



## **Part I: Project Information**

### **GEF ID**

10993

### **Project Type**

MSP

### **Type of Trust Fund**

GET

### **CBIT/NGI**

**CBIT No**

**NGI No**

### **Project Title**

Strengthening Civil Society Role in Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality

### **Countries**

Global

### **Agency(ies)**

IUCN

### **Other Executing Partner(s)**

Both ENDS; IUCN

### **Executing Partner Type**

CSO

### **GEF Focal Area**

Land Degradation

### **Sector**

### **Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Civil Society,

Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Participation, Indigenous Peoples, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Peer-to-Peer, South-South, Knowledge Generation, Training, Workshop

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

No Contribution 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

No Contribution 0

**Biodiversity**

**Land Degradation**

**Submission Date**

4/12/2023

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/1/2024

**Expected Completion Date**

12/31/2026

**Duration**

36In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

180,000.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	2,000,000.00	2,100,563.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>2,100,563.00</b>

## **B. Project description summary**

### **Project Objective**

This project is designed to increase the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in delivering Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), and in promoting adherence to LDN principles, including environmental and social safeguards, in public and private investments. The project has a global scope and will strengthen the capacity and the level of engagement of CSOs in the regions. The project objective is: ?Increased capacities and recognition of the CSOs to contribute to the adherence of LDN principles in policies, programs and investments?. This will be delivered through capacities and support to CSOs to ensure that LDN is better aligned with established principles and practices and to lead investments in LDN. The project will consist of 2 components: 1) Influencing LDN and 2) Leveraging LDN. Component 1 focuses on increasing the recognition of CSOs at the political level, as well as increasing opportunities to be involved in designing, implementing, and evaluating LDN transformative projects. This is further extended to increasing the visibility of CSOs efforts towards achieving LDN. This will be done through a variety of mechanisms, namely knowledge development and exchange, mentoring, advocacy towards policy makers, awareness raising events and mobilisation of CSO community. Component 2 seeks to answer this demand, by building CSOs capacities and providing technical support to CSOs to leverage funds and convening fund raising meetings with donors and private investors. It is centred around a single outcome: CSOs? capacities to leverage funds for LDN are increased. This will be achieved through knowledge development and exchange, and increased engagement with donors

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Influencing LDN	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1.1: LDN actions (local) and agreements (international) are better aligned with established principles and practices	<p>1.1.1 Multi-lingual online learning curriculum with associated learning materials developed and disseminated for global CSO community to build knowledge on UNCCD and LDN</p> <p>1.1.2 CSOs in all regions have capacity and agency to undertake effective advocacy and communication to promote more effective LDN policies and programmes.</p> <p>1.1.3 CSOs are better represented, prepared for and effective during international meetings</p>	GET	1,136,900.00	2,043,128.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Leveraging LDN	Technical Assistance	Outcome 2.1 CSOs? capacities to leverage funds for LDN are increased	2.1.1 Knowledge on available funding and means to access funding for CSOs for LDN actions is increased and disseminated	GET	682,100.00	
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>1,819,000.00</b>	<b>2,043,128.00</b>
<b>Project Management Cost (PMC)</b>						
			GET	181,000.00		57,435.00
			<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>181,000.00</b>		<b>57,435.00</b>
			<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>2,000,000.00</b>		<b>2,100,563.00</b>

Please provide justification

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

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Civil Society Organization	Both ENDS	In-kind	Investment mobilized	1,700,000.00
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Investment mobilized	300,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Indigo	In-kind	Investment mobilized	100,563.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>2,100,563.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

Investment mobilized have been identified through the Drynet network. Their projects in engaging and building capacity within the CSO community provides some of the basis and expertise of the project; in particular, Both ENDS initiatives, who is representing the network and co-executing partner, were highlighted.

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

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
IUCN	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	2,000,000	180,000	2,180,000.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>2,000,000.00</b>	<b>180,000.00</b>	<b>2,180,000.00</b>



**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

50,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

4,500

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
IUCN	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	50,000	4,500	<b>54,500.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>54,500.00</b>

## Core Indicators

**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)
0.00	1200.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

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

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

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	1,200.00		

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

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

**Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported**

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

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

Title

Submitted

**Annex F - Core indicators GEF ID10993**

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

	<b>Number (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at TE)</b>
<b>Female</b>	60,000	2,550		
<b>Male</b>	40,000	2,450		
<b>Total</b>	100000	5000	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

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

#### 1) Global environmental problem, root causes and barriers

Land is at the base of all life, human societies and economies. Essential for food, water and shelter, mismanagement and over-exploitation of land has, over the years led to its degradation, all over the globe. The drivers and pressures are multiple ? population growth, expansion of agriculture and urbanization, unsustainable forestry and agricultural practices, climate change? (Gichuki, et al. 2019). In the last 20 years alone, over 20% of the terrestrial ecosystems have consistently shown decreased productivity due to land degradation (UNCCD 2017). Crucially, land can also be considered the ?operative link? between two of the other great environmental threats of this era: biodiversity loss and climate change; as such, focusing efforts on restoring land will provide great strides to tackling multiple issues at once. (UNCCD 2017).

The UNCCD defines land degradation as ?any reduction or loss in the biological or economic productive capacity of the land resource base. It is generally caused by human activities, exacerbated by natural processes, and often magnified by and closely intertwined with climate change and biodiversity loss? (UNCCD, 2014). While currently it is estimated that about 25% of all land area is degraded, based on the current degradation rates, this could rise to 95% by 2050 (GEF n.d.). Due to its ubiquity in human life, it is vital to keep land degradation at the forefront of global efforts to ensure a sustainable future for all. This means engaging all stakeholders, and recognizing the role that each and everyone has. In particular, civil society organisations have a unique position that must be capitalized on. Civil society organisations are simultaneously a source of information for communities and governments, hold governments accountable, engage in advocacy with government, private sector, and other institutions. They have a unique insight on the realities of land degradation, its drivers and solutions at local and community level, as well as connections at research and policy level, which gives their community a critical role in the development and monitoring of policy.

#### Threats, roots causes and barriers analysis

The main direct anthropogenic threats or drivers linked to land degradation can be classified under four categories (Svensson 2008, IPBES 2018):

- ? **Agricultural activities** ? this can be subdivided into activities linked to crop production (e.g., poor crop management) and livestock production (e.g. poor grazing land management).
- ? **Infrastructure expansion** ? this includes everything from of urbanisation, roads, irrigation, and geological exploitation (incl. mining, fossil fuels and quarrying)

- ? **Forest management and harvesting of wood** ? this includes all types of exploitation of wood, such as firewood/charcoal production, timber, and destructive or over-harvesting of non-timber forest products
- ? **Fire regime change** ? human presence has altered natural fire regimes mainly by changing fuel availability and connectivity, which specifically can alter frequency and seasonality.

The combination of these threats will vary greatly from region to region, based on the underlying causes and pressures; for instance, where energy poverty is a key problem, forest management and harvesting of wood is likely to be a more pressing threat than infrastructure expansion.

However, it is also vital to focus on the indirect drivers to land degradation, especially in the context of the proposed project. Typically, they are divided into five categories: (1) demographic; (2) economic; (3) technological; (4) policy and institutional; and (5) cultural. In particular, the institutional factors provide the framework which allow to determine the relevance and impact other indirect drivers, such as economy or demography, will have on resource use (in this case land). Alongside the formal international and national laws and institution, civil society networks are key (IPBES 2018). The interface between these two, policy makers and civil society, in particular, is at the forefront of determining the scale and magnitude that the direct drivers have on land degradation, and by extension, land restoration.

Here are presented some of the root causes to the indirect drivers to land degradation, homing in on the institutional category:

- ? **Lack of understanding on what LDN is** while not a new concept, and clearly inspired from efforts and activities that are being led on the ground, the development and vocabulary surrounding LDN may be somewhat foreign and overly conceptual for some, especially if mainly used in political environments.
- ? **Little promotion/implementation of LDN policies at country/regional level** - while the UNCCD has a near universal membership, this does not mean that it remains high on the political agenda for individual countries or within certain regions. There are a variety of reasons why national governments may not have land degradation as a political agenda priority, however it causes an overall disservice towards the global UNCCD mandate. As such, it is vital to ensure that there are other stakeholders who are able to both take over the awareness raising, promotion or implementation of LDN policies, all while keeping the national level governance in check.
- ? **Lack of information available and/or capacity on how CSOs can engage with policy maker at national/international level** ? advocacy is at the heart of CSOs? mandate, but it is not a blanket term. Different stakeholder groups require different types of communication skills and approaches. Understandably, not all individual civil society organisations need to be well-versed on each specific communication style, but even just an understanding of how processes work, who within their network may have the relevant skills and links to address various stakeholders, would greatly improve the overall communication channels.
- ? **Lack of recognition of CSOs as key stakeholders on LDN issues** ? discourse by decision makers within the UNCCD is informed by emerging science and shaped by political considerations at the national regional and global levels. However, it tends to be inadequately informed about realities faced by affected communities, and opportunities to engage them in implementing effective solutions.

This 'alternate reality' can be brought more forcefully into the discourse by forging closer links between civil society and policy makers. Its effectiveness relies on the recognition of the value of the role of civil society as providing well-informed practical perspectives and a voice to the voiceless, and thus the confidence of stakeholders in this mandate. This means ensuring that the CSO community keeps itself consistently visible to other stakeholders and able to project its role as a valued 'speaking partner' in negotiations.

? **Shrinking civic space in many countries** ? while not a universal root cause, it hinders leadership of CSOs in certain agendas. In several countries CSOs play the role of de facto leaders in UNCCD engagement and in some countries these CSOs play a role in national coordination and may be officially recognized by their government. However, many CSOs that are active in the UNCCD process face resource constraints in coordinating with other CSOs in their country and regionally and may face challenges in gaining recognition for the work they do.

To better recognize and capitalise on CSO involvement in land degradation prevention and restoration, which in turn will catalyse the overall global process of land degradation neutrality, three main barriers have been identified as needing to be addressed :

? **Lack of continuity in active engagement/ participation of some CSOs in the processes of the UNCCD, including CSO Panel.** While there is a plethora of CSOs globally working on issues linked to land degradation, at any one time, the number of CSOs engaging with UNCCD processes, including the CSO panel, is highly variable. There are a number of reasons for this, some listed in the root causes, but lack of assimilation of some of the processes and concepts underpinning the UNCCD should be highlighted. For instance, many CSO - including many that are involved in restoration and sustainable land management - are poorly informed of the concept of LDN, the commitments to LDN made by their government, and the role civil society can play in implementing LDN and upholding LDN principles. Similarly, perceived, or actual, lack of capacity to engage with policy makers and international stakeholders, in terms of communication and procedures, can be underscored as a factor.

? **Lack of understanding what is defined as LDN funding.** There is no question that CSOs are in a privileged position to help undertake LDN related projects and initiative, as they work closely with the people who are directly working with land, especially in low- and middle-income countries. However, CSOs are also often reliant on securing funding from multiple sources, which can be time-consuming and complex at the best of times, taking time away from activities themselves. During the consultation phase for this project, respondents to the questionnaire almost all highlighted a lack of funds as a barrier, and a need and desire to improve their skills related to securing funding. However, on the other hand, large pledges have been made to go towards land degradation and LDN initiatives, from a variety of sources ? for instance international funds such as the GEF or the Adaptation Fund, multilateral donors such as AfDB (funding for the Great Green Wall), or private sector (e.g. Mirova). Finding a way to improve CSOs' understanding of what LDN funding for LDN actions is and how to access it will allow them, reduce time spent searching, to better capitalise on their expertise, as well as better target and narrate their efforts and initiatives.

- ? **Lack of understanding of links between land degradation and LDN and other global issues** (e.g., climate change, biodiversity loss) **and international agreement** (e.g. UNFCCC, CBD). Making the link between land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss is ultimately a way to make stakeholders, in particular CSOs, better understand how their efforts in one field can impact the others, as well as open more opportunities for dialogue, collaboration and funding for integrative initiatives. It is something that has been highlighted since the development of the Rio Conventions, but perhaps not always well assimilated by stakeholders.

## 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

The baseline scenario for this project is wide-ranging, however with recognized weaknesses and gaps. Land degradation, sustainable land management is not a new topic, and over the years, there have been initiatives and projects looking to improve the situation, either by slowing degradation or increasing restoration efforts. However, these efforts range from the local all the way through to international. Considering the global scale of the project, and the focus on advocacy and CSO engagement, the focus here remains at the globally recognized efforts as they pertain to the overall spirit of the project.

### *Past and planned regional actions and projects*

#### CSO Networks

Civil society organisation networks are varied in scope (national, regional, global), in subject matter, and activity. At the international and regional level, it is vital to understand how CSOs are already working together, supporting their efforts, and exchanging knowledge to improve the recognition of their efforts. These networks are varied in geographical scope, in subject matter and types of activities.

#### *UNCCD CSO Panel*

As outlined above, decision 5/COP9 (2009) established the UNCCD CSO Panel to ensure the participation and engagement of the civil society organizations at the meetings and processes of the UNCCD. The role of the Panel is to promote active involvement of CSOs on the implementation of the Convention and the negotiations undertaken at the COP including to encourage local, national and regional CSOs to seek their accreditation; increase communication and knowledge exchange among CSOs and raise awareness of UNCCD activities.

The UNCCD CSO Panel consists of five members democratically elected for a period of two years by the observer organizations and mandated to liaise with their constituencies and ensure that their voices are heard at all levels. Their constituencies consist of the 700+ accredited CSOs to the UNCCD, divided into the five annex regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and ?Western Europe and Other Group?. The most recent panel was brought in at COP 15 (2022) and will serve until COP 16 in 2024.

*Gap analysis:* There are some shortcomings associated to the UNCCD CSO Panel; firstly, while supported by the UNCCD Secretariat, the members are volunteers and much of their ability to undertake their mandate is dependent on individual circumstances, time and capacity; this can lead to disparities among region representation, as well as between iterations of the Panel. Similarly, currently there is no institutionalised hand-over between tenures; considering the relatively short mandate (two years), which only includes one COP and one CRIC, the learning curve for the representatives can potentially hinder the undertaking of the mandate, especially with no guaranteed handover procedures or mechanisms. Having CSO oriented tools and information to help inform and organise the community in parallel with the CSO Panel would further aid their mandate.

*Drynet*



The Drynet network has been actively involved in influencing the UNCCD processes since 2007. The network was founded by 14 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) distributed globally who felt that the UNCCD processes would be helped with insights based on initiatives of communities living in drylands. The network is guided by the understanding that, to effectively counter degradation, local organizations and communities living in drylands should be at the heart of the effort, but their involvement in the national and international arenas of decision-making is often very marginal. By directly linking with local groups and engaging them in broader debates, Drynet seeks to redress the current imbalance. Drynet is a self-funded network that shares information, develops common positions of civil society organizations on issues relating to sustainable livelihoods and land use in the drylands and engages in the international discourse via the UNCCD the UNFCCC and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Drynet was instrumental in the establishment of the CSO Panel, and its members have played a crucial role as regional representatives on the Panel and as elected Observers to the UNCCD Science Policy Interface.

*In addition, to Drynet, a number of other networks exist, at national and regional scale.*

For instance, since 2010, Réseau Sahel Désertification (R?SaD) is a four-country platform for national networks focusing on desertification in the Sahel: Secr?tariat Permanent des Organisations non Gouvernementales (SPONG; Burkina Faso), Réseau des Femmes pour les Droits Environnementaux (REFEDE-Mali); Groupe de Travail Désertification (GTD; France); Réseau associatif de développement durable des oasis (RADO, 4 countries, North Africa ) and Comité national de Coordination des ONG sur la Désertification (CNCOD; Niger). This network has worked on increasing cooperation and knowledge exchange between CSOs (including in project development and management) and increase advocacy at national, regional and international scale.

*Gap analysis:* Networks are key to helping organise CSOs; however, at this point in time, there is little formal recognition at the UNCCD level of the various networks in existence and their roles, particularly linked to LDN implementation. Furthermore, their existence, strengths and ways to engage with them may not be easily found by the wider community without specific knowhow or knowledge.

#### Desertif?Actions

Since 2006, CARI has initiated the Desertif?Actions Summit in partnership with the UNCCD and other networks ( Climate Chance/local authorities, Observatory of Sahara and Sahel/Tunisia, ... to facilitate the collective construction of civil society recommendations in preparation for the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention. Desertif?Actions, the International Summit of Civil Society Committed to Safeguarding Land from Desertification and Climate Change, aims to be a global unique multi-stakeholder meeting contributing to the articulation between the many issues related to land degradation, desertification, biodiversity and climate change.

Desertif?Actions is dedicated to the voice of civil society, but it is intended to be a forum that goes beyond the silos between families of actors. The summit allows CSOs to share their experiences and practices with each other, but also to benefit from recent scientific insights, and to dialogue directly with representatives of international institutions, donors and policy makers.

To date, there have been five editions of the meeting (2006, 2015, 2017, 2019), with the most recent being held in Montpellier, France. This edition hosted 270 participants from 39 countries, with a total budget of ?289,326 sourced from a variety of funders, including UNCCD, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, GEF/FFEM/FAO (AVACLIM project), Mirova, OSS, Agrisud, IRD, CSFD, Fondation de France, Occitanie Region, Metropolis of Montpellier, GIZ. The next edition is planned for the first quarter of 2026, in preparation for UNCCD COP 17.

*Gap analysis:* creating a dynamic, multistakeholder, CSO-oriented meeting provides CSOs with more opportunities to collaborate on UNCCD processes. However, to capitalise on these meetings means ensuring that they are timed appropriately, in order to ensure sustained and incremental involvement of CSOs in the international landscape.

#### Capacity building projects ? advocacy, knowledge development and sharing

Projects focusing on growing the skills of civil society organisations in advocacy are clearly needed to further their role and recognition of this role in policy making, and there are clear examples of such efforts at national or regional levels.

One such project is the *Program of structured actions of actors in the fight against desertification (PASS-LCD)* which is to start in September 2023 for three years, funded mainly through the French Development Agency (AFD), to up to ?704,600. Taking place in Burkina Faso, France, Niger and Senegal, the overall objective is to facilitate the emergence of conditions conducive to sustainable agricultural development in drylands, combining population security and environmental preservation, and relying on active collaboration between state and non-state actors in the Sahel.

This project is part of a desire to strengthen collaboration between state and non-state actors within the UNCCD and the GGW to address the challenges of drought and LDN. Through dialogue with public policies and multi-stakeholder collaboration, the aim is to continue advocacy work to promote the recognition of agroecology as an effective means of combating desertification in the Sahel. The actions carried out at the national and international level will thus target the deployment of agroecological principles within agricultural development models. The project will also facilitate dialogue between civil society and decision-makers on GGW. By supporting the monitoring of initiatives contributing to GGW, the project aims to enhance the contribution of CSOs in achieving its objectives. Finally, it will strengthen the participation of CSOs in the implementation of the GGW through the strengthening of their capacities to set up projects and to access funding.

Similarly, it is vital to highlight the work that Both ENDS, a CSO based in the Netherlands and member of Drynet, engages in, namely in advocacy and capacity building in the global south. For instance, the *Communities Regreen the Sahel*, funded by DOB Ecology (USD 1,000,000), is over the course of 10 years, 2017-2027, supporting local communities with a sustainable and low-cost method of farming known as Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) in three West African countries (Senegal, Burkina Faso, Niger). As part of this programme, Both ENDS is working with civil society organisations and networks in these three countries to build ownership of sustainable land management and restoration actions, from the bottom up, involving communities and local policy makers.

Similarly, Both ENDS is the lead agency on a USD 700,000 project, funded by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs ? Power of Voices, *Fair, Green and Global (FGG) Alliance*. In this project, Both ENDS works closely with organisations in the Global South on joint advocacy, both towards their local government and on an international level. In addition, Both ENDS lends its support to the existing and emerging networks of organisations working on sustainable development models. Both ENDS is the lead agency of the FGG Alliance.

*Gap analysis:* regional efforts are necessary as they allow to fully integrate the specificities of the regional context. However, limiting it in geographic scope potentially limits more innovative pairings and learning, whether they be south-south or north-south. In particular, showcasing successful efforts and case studies can provide other CSOs with the inspiration, confidence or even process to undertake and promote their own efforts. Furthermore, this concept of capacity building, especially peer-to-peer, can be extended to other topics that are seen as critical to CSOs? work, such as fund-raising.

The project: *Creating lands of opportunity: Transforming Livelihoods through Landscape Restoration in the Sahel* is implemented in 3 countries of the Sahel, namely: Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger. The overall objective is to make a significant and sustainable contribution towards landscape restoration in the Sahel while creating income-generating activities for local communities. The project will work with community members to 1. promote landscape restoration and facilitate the sustainability of these actions through the creation of land-based jobs and income-generating opportunities for rural populations across the Sahel, particularly benefiting women and youth, 2. promote and strengthen the enabling environment for leveraging investments for landscape restoration benefiting local communities and 3. improve the livelihoods of rural communities by establishing sustainable production of high-value drylands products to connect local producers to international markets. The project will use landscape approach to improve knowledge, empower communities and land-based value chains actors and improve the governance of land in selected landscapes of the target countries. IUCN is leading on this project funded by the Government of Italy

## ***Past and planned national actions and projects***

### LDN Targets

As introduced earlier, in 2015 UNCCD parties were invited to create their own national voluntary targets to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN); these would allow to decline LDN principles and targets into case-specific circumstances and development priorities. At this point in time, 129 countries have committed to setting LDN targets, with just over 100 having completed the programme to design the targets.

*Gap analysis:* setting and achieving these targets are largely reliant on government individual action, namely in recognizing and reporting current initiatives and projects which are working towards these targets. For this, there is a need to engage with organisations and stakeholders who are actively working with communities. However, the relationships between CSOs and national governments is heterogenous, with some CSOs having little contact with their ministries and UNCCD Focal points. Improving the capacity of CSOs to engage with their policy makers, as well as their capacity to monitor LDN projects, couple with awareness raising on the policy level side of the crucial and beneficial role that CSOs can have to help achieve LDN targets on a country-by-country basis.

### Capacity building projects ? advocacy, communication, knowledge sharing

It is crucial to highlight that there are numerous smaller projects being implemented at national levels by CSOs focusing on strengthening their capacity in advocacy, knowledge sharing, communication, monitoring, etc. Below are just some of the projects currently being led by Drynet members:

- ? *Innovative partnerships for change: raising new climate change initiatives and champions* - Indigo has partnered with the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) as hosts of the Land Network National Engagement Strategy (LandNNE), the Institute for Natural Resources (INR), the University of KZN's Farmer Support Group (FSG) and Heifer Project South Africa (HPSA) in a 4-year EU-funded project to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations to address climate change impacts on the land tenure and farming systems of small-scale farmers in South Africa. Indigo, in particular, is building the capacity building of civil society organisations in the land and agriculture sectors on climate change, supporting CSOs to engage on climate and agriculture policy, hosting youth exchanges and training youth in the use of participatory video techniques.
  
- ? *Human rights and gender approaches in the Escaz? Agreement: training and policy paper:* thanks to funding from IUCN Netherlands (USD 5,000), Fundacion Ambiente y recursos Naturales (FARN) in Argentina is providing online training on environmental citizenship for women environmental defenders, public online events on the initiative and the addressed issues and advocacy documents for formal submission.
  
- ? *Land for Future:* through annual funding from Global Green Grants Fund (USD 55,000), Dhrobotara Youth Development Foundation promotes agroecology and combats drought, particularly through engaging and raising awareness on land rights advocacy, and a focus on capacity enhancement.
  
- ? *Support community led monitoring and control of deforestation and forest degradation in Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in Cameroon ?* this one-year project (2023-2024), funded by World Resources Institute/Global Forest Watch (WRI/GFW) Small Grants (USD 38,000) is focusing on the monitoring and reporting of deforestation and land degradation in the Yabassi

Area in Cameroon. It is building the capacity of the civil society (NGO, communities, etc.) to use globally acknowledged tools to report on deforestation and land degradation.

*Gap analysis:* as with the regional projects, it is clear that these efforts are vital - they allow to focus on specificities of national contexts. However, at least on the short term, this may not have the effect wanted at the international level. In addition, it is clear that just within the Drynet network, there is a wealth of knowledge on various subject (just listed above ? advocacy, monitoring, land tenure, gender approaches) that could be better shared, namely through peer-to-peer learning.

### ***GEF interventions***

The GEF is an official funding mechanism for the UNCCD, with a mandate to invest in global environmental benefits from production landscapes. Since 2006, land degradation has been one of its focal areas. In that time, the GEF has invested over USD 1 billion in over 200 projects and programs that promote sustainable land management. In particular, it should be noted that the GEF has supported 20 countries in LDN implementation, with more coming out of cycle 7, namely thanks to the Impact Programme.

Under GEF-7, a new impact programme was debuted: the Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme (DSL-IP). The overall goal of the programme, being implemented from 2021 to 2026, was defined as: ?to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands through the sustainable management of production landscapes, addressing the complex nexus of local livelihoods, land degradation, climate change, and environmental security? (GEF 2018). It seeks to apply the UNCCD's LDN tool to advance sustainable land and forest management aiming at avoiding further land degradation and desertification and improving the quality and maintenance of ecosystem services. However, it also recognises that by helping to national LDN strategies, there will also be contributions to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and biodiversity targets, in essence highlighting the linkages between the three Rio Conventions.

The three landscapes targeted are: Miombe and Mopane ecosystems in Central Africa, savannahs of East and Western Africa, and the temperate grasslands, savannas, and shrublands of Central Asia. Eleven countries are participating - Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. This represents over 12 million hectares of dryland under sustainable land management, over 1 million direct beneficiaries, and about 1 million hectares of degraded dryland land restored.

All of these child projects, as well as other GEF funded efforts linked directly to CSO support or leveraging funds for LDN are found in the table below.

*Gap analysis:* It should be noted that CSOs are often included in the project/enabling activities, as beneficiaries as well as implementing stakeholders. However, their unique role in the implementation of action in the field at the finest mesh of the territories is overlooked and they are not the focus. Those included are usually included at national level, working on specific relationships between national governments and selected CSOs. While this is necessary, it does not necessarily help to level the playing field at the international level or specifically raise the profile of CSO roles in LDN TSP specifically.

Prior to this, it is particular important to highlight the UNEP/GEF project Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking sectors and stakeholders for increased synergy and scaling-up. Implemented between 2016 and 2022 with IUCN as an executing partner, the objective of the project was to achieve greater implementation of policies for sustainable land management in the Sahel (GGW countries) through enhanced investment, intersectoral coordination, and engagement of Civil society organisations, including marginalised groups. Among other achievements, the project created a platform meant for Great Green Wall Initiative stakeholders. The platform connects actors at the national and regional levels, builds their capacities, increases communication with governments, shares knowledge, and promotes field initiatives. It creates a community of actors united around the GGW initiative, who share their experience, coordinate their efforts and promote the initiative. It is the only collaborative space dedicated to the Great Green Wall and non-state actors. Members can access information shared by a variety of actors, increase the visibility of their organization/initiatives and

initiate debates. The project also organised a conference that strengthened regional and global dialogue on the values and opportunities of rangelands restoration, and the role of pastoralists as stewards of rangelands landscapes. It helped shape the global dialogue within the framework of the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC on rangeland ecosystems.

### ***Gaps to be filled***

International policy to slow and reverse land degradation is in place, but the participation of CSOs in its shaping, review and dissemination of key decisions tends to be heterogenous at best, despite their crucial role as interlocutors between the land users and policy makers. It is clear that there are many global efforts in place to address certain of the gaps in terms of CSO recognition, as revealed in the project baseline and consultations undertaken in the PPG phase, but there are still several opportunities available to improve this situation:

- ? *Recognizing that the skills and capacity within the global CSO community are heterogenous at best ? a set of baseline tools and information created by and for CSOs will help create a foundation of knowledge for CSOs who wish to better understand and take part in UNCCD and LDN processes.*
- ? *Increasing space and time for CSOs to focus on preparing positions ? many international fora, including UNCCD COPs and CRICs, are fast-paced bustling environments. Many stakeholders can prepare ahead of time, especially if they represent a single geographic location or institution. Providing opportunities for the global CSO community to get together ahead of time to consolidate their views, ideas and experiences will improve their preparedness for these events. While the pandemic has increased the access and ease of use of digital tools, there is also a need to support in person multistakeholder discussions dedicated to this objective.*
- ? *While many CSOs are involved in the land degradation neutrality processes as well as the implementation of the UNCCD, there are ebbs and flows in terms of commitment from individual actors, as well as the skills and capacity individual actors can bring to the table. Supporting relationship building between CSOs to promote peer-to-peer learning, collaboration, and presenting a more cohesive CSO identity and stance vis a vis the UNCCD, regardless of individual presence. Linked to this is a specific need to support south-south cooperation and partnerships. These are areas which are perhaps most affected by issues of land degradation, as well as other related themes such as climate change impacts and biodiversity loss, but do not have as many opportunities to*
- ? *Finally, the fundamental and synergistic link between the different Rio Conventions remains under-valued and under-utilised; bringing this to the forefront, namely in terms of LDN, will provide opportunities for more innovative solutions, as well as innovative funding opportunities.*

### **3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project;**

The goal, or long-term impact of the project is to have a well-informed, collaborative, and effective civil society providing clear leadership to governments and communities in acquiring and applying

critical insights about effective LDN to the development and review of policies and programmes and informing decision making about funding for LDN. For this, the project will specifically look to increased capacities and recognition of the CSOs to contribute to the adherence of LDN principles in policies, programs and investments. The strategies to achieve this are linked to knowledge development and exchange, mobilisation of civil society, linking local practices to policies, advocacy to policy makers and donors/ funds. These strategies are implemented in two separate components which in conjunction should help create an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation. The proposed theory of change for the project is in annex.

The project is simply divided into two components:

- ? Influencing LDN (component 1) ? the focus is on capacity building for the CSOs, mainly relating to advocacy and communication, but also LDN monitoring and evaluation.
- ? Leveraging LDN (component 2) ? the focus is on providing CSOs with better insight on funding opportunities for LDN initiatives, as well as working on the skills to better capitalize on these opportunities.

During the PPG phase, changes to the PIF were proposed and approved by key stakeholders ? including Drynet members, IUCN, and UNCCD CSO Panel and UNCCD Secretariat. These changes reflect new information gathered during consultations with various stakeholders, and do not alter the overall objective of the project. Rather, the changes reflect a refining of the project objective, namely how the two components work together, how to ensure that the project can simultaneously have a global and targeted impact and ensure that there is complementarity with past and current projects and respect the stakeholder landscape and structure that are already in place. The table below summarizes the main changes made.

Topic	Main changes from PIF
Core indicator targets	<p><b>Targets from PIF</b></p> <p>Core indicator 4 ? TBC</p> <p>Core indicator 11 ? 100,000 (60:40 F:M) (mainly smallholder famers)</p> <p><b>Revised targets in CEO-ER</b></p> <p>During PPG, there was a concerted effort to provide reasonable and workable estimates towards the core indicator 4, considering the lack of on the ground activities, and the focus on smaller scale initiatives and projects. As such, Core Indicator 4 was estimated at 1,200 ha of productive landscape under improved management.</p> <p>Similarly, Core Indicator 11 was recalculated to better reflect the targets of the various activities and remain conservative and workable based on key stakeholders past experiences.</p> <p>Core Indicator 4 (4.3)? 1,200 ha</p> <p>Core Indicator 11 ? 5,000 (51:49 F:M) (mainly CSOs)</p>
Revised outcomes and outputs	<p>While the components and outcomes remained the same, some work was done on the outputs to reflect the detailing work that was undertaken during the PPG phase. For component 1, this meant increasing the number of outputs, while for component 2, it was rewording to provide more details and specifications.</p> <p>All in all, changes found here do not change the overall purpose or objective of the proposed project, and were approved by stakeholders during the validation workshop.</p>

Component 1

Influencing LDN

*[Unchanged]*

While the component and outcome were unchanged, there are now three outcomes rather than one, to reflect the diversity of backgrounds in the CSO community and regroup the activities being undertaken. The first output pertains to the wider CSO community (and other interested parties in the role of CSOs in the UNCCD and LDN processes), the second targets a smaller group of CSOs, while the final regroups all activities linked to providing CSOs opportunities to engage in international fora.

**Previous outcome/output wording:**

**Outcome 1:** LDN actions (local) and agreements (international) are better aligned with established principles and practices

Output 1.1: 200 Civil Society Organizations have greater capacity and increased opportunity to influence LDN decisions and actions

**New outcome/output wording:**

**Outcome 1.1** *[unchanged]*

Output 1.1.1 Multi-lingual online learning curriculum with associated learning materials developed and disseminated for global CSO community to build knowledge on UNCCD and LDN

Output 1.1.2 CSOs in all regions have capacity and agency to undertake effective advocacy and communication to promote more effective LDN policies and programs

Output 1.1.3 CSOs are better represented, prepared for and effective during UNCCD international meetings



<p>Component 2:</p> <p>Leveraging LDN</p> <p><i>[unchanged]</i></p>	<p>Similarly to component 1, the component title and single outcome are unchanged. The number of outputs is unchanged, but the wording changed to better reflect the activities undertaken and strategies utilized.</p> <p><b>Previous outcome/output wording:</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 2.1 CSOs? capacities to leverage funds for LDN are increased.</b></p> <p>Output 2.1.1 CSOs catalyze finance for LDN actions in partnership with public and private partners</p> <p><b>New outcome/output wording:</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 2.1</b> <i>[unchanged]</i></p> <p>Output 2.1.1 Knowledge on available funding and means to access funding for LDN actions is increased and disseminated</p>
<p>Co-financing amounts</p>	<p><b>Co-financing amounts from PIF</b></p> <p>ICUN ? in-kind: 300,000</p> <p>Drynet ? in-kind: 500,000</p> <p><b>Co-financing at PPG stage</b></p> <p><b>IUCN ? 300,000</b></p> <p><b>Both ENDS ? 1,700,000</b></p> <p>Indigo: 73,128</p>

### Component 1

Component 1 focuses on increasing the recognition of CSOs at the political level, as well as increasing opportunities to be involved in designing, implementing, and evaluating LDN transformative projects. This is further extended to increasing the visibility of CSOs efforts towards achieving LDN. This will be done through a variety of mechanisms, namely knowledge development and exchange, mentoring, advocacy towards policy makers, awareness raising events and mobilisation of CSO community. Component 1 is centred around a single outcome: *LDN actions (local) and agreements (international) are better aligned with established principles and practices*. To achieve this outcome, there are three proposed outputs.

*Output 1.1.1 Multi-lingual online learning curriculum with associated learning materials developed and disseminated for global CSO community to build knowledge on UNCCD and LDN*

This output is about creating a CSO-led, CSO-centred platform which provides baseline information for the entirety of the CSO community engaged in activities pertaining to the UNCCD and LDN. This output directly responds to a CSO voiced desire for a platform that allows CSOs to learn, exchange and strategize, as identified during the PPG consultations (see Appendix 9.4). Passive and active learning opportunities, in a variety of languages, will be provided on a unique virtual space for CSOs to convene, interact and gather information. This project will mostly be implemented by Indigo NGO, through the Lead Technical Officer and Project Communication Officer.

Activity 1.1.1.1 Annual webinar LDN series on UNCCD, Land Degradation Neutrality, Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT), and Monitoring Community-Based Sustainable Land Management and Restoration

Using the knowledge gathered by the Drynet network and other partners (IUCN, UNCCD Secretariat, FAO, WOCAT, Drynet members, other CSOs?), an annual series of webinars will be created. It will be designed on the basis of 4 episodes per year on four main topics, namely: 1) the UNCCD, 2) Land Degradation Neutrality, 3) Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests, and 4) Monitoring Community-Based SLM & Restoration.

It is envisaged that some of the annual offerings will focus on sub-regional/regional themes, cross-cutting themes (e.g. gender) or practical examples reflecting on specific challenges (within a region or theme), in order to provide a variety of examples and ensure that participating CSOs benefit not only from a global perspective, but also find examples/topics that relate directly to their geographic areas and associated issues.

All webinars will include simultaneous interpretation options in English, French and Spanish, to be more accessible to the wider global CSO community. They will also be recorded and made available on the Drynet website, so will be accessible for viewing at a later date.

Activity 1.1.1.2 Annual Communication series of webinars on how to engage with policy makers and donors, how to present community based SLM & restoration.

This activity follows the same pattern as Activity 1.1.1.1. The second annual series of webinars (3 per year) will focus on communication strategies, namely, how to communicate with policy makers (local and international) and donors on key themes such as community based sustainable land management and restoration (Activity 1.1.1.2). This webinar series will include training on various communication styles, how to engage on virtual professional spaces (e.g., LinkedIn). They will be created in a collaborative way, utilising CSO-based expertise as well as external partners.

Like with the LDN series, the webinars will be offered with simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Spanish, and stored on the Drynet website.

Activity 1.1.1.2 Publication of quarterly newsletter with practical examples of community based-initiatives relevant in the context UNCCD, with LDN stories, with information on events and fundraising opportunities

In parallel to these webinars, a quarterly newsletter with practical examples of community based-initiatives relevant in the context UNCCD, with LDN stories, with information on events and fundraising opportunities. It will be distributed through several channels, namely a sign-up mailing list, the Drynet website, but also advertised through the IUCN network, UNCCD CSO mailing list, etc. The newsletter will strive to include stories about women-led initiatives.

The newsletter will include inputs from CSOs throughout the world. In particular, at least one annual newsletter will be dedicated to highlighting a community based/CSO-led SLM effort that has not yet been officially recognized as contributing to a LDN target<sup>[1]</sup>. It is envisaged that some of these specific practical case studies will be identified through the mentorship programme (Activity 1.1.2.2), though not exclusively.

Activity 1.1.1.3 Establishment and maintenance of online portal for living knowledge bank where relevant publications, articles and news can be gathered and found

To host all the previous knowledge products, the Drynet platform will be revamped. This platform was chosen to host these as it is an independent, self-funded platform, which works closely with the UNCCD Secretariat and UNCCD CSO Panel. This activity will be overseen and facilitated by the Lead Technical Officer and Project Communication Officer (based at Indigo), and will involve upgrading the platform to make it more accessible, simpler to curate the various knowledge products, monitor traffic, and potentially host more interactive tools (e.g. membership page, dialogue board, etc.) to provide a more personal experience for the users.

The website will be the responsibility of the Indigo-based project communication officer and lead technical officer, with inputs from Drynet, IUCN, UNCCD CSO Panel, etc. Along with curating the project created knowledge products, it will serve as a repository for CSO networks and individual CSOs, provide links to other related tools (websites, publications, etc.) and keep an updated calendar of events. Finally, the website will also serve as an information portal for the project and project activities.

*Output 1.1.2 CSOs in all regions have capacity and agency to undertake effective advocacy and communication to promote more effective LDN policies and programmes*

This output is focused on providing CSOs with tangible peer-to-peer learning opportunities to improve their capacity in advocacy and communication. This approach, one asked for by CSOs during the project preparation phase, will involve supporting long-term partnership/mentorships between CSOs, to allow them to learn from each other's own skills and experiences, utilising real life situations and examples; this approach will also be utilized in Component 2 (Act. 2.1.1.3 and 2.1.1.4). It will also support the development of side-events for the UNCCD COP. Finally, it will also provide the opportunity to benefit from external training on innovative communication, namely to help target other groups, such as the UNFCCC and CBD communities

Activity 1.1.2.1 Identification and characterisation of the capacity and willingness of CSOs in order to have relevant advocates in the UNCCD processes

This first activity is vital for the development of the mentoring schemes under both components as it will offer an opportunity for CSOs to be introduced to the project and to apply for consideration to participate in the two mentoring schemes supported by this project (Output 1.1.2 and Activity 2.1.1.3-5). The information about the project, the structure and expectation of the mentorship schemes and application process will be provided through two to four online presentations (to cater to various languages and time zones).

This activity, namely the development of the application to the programme, will be fully devised by the Lead Technical Officer, with input and approval from IUCN, Both ENDS, and UNCCD Secretariat. Some of the information that will need to be included in the application and form the basis of the selection process are provided below:

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- ? Geographic location ? priority will be given to CSOs located in the global south
- ? UNCCD Accreditation and involvement in other networks
- ? Skills and evidence of these ? e.g. advocacy, monitoring and evaluation of LDN initiatives, fund-raising, etc.
- ? Knowledge, expertise in cross-cutting issues such as gender, indigenous people, youth.
- ? Experience with capacity building and/or training.
- ? Can nominate and has a working relationship with CSO(s) who could benefit from training (mentee).

The applications will be aggregated by the project Lead Technical Officer (with input from the project coordinators), in preparation for Activity 1.1.2.2 and 2.1.1.3.

Activity 1.1.2.2 Mentoring & coaching of CSOs and youth groups by Drynet members in between and during COP, CRIC on UNCCD procedures

To promote ownership of the project, as well as build on established relationships, which both will support the long-term impact of the project, the project will support the development a capacity mentorship programme. This mentorship will focus on advocacy and communication, as well as other identified capacity, such as LDN project monitoring and evaluating. It is envisaged that at least 20 pairings will be supported, with a 51:49 female: male<sup>[1]</sup> ratio of participants.

The selection of the mentors will be based on the shortlist aggregated in activity 1.1.2.1. Specific criteria will be in line with the sections found in the application form (see previous activity), as well as membership to Drynet, and a proven track record of advocacy within the context of the UNCCD and other MEAs for policies that support sustainable land use and restoration initiatives of communities in drylands. This selection will be led by the Lead Technical Officer, with validation from the Drynet Board, and input from the UNCCD Secretariat, UNCCD CSO Panel and IUCN.

The targets and goals of each mentorship will be determined by an agreement developed by each pair, and validated by the Project Technical Officer, to facilitate M&E activities. It is expected that most of the interactions between the mentors and mentees will be digital or funded through independent sources. However, it is expected that each mentor/mentee pair will participate to at least two COP/CRIC during the duration of the project, as well as Desertif?Actions. To facilitate this, the project will provide some funding towards COP/CRIC travel<sup>[2]</sup>.

Activity 1.1.2.3 Preparation and delivery of side events at COPs, including in the Rio Pavilion

This activity is about awareness-raising ? to the CSO community, to policy makers, journalists, youth groups, etc., whether at the UNCCD COP or other MEA COPs.

To deliver this activity, there will be an international convening of the mentors and mentees ? this meeting-cum-workshop will have a double goal of providing an opportunity for CSOs members to attend communication-oriented training (e.g. innovative strategies, public speaking, presenting through story-telling,), as well as work together to create an awareness raising campaign that will be presented

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at the UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD COPs. At the time of PPG, two of the potential themes identified were 'LDN and the Rio Conventions' (this theme focuses specifically on demonstrating how land degradation, and in particular LDN, not only pertains to the UNCCD, but more broadly to all the Rio Conventions) and 'Linking Local Practices to Policy' (this would involve helping to demystify political jargon and provide practical examples of LDN projects). A consultancy for communication and design expertise will help deliver this activity, providing facilitation and expertise at the meeting, as well as helping to design the campaign communication supports (flyers, posters, signages, etc). These campaigns will be showcased at the UNFCCC COP 29 (2025), CBD COP 17 (2026) and UNCCD COP 17 (2026). For the former two, the project will support the attendance of two mentor/mentee partnerships to present the campaign/event at each event. This will help these CSOs to build their capacity to deliver their messaging to different types of groups, who may not have the same technical knowledge as them, as well as help build linkages between the CSO communities of the various Rio Conventions.

In addition to this specific event, the project will support the development of two other side events at the UNCCD COPs.

*Output 1.1.3 CSOs are better represented, prepared for and effective during UNCCD international meetings*

It is no surprise that during the consultation period, many of the CSOs noted that they feel the need to be better prepared for attendance to the UNCCD COPs/CRICs. While efforts have been in place to include CSOs at the international level, the scale, processes, and realities of international fora are often divergent realities of CSOs working at local or national level. This output therefore focuses on demystifying the COP/CRIC procedures and giving CSOs the opportunity to prepare their attendance and messaging ahead of time.

Activity 1.1.3.1 Online workshop for preparation of CRIC 2025, COP 16 (2024) and COP 17 (2026)

This project will support various online events leading up to UNCCD COPs (COP 16 ? 2024; COP 17 ? 2026) and UNCCD CRIC (2025) which will take place during project implementation. Two types of online preparation workshops will be organized for each COP/CRIC. The first will be to highlight what a COP / CRIC is, what is at stake, what to expect, and how CSOs can engage in CRIC/COP and/or national LDN processes. It will be advertised primarily to CSOs who are attending the event, but not exclusively.

The second online workshop will focus more on preparing the CSO responses to drafts prior to the COPs and CRICs. This particular workshop will be convened in partnership with the UNCCD CSO Panel itself, in order to avoid duplication or factions within the CSO community. As much as possible the workshops will attempt to meet the 51:49 female: male<sup>[3]</sup> ratio of participants.

Activity 1.1.3.2 IUCN World conservation Congress

The IUCN World conservation congress is the largest conservation and sustainable development gathering bringing together scientists, policy experts, business leaders and professionals from around the globe share their experience. The project will support the participation of a limited number of CSOs in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2025.

The three components of the IUCN Congress ? Member's Assembly, Forum, Exhibition ? will benefit participating CSOs and help them raise their voice and influence decision about LDN action in their countries and regions, and the future of the planet, especially if they are Members and hence, allowed

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to vote. Prior to the Congress a Youth caucus will allow Youth CSOs to also prepare and advocate for LDN, dryland restoration, and an increased involvement of Youth in related dialogues. The project will facilitate the participation of at least one Youth organisation to the Congress.

CSOs participating in IUCN Congress to advocate for LDN will not only benefit CSOs but also IUCN that may increase its role in dryland and rangeland restoration.

#### Activity 1.1.3.3 Preparatory meetings for CSOs, journalists and youth groups, prior to COP and at the venue of COP

In-person events will be organised at COP17 itself, prior to the start of the conference. These events will target CSOs, but also journalists, youth groups, policy makers, etc., as it is recognized that dialogue between stakeholders involves engagement from all parties. As with the first online workshop, one of the events/displays will highlight the basics of the COP and what is at stake (incl. elements of CSO response), specifically relating to CSOs ? it will allow to target the CSO community, but also build awareness in other stakeholders. The other themes will be determined closer to the event. This activity will be supported by the Lead Technical Officer and Project Communication Officer, and include the participation and input of CSOs participating in the mentorship scheme, Drynet members, etc.

#### Activity 1.1.3.4 Desertif?Actions support 2026

The project will support the organisation of the multi-stakeholder meeting Desertif?Actions 2026. This support will include a number of things including logistics (accommodation, conference sundries, simultaneous interpretations), funding for participation travel, and organisational time.

This conference, prior to COP17, will offer an opportunity for CSOs to convene; in particular, it offers the opportunity for all CSOs having utilised the platform from output 1.1.1, and taken part in trainings and mentorships under output 1.1.2, to meet and strengthen bonds, as well a practical opportunity to hone skills acquired, and receive feedback and discuss with their peers any concerns or drawbacks they have experienced. This in particular will be beneficial to start building of the experiences and lessons learned of the project, which can be contributed to the learning event organised in Activity 2.1.1.5.

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Desertif?Actions Summit will be organized in 2026, on the African continent, before the UNCCD COP17. Aim is to welcome 300 people representing: CSOs from all over the world, local authorities, the private sector, scientists, states, international institutions, and donors. For three days, these participants will be facilitated to share information, analyse policy processes and strategise for the UNCCD COP 17, through groups sessions, thematic workshops and plenary discussions.

Foreseen topics that will be discussed:

- ? Share results and lessons learned from initiatives in sustainable land management and territorial development. This allows to highlight best practices, resource persons and pilot projects.
  
- ? Prepare an organized civil society advocacy in view of the UNCCD COP17 and other international meetings. The stakes of the UNCCD COP, on the issues of LDN and droughts, will be decrypted and analysed. CSOs will use their experience and knowledge of community needs and advocacy to develop appropriate messages targeting policy makers, funders, and other stakeholders (donors, international technical institutions, etc.).

Finally, Desertif?Actions will be an opportunity to raise awareness and mobilize citizens on land issues, through events dedicated to them (associative fair, exhibitions, screenings, and conferences open to the public).

## Component 2: Leveraging LDN

The efforts on the ground by CSOs is far from negligible, yet funding gaps are often inevitable which not only slows the progress at national level, but also creates holes in the narrative. During the consultations, trainings related to funding were all voted as very relevant or relevant by over 75% of the respondents. In particular, 91% answered that they would benefit from training in how to better understand the funding landscape and identify funding opportunities. This component directly seeks to answer this demand, by building CSOs capacities and providing technical support to CSOs to leverage funds and convening fund raising meetings with donors and private investors. It is centred around a single outcome: *CSOs' capacities to leverage funds for LDN are increased*. This will be achieved through knowledge development and exchange, and increased engagement with donors. The IUCN will be the executing agency for this component, which directly links to component 1 as CSOs will need to strengthen their language, communication and advocacy skills to be able to more effectively apply for funding.

*Output 2.1.1 Knowledge on available funding and means to access funding for LDN actions is increased and disseminated*

This output looks to increase the knowledge of funding opportunities for CSOs by assessing the current barriers to funding (as perceived by CSOs), providing passive and active tools to overcome these barriers, and creating direct opportunities for CSOs to utilise these tools.

### Activity 2.1.1.1 Develop and publish guidance on innovative investment mechanisms and opportunities for knowledge sharing and scaling up of LDN actions

An independent assessment will be undertaken to understand the main barriers that keep CSOs from accessing funds. This assessment will be based on a consultancy, will look into innovative investment including from private investors, and will specifically focus on CSOs in the global south and be informed by consultations. The assessment should provide a set of recommendations for tools to help overcome these barriers and specific topics that should be addressed, preferably highlighting regional differences or particularities. The project will support the publishing and diffusion of the resulting report, which will be provided in at least 3 different languages (English, French, Spanish).

### Activity 2.1.1.2 Annual webinar series on the opportunities for CSOs to access funding

An annual webinar series (proposed single episode per year) will be created, similar to the series under Activity 1.1.1.1. Provided with simultaneous translation in three languages, these webinars will base themselves on the report and tools from Activity 2.1.1.1, as well as case studies and inputs from selected CSOs. The webinars will remain accessible after on the Drynet platform. At least one event will be dedicated to CSO testimonies, namely outlining the barriers experienced in fundraising and how they overcame the barriers.

### Activity 2.1.1.3 Training workshop on business plans development/investment proposal development (regional)

This activity and activity 2.1.1.4 focus on providing more targeted and in-depth capacity building to a select group of CSO beneficiaries. Using the applicant pool<sup>[1]</sup> collected under Activity 1.1.2.1, 120 CSO-based beneficiaries will be chosen to participate in training workshops on business/investment

proposal development (target 51:49 female:male). Six three-day sub-regional workshops will be supported by the project (2 in Africa, 2 in Asia, 2 in LAC) to facilitate logistics and minimize travel. In addition to its focus on funding, there will also be a component on training of trainers, to prepare the participants for the mentorship scheme.

At the end of these workshops, it is estimated that at least 60 participants will take part in the second mentorship scheme providing advice and support during at least the rest of the project duration on proposal writing and funding. After validation from a selection panel including IUCN, UNCCD Secretariat and Drynet Board, these 60 participants will create agreements with one to three mentees. As under Activity 2.1.1.2, it will be expected that these be written agreements on targets and goals to be achieved by the end of the project, and utilised within the project M&E framework.

#### Activity 2.1.1.4 Regional writeshops for development of LDN project proposals

In the last year of the project, in-person writeshops will be organised. These will serve a dual purpose of providing general skills linked to project development and management and proposal writing, all while developing pre-identified project concepts linked to achieving LDN. These writeshop (six sub-regional events) will remain small and selective – each will regroup at the most 10 CSO beneficiaries, identified through the mentorships of Activity 2.1.1.3. Mentees will be privileged over the mentors, in order to provide more –formal? guidance and complement the efforts from the mentors.

#### Activity 2.1.1.5 Convene a LDN Donor Roundtable and stakeholder meeting

Towards the end of the project, a donor-CSO roundtable will be convened. This event will allow for donors and selected CSOs (selected participants of activity 2.1.1.3 and 4) to meet and discuss opportunity and barriers for CSO funding to undertake LDN initiatives. It is envisaged that there will also be scope for certain project concepts to be pitched, though the event will not solely focus on this. This event will offer another opportunity for CSOs to hone their communication skills and build practical experience on engaging with international level stakeholders (using tools and trainings provided through components 1 and 2).

Another international event will also be organised within the last 6 months of the project. This learning event will select various stakeholders from the project (CSOs, donors, policy makers, private sector, etc) and focus on gathering the experiences and lessons learnt from the project, especially in terms of mobilising and engaging with civil society. The information gathered will not only serve for the internal evaluation and assessment of the project, but more importantly provide key feedback to the IUCN, GEF, UNCCD Secretariat and others who regularly engage with or would like to increase their engagement with CSOs.

#### **4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies;**

The project outlined in this concept is aligned with the GEF LD Focal Area strategy, and specifically Goal 1, –aligning GEF support to promote UNCCD’s Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept through an appropriate mix of investments?. The primary aim of the project is to increase the role of CSOs to influence LDN and their capacities to leverage LDN investments.

This project will help to create an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation (Objective 2 of the GEF7 Land Focal Area) by strengthening the capacity of Civil



Society Organizations to implement LDN principles, established safeguards, and good practices and supporting policy decisions that enable countries to meet international commitments under the UNCCD.

The project multi-faceted. At the base, it will enhance the understanding of the global CSO community of LDN principles and help them make the link between their own efforts, provide guidance on how to improve their communication and disseminate guidelines on how better to access funding, through various knowledge products accessible digitally. More targeted efforts will deepen this understanding and hone the skills necessary to increase the visibility and role of CSOs in shaping and delivering LDN initiatives and policy. This will in turn will support CSOs to strengthen the inclusion and representation of smallholders in LDN actions, including actions funded by the GEF and other donors as well as private investments in LDN. It will also improve CSO networking and dialogue internationally, contributing to enhance south-south cooperation. The project will also provide capacity and serve as a platform for vulnerable groups such as indigenous peoples, youth and women to participate more actively in the UNCCD process.

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[1] If the pool is not large enough, the IUCN, Drynet and UNCCD Secretariat will extend invitations to CSOs within their networks that would be deemed able to carry out a mentorship and have previous experience with grant writing and project management.

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[1] This ratio was chosen to reflect the current realities of leadership and capacity in the CSO community, but with a mind to provide more opportunity to women.

[2] It is expected that most support will be disbursed at the beginning of the project and each beneficiary could only access one sponsorship during the course of the project.

[3] This ratio was chosen to reflect the current realities of leadership and capacity in the CSO community, but with a mind to provide more opportunity to women.

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[1] Including another GEF Core Indicator 4 target.

**1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

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

This project about LDN is global and capacity building activities will occur in the global south. A map of countries that have committed to set LDN targets is attached.

**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**

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

Stakeholder	Purpose of Engagement	Mechanism / process of Engagement	Responsible Entity	Frequency and Timing	Costs (to be completed once activities are validated)
<b>Project leadership</b>					
Both ENDS	Representing Drynet  Co-executing agency - project management Component 1  Drynet member  Board member of Drynet	Co-executing Agency (Lead) - project management Component 1 Finance and Admin hosting	IUCN	Part of quarterly and annual project review / engaged in project implementation Sustained engagement	Costs for engaging stakeholders are included in the detailed budget provided
IUCN	Implementing Agency - GEF liaison Co-executing agency - project management Component 2	Implementing Agency - GEF liaison Co-executing agency - project management Component 2	IUCN	Part of quarterly and annual project review / engaged in project implementation Sustained engagement	
<b>International organisations</b>					
UNCCD Secretariat	UNCCD COP/CRIC organisers UNCCD focal point	Steering Committee	Steering Committee	Part of quarterly and annual project review Sustained engagement	Costs for engaging stakeholders are included in the

UNCCD CSO Panel	Official representatives of UNCCD accredited CSOs - partners for reaching CSO network	Partners for reaching CSO network (Comp. 1) Work in partnership for Activity 1.1.3.1, as well as advertising of platform Part of the Steering Committee	Steering Committee	Part of quarterly and annual project review / engaged in project implementation Sustained engagement	detailed budget provided
UNCCD Science-Policy Interface	Official organ in charge of bringing forth scientific findings and assessments to UNCCD stakeholders, including communities, mainly through CSOs	Potential knowledge source /partners for knowledge products under component 1 Potential targets for side events at COP	Both ENDS	As and when needed Individual consultation (e.g. for webinars or side event preparation)	
International Funds (GEF, Adaptation funds)	GEF one of the official funding mechanisms of UNCCD Options for LDN funding for CSOs	Consulted for development of funding guidelines (Act. 2.1.1.1) Invited stakeholders to roundtable (Act. 2.1.1.5) Potential group for CSO led events under Component 1 (Act. 1.1.2.3)	IUCN	Consultation and invitation to roundtables  Component 2 - Y2 and 3	

<p>Bilateral funders (e.g. GIZ, European Union)</p>	<p>Current/potential funders of LDN projects Some (e.g. EU) participate in UNCCD processes</p>	<p>Consulted for development of funding guidelines (Act. 2.1.1.1) Invited stakeholders to roundtable (Act. 2.1.1.5) Potential group for CSO led events under Component 1 (Act. 1.1.2.3)</p>	<p>IUCN</p>	<p>Consultation and invitation to roundtables  Component 2 - Y2 and 3</p>
<p>Multilateral banks (e.g. African Development Bank)</p>	<p>Current or potential funders of LDN projects AfDB - specifically partner to UNCCD, through funding of Great Green Wall Initiative</p>	<p>Consulted for development of funding guidelines (Act. 2.1.1.1) Invited stakeholders to roundtable (Act. 2.1.1.5) Potential group for CSO led events under Component 1 (Act. 1.1.2.3)</p>	<p>IUCN</p>	<p>Consultation and invitation to roundtables  Component 2 - Y2 and 3</p>
<p>FAO</p>	<p>Partner/Lead on GEF-7 Drylands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (DSL-IP) Expertise in Dryland Forestry</p>	<p>Potential knowledge source /partners for knowledge products under component 1</p>	<p>IUCN</p>	<p>Email/Consultation, as and when needed</p>

iNGOs	Work in themes linked to land degradation, restoration, etc. (advocacy, direct action, etc.) Potential knowledge / technical inputs	Potential knowledge source /partners for knowledge products under component 1 Potential group for CSO led events under Component 1 (Act. 1.1.2.3)	IUCN	Consultation and invitation to roundtables  Component 2 - Y2 and 3	
<b>National governments</b>					
National ministries home to UNCCD Focal points	official contact for UNCCD issues, and works to implement UNCCD goals at national level Engagement with CSOs and their work can help meet goals faster	Potential group for CSO led events under Component 1 (Act. 1.1.2.3)	Both ENDS	Prior to/at awareness campaigns (Y1, Y2) /newsletters (quarterly)	Costs for engaging stakeholders are included in the detailed budget provided
National ministries home to other Rio Conventions	Official contacts for other Rio Conventions, working to implement their goals at national level Engagement with CSOs and their work in land degradation can help create interesting synergies	Potential group for CSO led events under Component 1 (Act. 1.1.2.3), specifically campaigns/events for UNFCCC/CBD COPs	Both ENDS	Prior to/at awareness campaigns at CBD/UNFCCC COP	
<b>Civil Society</b>					

Drynet	self-funded network that shares information, develops common positions of CSOs on issues relating to sustainable livelihoods and land use in the drylands and engages in the international discourse via the UNCCD the UNFCCC and other MEAs	Board part of Steering Committee Members beneficiaries of various knowledge products, trainings and mentorships, as well as potential contributors.	Steering Committee	Part of quarterly and annual project review / engaged in project implementation Sustained engagement	Costs for engaging stakeholders are included in the detailed budget provided
Other national and regional networks (e.g. ReSaD, GTD)	Regional or national networks of CSOs working together to increase capacity, share knowledge, spread awareness and strengthen political engagement	Partner to disseminate knowledge products of the project (Output 1.1.1, 2.1.1) Partner to identify CSOs able to contribute to various CSO-led activities	Both ENDS / IUCN	As and when needed to help implementation of activities, namely those involving CSOs (incl. Output 1.1.1, Act. 1.1.2.1, Output 1.1.3)	
Centre d'Action et de Realisations Internationales (CARI)	Drynet member Drynet Board Member Spearheading Desertifications	Lead organiser of Desertifications (A.1.1.1.6) Potential partner for knowledge products	Both ENDS	Sustained engagement for organisation of Activity 1.1.3.4 Part of annual project review (as Drynet)	

Indigo	Drynet Member, current host of the Drynet coordinator  CSO based in South Africa	Hosting of Project Lead Technical Officer and Project Communication officer (implement Output 1.1.1, part of 1.1.2, and 1.1.3) Potential partner for creation of knowledge products and other activities	Both ENDS	Part of quarterly and annual project review [submit reports] / engaged in project implementation Sustained engagement
UNCCD Accredited CSOs	CSOs recognized by the UNCCD are already cleared to directly participate at the COPs and CRICs of the UNCCD Sources of knowledge and skills	Beneficiaries of knowledge products, trainings and mentorships under both components	Steering Committee / Both ENDS	Sustained and continuous throughout implementation
Non-accredited CSOs working in areas of land degradation, restoration, biodiversity, climate change, etc.	CSOs who could become more involved with the UNCCD process Wider CSO networks offer the possibility to foster new innovative project and cooperation to tackle global issues	Direct beneficiaries of website and CBD/UNFCCC side event	Both ENDS / IUCN	Specifically for Act. 1.1.2.3 (UNFCCC/CBD COP)
<b>Research institutions/organisations/networks</b>				



World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)	Official UNCCD database for the reporting of SLM best practices. Work on LDN monitoring - key sources of knowledge in this	Technical partner for creating knowledge products on LDN monitoring, SLM best practices	Both ENDS	During development of webinars (Act. 1.1.1.1), annually as needed	
DesertNet	Facilitates scientific exchanges between scientists and the participating bodies to UNCCD, identifying priority areas for research and fostering cooperation Specifically work on how to better integrate science for data-driven policy development	Possible technical partner for creating knowledge product	Both ENDS	During development of webinars (Act. 1.1.1.1), annually as needed	Costs for engaging stakeholders are included in the detailed budget provided
Research institutions in agriculture, pastoralism, SLM, etc. (e.g. CGIAR, )	Depending on areas of expertise and projects, provider of knowledge and best practices	Possible technical partner for creating knowledge product	Both ENDS	During development of webinars (Act. 1.1.1.1), annually as needed	
<b>Other</b>					

Private sector	Option for funding LDN project Awareness raising on LDN	Identified through Act.2.1.1.1 Consulted for development of funding guidelines (Act. 2.1.1.1) Invited stakeholders to roundtable (Act. 2.1.1.5)	IUCN	Consultation and invitation to roundtables  Component 2 - Y2 and 3	Costs for engaging stakeholders are included in the detailed budget provided
Vulnerable groups, including but not limited to women and youth	Large but unrepresented viewpoints in terms of land degradation PoV can help better align local practice to policy as well as provide better solutions and	Possibly consulted for specific knowledge products (e.g. webinars) Representatives targeted at COP side events Indirect beneficiaries through CSOs trained	Both ENDS / IUCN / CSOs	Sustained throughout project implementation As and when needed for specific activity implementation	
Local communities - focus on farmers, pastoralists	Sphere of influence of CSOs Main actors dealing directly with land degradation	Indirect beneficiaries through CSOs trained	Both ENDS / IUCN / CSOs	Sustained throughout project implementation As and when needed for specific activity implementation	
Global Landscapes Forum	Leading information sharing platform and network, on similar thematic	Lessons learned - possible communications partner	Both ENDS / IUCN	As and when needed for Output 1.1.1	

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

The draft stakeholder engagement plan has been built using the stakeholder analysis, information gathered during the consultation phase and the project framework. It is presented in Annex. Stakeholder engagement has been considered within the overall budget, built into specific activities. The current project relies heavily on stakeholder engagement ? whether it be through knowledge exchange or CSO mobilisation. It focuses on developing the capacity of CSOs, encouraging increased and meaningful exchanges between CSOs, policy makers and donors, as well as raising awareness about the current role and potential that CSOs have to help deliver LDN throughout the globe. The creation and sharing of knowledge products will be a collaborative process; under both component 1 and 2, webinar series will be created (Act. 1.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2) with the help of key partners ? including but not limited to research institutions, CSOs, iNGOs, etc. These will require time and knowledge inputs to develop and deliver annual series. In parallel, the development of the newsletter will also require reaching out to the wider CSO networks, both to gather and disseminate information. While these products will be centralized on a single digital platform, clear links will be developed with key stakeholders, such as the IUCN, the UNCCD CSO Panel, which will ensure that these are widely accessible to the wider CSO community, as well as publicise the tight working relationship between the various actors.

Some of the most sustained engagement will be within the two mentorship programs, which will see select CSOs and their employees engage on a regular basis with each other. The frequency and timing of these engagement will be defined by individual mentorship agreements but will include digital means as well as in person meetings (centred around COP/CRIC). There will also be in person trainings offered to this group of stakeholders, on at least two topics ? communication and fundraising. The engagement with a wider group of stakeholders, such as policy makers, donors, journalists, research institutions, etc., will rely not only on the online presence of the project (Drynet website), but also on the various events the project will fund at the UNCCD COPs. The exact model for the side events is not yet determined, but it could include panel discussions, case study presentation, or simple exhibit. In addition, a specific event will look to bring forth a unique awareness campaign to the UNFCCC and CBD COPs: this campaign, delivered by CSO-based individuals, will highlight the links between LDN and the Rio Conventions, and provide an opportunity to connect with stakeholders from outside the UNCCD?s direct sphere of influence.

To help coordinate the project, the project will rely not only on its co-executing agencies, but also on a wider network of CSOs, namely Drynet and UNCCD CSO Panel. The latter two will be part of the steering committee, along with the UNCCD Secretariat itself, to ensure that the project align the project with the UNCCD priorities, as well as provide guidance and links to the other Rio Conventions. Finally, part of stakeholder engagement is ensuring that a sound grievance mechanism is in place to ensure that any stakeholder anticipating or experience adverse impacts from the project is properly heard and assisted in a timely fashion. The project will adhere to general IUCN guidelines

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;**

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

**Co-financier; Yes**

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

**Executor or co-executor; Yes**

**Other (Please explain)**

Civil society is clearly at the heart of the project ? they are not only the main beneficiaries, but also part of the executing agencies, technical and implementing partners. The latter two points were critical to ensure that there is a real sense of ownership of the project and promote the sustainability of the efforts. Below, details of the various roles CSOs have in the project are highlighted:

- ? Co-executing agency for Component 1
- ? Host of project lead technical officer
- ? Hosting of knowledge products (Drynet website)
- ? Generators of knowledge (Component 1)
- ? Beneficiaries of knowledge products, mentorship schemes, trainings

Technical input for webinars side events/campaigns

### **3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.**

See attached Gender analysis and action plan.

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

Yes

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

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women**

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

TBD

### **4. Private sector engagement**

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

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030 will require an acceleration of transformative change and innovation in the production and consumption systems within the food and

energy sectors among others. The SDGs cannot be achieved solely through public investment and official development assistance. In the case of achieving SDG 15, it also requires the investment of the private sector and a transition to sustainable productive practices at scale together and a change in the sustainable consumption patterns by all.

The conversion of land for agriculture is the leading driver of land-use change, primarily to meet the demand for food, feed, fiber and bioenergy production. Changing the way we produce and consume will play a major role in reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss and mitigating climate change. The involvement of the private sector in the restoration and protection of ecosystems is key to ensure sustainable supply chains that do not threaten future generations. To contribute to this, this project also focuses on promoting efforts to engage the private sector to support a fundamental re-think around productive capacities in favor of nature-positive outcomes that also deliver socioeconomic benefits. This is done primarily under Component 2, where private sector will be consulted to better understand opportunities within the funding landscape for CSOs (e.g., during the assessment of the funding landscape ? Activity 2.1.1.1), as well as be informed on the types of projects and initiatives that CSOs can spearhead. The latter will be facilitated by the roundtable, which will also allow to catalyze dialogue between CSOs, private sector and other donors. Similarly, in Component 1, private sector stakeholders who already are engaged with the UNCCD process will benefit from the various events and information campaigns offered by the CSOs, further offering opportunities for dialogue and communication.

#### **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):**

Description of risk	Impact	Probability	Mitigation actions	Responsible
Low level of participation, collaboration, coordination and information sharing between stakeholders	High	Low	<p>Due to the global scope of this project, it clearly will be a challenge to sustain the participation, collaboration, coordination and information sharing between stakeholders.</p> <p>To mitigate this, the project will use various levels of engagement, from the online portal, accessible by all, to mentorship schemes. Financial support will be made available for specific CSOs participating in the project, recognizing that funds for capacity building, knowledge exchange, or advocacy can be hard to access for smaller, project based CSOs.</p> <p>The project has identified partners that have a internationally recognized track record ? the UNCCD Secretariat, Drynet, the UNCCD CSO Panel, IUCN membership, for instance. Relying on their renown within the CSO community will make sustained engagement easier. Similarly, the mentorship programs will be centred around existing relationships (Act. 1.1.2.2 and 2.1.1.3), rather than imposing new ones. Working on these previous relationships should also help sustain the project impacts after the conclusion of the project.</p>	Both ENDS IUCN

Description of risk	Impact	Probability	Mitigation actions	Responsible
Weak institutional capacity or credibility of CSO partners	High	Low	<p>The project is specifically looking to improve both of these aspects, and also recognises that there are various levels of capacity and credibility.</p> <p>One part of the knowledge products is focused on providing 'baseline' level information, which should allow to ensure that all CSOs interested in engaging with LDN and the UNCCD processes have a 'this is provided through knowledge products provided on the online portal (Act. 1.1.1.1-3, 2.1.1.1-2).</p> <p>In addition, the project will offer peer to peer learning to help CSOs learn from each other. This will be facilitated through a pre-selection process (Act. 1.1.2.1) which will help identify CSOs who will be able to mentor other CSOs in specific skills, such as advocacy, monitoring, fund-raising, etc.</p> <p>Finally, the executing partners (IUCN and Both ENDS), as well as the main technical partners (e.g. Drynet), are internationally recognized. In particular, since 1986, Both ENDS has supported many hundreds of environmental organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and countries in Central- and Eastern Europe. Both ENDS has offered help in fundraising, in creating networks in and outside the Netherlands and in collecting relevant information. Both ENDS is a sparring partner and information broker in a wide range of formal and informal CSO networks. Both ENDS and CSO partners defend civic space, advocate for fair and sustainable international economic relations and encourage transformative practices that reinforce the livelihoods of local communities.</p> <p>Both ENDS has extensive experience to work with CSOs from the Global South.</p>	Both ENDS IUCN

Description of risk	Impact	Probability	Mitigation actions	Responsible
Limited interest to trainings at the regional level due to inaccessibility of online modules	High	Low	<p>Overall, it is clear that the last few years and the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic accelerated the use of virtual platforms, and that many stakeholders have become familiar with various media (e.g. webinars).</p> <p>Online access may not be continuous in time or quality for CSOs, but all of the knowledge products created during project implementation (and more) will be available on the Drynet portal, which gives more flexibility to CSOs to access it.</p> <p>In addition to online training, there are also in-person opportunities, namely events organised by CSOs at various international meetings, which, in some cases will include information found in the online knowledge products.</p> <p>Furthermore, for the CSOs targeted in the mentorship schemes (Act. 1.1.2.2 and 2.1.1.3+4), there will also be an element of training of trainers, in order to promote the spread of information in the wider CSO communities. .</p>	Both ENDS IUCN
Low level of engagement of the private sector	High	Low	<p>Component 2 of the project will establish networks with private sector partners The project has designed actions to reach out to private companies and engage with them to enhance their LDN actions, specifically through the roundtable (Activity 2.1.1.5). Furthermore, it is anticipated that the guidance and tools created under Activity 2.1.1.1 will include a section on private sector funding.</p> <p>In parallel to this, the capacity training under Component 1 includes elements on communication, which will include ways to engage and communicate with private sector actors (ex. Activity 1.1.1.1, Activity 1.1.2.3).</p>	IUCN (Comp 2) Both ENDS (Comp 1)



Description of risk	Impact	Probability	Mitigation actions	Responsible
Global health situation	Moderate	Low	<p>While the global COVID-19 crisis is no longer directly affecting international travel, it has highlighted the risk and impacts of health situations on the implementation of projects.</p> <p>While the project does facilitate some travel and in-person interactions, there are also many activities which utilise virtual platforms (in particular, under Output 1.1.1, Activity 1.1.3.1, Act. 2.1.1.1)). There are also a number of in-person meetings which are regional in scope (ex: Activity 2.1.1.3), which may be less affected by more localised health situations.</p> <p>For the other activities linked to international travel (e.g. attendance of international meetings ? e.g. Act 1.1.3.2), options will need to be reviewed during project implementation. The definition of activities will consider this risk.</p>	UCN
Risks of climate change impacting LDN work	Moderate	Low	<p>Project will not have any on-the-ground activities. However, anticipated climate change impacts (including severe weather, water and heat stress, etc.) do have the potential to negatively affect LDN work that is indirectly supported and mobilized by this project.</p> <p>Wherever relevant, training and guidance materials supported by the project will include importance of considering anticipated climate change impacts and provide best-practice, up-to-date information on measures to lower and manage risks associated with climate change impacts.</p>	UCN

## 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.**

Regional Decision making and planning

### Steering Committee

The project will set up a task force to assist in facilitating the project implementation: the Steering Committee (SC). The Steering Committee is the overarching decision-making and strategic guidance body of the project, providing advice for project implementation activities. It will meet annually to review and monitor project execution progress (including work plans and budgets), provide strategic advice, facilitate coordination between project implementing partners, provide guidance, ensure transparency, ownership

and sustainability of the project results. It is expected that the Steering Committee will meet annually, either in person at the beginning or end of another event (e.g. COP/CRIC), or virtually.

The proposed composition of the steering committee is:

- ? 1 representative of the UNCCD Secretariat
- ? 1 representative of the UNCCD CSO Panel
- ? 1 Drynet Board representative
- ? 1 representative of the IUCN
- ? 1 representative of Both ENDS.

It is expected that the individuals representing each organisation may change between steering committee meetings based on internal statutes (e.g. mandate length), availability and expertise. Specific roles for the Steering Committee include, but are not limited to:

- ? Review and adopt the project implementation plan.
- ? Review and adopt project evaluation reports.
- ? Review and adopt the periodic activity and financial reports.
- ? Review and adopt the annual program of activities, budget and procurement plan.
- ? Ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Steering Committee, oversight and monitoring missions, and audits; and
- ? Make recommendations to the project coordinator and the various actors involved in the project.

Extraordinary meetings outside of the annual review can be called for some or all of the members, if specific advice or guidance is sought on issues such as:

- ? Help to align Project with other initiatives.
- ? Monitor project progress and resolve urgent implementation constraints.
- ? Liaise with project management unit(s).
- ? Ensure monitoring and evaluation of project activities.

#### Regional executing agencies

This project will have two regional executing agencies, each responsible for one of the components. Both ENDS will be the executing agency for Component 1, while the IUCN, specifically the Forest and Grassland Team, will be the regional executing agency for Component 2. Both agencies will be contracted by the IUCN, Implementing Agency.

The regional executing agencies will be responsible for:

- ? Recruitment and management of project staff (within PMU).
- ? Financial control and management of project budget and expenditures
- ? Management of sub-contracts

- ? Arrangement of training components
- ? Procurement of equipment
- ? Periodic reporting to IUCN, the implementing agency, as required.

Both ENDS will be recognized as lead agency, therefore responsible for official communication between the executing agencies and the implementing agency or steering committee, and official host of the Project Management Unit.

Implementing Agency

IUCN, and specifically the Multilateral Finance and Business Development Team, is the Implementing Agency for the project, providing fiduciary and technical oversight for the project. It will play a key role in convening of stakeholders and consolidating results, for both elements of Component 1 and 2. Wherever possible, the project will take advantage of the opportunities for synergy and complementarities with other projects or other GEF Agencies. Opportunities will be explored during project implementation to secure partnerships for follow up investments and projects. Key responsibilities include:

- ? Providing fiduciary and technical oversight on behalf of GEF Secretariat and GEF Trustee.
- ? Ensuring project compliance with GEF policies and standards.
- ? Monitoring and evaluating project performance and prepare implementation review.
- ? Providing technical backstopping to executing agencies and partners; and
- ? Ensuring quality control of the project workplans, budget and reports.

Project coordination and management

The Project Management Unit will be responsible of ensuring that the project is managed in accordance with the rules and procedures of the GEF and IUCN and assure the project remains consistent with directions provided by the Steering Committee. It will be hosted by Both ENDS, though certain employees will be primarily based in IUCN.

The PMU will employ a part time-coordinator at Both ENDS (12 months), responsible for Component 1, and a part-time coordinator at IUCN (8 months), responsible for Component 2. In addition, the PMU will have time provided by a financial and administration officer at Both ENDS (3 months), as well as a communications officer (1 month) and M&E officer (0.5 month) at IUCN.

The PMU will be responsible, among others, for:

- ? Coordination and monitoring of the implementation of project activities.
- ? Ensuring proper M&E of project progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs.
- ? Providing technical support and assessing the products generated by the project.

- ? Ensuring a high level of coordination and collaboration among partners at regional/national levels.
- ? Consolidating and submitting technical and financial reports to IUCN, Implementing Agency.
- ? Supporting the organization final evaluations.
- ? Ensuring proper financial management and reporting of the project resources.
- ? Ensuring compliance with GEF and IUCN project management procedures and standards.
- ? Preparing bid documents.
- ? Administering and assuring compliance of contracts, including timely reporting.
- ? Procuring any necessary equipment and supplies.
- ? Providing reimbursements for expenses (e.g., daily allowance for participation to meetings, transport costs, etc.).

In support to the PMU, mainly to help implement activities under Component 1, the project will fund a project Technical Officer and a project Communications Officer. Both of these roles are part-time, 22 and 15 months, respectively. They will be based at Indigo, a South African based CSO, which is also member of Drynet. These two positions will be funded through Component 1, with contracting being undertaken between Both ENDS and Indigo, as per IUCN and GEF guidelines and standards, and will report back to PMU.

## **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.

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC
- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD
- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury
- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD
- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC

- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC
- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs
- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC
- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC
- Others

This project is of global scope ? therefore it is difficult to pinpoint the consistency with specific national plans and priorities. However, it is directly tied to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Being ratified by 197 parties, this convention ? and by extension this project - is reflected in those parties? own national policies related to land-use (agriculture, pastoralism). In addition, due to the inherent links with the other two Rio Conventions (UNFCCC and CBD), this project will also be consistent with National Action Plans for Adaptation (NAPA), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP).

More specifically, this project is consistent with the LDN TSP as it looks to help achieve LDN by 2030; as such, the overall goals of this project will be consistent with the LDN targets set by over 120 countries taking part in this process. The LDN targets address SDG target 15.3 and many other SDGs in a synergistic and cost-effective manner, and in accordance with countries? specific national contexts and development priorities. These targets also strengthen the implementation of the countries? UNCCD National Action Programs?.

## **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.**

Communication and knowledge management are at the heart of this project, whether it is communicating knowledge to CSOs, improving communication between policy makers and CSOs, or strengthening communication within the networks of CSOs.

In both component 1 and 2, multiple means of knowledge transfer will be utilised, some more ?passive? - written documents, repositories ? and others more ?active? ? webinars, events, mentorships. It was important to recognize the role that each of these means of communication can have; for instance, digital means tend to be more cost effective, wider ranging and climate friendly (taking into consideration travel), while in-person interaction tend to promote dynamic interactions and forge tighter bonds and interpersonal relationship. Using them in conjunction allows to benefit from the positives of both and cater to the capacity (both in terms of skill and time) of a wider range of CSOs.

The ?passive? knowledge management will focus on creating a baseline for all CSOs ? providing them with information about the UNCCD, LDN, current events and opportunities. This will be done through a virtual platform, as well as mailing lists. Providing the information on an open and previously established

platform, as well as creating clear links between various initiatives and events will corroborate the information being more readily accessible, not only by the CSO community, but also other stakeholders such as journalists, youth networks, or researchers. This approach is used throughout the project, at different intervals for different products (e.g. quarterly, annually?).

The 'active' knowledge sharing is centred around the training sessions, webinars, mentorships, and awareness raising sessions – specifically through the mentorship schemes, in-person training opportunities (Act. 2.1.1.3, Act 1.1.2.3), and events at the COP (Act. 1.1.3.3). These will work as more in-depth, longer-term knowledge tools on specific topics, as well help to forge relationships between the CSOs taking part in the project. This is specifically important for the sustainability of the project efforts.

Importantly, there is also an element of external communication – that is communicating and knowledge exchange with stakeholders outside of the UNCCD CSO community. Again, the dual 'passive'/'active' approach is utilised: the Drynet platform will be accessible to all, at all times. It will also be 'revamped' in order to ensure its navigability and interactivity (Act. 1.1.1.4). In terms of the active engagement, it will be focused on the various side events organised through the project in Component 1, and the consultations (Act. 2.1.1.1) and roundtables (Act. 2.1.1.5) in component 2. These activities all have both an emphasis in knowledge exchange and communication – allowing CSOs to present their point of view, efforts, roles, etc. all while inviting to dialogue with other stakeholders (e.g. UNCCD focal points, journalists, youth, researchers, etc). Finally, it is also important to highlight that this extends past the UNCCD framework: under Activity 1.1.2.3, CSOs will also look to raise awareness and foster dialogue with stakeholders within the wider Rio Conventions framework. This is of particular importance when thinking of creating synergies between the various MEAs and ensuring that issues are tackled in an integrated and sustainable way, rather than in isolation.

## **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

The Monitoring and Evaluation plan proposed here follows the requirements for internal IUCN as well as GEF funded projects. The main tools to evaluate project performance will include the project results framework with the targets and indicators, as well as the annual workplans and budget. The first working version of these will be defined during the project inception workshop, which will happen during the first quarter of the project, to review, update and refine the project documents, including but not limited to, project Theory of Change, results framework, project risks, ESMS framework, and gender action plan. This will allow not only to ensure that the baseline situation is still relevant, but also to fill out any missing or changed information regarding in It is also during this phase that the detailed M&E plan will be finalized, taking into consideration the above documents as well as the main M&E reports listed below. This will be tasked to the Project Management Unit (PMU) (with specific M&E expertise provided by the IUCN based IUCN expert), and reviewed by the Steering Committee.

The overall M&E plan will be put into place by the PMU, specifically through expertise and input from the M&E Officer, based on this project document and the associated tools cited above. To facilitate tracking during a given year, annual workplans will be developed, outlining the activities and outputs expected to occur. Best practices suggest that the workplan be updated with monitoring data every six months. In addition to this internal review, an annual supervisory mission led by the IUCN will be conducted (3 in total).

The main steps and reports required for the M&E process are therefore:

- ? Inception workshop ? gathering key stakeholders of the project [executing agencies + SC], the workshop and resulting report are a vital tool for launching the implementation of the proposed project. As the proposed project has been detailed using consultations and recent documentation, it is anticipated that there will only be minor adjustments needed. Nevertheless, this is a crucial phase to review and update all project documents, formulate the first annual work plan as well as detail the necessary M&E tools. It is expected in the first three months of project implementation.
- ? Quarterly progress report - Each quarter, the PMU will prepare a summary of the project?s substantive and technical progress towards achieving its objectives. The summaries will be reviewed and cleared by IUCN implementing agency before being sent to the IUCN/GEF Coordinator
- ? Annual project report (APR)/Project implementation review (PIR) ? The APR covers performance assessments on project outputs and outcomes, major achievements, evidence of success, constraints, lessons learned and recommendations as well as an overall rating of the project. It will include input from relevant stakeholders and collated by the PMU. As per GEF guidelines, the APR/PIR will outline the amount of GEF project financing disbursed, the latest development objective rating, the implementation progress rating, and risk rating; the expected dates of submission Terminal reviews. These reports need to be provided back to the GEF Secretariat no later than 75 calendar days at the end of each fiscal year (June 30).
- ? Independent external reviews at project completion ? As per GEF and IUCN guidelines, an external review will be conducted on the project. This will, at a minimum, reflect evaluations of the project?s relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, monitoring and evaluation implementation, and the likelihood that outputs and outcomes be sustained. This evaluation, which should take place in the last quarter of the project (year 3), will include in addition evaluations of the impact and sustainability of the project, as well as recommendation on how to further/perennialize the capacity development and global environmental goals.
- ? Budget revisions ? at the end of each project year, a final expenditure report will be prepared to be utilized to prepare the following year?s workplan. In addition, the budget can be revised, if and when necessary during quarterly reviews. This process will be led by the PMU, with approval and support from the SC.
- ? Financial audits ? annual independent financial audits will take place to ensure the good standing of the project expenditures.

All annual project reviews as well as the terminal review will be made available on the GEF website. The corresponding budget for the M&E activities is USD 87,000 and outlined in the table below.

M&E activity	Frequency	Responsible	GEF Budget (USD)
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Inception Workshop	Within first quarter of project inception	PMU ? project coordinators	20,000 (under PMC costs, Act. 3.1.1.1)
Quarterly progress reports	Quarterly	PMU ? project coordinators	[no specific budget - part of PMU tasks]
Annual Project Progress Report (APRs)	Annually	PMU ? project coordinators	
Final Independent External Evaluation	At least three months before operational closure (expected 3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	IUCN?s Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit	40,000 (under PMC costs, activity 3.1.1.2)
Budget revisions	As required	PMU Approved by Steering Committee	[no specific budget - part of PMU tasks]
Annual Audit	Annually	IUCN	27,000 (9,000 annually, under PMC costs, activity 3.1.1.2)

## 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 (LDCE/SCCF)?**

As a global scale project, the socioeconomic benefits delivered by the project at national and local level will be indirect and context dependent. Overall, the project targets building the capacity of CSOs in both advocacy and fund-raising; these will directly feed into their mandate to bring forth civil societies to government, monitoring policies and encouraging political participation at the community level.

Under Component 1, CSOs will be able to gain more knowledge about the UNCCD and LND, which in turn; this will improve their ability to understand how and when they can influence policy, starting at a national level, but for some, at an international level. This is of particular importance for countries where land degradation and LDN may not be prioritized; it will increase their ability to more effectively advocate to their governments, creating the necessary environment to encourage and strengthen sustainable land management and restoration opportunities. In terms of communities, this translates into the recognized socio-economic benefits of such actions (e.g., improved food production, natural resource management, climate resilience).

Through component 2 (and some capacity building elements of Component 1 ? e.g., communication), CSOs should be better equipped to navigate the funding landscape, which in essence, will provide more opportunities for community-based projects to slow land degradation or increase land restoration efforts.



This in turn will provide numerous socioeconomic benefits to the local populations benefitting from the initiatives, including but not limited to, improved food production, improved and sustainable water and other natural resource management, improved health, increased job opportunities, and importantly climate change resilience.

It is also important to recognize that this project will also improve the socio-economic opportunities for many of the CSO-based individuals taking part in the project, namely in terms of professional prospects. It provides a way to build capacity (i.e., increase skill sets), as well as expose them to novel situations and people. This, particularly in the global south, are non-negligible impacts, as it helps foster the confidence, capacity and networking that is necessary to increase the influence of such stakeholders on the global policy level, which in turn, should help further the (sustainable) socio-economic development agenda.

### 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/Approva I	MTR	TE
Low	Low		

#### 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 project is a non-area based project, and is categorised as low risk because it is unlikely that the project will harm disadvantaged groups or increase any existing gender bias.

However, in order to avoid bias and discrimination during project implementation, activities (training sessions, mentorship, etc) will benefit both women and men, as well as Youth and Indigenous groups. A gender action plan has been prepared to make sure that this is effective during implementation, especially regarding beneficiaries of training and participation in major meeting. The ratio for participation will be 51:49 female/male.

Training sessions will include sessions that address gender inequalities and gender gaps, newsletters will be regularly published and the project will ensure that newsletters include stories about women empowerment or about the role of Indigenous Peoples or Youth in restoring land.

Component 2 will focus on capacities to leverage funding for LDN actions. Some concepts developed will specifically include gender responsive actions.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>Draft esms_screening_and_clearance_template_April 2023 GEF ID10993</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Preliminary ESMS Screening_GEFID10993</b>	<b>Project PIF ESS</b>	

**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).

Can be found on page 6 of the project document and also attached as annex

**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).

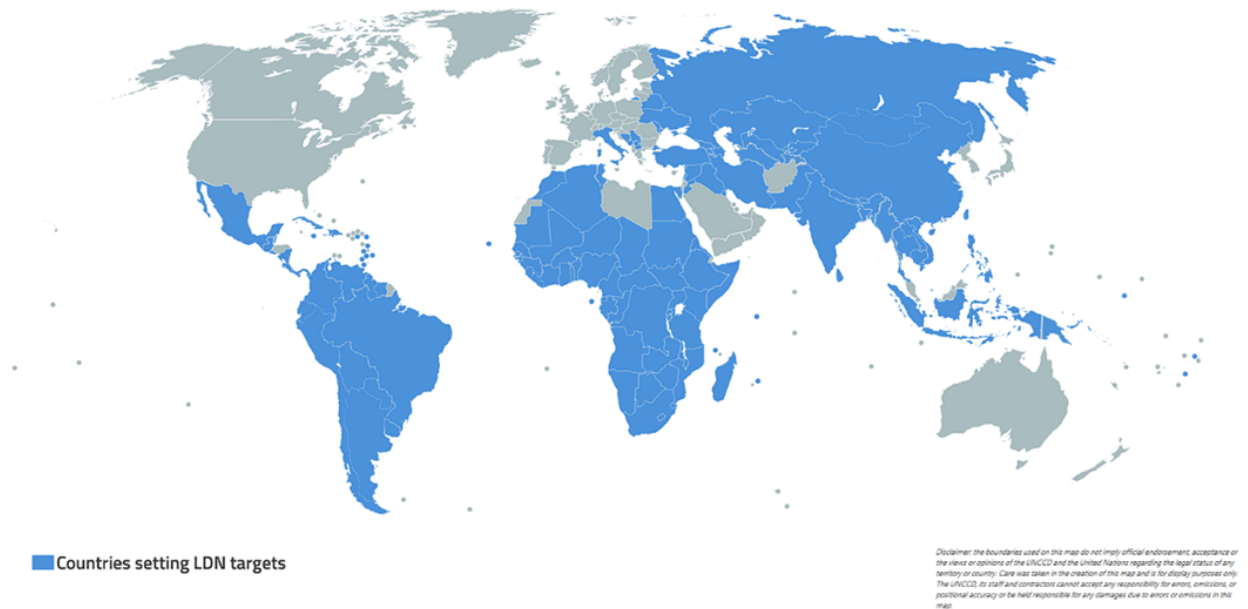
See in attachment

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

Items to be funded by GEF PPG	Budget	Amount spent to date	Amount committed
1. Consultants	32,000	6,000	26,075
2. Workshops and travel	18,000	11,098	7,000
Agency fees	4,500	1,694	2,806
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,500</b>	<b>18,792</b>	<b>35,881</b>

**ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

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



## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

**Please attach a project budget table.**

See in attachment

### ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

### ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The 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).