be refined at start up with stakeholders basing on a better understanding of the key information needs for the project to be successful.</p>		
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	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>1. We don't find the Annex G and we don't know in which document we need to find page 96. This is still very confusing. <u>Please include all the annexes relevant for this GEF project in one single document</u> with a clear table of content at the beginning.</p> <p>1 bis. Please clarify how the following comment has been addressed in the Portal entry: "Please clarify where the detailed KM Plan is and summarize the KM approach in the Portal entry making sure the following information is also clearly included in this section: 1) how existing lessons informed the project concept and plan and 2) a discussion on how knowledge and learning will contribute to overall project impact and sustainability".</p> <p>2. No, we don't find any mention of the LDN hubs in the Knowledge Management section of the Portal entry. Please address this comment.</p> <p>3. No, the budget (<u>of GEF resources</u>) including the key deliverables and a timeline is still missing in this section. Please complete as needed.</p>		<p>A separate document has been included with annexes and an introductory list of the Annexes.</p> <p>The reference to the LDN Hubs has been included in the KM section.</p> <p>A summary of the KM budget has been included in the section.</p>	
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	<p>June 8, 2022: Thank you for the additional information. Cleared</p>			
<p>Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)</p> <p>Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022: Yes, cleared</p>			
<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Does the project include a budgeted M&E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>We note that the M&E costs are nearly all covered by the co-financing and the GEF is expected to contribute to it covering the cost of the "Environment and Social Impact Assessment for additional GEF intervention areas". This activity is not described under the alternative scenario and doesn't seem to be related to any of the expected project M&E activities. Please clarify what this activity is under the alternative scenario and consider removing it from the M&E plan unless well justified.</p>	<p>The US\$ 175 was further broken down to include some monitoring and evaluation tools and assessments that enable tracking of local and global environmental benefits. Further breakdown of the M&E activities costs re included in the ROLL+GEF budget.</p>		

	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>1. Please provide the details of the breakdown of the different activities supported by the GEF in the budgeted M&E plan. In table 9, there is only 1 line with the total amount.</p> <p>2. According to table 9, the "Inception Report (M&E part)", "Supervision missions" and "Monitoring site visits" are presented to be free (no cost charged to the GEF neither to the co-financing). Is that realistic? Please explain.</p> <p>3. According to the budget, the M&E plan still includes the item "Environment and Social Impact Assessment for additional GEF intervention areas". Please clarify what this activity is under the alternative scenario and consider removing it from the M&E plan unless well justified.</p> <p>4. The outcome 3.1 is supported by a GEF financing of \$175,000 in table B and \$107,000 in the uploaded budget. This is not consistent. Please correct as needed</p>		<p>1. Detailed budget is provided in GEF budget attached.</p> <p>2. The inception report and supervision missions and the monitoring site visits are included under the GEF budget.</p> <p>3. This has been removed from the M&E budget includes Monitoring and evaluation tools and assessments that enable tracking of local and global environmental benefits. Reference to "Environment and Social Impact Assessment for additional GEF intervention areas" has been clarified to refer to the biodiversity conservation prioritised areas within the landscapes that would require these studies to contribute to establishing a baseline and inform investments.</p> <p>4. This has been amended so that section B is consistent GEF budget</p>	
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	June 8, 2022: Thank you for the clarification and amendments. Cleared.			
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<p>Benefits</p> <p>Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Only the first paragraph with 4 lines described the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project. This is too limited. Please elaborate further presenting with details the socioeconomic benefits at local and national level for the different types of beneficiaries involved, including women and youth.</p>	<p>The project will support the promotion of alternative energy sources, saving labour/time, water and energy. The alternate energy sources will reduce firewood use, which contributes to soil erosion and general land degradation. The clean and efficient energy sources will reduce women's time to collect firewood. Time and labour saving climate-smart technologies could help improve the livelihoods of women. The project aims to generate more income and agricultural produce while at the same time reducing the labour burden on women and youth to improve their livelihoods.</p> <p>The project will build the capacity of 250 stakeholders and communities in 5 districts on land degradation, knowledge enhancement on root causes for landscape degradation, and landscape management. The capacity building will empower at least 50% of women and youth to enhance the SLM and climate-resilient technologies leading to improved crop and livestock production. The envisaged collaborative planning with communities through building coalitions can strengthen social and economic development. Collaborative planning leads to developing a shared community vision, which supports social capital. Changes indicated on section 10 paragraph 2 and 3.</p>		
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	May 17, 2022: Thank you for the additional information. Cleared.			
Annexes Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?	January 27, 2022: Partially. Please address below some comments to specific annexes.			
Project Results Framework	January 27, 2022: 1. When mentioning the GEF core indicators in the table, please be more explicit using the full name to the core indicator such as, for instance, "GEF core Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems". 2. In the Project Results Framework, the outcomes and outputs and their numbering are different from table B and the alternative scenario. Please amend the table and make sure the information is consistent throughout all the project description. 3. The Project Results Framework doesn't mention the establishment of the Landscape Regeneration Fund (but "Facility and Fund") while this Fund is key for the project success and scaling potential. Please clarify adding an explicit mention of this fund in the Project Results Framework.	1. The GEF core Indicators are mentioned in full in the Project Results Framework table. 2. The Project Results Framework has been reviewed to correct the numbering and content of the table. 3. The Landscape Regeneration Fund has been mentioned in the Project Results Framework, Output 2.2.2:		

	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>1. Partially. We don't find GEF CI6.1 "Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector". Please complete.</p> <p>2 and 3. Thank you for the amendments. Cleared.</p>		<p>This is provided in CI6.1 under the core indicators</p>	
	<p>June 8, 2022:</p> <p>Thank you for additional information. Cleared.</p>			
GEF Secretariat comments	n/a			
Council comments	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>No, the responses to comments from Council (from Germany) are missing. Please address these comments by 1- providing the responses in the Annex B; 2- making sure they are addressed in the project document and 3; indicating where in the project description they are actually taken into account.</p>	<p>IFAD notes with thanks Germany's suggestion to revise the cost associated with component</p> <p>1. The Germany Comments have been included in Annex B as section B.1</p> <p>2. The governance and management of natural resources has been included in the "Project Description section" on page 26 and in the Risk section on page FF. and have been highlighted in yellow.</p> <p>3. Enhancement of the enabling environment has been included in the "Project Description section" on page 26.</p>		

May 17, 2022:

The responses are unclear: While Agency responses in the review sheet refers to page 26, the table B refers to page 22. In the project description we find for instance mention of governance and management of natural resources in page 24. For each response, please check the page number and for each comment, please copy in the table the exact text which address it in the project project description.

The response is indicated on page 22 as follows.

This component will be premised on the formation and operation of successful coalitions of local, district and national partners. These coalitions will basically be community-based natural resource management (CBNRM) groups and will be involved in the management of resources such as land, forests, wildlife and water by collective, local institutions for local benefit. These local and collective natural resource governance arrangements and management practices are being promoted by a wide range of policy makers and development and conservation practitioners in response to various economic, social, environmental and political pressures. CBNRM equally applies to traditional resource management arrangements, such as the collective regimes governing rangelands and pastoralist grazing reserves, in-shore fisheries, or communally managed forests. These approaches eliminate

	June 8, 2022: Thank you for the clarification. Cleared			
STAP comments	January 27, 2022: No, the responses to STAP comments are missing. Please address these comments by 1- providing the responses in the Annex B; 2- making sure they are addressed in the project document and 3; indicating where in the project description they are actually taken into account.	The STAP comments and responses have been included in the Annex B. B.2. The comments were addressed during the design of the project with a further elaboration of the criteria for the prioritisation of the different landscapes and also the graduation model.		
	May 17, 2022: Thank you for the additional information. Cleared			
Convention Secretariat comments	n/a			
Other Agencies comments	n/a			
CSOs comments	n/a			
Status of PPG utilization	January 27, 2022: Cleared if the comment above on PPG is addressed.			
Project maps and coordinates	January 27, 2022: Please also add the geographical coordinates as they are in the Prodoc.	The map with geographical coordinates has been provided. Annex D		
	May 2022: Thank you for addressing the comment. Cleared.			
Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)	n/a			

<p>Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)</p>	<p>n/a</p>			
<p>Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)</p>	<p>n/a</p>			

<p>GEFSEC DECISION RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)</p>	<p>January 27, 2022:</p> <p>Not yet. Please address the comments raised in this review. In addition, please consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the uploaded documents "IFAD-Lesotho-PDR-2000002340" and "IFAD PDR Annexes" please add a table of contents. Without such table, in a document of +300 pages, it is very difficult to find the information we are looking for to answer some specific questions. Also, those 2 documents include extensive repeated information. Please remove the unnecessary information. - To facilitate the review: in addressing the comments, please highlight in yellow the modified text and indicate where the changes are in the responses in the review sheet. 	<p>The whole PDR will no longer be attached but necessary Annexes have been attached.</p> <p>- Noted the clean CEO document shows highlighted in yellow the modified text.</p>		
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	<p>May 17, 2022:</p> <p>Not yet. Please address the remaining comments. Some annexes and acronyms seem to be coming from another document such as a Prodoc but we don't find such document uploaded in the Portal (unless it is the PIM). As a result, it is sometimes difficult to find the information the Portal entry is referring to. Please clarify in the project description the document(s) targeted by the references (for each reference such as page number, annexes and acronyms) and upload any missing document.</p> <p>In addition, VERY IMPORTANT: as the cancellation date of 11 June is now very soon for this project, we advice the Agency to request an extension invoking force majeure with an eligible justification and clear new deadline for the actual CEO endorsement. Please refer to the GEF guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy (2020 update) - GEF/C.59/inf.03, Annex 9, for further information</p>		<p>The letter to request the extension has been prepared and will follow shortly.</p>	
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June 13, 2022:

Not yet. Please address the remaining comments above. In addition further checking of the alignment with GEF policy revealed the need to address the following comments:

1. On Gender: It is duly noted that the project specifies that "The planned gender mainstreaming and targeting strategies will be refined and incorporated into the implementation manuals to ensure a gender-sensitive project implementation."

Agency is requested to reflect gender perspectives also in Component 1 (Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 should be gender-sensitive/gender-responsive) and Component 3 (Outputs 3.2.1 and 3.2.2) at the project development phase. Please complete the project accordingly and indicate how this comment has been addressed in the Gender section of the review sheet.

On the budget table:

a. "Establish and equip PMU office" should be charged to PMC, not to a project component. Please amend accordingly. (See figure 1 below)

b. Support and Monitoring seems to be M&E activities ? if so, it must be charged to M&E and the section "9. Monitoring and Evaluation" needs to be amended accordingly (in particular Table 9: Budgeted M&E Plan)

1. Gender perspectives have been added in Component 1 (Outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3) by indicating gender targets and Component 3 (Outputs 3.2.1 included the need to promote practices that promote gender equality and women's participation and 3.2.2) included the need to increase gender responsive landscape management plans

2.

a. "Establish and equip PMU office" is now charged to PMC.

b. The line ??Support and Monitoring?? has been deleted. An amendment was done by dedicating the funds related to capacity building of community groups.

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

The PPG resources were instrumental in the elaboration of the PIF to the CEO Endorsement document. Consultations were made with the government of Lesotho and project partners to support the development of the CEO Endorsement document at a field mission held in Lesotho. The budget utilization is at 34%. \$ 51,099.00 has been utilized/committed and \$98 901.00 has not been spent. The remainder of the funds is budgeted for studies, exchange visits and workshops which could not be held due to travel restrictions imposed due to COVID-19 protocol. The workshops and social impact analysis will be done during the first year of implementation. A summary of the PPG funds utilized and funds available is presented in the table below. The balance of remaining funds at CEO endorsement will be used only on eligible expenditure items under PPG within one year of CEO Endorsement.

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: ?????USD 150, 000.00			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Consultant fees (Environmental, Gender and social Inclusion expert, Economist Monitoring and Evaluation experts) to support design and development of the CEO endorsement.	40,860.00	40,860.00	40,860.00
Travel expenses	7,721.76	7,721.76	7,721.76
Logistics	1,975.86	1,975.856	1,975.856
Exchange visits	17,024.14?????	-?????	-?????
Social Impact Assessment	51,500.00	-?	-?
Stakeholder Workshops	10,376.86	-?	-?
Regeneration Fund Elaboration	20,000.00	-?	-?
Miscellaneous	541,38	541,38	541,38
Total	<u>150 000.00</u>	<u>51,099.00</u>	51,099.00

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

The ROLL project will work in ?landscapes?, which are defined as smaller areas within a sub-catchment, directly associated with and used by a village or a cluster of villages. Those landscapes can include a variety of different natural resource areas, such as grazing/range areas, forests, croplands, wetlands and conservation areas. In any given landscape there are multiple users with different use rights and responsibilities (both communal and familial/individual) which determine the access and

regulate use. The users will be mobilized through project interventions to work on landscape and livelihood regeneration. The entry-point for project implementation will be coalitions in villages, with the possibility of inter-village coalitions where landscapes may be used by people from different villages.

The project will take place in landscapes primarily in Lesotho's highlands and foothill areas, with strong impact on the lowlands adjacent to the foothill areas. The ROLL activities in the initial phase will be focused on five districts that incorporate 16 prioritised sub-catchments (See Table 3 and Annex D for the Project Area Map with geo-coordinates).

Given the participatory nature of the project, the element of coalition building between different stakeholders and the involvement of a multitude of actors, a multi-layer demand-driven approach will be implemented. Based on the in-country discussions amongst proposed project stakeholders, the following selection criteria have been determined: (i) Land degradation hotspots according to soil erosion maps produced by the EO4SD climate resilience cluster (funded by the European Space Agency), (ii) poverty vulnerability, (iii) current & existing developmental initiatives and interventions taking place, (iv) socio-economic aspects and livelihoods support, (v) relevance for national biodiversity. Based on these indicators, the pipeline of project landscape clusters in the table has been developed. The selection of landscapes will be done in phases with the first phase being selected at design and more landscapes will be selected during implementation.

Table 3: ROLL project target districts, constituencies, councils and landscape clusters

DISTRICT	CONSTITUENCY	COUNCIL	LANDSCAPES	SUB-CATCHMENT CODE (LATITUDE, LONGITUDE)
Thaba-Tseka	Mants'onyane	Denezulu	Mants'onyane	SC 28 (-29.514390, 28.346134)
	Mashai	Sehong-Hong	Mashai	SC 35 (-29.679205, 28.842122)
	Thaba-Tseka	Mohlanapeng	Litsoetsoe	SC 35 (-29.679205, 28.842122)
		Bokong	Kolbere-khohlo nt'o	SC 30 (-29.507368, 28.594969)
Leribe	Maliba-Mats'o	Mphorosane	Lejone-Matsoku	SC 17 (-29.162990, 28.468005)
	Thaba-Phats'oa	Bolahla	Tsoinyane	CC 6 (-28,956950, 28,139799)

	Mphosong	Bolahla	Koasang-Mphosong Tsoinyana	CC 9 (-29.015176, 28.310463)
Berea	Khafung	Phuthiatsana	Ha Nts'ang	CC 60 (-29,142958, 27,811089)
	Thupa-Kubu	Senekale	Nchela-Matholoana	CC 23 (-29,283500, 27,870646)
			Lekokoaneng-Souru	CC23 (-29,283500, 27,870646)
	Mosalemane	Makeoane	Mamatebele	CC 13 (-29,141111, 28,073731)
Qacha's nek	Tsoelike	Tsoelikana	Mosuo	SC 40 (-29.846657, 29.065542)
			Mapakising	SC 40 (-29.846657, 29.065542)
	Qacha's Nek	Qanya	Matee	SC 47 (-29,994256, 28,901858)
	Lebakeng & Qacha's nek	Qanya & Ntsupe	Milikane	SC 48 (-30,054373, 28,549683)
Botha-Bothe	Mechechane	Ngoajane	Qholaqhoe	CC 65 (-28,644710, 28,610778)
	Hololo	Likila	Marakabei-Hololo	CC 63 (-28.752881, 28.486457)
	Motete	Nqoe	Motinkane	SC 03 (-28.875640, 28.580371)
			Matsoku	SC11 (-29.017080, 28.533944)

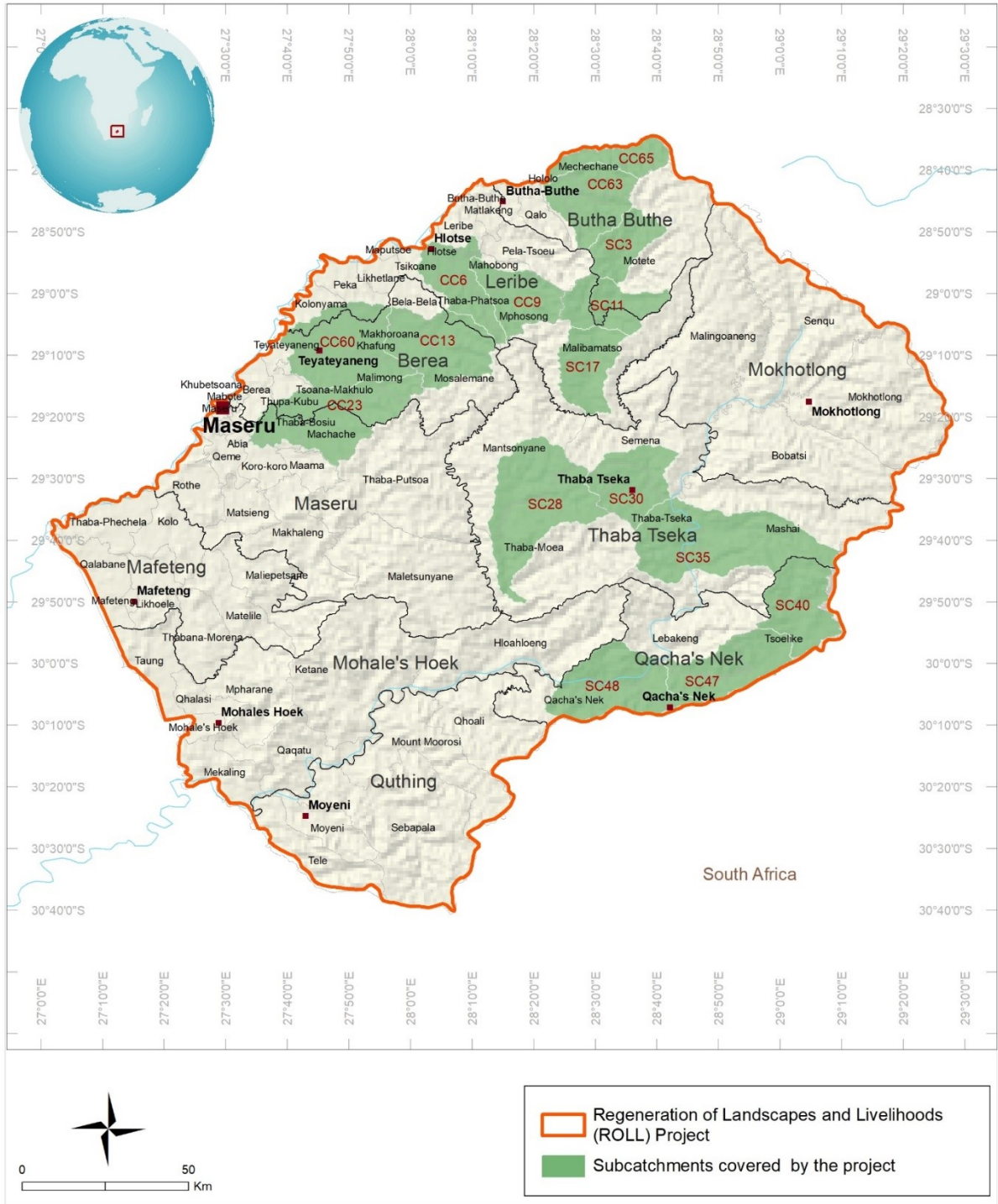
The GEF resources and associated objectives are mainstreamed across these landscapes but will be focused on specific SLM- and integrated resource management activities, which ensure GEF financing is effectively realized in areas where they are most needed to achieve global environmental benefits (GEBs). The integrated and participatory nature of the project strategy nevertheless requires close collaboration, interaction and selection with local representatives as well as with core GoL co-executing partners such as MFRSC and MTEC, or the MEA National Coordinating Committee. In addition, landscape selection will also be influenced by coordination efforts with other national partners and international agencies funding the overall ROLL project (IFAD, OFID, FAO).


The GEF resources will in addition to the five districts initiate activities in the form of studies and consultations in Mokhotlong and Quthing incorporating national biodiversity hotspots captured in

Table 4. The activities will include Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) in Letsa-la-Letsie to inform the scoping of the works required at the site in order to avoid delays during project implementation.

Table 4: Additional sites where activities will be initiated with GEF resources

District	Constituency	Council	Landscapes	Sub-Catchment Code (Latitude, Longitude)
Mokhotlong	Senqu	Mphokojoane	Oxbow/ Senqu Sources/ Mokhotlong Sources	To be determined following criteria assessments and consultations with partners active in the area
Quthing	Qhoali	Mphaki	Letsa-la-Letsie	To be determined following ESIA



 The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.
 IFAD Map compiled by IFAD | 01-09-2021

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.



Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template

Project Title: Regeneration of Livelihoods and Landscapes Project (ROLL)

Expenditure Category	Detailed description	Units	Qty (GEFO only)	Unit Cost (Inc. Contingencies)	Component (USDeq.)										Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEFAgency) 80		
					Component A			Component B			Component 3		Sub-Total	M & E		P M C	Total (USDeq.)
					Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Outcome 1.3	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Outcome 2.3	Outcome 3.1	Outcome 3.2					
	Small-scale infrastructure																
Works	Construction of gabions to restore gullies	Number	7508	100				750750						750750			MF RSC
Works	Construction of water points	Number	94	5 000				47000						47000			MF RSC

Works	Construction of access roads in 5 districts	Number	16	10 000										15 914 4	15 914 4	MF RSC
Local Consultancies	Scoping exercise	Assessment	1	44 079	44 079									44 079	44 079	MF RSC
Technical Assistance	Capacity Building stakeholders from project implementing partners on root causes for landscape degradation and landscape management	Meetings	12	15 000	18 000									18 000	18 000	MF RSC

Technical Assistance	Engage with stakeholders to address assessed and anticipated challenges to the regeneration opportunities fund	Meetings	12	7 562	90 74 6										9 0 7 4 5			90 74 5	MF RSC
Technical Assistance	Support stakeholder AWP B and annual progress review meetings	Meetings	6	10 000	60 00 0										6 0 0 0 0			60 00 0	MF RSC
Technical Assistance	Cascade landscape management training to Resource Users (communities)	Meetings	24	15 000	36 0 00 0										3 6 0 0 0 0			36 0 00 0	MF RSC

Technical Assistance	Technical capacity for community groups on landscape management	Meetings	42	5 832	24 4 94 1									2 4 4 9 4 1			24 4 94 1	MF RSC
																	0	MF RSC
																	0	MF RSC
	Specialist support and change management																0	MF RSC
Local Consultants	National Food System Specialist	per month	72	3 968	28 5 68 0									2 8 5 6 8 0			28 5 68 0	MF RSC
Local Consultants	Provincial Food System facilitators	per month	14 4	2 490	35 8 51 2									3 5 8 5 1 2			35 8 51 2	MF RSC
Local Consultants	Operations Associate	per month	72	1 523	10 9 64 8									1 0 9 6 4 8			10 9 64 8	MF RSC

Goods	Establish and equip PMC office	Lumpsum	1	18300									0	18300	18300	MF RSC
Goods	Acquisition, distribution and planting of agroforestry seedlings (fruit trees, fodder trees, forage etc.)	Hectares	22695	2.10										47660	47660	MF RSC
Local Consultants	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	Assessment	5	5000										25000	25000	MF RSC
Local Consultants	Conduct socioeconomic baseline survey	Survey	1	20000										20000	20000	MF RSC
Local Consultants	TA for setting up MIS and M&E plan	Plan	44	500										22000	22000	MF RSC

Training	Under take land degradation survey	Survey	1	15 000									15 000		15 000	MF RSC
Training	Workshop with project stakeholders	Workshop	6	3 000									18 000		18 000	MF RSC
Training	Training with implementing partners on M&E / and Environment and social risks	Training	4	3 000									12 000		12 000	MF RSC
Local Consultants	TA for M&E during implementation	per day	55	300									16 500		16 500	MF RSC
Local Consultants	Satellite imagery for rangeland and assessment	Assessment	1	20 000									20 000		20 000	MF RSC
Local Consultants	Rapid SMS/Whats App surveys	Survey	1	1 500									1 500		1 500	MF RSC

Local Consultants	Environmental and Social risks and impacts	Assessment	1	5 000										5 000	5 000	5 000	MF RSC	
Local Consultants	Develop site specific ESMPs	Plan	100	200										20000	20000	20000	MF RSC	
Local Consultants	ROLL GEF Specialist / Coordinator	per month	148.508	1000												148508	148508	MF RSC
Grand Total						979766	801500	-	1379894	-	-	175000	-	316160	175000	175000	3502968	

Ministry of
Forestry,
Range and Soil
Conservation
(MFRSC)

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat

or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

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

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