

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Youth4Agri: Implementing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in Productive Landscapes in Agriculture in Saint Lucia

Region

Latin America and the Caribbean

GEF Project ID

12354

Country(ies)

St. Lucia

Type of Project

MSP

GEF Agency(ies):

FAO

GEF Agency ID

758906

Executing Partner

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Multi Focal Area

Submission Date

5/22/2026

Project Sector (CCM Only)

AFOLU

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Mainstreaming, Local Communities, Stakeholders, Beneficiaries, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Private Sector, Community Based Organization, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Influencing models, Peer-to-Peer, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Field Visit, Capacity Development, Training, Knowledge Generation, Land Degradation, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming

Type of Trust Fund

GET

Project Duration (Months)

36

GEF Project Grant: (a)

863,243.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

82,007.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)

945,250.00

Total Co-financing

450,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

50,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

4,750.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)

54,750.00

1,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No Competitive Window: No

Project Summary

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

The Caribbean, recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot, faces severe threats from unsustainable agricultural practices, climate change and high dependence on food imports. In 2022, the region’s food import bill exceeded USD 6 billion, highlighting structural vulnerabilities in food systems and exposure to external shocks. As such, Caribbean governments, through the CARICOM 25X25 +5 initiative have prioritized increasing domestic food production to enhance food security and resilience. However, a critical constraint is the declining and aging agricultural workforce, driven by low participation of youth, which threatens the long-term sustainability, innovation, and productivity of the sector.

Saint Lucia is rich in biodiversity, including more than 1,300 plant species (seven [7] endemic), over 150 bird species (five [5] endemic), and diverse ecosystems ranging from rainforests and dry forests to mangroves, freshwater ecosystems and coral reefs.^[1] This biodiversity is concentrated within key interconnected landscapes, including the Barre d’Isle-Castries forest system, the Millet and Roseau watersheds, the Migny-Soufriere watershed, and the Vieux Fort-Canelles systems, which function as ecological corridors linking terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems and supporting endemic species and essential ecosystem services. These ecosystems provide essential services for agriculture, water security, and climate resilience, but are increasingly threatened by habitat degradation, unsustainable land use practices, soil erosion and pollution.

Despite this richness, Saint Lucia’s ecosystems are highly vulnerable due to human activities. The Revised Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2025) (NBSAP) identify agricultural, commercial and residential development as important drivers of habitat transformation, while freshwater and coastal ecosystems are stressed by high sediment loads and agricultural chemicals. Agricultural production within these landscapes contributes to habitat fragmentation, loss of natural vegetation, and disruption of ecological connectivity between forests, farms, rivers, and coastal systems. Habitat degradation, pollution, and unsustainable resource use contribute to biodiversity decline and reduce the resilience of ecosystems that support agricultural production, water resources, and local livelihoods.^[2]

In addition, Saint Lucia faces significant land degradation challenges. The Saint Lucia Land Degradation Neutrality - Target Setting Programme (LDN-TSP) of 2018 identifies poor agricultural practices, deforestation, and the removal of natural forests for intensive agriculture, and soil erosion as major drivers of land degradation. These pressures contribute to high sediment loads on coastal areas, increased siltation of drainage networks, loss of productivity in cultivated lands, declining freshwater resources, and increased vulnerability to climate-related hazards such as flooding and landslides. These drivers of land degradation are closely linked to biodiversity loss, particularly in upland and watershed areas where erosion and vegetation clearance lead to downstream impacts on rivers, mangroves, and coral reefs. Climate change further exacerbates these challenges through the increasing intensity of storms and associated erosion processes.^[3] This project responds to these

interconnected challenges by empowering young farmers in Saint Lucia to lead the transition toward nature-positive, climate-resilient agriculture.

The objective of the project is to enable sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes, by empowering youth in agriculture to adopt and upscale biodiversity conservation and LDN practices. The project will operate across eight (8) administrative regions, providing national coverage while supporting biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management (SLM) outcomes in priority landscapes identified under Saint Lucia's NBSAP and LDN-TSP. Site selection prioritizes areas where agricultural production intersects with important watershed functions, ecosystem services, and biodiversity values.^[4] Preliminary analysis indicates that these sites overlap with several of the priority landscapes identified under Saint Lucia's LDN-TSP, including the Barre d'Isle-Castries, Millet/Roseau, Migny-Soufrière and Vieux Fort-Canelles watershed systems.

This project will promote the use of nature-positive agricultural solutions, such as soilless agriculture, controlled growing systems, integrated livestock and crop systems, climate resilient infrastructure, and pollinator-friendly practices. Adoption will be supported by youth education in LDN concepts and practice, including the identification of degradation processes and hands-on training in locally adapted nature-positive solutions for sustainable agricultural production that avoids, reduces and reverts land degradation and enhances biodiversity. Education in integrated soil fertility and pest management strategies, harvest and post-harvest operations, market access options and entrepreneurship will be provided in formal and informal settings - farmers field schools, online platforms and peer-learning to share best practices within the island of Saint Lucia and beyond.

A strong emphasis is placed on “agripreneurship” (agricultural entrepreneurship) and livelihood diversification while promoting approaches to food production that minimise disturbance of new land spaces, reduce pollution of the natural environment, and equip youth and women farmers with skills that assist in improving income earning through nature-friendly and sustainable agripreneurship training and development. These activities will contribute to lessening the impacts of agricultural production on the environment, specifically on local biodiversity, by reducing impacts on habitats and supporting populations of beneficial organisms.

The dynamic and cutting-edge aspects of these new production systems, coupled with public-private partnerships and mentorship to support agripreneurship, development of finance-ready business models and blended finance mechanisms, training and incentives from expert and experienced producers, processors and professionals in various markets and youth-oriented support institutions will also entice youth to engage with and develop within the agricultural sector, recognising it as a stable livelihood activity that contributes to national and regional productivity, growth and sustainability.

The project aims to deliver significant global environmental and adaptation benefits by enhancing agroecological productivity through biodiversity conservation-reducing expansion into natural habitats, restoring functional biodiversity within agricultural landscapes. It will boost climate resilience in food production and livelihoods, conserve forest carbon stocks through reduced raw material extraction and agroforestry and foster long-term sustainability by training young agriculturalists in environmentally sound practices.

Key project outcomes include the restoration of approximately 247 hectares (ha) of currently not cultivated degraded agricultural areas, the improved management of approximately 521.8 ha of agroecological landscapes, including 24.8 ha of direct intervention and 497 ha of indirect intervention i.e. out-scaling of practices and technologies by small-scale farmers in various communities, using culturally inclusive and gender responsive approaches (targeting 897 beneficiaries - 40% women and 50% youth). These areas will be prioritized within interconnected landscape systems to maximize biodiversity conservation outcomes while also contributing to national LDN targets. The project is projected to achieve an estimated cumulative

emission reduction of -290 tCO₂-eq (by the end of 2045), calculating 15 additional years of capitalization, total cumulated reductions are anticipated to reach 51,095 tCO₂-eq, of which 2,751 tCO₂-eq will be unconditional and 48,345 tCO₂-eq are indirect (conditional) effects.

- [1] Government of Saint Lucia. 2000. *NBSAP*. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Castries, Saint Lucia. <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/stl200790.pdf>
- [2] Government of Saint Lucia. 2018. *The Revised Second NBSAP of Saint Lucia (2018–2025)*. Department of Sustainable Development, Castries, Saint Lucia.
- [3] Government of Saint Lucia and UNCCD. 2018. *Final Country Report of the LDN TSP: Saint Lucia*. https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/2019-03/Saint%20Lucia%20LDN%20TSP%20Country%20Report.pdf
- [4] Government of Saint Lucia and UNCCD. 2018. *Final Country Report of the LDN TSP: Saint Lucia*. https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/ldn_targets/2019-03/Saint%20Lucia%20LDN%20TSP%20Country%20Report.pdf

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To enable sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes, by empowering youth in agriculture to adopt and scale biodiversity conservation and SLM practices

Project Components

1. Enhancing the adoption of nature-positive, solutions in agri-food systems

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
450,000.00	234,582.00

Outcome:

- 1.1 Youth has an active role in national and regional biodiversity conservation and LDN.
- 1.2 Land degradation and biodiversity loss are reduced in eight (8) administrative regions

Output:

- 1.1.1 Youth governance framework and participation mechanism strengthened and institutionalized
- 1.1.2 National repository and data monitoring protocol established for the monitoring of biodiversity and land degradation
- 1.2.1 Demonstration sites established and operationalized to validate, and scale biodiversity conservation and SLM practices

2. Enabling support for financing of youth-enabled, nature-positive actions in agriculture

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
103,929.00	54,178.00

Outcome:

2.1 Biodiversity conservation and SLM are scaled out through blended-finance investments in youth-led green agribusiness and nature-positive agriculture

Output:

2.1.1 Finance-ready, nature-positive business models validated and deployed, enabling youth-led enterprises to scale solutions

2.1.2 Institutional market linkages established with government-led food procurement programmes, facilitating the uptake of products from youth agripreneurs

3. Supporting exchange of knowledge and best practices

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
191,601.00	99,880.00

Outcome:

3.1 Youth adoption of nature-positive solutions in agriculture is enabled through gender-responsive knowledge-sharing and access to information

Output:

3.1.1 Communication and outreach programme implemented to mainstream and promote gender-responsive and youth-inclusive approaches to biodiversity conservation and SLM

3.1.2 Strengthened national network of youth professionals in agriculture enhancing technical capacity, peer learning, and coordinated action in support of biodiversity outcomes, sustainable land use, and LDN target

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
39,238.00	20,455.00

Outcome:

M&E 1

The project implemented according to results-based management principles

Output:

M&E 1.1

Gender-sensitive project M&E system designed and implemented

M&E 1.2

Project evaluations completed on time to support project delivery and knowledge sharing

M&E 1.3

Monitoring reports submitted to the Implementing Agency and GEF Secretariat on time

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Enhancing the adoption of nature-positive, solutions in agri-food systems	450,000.00	234,582.00
2. Enabling support for financing of youth-enabled, nature-positive actions in agriculture	103,929.00	54,178.00
3. Supporting exchange of knowledge and best practices	191,601.00	99,880.00
M&E	39,238.00	20,455.00
Subtotal	784,768.00	409,095.00
Project Management Cost	78,475.00	40,905.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	863,243.00	450,000.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

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

Saint Lucia's agri-food system is characterized by a high dependence on food imports, with the national food import bill estimated at approximately EC\$564 million in 2024, underscoring the country's vulnerability to external shocks, including price volatility and supply disruptions^[1]. This reflects a broader structural challenge across CARICOM Small Island Developing States, where limited land availability, high production costs and climate vulnerability^[2] constrain domestic

production. In response, Saint Lucia is actively contributing to the regional “25 by 2025+5” initiative, which aims to reduce the Caribbean’s food import bill by 25% by 2030 through increased agricultural production and productivity^[3]⁷.

However, efforts to expand and intensify agricultural production present significant environmental trade-offs. Agriculture already places pressure on the island’s natural resource base and contributes to biodiversity loss, a critical concern given the country’s ecological significance. Biodiversity underpins major economic sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, and tourism across the Caribbean^[4]⁸. Saint Lucia itself is home to more than 1,300 plant species (seven [7] endemic), over 150 bird species (five [5] endemic species and 13 endemic subspecies) and seven (7) endemic reptile species, highlighting its unique contribution to the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot^[5]⁹. The country’s diverse ecosystems range from rainforests and dry forests to mangroves, freshwater ecosystems and coral reefs.^[6]¹⁰ These species and ecosystems are concentrated within priority landscapes such as the central forest reserve (Barre d’Isle) and key watershed systems including Millet/Roseau, Migny-Soufrière, and Vieux Fort-Cannelles, which support high levels of biodiversity while also playing a critical role in maintaining soil stability, regulating water flows, and sustaining productive land systems across interconnected terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems.^[7]¹¹

The project adopts a landscape approach, recognizing that agricultural production systems are embedded within interconnected ecosystems, including forests, watersheds, and coastal zones. The project’s intervention areas consist of multifunctional landscapes where agricultural lands, forest reserves, and water catchments coexist and jointly deliver essential ecosystem services, including soil fertility, water regulation, climate regulation, and pollination.

Within these systems, upstream land use practices in forest and agricultural areas directly influence downstream ecosystem health, as soil erosion, sediment transport, and agrochemical runoff contribute to both biodiversity loss and land degradation, demonstrating a ridge-to-reef dynamic that requires integrated management across landscapes.

Despite this ecological richness, biodiversity is increasingly threatened by unsustainable agricultural practices. These include excessive and improper use of agrochemicals, extraction of forest resources for fuel and crafts, and ecosystem degradation linked to invasive species such as feral pigs^[8]¹². Historical land use changes, particularly deforestation associated with plantation agriculture and the banana industry, have further contributed to habitat loss and fragmentation, weakening ecosystem resilience^[9]¹³.

These pressures are particularly evident within watershed and agricultural landscapes, where land clearing, hillside farming, and poor soil management contribute to both habitat degradation and declining soil quality, reinforcing the interlinkages between biodiversity loss and land degradation.^[10]¹⁴

Climate change exacerbates these pressures. Saint Lucia has been experiencing declining rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures, contributing to more frequent and prolonged droughts^{[11]¹⁵}. Given that local agriculture remains largely rainfed, water scarcity poses a major constraint on productivity and rural livelihoods. Climate projections indicate that rainfall in Saint Lucia could decline by 15–20% by mid-century, while temperatures continue to rise, affecting soil moisture, crop yields, and overall ecosystem stability^{[12]¹⁶}.

At the same time, the island remains highly exposed to extreme weather events, including hurricanes and tropical storms, which frequently damage crops, infrastructure, and natural ecosystems^{[13]¹⁷}. Recent events, including Hurricane Beryl (Category 5) and other tropical systems in 2025, have demonstrated the scale of disruption, with impacts including crop destruction, soil erosion, and damage to irrigation systems and rural transport networks^{[14]¹⁸}. These events reinforce the urgency of strengthening climate resilience within the agricultural sector.

Key drivers of biodiversity loss and land degradation in Saint Lucia include: (i) unsustainable agricultural practices such as overuse of agrochemicals, poor soil management, and cultivation on marginal lands; (ii) deforestation and habitat fragmentation linked to historical and ongoing land-use change; (iii) invasive species, contributing to ecosystem disturbance and soil degradation; (iv) climate change impacts, including droughts and extreme weather events accelerating land degradation; and (v) socio-economic constraints, including limited access to finance and knowledge, which hinder adoption of SLM practices. To address these drivers, the project will promote nature-positive agricultural practices that reduce agrochemical use and habitat degradation, restore soil health and land productivity, and support agroforestry and integrated systems that enhance biodiversity while reducing land degradation.

The convergence of food import dependency, biodiversity loss, and climate vulnerability creates a complex development challenge. While increasing domestic food production is essential for improving food security, this must be achieved without further degrading the island's natural capital. Conventional agricultural expansion risks intensifying the use of fertilizers and pesticides, increasing pressure on scarce water resources, accelerating ecosystem degradation^{[15]¹⁹}, and increasing greenhouse gas emission.

In this context, nature-positive agricultural approaches provide a critical pathway forward. These approaches promote sustainable intensification by enhancing soil health, improving water efficiency, protecting pollinators, and maintaining biodiversity within productive landscapes^{[16]²⁰}. Integrating ecosystem-based practices into agriculture can improve resilience to climate shocks while sustaining the ecological services that underpin long-term productivity. These integrated approaches are designed to simultaneously halt biodiversity loss and reverse land degradation trends within productive landscapes.

The project is fully aligned with the Land Degradation Focal Area by promoting SLM that maintain and enhance ecosystem services in productive landscapes (LD-1) and improve soil health (LD-2). Specifically, the project will support agroforestry systems, conservation agriculture and soil and water management practices, contributing to LDN objectives.

Through these interventions, the project will directly address land degradation challenges by reducing soil erosion, improving soil organic carbon, enhancing water retention, and restoring productivity in degraded lands, while simultaneously conserving biodiversity, maintaining habitat integrity, and strengthening ecosystem resilience within production landscapes.

A key constraint to this transition lies in the structure of the agricultural workforce. In Saint Lucia, the farming population is aging, with the average farmer estimated to be approximately 60 years old, alongside limited participation from younger generations^{[17]²¹}. This demographic trend poses risks to innovation, productivity, and the country's ability to meet its food security targets and sustainability objectives under the 25 by 2025+5 framework.

Youth engagement is therefore essential. While regional initiatives such as CARICOM's Youth in Agriculture Strategy aim to create enabling conditions, young people in Saint Lucia continue to face barriers, including limited access to land, financing, training, and markets^{[18]²²}. These challenges are particularly acute for rural youth and young women, who often lack secure land tenure and access to productive assets^{[19]²³}.

While ongoing initiatives are beginning to address some of these barriers, such as improving access to state lands, rehabilitating abandoned farms, and supporting community-based models, these efforts remain fragmented and insufficiently scaled. There remains an urgent need to empower a new generation of farmers equipped with climate-smart, nature-positive technologies, and entrepreneurial capabilities.

Through its landscape-based approach, the project will integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable production, ensuring that agricultural development contributes to both national food security and global environmental benefits.

In summary, Saint Lucia's pathway to reducing its food import dependency must balance agricultural expansion with environmental sustainability. Advancing climate-resilient, nature-positive agricultural systems, combined with stronger youth participation, provides a viable pathway to enhance national food security while safeguarding the island's unique biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Barriers to sustainable management in agro-ecological landscapes

BARRIERS:

- 1. Weak youth farmer networks to enable sharing of lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of nature-positive actions focused on reducing biodiversity loss and land degradation**

In Saint Lucia, farmer organizations and support structures exist, including farmer cooperatives, commodity groups, and extension services. Regional bodies such as the Caribbean Farmers Network and the Agriculture Alliance of the Caribbean also provide some level of engagement and advocacy for farmers, including youth. These structures provide an important enabling foundation for farmer coordination, knowledge exchange, and regional collaboration. This demonstrates that institutional platforms for farmer engagement already exist and can be further strengthened to support youth-led biodiversity conservation and SLM efforts.

However, their reach and sustained impact at the national level remain limited, particularly in terms of structured, continuous engagement with young farmers on nature-positive agriculture and biodiversity-friendly practices, including those that address soil conservation and prevention of land degradation.

While Saint Lucia benefits from participation in regional platforms, such as the OECS Youth in Agriculture Symposium and Caribbean Week of Agriculture events, these engagements are often periodic and project-based, rather than embedded within a sustained national framework for peer learning and mentorship. As a result, young farmers in Saint Lucia have limited opportunities to consistently share experiences, access locally relevant best practices, and build long-term networks focused on sustainable and biodiversity-friendly agriculture and LDN.

Additionally, there is weak institutionalization of youth-focused agricultural networks within national policy and programming. Existing youth initiatives often lack coordination, continuity of funding, and structured knowledge management systems to capture lessons learned and scale successful practices. This limits the ability to replicate and mainstream nature-positive solutions that contribute to biodiversity conservation and SLM across agro-ecological landscapes. This indicates that although enabling structures exist, they are not yet sufficiently coordinated, institutionalized, or sustained to effectively support the scaling of nature-positive practices.

Strengthening national-level farmer networks and youth platforms in Saint Lucia, supported by stronger linkages to regional initiatives, is critical. This would enable continuous peer learning, mentorship, and collaboration, and help ensure that nature-positive agricultural practices that maintain ecosystem functions, biodiversity, and healthy, productive soils, are effectively shared, adapted, and sustained within local contexts. These existing national and regional platforms therefore represent a key enabler that the project can build on to enhance coordination, knowledge exchange, and scaling of practices.

2. **Limited access to knowledge and approaches to limit species loss, habitat destruction and the mainstreaming of nature-positive solutions into productive landscapes**

Saint Lucia has established a Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism. However, national biodiversity assessments identify the need for further strengthening to enhance biodiversity data management, information sharing, accessibility, and stakeholder engagement. The Revised Second NBSAP (2018-2025) identifies the need to strengthen biodiversity information-sharing and knowledge management mechanisms, including the Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism.

Further, despite the availability of regional and global knowledge on sustainable agriculture and the presence of national extension services and training institutions, which collectively provide a strong enabling environment for knowledge generation and dissemination, access to practical, locally adapted information remains a major constraint in Saint Lucia. This indicates that a substantial knowledge base and institutional capacity already exist, but they require strengthening and more effective translation into practical, field-level applications.

Many farmers, particularly youth and new entrants, lack access to user-friendly and context-specific tools such as extension manuals, demonstration guides, and decision-support systems tailored to the island's specific agro-ecological conditions and biodiversity priorities, including SLM.

Scientific and technical knowledge is often not sufficiently translated into practical, field-level guidance or integrated with traditional and indigenous farming practices. As a result, farmers may be unaware of the tangible benefits of nature-positive solutions, including their contributions to productivity, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem resilience, as well as their cost implications and application methods, leading to slow uptake and inconsistent implementation.

Moreover, existing knowledge-sharing approaches are often not aligned with the preferences of younger farmers. In Saint Lucia, agriculture is still widely perceived as labour-intensive and economically uncertain, making it less attractive to youth. There is a need for modern, digital, and interactive knowledge platforms that present agriculture as an innovative and viable livelihood, while demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable practices.

A critical gap is the limited number of demonstration farms and pilot sites showcasing nature-positive agriculture under local conditions. Without visible, successful models, farmers are less likely to adopt new practices. Similarly, opportunities for structured peer-to-peer learning, study tours, and community-based training are insufficient, limiting knowledge exchange and innovation. This highlights that while knowledge systems and institutions are in place, they are not yet sufficiently adapted, accessible, or engaging to enable widespread uptake, particularly among youth.

Additionally, there is a need to strengthen agribusiness and financial literacy among youth. Many young entrepreneurs lack awareness of financing options, market opportunities, value chains, and risk management tools. Without this knowledge, even technically sound agricultural practices may not translate into viable business ventures. These gaps illustrate that while enabling systems exist, they require strengthening, adaptation, and better integration to support the adoption of biodiversity-friendly and land-restorative practices.

Addressing these gaps will require the development of locally grounded training programmes, demonstration sites, and integrated knowledge systems, combined with digital tools and targeted outreach strategies to engage youth effectively.

3. **Poor enabling environment to support financing of youth-enabled biodiversity conservation and SLM practices in agriculture**

Young farmers in Saint Lucia face significant barriers in accessing the financial and institutional support needed to adopt nature-positive agricultural practices. Despite the existence of enabling frameworks and institutions, these remain fragmented, limited in scale, or insufficiently tailored to youth and biodiversity-positive investments, including those aimed at SLM, resulting in continued financing gaps. This suggests that a foundation for financial support mechanisms is already present but requires strengthening and better alignment with biodiversity and land degradation objectives.

These barriers include high upfront costs, limited access to credit due to lack of collateral, and insufficient availability of financial products tailored specifically to youth-led or environmentally sustainable agricultural enterprises.

Nature-positive practices that support biodiversity, such as agroforestry, soil conservation, and reduced chemical use, often require investments in improved inputs, technologies, or infrastructure (e.g., irrigation systems, soil management techniques, agroecological systems), which many young farmers are unable to afford. At the same time, uncertain returns and exposure to climate risks discourage both farmers and financial institutions from investing in sustainable agriculture.

Market limitations further compound these challenges. In Saint Lucia, fragmented value chains, limited aggregation systems, and inconsistent market access reduce profitability and increase risk for young agri-entrepreneurs. This weakens incentives to adopt practices that may have longer-term environmental benefits but require short-term investments.

Land access also remains a key structural issue. Many young farmers do not have secure access to land or long-term tenure arrangements, which limits their ability to invest in SLM practices or access

financing. While some initiatives promote the use of state lands and idle agricultural lands, these efforts remain limited in scale and consistency.

Policy and regulatory frameworks also present challenges. Existing agricultural incentives and subsidies tend to favour conventional, input-intensive production systems, with limited targeted incentives for nature-positive or climate-smart practices. Furthermore, there are few mechanisms that reward farmers, particularly youth, for maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services such as soil conservation, water management, and biodiversity protection. This demonstrates that, although enabling frameworks and opportunities exist, they are not yet sufficiently targeted, accessible, or scaled to address the needs of young farmers or incentivize nature-positive practices.

While there are promising initiatives—such as training and exposure opportunities through programmes like the IICA Internship Programme in Saint Lucia—these are not yet sufficient to address systemic financing and support gaps. Existing institutional arrangements and emerging initiatives therefore represent important enablers that can be leveraged and scaled through the project.

To enable youth-led, nature-positive agriculture, Saint Lucia requires a stronger enabling environment, including:

- Tailored financial instruments (e.g., blended finance, grants, concessional loans)
- Targeted incentives for sustainable practices
- Strengthened value chains and market access
- Mentorship and incubation programmes for young agri-entrepreneurs
- Expanded access to land through innovative tenure arrangements

Such measures are critical to empower youth not only as participants, but as innovators and leaders in transforming Saint Lucia's agri-food system while contributing to biodiversity conservation and SLM objectives.

Gender aspects are not listed here as a separate barrier, because they are rather considered a **cross-cutting issue**, relevant to all the barriers mentioned above. Statistics show that women represent a vulnerable group that have historically benefitted less from resources, market information, technology, training, mobility, and bargaining power to participate equally in domestic and international economic opportunities, including land-based activities. Further, women are known to experience higher vulnerability in the face of climate change. New and increasing demands to invest in adaptation and mitigation compound women's traditionally limited access to financing.

At the same time, growing recognition of gender equality in agri-food systems and emerging gender-responsive approaches provide an opportunity to address these systemic constraints and promote more inclusive participation in biodiversity conservation, SLM, and nature-positive agriculture. This increasing policy attention and institutional focus on gender equality represents a key enabling condition to strengthen inclusive participation in project interventions.

Project approach

The project adopts an integrated, systems-based approach to transform Saint Lucia's agri-food sector by empowering youth, particularly young women, as key agents of change in the transition toward nature-positive, climate-resilient agriculture. Through this approach, youth are positioned as the primary drivers of change in

transforming agricultural practices to conserve biodiversity and address land degradation within productive landscapes. By strengthening capacities, enabling access to resources, and improving institutional support, the project will facilitate the adoption and scaling of sustainable practices that restore ecosystems while enhancing productivity and livelihoods.

The selection of this approach responds to key limitations observed in existing interventions in Saint Lucia and across the Caribbean. Traditional agricultural development approaches have often relied on top-down extension models and input-driven intensification, which, while supporting short-term productivity gains, have not adequately addressed the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and land degradation, including unsustainable land use practices, weak knowledge systems, and limited engagement of youth.

In contrast, this project adopts a youth-centered, integrated landscape approach that directly targets the drivers of biodiversity loss and land degradation within agricultural systems. By positioning youth as the primary drivers of transformation, the project ensures that biodiversity conservation and land restoration are embedded within the next generation of farmers, enabling sustained, long-term change. This is fully aligned with regional priorities under CARICOM initiatives such as the “25 by 2025+5” agenda, which highlights the need to increase youth participation in agriculture to ensure sustainable and resilient agri-food systems. Across the Caribbean, declining youth engagement in agriculture has been identified as a key constraint to innovation, productivity, and environmental sustainability, reinforcing the relevance of this approach.

Furthermore, the combined use of nature-positive agricultural practices and resource-efficient production systems (e.g. hydroponics, aquaponics, controlled-environment agriculture, and water-efficient systems) has been selected over conventional expansion-based approaches, as it allows for increased productivity without placing additional pressure on natural ecosystems or contributing to further land degradation. This is particularly important in the context of Saint Lucia’s limited land availability and highly interconnected ecosystems. Through this approach, youth farmers are enabled to drive the transformation of agricultural systems by adopting and scaling practices that simultaneously conserve biodiversity, restore soil health, reduce erosion and land degradation, and maintain ecosystem functions within productive landscapes, contributing to both environmental restoration and sustainable livelihoods.

The approach is also designed to remain resilient to future changes in key drivers, including climate variability, evolving land use pressures, and market fluctuations. By building the adaptive capacity of youth farmers, promoting diversified and resource-efficient production systems, and strengthening knowledge and support systems, the project enhances the ability of agricultural systems to respond to shocks and stresses while maintaining biodiversity conservation and land restoration outcomes over time. By embedding these capacities, knowledge, and practices within youth, who represent the future of the agricultural sector, the project ensures that biodiversity conservation and land degradation responses are sustained, adapted, and scaled over the long term.

At its core, the project promotes nature-positive agricultural solutions that integrate ecological sustainability with economic viability. Young farmers will be supported to understand and apply ecosystem-based approaches, recognizing the interdependence between terrestrial and aquatic systems, biodiversity, and agricultural productivity. This will enable the adoption of practices that improve soil health, enhance water efficiency, protect pollinators, and build resilience to climate variability. These solutions are specifically designed to contribute to biodiversity conservation and the prevention and reversal of land degradation, ensuring that productive landscapes maintain ecological integrity while supporting livelihoods.

The project will ensure that equal opportunities are provided to women and men to become agents of change in agriculture. An intersectional gender diagnosis and analysis will be undertaken during the Project Preparation (PPG) phase and further refined during the inception phase in the country. The findings from this gender analysis will directly inform the design and preparation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring that identified gender gaps and priorities are systematically translated into targeted actions across all project

components. This process will identify key gender gaps affecting youth in agriculture, with particular attention to young women in rural areas, and determine the contributions of men and women to both paid and unpaid agricultural and community work. The analysis will examine disparities in access to resources, participation, education, technology use, and socio-cultural norms, while considering intersecting factors such as age, ethnicity, geographic location, and socio-economic status. To address the current scarcity of sex-disaggregated data, baseline information will be collected and analysed by sex, age, ethnicity, and location. Findings will inform a comprehensive GAP, inclusive of indicators and a budget, and its key actions will be explicitly integrated into the design, implementation, and expected results of each project component to ensure coherence and accountability. The GAP will also consider: the development of a targeted support program for young women producers that can address their practical and strategic needs; empower, integrate and strengthen their capacities and knowledge; and guide the integration of gender-responsive measures across all project components.

The GAP will ensure that activities are designed and evaluated in a non-stereotypical manner. Horizontal segregation will be addressed by promoting women's participation in non-traditional roles, while vertical segregation will be tackled through support for women's advancement in leadership and decision-making positions. All project communication will use gender-neutral language and avoid stereotypes, ensuring women and men are portrayed in diverse roles, including leadership and technical positions. Visual materials will authentically represent gender, age, ethnicity, and socio-economic diversity across urban and rural contexts. All outputs will undergo a review for inclusivity before dissemination, and narratives will frame all genders as active agents of change. These principles will guide communication, training, and outreach and be monitored through gender-sensitive indicators. The project results framework will include specific, measurable gender-responsive and sex-disaggregated indicators aligned with the GAP to facilitate systematic monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on gender equality outcomes. A gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation system will track progress and support adaptive management throughout implementation, ensuring equitable participation and benefits for all community members. Regular monitoring, reporting mechanisms, and periodic reviews will be established to assess GAP implementation.

The project will support the implementation of gender-focused policies, programmes, strategies or regulations that promote gender equality in access to resources, credit, and technology, where available. Translating these policies into concrete results for women within the context of the three (3) project components involves integrating gender-responsive strategies at every stage of the project's approach. Adequate financial and human resources will be allocated to support the implementation of the GAP, including dedicated budget lines, capacity-building activities, and technical support. Mechanisms for coordination, accountability, and continuous learning will be established to ensure effective execution, including adaptive management processes that respond to monitoring findings and emerging gender-related challenges throughout the project lifecycle.

The project combines innovative technologies with agroecological principles to support sustainable intensification. It will promote solutions such as hydroponics, aquaponics, controlled-environment agriculture, and water-efficient systems, alongside agroecological practices that enhance biodiversity, restore soils, and improve ecosystem services. This dual approach, leveraging modern technologies while applying ecological principles, ensures that agricultural systems are both productive and environmentally sustainable, while directly contributing to biodiversity conservation and LDN. By making these solutions accessible and relevant to youth, the project will reposition agriculture as an innovative, viable, and climate-resilient livelihood.

To ensure long-term viability, the proposal emphasizes entrepreneurship and finance, building the capacity of youth farmers, inclusive of young, female farmers, to develop finance-ready business models for youth-led agribusinesses and facilitating access to capital through blended finance mechanisms, mentorship programs, strategic public-private partnerships and market opportunities. This integrated approach not only addresses food security and environmental sustainability but also creates inclusive economic opportunities for young people, inclusive of women, in Saint Lucia.

Cross-fertilization of ideas across communities and potentially, also across countries of the region is envisioned under the project. This will establish avenues for exchanges of best practices and successful systems that are already being tested and utilized in the region. This will benefit technical staff within **the Government** as well as young farmers, inclusive of **young, female** farmers, through physical exchange visits, development and delivery of learning modules and webinar presentations to enhance nature-positive solutions-based agri-food systems approaches.

Drawing from lessons learned in previous and ongoing initiatives, the selected activities are culturally responsive to the local situation, while providing opportunities for creative expansion and experimentation on regenerative practices and biodiversity-friendly approaches for nature whilst enhancing the productivity and economic value of food systems. Building upon the momentum gained in best practices and experiences distilled from previous initiatives will allow for continuance of working methodologies and sustain those activities which may have been impacted by external forces (weather, removal of funding sources). The common threads, which bind the project together, are the themes of nature-positive solutions, climate resilience, livelihood development, food security, positive youth engagement, and sustainable agro-ecological landscape management.

Project stakeholders

The project will engage a comprehensive set of stakeholders spanning government, civil society, academia, private sector and local communities, with clearly defined roles aligned to biodiversity conservation, SLM, and youth empowerment across agro-ecological landscapes.

Farmers, particularly smallholder producers, and youth agripreneurs are the primary beneficiaries and key agents of change. They will play a central role in implementing biodiversity-friendly and LDN practices such as agroforestry, soil conservation, and SLM, directly contributing to Component 1 (Enhancing the adoption of nature-positive practices solutions in agri-food systems) and Component 2 (Enabling support for financing of youth-led, nature-positive action in agriculture). Youth groups, such as Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth, will support innovation, peer learning, and the scaling of solutions, while also strengthening youth participation in governance, advocacy, and knowledge exchange under Component 3 (Supporting exchange of knowledge and best practices).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development will provide overall coordination, policy alignment, and technical oversight. Organisations, such as Saint Lucia Agriculture Extension Foundation can support the project by delivering extension services, supporting demonstration sites, strengthening farmer capacity, and facilitating the uptake and scaling of biodiversity-positive and climate-resilient agricultural practices.

Key national biodiversity conservation stakeholders, such as Saint Lucia National Trust and Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund, can ensure that project interventions are grounded in national conservation priorities. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute can contribute regional expertise in participatory natural resource management, ecosystem-based approaches, and governance and support the design and implementation of nature-based solutions and community engagement strategies, particularly under Component 1 (Enhancing the adoption of nature-positive practices solutions in agri-food systems) and Component 3 (Supporting exchange of knowledge and best practices).

The formal education system will play an important role in building a pipeline of future agricultural practitioners supporting biodiversity conservation and LDN. Agricultural science is introduced from early stages *i.e.* the pre- and primary level, and examined formally at the secondary level, as a subject of the Caribbean Examinations Council, providing a foundation for youth engagement. Apart from children who are in the formal school system, out-of-school youth in community clubs and youth groups will also be accommodated in the project.

In the formal school system, school gardens have been implemented as an essential element of the school-feeding programme, more so at the primary school level in Saint Lucia. These will be strengthened as practical learning platforms and demonstration sites for biodiversity-friendly practices such as composting, integrated pest management, soilless systems, and diversified production. These efforts contribute to embedding nature-positive agriculture in future generations.

In addition, creating linkages between youth agripreneurs and procurement officers in government-led food procurement programs can facilitate opportunities for the purchase of products from young agripreneurs involved in nature-positive solutions-based agri-food systems. Early exposure to good practices in agriculture, which are environmentally sound and supportive of the health of biodiversity, also extends to positive responses from markets, with a global emphasis on ethical sourcing by savvy customers. This stamp of approval is highly valuable for young people entering agri-business, as it supports their early introduction to the sector and builds credibility.

The intersectional gender diagnosis to be conducted during the PPG phase will include the identification and engagement of relevant stakeholders that promote the economic rights of rural women and young female producers (e.g. rural women organizations, women bureaus and other female youth entities). This will ensure their inclusion in the project design and implementation, as well as strengthen strategic alliances that support sustainable agricultural production for women.

In addition to the aforementioned stakeholders, the project engages a wide range of partners. Financial institutions and impact investors are critical for supporting youth-led agribusinesses through tailored financial products, credit access, and blended finance mechanisms will play a central role in enabling access to finance for nature-positive agribusinesses under Component 2 (Enabling support for financing of youth-led, nature-positive action in agriculture). These could include development banks, credit unions, and microfinance institutions with a focus on agriculture. Technology and innovation hubs can play a transformative role by providing digital tools, agri-tech solutions, and support innovation. Regional incubators, ICT companies, and providers of climate-smart technologies can help youth farmers modernize their practices. Environmental NGOs and conservation groups are also essential partners, ensuring that biodiversity conservation and SLM is integrated into agricultural practices and supporting ecosystem monitoring.

These partnerships will be forged/strengthened through continued stakeholder consultations during the PPG phase and throughout implementation. Initial stakeholder mapping has already identified academia (e.g. Sir Arthur Lewis Community College), youth groups (e.g. Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth), and other key partners, along with their provisional interest in the project; these stakeholders will be further engaged and their roles refined during the PPG phase. Civil society organizations, community-based groups, and youth networks will be engaged not only as beneficiaries but as active partners in co-design, implementation, and governance, including participation in project steering mechanisms.

Overall, the project adopts a multi-stakeholder, participatory approach in which each stakeholder group contributes to achieving the project objective: To enable sustainable management of agro-ecological landscapes, by empowering youth in agriculture to adopt and scale biodiversity conservation and LDN practices.

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B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF's policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section

should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the PIF guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The island of Saint Lucia is obligated to secure its natural assets, while pursuing development actions in a sustainable manner, to improve the life of citizens and its economy.

The project design ensures that all plans, programs, and policies developed under its framework are gender-responsive, incorporates gender-inclusive language and integrates gender and social inclusion principles into objectives, activities, communication strategies, and monitoring systems.

Theory of Change

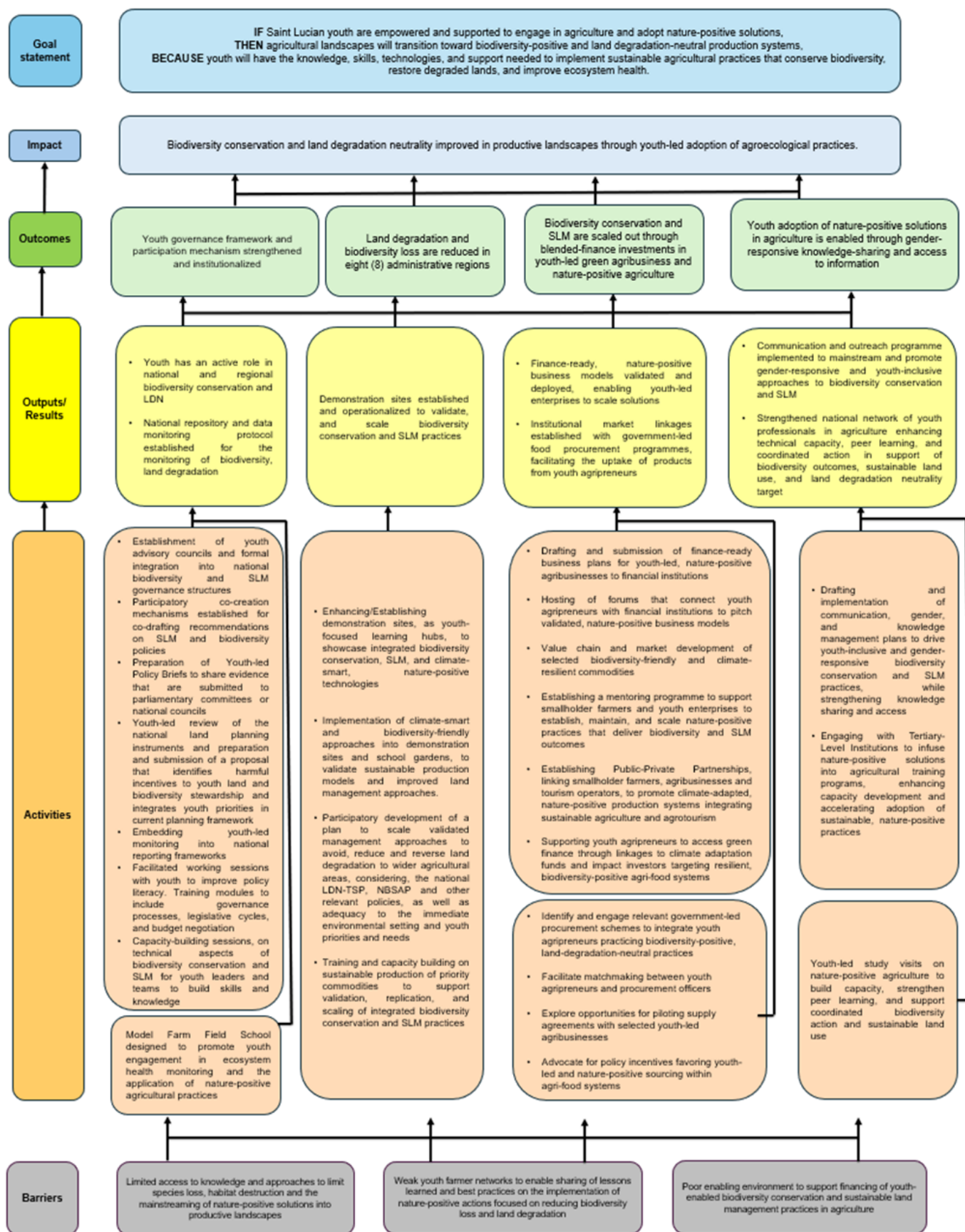
The project's Theory of Change (see figure 1) recognizes a present scenario in which threats to biodiversity, originating from the agricultural sector, are driven by unsustainable agricultural practices, including inappropriate input use, poor soil management, and pressures on natural habitats. These threats are addressed through gender-responsive interventions that empower young women and men to adopt and scale nature-positive agricultural practices, to build climate resilient agrifood systems that maintain and enhance social, environmental and economic benefits, while actively reducing pressures on biodiversity, improving SLM, and maintaining ecosystem services across agro-ecological landscapes.

IF Saint Lucian youth are empowered and supported to engage in agriculture and adopt nature-positive solutions
THEN agricultural landscapes will transition toward biodiversity-positive and land degradation-neutral production systems
BECAUSE youth will have the knowledge, skills, technologies, and support needed to implement sustainable agricultural practices that conserve biodiversity, restore degraded lands, and improve ecosystem health.

The project takes a multi-pronged approach that targets the barriers identified above. By integrating gender equality principles into interventions, the project will empower women and men as equal agents of transformative change. The project is structured into three (3) components that place emphasis on incorporating gender-sensitive sustainable agricultural practices to minimize or eliminate harmful impacts on biological diversity, support SLM, reduce environmental pressures from agriculture, and conserve key biodiversity values within agro-ecological landscapes, while building resilience to climate change.

The project's approach addresses both the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and land degradation. By promoting SLM and nature-positive agro-ecological systems, the project reduces agricultural pressures such as soil degradation, pollution, and habitat disturbance, while enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services across agro-ecological landscapes.

Figure 1: Project's Theory of Change



Causal pathways

The causal pathways will contribute to an improved workforce of young people in the agricultural sector in Saint Lucia, who are practicing and promoting the adoption of nature-positive actions that are achieved through the combined effect of the project outputs, resulting in reduced pressures on biodiversity, improved soil and land management, and enhanced ecosystem services across agricultural landscapes.

Causal Pathway 1

Utilizing a mixture of training and demonstration activities, young farmers and youth, inclusive of women youth farmers, who are formally learning agricultural science will uptake key information to improve their practices in agriculture to conserve biodiversity and reduce pressures on ecosystems and natural resources through improved land and soil management. These practices will include: the use of soilless agriculture which minimizes impact on agroecological landscape by reducing impact on soil fauna and virgin forest; minimal use of synthetic pesticides and extraction of water from natural watercourses, which reduces impact on freshwater ecosystems and habitats of biodiversity; and use of integrated systems for plant and fish culture (aquaponics) which efficiently utilizes waste in a beneficial manner and reduces pollution of the environment, through integrated approaches to fertility and pest management. The nature-positive effects of employing these technologies include the reduction in water and energy use, eliminating harmful pesticides and herbicides, eliminating nutrient runoff, reducing the proliferation of soil-borne diseases, and reducing pollution and habitat disturbance while maintaining soil biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

This project will build awareness, provide training and promote the use of these nature-positive actions and technologies, also as a means to reduce agricultural pressures on biodiversity, including soil degradation, pollution, and unsustainable resource use and as a tool in maintaining the health of ecosystems across agro-ecological landscapes.

The training programmes will infuse new standards for agriculture and support and sustain future “good agricultural practices” within upcoming generations of farmers to reduce impacts and improve conservation of biodiversity where agriculture is practiced, while promoting SLM. Since monitoring systems will also be incorporated in these practices, the country will also obtain data for appropriate national reporting requirements.

The project’s causal pathway 1 reflects that rationale. It will be materialized through the project’s **Component 1: Enhancing the adoption of nature-positive practices solutions in agri-food systems**

This component addresses *Barrier 1: Weak youth farmer networks to enable sharing of lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of nature-positive actions focused on reducing biodiversity loss and land degradation* and *Barrier 2: Limited access to knowledge and approaches to limit species loss, habitat destruction and the mainstreaming of nature-positive solutions into productive landscapes*, as follows:

Outcome 1.1: Youth has an active role in national and regional biodiversity conservation and LDN

Output 1.1.1. Youth governance framework and participation mechanism strengthened and institutionalized

The proposed activities are:

- Establishment of youth advisory councils and formal integration into national biodiversity and SLM governance structures.
- Participatory co-creation mechanisms established for co-drafting recommendations on SLM and biodiversity policies
- Preparation of Youth-led Policy Briefs to share evidence (using project data and geospatial monitoring outputs) that are submitted to parliamentary committees or national councils.
- Youth-led review of the national land planning instruments and preparation and submission of a proposal that identifies harmful incentives to youth land and biodiversity stewardship and integrates youth priorities in current planning framework.
- Embedding youth-led monitoring (via geospatial tools, digital dashboards) into national reporting frameworks (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification [UNCCD], NDCs, CBD)
- Facilitated working sessions with youth to improve policy literacy. Training modules to include governance processes, legislative cycles, and budget negotiation
- Capacity-building sessions, on technical aspects of biodiversity conservation and SLM for youth leaders and teams to build skills and knowledge including biodiversity monitoring, knowledge management, and the use of biodiversity information for decision-making.

Output 1.1.2 National repository and data monitoring protocol established for the monitoring of biodiversity and land degradation

The proposed activities are:

- Designing model Farm Field School to promote youth engagement in ecosystem health monitoring and the application of nature-positive practices. The curriculum will also include:
 - o Using climate data (such as temperature, precipitation, and drought indices) into ecosystem health monitoring and adaptive farm planning, to enable data-driven decision-making for crop selection, pest management, and soil conservation
 - o Using soil data and assessing soil health through field methodologies to support decision making regarding soil fertility and pest and disease control
 - o Using agroecological buffer zones and soil carbon restoration (e.g., cover cropping, composting, biochar) to maintain soil fertility, reduce erosion and runoff during heavy rains, and enhance carbon sequestration
 - o Targeted training to relevant institutions, inclusive of youth ministries, extension services, research centers, on how to interpret and use climate information for planning and advisory services.

Outcome 1.2: Land degradation and biodiversity loss are reduced in eight (8) administrative regions

Output 1.2.1 Demonstration sites established and operationalized to validate, and scale biodiversity conservation and SLM practices

- Enhancing/establishing demonstration sites, as youth-focused learning hubs, to showcase integrated biodiversity conservation, SLM, and climate-smart, nature-positive technologies. These sites include 19 school gardens, four (4) demonstration sites and training facilities (see map in figure 2)
- Implementation of climate-smart and biodiversity-friendly approaches, such as integrated soil fertility management, integrated pest management and soil recarbonization, into demonstration sites and school gardens, to validate sustainable production models and improved land management approaches. The specific practices will be selected after an assessment of soil and crop suitability in each site, with consideration to e.g. soilless agriculture, controlled growing systems, integrated livestock and crop systems, climate resilient infrastructure, and pollinator-friendly practices.
- Participatory development of a plan to scale validated management approaches to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation to wider agricultural areas, considering, the national LDN-TSP, NBSAP and other relevant policies, as well as adequacy to the immediate environmental setting and youth priorities and needs. The resulting scaling plan will be integrated into the wider land planning instrument prepared under output 1.1.1.
- Training and capacity building on sustainable production of priority commodities to support validation, replication, and scaling of integrated biodiversity conservation and SLM practices

Causal Pathway 2

By integrating business skills with agricultural practices, young people will learn how to design and establish innovative, biodiversity-positive agricultural business systems, manage farms as businesses, use technology to improve efficiency, apply biodiversity-friendly and soil-restorative practices and create value-added products, thereby reducing land degradation and enhancing ecosystem services. This approach emphasizes the development of new nature-positive agricultural enterprises rather than incremental improvement of existing systems, making the sector more appealing and will increase business acumen among youth, inclusive of women youth farmers, engaged in nature-positive action in agriculture production systems. Business training will also be provided to empower youth, inclusive of women youth farmers, with financial literacy, helping them access funding, manage risks, and create sustainable, community-driven enterprises that prioritize climate-resilient production, habitat conservation, and SLM. By fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and showcasing sustainable agriculture as a dynamic, modern industry, business training can inspire youth to see agriculture as a viable and rewarding career while contributing directly to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the reduction of degraded lands.

Private sector will also be engaged to input into the design and implementation of a mentoring programme, ensuring that market-driven solutions integrate biodiversity conservation standards and SLM practices, participate in the design and funding of proposals and assist with the dissemination of lessons learned and experiences with their peers. Through this engagement, private sector actors will help scale investment in nature-positive value chains that protect ecosystems, promote sustainable resource use, and reduce pressures on natural habitats, thereby strengthening outcomes for globally significant biodiversity and LDN.

The project's causal pathway 2 reflects that rationale. It will be materialized through the project's **Component 2: Enabling support for financing of youth-led, nature-positive action in agriculture**.

It addresses *Barrier 3: Poor enabling environment to support financing of youth-enabled biodiversity conservation and SLM practices in agriculture*, as follows:

Outcome 2.1 Biodiversity conservation and SLM are scaled out through blended-finance investments in youth-led green agribusiness and nature-positive agriculture

Output 2.1.1 Finance-ready, nature-positive business models validated and deployed, enabling youth-led enterprises to scale solutions

The proposed activities are:

- Drafting and submission of finance-ready business plans for youth-led, nature-positive agribusinesses to financial institutions
- Hosting of forums that connect youth agripreneurs with financial institutions to pitch validated, nature-positive business models
- Value chain and market development of selected biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient commodities
- Establishing a mentoring programme to support smallholder farmers and youth enterprises to establish, maintain, and scale nature-positive practices that deliver biodiversity and SLM outcome
- Establishing Public-Private Partnerships linking smallholder farmers, agribusinesses and tourism operators, to promote climate-adapted, nature-positive production systems integrating sustainable agriculture and agrotourism
- Supporting youth agripreneurs to access green finance through linkages to climate adaptation funds and impact investors targeting resilient, biodiversity-positive agri-food systems.

Output 2.1.2 Institutional market linkages established with government-led food procurement programs, facilitating the uptake of products from youth agripreneurs

- Identify and engage relevant government-led procurement schemes (e.g. school feeding, hospitals) to integrate youth agripreneurs practicing biodiversity-positive, land-degradation-neutral practices
- Facilitate matchmaking between youth agripreneurs and procurement officers
- Explore opportunities for piloting supply agreements with selected youth-led agribusinesses
- Advocate for policy incentives favouring youth-led and nature-positive sourcing within agri-food systems.

Causal Pathway 3

Peer learning, extension services and national cooperation will be major pillars of project implementation and for sustaining project outcomes and will support regional collaboration to address food security. Enhancing networks to support knowledge exchange on nature-positive actions in agricultural landscapes will provide a platform for exchanging best practices and innovation and will help foster collaboration and innovation as when young farmers, inclusive of women youth farmers, come together in organized networks, they will share knowledge about nature-positive farming techniques inclusive of pest management practices and climate adaptation strategies, which enhance overall agricultural productivity.

The project's causal pathway 3 reflects that rationale. It will be materialized through the project's **Component 3: Supporting exchange of knowledge and best practices**.

It addresses *Barrier 1: Weak youth farmer networks to enable sharing of lessons learned and best practices on the implementation of nature-positive actions focused on reducing biodiversity loss and land degradation* and *Barrier 2: Limited access to knowledge and approaches to limit species loss, habitat destruction and the mainstreaming of nature-positive solutions into productive landscapes*, as follows:

Outcome 3.1 Youth adoption of nature-positive solutions in agriculture is enabled through gender-responsive knowledge-sharing and access to information

Output 3.1.1 Communication and outreach programme implemented to mainstream and promote gender-responsive and youth-inclusive approaches to biodiversity conservation and SLM

The proposed activities are:

- Drafting and implementing communication, gender, and knowledge management plans to drive youth-inclusive and gender-responsive biodiversity conservation and SLM practices, while strengthening knowledge sharing and access
- Engaging with Tertiary-Level Institutions, for example Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, TVET - School for Sustainable Agriculture and TVET-Jon Odum Secondary School, to infuse nature-positive solutions into agricultural training programs, enhancing capacity development and accelerating adoption of sustainable, nature-positive practices.

Output 3.1.2 Strengthened national network of youth professionals in agriculture enhancing technical capacity, peer learning, and coordinated action in support of biodiversity outcomes, sustainable land use, and LDN target

The proposed activities are:

- Youth-led study visits on nature-positive agriculture to build capacity, strengthen peer learning, and support coordinated biodiversity action and sustainable land use.

Project's monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

A sound project monitoring and evaluation process that includes indicators for the project transformational capacity and specifically track gender matters as per the project's GAP (to be prepared during PPG phase) will allow for adaptive project management. The monitoring and evaluation framework will ensure that gender-specific results, including progress on the implementation of the GAP, are systematically captured and reported through Project Implementation Reports, Project Progress Reports, Mid-Term Reviews and the Terminal Evaluation. The project partners will be sensitized and trained so that they can implement, monitor and sustain the project's gender actions. This will ensure a results-based implementation plan that facilitates the coordinated delivery of outputs. Regular reporting on gender-related indicators will support evidence-based decision-making, allowing for early detection of changing scenarios and to track costs and benefits in relation to them, thus enabling management of the project adaptively in terms of its deliverables and outputs.

This means that potential changes in drivers will be considered in the design of project activities and will be in the scheduling (during PPG) and in execution, through the project's adaptive M&E system, for optimized cost-benefit ratios and maximized outcomes. The institutionalization of project results will be promoted and monitored, in order to bulletproof the project outcomes beyond the project end date. Regarding on the ground activities, which are more dependent on biophysical factors, measures will be taken to allow for changes in drivers and to adapt to the needs of the stakeholders on a site-specific basis in, e.g. in the planning of the capacity development actions, the scheduling of implementation, and the selection of practices to be implemented, considering current and future scenarios of degradation and climate risk. Close engagement with local stakeholders will be sought to increase preparedness.

It is anticipated that a Project Steering Committee (to be established for project implementation) will oversee decisions as the project progresses; the team will be able to assist, for instance, in the review of Terms of Reference for consultants and receive reports derived from consultants for final approvals.

Project monitoring will also include the use of feedback instruments, for instance, at the end of training and outreach activities, and periodic review of communication products to gauge their effectiveness. This can also incorporate feedback capture from project partners. Regular reporting according to a pre-determined schedule will assist in documentation of the project's progress and changes necessitated by emergent issues.

Global Environmental Benefits/Adaption Benefits

The project is expected to produce global environmental benefits (GEBs) as follows:

- i) increased productivity of agroecological landscapes through conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- ii) reduced environmental pollution and Greenhouse Gas Emission from agricultural chemicals, pesticides, synthetic fertilizers and management of waste through the promotion of IPM and composting
- iii) reduced land and soil degradation through the use of soilless agriculture and other controlled systems
- iv) increased resilience of food production systems, lands and livelihoods to disasters and climatic and non-climatic stressors using new climate-smart agricultural systems

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- v) economic, social and environmental sustainability by targeted training of young agriculturalists.

Stakeholder partnerships and benefits

Key partnerships will support project implementation. Additionally, with the goals for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and strengthening of local agricultural production, national cooperation will be a key feature of the project.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will be the Operational Partner and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development will be the lead agency, and this team will have key supportive partners to assist in the execution of day-to-day activities. Below is a profile of partnerships that have been formulated in the development of the country plan.

Table 1: List of potential partners for implementation of project ideas

Lead Agency (TBC)

Partner Agencies

Lead Agency (TBC)

Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries, Food Security
and Rural Development

Partner Agencies

State:

- Technical Advisory staff
- Union Propagation Station

Research/Academic:

- Technical and Vocational Education and Training Schools:

La Resource-Dennery

TVET School for Sustainable Agriculture

TVET- Jon Odum Secondary School

- Schools:

Anse La Raye (pending youth community involvement)

Corinth Secondary School

Forstierre Methodist Combined School

Grace R.C Combined School (Vieux Fort)

Grand Riviere Primary School

Gros Islet Primary School

Leon Hess Secondary

Monchy Primary School

Mongouge Combined School

St. Mary's College

Ti-Rocher (Micoud) Combined

Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School - Campus B

- Sir Arthur Lewis Community College Agriculture Division

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Civil society:

- Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth

-

Lead Agency (TBC)

Partner Agencies

Community-based:

- Black Bay Farmer's Organization
- Farmer Co-operatives.
- John Phigence Farm – Farmers Field School
- Young farmers in various agricultural regions

Regional/International:

- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA)

Private sector:

- Grading personnel from Massy Distribution

The key anticipated outcomes of this multistakeholder partnership on the project include the following:

- i) Better networking among associated agencies for a non-siloed agroecological perspective
- ii) First-hand experience of new technological tools and nature-positive solutions in agriculture
- iii) Increased commitment to sustain and translate results into future projects
- iv) Development of new tools and materials for future training and capacity building activities among relevant agencies and within communities
- v) Improvements for future coordination and collaboration of similar initiatives.

With specific regard to the input of multinational/regional/international bodies, key outcomes include:

- i) Sharing of best practices
- ii) Access to quality inputs (e.g. in training workshops) from experts
- iii) Dissemination of information and promotion of project outcomes.

Knowledge management

Various platforms will be used for documentation of activities and to disseminate communication products to key audiences and the public in general. All project documents and communications will use inclusive and respectful language. A project communication plan will be developed to provide support to unique communication strategies, utilizing products and pathways that enable wide and targeted reach to key audiences.

Photographic and videographic recording of hands-on demonstrations, workshops, farmers field school, training sessions and other activities will be conducted to document the project's progress, both for reporting purposes as well as to formulate products that can be used in future training opportunities and for sharing in the FAO's Knowledge Repository.

Existing networks, as well as the formal education system are useful avenues for documentation and dissemination of best practices. It is expected that training programmes will generate e-manuals/modules which can be used on online platforms and be infused into formal, curriculum-based learning materials. This includes, for example, the development of manuals and agri-preneurship training.

Both project and organizational newsletters can support wider circulation of information on the project's major activities, progress, experiences and lessons learned by project participants and beneficiaries. Opportunities will be created and utilized for sharing some of these lessons learned through peer exchanges and participation in key events such as the Caribbean Week of Agriculture and will be encouraged for in-country special UN observances e.g. International Day for Biodiversity, World Environment Day, World Food Day and other relevant themes.

The FAO will also provide opportunities for sharing project news on regional online platforms such as the Subregional Office for the Caribbean's webpage (<https://www.fao.org/americas/about-us/fao-in-the-region/sub-regional-office-for-the-caribbean/en>), individual country pages and the X account (@FAOCaribbean), to maintain project visibility and to curate project milestones.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

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

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

The project will ensure strong coordination with ongoing and planned initiatives at national and regional levels to enhance complementarity, ensure additionality, and maximize global environmental benefits. The project is designed to compliment, not duplicate, current efforts and to leverage existing momentum in biodiversity conservation, LDN, and climate resilience within Saint Lucia's agri-food sector.

In particular, the project will coordinate closely with the GEF-funded "*Caribbean Soil Management for Restored Watersheds and Sustainable Food Systems Project: SOILCARE Phase 2*" (GEF Project ID 10195), and its forthcoming Phase 2 (GEF Project ID 11390). While the SOILCARE Phase 1 provides ready to use updated information on soil fertility, soil suitability and degradation processes, and emphasizes technical solutions for improving soil health and addressing land degradation, the present project will compliment these efforts by promoting the adoption and scaling of such practices through youth-led agricultural systems. Further, actions under component 2 of this project will consider funding options created under SOILCARE Phase 2, which is expected to operationalize the LDN Transformative Funding Mechanism, to leverage finances towards SSM and SLM for increasing the resilience of production systems to climate impacts, while contributing to achieve LDN in the Caribbean.

In addition to that, capacity development actions planned in this project's component 2 will be coordinated with SOILCARE Phase 2 Youth Agri-business initiative, which aims to support the creation of youth-led MSMEs that integrate sustainable soil management and SLM technologies that support attainment of LDN and the CARICOM 25x25+5 regional food security policy. Cooperation with the SOILCARE program will strengthen knowledge transfer at the national and regional scale, multiply the capacity development options, and promote farmer networking, to enhance the long-term uptake and sustainability of soil management practices.

The project will also align with the Green Climate Fund "*Strengthening participatory and evidence-based adaptation planning in Saint Lucia's forestry sector*", which focuses on strengthening adaptation planning in the forestry sector and mainstreaming ecosystem-based approaches into land use policies and investment strategies. While AdaptFor-Saint Lucia emphasizes institutional capacity, policy integration, and multi-stakeholder coordination for climate resilience, the present project will compliment these efforts by supporting the implementation of biodiversity-friendly and land-restorative practices within agricultural landscapes. By

focusing on youth engagement and capacity building, the project will help translate adaptation planning into practical, on-the-ground actions, ensuring that ecosystem-based approaches are adopted, sustained, and scaled within productive landscapes. Coordination will be facilitated through stakeholder engagement platforms, knowledge exchange, and alignment with national adaptation and land-use planning processes.

The project will also coordinate with the GEF UNEP-CANARI “*Valuing Nature and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Blue and Green Pathways for the Tourism, Food and Urban Sectors in Saint Lucia*” (GEF Project ID 11264). This project aims to integrate ecosystem services valuation and nature-based solutions into Saint Lucia’s tourism, agri-food, and urban sectors, with a focus on reducing ecosystem degradation fostering sustainable livelihoods, and enhancing climate resilience, particularly in the Laborie and Choiseul districts. While this project focuses on enabling frameworks, ecosystem valuation and the implementation of nature-based solutions, the present project will complement these efforts by providing data for valuation calculations and will support the adoption and scaling of biodiversity-friendly and land-restorative agricultural practices among youth and farming communities in Laborie and Choiseul districts.

Saint Lucia’s Sectoral Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan for the Agriculture Sector (Agriculture SASAP) 2018-2028, is an ongoing government-led initiative. The overarching goal of the Agriculture SASAP is to overcome the barriers (policy, regulatory, institutional, technical, financial, business and social) to facilitate the adoption and scaling up of climate resilient agriculture best practices and businesses for enhancing food and nutrition security in Saint Lucia under a changing climate. There is complementarity between the project activities and the strategic objectives under the four (4) main outcomes of the Agriculture SASAP. These being: (1) Enhanced enabling environment for climate adaptation action in the agriculture sector; (2) Enhanced nutrition, food availability, quality and security through adaptation in the agriculture sector; (3) Strengthened partnerships for scaling up climate resilient agriculture; and (4) Built adaptive capacity to climate variability and extremes in the agriculture sector.

The on-going project titled “*Building resilience for adaptation to climate change and climate vulnerabilities in agriculture in Saint Lucia*,” funded by the Adaptation Fund (US\$4.27 million, 2021-2027), aims to build resilience in Saint Lucia’s agriculture sector for livelihoods security through enhanced adaptive capacities for climate change and climate variability. There are opportunities for this project to collaborate on activities across all three (3) components of the on-going project, particularly given the geographic overlap in regions 6, 7, and 8.

The joint Canada-FAO project entitled “*Gender-responsive Climate-smart Agriculture and Food systems in the Caribbean*” is an on-going project (2024-2028), designed to “*enhance the livelihoods of women and youth involved in climate-resilient agricultural value chains in the Caribbean*”. Saint Lucia is amongst the islands participating in the four-year project. Synergies will be explored to strengthen capacity building and knowledge transfer to youth farmers, particularly in relation to gender-responsive and climate-resilient practices.

Synergies will also be fostered with the CARICOM Youth in Agriculture Strategy. The proposed project will contribute to its objectives by promoting youth participation in the 25 x 2025+5 initiative, strengthening skills and training, fostering collaboration among youth, supporting agribusiness development, and leveraging strategic partnerships to enhance value chains within the agricultural sector.

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
247	0	0	0

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland	247.00			

Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration

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

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
274.8	0	0	0

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

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

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)
274.80			

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 (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	2751	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	48345	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (direct)	2,751			
Expected metric tons of CO₂e (indirect)	48,345			
Anticipated start year of accounting	2027			
Duration of accounting	15			

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	359			
Male	538			
Total	897	0	0	0

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

Core indicator 3: 247 hectares of currently not cultivated degraded agricultural areas will be restored (sub-indicator 3.1) through the introduction of perennial agroforestry as part of the scaling plan developed under output 1.2.1

Core Indicator 4: A total of 521.8 hectares in Saint Lucia will be under improved management (sub-indicator 4.3). This includes 24.8 hectares of direct intervention, comprised of 19 school gardens, demonstration sites, training facilities, and 497 hectares (representing approximately 5% of the total existing agricultural land) of indirect intervention i.e. out-scaling of practices and technologies by small-scale farmers in various communities, which will be selected after an assessment of potential areas considering national land-related policy instruments (NBSAP, LDN-TSP). This is a conservative figure, which was decided given the lack of high-resolution data on land degradation in agricultural areas of Saint Lucia. Calculations developed for the purpose of this PIF through multisource degradation estimations show that up to 24.8% of the total land in Saint Lucia is undergoing some form of degradation. Assuming that the same percentage of degradation is true for agricultural areas, up to 2,467.3 ha of croplands may be degraded, which provides wider opportunities for scalation of the project results that will be evaluated during PPG and project implementation, when more accurate geographic information on land degradation is expected to be available from the PRAISS report to the UNCCD on LDN, which is under preparation.

Core Indicator 6: By the end of the project in 2029, the project is projected to achieve an estimated cumulative emission reduction of -290 tCO₂-eq with the implementation of project activities, and by the end of 2045, calculating 15 additional years of capitalization, total cumulated reductions are anticipated to reach 51,096 tCO₂-eq, of which 2,751 tCO₂-eq will be unconditional (sub-indicator 6.5) and 48,345 tCO₂-eq are indirect (conditional) effects (sub-indicator 6.6). The analysis has been carried out with the FAO Nationally Determined Contribution Expert Tool (NEXT), considering that half of the land that will undergo conditional effects (from out scaling plans) is currently annual cropland that will continue under the same use with improved management (corresponding to sub-indicator 4.3), and the other half is annual cropland set-aside (currently not cultivated) were agroforestry will be implemented as a restoration strategy (corresponding to sub-indicator 3.1). For the calculation of emission reduction from nutrient use, it was considered a rate of nitrogen application of 32,47 kg per hectare, as per FAOSTAT figures for Saint Lucia in 2023, applied in 274.8 hectares, corresponding to 24.8 hectares of the demonstration sites, where a reduction of a 50% of inputs is expected, and 250 hectares of croplands from scaling plans, where emissions reductions will be 33%.

Core indicator 11: A total of 897 beneficiaries (40% [359] females) is estimated. This includes 747 direct beneficiaries, inclusive of 50% youth, under outcome 1.1, 50 direct beneficiaries, inclusive of 50% youth, under outcome 2.1 and 100 direct beneficiaries, inclusive of 50% youth, under outcome 3.1.

24 According to FAOSTAT (data for 2023), agricultural land covers 9,940 ha in Saint Lucia.

25 The calculations made use of several global datasets for land cover and soil carbon, and used different algorithms for the assessment of land productivity as per <https://projectgeffao.users.earthengine.app/view/dss-soilcare>

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	Saint Lucia is vulnerable to adverse effects of climate variability and climate-driven changes and natural disasters. The project design will ensure that these factors are considered in the

		scheduling of project activities to reduce harm to participants and to their ability to engage in project activities.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	Participation of youth, who are the primary targeted beneficiaries of this project, will be promoted through consultation with project partners to secure their engagement in the project activities. Further consultations will be conducted with schools, youth groups, and community-based organizations to identify their priorities and needs related to promoting sustainable agriculture in Saint Lucia, and the results of these consultations will be systematically integrated into the project design during the PPG phase. Females may be less able to participate and benefit from the project due to their generally greater child-care and family responsibilities issues compared with males. A GAP will be developed during the project design stage to promote gender equality, raise awareness, promote prevention activities related to gender-based violence and guide project actions to mitigate disparities among beneficiaries and for the entire project team and partners. Youth partners, including schools, youth groups, and community-based organizations, will be engaged not only as beneficiaries but also as active project partners and represented, where feasible, within project governance and coordination mechanisms. The project will develop and implement a communication strategy which will include an awareness-raising campaign to increase public understanding and awareness of the youth engagement in nature-positive solutions to conserve biodiversity in agroecological landscapes at the local level.
Political and Governance	Moderate	Saint Lucia is considered to have stable democratic governance. A general election was concluded in December 2021 with no reported disruption. The project's mitigation strategy consists of an increased engagement with the political sector throughout project formulation and execution phases, fostering dialogue and consensus, and advocating for project goals to maintain priority status and mitigate the impact of potential political transitions on project continuity and effectiveness

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Low	The scope of the project has been agreed with the relevant stakeholders and by focusing on a selected number of issues it will be possible to achieve results without putting undue pressure on the existing government institutions. The project also seeks to build established structures that support youth engagement in agriculture (e.g. 4H clubs) and will utilize existing information management systems rather than introduce new institutional structures which could present future capacity constraints.
Technological	Low	The project has a strong technical focus, investing in utilizing digital solutions and emerging technologies to regenerate nature. There is the potential risk, albeit low, of user resistance and buy-in for the implementation of new technical solutions. These risks are not novel when it comes to the introduction of new technical solutions. To mitigate these risks, the project will leverage the technical expertise of the FAO and best practices from existing and past

		projects. The project's communication strategy will help establish confidence and support for these new technical solutions
Financial and Business Model	Low	The design of the project includes investments to develop the capacity of youth in agriculture which would contribute to the sustainability of project results.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	The scope of the project has been agreed with relevant stakeholders in Saint Lucia. By focusing on a selected number of issues, it will be possible to achieve results without putting undue pressure on existing government institutions. The project, in some respects, also builds on already piloted programmes and will coordinate with established mechanisms and utilize existing information management systems rather than introduce new institutional structures which could present future capacity constraints.
Fiduciary	Low	While there is significant capacity in the management of climate finance, the project team will conduct a fiduciary assessment of the project executing entity in line with FAO's due diligence.
Stakeholder	Low	The project has been designed to support regional and national priorities. These include actions to assist government entities to undertake their mandates and collaborate with non-governmental organizations, private sector and community groups to encourage the use of nature-positive solutions in agroecological landscapes while also undertaking climate-resilient agricultural agriculture. Governmental stakeholders buy-in will be maintained through strategic and periodic awareness-raising and communication to key decision-makers including parliamentarians, and through carefully crafted messages to targeted audiences at the national level. In terms of engagement, the FAO has extensive experience in working with many of the main government partners, including in other ongoing FAO-GEF initiatives, which will facilitate continued political and institutional engagement in the project during implementation. The establishment of a Project Steering Committee during the project inception phase will also ensure participation, ownership and engagement of key partners and maintain attention to the project. Key stakeholders will actively support the project activities through the establishment and maintenance of partnerships managed by the Project Management Unit. A project stakeholder engagement plan will be developed during the project design stage to ensure effective, coherent and equitable stakeholder coordination at the country level. Addressing the issues of particular concern to stakeholders and demonstrating the socio-economic benefits will generate collective engagement among key stakeholders. An effective Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy will also support stakeholder engagement and coordination.
Other		

Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The overall risk rating is moderate, resulting from the analysis carried out with the FAO Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM) and considering the other risks here above. This proposal is designed to be executed in an area with acute climate risk and project design elements have been included to mitigate the impacts on project activities and subsequent project results. In addition, marginalized groups, including women, youth and remote farming communities, are typically the most vulnerable groups to climate-related hazards in the participating countries. A full Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) plan will be drafted, during the PPG phase, to ensure that vulnerable groups and individuals are safeguarded from project-related environmental and social impacts. However, all aspects will be re-evaluated during project mobilization and monitored during the life of the project.
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C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

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

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

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

The project is centred within the Biodiversity Focal Area of the GEF-8 Programming. However, there is interconnectedness with the Climate Change and Land Degradation Focal Areas. The project directly addresses biodiversity management in agricultural systems. Nonetheless, the planned activities also address economic and social drivers and outcomes, while addressing an assumption for the GEF-8 strategy for biodiversity, that *"any solution to the biodiversity crisis requires the participation of all stakeholders in society most notably indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), women, youth, as well as the private sector"*.

Objective 1 of the GEF-8 Biodiversity Focal Area seeks to *"improve conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of natural ecosystems"*. The project will directly address those landscapes, which have been negatively affected with impoverished soils, and the consequent impacts on soil-dwelling beneficial organisms, by "re-tooling" to meet production demands through use of new growing methods. These will include infrastructure and new technology marked by soil-less agricultural methods, to further reduce impact on the land, soil organisms and soil productivity. Saint Lucia will contribute to Global Biodiversity Framework Targets 1, 3 and 4 in reducing negative impacts on biodiversity, land and genetic diversity through soil conservation measures. These interventions also contribute to the Land Degradation Focal Area by promoting SLM practices that improve soil health, enhance land productivity, and support soil organic carbon conservation, directly contributing to Saint Lucia's commitments under the UNCCD and national targets for achieving LDN by 2030.

Regional strategy for sustainable use of natural resources

In recognition of the need to improve and sustain the use of natural resources and the agricultural sector. CARICOM Members States developed a compendium of the policy frameworks. The CARICOM Agricultural Policy advocates the adoption of environmentally friendly and sustainable production methods and approaches, and the integration of Good Agricultural Practices.^{[1]²⁴} The Agricultural Policy has seen advancements in food security, particularly through the CARICOM Vision 25 x 2025+5 initiative. Since the launch of the CARICOM 25 x 2025+5 initiative, in 2022, significant effort has been made to stimulate growth in agricultural production. This initiative, spurred on by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, initiated mechanisms *"to tackle the Region's rising food import bill, improve intra-*

regional trade, and create wealth and economic opportunity for every CARICOM Member State” [2]²⁵ Embedded in the plan was the mission to enhance food production and cut the food import bill by 25% by 2025.

Youth engagement formed a key layer of the scope, as regional partners pledged to implement a strategy enabling CARICOM Member States to boost the involvement and productivity of Caribbean youth in agriculture. In 2022, CARICOM’s Secretary General underscored the role of youth in transformation of the agricultural sector with their untapped potential to embrace the digital innovations needed through use of “smart agriculture, online platforms, extension and marketing applications, and drone technology” [3]²⁶ The objective of the *Regional Strategy for Strengthening Youth in Agriculture* under the CARICOM 25 x 2025+5 initiative is to strengthen regional youth institutions and provide training, capacity building and knowledge transfer to youth farmers across the region, to improve their productivity and overall performance in the business of agriculture.

In addition, CARICOM established the CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework, rooted in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, aiming to promote sustainable management of environmental and natural resources throughout the region. It addresses climate resilience, sustainable energy, disaster risk reduction, and waste management, among other areas. The framework promotes regional cooperation, environmental justice, and the integration of environmental considerations into various sectors. [4]²⁷

National agricultural sector policies in Saint Lucia presently agree with the imperative for management of agroecosystems that support biodiversity protection. These policies have scheduled updates, and the conduct of the project is expected to distil recommendations which can contribute to updates that are less implicit and more explicit on the management of beneficial organisms in agroecological systems as needed.

Saint Lucia’s Draft Agricultural Policy Framework and Strategy (2016-2021) aims “To enhance food security, increase employment and economic growth in the Agricultural Sector through the adoption of productivity enhancing technologies, sustainable use of natural resources, strengthening the delivery of agricultural support services and the effective implementation of agricultural policies and programmes through improved institutional and regulatory frameworks and human capacity building.” [5]²⁸ The components, outcomes, outputs and activities of the project support these areas.

Regional level

CARICOM lists sustainable development of natural resources as one of three (3) important pillars of the **Community Agricultural Policy (2012)**. [6]²⁹ This pillar “seeks to safeguard the integrity of the region’s natural resources along the value chain, while meeting its food needs, through the utilization of environmentally friendly and sustainable production practices, supported by appropriate institutional mechanisms”. The Policy reaffirms that, at the Heads of Government meeting in Liliendaal, Guyana, in July 2009, Member States committed to promoting greater youth engagement in the sector.

The **CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework** serves as the umbrella policy framework and an enabling platform for the sustainable management and use of the Community’s environmental and natural resources. [7]³⁰ The common platform for action allows for coordination and integration of Member States’ actions and thus the activities and outcomes of this proposed project parallel the Policy Framework’s intention of enabling the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

To a large extent, the activities of the project will contribute to youth education, training and entrepreneurship. The project however goes a step further with a biodiversity focus which is not explicit in the regional youth strategy; the hope is therefore, that the project outcomes will influence inclusion of clauses in future updates of the regional youth strategy to underscore youth action to protect and conserve the environment, mainstreaming this in areas of endeavour for youth empowerment.

Kelly *et al.* (2019) provided recommendations for influencing policy implementation to encourage scaling up of agroecology, among them: “building capacity to manage the environment, agrobiodiversity and agroecology; creating knowledge in people of all ages, especially producers, to enable them to combine their empirical knowledge with ecological learning”. [8]³¹ By positioning youth as the primary

participants in this project, it seeks to drive transformative change in the agricultural sector by building their capacity to lead innovations that support biodiversity conservation and SLM.

By providing tools, knowledge and hands-on training to students in formal education, early learning and uptake of appropriate approaches to agroecological principles are taught and practiced. Demonstration activities, peer exchanges and development of materials for use on online learning platforms are strategies which enable wider dissemination of good agricultural practices that are relevant to Saint Lucia.

With the involvement of agricultural extension officers in this project, the mechanism is available for transfer of learning from the project into mainstream systems within the sector for promotion of agricultural practices which maintain ecological and biodiversity assets. These include the use of compost and biopesticides and integrated pest management to assist in the protection of beneficial organisms in the agro ecosystem.

Reporting of lessons learned will be important for translating positive outcomes to policy technocrats to support scaling up of the successful initiatives pioneered by the project. A key strategy to be employed under the project to enhance uptake of new practices, will be to infuse validated nature-positive approaches into national training programs of the government and Tertiary-Level Institutions, ensuring that the appropriate nature-safe and nature-based solutions are widely promoted and used by Saint Lucian nationals.

The agri-entrepreneurship component of training and mentoring in this project will also serve to guide the young farmers, processors and entrepreneurs to ensure that agricultural products have been sourced in an ethical manner which is environmentally friendly, to meet market demands and standards. This will further stimulate appropriate standard-setting for the exploitation of regional markets and those further afield.

In championing these mechanisms, Saint Lucia will contribute to meeting the aspirations of the CARICOM *Community Agricultural Policy*, as well as collectively meeting national efforts in obligations to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNCCD, including efforts toward achieving LDN.

Addressing country-level priorities

As discussed in a previous section, the national agricultural sector policy presently agrees with the imperative for management of agroecosystems that support biodiversity protection. Saint Lucia's *Draft Agricultural Policy Framework and Strategy* (2016-2021) is aimed at enhancing food security through the adoption of productivity enhancing technologies, sustainable use of natural resources, strengthening the delivery of agricultural support services and the effective implementation of agricultural policies.

In addition, the project aligns with Saint Lucia's commitments under the UNCCD and national strategies such as the LDN-TSP (2018), which establishes country-specific targets and indicators for addressing land degradation through SLM and restoration measures. The project contributes to Saint Lucia's LDN targets by promoting SLM practices that improve soil health, enhance land productivity, and support the conservation of soil organic carbon. Through the adoption of nature-positive agroecological approaches, the project will contribute to addressing key drivers of land degradation identified in the LDN-TSP, including unsustainable agricultural practices, soil erosion, loss of ecosystem functions, while supporting national efforts to achieve LDN by 2030.

Addressing regional priorities

Saint Lucia, as a CARICOM member state, is committed to conserve natural resources and ensure regional food security by reducing the extra-regional food import bill.

As this project sets out to enable sustainable management in agro-ecological landscapes, project outcomes will make progress towards the following: *The Caribbean Community Biodiversity Strategy*; the *Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework* (2020-2035); the *Caribbean Community Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework* and the *Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy*. In general, the outcomes of the project address a fundamental thread across the frameworks, i.e. the need for biodiversity conservation and restoration within the Caribbean region to support ecosystem services and sustainable development. In addition, these outcomes respond to the regional priority of addressing land degradation, which has been identified by CARICOM ministers as an escalating threat to food security, health systems, and sustainable development across the region.^{[9]³²}

More specifically, under the *Caribbean Community Biodiversity Strategy*, this project will make progress towards Goal 1 (To conserve biodiversity to protect natural heritage and assets) and Goal 2 (To sustainably use ecosystem goods and services for national and regional development). Furthermore, this project crosscuts and addresses key objectives under Theme 1 (Protection, maintenance and restoration of ecosystems), Theme 3 (Climate resilient ecosystems) and Theme 5 (Assessing and integrating biodiversity and ecosystem into national development processes) of the *OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Framework*.

There is great vulnerability associated with dependence upon external supply of these resources which are critical for its citizens' nutrition. The project will build national capacities to increase local produce, which is fresher, less processed than imported supplies and therefore will be of improved nutritional quality.

An aging farming population requires recruits who can adopt the new technologies that are required to yield improved agricultural productivity. The project's focus on youth will address an additional social issue of high youth unemployment, by providing livelihood opportunities, to improve productivity and economic growth, while stimulating the sector's contribution to GDP. This supports CARICOM's *Youth Development Action Plan* for "providing increasing opportunities for meaningful engagement of young Caribbean citizens" and the youth policies and initiatives of CARICOM Member States.

Located in a disaster-prone zone with increasing incidence of extreme weather impacts, regional food production strategies must be able to withstand and recover from natural disasters. This project will therefore build local resilience through climate-proofing of agricultural production by using new production technologies. This will contribute to CARICOM's support to Member States to "strengthen their resilience to the effects of climate change and variability; to strengthen their disaster resilience" as stated in its most recent Strategic Plan.

As previously noted in the Project Description, Saint Lucia will contribute to meeting the aspirations of CARICOM's Community Agricultural Policy, this will assist in resisting the threats to regional biodiversity that have currently designated the Caribbean region as a biodiversity hotspot, while also supporting efforts to reduce land degradation and enhance SLM across the region.

Addressing international priorities

At the international level, Saint Lucia has ratified several international Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), which the proposed project will make progress towards the relevant commitments and responsibilities, including but not limited to:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna
- The Kunming-Montreal Global biodiversity framework: contributing to targets 1 and 7 (through implementation of nature-positive actions and climate resilient practices), 8 (through climate change resilience building activities), 10 (through the sustainable management in agro-ecological landscapes), 11 (by implementing nature-positive solutions), 20 (components 1, 2 and 4 include capacity development actions that consider biodiversity aspects), 21 (through component 4 communication and knowledge sharing strategies), 22 (through multistakeholder whole-of-society participatory approaches to planning), and 23 (through integration of gender sensitive approaches across the project components)
- The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC
- Paris Agreement
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the CBD
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
- The International Plant Protection Convention.

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- [3] Dominica News Online. (2022, November 01). *CARICOM launches 'Youth in Agriculture' social media campaign, showcasing potential opportunities in the field*. Retrieved from <https://dominicanewsonline.com/news/homepage/news/caricom-launches-youth-in-agriculture-social-media-campaign-tapping-potential-for-opportunities-in-the-field/>
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- [5] Government of Saint Lucia. (2016). *Final Draft Agricultural Policy Framework and Strategy (2016-2021)*. Castries: Government of Saint Lucia.
- [6] CARICOM Secretariat. (2012). *Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy*. Georgetown, Guyana: CARICOM Secretariat.
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- [8] Kelly, J. R. (2019). Supporting innovation in integrated agroecological production systems, employment creation and youth engagement in productive processes in Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. *Journal of Plant Science Current Research*
- [9] Caribbean Community (CARICOM). (2025). "Launch of CARICOM Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Framework signals renewed commitment to advancing Caribbean sustainability and resilience." <https://caricom.org/launch-of-caricom-environment-and-natural-resources-policy-framework-signals-renewed-commitment-to-advancing-caribbean-sustainability-resilience-coted-chair/>

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Yes

Civil Society Organizations: Yes

Private Sector: Yes

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

Key stakeholders were consulted, from April 2025 to April 2026, during PIF development. These consultations took place in virtual meetings and through e-mail communication. The dates of the meetings and the names and positions of the attendees at meetings are listed below.

Name of organisation	Position of representative	Type of organisation	Role in project
11 April 2025			
Saint Lucia			
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development	Youth Focal Point	Government	Key partner for project management and implementation
	Region Head		
	Director of Agricultural Services		
Regional/International			
CARICOM	Program Manager, Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Development	Regional	
FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean (FAOSLC)	Sub-Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean	Intergovernmental organisation	Implementing agency
	Climate and Environment Finance Specialist		
	Portfolio Support Specialist		
	Food Security Officer		
	National Programme Consultant		
	International Expert – Value Chain and Project Coordination		
	GEF Project Design Consultant		
22 April 2025			
Saint Lucia			
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development	Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.)	Government	Key partner for project management and implementation
	Chief Extension Officer		
	Youth Focal Point Officer		
	Deputy Director of Agricultural Services (Ag.)		
	Agricultural Officer		
FAOSLC	Climate and Environment Finance Specialist	Intergovernmental organisation	Implementing agency

	GEF Project Design Consultant		
	Portfolio Support Specialist		
	Portfolio Support Specialist		
01 July 2025			
Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training	GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP)	Government	To provide overall guidance on GEF programming at the national level and alignment with the country policy/priorities.
11 July 2025			
Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training	GEF OFP	Government	To provide overall guidance on GEF programming at the national level and alignment with the country policy/priorities.
29 August 2025			
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development	Secretary	Government	Key partner for project management and implementation
	Agricultural Officer		
	Agricultural Officer		
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)	IICA Representative, Eastern Caribbean	Regional	Proposed executing agency
	Special Affairs Coordinator		
	Agribusiness Specialist		
	Assistant Executive Secretary		
	Technical Specialist		
13 October 2025			
Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training	GEF OFP	Government	To provide overall guidance on GEF programming at the national level and alignment with the country policy/priorities.
13 March 2026			
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development	Director of Agricultural Services	Government	Key partner for project management and implementation
	Agricultural Officer		
	Youth Focal Point		
Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training	GEF OFP	Government	To provide overall guidance on GEF programming at the national level and alignment with the country policy/priorities.

FAOSLC	GEF Task Manager and Climate Finance Specialist	Intergovernmental organisation	Implementing Agency
	GEF Portfolio Support Specialist		
24 April 2026			
IICA	IICA Representative, Eastern Caribbean	Regional	Proposed executing agency
	National Specialist		
	Programme Assistant Executive Secretary		
	Technical Specialist		
27 April 2026			
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development	Director of Agricultural Services	Government	Key partner for project management and implementation
	Youth Focal Point		
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAOSLC)	Lead Technical Officer	Intergovernmental organisation	Implementing Agency
	Portfolio Support Specialist		
	GEF Portfolio Support Specialist		
	GEF Project Design Consultant		

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

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

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

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	690,594.00	65,606.00	756,200.00
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	120,854.00	11,481.00	132,335.00
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	51,795.00	4,920.00	56,715.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						863,243.00	82,007.00	945,250.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

50000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4750

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation: BD-1	Grant	40,000.00	3,800.00	43,800.00

FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	7,000.00	665.00	7,665.00
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-2	Grant	3,000.00	285.00	3,285.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	800,000.00
FAO	GET	St. Lucia	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	200,000.00
Total GEF Resources					1,000,000.00

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
BD-1-1	GET	345,297.00	206347
BD-1-5	GET	345,297.00	206347
LD-1	GET	120,854.00	26101
LD-2	GET	51,795.00	11205
Total Project Cost		863,243.00	450,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development (Saint Lucia)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	350000
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100000

Total Co-financing				450,000.00
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Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

N/A

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Jeffrey Griffin	5/20/2026	Neila Bobb-Prescott	8683023739	neila.bobbprescott@fao.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Eulampius Frederick	Chief Technical Officer	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Sustainable Development	3/23/2026

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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

Country	Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Area (ha)
Saint Lucia	TVET School for Sustainable Agriculture	13°55'59"N	60°55'47"W	0.2
	TVET- Jon Odum Secondary School	13°57'45"N	61°00'58"W	0.1
	Sir Arthur Lewis Community College- Agricultural Division	13°55'59"N	60°55'44"W	0.6
	Anse la Raye Primary School	13°49'04"N	60°55'20"W	0.6
	Ti Rocher Combined School	13°49'04"N	60°55'20"W	0.1
	Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School- Campus B	13°45'00"N	60°57'50"W	0.1
	Grace R.C Combined School	13°46'08"N	60°57'58"W	0.05
	Mongouge Combined School	13°47'53"N	61°02'39"W	0.05
	Saint Mary's College	14°01'25"N	60°59'57"W	0.05
	Leon Hess Secondary	13°59'59"N	60°58'34"W	0.05
	Forstierre Methodist Combined School	13°58'26"N	60°57'22"W	0.05
	Grand Riviere Primary School	14°02'34"N	60°57'14"W	0.4
	Black Bay Farmers Association	13°44'13"N	60°59'7"W	0.4

Country	Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Area (ha)
	John Phigence Farm- FFS	13°57'26"N	60°57'17"W	1.2
	Union Propagation Station	14°1'28"N	60°57'36"W	0.5
	Gros Islet Primary School	14°04'53"N	60°57'83"W	0.25
	Monchy Primary School	14°3'50"N	60°55'40"W	0.2
	Corinth Secondary School	14°2'39"N	60°57'96"W	0.2

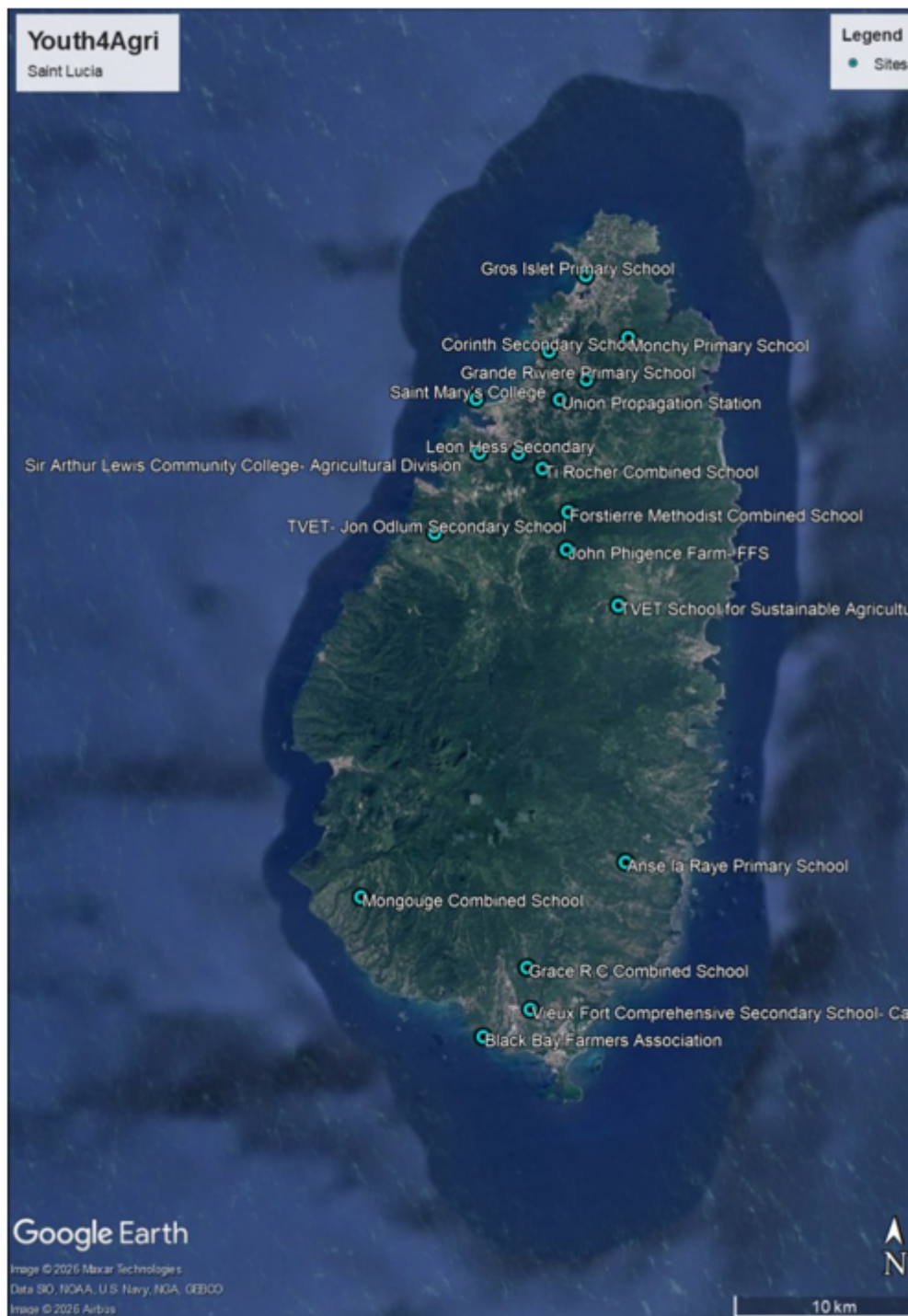


FIGURE 1: MAP OF INTERVENTION SITES IN ST. LUCIA

ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

Title

ES Risk Screening Checklist

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Principal Objective 2

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2
Influencing Models	Strengthening institutional capacity and decision-making Convene multi-stakeholder alliances
Stakeholders	Beneficiaries Private Sector Local Communities Civil Society
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Knowledge Exchange Knowledge Generation Capacity Development
Gender Equality	Gender mainstreaming
Focal Area/Theme	Biodiversity Land Degradation